



Spartanburg Area Transportation Study

SPATS Policy Committee Minutes

June 12, 2023

Present:

Bob Walker
Rosalyn Henderson-Myers
Roger Nutt
Rob Rain

Manning Lynch
Julian Hankinson
Woody Willard

Phillip Stone
Scott Messenger
Patrick Kay

1. Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes (February 13th, 2023)

Manning Lynch (Chair) called the meeting to order. Mr. Lynch requested a motion to approve the minutes of the February 13th, 2023 meeting as shared with members prior to the meeting through the shared file materials. Dr. Stone moved, Rep. Henderson-Myers seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The minutes will now be made available online on the SPATS website.

2. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) 2-Year Update

Ms. Lisa Bollinger presented an overview of the FY2024-2025 UPWP Amendments as forwarded to the Committee through the online link. Ms. Bollinger submitted the draft in May to SCDOT and FHWA and incorporated their comments into the final version for approval today.

The funding source is the joint Planning “PL” funding from the FHWA and FTA for operating of the MPO. There was a federal funding accounting error and this resulted in a rescission for all MPOs and COGs of approximately \$3,000.

Federal funding local match is waived for Complete Streets work activities.

Approval of the UPWP draft will be in the form of a resolution.

Work program amendments include:

The work activities of the new Planner 3 and high level planning estimates for Transportation Studies, at \$700,000 for FY24 and \$200,000 for FY25. This will be contingent upon using county match to utilize some of our UPWP carryover from past years.

Dr. Stone acknowledged that this is a “living” document. Ms. Bollinger explained that the SCDOT and FHWA ask us to put placeholders in the document for expenses we expect because it is a planned work program, but the narrative can be amended at any time when we become aware of additional detail.

Mr. Lynch discussed the possibility of using this funding for building roads. This funding cannot be used for this - allocated for planning. Mr. Willard reminded the committee that there are certain pots of funding just for planning. Ms. Bollinger also reminded them of the coffee pot graphic of the different pots of funding sources-this was planning and not project funding.

Mr. Messenger asked how this study related to the last study. Ms. Bollinger explained that the Long-Range Transportation Plan Financial Element allocated funding to the TIP for major projects and so we have time until the next time we do a major allocation of funding for studying what will be programmed once we have a healthy balance again. Our studies will help us decide where to focus next for future projects.

The work program amendments for FY24 also include the Update of the 2021 Public Participation Plan Update and the 2021 Title VI Plan Update, both due February 2024. They are to be updated every three years.

Mr. Kay requested for staff to send the NextCloud link again to the last LRTP 2022 survey report.

Ms. Bollinger facilitated a discussion of the Complete Streets estimated cost list of work activities to claim for the local match waiver of the federal Planning (PL) grant as part of the UPWP (at a minimum of 2.5% of the grant award), totaling \$133,000. This includes the estimated cost of bike/ped/trail and transit related work activities by staff as well as the purchase of 4-5 trail counters annually, coordinated annually by Ms. Dull.

Mr. Kay asked if Complete Streets was reserved for only new roads. Ms. Dull explained that any road in the Long-Range Transportation Plan proposed for Complete Streets would have to go through an SCDOT feasibility study. He asked Ms. Dull to send all the municipalities that have Complete Streets policies.

Dr. Stone moved to approve the UPWP amendments by resolution, Rep. Henderson-Myers seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Chairman Lynch and Director Holliday will sign the resolution and Ms. Bollinger will update the adopted UPWP with the resolution and submit to the SCDOT Planning office.

3. MPO Boundary Updates

Ms. Sherry Dull, SPATS, and Mr. Jim Walden, SCDOT presented the draft SPATS MPO boundary packet, including the draft map (pending SCDOT review) and narrative hard copies, sent previously to the members through the virtual link.

The Code of Federal Regulations (23 CFR 450.312) [Metropolitan Area Boundaries](#) states that the boundary will be determined by agreement between the MPO and the Governor. The study area boundary at a minimum shall encompass the entire Census defined urban area as well as contiguous area determined to become urbanized within the 20-year long-range transportation planning period.

SPATS will submit the draft boundary to SCDOT Planning Office and the Secretary of Transportation, on behalf of the SCDOT Commission, will take them to the Governor for approval.

Director Holliday stated that Greer's annexation patterns into the Spartanburg urban area will need to be taken into account. Mr. Walden stated we would work together to decide how best to plan for that area. Mr. Hankinson asked about the timeline for the monetary reallocation to the MPOs and Mr. Walden explained the SCDOT would do this by the beginning of the next federal fiscal year in October and that is why the SCDOT Planning Office is asking for the boundaries in August.

Mr. Kay recommended that a portion of the Pacolet area expecting a potential trail/development needs to be included in the planning area and pointed it out to those in attendance.

Mr. Willard stated that the Census does not see county lines. SPATS should plan for transportation in as much of Spartanburg County as possible without taking any Greenville urban area. No other entity should be planning for this area's growth except us.

Mr. Lynch reiterated we prefer to avoid giving any additional area to GPATS other than what area is already in the GPATS study area boundary. Mr. Willard agreed and made the motion to approve the draft MPO boundary and Dr. Stone seconded the motion.

Mr. Lynch asked that the committee amend the motion to include the Pacolet piece to be added per Mr. Kay's requested amendment. Mr. Willard moved to approve the draft MPO boundary with the addition of the small area around Pacolet presented, Rep. Henderson-Myers seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Ms. Dull will amend the map and submit for SCDOT review.

4. SCDOT PRE-CONSTRUCTION Updates - Guideshare Projects

Kit Scott, SCDOT Program Manager, presented the SPATS Guideshare Projects' Status Report as shared with members prior to the meeting through the virtual link materials, including upcoming projects, projects in design, projects in construction, and projects completed.

UPCOMING PROJECTS:

Wadsworth Trail Phase 5: The Wadsworth Trail Phase 5/SC 296 and Anderson Mill Road Intersection Improvement Subcommittee met since the last meeting and the consensus was that the cost of the trail improvements presented increased too much to justify moving forward given our other program needs. Mr. Nutt moved to move the Wadsworth Trail Phase 5 project back to the LRTP and reallocate the Guideshare funds to the SC 296 and Anderson Mill Road intersection improvement project. Mr. Hankinson seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

SC 296 (Reidville Rd) and Anderson Mill Intersection Improvement:

The consensus from the Subcommittee was to choose the Alternative 3 conceptual plan, quadrant left design because it had the least impacts and improves the Level of Service by 2050. The kickoff meeting was held May 19 and the SCDOT is negotiating the consultant contract at this time. The total funding at this time would be PE \$670,000; ROW \$750,000, and Construction at \$4.2 million. Based on committee member questions, Ms. Scott confirmed estimates will be further refined once they design the exact footprint of the road and confirmed the intersection is designed with no left turns onto Anderson Mill Road off SC 296 coming from Greenville. Mr. Willard moved to approve, Mr. Hankinson seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Ms. Bollinger thanked Mr. Hankinson and recognized Ms. Coker for their service on the subcommittee. Mr. Hankinson added that the Subcommittee decided it was very important for SPATS to consider improvements along the Anderson Mill corridor as a whole at a later date.

SC 85 and I-585/Hearon Circle Intersection Improvement: Ms. Scott shared the traffic analysis conceptual alternative handout with the committee. Preliminary Engineering (PE) began 10/21 at \$660,000, expected ROW Obligation at \$1 million is 10/24, and expected Construction Obligation at \$6 million is 10/25.

SC 9 and Shoally Creek Rd./4th Street Intersection Improvement:

Currently in ROW acquisition. Construction obligation anticipated 3/24. Project funding: PE \$1.2 million (FY 17), ROW \$2.56 million (FY 23) and Construction \$3.5 million (FY 24) [SC 9 and Shoally Creek Rd./4th St Project Link in SCDOT Project Viewer](#)

SC 9 and Parris Bridge Road Intersection Improvement/SC 9 and Sloane Garden Road Intersection Improvement: Scope has been sent back to the consultant. Survey expected mid-June. PE obligation expected 10/22, ROW obligation expected 10/24 and Construction Obligation expected 10/25.

Lyman Livability Trail: Letting documents have been submitted. Letting expected June 2023. Received additional funding from the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) statewide program.

SC 215 (Blackstock Rd.) and SC 296 (Reidville Rd.) Intersection Improvement : Design expected in the Winter. Field surveys have been received and preliminary engineering will begin soon.

PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION:

Lyman Traffic Triangle: Improve access management traffic operations at three main intersections: US 29/Pine Ridge Road, SC 358 (Holly Springs Road)/Pine Ridge Road, and US 29/SC 129/SC 358 (Holly Springs Rd.)/SC 292. Construction began week of 5/8/2023 by Eagles Construction Company. [Lyman Traffic Triangle Project Link in SCDOT Project Viewer](#)

Country Club Road Corridor Improvements: Clearing and grubbing are 90% complete. Currently working on storm drainage not in conflict with utilities. Construction on the new bridge will begin near the end of June. Utilities are starting to relocate. [Country Club Road Corridor Improvement Project Link in SCDOT Project Viewer](#)

I-85 and SC 290 Diverging Diamond Interchange: Construction has begun on Spartangreen Bridge demo and reconstruction and will continue on the EastBound right side of SC 290. Work will continue on the retaining wall at Pilot Gas/Truck Stop next to the I-85 SouthBound off ramp. Currently completing curb and gutter and grading slopes from I-85 NorthBound off ramp to Rogers Bridge Road. Sidewalk and pedestrian ramps underway for McAulay to I-85 SouthBound on ramp and NorthBound off ramp to Rogers Bridge Road. [I-85 at SC 290 Diverging Diamond Interchange Project Link in SCDOT Project Viewer](#)

SC 85 Bridges over Howard Street and Southern RR and SC 85 Northbound over Lawson's Fork Creek: Work began June 2021. Ms. Scott presented an informative video update and reported that anticipated completion is October 2023. Lawson's Fork Creek bridge is complete. Buffington Road and Southbound bridge decks are poured. Howard Street bridge piles were driven.

I-85 Reconstruction and Widening Mile Marker 77-98 : Reconstruct I-85 from MM 77 (SC 85) - MM 80 (Gossett Rd) and widen I-85 from four to six lanes (one additional travel lane in each direction) from MM 80 (Gossett Rd) to MM 98 (Broad River) for an approximately 21 miles. Working on SC 18 culvert replacement and should be completed by early summer 2023 (this year). Concrete pavement NorthBound MM 80-91 should be completed by early summer 2023 (this year).

I-85 Reconstruction and Widening Mile Marker 98-106 : Working on final punch items; working on final thermo and management items.

Please see Project Status Report spreadsheet and the SCDOT Project Viewer for project status updates between SPATS meetings:

<https://www.scdot.org/business/projectviewer.aspx>

Mr. Walker asked who a constituent would contact regarding a question about I-26 over Lake Bowen. Mr. Brandon Wilson of SCDOT offered to discuss this inquiry with him after the meeting.

5. SCDOT PRE-CONSTRUCTION Updates-NONGUIDESHARE Projects

Ms. Bollinger reviewed the following TIP Nonguideshare items considered corrections by SCDOT and are presented for informative purposes only:

- a. Increase in Construction Phases of 2 bridges from the Statewide 2024 Design-Build bridge package including State Road 31 (Cannons Campground Road) bridge over Peters Creek from \$4,112,743 to \$5,149,112 and State Road 197 (Old Spartanburg Highway) over the South Tyger River from \$4,691,344 to \$6,185,172.
- b. Federal Transit Administration applications approved through SCDOT by Spartanburg Regional Medical Center Transportation Services 5307 State Mass Transit Funds urban grant: \$884,488 in administration, \$1,546,972, and \$114,750 for capital and for the 5311 State Mass Transit Funds rural grant: \$138744 for administration, \$242,663 for operations, and \$18,000 for capital.
- c. Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) FHWA Discretionary Grant program awarded Spartanburg County \$23,845,187 with a local match of \$1,557,581 in local match for a total project cost of \$25,402,768 to install nearly 14.6 miles of 10-foot-wide multi-use pathway along Fairforest Creek from Mayfair Lofts to CC Woodson Recreation Center with an extension across SC 295 as part of The Dan Trail Master Plan.

6. 2022 STAMP Performance Report

Ms. Erin Porter gave an overview of the SCDOT Planning Office 2022 Strategic 10-Year Asset Management Plan (STAMP) System Performance Report. This report is developed every two years along with choosing performance measures and reporting progress toward those targets. With the closing of the 2018-2021 performance period, the SCDOT has set baseline, 2-year and 4-year targets for the second performance period (2022-2025) as part of the Code of Federal Regulations requirement.

SCDOT requests MPOs and COGs to include this report as an Appendix in Long-Range Transportation Plans for statewide consistency by July 31, 2023. Rep. Henderson-Myers moved to amend the LRTP Performance Appendix to include the 2022 Performance Report, Dr. Stone seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

7. Other Business and Adjourn

There was no other business and members adjourned. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 14, 2023, 10 am in Conference Room 6 (downstairs).