

# *Spartanburg Area Transportation Study*

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## **SPATS Policy Committee**

### **Minutes**

*August 10, 2015*

#### **Present:**

Junie White

Pat Watson

Whit Kennedy

Woody Willard

Tom Arthur

Roger Nutt

Justin Bradley

Cornelius Huff

Mike Forrester

Jeff Horton

Sterling Anderson

#### **Welcome, Introductions and Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Junie White called the meeting to order. The minutes of the June 8, 2015 meeting were approved as offered by Mr. Willard, seconded by Mr. Horton.

Mayor White recognized new members Pat Watson, the new Mayor of Wellford, and Tom Arthur, the new Spartanburg County Transportation Committee (CTC) representative.

#### **Country Club Corridor Study Update**

Ms. Sherry Dull, Senior Transportation Planner, presented a summary of the study to date. The first drop-in meeting was held April 2, 2015 and guiding principles were developed: The Country Club Road Corridor should be 1) designed to be safe and functional for all modes 2) provide accessibility and connection to existing destinations, and 3) be attractive and appropriate, preserving the rural character and history of transportation along the corridor.

A design workshop and presentation was held June 24 and 25 at the Glendale Outdoor Leadership School (GOLS). Conceptual designs developed during the workshop were presented and public feedback received. A Preferred Access Plan was presented focusing on critical nodes which will be more fully designed later on in the process. Based on this plan for access, three draft concepts were designed after public feedback including a connection to the Rail-Trail on the western end of study, suggested improvements at the Country Club Road and Wallace Ave./Andrews Rd. intersection, and suggested concept at Clifton-

Glendale Rd. integrating the Glendale Shoals destination and historic Glendale Bridge anchor.

After two interactive public meetings and ten stakeholder meetings, we have had 180 participants in the process. The team will continue to refine the technical aspects of the concepts developed with the public and prepare a final report with implementation strategies. The public is encouraged to continue sharing feedback with the team using the WikiMap online tool, on the SPATS website, at <http://spatsmpo.org/projects/bike-and-pedestrian-projects/country-club-road-corridor-study/>

### **Spartanburg County Area Performance Planning Effort**

Mr. Bob Harkrader, Spartanburg County Planning Director, offered an update on the County Planning Department's Area Performance Planning Effort.

The current growth and development patterns in Spartanburg County are unprecedented and happening quickly. We need to work together to find a balance between a quality of life we enjoy as residents and the growth that is coming, bringing economic prosperity. This unique plan will encourage existing growth by using road patterns as the methodology for planning and to make accommodations where growth is incompatible. The project begins with the Southwest area of the County as this area has been experiencing the most rapid growth with new locations and expansions of multiple companies.

The County Planning department will continue the process with technical and steering committee meetings, as well as upcoming public meetings. Citizens can follow the process online at [www.spartanburgcountyapp.org](http://www.spartanburgcountyapp.org)

Mr. Nutt stated his support for the project. He stated he was glad the groups assembled for this process are willing to work together to invest in our infrastructure so we will be ready for continued growth in our County.

### **Long-Range Transportation Plan Update**

Ms. Lisa Bollinger, Transportation Planning Manager, offered an update on the Long-Range Transportation Plan. Ms. Bollinger reviewed the purpose of the Long-Range process and the short-range Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) process. For a project to be placed in the TIP, funding availability is ensured, federal and state scheduling is reviewed, and the project is confirmed to be identified in the Long-Range Plan. The TIP is a budget based on allocations, continuously changing as we complete projects and add projects as funding becomes available. TIP is the short-range program that schedules projects to be federally funded in the next 5 years. We look at 7 years at a time in the TIP so we can see where we have come and where we are going.

The TIP includes:

- Guideshare allocation (Federal Highway Surface Transportation Program)

- intersection improvements, new roads, retrofit of roads, signals, safety or operational improvements, new sidewalks or bike lanes to connect system
- Nonguideshare funding
  - FTA (Federal Transit Administration)
  - Safety, Interstate Program
  - Transportation Alternatives (Enhancements, Recreational Trails and Safe Routes to School programs)

Transportation studies are more of a planning activity and funding through the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) –“PL” or planning funding-is a more appropriate source of funding (match required).

The travel demand model is used to examine the future transportation system and predict where the system may break down. It is a time when our County is experiencing growth, but that brings challenges to transportation. Through cooperation from multiple levels, the LRTP process will help us choose future projects that will help accommodate our growth in travel demand and balance our enjoyable quality of life improvements with improved mobility for all and accessibility of goods and services.

Ms. Bollinger reported that eight transportation planning firms attended the pre-proposal meetings and four final proposals were received. Two firms were chosen for interviews and a selection will be made today. The chosen consultant will be asked to begin the process at the point where SCDOT left off with their regional travel demand model computer analysis. They will be asked to confirm the previous work of the intersection sub-committee and confirm the draft list of intersection projects for further analysis. They will suggest operational improvement projects and propose multi-modal projects (freight, rail, transit, and active transportation), pursuant to Act 114. Then they will recommend TIP prioritization and project programming of funding.

The Draft LRTP will be presented Nov. 2015 and the Final LRTP approval by the Policy Committee is scheduled for Feb. 2016.

Mr. Anderson asked that the Policy Committee support making US 29 a more attractive corridor coming into the City. He would like to see bike lanes and sidewalks on the Westside. Mr. White suggested a traffic study and agreed that it was a gateway into the City of Spartanburg.

**Projects Status Report**

Ms. Penny Phillips of SCDOT presented a project status report.

**SC 9** widening from 2 to 5 lanes from Rainbow Lake Road to River Oak Road Phase 2 and 3 is 95% complete, well ahead of schedule.

**US 176** Operational improvements from I-26 to I-585/SC 56 split with Intersection Improvements at John Dodd Rd., Belcher Rd., and Springfield Rd.: PE is 70% complete. ROW obligation is scheduled for Fall 2015 and Construction letting is scheduled for Fall 2016.

**S-30** Intersection improvements at Fernwood/Clifton/Glendale Rd. and Zion Hill Rd.: PE is 60% complete. ROW Obligation is scheduled for late 2015. Construction letting is scheduled for late 2016.

**Old Furnace Road sidewalks from Hanging Rock Rd. to Mason Rd.:** PE is 75% complete. ROW acquisition began in June and is 15% complete. Utility coordination is underway. Construction letting is scheduled for Fall 2016.

**S-41 Relocation (N. Blackstock Rd.) & S-525 (Fairforest Rd.) and Church St.:** PE is Underway with Contract Modification. SCDOT Commission approval July 16, 2015. Utilities are underway and ROW and Construction dates are to be determined.

**I-585 and SC 9** Rehabilitation of Interstate 585 from near California Avenue to past US 221. Replace California Ave. bridge and jack SC 9 bridge to obtain proper vertical clearances: PE, ROW and Construction are complete.

It was noted that the recent safety project at I-585 and Business 85 was repair of a dip in the pavement and is complete.

### **Other Business and Adjourn**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Horton to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Forrester. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 9, 2015.