

# *Spartanburg Area Transportation Study*

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## **SPATS Policy Committee**

### **Minutes**

*August 8, 2016*

#### **Present:**

Woody Willard  
Whit Kennedy

Jeff Horton  
Tony Gillispie

Mike Forrester  
Tom Arthur

Sterling Anderson  
Justin Bradley

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

Chairman Mike Forrester called the meeting to order. The minutes of the June 13, 2016 meeting were approved as offered by Mr. Jeff Horton, seconded by Mr. Justin Bradley.

#### **SPATS Area Safety Presentation**

Ms. Sherry Dull represented SPATS at the recent SCDOT/FHWA statewide Safety conference. SPATS was one of five MPOs invited to plan alongside SCDOT the statewide safety targets in preparation for the conference.

Ms. Dull introduced Brett Harrelson, SCDOT Safety Engineer, to speak on the Safety statistics for the SPATS area.

Mr. Harrelson reported there were 979 crashes statewide 2015, up from 823 in 2014. Other statewide statistics on safety:

- *Nearly 50% of all fatalities involved vehicles leaving the roadway*
- *40% of all fatal crashes on interstates involved a vehicle striking a tree*
- *41% of all fatal crashes were alcohol related*
- *37% of fatal crashes were speed related*

Safety data **for the SPATS area** from 2011-2015 included:

- *Total Fatal and Severe Injury Leading Crash Factors were: Roadway Departure, Speed Related and Young Drivers (age 15-24)*
- *Total Number of Fatal and Severe Injury Crashes: 591*
- *Urban Road Departure Crashes = 172*
- *2-Lane Roadways account for 65% of SPATS mileage*

Mr. Harrelson also gave an overview of Road Departure Countermeasures, including: paved shoulders, rumble strips, adequate clear zones, cable guardrail, increased friction pavement, signing and markings, as well as horizontal curve improvements.

The following statistics were presented for intersection crashes:

- Number of Intersections in Spartanburg County = 9,265
- Number of Signalized Intersections in Spartanburg County = 385
- % Signalized = 4%
- Total Fatal and Severe Injury Crashes: 144.

The top six corridors where most crashes occurred (48% of all intersection Fatal and Severe Injury crashes) were on SC 296, US 176, US 221, US 29, SC 292 and SC 290. Countermeasures to improve safety at intersections include: Roundabouts because they reduce conflict points (have reduced fatal crashes 100%!), access management, design alternatives, improved sight distance, traffic signals, backplates with retroreflective borders, and design alternatives such as road diets.

Vulnerable Roadway Users: Motorcyclists: 16%, Pedestrians: 7%, Mopeds 7%, and Bicyclists 1%. Most all pedestrian crashes are at non-intersections (91%) and 80% in MPOs statewide. 42% of these crashes involved the pedestrian either illegally in the roadway or lying in the roadway.

Mr. Horton expressed to Mr. Harrelson a need for increased Highway Patrol coverage. Mr. Harrelson expressed overall the need for clear zones to be evaluated across the state.

#### **Coordinated Projects:**

Mr. Harrelson confirmed the ongoing partnership between SCDOT Safety, the County Transportation Committee (CTC) and SPATS on 4<sup>th</sup> Street Improvements due to the recent fatalities in this area and the opportunity to combine improvements in close proximity, including the SC 9 and 4<sup>th</sup> Street SPATS priority intersection and the 4<sup>th</sup> Street/Hanging Rock Road and Valley Falls Road intersection project.

For the SC 9 and 4<sup>th</sup> Street intersection (SPATS' priority), funding in the TIP includes: \$700,000 in PE beginning in 2017, \$400,000 in ROW in 2018, and \$2 million in Construction in 2019.

4<sup>th</sup> Street Improvements (CTC priority) will be phased over multiple years. The first phase will include relocating Hanging Rock Road and 4<sup>th</sup> Street to intersect. CTC currently has appropriated \$700,000 for survey, design, ROW and construction of the first phase and is under review by SCDOT Safety. It is believed that \$1.5 million total is needed for the whole project. SCDOT Safety will confirm their funding contribution soon.

Mr. Harrelson also said SCDOT Safety has coordinated with SPATS on safety treatments at the SC 85 and Hearon Circle/I-585 interchange and will continue

to coordinate on correcting the design deficiencies there. (Preliminary Engineering to begin in 2019).

## **Update and Opportunities from GPATS**

Keith Brockington gave an overview of the Greenville-Pickens Area Transportation Study, the Transportation Management Area (population of more than 250,000) and the transportation planning organization for the Greenville Urbanized area. GPATS has a Policy Committee and Study Team similar to SPATS, and is the third largest MPO in South Carolina.

Horizon 2040 is the GPATS Long-Range Transportation Plan is underway. Mr. Brockington invited the Policy Committee and those in attendance to the Kick-off meeting on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, as well as the subsequent Sub-regional meeting in Greer in October (more details will be passed to SPATS). Stakeholder groups will be held after the sub-regional meetings, and the plan will be completed late next year.

Mr. Brockington gave an overview of the current GPATS projects, including the I-85/I-385 Gateway Project (<http://www.85385gateway.com/>) which began in February and is expected to be complete in 2020, and the I-85 Widening project on the Spartanburg County side which will widen the interstate to 8 lanes between Pelham Road and SC 14 ramps & between Brockman-McClimon and SC 101 ramps.

### **US 29 and Gap Creek intersection:**

Mr. Willard made the motion to approve funding collaboration with GPATS on US 29 and Gap Creek Road intersection, as both MPOs identified needed improvements at this intersection. Mr. Horton seconded the motion to approve this funding and the motion passed unanimously.

## **Projects Status Report**

Ms. Penny Phillips, SCDOT Program Manager, presented a project status report.

**Old Furnace Road sidewalks from Hanging Rock Rd. to Mason Rd.:** PE (\$200,000) and ROW acquisition (\$500,000) are complete. Construction letting is scheduled for August 2016.

**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 (\$400,000) is 95% complete. ROW obligation (\$200,000) is 95% complete. Construction (\$1.7 million) letting is scheduled for Fall 2016.

**S-30 Fernwood/Clifton/Glendale Rd. and Zion Hill Rd. Intersection Improvements:** PE (\$500,000) is 50% complete. ROW Obligation (\$550,000) is underway and 25% complete. Construction letting (\$1.7 million) is scheduled for Fall 2017.

**I-85 Mile Marker 69-77:** Reconstruct 10 lanes N bound and S bound of interstate 85 pavement from Mile Marker 69-Mile Marker 77: PE (\$400,000) is 95% complete. Construction letting (\$75 million) is scheduled for Late 2016.

**SC 85 Bridges:** Replace bridges over Southern RR and S-42-995 and S-2 (Howard St.) between Hearon Circle and New Cut Road: PE (\$3.5 million) is 30% complete. Public information hearing was held June 7, 2016. ROW Obligation (\$50,000) is scheduled for Spring 2017. Construction letting (\$20.5 million) is scheduled for Summer 2018.

**S-1557: Bridge Replacement on S-1557 over Fairforest Creek near S. Forest St. and Irwin Ave. Ext.:** PE (\$450,000) is 70% complete. ROW Acquisition (\$100,000) scheduled to begin Fall 2016. Construction letting (\$2.5 million) scheduled for Fall 2017.

**I-85/SC 290 Diverging Diamond Interchange:** Convert existing interchange at I-85 and SC 290 to a Diverging Diamond and improve ramps: PE (\$1.8 million) completed in 2014, ROW (\$1 million) in FY 2017 and Construction (\$12 million) in FY 2018.

**S-41 Relocation (N. Blackstock Rd.) & S-525 (Fairforest Rd.) and Church St.:** PE (\$225,000) is approximately 35% complete. ROW is estimated at \$400,000 and Construction is estimated at \$1.6 million. Public Information Meeting was held May 24, 2016.

#### **Other Business and Adjourn**

Motion was made by Mr. Horton to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Kennedy. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 14, 2016.