

# *Spartanburg Area Transportation Study*

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## **SPATS Policy Committee Minutes**

*November 13, 2017*

### **Present:**

Jeff Horton

Sterling Anderson

Tom Arthur

Woody Willard

Julian Hankinson

Whit Kennedy

Jared Wilson

Larry Chappell

Roger Nutt

Steve Bolin

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

Chair Jeff Horton called the meeting to order. Mr. Chappell moved to approve the minutes of the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting as emailed, seconded by Mr. Wilson.

Mr. Horton recognized the Secretary of Transportation, Christy Hall, along with a couple members of her team – Mike Sullivan, Chief of Statewide Planning and Emily Thomas, State Highway Safety Plan Manager.

### **SCDOT 10-Year Strategic Plan**

Secretary of Transportation Christy Hall revealed the SCDOT's 10-Year Strategic Plan and how the SCDOT is working towards the goal of performance and asset management while being good stewards of finite resources.

Currently, the four biggest challenges are:

1. Deadly roads-SCDOT plans to address the “worst of the worst” roads by improving 100 miles per year in a plan with 10-mile segments.
2. Structurally deficient bridges-approximately half of SCDOT's 750 structurally deficient bridges will be replaced.
3. “Backlog” on needed road widening-SCDOT plans to begin 11 to 12 interstate widening projects.
4. Poor pavement-SCDOT intends to use half of the revenue from the recently passed Roads Bill to begin resurfacing state highways. 80% of the state's 42,000 miles need resurfacing or rebuilding. The 10-year goal is to bring them up to a “good” rating.

At full implementation, the 2017 Roads Bill will add about another \$600 million for SC's infrastructure. The motor vehicle user fee is increased by 2 cents per year, which began July 2017, and continues to increase by 2 cents per year for the next 6 years for a total of 12 cents by July 2022. The plan over time for investment in roads and bridges will eventually grow to \$800 million annually.

Prior to the passage of the Roads Bill, the General Assembly increased SCDOT's funding by about \$200 million annually.

With 2013 and 2016 funding, the SCDOT jump-started the Interstate Widening Program, began to increase the Resurfacing Program, and launched a significant Bridge Program to eliminate all Load-Restricted bridges and structurally deficient bridges on our Interstates and major primary routes.

Priorities targeted with the new Roads Bill Funding include:

- Continuing the 2013 and 2016 initiated programs for Resurfacing, Bridges, and Interstate Widening,
- Launching a Rural Road Safety Program, and
- Increasing the Resurfacing Program to achieve moderate targets.

In addition, in six years, the Safety Maintenance Tax Credit will sunset. Depending on those funds returning, SCDOT recommends about \$115 go to the roads category to widen I-26 from Charleston to Columbia and I-95 at the GA line to close the \$800 million gap.

For more details on the 10-Year Plan, please see the SCDOT website link at <http://www.scdot.org/projects/ten-year-plan.aspx>

To check on the status of projects in our area, see Project Viewer on the SCDOT website at the following link:

<https://scdot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=ca1cd69fc88945f4bb465e16765d761c>

### **Performance Management General Overview**

Mike Sullivan, SCDOT Chief of Statewide Planning, gave an overview of the Performance Management Process. Performance and asset management tie investment levels to a desired outcome of the condition and performance of our transportation system. Targets have been established and SCDOT is working toward achieving those targets in an organized manner. SCDOT will be held accountable for achieving these targets.

The ISTEA transportation bill transitioned the approach to transportation planning from "highway departments" to departments that focus on multi-modal transportation. MAP-21 and the FAST Acts now build on this approach to emphasize managing transportation assets for guiding investment based on an expected return in performance.

SCDOT works with FHWA, FTA and other federal transportation groups as well as the MPOs and COGs to define performance goals, with respect to the national goals of Safety, Infrastructure Condition, Congestion Reduction, System Reliability, Freight Movement and Economic Vitality, Environmental Sustainability, and Reduced Delivery Delays.

The performance measure process has been organized into performance periods, establishment of targets, and development of projects based on goals

and targets, then reporting how the projects have influenced performance toward achieving the goals.

The four major performance areas include **Safety**, Assets, and Mobility or System Performance, and Transit. There are several performance measures under each area for which targets are to be established.

Both Lisa Bollinger and Sherry Dull from the SPATS staff have participated in the FHWA/National Highway Institute performance management and target setting trainings hosted by SCDOT. Ms. Bollinger also serves on the SCDOT/MPO/COG working group to develop the Planning Process Agreements for each measure, coordinated by SCDOT Planning.

#### **Performance Measure: Safety Targets**

Emily Thomas, SCDOT Traffic Engineering Safety Office-State Highway Safety Plan Manager, presented an overview of the State's Safety targets.

Safety measures chosen by the State include:

1. Number of fatalities,
2. Fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT),
3. Number of serious injuries,
4. Rate of serious injuries per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT), and
5. Number of non-motorized fatalities and number of non-motorized serious injuries.

The Safety office has presented SPATS with baseline data at a previous Policy Committee meeting. SPATS participated in the MPO/COG subgroup to choose the state Safety targets. States are required to report targets in the Highway Safety Plan report to the FHWA.

MPOs and COGs were to establish targets by February 2018. This group collectively decided to ask their respective committees to adopt the state's targets for this year. This means that MPOs and COGs agree to plan and program projects that contribute to the State Highway Safety Plan. The overall goal of reducing traffic fatalities and severe injuries cannot be achieved without the help of the MPOs and COGs.

#### **SPATS Long-Range Transportation Plan Amendment for Performance Measure Target: Safety**

Ms. Bollinger followed up the SCDOT presentations with a review of the Long-Range Transportation Plan amendment with regards to the first performance measure, Safety. Safety is addressed on multiple levels throughout the SPATS program such as identifying high-crash locations, addressing ways to improve access management, making general safety improvements for all modes, and making design-related countermeasure recommendations at multiple intersections.

Ms. Dull has served on the statewide committee to assist SCDOT in developing the statewide targets. Ms. Bollinger serves on the working group representing the MPOs and COGs for coordinating the performance measures into our program, and will come back to the committee for additional amendments to

move towards full integration of these performance measures into our SPATS program.

Ms. Bollinger presented the amendment to the SPATS Long-Range Transportation Plan to include performance measures and to accept the SCDOT's targets for Safety. Mr. Chappell made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Wilson.

### **Projects Status Report**

Ms. Penny Phillips, SCDOT Program Manager, presented a project status report. Project status pages can be found at the following link:

<https://scdot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=ca1cd69fc88945f4bb465e16765d761c>

### **Old Furnace Road sidewalks from Hanging Rock Rd. to Mason Rd.:**

Construction is complete, ahead of schedule and under budget.

**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.: Construction 60% complete.

### **S-30 Fernwood/Clifton/Glendale Rd. and Zion Hill Rd. Intersection Improvements:**

PE and ROW complete. Construction letting scheduled for Early 2018.

### **Country Club Road Corridor Improvements:**

Field work and surveying is underway. Property owner letters were mailed and approximately a dozen calls were answered on the project timeline. The SCDOT public portal page was set up to keep the public informed of any project updates.

### **Other Business and Adjourn**

There being no other business, motion was made by Mr. Arthur to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Hankinson. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 12, 2018.