

Spartanburg Area Transportation Study

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SPATS Policy Committee Minutes

November 14, 2016

Present: (quorum not present)

Jeff Horton

Patricia Watson

Julian Hankinson

Roger Nutt

Tom Arthur

Welcome, Introductions and Approval of Minutes

Vice-Chair Jeff Horton called the meeting to order. The minutes of the August 8, 2016 meeting were not approved at this time due to the absence of a quorum.

Mr. Horton asked for the Committee members to please keep Mr. Tony Gillispie, Mayor of Lyman, in their thoughts and prayers during his time of illness.

SC 9/4th Street Project Update

Ms. Bollinger reported that SCDOT Safety, the County Transportation Committee (CTC) and SPATS continue to coordinate on 4th Street Improvements due to the recent fatalities in this area and the opportunity to combine resources for improvements in close proximity.

Anticipated timeframes and cost breakdown overview was given last meeting. The SC 9 and 4th Street intersection is still the number one project for SPATS. This is a capacity improvement project, adding lanes and sidewalks in each direction, and access management. Not only will this project help in these ways, but also alleviate traffic generated by the new Shoally Creek Elementary School on Parris Bridge Road, which opened for the 2016-2017 school year.

The CTC first phase will be relocating Valley Falls Road and 4th Street to line up with Hanging Rock Road. A new subdivision is being built here also, so that brings it's own challenges. County Engineering and SCDOT Safety Office are working on the details of the design and the timeframe.

Mr. Kirby shared an engineering's concept with the Committee and will report further information next meeting as they receive comments from the SCDOT Safety office.

I-85 Park and Ride and Truck Parking Project Update

Ms. Emily Swearingen, Project Manager from AECOM, presented an update on the I-85 Park and Ride Lot Location, Design and Construction and Truck Parking Recommendations. The Project scope consists of Planning, Site Selection, Environmental/NEPA analysis, Right of Way, Design and Marketing Plan. Site selection has been based on extensive research, field visits and analysis. The focus for this project is to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow along the I-85 corridor from Greenville to Spartanburg, a total of 22 miles.

The consultant has reviewed commuter patterns, potential ridership, and opportunities for transit and other multimodal connections. They have reached out to major employers and encouraged discussions to develop van pools. Locations for the lots are studied ¼ mile from each intersection. The consultant is looking for properties owned by SCDOT at least 5 ac in size and will address safety and maintenance issues.

Mr. Arthur expressed concern over the price of real estate. Ms. Swearingen explained that they were rank state owned properties higher because the SCDOT would not have to purchase property.

For the Truck Parking part of the project, the consultant will evaluate truck parking needs, identify available spaces, and make recommendations. The parking space inventory will include privately owned facilities. The TranSearch truck traffic 2014 data utilized in this project consists of 100 different sources combined into one report. It was revealed that 45% of trucks are just passing through our state. 43% have a destination in our state. 25% truck trips end in Atlanta, and 25% truck trips end in NC. The consultant reviewed some very

Ms. Swearingen added that the project funding does not include funding to construct and implement the truck parking plan developed from this project.

The marketing plan will consists of a range of communication tools.

The project's public meeting will probably be second week of December.

The schedule for this project is as follows:

Park and Ride Site Selection Report and the Truck Parking Site Selection Report should be complete December 2016. Concept layouts for Sites Selected and Park and Ride Marketing Plan will be completed in February 2017.

Environmental documents should be complete by April 2017. Project should be overall completed by Fall 2017.

Country Club Road Corridor Improvements Project Update

Sherry Dull, SPATS gave an overview of the status of the implementation of the Country Club Road Improvement Project. SCDOT reported to SPATS that seven

bid packages were received after the recent Request for Proposals and the consultant should be selected the first of the year. The remaining schedule is anticipated as follows:

Environmental Documentation – Spring 2017-Fall 2017

Final Design – Fall 2017-Summer 2018

Right-of-Way (SCDOT) – Summer of 2019

Construction – Summer 2019-Fall 2021

Mr. Arthur asked if there were any anticipated environmental issues with this project. Ms. Dull reported that the team had not identified any red flags out of the ordinary and just the standard environmental documents were expected.

Crossroads of the Carolinas and Overmountain Victory Trail Update

Caroline Parris, SPATS introduced Ben Richardson, National Park Service, to give an Update on the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. Travel studies show that for every tourism dollar spent, eight dollars comes back to the community. This number climbs to \$11 of reinvestment as it relates to Heritage Tourism such as OVNHT visits.

Mr. Richardson reported that the National Park Service has a new planning model for the effort to complete the gaps in our region as part of the four-state OVNHT system. (See www.ovtplan.com for further details). Approximately \$80,000 to \$100,000 has been secured over the next two years for Destination by Design out of Boone, NC to study two sections in our area with termini in Chesnee. They have recently completed a large-scale master planning process in Lenior, Morganton, Lake James, and Elkin.

The current MOU agreement is for the first section, from Chesnee to Kings Mountain, NC and funding has been secured for this part of the trail. Gaffney Redevelopment Corporation will be the project lead, but Blacksburg and Chesnee will be part of the MOU. Spartanburg County is a signatory as a show of support for this effort, however, no funding from the County will be requested for this part of the Trail.

The planning process will include multiple entities and consist of:

*Existing conditions and analysis

*Landowner opportunities identification

*Landowner workshop

A video tailored to each section for landowners will be developed for marketing purposes. Design guidelines and suggestions for highlighting the unique tales in each community will be a part of each Plan. Opportunities to link to the Carolina Thread Trail and the Palmetto Trail will be identified.

At a later date, NPS will seek to execute a second MOU for the Chesnee to Rutherfordton section of the Trail. The consultants will build upon the existing SPATS Master Plan for this section. This Plan scope was to the County line and conceptual in nature, while the new plan will develop detailed recommendations to connect to the existing OVNHT trail section at Alexander's Ford. Spartanburg County and local entities will be asked to contribute \$10,000 for this Trail leg.

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 and ROW are complete.

Construction letting is scheduled for December 2016.

This will be a rebid as DOT did not receive any bids in August.

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 98% complete.

ROW 98% complete.

Construction begins this month.

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

PE 70% complete.

ROW 40% complete.

Construction letting 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 95% complete.

Construction letting 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 50% complete.

Public information hearing was held June 7, 2016.

ROW scheduled for Spring 2017.

Construction letting scheduled for Summer 2018.

S-1557: Bridge Replacement on S-1557 over Fairforest Creek near S. Forest St. and Irwin Ave. Ext.:

PE 70% complete.

ROW 40% complete.

Construction letting 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 completed in 2014.

ROW begin FY 2017

Construction begin FY 2018.

S-41 Relocation (N. Blackstock Rd.) & S-525 (Fairforest Rd.) and Church St.: PE 35% complete.

Public Information Meeting was held May 24, 2016.

Scope is being revisited.

Other Business and Adjourn

There being no other business, motion was made by Mr. Nutt to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Arthur. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 13, 2016.