

Spartanburg Area Transportation Study

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SPATS Policy Committee Minutes

November 10, 2014

Present:

Junie White

Sterling Anderson

Elaine Harris

Billy Painter

Jeff Horton

Mike Forrester

Cornelius Huff

Woody Willard

O'Neal Mintz

1. Welcome, Introductions and Approval of Minutes

Chairman Jeff Horton called the meeting to order. The minutes of the August 11, 2014 meeting were approved as offered.

2. SPATS Long Range Transportation Plan/Intersection Subcommittee Update

Ms. Lisa Bollinger explained that the SPATS 2040 LRTP will focus on a series of intersections and operational improvements. The SC 9 funding has been obligated and intersection improvements are a way to program the available funding throughout the urban area. The project list includes intersections which have been identified as needing improvements through an SCDOT formula based on accidents, traffic volume, and 2040 projected growth in traffic and levels of service.

Ms. Bollinger provided the updated list to the Committee after Study Team and Intersection Subcommittee review. Mr. Todd Carroll from County Engineering presented made cost estimates available. Highlighted projects were identified as having other funding sources. Ranking will continue based on the financial feasibility, the economic development potential in the area that increases traffic esp. truck traffic, bike/pedestrian accident locations, safety, impacts to natural/cultural and environmental resources and other Act 114 factors. The intersection project list will continue to be analyzed for the February meeting with the goal of presenting the list for public comment in the Spring and final approval in June.

SCDOT STIP Safety Projects for Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Inclusion

Ms. Bollinger informed the Committee the SCDOT has approved Safety projects for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). These projects include: I-585/S-85, Hearon Circle, SC 146/SC 417/SC 296, and S-77/SC 292 in Duncan.

Ms. Bollinger will incorporate the projects with an administrative correction to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY 2014-2021 and no action is required by the Committee. The information was presented as info as the SCDOT has already gone through public comment period.

Transportation Conformity Update

Mr. Roger Jerry from DHEC presented an update on the upcoming standards for air quality from EPA. EPA will publish the proposal in December and the final in October next year. Mr. Jerry stressed that although it helped for us to have two mild ozone seasons in a row, it was important for the air quality partners to continue to work together statewide through a Memorandum of Agreement to improve air quality for our health and economic prosperity.

The North Spartanburg fire station air quality station is at .66 and currently one of the highest in the state. A Memorandum of Agreement has been updated to include the newest MPO, Lowcountry MPO at Hilton Head and Bluffton SC. He anticipates the Memorandum of Agreement to be approved for signature by all MPOs by February 2015 if there are no further changes after public comment. Mr. Jerry will bring back the Memorandum of Agreement for signature in February.

Spartanburg Urban Area Trail Master Plan

Ms. Laura Ringo of Partners for Active Living presented highlights of the recently completed Spartanburg Urban Area Trail Master Plan. Implementation of the Plan will give us improved health and economic prosperity. Partners plan to continue to connect the East and the West by expanding current efforts. Joint grants have been submitted and people counters on existing trails will help document current usage for grant application purposes and ongoing evaluation. Ms. Ringo reported there were 25,000 users in 2009 on the Rail-Trail and increased to 65,000 in 2012-evidence of the community demand for trails.

The Master Plan recommends naming and branding the trails as a whole, while preserving the identity of each trail. The Plan also recommends a variety of surfaces for the proposed 100 miles of trails, but mainly paved to reach the most users. Committee members expressed interest in coordinating connections to the proposed US 29 (W. Main St.) gateway and sidewalk project for a variety of trail surface.

Ms. Ringo thanked the Policy Committee for commissioning the Country Club Road Corridor Study and approving funding for subsequent construction, a needed connection between the Rail-Trail and the multiple activities in Glendale.

Projects Status Report

Ms. Penny Phillips of the SCDOT briefed members on current projects. According to Ms. Phillips, SC 9 is 80% complete. 90% pipe laid. I-585/California Avenue bridge is 15% complete. California Avenue bridge should be open by early Spring.

Other Business and Adjourn

After some discussion, regarding intersections for the Long Range Transportation Plan which are on the GPATS/SPATS boundary, a request was made for staff to research the boundary issue.

After some continued discussion regarding the potential US 29 (W. Main Street) gateway project, a request was made for staff to send the proposed cost estimate for construction to all Policy Committee members.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Huff to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Horton.