

Spartanburg Area Transportation Study

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SPATS Policy Committee

Minutes

August 11, 2014

Present:

Mike Forrester

Woody Willard

O'Neal Mintz

Sterling Anderson

Jeff Horton

Elaine Harris

Lisa Scott

Cornelius Huff

Whit Kennedy

1. Welcome, Introductions and Approval of Minutes

Chairman Jeff Horton called the meeting to order. Chairman Horton recognized the Committee's two newest members, Lisa Scott (Mayor of Duncan) and Cornelius Huff (Mayor of Inman). The minutes of the June 9, 2014 meeting were approved as offered.

2. SPATS Long Range Transportation Plan

Ms. Lisa Bollinger gave an overview of the Long-Range Transportation Planning Process. The Moving Ahead for Progress (MAP-21) Highway Transportation Bill requires that all metropolitan areas with a population of greater than 50,000 have a continuous, coordinated and comprehensive transportation planning process. A required product of this process is a Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) with a target year of at least twenty (20) years. The LRTP is revised every five (5) years to ensure that current growth, population, employment, traffic and mobility trends are reviewed and analyzed regarding the overall SPATS transportation system. The SPATS 2035 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 2035 projected growth in traffic and levels of service.

SPATS staff has used a computerized traffic model to forecast future traffic needs. The model has been calibrated to the year 2010, and projections have been made for the year 2035 for a number of variables that will identify segments of the transportation network that are predicted to be congested by the year 2035. In addition to the model, SCDOT, CTC, staff, stakeholders and citizens have given input to the list over the more recent years.

Ms. Bollinger explained that the SPATS Technical Team has confirmed the list as the recommended intersection projects. The Study Team considers this a dynamic document. In addition to the traffic volume and accidents at these intersections chosen, the team looks at the financial feasibility of improvements, 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 team will work to take each project and estimate cost, termini, a description of the purpose and need for the project, and its prioritization for the TIP. The SPATS Policy Committee will receive a recommendation for projects to program and place into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) from the Study Team in November.

Chairman Horton asked that a sub-committee be formed to further analyze this list. He asked for Committee members to inform Ms. Bollinger at the conclusion of the meeting if they were interested in serving on the sub-committee.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), FY 2014-2021 Amendments

Ms. Kelley Gilbert, Spartanburg County Planning, requested an amendment to the TIP to reflect the total project costs for each small urban transit project instead of the federal share only. These projects were originally approved at the June Policy Committee meeting.

Ms. Gaye Sprague, Engineering consultant to the City of Spartanburg, requested an administrative modification (correction) to move the funding approved for city signal project for FY 2015 from FY 2014 to FY 2015.

Ms. Bollinger then asked the Committee to approve the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY 2014-2021 amendments that would include the Recreational Trail and Transportation Alternative projects, Transit funding documentation, and the City of Spartanburg Signal Upgrade correction.

ACTION: This request was approved by the full Committee.

Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail Master Plan Update

Ms. Caroline Parris presented an update on the status of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail (OVNHT) Master Plan. Ms. Parris reported that the consultants, Stewart Inc., have held 3 public open house meetings where they received positive feedback from a combined 100 citizens and advocates. Based on OVNHT Steering Committee and public feedback, Stewart Inc. generated a map with two proposed trail routes that fall within ½ mile of the historical route of the Overmountain Men from Abington, VA to Kings Mountain. Further public input revealed citizens would prefer to see a multi-use, off-road trail located along the northern proposed route. The final master plan should be complete by the end of September.

Projects Status Report

Ms. Penny Phillips of the SCDOT briefed members on current projects. According to Ms. Phillips, SC 9 Phase 1 widening, from Fagan's Creek Rd to Sugar Ridge, is complete. SC 9 Phase 2 and Phase 3 are under construction with a projected completion date of March 2016. Drainage is 90% complete and the project is 75% complete overall.

Ms. Phillips also reported that I-585/California Avenue bridge is 15% complete. SCDOT is trying to get California Avenue back open as soon as possible.

Other Business and Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.