



Spartanburg Area Transportation Study

Policy Committee Minutes

February 8, 2021

Present:

Bob Walker

Woody Willard

Manning Lynch

Palmer Burchstead

Larry Chappell

Rosalyn Henderson-Myers

Jared Wilson

John Throckmorton

Roger Nutt

Whit Kennedy

Welcome, Introductions and Approval of Minutes (November 9, 2020)

Chairman Lynch called the meeting to order and welcomed Palmer Burchstead of the Town of Reidville and welcomed back Rep. Roger Nutt, now representing the Legislative Delegation House District 34. Mr. Nutt moved to approve the minutes of the November 9th meeting as emailed, seconded by Mr. Throckmorton. The minutes will now be made available online on the SPATS website.

2021 Election of Officers

Mr. Nutt moved to elect the slate of new officers for 2021 as follows by acclamation vote, seconded by Mr. Walker:

Chair: Junie White, Mayor of the City of Spartanburg

First Vice-Chair: Rep. Rosalyn Henderson-Myers, Legislative Delegation

Second Vice-Chair: Manning Lynch, Chair of Spartanburg County Council.

First Vice-Chair Henderson-Myers continued the meeting serving as Chair in the absence of Chair Mayor White.

Safety Targets 2017-2021

Lisa Bollinger, SPATS Transportation Planning Manager, presented the 2017-2021 safety targets (from 2015-2019 baseline) coordinated with SCDOT, previously forwarded to the Policy Committee through the SPATS shared files website link and due to the SCDOT by February 27, 2021. Safety is one of multiple performance measures we coordinate with SCDOT to report (others include reliability, congestion, asset management and freight) and SPATS LRTP and TIP documents are updated every year to reflect the performance requirements. Safety measures include number and rate of traffic fatalities, number and rate of serious injuries, number of non-motorized user fatalities and serious injuries combined.

SPATS Study Team recommends taking the state targets again this year. No MPOs and COGs set their own targets at this time. However, SPATS agrees to

plan and program projects so that we contribute to improving safety with the work we have been doing locally, coordinating with the transit agencies, multiple departments including the CTC and the Coroner, and SCDOT. We continue to address areas of concern with our Safety Task Force work, assisting the CTC with their project prioritization, including safety countermeasures and access management into our projects, and installing roundabouts especially on our Top 7 corridors where 55% of our fatal and severe injury crashes happen. The Top 7 corridors for fatal and severe injury crashes continue to be: SC 9, SC 290, SC 292, SC 296, US 29, US 176 and US 221.

The five year average for SPATS for 2017-2021 was 45.4 traffic fatalities, a fatality rate of 1.654 (per 100 million vehicle miles traveled), 130.4 severe injuries, severe injury rate of 4.740 (per 100 million vehicle miles traveled) and 20 non-motorized fatal and severe injury crashes. Nighttime, roadway departure and speed continue to be our top three factors in fatal and severe injury crashes.

Ms. Bollinger asked for a motion to accept the state's targets for Safety for 2017-2021 in the form of an amendment to add this year's numbers to the LRTP and the TIP, as well as a resolution. Mr. Throckmorton moved to approve the LRTP and TIP Amendments in the form of resolution, seconded by Mr. Chappell. The resolution will now be signed by the present First Vice Chair Henderson-Myers and Ms. Bollinger will submit to SCDOT.

In addition, Ms. Bollinger reviewed the TIP Corrections as info previously forwarded to the Committee including updates on SC 9 and 4th St/Shoally Creek Rd. intersection improvement, US 29/Pine Ridge Rd. intersection improvement, I-26 widening (Exit 15 to SC 296), I-85 widening (Exit 40 to Exit 69), Mary Black Rail-Trail, and the I-85/SC 290 Diverging Diamond interchange project.

UPWP Updates for 2022-2023

Ms. Bollinger and Kaitlyn Kong presented the proposed updates to the work program for FY 2022 (July 2021-June 2022) and FY 2023 (July 2022 to June 2023). Ms. Bollinger reviewed the main elements of the UPWP including:

1. program administration;
2. data development;
3. short-range transportation planning; and
4. long-range transportation planning.

She outlined the previously forwarded new version, funded through planning ("PL") funding for two years at a time. The document can be amended, but another update is not due until July 2023.

Continuing activities from this fiscal year (FY21) previously budgeted and approved plans include:

- ACOG Regional Freight Plan (COG and 3 Upstate MPOs partnership with COG as coordinator lead)
- City of Spartanburg Transit Route Study and Operational Assessment
- ACOG Regional Travel Demand Model (COG and 3 Upstate MPOs partnership also with COG as maintenance lead)
- City of Spartanburg Thoroughfare Plan/SPATS Conceptual Projects List
- Interim LRTP

As requested by FHWA, we have updated the Public Participation Plan ahead of the Long-Range Transportation Plan process. Ms. Kong explained that the focus of the Public Participation Plan and Title VI Plan Update 2021 was on technology/data for performance based data collection

Public Participation Plan updates include providing convenient and safe meeting options for all participants with new heightened reliance on virtual correspondence; developing web-based content and presenting impactful infographics to communicate SPATS programs, partners, and funding sources to committees and to the public; updating demographic profiles and required certifications and assurances for the Title VI Plan of the Public Participation Plan; increasing awareness and equity in the planning process by exploring partnerships with organizations such as the City of Spartanburg Minority Business Development department and the Hispanic Alliance. Our updated website now features a language translate button on each page. The local transit agencies, City of Spartanburg Transit (SPARTA) and Spartanburg Medical Center Transportation Services (Spartanburg Regional), continue to utilize our Public Participation Plan process for their TIP project federal requirements for public notice for federal funding requests. Mr. Nutt asked for further information on equity and staff will forward this to him after the meeting.

Ms. Bollinger asked for a motion to approve the presented work program by resolution for FY 22-23 (which includes PPP and Title VI Update).

Mr. Throckmorton moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Chappell. The resolution will now be signed by the present First Vice Chair Rep. Henderson-Myers and Ms. Bollinger will submit to SCDOT.

Interim LRTP Update and Timeline

Ms. Bollinger gave an overview of a graphic representing the work to date and work to complete the Interim LRTP this year, referred to as Interim because the 2020 Census data will not be released before the update is due. The future Census data release will allow the COG and the MPOs to conduct their next LRTP cycle on the same timeline. Work to date includes the integration of plans completed since the last LRTP update, the draft reranking of intersections for the TIP Update, extensive transportation related data collection presentations and Stakeholder project visioning exercises for the Study Team and the Policy Committee in November.

Work to be completed includes:

1. City Thoroughfare Plan/SPATS Conceptual Project List study

366 N. Church Street, Suite 700, Spartanburg, SC 29303 (864)596-3570 spatsmpo.com "It's All About the Trip"

2. Additional Public Input/Stakeholder revisions
3. Study Team Recommendation – LRTP Project List/TIP fiscal programmed project list
4. Policy Committee Approval – LRTP Project List/TIP fiscal programmed project list

Projects' Status Report

On behalf of the SPATS Study Team and Policy Committee, Ms. Bollinger thanked Ms. Penny Phillips for her many years of service to SPATS as she will be retiring soon and this is her last official SPATS meeting with the Policy Committee.

Ms. Phillips presented a comprehensive project report sent out prior to the meeting by Ms. Bollinger. Detailed updates for SPATS projects and the corresponding SCDOT Project Viewer link include:

Country Club Road Improvements: operational and safety improvements on S-47 for 3.3 miles from Union St. (SC 56) to Clifton-Glendale Road (S-30). Project includes east-west trail connection along Country Club Road linking the Mary Black Foundation Rail Trail to the Glendale Shoals area. PE 90% complete. ROW acquisition began October 2019. Approximately 95% of tracts settled with 10 tracts left. Construction expected to begin Fall 2021 due to geotechnical and bridge design, utility coordination, and revised construction plans.

Country Club Road Corridor Project link in SCDOT Project Viewer

SC 9 at Shoally Creek/4th Street Intersection Improvement:

includes widening of SC 9 to add a third travel lane in each direction, adding/lengthening turn lanes along with reconfiguring 4th St. at existing sharp curve, and installing a traffic signal at SC 9 and Candlenut Lane. PE began in 2017 and is 70% complete. ROW acquisition began Fall 2020. Project expected to be revised as SCDOT is reevaluating scope changes after receiving ROW cost estimates. Construction letting anticipated to move.

Ms. Penny Phillips presented the original scope (description above) and gave a new ROW estimate at 7 million. Therefore, she offered a limited scope option at 1.2 million in ROW costs for this intersection. These improvements would include correcting the nose of the existing concrete island and adding a design solution called a loon to allow a turnaround, construct double lefts and right turn lane off Shoally Creek Road onto SC 9, lengthen turn lanes on SC 9, and reconfiguring 4th Street at the existing sharp curve, with left, straight, and right turn lanes onto SC 9. This limited scope option would focus on a solution for the four legs of the intersection only.

Mr. Brandon Wilson reported counts at this intersection he conducted. The volume at SC 9 and Rogers Commerce Dr. did not warrant a signal previously and there is an even smaller volume at this intersection. There was a discussion about general development along arterials in the Boiling Springs area, about how much ROW costs rise once development comes, and the importance of planning ahead.

The Committee requested additional study and more detailed cost estimates for the June meeting.

SC 9 and 4th St. Intersection Improvement Project link in SCDOT Project Viewer

SC 85 Northbound Bridge Replacement over Lawson’s Fork Creek: Replace bridges over Southern RR and S-42-995 and S-2 (Howard St.) between Hearon Circle and New Cut Road including SC 85 Northbound over Lawson’s Fork Creek. Letting expected in March 2021.

SC 85 Northbound Bridge Replacement over Lawson's Fork Creek

US 29 Southbound Bridge Replacement over N. Tyger River: Replace US 29 Bridge Southbound over N. Tyger River at Upward Sports. Project let end of 2020. Construction underway with demo starting this week.

US 29 Bridge Replacement over N. Tyger River in Spartanburg County Link in SCDOT Project Viewer

Lyman Traffic Triangle: improve traffic operations at three main intersections: US 29/Pine Ridge Road, SC 358 (Holly Springs Road)/Pine Ridge Road, and US 29/SC 129/SC 358 (Holly Springs Rd.)/SC 292. Preliminary Engineering 75% Complete. ROW Phase began Fall 2020. All property owners have been contacted. ROW revisions, utility coordination causing project schedule to adjust. Project expected to be let for Construction Spring 2022.

Lyman Traffic Triangle Project Link in SCDOT Project Viewer

I-85 and SC 290 Diverging Diamond Interchange: Preliminary Engineering is 90% complete. ROW expected to be complete in March. Utility coordination underway. Project expected to be let for Construction late Summer 2021.

Please see SCDOT Project Viewer for project status updates between SPATS meetings: <https://www.scdot.org/business/projectviewer.aspx>

Ms. Phillips concluded her presentation with a thank you to the Policy Committee for allowing her to provide a rewarding service to them over 20 years as SCDOT Program Manager, remembering the multiple projects she has helped implement for SPATS including the USC Upstate interchange update, SC 295, the I-26 and SC 296 interchange improvements, the California Avenue bridge update, and SC 9 widening. Members expressed their appreciation for her work.

Other Business and Adjourn

There being no other business, motion was made by Mr. Chappell to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Throckmorton. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 14, 2020.