

**GRAND STRAND AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES  
May 31, 2019**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Hon. Barbara Blain-Bellamy [Adam Emrick]  
Hon. Bob Childs  
Mr. John Thomas  
Hon. Debbie Smith  
Hon. Jimmy Braswell  
Hon. Huston Huffman  
Rep. Lee Hewitt  
Mr. Gary Loftus  
Hon. Brenda Bethune [Carol Coleman]  
Mr. Michael Chestnut  
Mr. Darrell Eickhoff [Robert Sheehan]  
Sen. Stephen Goldfinch  
Rep. Russell Fry  
Mr. Tony Cox  
Hon. Walt Eccard

**STUDY TEAM/TAC MEMBERS  
PRESENT**

Ms. Crystal McCutcheon, SCDOT  
Mr. Daniel Newquist  
Mr. Tom Britton  
Ms. Holly Richardson  
Mr. Boyd Johnson  
Ms. Mary Catherine Hyman  
Mr. Stacey Johnson, SCDOT  
Ms. Elizabeth Tucker  
Mr. Joey Skipper, SCDOT  
Mr. Mark Hoeweler  
Ms. Carol Coleman  
Mr. Andy Markunas  
Mr. Chad Kimes, NCDOT  
Ms. Caitlin Marks, NCDOT  
Ms. Marla Watson, SCDOT  
Mr. Kevin Parks

**EX OFFICIO MEMBERS  
PRESENT**

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Mr. Tom Stickler  
Rep. William Bailey  
Mr. Charles Swenson  
Ms. Sarah Smith  
Rep. Frank Iler

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## **Adoption of the Agenda**

Chairman Goldfinch called the meeting to order at the Surfside Beach Town Hall at 10:35 AM. It was noted that a quorum was present. Mr. Goldfinch welcomed everyone present and all members of the public that were in attendance for the meeting.

Chairman Goldfinch called for a motion to adopt the meeting agenda. **Rep. Hewitt made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cox. All members present voted in favor.**

## **Adoption of Minutes from February 15, 2019**

The minutes from the February 15, 2019 GSATS Policy Committee meeting were presented for approval. **Mayor Childs made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented. Rep. Hewitt seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor.**

## **Public Comments**

Chairman Goldfinch asked if there were any members of the public who signed up to address the committee during the public comment portion of the meeting. There were no members of the public who provided comments.

## **Projects Update (SCDOT)**

Mr. Stacey Johnson, Assistant Program Manager with SCDOT, provided an update on the status of current and upcoming projects in the region. Of particular note are the following:

- The US 17 Business Access Management project in Surfside Beach is currently under construction. The work on the mainline will be paused for the Summer but work on the right of way and frontage roads can continue.
- Preliminary Engineering has begun for the Tournament Blvd/ McDowell Shortcut project. This project will be expedited by SCDOT. Sen. Goldfinch asked when construction would begin. Mr. Johnson said construction is on track for the Summer 2021.
- Right of way acquisition for the S -57/ S-111 project will commence this fall, with construction scheduled for 2021.
- The SC 707 widening project was completely open to traffic Memorial Day weekend.
- A public meeting to review conceptual designs for the RIDE III Carolina Bays Extension project to the NC State line is tentatively planned for late summer.
- A Public meeting has been scheduled for the Fred Nash Blvd RIDE III project on Jun 25<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm at Socastee Elementary School.

- A public meeting is being finalized in July for the US 17 Bus Intersection in Garden City RIDE III project.
- A 2<sup>nd</sup> public meeting will be scheduled in the fall for the Conway Perimeter Phase II RIDE III project to review the selected corridor.
- A recent inspection on the bridge portion of the Carolina Bays Parkway ext South revealed some structural issues that will require correction. Mr. Johnson indicated that SCDOT is waiting on a revised schedule from the contractor. Sen. Goldfinch mentioned that SCDOT is currently in litigation with Flatiron, the project construction company. Mr. Cox indicated that Flatiron intends to subcontract the repair work which is limited to the decking of the bridge span over the Intracoastal Waterway. Mayor Brasswell suggested that it would be beneficial to have the project completed by the start of peak hurricane season.

Mr. Johnson then responded to questions from the committee. Rep Fry noted that while the recent pot hole blitz on Holmestown Rd provided some benefit, the whole SC 544 corridor needs repaving. Sen. Goldfinch asked Mr. Johnson to see if he could provide a summary of the percentage of funds that have been generated by the gas tax increase program is being committed to project work in the GSATS area at the next meeting. Rep. Hewitt asked if SCDOT has noticed any increase in the number of contractors that are working in SC. The Georgetown County CTC is having a hard time funding projects due to the ongoing increase in project costs. Mr. Cox indicated that he was aware that Jackson Co. from Charlotte is increasing activity across SC and hopefully additional contractors will see the potential of establishing a presence in SC.

Finally, Sen. Goldfinch encouraged SCDOT and the Study Team to begin looking at long-term solutions along the Queens Harbor segment of US 17 Bypass.

Below is a summary submitted by Mr. Johnson of all other projects within the GSATS Study Area.

**MAY 23, 2019 GRAND STRAND AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (GSATS)**

**STUDY TEAM MEETING**

**PROJECT STATUS REPORT**

**GSATS PROJECTS**

**SC-65 Widening**

Descr: Widening SC-65 from a two lane ditch section to a three lane section with curb and gutter and sidewalks extending from 17<sup>th</sup> Ave S. to 28<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.

Status: Project is currently under construction.

### **US 17 Business Access Management**

Descr: Install raised landscaped median on US 17 Business within the town limits of Surfside Beach.

Status: Project is currently under construction.

### **US 501 Southbound Widening**

Descr: Widening US 501 southbound from two to three lanes from Carolina Bays Parkway to Gardner Lacy Road, a distance of approximately 2.0 miles.

Status: Right-of-way acquisitions are underway.

### **US 17 Widening (Shetland to Backgate Interchange)**

Descr: Widening US 17 from four to six lanes from Shetland Lane to Backgate Interchange, a distance of approximately 1.5 miles.

Status: Preliminary engineering is underway. Right-of-way acquisitions will begin in the spring of 2019.

### **Black River Road Widening**

Descr: Widening Black River Road to three lanes from Willow Bank Road to Landgrave Street, a distance of less than 0.5 mile.

Status: Preliminary engineering is underway. Right-of-way acquisitions will begin in the summer of 2019.

**Tournament Blvd & McDowell Shortcut (Round 3 Intersection Improvement)**

Descr: Intersection Improvement at Tournament Blvd and McDowell Shortcut in Horry County.

Status: Preliminary engineering is underway.

**S-57 & S-111 (Round 3 Intersection Improvement)**

Descr: Intersection Improvement at S-57 (Wampee Rd) and S-111 Little River Rd) in Horry County.

Status: Preliminary engineering is underway. Right-of-way acquisitions will begin fall of 2019.

**Riverwood Dr. & Old Kings Hwy (Round 3 Intersection Improvement)**

Descr: Intersection Improvement at Riverwood Dr and Old Kings Hwy in Georgetown County.

Status: Preliminary engineering will begin Summer 2019.

**Broadway/Oak/9<sup>th</sup> Ave (Round 3 Intersection Improvement)**

Descr: Intersection Improvement at Broadway St. and North Oak St. and 9<sup>th</sup> Ave North in Horry County.

Status: Preliminary engineering will begin Summer 2019.

**US 17 & 27<sup>th</sup> Ave (Round 3 Intersection Improvement)**

Descr: Intersection Improvement at US 17 BUS (North Kings Hwy) and 27<sup>th</sup> Ave North in Horry County.

Status: Preliminary engineering will begin Summer 2019.

**US 378 & 16<sup>th</sup> Ave (Round 3 Intersection Improvement)**

Descr: Intersection Improvement at US 378 (Wright Blvd) and 16<sup>th</sup> Ave in Horry County.

Status: Preliminary engineering will begin Summer 2019.

**Enhancements**

Descr: Enhancements at various locations in the GSATS study area.

Status: Specific information is presented below for all projects currently under development:

River Oaks Multiuse Path

Preliminary engineering is currently underway.

Grand Park Linear Trail

Project will be let to construction in the spring of 2019.

**NON-GUIDESHARE PROJECTS**

**SC Route 707 Widening (RIDE II)**

Descr: Widening of SC Route 707 from a 2-lane shoulder section to a 5-lane curb and gutter facility with sidewalks from just south of Enterprise Road (S-26-926) in Horry County to US Route 17 in Georgetown County, a distance of approximately 9.2 miles. The project has been broken in to three phases: Phase I is from just south of Enterprise Road (S-26-926) to Salem Road. Phase II runs from Salem Road to the Horry/Georgetown County line. Phase III limits are from the Horry/Georgetown County line to US Route 17. All phases will be developed concurrently.

Status: The widening of Phase I is substantially complete and open to traffic. Construction efforts continue on the Collins Creek bridge and select noise walls on Phase II. Should be opened to traffic by this weekend.

**Glenn's Bay Road (S-2-1240) Widening and Interchange at US 17 Bypass (RIDE II)**

Descr: Widening of Glenn's Bay Road (S-26-1240) from a 2-lane shoulder section to a 3-lane curb and gutter facility with sidewalks from US Route 17 Bypass to US Route 17 Business, a distance of approximately 1.6 miles. The project will also include an interchange at US Route 17 Bypass and Glenn's Bay Road.

Status: The project is substantially complete and open to traffic. Final punch list items are currently being addressed.

**Carolina Bays Parkway (SC-31) Extension to the NC State Line (RIDE III)**

Descr: Extension of the Carolina Bays Parkway from its current terminus at SC Route 9 across the North Carolina state line to US 17. The proposed project is a new location, multilane freeway facility.

Status: The project team is actively gathering data that will be utilized in the development of the alternative corridors for the project. It is anticipated that the preliminary corridors will be presented at public information meeting in Summer 2019.

### **US 501 Corridor Improvements (RIDE III)**

Descr: Widen US 501 from Gardner Lacy to SC 544 Interchange. Widening the existing 4-lane section to 6 lanes and improve signalized intersections with additional turn lanes and storage lengths.

Status: Environmental studies and the development of conceptual designs are currently underway.

### **SC Highway 9 Widening (East of Loris) (RIDE III)**

Descr: Widen SC 9 for approximately 1.25 miles beginning east of Loris where the current 4-lane section terminates and extends to S-66 (SC Highway 66); traffic analyses will determine the typical section for capacity and safety improvements along the corridor.

Status: Environmental studies, traffic analysis, and the development of conceptual designs are in progress.

### **US 701 Widening (North of Conway) (RIDE III)**

Descr: Widen existing US Highway 701 North of Conway in Horry County from the intersection of SC 319 to the intersection of SC 22. The length of the project is approximately 4.3 miles. The proposed design includes widening US 701 North to a five (5) lane section and including bike/pedestrian facilities such as sidewalks and wider travel lanes where feasible.

Status: Efforts are underway on the preparation of right-of-way plans and the completion of the environmental document. Right-of-way acquisition will start Fall 2019.

### **Forestbrook Road Widening (RIDE III)**

Descr: Widen Forestbrook Road (S-137) to a five lane section from US 501 to Dick Pond Road (S-616) with associated improvements to Dick Pont Road.

Status: Environmental studies, traffic analysis, and the development of conceptual designs are in progress. It is anticipated that the public information meeting will be held in July 2019.

### **Fred Nash Boulevard Widening and Extension (RIDE III)**

Descr: Widen Fred Nash Boulevard to a three lane section and extend the roadway from its current termini to a proposed intersection with Harrelson Boulevard. Improvements will include bicycle facilities.

Status: Surveys, environmental studies, traffic analysis, and the development of conceptual designs are in progress.

### **US 17 BUS Intersections in Garden City (RIDE III)**

Descr: Intersection Improvements to the following three (3) intersections along US 17 Business in Garden City:

1. US 17 Business and Inlet Square Boulevard and Mt. Gilead Road
2. US 17 Business and Atlantic Avenue
3. US 17 Business and Garden City Connector

Status: Environmental studies, traffic analysis, and the development of conceptual designs are in progress. It is anticipated that the public information meeting will be held in July 2019.

### **US 701 Widening (North of Loris) (RIDE III)**

Descr: Widen US Highway 701 for approximately 1.75 miles from Holly Street to SC Highway 9. A traffic analysis will determine the typical section for capacity and safety improvements along the corridor.

Status: Right-of-way plans are being developed and acquisition will begin Spring 2020.

### **US 501 Realignment (Myrtle Beach) (RIDE III)**

Descr: Realign US Highway 501 from Broadway Street (local) to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North (local) in the City of Myrtle Beach.

Status: Right-of-way plans are being developed.

### **Conway Perimeter Road Phase II (RIDE III)**

Descr: New Location 4-lane divided roadway west of Conway connecting US 378 at El Bethel Road to US 701.

Status: Comments from the March 28<sup>th</sup> public information meeting are being reviewed and written responses are being prepared for distribution. The preferred corridor will be selected and efforts made to analyze alternative alignments within the preferred corridor. A second public information meeting will be held late Fall 2019 to present alternative within the preferred corridor.

### **Southern Evacuation Lifeline (SELL) (RIDE III)**

Descr: New Location freeway from US 501 at SC 22 to US 17 near the Horry/Georgetown County Line. RIDE III funding only includes the Environmental Document and purchase of some right of way based on



final alignment determined through the Federal Record of Decision (ROD).

Status: A consultant has been selected to preform services to complete the development of the environmental document for the project.

## **STATE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE BANK (STIB) PROJECTS**

### **Carolina Bays Parkway (SC Route 31) Extension**

Descr: Extension of the Carolina Bays Parkway from its current terminus at SC Route 544 to SC Route 707, a distance of approximately 4.3 miles. The proposed project is a new location, multilane freeway facility that will include a bridge over the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and interchanges at SC Route 544 and SC Route 707.

Status: Currently evaluating portion of the bridge that will need correction. We are awaiting a schedule from the prime contractor to determine completion date.

### **Projects Update (NCDOT)**

Ms. Caitlin Marks provided an overview of project updates impacting the NC portion of the GSATS study area. She noted that as NCDOT is approaching the end of the fiscal year, the department is balancing the budget which has resulted in the delay of the interchange project at the US 17 Bypass/ US Business intersection in Shallotte. All other projects will be moving forward as scheduled including the Carolina Bays Parkway extension project. As of now, it is anticipated that a public meeting will be scheduled in October to review the preferred alternative corridor alignments. In addition there is a public meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup> for the Shallotte Superstreet project at Shallotte Town Hall and on July 8<sup>th</sup> for the NC 904/ US 17 superstreet project at Jessie Mae Monroe Elementary School. Rep. Iler asked if the residents of Brunswick Plantation will receive direct notification for the Hickman Rd superstreet project. Ms. Marks noted that they will receive a postcard with information on any public meetings that are scheduled.

Below is a summary of NCDOT projects that impact the regional transportation network.

If you have any questions, please contact Caitlin Marks at the Division 3 Office: (910) 341-2000 or [cmmarks@ncdot.gov](mailto:cmmarks@ncdot.gov)

### **FY 2020-21 UPWP Review**

Mr. Hoeweler briefed the committee on the update of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) document which is due for adoption by the end of June. The UPWP is required by FHWA and FTA and outlines planning and administrative activities that the MPO will be working on over FY 2020-21. The document covers both SC and NC activities. The main categories of activities include Program Oversight, Short Range Planning, Special Area Studies, Plan Development, and Program Development/Maintenance. Each activity must align with one of the eleven planning factors outlined in the FAST Act. The draft UPWP has been submitted to all review agencies in both North Carolina and South Carolina and is currently posted for public comment until June 24, 2019.

**With no further discussion, Mr. Thomas made a motion to approve the GSATS FY 2020-21 UPWP. Rep. Fry seconded. All members voted in favor.**

### **Transit 5310 Funding Application Review**

Mr. Hoeweler introduced GSATS staff member Elizabeth Tucker to brief the committee on the Transit 5310 funding application cycle. This program is intended to enhance services for the elderly and individuals with disabilities. In this grant cycle there was \$296,000 available for funding. GSATS received four applications including Coast RTA, Neighbor 2 Neighbor, Brunswick Transit and Georgetown DSN. This was the first year that projects were submitted by entities serving Brunswick County. The staff recommended funding each of the proposals except Georgetown DSN which will be an alternate project, since it is already eligible for a separate funding source

**With no further discussion, Rep. Fry made a motion to approve the recommendations for Transit 5310 funding as presented. Mr. Cox seconded. All members present voted in favor.**

### **Title VI Plan Update**

Ms. Tucker continued by briefing the committee on the Title VI Plan. This document is required to be updated every 3 years. It essentially outlines measures that GSATS will employ to minimize discrimination in all planning activities, including providing accommodations for those with special needs at public meetings. There were not many

changes since the last update except with edits reflecting changes in Board composition and regionwide demographic trends.

**With no further discussion, Rep. Hewitt made a motion to adopt the Title VI Plan. Mayor Childs seconded. All members present voted in favor.**

#### **Transit Asset Management Plan Overview**

Ms. Tucker continued by briefing the committee on the Transit Asset Management (TAM) plan. This plan was prepared by Coast RTA and outlines the condition of the vehicle fleet and transit facilities within the service area and provides an estimated replacement cycle on these agency assets. GSATS staff reviewed the plan and confirmed that all FAST Act requirements are addressed in the document.

**With no further discussion, Mr. Cox made a motion to adopt the Transit Asset Management Plan. Rep. Fry seconded. All members present voted in favor.**

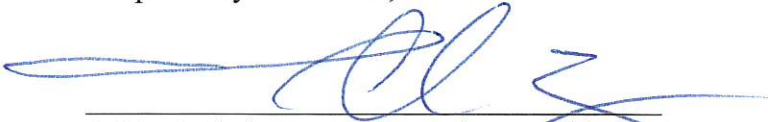
#### **Safety Committee Update**

Mr. Hoeweler then briefed the Policy Committee on the newly established Safety Committee. The first meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday June 11 at the Murrells Inlet Community Center. Representatives from law enforcement and EMS staff will be participating from both counties. The initial response to this committee has been very favorable. The plan is to meet quarterly and review frequent crash locations using aerial photography captured via drone. Staff will initially focus on getting this committee established in Horry and Georgetown Counties. Brunswick County TAC members have also expressed interest in the future.

#### **Adjourn**

With no further discussion Chairman Goldfinch called for a motion to adjourn. **Mr. Thomas made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Childs seconded. All members present voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 11:00am.**

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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GSATS Chairman, Sen. Stephen Goldfinch

11/15/2019  
Date

