

**GRAND STRAND AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES
August 24, 2018**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Barbara Blain-Bellamy [Adam Emrick]]]
Hon. Brendon Barber [Carey Smith]
Hon. Bob Childs
Mr. Johnny Morant [John Thomas]
Mr. Mike Sullivan
Hon. Jimmy Braswell [Ashley Carter]
Hon. Huston Huffman
Rep. Lee Hewitt [John Thomas]
Mr. Gary Loftus
Hon. Brenda Bethune [Carol Coleman]
Hon. Debbie Smith
Mr. Michael Chestnut [Carol Coleman]
Hon. Marilyn Hatley [Kevin Blayton]
Sen. Stephan Goldfinch
Rep. Russell Fry [Bob Childs]
Mr. Tony Cox
Mr. Robert Sheehan [Darrell Eickhoff]
Hon. Walt Eccard [Debbie Smith]
Mr. Mark Lazarus
Sen. Luke Rankin [Adam Emrick]

**EX OFFICIO MEMBERS
PRESENT**

**STUDY TEAM/TAC MEMBERS
PRESENT**

Ms. Rebecca Breland, SCDOT
Mr. Daniel Newquist
Mr. Tom Britton
Ms. Holly Richardson
Mr. Bill Jordan
Mr. David Schwerd
Mr. Stacey Johnson
Ms. Mary Catherine Hyman
Mr. Joey Skipper, SCDOT
Mr. Mark Hoeweler
Ms. Carol Coleman
Mr. Steve Gosnell
Mr. Kevin Blayton
Mr. Chad Kimes, NCDOT
Ms. Caitlin Marks, NCDOT
Ms. Krista Kimmel, NCDOT
Ms. Katie Hite, NCDOT

OTHERS PRESENT

Ms. Anita Crone
Mr. Tom Stickler
Ms. Chris Sokoloski
Mr. Al Jordan
Mr. Bernard Silverman
Ms. Liz Kovasckitz, Calyx

Adoption of the Agenda

Chairman Goldfinch called the meeting to order at the Surfside Beach Town Hall at 10:30 AM. It was noted that a quorum was present. Chairman Goldfinch welcomed everyone present and all members of the public that were in attendance for the meeting.

Mayor Childs 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 May 4, 2018

The minutes from the May 4, 2018 GSATS Policy Committee meeting were presented for approval. **Mayor Childs made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented. Mr. John Thomas 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. Mr. Charles McGill, a developer representing property owners located around the intersection of Deerfield Links Dr. and US 17, addressed the committee. Mr. McGill mentioned that he has obtained a permit from SCDOT to install a traffic signal at Deerfield Links Dr. across from East Coast Honda. Mr. McGill indicated that financing has been secured for 2/3 of the cost to install the signal. Mr. McGill is requesting that GSATS consider supporting the remainder of the costs for the installation.

There were no other members of the public who provided comments.

Projects Update (SCDOT)

Ms. Rebecca Breland, program manager with SCDOT, provided an update on the status of current and upcoming projects in the region. Of particular note, Ms. Breland mentioned that the Barefoot Landing/US 17 intersection project is substantially complete. The Surfside Beach US 17 Access Management project was recently let and the bids received were excessively high. SCDOT will reexamine the project scope and plan to re-let the project in October. Finally, Ms. Breland said that Phase I of the SC 707 project was complete. Phases I and II are ongoing but are anticipated for completion this fall along with the SC 31 extension project. Ms. Breland also noted that SCDOT will begin initiating the engineering and design of projects included in Horry County's RIDE III program.

Mr. Lazarus made a motion to request that the GSATS Study Team examine improvements needed at 48th Ave. North in North Myrtle Beach. Mr. Childs seconded, all members present voted in favor. Mr. Cox recused himself from the vote.

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

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING PROJECT STATUS REPORT

Intersection Improvements

Descr: Intersection improvements at various locations in the GSATS study area.

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

US 17 at Barefoot Landing – City of North Myrtle Beach

Project is substantially complete.

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 17th Ave S. to 28th 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 was let to construction in July 2018. Bids were significantly high and the project will be re-let in October 2018.

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: Preliminary engineering is underway. Will begin right of way in September.

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.

Black River Road Widening

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

Status: Preliminary engineering is underway.

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. Project is on hold until additional funding is identified.

Grand Park Linear Trail

Preliminary engineering is currently underway.

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: Final paving, striping, and grassing activities continue on Phases I and II. Construction efforts continue on the Collins Creek bridge as well as the installation of the noise and retaining walls throughout the project corridor. Grading and other construction activities are ongoing in Phase III.

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: Asphalt paving, striping, the installation of storm drainage infrastructure, curb and gutter and sidewalks continue throughout the project corridor. Construction efforts are ongoing on the US 17 Bypass overpass over Glenn's Bay Road. Utility relocations and the installation of traffic equipment continue throughout the project.

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.

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: Surveys, environmental studies and traffic analysis 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: Surveys, environmental studies and traffic analysis are currently underway.

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: Surveys, environmental studies and traffic analysis are currently underway.

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: Surveys, environmental studies and traffic analysis are currently underway.

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 and traffic analysis are currently underway.

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: Surveys, environmental studies and traffic analysis are currently underway.

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: Surveys, environmental studies and traffic analysis are currently underway.

US 501 Realignment (Myrtle Beach) (RIDE III)

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

Status: Surveys, environmental studies and traffic analysis are currently underway.

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: Surveys, environmental studies and traffic analysis are currently underway.

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: SCDOT and the US Army Corps of Engineers are currently working together to begin the development of the Environmental Document.

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: Asphalt and concrete paving efforts are in progress at the SC 544 and SC 707 interchanges and ramps. The installation of cable, guardrail, and signage is ongoing statewide. Final construction efforts are ongoing on all of the bridge structures.

Projects Update (NCDOT)

Ms. Caitlin Marks provided an overview of project updates impacting the NC portion of the GSATS study area. Below is a summary of NCDOT projects that impact the regional transportation network.

Project Update List

Division 3 – GSATS (Brunswick County)

Projects under construction- Brunswick County

ER-2971: (DC00194) Ocean Isle Beach Roundabout – Hwy 179 (Beach Drive) at Hwy 904 (Causeway Drive) SR 1184 (Ocean Isle Beach Road) in Ocean Isle
Contractor: Triangle Grading & Paving Inc.

Estimated Completion Date: August 2018. **Percent Complete: 94.24%**

Project Development- Brunswick County

R-5021: widening of NC 211 from NC 87 to SR 1500 (Midway Road) to a 4-lane divided facility.

Let Date for construction: FY December 2018

U-5788: US 17 Business (Main Street) Realign intersection at Wall Street and Shallotte Avenue

Let Date: May 2020

U-5862: US 17 (Shallotte Bypass) Upgrade intersection to interchange SR 1357 (Smith Avenue)

Let Date: May 2021

U-5914: NC 133 Modernize Intersection at US 17/US 74/ US 76 to SR 1554 (Old River Road).

Let Date: August 2019

U-5932: US 17 Convert Intersection to Interchange. **Let Date construction: FY: 2024**

Carolina Bays Parkway Extension

Project Overview and Purpose

The N.C. Department of Transportation, along with the S.C. Department of Transportation, is planning to build a multi-lane expressway that extends Carolina Bays Parkway (S.C. 31) from S.C. 9 in Horry County, S.C., across the North Carolina state line to U.S. 17 in Brunswick County.

The extension would provide a more direct and efficient movement of traffic seeking to bypass congestion within the areas of Calabash in North Carolina as well as Little River and the Grand Strand areas in South Carolina. It would also improve traffic flow and safety at the intersection of S.C. 9 and S.C. 57 and provide a more direct route for coastal truck traffic moving through North Carolina.

Project Highlights

A team of engineering firms, led by CALYX Engineers and Consultants, is under contract to conduct project development and environmental studies, which are being led by NCDOT and SCDOT in cooperation with local, state and federal agencies in both states.

Project development and environmental studies are underway to evaluate potential routes for the roadway from an engineering and environmental standpoint and to select a preferred route.

Although the project is funded for study, no schedule has been established for right-of-way acquisition or construction, which is not currently funded in North Carolina.

Resurfacing Projects- Brunswick County

2017 Brunswick County Resurfacing Contract: C203923 1 Section of US 74/US 76, 2 Sections of NC 87, NC 179, NC 904/179, and 41 sections of secondary roads.

Anticipated Completion Date: July 2018.

Percent complete: 98.09%

2018 Brunswick County Resurfacing Contract: WBS (C204094, W-5203Y) US 76E and W, US 421N, NC 130, NC 179, NC 904

Anticipated Completion Date: March 2019.

Percent complete: 43.97%

High Impact / Low Cost funded projects New project funding source- Brunswick County

1. NC 133 (flooding) intersection of SR 1521 (Funston Road SE) and NC 133 in Brunswick County. Approximately a mile in each direction of the intersection
WBS 80084

Project Let Date: August 2019.

Anticipated Completion: April 2020

2. Installation of traffic signal at US 17 and NC87 (southern entrance) in Brunswick County WBS 47783, work began February 2018

Completion Date: June 2019.

3. Installation of traffic signals at the intersection of US 17 and Ocean Isle Beach Road, and the Northbound to Southbound U-turn location approximately 875ft northeast of the referenced intersection in Brunswick County.

WBS 47879; work began February 2018

Completion Date: June 2019.

Located in GSATS Boundary

4. Caswell Beach Rd infiltration system in Oak Island; funds not yet released.

High Value Bridge Program- Brunswick County

Old Oak Island Bridge (Brunswick 14: C204185) NC133 Country Club Drive; Girder Repair

Anticipated Completion Date: June 2019

Let May 2018

Holden Beach Bridge (Brunswick 71: C204185) NC 130 Holden Beach Rd SW; Girder Repair

Let October 2018

Odell Williamson Bridge (Brunswick 13) NC 904 Causeway Dr; Epoxy Coat Beam Ends

Let March 2019

- **Project List updated August 3, 2018**

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

Following Ms. Marks' update, she introduced Mr. Chad Kimes, NCDOT Division 3 Deputy Engineer, to provide a detailed update on the Carolina Bays Parkway extension project in North Carolina. Mr. Kimes mentioned that there have been notable changes regarding the project in the past 30 days. The project will now be managed by Division 3 staff instead of by a project team based out of Raleigh. Mr. Kimes introduced the project team members who were present- Ms. Katie Hite, Ms. Caitlin Marks, Ms. Krista Kimmel, and Ms. Liz Kovaschitz, representing Calyx, the project consultant.

Mr. Kimes noted that the initial step will be to begin the Environmental reporting process. There is \$4 million available to complete this document and it is on track to be completed by the time the SPOT 6.0 process is completed by NCDOT. The plan is to have the Environmental document meet the federal requirements so that the project can be eligible for new funding sources. In addition, Mr. Kimes confirmed that the project study area will extend from the current termini at SC 9 to NC 130 near the intersection with US 17 near Shallotte. Another important immediate step will be to look at ways of improving the project's scoring in the SPOT prioritization process. The project did not score well enough in SPOT 5.0 to receive funding.

Mr. Kimes reviewed the timeline and steps needed to meet the 3 year window that coincides with the SPOT 6.0 process. Mr. Kimes indicated that the current cost estimate for the NC portion of the project is \$249.8 million and that one approach might be to segment the project in phases. Mr. Lazarus inquired about the preliminary feasibility corridors which were not well received. Mr. Kimes indicated that Hickman Rd was not a preferred alternative and that new alignments will be examined. Mayor Smith, from Ocean Isle Beach, commended Mr. Kimes and his staff for stepping up and providing leadership on this project. Mr. Hoeweler asked if there were any implications to the SCDOT portion of the project if the NCDOT environmental document would be a federal document. Mr. Kimes responded that there should not be any conflict. Several Policy Committee members suggested that it could be worthwhile to investigate any benefits that would bring to SCDOT by completing a federal environmental document.

Report on Platt Blvd, US 17 Bypass and Deerfield Links Intersection.

Mr. Hoeweler briefed the committee on the proposed Platt Blvd parkway project linking US 17 Business and US 17 Bypass through the Deerfield community, which was brought forth to the Policy Committee at the May 4th, 2018 meeting. Mr. Hoeweler explained that project details were presented to the GSATS Study team and discussions were had at their July 27 meeting. The conclusion by SCDOT and other Study Team members was that the project would not provide any benefits to the regional transportation network. No jurisdictions stepped forward to endorse the project proposal. **Mr. Loftus made a motion for the Study Team to review the signal warrants and to investigate any funding scenarios for the US 17 Bypass intersection at Deerfield. Mr. Childs seconded. All members present voted in favor. Mr. Lazarus recused himself from the vote.**

Round 3 Intersection Report

Mr. Hoeweler provided an update on the status of the Round 3 Intersection ranking process. Mr. Hoeweler reminded the Policy Committee that each jurisdiction was allowed to submit up to two projects for scoring, noting however that only the highest ranked project would be placed on the final project list that would be included on the TIP. Mr. Hoeweler also noted that a project needed to meet a 20 point minimum threshold in order to qualify for the final project list. Of the nine projects submitted, six met the 20 point minimum threshold. Mr. Hoeweler noted that while neither of the Georgetown County projects made the list, an SCDOT project is located in Georgetown County at the intersection of Old Kings Hwy and Riverwood Dr. Chairman Goldfinch asked for clarification on the location of that intersection. Mr. Hoeweler

indicated that it is at the Waccamaw Hospital at the entrance to Wachesaw East. Mr. Cox asked if the Ride 3 501 improvements projects would be coordinated with the Myrtle Beach Broadway/Oak St roundabout project. Ms. Breland indicated that projects would be coordinated where possible.

With no further discussion, Mr. Lazarus made a motion to approve the list of Round 3 Intersection projects for funding. Mr. Cox seconded. All members present voted in favor.

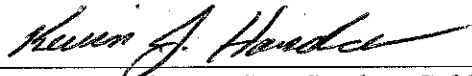
Changes to the FY 2017-2022 TIP

Mr. Hoeweler note changes to the FY 2017-2022 TIP, which are highlighted in red in the handout. Of particular note is the cost of the Surfside Beach Frontage Rd project as well as an update on the projected funds available through the FTA 5539 program. Mr. Hoeweler indicated that the Round 3 intersection projects would be included in the TIP at the next Policy Committee meeting.

Adjourn

With no further discussion Chairman Goldfinch called for a motion to adjourn. **Mr. Thomas made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Coleman seconded. All members present voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 11:15am.**

Respectfully Submitted,



GSATS Chairman, Sen. Stephen Goldfinch

Date