

**GRAND STRAND AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Horry County South Strand Recreation Center-
9650 Scipio Lane, Myrtle Beach 29588
February 14, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sen. Stephen Goldfinch, Chair
Hon. Bob Hellyer
Mr. John Thomas
Hon. Debbie Smith
Hon. Huston Huffman
Hon. Brenda Bethune
Rep. Russell Fry, Vice Chair
Hon. Barbara Blain-Bellamy [Adam Emrick]
Hon. Brendan Barber
Hon. Marilyn Hatley [Kevin Blayton]
Mr. Darrell Eickhoff
Mr. Randall Thompson [Helen Bunch]
Hon. Walt Eccard [Mayor Smith]
Mr. Brent Rewis [Jerome Pearson]
Rep. Lee Hewitt [Sen. Goldfinch]
Mr. Michael Chestnut [Kelly Mezzapelle]

**EX OFFICIO MEMBERS
PRESENT**

Peggy Wayne [Ms. Sarah Smith]

**STUDY TEAM/TAC MEMBERS
PRESENT**

Mr. Daniel Newquist
Mr. Boyd Johnson
Mr. Stacey Johnson, SCDOT
Ms. Elizabeth Tucker
Mr. Joey Skipper, SCDOT
Mr. Mark Hoeweler
Mr. Chad Kimes, NCDOT
Ms. Caitlin Marks, NCDOT
Ms. Marla Watson, SCDOT
Mr. Yolanda Morris, FHWA
Ms. Helen Bunch
Mr. Kevin Blayton
Ms. Shamika Peterson
Mr. Jerome Pearson
Mr. David Schwerd
Ms. Kelly Mezzapelle
Mr. John Adair
Mr. Andy Markunas

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Tom Stickler
Mr. Al Jordan
Mr. Bernie Silverman
Mr. Bob Kemp
Rep. William Bailey
Rep. Frank Iler
Mr. Wesley Bryant
Mr. Charles Swenson

Adoption of the Agenda

Chairman Goldfinch called the meeting to order at the Horry County South Strand Recreation Center at 10:35 AM. It was noted that a quorum was present.

Chairman Goldfinch called for a vote to adopt the meeting agenda. **All members present voted in favor.**

Adoption of Minutes from November 15, 2019

The minutes from the November 15, 2019 GSATS Policy Committee meeting were presented for approval. Chairman Goldfinch called for a vote to approve the minutes. **All members present voted in favor.**

Public Comment

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 **SC 65** widening project is due for completion in May 2020.
- The **US 17 Business Access Management** Project in Surfside Beach is on track for a May 2020 completion date.
- The cost estimates for the **Black River Road** widening project have increased by \$1.2 million due to the recent passage of the small community water/sewer utility bill. Mr. Hoeweler will review this project further during the TIP Amendment agenda item.
- The **Tournament Blvd/McDowell Shortcut** project costs have increased due to the change in the project scope. After the traffic analysis was completed, SCDOT is proposing a 5-lane cross section between the intersection and US 17. The project is ahead of schedule so the construction funds are being shifted from FY2023 to FY 2022. Mr. Hoeweler will review this as part of the TIP amendment agenda item.
- The **S-57 and S-111** intersection project is also subject to the small community utility bill. There is an electric transmission line that needs to be relocated which will increase the cost of the project by \$1.7 million. This change will be reviewed by Mr. Hoeweler during the TIP amendment agenda item.
- The feasibility study component of the **Riverwood Dr. / Old Kings Hwy** project has been completed. The project is scheduled for a let date of FY 2022.
- The remaining funds for the **River Oaks Multiuse Path** have been secured. The let date is on track for Spring 2020.

- The final punch list items for the **SC 707 and Glens Bay Road** projects are nearly complete.
- The consultants for the **Carolina Bays** extension project are reviewing public comments from the meetings in December and are in the process of narrowing down the alternatives to 4-5 for further analysis.
- An online public information meeting will be launched in the near future for the **US 501 Corridor Improvements** project. The current let date is March 2022.
- Based on feedback at the public meeting for the **US 17 Bus Intersections project in Garden City**, new alternatives are being examined and a second public meeting is being planned for mid-April 2020.
- The **Southern Evacuation Lifeline** project will undergo the One Federal Decision process therefore a new consultant will be hired for the preliminary design work only.

Chairman Goldfinch asked if he could receive a copy of the final punch list items for the SC707 project.

Rep. Fry asked if Holmestown Rd. is on the resurfacing project list.

Mr. Johnson will follow up on these items.

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

GRAND STRAND AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (GSATS)

FEBRUARY 14, 2020

POLICY COMMITTEE 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 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 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: Final construction plans are being developed. Project is scheduled to be let June 2020.

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: Right-of-way acquisitions are underway. Efforts are underway for the development of final construction plans.

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. Utility impacts are being evaluated.

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.

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

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

Status: Feasibility Report was completed in December 2019. Contract negotiations are currently underway.

US 17 & 27th Ave (Round 3 Intersection Improvement)

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

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

US 378 & 16th Ave (Round 3 Intersection Improvement)

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

Status: Surveys, environmental studies and traffic analysis are currently 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

Project is waiting to be let to construction.

Grand Park Linear Trail

Project is waiting to be re-let to construction.

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 punch list items are currently being addressed.

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: 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 currently reviewing comments received from the public information meetings and is working towards narrowing the conceptual corridors to a few reasonable corridors that will continue to be further studied during the project development process.

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: Development of the preliminary design is in progress. The proposed design will be presented through an online public information

meeting which will be accessible this winter. Post cards will be mailed to the public to provide notification of the online meeting.

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: Efforts are underway on the completion of the right-of-way plans and the environmental document.

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: Right-of-way plans are being finalized, and the acquisition phase of work is anticipated to begin Spring 2020.

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: Efforts are underway on the preparation of right-of-way plans and the completion of the environmental document.

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: Efforts are underway on the preparation of right-of-way plans and the completion of the environmental document.

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: The project team is reevaluating the proposed designs. A second public information meeting will be held in the spring to present revised plans.

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: Efforts are underway on the preparation of right-of-way plans and the completion of the environmental document.

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: Efforts are underway on the preparation of right-of-way plans.

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: Efforts are underway on the preparation of the preliminary plans and the completion of the environmental document.

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: Due to guidance received regarding the one federal decision, the project team determined that the third party contractor's services will not be needed at this time. Therefore negotiations have been terminated for this contract. An advertisement for consultant services to perform the preliminary environmental studies and design will be advertised this month.

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: Final punch list items are currently being addressed.

Projects Update (NCDOT)

Ms. Caitlin Marks provided an overview of project updates impacting the NC portion of the GSATS study area. She noted that the NCDOT public comment period for the Carolina Bays Parkway Ext project ended on Jan 10th. The consultant is reviewing the comments and is in the process of narrowing the list of final corridor alternatives down to 3 or 4. The next merger meeting between the SC and NC approval agencies is planned for April 2020.

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

TIP Amendments

Chairman Goldfinch introduced Mr. Mark Hoeweler to review the proposed amendments to the TIP. Mr. Hoeweler began by noting that all changes are noted in Red, whether it be a funding total or a shift in the budget year. He then mentioned that projects highlighted in gray are not funded by GSATS budget but need to be included on the TIP in order for them to be eligible for federal funding. Mr. Hoeweler then reviewed specific changes to the TIP:

- Tournament/ McDowell Shortcut intersection- Increase of \$2 million, however there is a corresponding shift in the construction budget year from 2023 to 2022.
- The S57/ S-111 intersection has an increase of \$1.7 million due to the costs of utility relocation at that intersection. The GSATS TIP is showing an increased commitment of \$1million leaving a shortfall of \$700,000 which is hoped to be contributed by the Horry CTC which sponsored this project.
- The Black River Road project will move out to 2025 until there is a resolution on the funding gap created by the \$1.2 million increase resulting from the utility relocation.
- Finally, Mr. Hoeweler noted some minor administrative changes to account for the FTA funding allocations, the inclusion of the West of the Waterway project as a placeholder, and the Carry Over of \$10,131,000 from unused inflation.

Rep. Fry asked if a design concept was available for the Tournament/ McDowell Shortcut intersection project. Mr. Johnson said that he could forward the current design and that he anticipated a public meeting to be held in April or May.

Mayor Barber indicated that he has had discussions with Tidelands Health Executive Director Bruce Bailey on a path forward for the Black River Road project. He mentioned that they are currently going through a master planning process for the medical campus.

Chairman Goldfinch asked Mr. Wes Bryant if he had an update on the Brick Chimney Repaving project in Georgetown County. Mr. Bryant indicated that project is going through Right of Way acquisition right now but is moving forward as planned.

Rep. Fry inquired about the I-73 budgeting status given the dispute over the hospitality tax program between Horry County and the local municipalities.

Chairman Goldfinch called for a motion to approve the TIP amendments. **Mr. Emrick made a motion to approve the TIP amendments as presented. Mayor Barber seconded. All committee members voted in favor.**

FAST Act Safety Performance Measures

Mr. Hoeweler then briefed the Policy Committee on the FAST Act Safety Performance requirements which are reviewed and adopted annually. This is the third iteration of targets. When previously reviewed, the Policy Committee preferred that GSATS examine the option of establishing MPO level safety targets.

Mr. Hoeweler noted that in his analysis, he factored in the completion of five new projects in the Study Area totaling approximately 12 miles of safer cross sections within the network. Although the data trends have not yet reflected these new road improvement there is an anticipated benefit in safety due to a shift in the # of vehicle miles traveled on to these new segments, Mr. Hoeweler presented the following proposed 2016-20 safety targets for the GSATS MPO Study Area and noted that these targets have been recommended for approval from both the NC TAC and the Study Team:

of Fatalities: 65

Fatality Rate: 1.820

of Serious Injuries: 260.3

Serious Injury Rate: 8.012

of Non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries: 45.5

Mr. Hoeweler cited the year to date fatality numbers for 2019. In South Carolina, there were 49 fatalities through September 30th, and in the North Carolina portion of the Study Area there were 7 fatalities through the entire year. Mr. Hoeweler noted that of all of the Safety Target categories, the most concerning to our area is the # of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries which is way above the statewide target rate. Mr. Hoeweler noted that through the work of the Safety Committee, 11 accident locations are being examined for potential mitigation strategies.

Chairman Goldfinch asked how VMTs are calculated and if they are accurately represented given the peak summer traffic in the Grand Strand. Mr. Hoeweler indicated that they calculated based on data collected at traffic stations and through the Statewide Modeling process and that he thought they were a legitimate reflection of the VMTs occurring in our area. With no further discussion Chairman Goldfinch called for a motion on the Resolution to adopt the GSATS Safety Targets. **Mayor Smith made a motion to approve the**

resolution adopting the 2016-2020 GSATS Safety Targets as presented. Mayor Bethune seconded. All voted in favor.

Transit 5310 Funding Update

Chairman Goldfinch called Ms. Elizabeth Tucker to provide an update on the Transit 5310 program. Ms. Tucker reminded the committee that the funds were designated for services to the elderly and the disabled. She mentioned that the call for project submittals ends on February 28th and that to date none were received.

Adjourn

With no further discussion Chairman Goldfinch called for an adjournment. **All members present voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.**

Respectfully Submitted,



GSATS Chairman, Sen. Stephen Goldfinch

12-FEB-2021
Date