GRAND STRAND AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES
November 9, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT
Hon. Barbara Blain-Bellamy [Adam Emrick]]
Hon. Bob Childs
Mr. Johnny Morant [John Thomas]
Mr. Darrell Eickhoff
Hon. Jimmy Braswell
Hon. Huston Huffman
Rep. Lee Hewitt
Mr. Gary Loftus
Hon. Brenda Bethune [Carol Coleman]
Hon. Randy Thompson
Mr. Michael Chestnut [Carol Coleman]
Hon. Marilyn Hatley [Jim Wood]
Sen. Stephen Goldfinch [Kevin Hardee]
Rep. Russell Fry
Mr. Tony Cox
Rep. Kevin Hardee (Vice Chair)
Mr. Brent Rewis [Wade Luther]

STUDY TEAM/TAC MEMBERS PRESENT
Ms. Rebecca Brelend, SCDOT
Mr. Daniel Newquist
Mr. Jim Wood
Ms. Holly Richardson
Mr. Boyd Johnson
Ms. Yolanda Morris, FHWA
Mr. Stacey Johnson, SCDOT
Ms. Mary Catherine Hyman
Mr. Joey Skipper, SCDOT
Mr. Mark Hoeweler
Ms. Carol Coleman
Mr. Andy Markunas
Mr. Wade Luther, SCDOT
Ms. Caitlin Marks, NCDOT
Ms. Marla Watson, SCDOT

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT
Ms. Anita Crone
Mr. Tom Stickler
Ms. Chris Sokoloski
Ms. Erin Pate
Mr. Bob Kemp
Mr. Al Jordan

Adoption of the Agenda
Mr. Mark Hoeweler noted that Chairman Goldfinch was unable to attend the meeting and that Mr. Kevin Hardee would chair the meeting in his absence.

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

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

Adoption of Minutes from August 24, 2018

The minutes from the August 24, 2018 GSATS Policy Committee meeting were presented for approval. Rep. Fry made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented. Mayor Childs seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor.

Public Comments

Chairman Hardee 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)

Ms. Rebecca Breland, program manager with SCDOT, provided an update on the status of current and upcoming projects in the region. She started by mentioning that the US 17 median project in Surfside Beach was re-let in October. The cost estimates were similar to the previous bids received earlier in the summer. Ms. Breland mentioned that there will be a public meeting for the US 701 widening project from SC 319 to SC 22 on November 29th, 2018 at 5pm at the Academy for Technology and Academics- 5639 Hwy 701 North Conway, SC. Ms. Breland also noted that the RIDE III projects are beginning to move forward. The status of each of these projects is indicated in the project update report. Ms. Breland then opened up the floor to questions.

Rep Fry commented that he has received several calls from constituents indicating that the traffic cone placement along SC 707 in the Blackmoor community area are quite confusing, causing a safety issue. Rep. Fry also inquired about the status of the SELL project, suggesting that as soon as the preferred route can be identified it would be wise to begin acquiring right of way west of the Waccamaw River due to increased development pressures. Rep Hewitt asked how long the EIS document was valid for. Ms. Breland indicated ten years.
Below is a summary submitted by Ms. Breland of all other projects within the GSATS Study Area.

November 9, 2018 GRAND STRAND AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
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 was 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: 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 acquisition will begin in the spring of 2019.

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. Right of way acquisitions will begin in the summer of 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. 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: The widening of Phase I is substantially complete and open to traffic. Construction efforts are ongoing on the Collins Creek bridge as well as the installation of traffic equipment, noise walls, and retaining walls in Phase II. Paving 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: Environmental studies, traffic analysis, 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 and traffic analysis are complete, 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: Conceptual plans are complete and a public information meeting is planned for November 29, 2018 from 5-7pm at the Academy for Technology and Academics.

**Forestbrook Road Widening (RIDE III)**
Descri: Widen Forestbrook Road (S-137) to a five lane section from US 501 to Dick Pond Road (S-616) with associated improvements to Dick Pond Road.
Status: Surveys, environmental studies and traffic analysis are currently underway.

**Fred Nash Boulevard Widening and Extension (RIDE III)**
Descri: 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 in progress.

**US 17 BUS Intersections in Garden City (RIDE III)**
Descri: 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.

**US 701 Widening (North of Loris) (RIDE III)**
Descri: 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, traffic analysis, and the development of conceptual designs are currently underway.

**US 501 Realignment (Myrtle Beach) (RIDE III)**
Descri: Realign US Highway 501 from Broadway Street (local) to 7th Avenue North (local) in the City of Myrtle Beach.
Status: Surveys, environmental studies, traffic analysis, and the development of conceptual designs are currently underway.

**Conway Perimeter Road Phase II (RIDE III)**
Descri: New Location 4-lane divided roadway west of Conway connecting US 378 at El Bethel Road to US 701.
Status: Surveys, environmental studies, traffic analysis, and the development of conceptual designs are currently underway.

**Southern Evacuation Lifeline (SELL) (RIDE III)**
Descri: 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 sitewide. 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. Ms. Marks provided a follow up status on the Carolina Bays Parkway ext. project from the presentation that was given to the Policy Committee on August 24, 2018. She confirmed that project management responsibilities were shifted from the state offices in Raleigh to the Division 3 office. This should provide more direct oversight, collaboration with local stakeholders including GSATS, and an increased ability to respond to public comments.

Ms. Marks then took questions from the committee. Mr. Loftus asked how this project was going to be funded. Ms. Marks indicated that the preliminary environmental study is being funded by NCDOT. In SPOT 5.0 the project did not score well enough to receive funding. The only category it could conceivably be funded in is the Statewide Mobility category. Staff are working to improve the scoring for the SPOT 6.0 process. Ms. Marks also noted that the consultants are preparing a federal EIS, which will make the project eligible for additional funding possibilities. Hon. Thompson asked what the timeline for the planning phase of this project was. Ms. Marks indicated that the intention is to have the planning phase completed in conjunction with the next prioritization cycle which will occur in 2019-2020.

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: October 2018. Percent Complete: 99.82%

R-2633 BA (Wilmington Bypass: C203199)– construct a 4-lane divided highway from US 74/76 (near Malmo) to SR 1430 (Cedar Hill Road)
Open to Traffic on December 18, 2017
Estimated Completion Date: December 2018 (inclusive of punch list and vegetation period).
Percent Complete: 98.81%
**Project Development- Brunswick County**

**W-5703I: Hickman Rd at Ash-Little Rd** Install Flashers  
*Construction by State Forces: October 2018*

**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** Widen and Modernize Intersection at US 17/US 74/US 76 to SR 1554 (Old River Road).  
*Let Date: October 2019*

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

**W-5601-GA: US 17 at Thomasboro Rd.** Convert Intersection to Superstreet  
*Let Date: May 2020*

**W-5703H: US 17 at Hickman Rd** Convert Intersection to Superstreet  
*Let Date: February 2021*

**W-5857: US 17 at US 17 Bus.** Convert Intersection to Superstreet  
*Let Date: December 2021*

**R-5851: US 17 at NC 904.** Convert Intersection to Superstreet  
*Let Date: August 2024*

**R-4462: US 74/76 at Maco Rd.** Convert Intersection to Superstreet  
*Let Date: June 2027*

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**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 modify traffic patterns to give motorists additional choices of local routes as well as options to bypass congestion.
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.

Currently only programmed for planning and environmental 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: 48.75%*

- Map 1: NC 130 (Whiteville Rd) from US 17 Bus to SR 1335
- Map 2: NC 179 (Old Georgetown Rd) from 179 Bus to NC 904
- Map 3: NC 904 (Longwood Rd) from SR 1321 to SR 1304
- Map 4: NC 179 Bus (Sunset Blvd) from traffic circle at Shoreline Dr. to west of NC 904
- Map 5: SR 1319 (Union School Rd) from SR 1316 to US 17
- Map 6: SR 1504 (Clemmons Rd) from SR 1316 to US 17
- Map 7: SR 1333 (Project Rd) from SR 1326 to end of Pavement
- Map 8: SR 1327 (New Britton Loop Rd) from SR 1333 to SR 1326
- Map 9: SR 1337 (Marlow Rd) from SR 1336 to SR 1333
- Map 10: SR1308 (Etheridge Rd) from SR 1300 to NC 904
- Map 11: SR1335 (Myrtlehead Rd) from SR 1333 to SR 1336
- Map 12: SR 1356 (Marlowetown Rd) from 1302 to SR EOM
- Map 13: SR 1301 (McLamb Rd) from SR1300 to SC line
- Map 14: SR 1316 (Old Shallotte Rd) from NC 904 to US 17
- Map 15: SR 1155 (Goose Creek Rd) from NC 179 to SR 1143
- Map 16: SR 1304 (Pea Landing Rd) from US 17 to NC 904
Map 17: SR 1305 (No. 5 School Rd) From SR 1300 to SR 1304
Map 18: SR 1165 (Thomasboro Rd) from US 17 Bus to SR 1164
Map 19: SR 1720 (Washington Rd) from US 17 Bus. To EOM
Map 20: SR 1312 (Mt. Zion Church Rd) from NC 904 to EOM
Map 21: SR 1315 (Russtown Rd) from SR 1313 to NC 904
Map 22: SR 1115 (Stone Chimney Rd./ Old Ferry Connection) from NC 211 to intracoastal waterway

**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: February 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: February 2019.**
   **Located in GSATS Boundary**

4. Caswell Beach Rd infiltration system in Oak Island
   WBS 47931; Town of Caswell Beach is working on the design
   Let and Completion Date: February 2019

**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 October 5, 2018**
TIP/ Budget Discussion

Mr. Hoeweler reviewed a list of changes to the TIP. The removal of the Atlantic Beach Connection project at 2nd Ave and the cost increase for the Surfside Beach median project require a 30 day public comment period. The Atlantic Beach project has been listed in the TIP without designated funding which is not allowed by the Federal Highway Administration. GSATS staff has discussed the project with Atlantic Beach officials and they are not in a position to proceed at this time. Due to the amount of cost increase for the Surfside Beach project, a public comment period is required. Fortunately that increase is not impacting the funding of other projects included in the TIP.

A summary of the other changes is provided below:

- The Round 3 Intersection projects are included in the TIP in priority order.
- The cost estimates for the Black River widening, West of the Waterway ext, and the Waccamaw Neck corridor study were shifted to future years due to delays in each of the respective projects.
- Under the Transportation Alternatives Program, Horry County has requested that funds be shifted from the Kings Dr. multipurpose path project to the River Oaks multipurpose path project. Other sources of funding have been secured for the Kings Dr. project.

Mr. Hoeweler then discussed the 48th Ave South project in North Myrtle Beach. After discussing potential design alternatives with city officials and the Study Team, SCDOT will revisit the cost estimates, which were $8 million above the initial budget. Mr. Hoeweler then explained that the Study Team discussed the request to examine funding 1/3 of the cost for the traffic signal at the US Hwy 17 Bypass entrance to the Deerfield community. The Study Team recommended not setting the precedent of funding traffic signal improvements.

Mr. Hoeweler then took questions from the Committee. Rep. Fry asked for an explanation on the one year funding gap between the first year and third year of the project for the Tournament/McDowell project. Ms. Breland explained that following the environmental and engineering phase of the project, it typically takes an entire year to complete the right of way acquisition process before beginning the construction phase of the project. Mr. Cox asked if this could be a design build project. Ms. Breland indicated that it is not possible due to the right of way needs for the project. Rep. Fry asked that if there is anything that can be expedited to please let us know how to move forward. Mayor Brasswell agreed saying that congestion in that portion of Murrells Inlet can create impacts as far south as the Litchfield/Pawleys Island area.

Rep. Hewitt made a motion to approve the proposed amendments to the GSATS TIP as presented. Mayor Childs seconded. All members voted in favor.
Adoption of SCDOT Performance Measures- Asset Management

Mr. Hoeweler continued by introducing performance measure targets that are required by MPOs to adopt under the federal FAST Act. Mr. Hoeweler reminded that the safety measures were reviewed and adopted by the Policy committee earlier in 2018. The next group of measures includes Pavement Condition, Bridge Condition, and Travel Time Reliability. Mr. Hoeweler reviewed a memo with the SCDOT adopted targets. As an MPO, GSATS has the option to adopt the state targets or develop and adopt alternative targets. The Study Team recommended that GSATS adopt the state targets.

With no further discussion, Rep. Hewitt made a motion to adopt SCDOT’s targets for the Bridge Condition, Pavement Condition, and Travel Time Reliability performance measures for the GSATS Study Area. All members present voted in favor.

Safety Committee Discussion

Mr. Hoeweler proceeded to remind the committee that the safety targets are reviewed annually and are due for adoption in February 2019. Given the uniqueness of the GSATS study area as a significant tourism destination, it is recommended that alternative targets be established. As a means to evaluate safety concerns throughout the region and to determine an appropriate safety target, GSATS’ staff recommended the establishment of a Safety Subcommittee. Mr. Hoeweler has had initial discussions with SCDOT Public Safety office personnel who have provided guidance on how to structure the committee and what the primary focus areas could be. GSATS staff will work with Study team members to identify interested stakeholders such as local planning staff, police departments, and EMS personnel. Continued updates will be provided as the committee becomes more organized.

Hurricane Florence Impacts

To conclude the meeting, Mr. Hoeweler wanted to extend the opportunity for Policy Committee members to share their thoughts on any lessons learned or observations from Hurricane Florence. Rep. Hewitt mentioned that Chairman Goldfinch and he are intent on pushing forward with the SELL project. Mr. Emrick then mentioned that he would like to see GSATS include new policy statements within the long-range transportation plan to address future roadway construction standards at various locations. The City of Conway became an island during the flooding, with some areas being closed for over 30 days. Mr. Cox mentioned that local jurisdictions should pursue hazard mitigation grants which will help identify areas of concern and potential solutions.

Adjourn

With no further discussion Chairman Hardee called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Cox made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Thomas seconded. All members present voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 11:25am.

Respectfully Submitted,
GSATS Chairman, Sen. Stephen Goldfinch

Date