GRAND STRAND AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES
February 2, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Barbara Blain-Bellamy [Mary Catherine Hyman]
Hon. Brendon Barber
Hon. Bob Childs
Mr. Johnny Morant [John Thomas]
Mr. Tony Cox
Mr. Mark Pleasant
Hon. Jimmy Braswell [Ashley Carter]
Hon. Huston Huffman
Sen. Stephen Goldfinch (Chair)
Rep. Lee Hewitt
Mr. Gary Loftus
Hon. Walt Eccard
Hon. Brenda Bethune [Janet Curry]
Mr. Michael Chestnut [Janet Curry]
Hon. Marilyn Hatley [Kevin Blayton]
Rep. Russell Frye

STUDY TEAM/TAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Rebecca Breland
Mr. Daniel Newquist
Mr. Tom Britton
Ms. Holly Richardson
Mr. Bill Jordan
Mr. David Schwerd
Mr. Mike Bethea
Ms. Mary Catherine Hyman
Mr. Joey Skipper
Mr. Mark Hoeweler
Mr. Mike Sullivan

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Charles Swenson
Ms. Anita Crone
Mr. Tom Stickler
Ms. Marlajean Hamby
Ms. Grace Gifford
Mr. Paul Gardner
Ms. Erin Pate
Mr. Patrick Tyndall
Ms. Brenda Farren
Mr. Bernard Silverman

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

**Adoption of Minutes from November 2, 2017**

The minutes from the November 2, 2017 GSATS Policy Committee meeting were presented for approval. Mr. Cox made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented. Mayor Eccard 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 none.

**Projects Update (SCDOT)**

Ms. Rebecca Breland, program manager with SCDOT, provided an update on the status of current and upcoming projects in the region.

Chairman Goldfinch inquired about the status of project development for the McDowell Shortcut/ Tournament Blvd intersection. Mr. Hoeweler explained that GSATS is working with Horry County on including this as their selected project for the Round 3 Intersection process. Mr. Hoeweler noted that he would provide an update on the Round 3 Intersection process later in the meeting.

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

**February 2, 2017 GRAND STRAND AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY 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:

**Singleton Ridge Road/Technology Boulevard** – City of Conway
Project is currently under construction.
US 17 at Barefoot Landing – City of North Myrtle Beach  
Project is currently under construction.

US 701 and Pitch Landing Road – Horry County  
Project is complete.

Martin Luther King Road and Petigru Road – Georgetown County  
Project is currently under construction.

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: Right of way acquisition is complete. Project will be let to construction in June 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.

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 Willow Bank Road to Landgrave Street, a distance of less than 0.5 mile.  
Status: Preliminary engineering is underway. The Online Public Information Meeting is currently underway until February 16, 2018. The project website is: https://arcg.is/yqD01 and can also be accessed on the SCDOT website (http://www.scdot.org) (Public Meeting Calendar)

Transportation Alternatives  
Descr: Enhancements at various locations in the GSATS study area.  
Status: Specific information is presented below for all projects currently under development:

Waccamaw Drive Multiuse Path  
Construction is underway.

River Oaks Multiuse Path  
Preliminary engineering is currently underway. Project is on hold until additional funding is
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: Paving and striping activities are ongoing on Phases I and II. The installation of driveways, sidewalks and storm drainage infrastructure continue throughout Phases II and III. The construction of the Mill Creek bridge continues as well as the installation of the noise and retaining walls throughout the project.

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 if approximately 1.6 miles. The project will also include an interchange at US Route 17 Bypass and Glenn’s Bay Road.
Status: The installation of storm drainage infrastructure, sidewalks, and landscaping are ongoing throughout the project corridor. Construction efforts continue on the US 17 Bypass overpass over Glenns Bay Road. Utility relocations are in progress 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: Preliminary engineering is 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: Preliminary engineering is 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: Preliminary engineering is 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 Pond Road.
Status: Contract negotiations 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: Contract negotiations 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: Contract negotiations 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: Contract negotiations 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: Contract negotiations 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: Contract negotiations 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: Grading and concrete paving efforts are in progress throughout the project corridor. Construction efforts are ongoing at the SC Route 544 interchange, on all bridge structures and the ramps on SC 707. Paving efforts are in progress on the County maintained access roadways.

Projects Update (NCDOT)

Mr. Alan Pytcher from NCDOT was unable to attend the meeting but was able to distribute a project update list before the meeting. Mayor Eccard asked where we stand on the Carolina Bays Parkway with regards to public involvement. Ms. Breland mentioned that there was no scheduled public meeting from SCDOT at this time. Mr. Hoeweler mentioned that as the project moves forward it may be beneficial to coordinate a public meeting schedule between SCDOT and NCDOT.

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

Project Update List
Division 3 – GSATS (Brunswick County)

R-2633 BA – (Wilmington Bypass: C203199) construct a 4-lane divided highway from US 74/76 (near Malmo) to SR 1430 (Cedar Hill Road).
Estimated Contract Completion Date May, 2018
R-2633 BB – (Wilmington Bypass: Bridge over Cape Fear River: C203198)  
construct a 4-lane divided highway from SR 1430 (Cedar Hill Rd.) to US 421 (where I-140 current ends in New Hanover Co. This includes large bridge over Cape Fear River).  
Estimated Contract Completion Date June, 2018  
Open to traffic December 15, 2017  
Percent Complete: 93.4%

R-3324 – (Long Beach Road Extension: C202155)  
construct a 2-lane, 2-way roadway from NC 133 (near Jump & Run Creek) to NC 87. Most of this roadway will be on new location.  
Waiting for final acceptance  
Percent Complete: 100%

R-3432 – (Georgetown Road)  
Construct two lane road on new location from SR 1184 (Ocean Isle Beach Road) to NC 179.  
Waiting for final acceptance  
Percent Complete: 100%

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.  
Bid Amount: $1,849,999.35  
- Triangle Grading & Paving began work on October 20, 2017  
- Progress reported is from estimate processed on 12/31/2017  
  • Progress Chart: 32.50%  
  • Contractor has been working on utility relocation. Drainage work to begin second week in January.  
Estimated Completion Date: May 2018  
Percent Complete: 19.2%

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 June 2018  
ROW in progress

Future Projects

R-5701: US 117 Business (Intersection of Walker Street and Wilmington Street) Construct a roundabout.
Let Date for construction: FY 2020

R-5851: NC 904 Convert Intersection to superstreet.
LET Date for ROW: July 2022.
LET Date for construction: FY August 2024

U-5788: US 17 Business (Main Street) Realign intersection at Wall Street and Shallotte Avenue
Let Date ROW: FY 2018, construction: FY: 2020

U-5862: US 17 (Shallotte Bypass) Upgrade intersection to interchange SR 1357 (Smith Avenue)
Let Date ROW and construction: FY: 2020

U-5914: NC 133 Modernize Intersection at US 17/US 74/ US 76 to SR 1554 (Old River Road).
Let Date construction: FY: 2020

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

R-3436: 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.

- Capacity analysis for the existing roadways is about to get underway. They will be looking at current and future conditions.
Non Highway projects

AV-5739: Cape Fear Regional (SUT) Approach clearing at runway 5 and Runway 23. **In Progress**

AV-5742: Odell Williamson Municipal Airport (60J) Runway Protection Zone 2 – Runway 24. **Currently in Land Acquisition**

AV-5744: Henderson Field (ACZ) Extend runway to 5500 FT. **LET Date for construction: FY 2018**

Brunswick County Resurfacing Contracts

**Resurfacing Contract: C203923 2017 CPT.03.06.10101 & 2017 CPT.03.06.20101**

**Brunswick County:** US 74/US 76/NC 87, NC 179, NC904/179 & various secondary roads

- Physical length: 59.541 Miles
- Contractor: ST Wooten Corporation
- Bid Amount: $9,477,379.76

**Anticipated Completion Date: May 2018.**

**Percent complete: 95.1%**

- Project List updated February 2, 2018

If you have any questions, please contact Alan Pytcher at: (910) 341-2000 or apytcher@ncdot.gov

Safety Performance Measures

Mr. Daniel Newquist provided the committee with an overview of the Transportation Performance Management Program requirements under the federal FAST Act. Mr. Newquist explained that the Federal Highway Administration has established seven goal areas that will be rolled out over the next 12 to 18 months. The first goal area focuses on Safety. On an annual basis, SCDOT and MPOs will be required to establish target goals and submit performance reports on the following five metrics: number of fatalities, fatality rate, per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled, number of Serious Injuries, rate of serious injuries, per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled, and the number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. Mr. Newquist reviewed the 2012-2016 statewide and GSATS area baseline data. Mr. Newquist then outlined SCDOT’s 2018 target numbers and the corresponding target numbers for the GSATS area based on SCDOT’s adopted targets.

Mr. Newquist mentioned that SCDOT staff has worked very closely with MPOs throughout the state to review the federal requirements and establish statewide targets as well as MPO level targets. Since this a new process for SCDOT and the MPOs, it was the Study Team’s
recommendation to adopt the proposed GSATS targets established by SCDOT for the GSATS MPO area. Mr. Newquist emphasized that the targets will be reviewed on an annual basis and can be adjusted based on local data. Chairman Goldfinch asked if there were any implications of not meeting the safety targets. SCDOT staff assured the committee that the first two years will focus initially on reporting the data. In the long-term if an MPO consistently does not meet the established safety targets, FHWA can require MPOs to direct their allotted funds towards safety-specific implementation measures. Mr. Newquist reviewed the proposed 2018 safety targets once more for clarification. There being no further questions or discussion, Mr. Thomas made a motion to adopt the 2018 GSATS safety targets, Rep. Hewitt seconded. All members voted in favor.

Round 3 Intersection Report

Mr. Hoeweler provided an update on the status of the Round 3 Intersection ranking process. Mr. Hoeweler mentioned that GSATS staff has distributed the ranking criteria and submission requirements to the Study Team members with instructions to submit their project by the close of business on February 28, 2018. Mr. Hoeweler mentioned that turning movement counts would be taken at each intersection in May to best represent typical school year traffic conditions while also factoring in the beginning of the peak traffic conditions during tourism season. Mr. Hoeweler mentioned that since Horry County has already selected the McDowell Shortcut/ Tournament Blvd intersection as their project, GSATS staff is beginning to work with SCDOT to develop a cost estimate for the project. Rep. Fry asked for clarification on when the McDowell Shortcut/ Tournament Blvd. project would be completed. Mr. Hoeweler outlined a tentative timeline of 3-5 years, which will be determined in part by how the projects are ultimately ranked and the available ~$14 million budget set aside for this intersection program.

Changes to the FY 2017-2022 TIP

Mr. Hoeweler presented two recent additions to the FY 2017-2022 TIP. These additions reflect two SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism projects that are being implemented in the area. One is a walking path around East Bay Park in Georgetown; the other is a trail access enhancement at Grand Park in Myrtle Beach. The TIP reflects what federal dollars are being spent within the GSATS study area. No committee action is necessary.

Gas Tax Increase Presentation

Chairman Goldfinch introduced Mark Pleasant from SCDOT to present the long-term outlook of the recently passed state gas tax increase. Mr. Pleasant outlined all of the main priority areas including safety enhancements, particularly on rural road corridors. Mr. Pleasant also emphasized the significant need for resurfacing across the state. This priority is due primarily to the poor pavement quality index scores observed and the number of structurally deficient bridges identified across the state. In sum, the gas tax increase will provide tremendous benefits to the transportation system in South Carolina. However, given the sheer size of the roadway
network in South Carolina, the gas tax increase will have its limitations on meeting all of the transportation improvement needs that have been identified throughout the state.

**Adjourn**

Before adjourning, Chairman Goldfinch acknowledged Rep. Russell Fry and Hon. Brendan Barber as new members of the GSATS Policy Committee.

There being no other items for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:20am.

Respectfully Submitted,

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GSATS Chairman, Sen. Stephen Goldfinch             Date