

Sumter Area Transportation Study

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM



JULY 1, 2009 - JUNE 30, 2010

Funding Provided by:

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
And
SUMTER CITY and COUNTY

(803)774-1612

www.sumter-sc.com

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Sumter Area Transportation Study (SUATS) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) servicing the area of Sumter County that is denoted as urban according to the 2000 Census. The population is estimated presently as 82,000 with slightly over half residing in the City of Sumter and the remainder in suburban areas surrounding the city.(see map). The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) outlines the activities that SUATS will undertake in FY2010 using funds from the Federal Highway Administration and a local match from the City of Sumter and Sumter County.

Transportation is a dominant factor in every person's life. The ability to travel can influence the economic status, social status, and overall standard of living of people. Transportation is important, and without its continued growth and improvement, our economy and standard of living may be drastically altered. The basic reason and purpose behind transportation is to ensure that the transportation system will be able to meet the future needs of the people and provide for continued growth and development.

The Federal Aid Highway Act of 1962 contained the requirement that all urban areas of 50,000 or more population develop and maintain a comprehensive, cooperative, and continuing (3-C's) transportation planning process. The process would establish a transportation plan and provide the procedure by which it would be maintained and revised on a continuing basis. To accomplish this process in Sumter, an agreement was attained in 1966 between the City of Sumter, Sumter County and the South Carolina Department of Transportation (then called the South Carolina Department of Highways and Public Transportation) which established the Sumter Area Transportation Study. With this agreement, Sumter became the fifth community in South Carolina to be accepted as a Transportation Study.

To properly evaluate economic potential, identify real and potential problems, and determine cost effective methods to achieve community goals, a viable planning program must be continued and strengthened over the future years. In recognition of this fact, Sumter City Council, in 1952 established a City Planning Commission and later, January 1, 1972, formed with the County a City-County Planning Commission under Act 487 of 1967. Part of the mission of this commission was for the expressed purpose of preparing and keeping up-to-date the long range comprehensive and transportation plans for all portions of the City and County. Today, the Sumter City-County Planning Commission continues to serve as the support staff of the Sumter Area Transportation Study.

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) (pub. 109-59, August 10, 2005) mandates changes in the metropolitan planning process. SUATS has adopted the eight planning emphasis areas (PEA) described under this law into our planning process. Increased participation from all shareholders, operational improvements, protection of existing corridors and improvements to bicycling, walking and transit facilities are all given greater emphasis. Our planning process emphasizes the importance of connectivity and managing access to our corridors. This is reflected in the current UPWP as well as forming the major portion of our LRTP.

PLANNING ISSUES AND EMPHASIS

There are many issues facing the SUATS MPO. SAFETEA-LU requires the development of new policies while providing new direction in transportation. This work program will present several of the key planning issues facing the MPO.

A key issue to address is improvements in the implementation of safety measures in the planning process. A greater emphasis must be placed on safety to address the continuing expansion of high density developments within smaller developable areas. This increase in high density developments creates a continuous strain on the transportation system. Another continuing key issue for the SUATS MPO is providing a multimodal transportation network that can be financially justified. Constant changes in the economy offer a tremendous challenge for SUATS to face. Finding ways to mitigate congestion through traditional or innovative funding would offer tremendous improvement to our transportation system. A greater emphasis on operational improvements and protection of existing corridors through access management offers relatively low cost projects that can significantly improve congestion and safety on or streets and roads. Staff is addressing these issues and accepts these challenges through increased education and a greater emphasis on meeting public needs within limitations of staffing.

With an estimated population of 82,000 under the new expanded boundary, there is a strong likelihood that the SUATS MPO urbanized area will be near 90,000 at the 2010 Census. With this potential growth, planning to reduce/mitigate congestion will be mandatory, greater demographic data development of the entire MPO area will be needed, staff will need to monitor air quality issues, and there will be an emphasis on GIS/GPS activities. With the added population, the planning boundary will need to be reassessed and potentially revised to include development over the past decade. In addressing these needs, SUATS continues its efforts to complete its bonding program projects, which originally began in 1997. As well, SUATS is increasing its pedestrian/bicycle systems in an attempt to improve traffic flow, maintain the current air quality status, and increase public involvement in the planning process.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The Santee Wateree Regional Transportation Authority (SWRTA) provides public transit services in the Santee-Lynches region, which includes Clarendon, Lee, Kershaw, and Sumter counties. In 1995, SWRTA assumed management of rural transportation services in Lower Richland County. In the urbanized area of Sumter, the SWRTA operates a general public fixed route services and a complementary ADA Paratransit service for the elderly and persons with disabilities. These individuals must live within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from a fixed route to use this ADA Paratransit service. Demand Response curb-to-curb services are also offered within the urbanized area for the general public and within the four county areas.

Within the urbanized area of Sumter, the SWRTA, utilizing five buses, operates six fixed routes that cover approximately 46 square miles and provides in excess of 130,000 trips annually. More than ninety paratransit (ADA) system passengers are served at least once during the year. The SWRTA also serves a geographical area of 2,461 square miles within the counties of Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, and Sumter. The SWRTA @ LR provided approximately 55,540 trips. SWRTA transports a diverse population of citizens to human resource agencies for medical services, employment, education / training and to recreational sites.

The SWRTA currently employs one hundred and sixteen employees. However, SWRTA does anticipate the number of employees needed to carry out its mission will increase approximately 5% over the next fiscal year (2005/2006). SWRTA operates a fleet of approximately one hundred ten revenue vehicles. In addition, to the urbanized fixed routes and paratransit services, the SWRTA provides urban and rural Medicaid non-emergency medical and employment/training transportation under contract for South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and the South Carolina Department of Social Services in Berkeley, Calhoun and Orangeburg counties, as well as the Santee Lynches Regional Council of Governments. Several human services agencies also contract with the SWRTA for the provisions of transportation services. Additionally, SWRTA continues to offer quality transportation services to industries and organizations within the community.

The SWRTA received a Congressional Earmark for \$5M in the FY 2003 Appropriations Bill to provide restoration of the old Moise building as its new Headquarters within the new Inter-modal Transportation Facility. The facility is in collaboration with the Columbia-Sumter Empowerment Zone, the City and County of Sumter, and has been named the James E. Clyburn Inter-modal Transportation Center. The rehabilitation of the facility is proceeding at this time.

SWRTA will continue exploring ways to implement technologies that will enhance procedures, performance and efficiencies regarding service delivered

SWRTA is optimistic about the opportunities it has for transit services to be recognized as a viable and critical element in economic growth and development within its communities. Public Transportation is an integral part of economic development and the infrastructure of a thriving community; it is not to be looked at as simply a social service. SWRTA continues to strive towards its goals of providing safe, efficient, coordinated affordable and reliable transportation services to citizens within the SLCOG area.

AIR TRANSPORTATION

The Sumter County Airport, which is owned jointly by the City and County of Sumter, consists of approximately 600 acres located three (3) miles northeast of the City of Sumter. Airport facilities consist of a terminal building; twelve (12) T-hangars with then (10) separate hangars, a main FBO hangar and a large maintenance hangar. The airport has two runways, the main runway being a 5500-foot paved strip. There are three instrument approaches, NDB, GPS, and surveillance radar from Shaw Air Force Base. The airport also has an aerial applicator area with separate taxiways.

The mission of the airport is to serve the major industries in Sumter as well as other local aviation needs. The facility currently has the capacity to serve business jets and light aircraft with fuel and maintenance. The FBO operates a pilot training school.

In the past five years, the following improvements have been made:

1. Corporate Hangar Constructed
2. New Airport Lighting System

Plans for the current year include the following:

1. Runway Lighting
2. Consideration of an expansion study
3. Painting Terminal
4. Implementing Security Measures

STATUS OF COMMUNITY PLANNING

The City of Sumter and Sumter County have general land use planning programs and future land use plans. The Sumter City-County Planning Commission was created by resolution in January 1971 and consists of a nine-member body appointed by the City and County Councils. Land use planning for both local governments is implemented by and through the Sumter City-County Planning Commission. In 1998, the Planning Commission began developing the current long-range comprehensive development plan which projects land use trends and recommendations through the year 2020. The document referred to as “The 2020 Plan”, has been adopted by both City and County Councils and is currently being implemented.

Our continued vision is to guide the growth of Sumter City and County in order to create a world class image and a strong community character. This vision will be accomplished by:

- Downtown Revitalization
- Improving customer/citizen support through timely actions
- Increasing public input opportunities through surveys, specific topic workshops and lengthened public input meetings
- Use staff more effectively to provide small group or individual interaction
- Establish E-Commerce connectivity
- Expand GIS & GPS usage throughout local government
- Strive to improve community functionality and appearance
- Coordination of 2020 Comprehensive Plan and the 2037 Long Range Plan
- Development of a Long Range Travel Demand Plan with a Transportation Planning/Engineering firm to project various growth scenarios for the SUATS region 2006-2036 and formulate strategies to deal with the resultant travel demand.
- Prioritize protection of existing corridors through access management strategies

Since adoption of the Zoning and Development Standards Ordinances in 1999, a continuous improvement process has been on-going. Using Public and Council input, over 30 changes have been made to the Comprehensive Plan and over 80 changes have been made to the Zoning and Development Standards Ordinances. As growth and development continues to prosper, transportation remains the focal point in the everyday planning process. In 2007-2008 SUATS developed and adopted its 30 year Long Range Transportation Plan. Implementing this plan, the first truly comprehensive plan for the Sumter community, will be instrumental in protecting and enhancing our transportation infrastructure, supporting the economic vitality of the Metropolitan area and increasing the accessibility and mobility for people and freight.

- Identifying bicycle routes in the urbanized area
- Identifying intersections with high accident potential
- Continue monitoring traffic trends using traffic count data
- Creating a “Clear Cut” ordinance for sight triangles
- Creating a GIS layer identifying congested routes
- Mapping freight routes as part of a joint freight planning initiative with Santee Lynches Council of Governments (SLCOG)
- Develop subdivision ordinances to deal with access to public thoroughfares, reducing the amount of curb cuts allowed in accordance with SCDOT recommendations.
- Adoption and implementation of 2037 Long Range Transportation Plan

The Sumter City-County Planning Commission staff will be responsible for coordinating these efforts.

ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

The Sumter City-County Planning Commission is a joint planning agency established by the Sumter City and County Councils in January 1971. The Commission is made up of nine members (three appointed by the City, three by the County, and three by both jurisdictions together). The planning staff is comprised of fifteen (15) persons who implement planning and zoning functions, building inspections, codes enforcement and grant administration programs.

The SUATS Policy Committee has been designated by the local governments and the Governor of South Carolina as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Sumter Urbanized Area. The Director of the Sumter City-County Planning Commission serves on the SUATS Study Team and serves as the SUATS Coordinator. The Planning Commission through their existing personnel provides staffing for the SUATS Committees' functions.

The study area starts approximately in the center of Sumter County. The City of Sumter and the proposed outlying urbanized area beyond the corporate limits comprise the SUATS area.

The organizational structure for SUATS is comprised of four committees. The committees are – The Policy Committee, the Technical Coordinating Committee, the Enhancement Committee and Steering Committee.

The Policy Committee is made up of the chief elected and appointed officials from local and state governmental agencies that are concerned with transportation planning in Sumter County. It serves as a forum for cooperative transportation decision-making, and establishes transportation-related policies in support of the area's overall goals and objectives. It reviews and approves all SUATS programs and studies, ensures that the SUATS transportation plans are current, and prioritizes transportation projects recommended in the planning process.

The Technical Coordinating Committee, also known as the Study Team, is made up of key government and agency staff members who are involved in the technical aspects of transportation planning. It reviews and evaluates studies made by the staff and the public and prepares recommendations for the Policy Committee. The Technical Committee is entrusted with providing technical guidance and direction to SUATS.

The Enhancement Committee is made up of key government and agency staff members who are involved in the project development aspects of transportation planning. It reviews and evaluates enhancement projects made by the staff and the public and prepares recommendations for the Policy Committee. The Enhancement Committee is entrusted with providing technical guidance and direction of the MPO Enhancement Program to SUATS.

The Steering Committee is made up of key government and agency staff members who are involved in the financial aspects of transportation planning. It reviews and evaluates financial records to ensure that all projects selected for funding are within the budget parameters. The Steering Committee is entrusted with providing financial guidance and direction to SUATS. All MPOs such as SUATS are programs designed to be a forum for local officials and citizens have input in the expenditure of federal transportation funds within the urban area of Sumter.

SECTION II MEMBERSHIP

Membership will consist of the following:

Policy Committee (Voting)

1. ***Mayor, City of Sumter**
2. ***County Council Chairman**
3. City Council Member
4. County Council Member
5. Legislative Delegation – Resident Senator,
Resident Representative (2)
6. Planning Commission Chairman
7. Sumter County Development Board Chairman
8. County Transportation Committee Chairman

Policy Committee (Ex-officio)

1. City Manager
2. County Administrator
3. Fifth Congressional District Highway
Commissioner
4. Sixth Congressional District Highway
Commissioner
5. Shaw AFB Commander (or designee)

Enhancement Committee

1. **Transportation Coordinator, Sumter
City-County Planning Commission**
2. Planning Director, Sumter City-County
Planning Commission
3. Public Services Director, City of Sumter
4. Public Works Director, County of Sumter
5. Shaw AFB Community Planner
6. Director Santee-Wateree RTA
7. Chamber of Commerce Representative
8. Director of Community Development,
City of Sumter
9. Finance Director, City of Sumter
10. Sumter County Active Lifestyles
Chairman, USC

Technical Coordinating Committee (Study Team)

1. **Planning Director, Sumter City-
County Planning Commission**
2. Public Services Director, City of Sumter
(or designee)
3. Public Works Director, County of Sumter
(or designee)
4. SCDOT District Traffic Engineer
5. SCDOT Planning Department
Representative
6. FHWA Planning & Environmental
Engineer
7. SCDOT District Project Engineer
8. Shaw AFB Community Planner
9. Director Santee-Wateree RTA
10. Chamber of Commerce Representative
11. Director of Community Development, City
of Sumter
12. Finance Director, City of Sumter
13. Sumter County Active Lifestyles
Chairman, USC
14. Transportation Coordinator, Sumter City-
County Planning Commission

Steering Committee

1. **Transportation Coordinator, Sumter
City-County Planning Commission**
2. Finance Director, City of Sumter
3. Statewide Planning, SCDOT
4. Planning Director, Sumter City-County
Planning Commission
5. Finance Director, SCDOT
6. Pre-Construction Project Engineers,
SCDOT
7. Planning & Environmental Engineering,
FHWA

Chairman of each committee is shown in bold print.

***Chairman for the Policy rotates annually between these two members.**

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

The work program describes, by objective, the various tasks to be performed in fiscal year 2008-2009 (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009) to administer and coordinate the SUATS Plan and carry out associated transportation planning functions. SAFETEA-LU references the 2005 amendments to transportation legislation (Titles 23 and 49, United States Code) which is responsible for the majority of funding for SUATS. SUATS has adopted the eight Planning Emphasis areas (PEA's) described under this law into transportation planning in the SUATS jurisdiction. The UPWP describes the specific tasks for SUATS for FY 2009 pursuant to these PEA's.

Planning Emphasis Factors

SUATS will continue to incorporate the following Planning Emphasis Areas (PEA's) into our program (U.S. Code Title 23 Section 134 (f)(1)(A-G) and Title 49 Section 5303 (b)(1)(A-G)):

1. Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency;
2. Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users;
3. Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users
4. Increase the accessibility and mobility of people and for freight.
5. Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvement and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns;
6. Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight;
- 7.. Promote efficient system management and operation, and;
8. Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.

Throughout the UPWP for FY 2009, these factors task associated with the function and coordination of the multimodal transportation planning process. The development of goals, objectives, and policies; committee structures and staffing; interagency linkage and information; and staffing of various work elements are the main concern of transportation planning coordination.

UPWP Task	PLANING EMPHASIS AREA(PEA)							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1-A		X	X	X	X			
1-B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1-C	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
II	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
III-A	X	X	X		X	X		X
III-B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
III-C	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
IV-A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
IV-B	X	X	X	X		X	X	X

ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

I-A GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

OBJECTIVE: Work elements in this activity are administrative and management. Required duties include: informing the public and committee members of meetings, preparation of meeting packets, attendance at meetings, coordination of projects/programs, and oversight of planning activities. An emphasis is being placed on providing enhanced visuals for all meetings.

EXPECTED PRODUCTS: Correspondence, memoranda, agreements, agenda, record keeping, and minutes necessary to document on-going activities of the Planning Commission will be provided by staff. Projects to be completed for FY 2009-2010 are:

- Purchase of office supplies, furniture, and equipment
- Purchase of computer hardware, software, and upgrades
- Attend training seminars, conferences, and workshops
- Post public notices, rent meeting places, other associated expenses
- All documents relating to SUATS activities are being placed on the City of Sumter website, www.sumtersc.gov. Direct link to SUATS will be provided.
- Dissemination and implementation of SUATS Long Range Travel Demand Study (Actual study not funded with PL Funds)
- Preparation of maps, PowerPoint slides and other media for public presentations, council meetings, etc.

PREVIOUS WORK: Staff attended various workshops/conferences and made presentations at public meetings, workshops and meetings. Meetings of the Technical Coordinating Committee and the Policy Committee were held on an ongoing basis to make appropriate revisions to documents and approve programs and subsequent revisions. Project previously completed are:

- Policy Committee and Technical Coordinating Committee Meetings on an on-going basis
- Attended SCAPA annual meeting
- Attended MPO Partnering and Workshop Meetings
- Attended MPO/COG Planning conference
- Presented LRTP at MPO/COG conference
- Conducted 3 day charette on 521 Corridor

STAFFING: The Sumter City-County Planning Commission Director and staff, along with the SCDOT staff will be utilized for this objective.

FINANCIAL

RESPONSIBILITY:

<u>Source of Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
80% FHWA (PL)	\$24,000.00
20% Local	\$ 6,000.00

TOTAL

\$30,000.00

I-B OVERALL PLAN AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

OBJECTIVE: The objective of this element is to provide comprehensive oversight of the various transportation-related documents and policies within the Sumter community in an effort to ensure that such policies are aimed towards meeting coordinated, unified goals and objectives. In addition, the Sumter Urbanized Area will consider the eight factors required by SAFETEA-LU in all planning and program related development and work with the SCDOT to ensure the continued development of a long-range plan that will reflect all needs and meet all requirements of the Sumter Urbanized Area, including Transportation Enhancement Projects that will better serve the needs of the SUATS area.

EXPECTED PRODUCTS: The Planning Director, Transportation Coordinator and additional planning staff will continue to coordinate SUATS objectives with the various governmental bodies in the community. In addition, all transportation related documents will be reviewed and analyzed by the staff so that appropriate recommendations may be made to ensure that the various documents are written in a manner that avoids duplication and conflicts in transportation planning and implementation. The objectives to complete for FY 2009-2010 are:

- Continue updating the 2037 Long-Range Plan
- Continue prioritizing projects in the T.I.P. to coordinate with the Long-Range Plan
- Continue to conduct public meetings to increase awareness and participation in the planning process
- Continue updating and refining the public participation process in the 2037 Long-Range Plan
- Continue receiving guidance and consultation on all SUATS projects from SCDOT and FHWA
- Implement the new MPO Enhancement Program Guidelines
- Coordinate with SCDOT Commissioners for approval of future enhancement projects
- Collaborate with SLCOG and regional businesses in a joint freight planning initiative for the region
- Implement recommendations of SUATS Long Range Travel Demand Study
- Prepare City and County Ordinances to implement revised TIS standards
- Consult with private Transportation Planning and Engineering firm on specific corridors in City of Sumter
- Develop ordinances that will protect existing corridors
- Develop Transportation element for County and City Comprehensive Plans
- Design and implement City and County Ordinances to improve existing corridor protection

PREVIOUS WORK: The Planning Director in his capacity as SUATS Coordinator and the Transportation Coordinator as primary staff for transportation matters meets with City and County Councils, Planning Commission, and the Development Board monthly to update them on the current status to the SUATS Transportation Plan. Projects previously completed are:

- Updated the Transportation Improvement Plan
- Continued compliance with Title VI/Environmental Justice regulations
- Prioritized the bonding Program and Transportation Enhancement Projects
- Incorporated G.I.S. as a tool to identify the segment of the community which is directly impacted by a project
- Conducted study on 521 corridor with private Transportation Planning and Engineering firm
- Developed 2037 Long Range Transportation Plan

STAFFING: The City-County Planning Commission and SCDOT staffs will be utilized.

FINANCIAL

RESPONSIBILITY:

Source of Fund

Amount

80% FHWA (PL)

\$40,000.00

20% Local

\$ 10,000.00

TOTAL

\$50,000.00

I-C TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)- DEVELOPMENT

OBJECTIVE: The objective of this task is to develop and maintain a Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) that accurately reflects transportation needs and priorities established by the SUATS Policy Committee.

EXPECTED PRODUCTS: The TIP will be updated on a continuous basis, using available resources such as land use, travel surveillance, TAZ and census data. The objectives to complete for FY 2009-2010 are:

- Continuation of the Alice Drive Widening Project
- Updating the T.I.P. to include new enhancement projects.
- Stress pedestrian and bike access in all new projects
- Updating the T.I.P. to include projects identified in Long Range Travel Demand study
- Developing matrices to objectively evaluate projects following state and federal guidelines
- Emphasize projects designed to upgrade existing facilities with access management
- Identify operational improvement projects to address safety and congestion issues
- Consult with private Transportation Planning and Engineering firm to address Corridor Protection and Enhancement

PREVIOUS WORK: The SUATS Policy Committee meets on an on-going basis to review and update the TIP. A financial review to determine the amount of funding available was used in the recent approval of several enhancement projects and the reprioritizing of the nodding program projects. Projects previously completed are:

- Updated the T.I.P. to include the James E. Clyburn Multi-modal Transportation Center
- Prioritized enhancement plan for 2006-2008 to focus on Safe Routes to School
- Coordinated with Sumter Green to complete landscaping and beautification projects
- Introduced a Complete Streets initiative

STAFFING: The City County Planning Department and SCDOT staffs will be utilized.

FINANCIAL

RESPONSIBILITY:

<u>Source of Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
80% FHWA (PL)	\$24,000.00
20% Local	\$ 6,000.00
TOTAL	\$30, 000.00

II PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

OBJECTIVE: Coordinate efforts of physical facilities planners and transportation service providers, particularly the Santee-Wateree Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), and assist in monitoring public transportation routes to assess needs based on existing ridership, 2000 Census patterns, and on areas of projected growth and development.

EXPECTED PRODUCTS: The expected products of this task will be the on-going meetings between the Transportation Planner and the RTA staff in an effort to ascertain their transportation facility needs and to disseminate materials gathered or produced by the planning staff concerning transportation planning. Additionally, the Transportation Planner establishes and maintains contact with other local transportation planning program. The objectives to complete for FY 2009-2010 are:

- Coordinate with other local providers and assist in avoiding duplicated services
- Coordinate with SWRTA to expand services
- Coordinate with SWRTA to assist with congestion mitigation.
- Coordinate with SWRTA and developers to place shelters and create pull off lanes in new developments.
- Work with planners and developers to investigate transit oriented housing.
- Develop street lighting enhancement project for Clyburn Intermodal Transportation Center
- Ensure all new development is accessible to transit vehicles
- Apply for a FTA section 5339 grant to fund a feasibility analysis for regional commuter transit services between Sumter and Columbia. Partners in this study will be SUATS, Central Midlands Council of Governments (CMCOG), SLCOG, SWRTA and SCDOT).

PREVIOUS WORK: The Transportation Planner serves in a liaison capacity with all providers of public transportation. In this capacity he meets with the local RTA, as well as other transportation providers, to share information and act in an official capacity on Boards and Committees. The Transportation Planner also serves as a GIS Analyst and provides GIS/GPS support to all local transportation providers. Recent projects that have been completed are:

- Coordinated with SWRTA and the Empowerment Zone concerning the James E. Clyburn Inter-modal Transportation Center
- Coordinated with SWRTA with the redesigning of routes
- Coordinated with SWRTA concerning the location of bus shelters that will provide safety and security to customers
- Provided G.I.S. and G.P.S. support to increase public awareness and support for the RTA
- Coordinated with SWRTA on Columbia Airport Shuttle

STAFFING: Both the Planning Commission and RTA staff is used for this objective.

FINANCIAL

RESPONSIBILITY:

<u>Source of Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
80% FHWA	\$24,000.00
20% Local Match	\$6,000.00
TOTAL	<u>\$30,000.00</u>

III DATA ANALYSIS

III-A TRAVEL SURVEILLANCE

OBJECTIVE: Monitor the highway system and maintain accurate traffic count data within the Sumter Urbanized Area in order to provide a database for evaluation of transportation projects.

EXPECTED PRODUCTS: SCDOT has a state-wide traffic count program in each county. When additional counts are needed, the traffic counter from the Planning Commission will be used, particularly in special study areas or in areas of projected heavy development. Data will be tabulated and analyzed to determine changing patterns particularly as existing transportation planning documents are re-evaluated and updated. Additionally, the data will be utilized in evaluating proposed development plans and also made available to the general public. Additionally, in areas of high congestion, traffic studies will be requested from the SCDOT or supplemented by private studies to ensure effective and safe traffic conditions. The objectives to complete for FY 2009-2010 are:

- Continue to provide traffic data for use in daily operations
- Identify roads, highways, and intersections with high accident potential
- Identify roadway and enhancement projects for the 2037 Long Range Plan
- Conduct a 10-year study of traffic growth trends
- Identify freight routes through a joint freight planning initiative with SLCOG and regional businesses.
- Prioritize corridor protection and safety in all planning decisions by stressing access control in all new development.
- Revise Traffic Impact Study requirements to ensure adequate information for planning decisions.
- Continue to maintain close contact with SCDOT Traffic Engineering and Sumter County SCDOT Maintenance in all planning decisions.

PREVIOUS WORK: Traffic counts are received and analyzed on an annual basis from SCDOT. Traffic data is provided to City and County Councils, Economic Development Board, Planning Commission, SUATS Policy Committee, County Transportation Committee, and the general public. Projects previously completed are:

- Identification of areas for improvement in reference to the Long-Range Plan Update
- Conducted a traffic study for the SUATS area in reference to the Long-Range Plan Update
- Provided traffic data to be used in daily operations
- Surveyed the public to identify hazardous roads, highways, and intersections
- Collaborated with SCDOT concerning the calibration of the SUATS Model
- Analyzed traffic data of the past five years to establish patterns of consistent growth

STAFF: The staffs of the SCDOT and the Sumter City-County Planning Commission will be utilized.

FINANCIAL

RESPONSIBILITY:

<u>Source of Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
80% FHWA (PL)	\$20,800.00
20% Local	\$ 5,200.00
TOTAL	<u>\$26,000.00</u>

III-B LAND USE SURVEILLANCE

OBJECTIVE: The objective of this task is to continue the annual update and maintenance of various planning databases. These databases vary from automated land use and census data to manual traffic counts and transit ridership.

EXPECTED PRODUCTS: The expected products of this task will be the on-going maintenance of an up-to-date land use database that is accessible through the Geographic Information System (GIS) and census information completed with population and employment estimates. The objectives to complete for FY 2009-2010 are:

- Databases for rezoning, conditional uses, subdivisions, and planned developments have been compiled and are updated on an on-going basis
- Implement techniques to improve sight distances for intersection safety especially in residential areas
- Information is gathered each month from building permits and TAZs that demonstrate growth and development throughout the urbanized study area
- Collection of socioeconomic data, population, and employment to study growth trends and development
- Create GIS layer to identify areas of congestion
- Create GIS layer to identify areas of safety concern
- Create GIS layers representing significant corridors, particularly US521 and US378
- Consult with private Transportation Engineering and Planning firm to insure compatibility of Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Development Ordinances

PREVIOUS WORK: Previous work includes daily updating and modifying the land use data through the GIS system. This is an on-going activity. Funding provided planning personnel for maintenance and data input into the GIS, and use of the CTPP software benefits local transportation providers, the MPO, SCDOT, and the RTA during the implementation of the transportation planning process. Projects previously completed are:

- Databases for rezoning, conditional uses, subdivisions, and planned developments have been compiled and are updated
- Generated property lists using Zoning Analyst software for 2037 Long Range Plan Survey Sample
- Information is gathered each month from building permits and TAZs that demonstrate growth and development throughout the urbanized study area
- Collected socioeconomic data, population, and employment will used to establish a new base year for the 2037 Long Range Plan.
- Housing data was collected to update the Long Range Plan
- A survey sample of 2200 was distributed amongst low, middle and high income neighborhood to collect information for the Long Range Plan Update
- Collaborated with SCDOT concerning the calibration of the SUATS Model

STAFFING: The Planning Commission Staff will be utilized to carryout this objective.

FINANCIAL

RESPONSIBILITY:

<u>Source of Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
80% FHWA (PL)	\$24,000.00
20% Local	\$ 6,000.00
TOTAL	\$30,000.00

III-C NEW DEVELOPMENT SURVEILLANCE

OBJECTIVE: The objective of this task is to monitor prospective developments, particularly high traffic producers such as new residential subdivisions and concentrated commercial facilities such as shopping centers within the SUATS area, in order to ensure coordination and compatibility with local transportation network plans.

EXPECTED PRODUCTS: Expected products of this task will include minutes of the Subdivision-Planned Development Review Committee. These will be maintained on a monthly basis. Staff reports on all proposed development projects and continuous updating of GIS layers will be used by staff to insure New development proposals will be closely scrutinized by the planning staff in an effort to insure compatibility with existing and proposed transportation plans. Traffic count information, proposed street layouts and other such information will be reviewed prior to preliminary subdivision approval and/or zoning/building permit approval. Review will be coordinated with other agencies (such as SCDOT, local fire and police departments, school systems, etc.) as appropriate. The objectives to complete for FY 2009-2010 are:

- Coordinate to improve the interconnectivity of streets (grid network)
- Provide recommendations to increase safety measures in new developments
- Recommend a “Clear Cut” Ordinance for all sight triangles in new developments
- Continue coordinating with SCDOT to improve traffic flow
- Protect existing corridors with access control measures and interconnectivity between developments
- Coordinate with SCDHEC, SCDOT and other appropriate agencies to ensure NEPA compliance
- Continue to attend monthly meetings of the Planning Commission, Development Review, and Subdivision-Planned Development
- Consult with private Transportation Planning and Engineering firm to insure compatibility of Comprehensive Land Use plan and subdivision ordinances

PREVIOUS WORK: The planning staff, in reviewing land use proposals, primarily has reviewed existing traffic count data and projected increases in traffic as a result of the proposed development in an effort to anticipate future traffic generation problems. Additionally, subdivision proposals are forwarded to the local SCDOT Office for review and comment. Projects previously completed are:

- Continued coordination with SCDOT, fire department, EMS, police department, etc...to ensure that adequate transportation needs are being met
- Monitored new developments that may cause a significant changes in travel patterns and proposed mitigating measures to decrease impact on traffic flow
- Coordinated with SCDOT to improve signal coordination around high traffic districts

STAFFING: The Planning Commission Staff will be utilized.

FINANCIAL

RESPONSIBILITY:

<u>Source of Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
80% FHWA (PL)	\$24,000.00
20% Local Match	6,000.00
 TOTAL	 <u>\$30,000.00</u>

IV-A PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

OBJECTIVE: The objectives of this task are to actively seek citizen participation and involvement in SUATS updates.

EXPECTED PRODUCTS: Expected products of this task will be up-to-date data that will be available for the public to inform them of future, as well as existing, transportation facilities and improvements. A transportation brochure will be provided to inform the public of the transportation planning process. The objectives to complete for FY 2009-2010 are:

- Update the SUATS Transportation Brochure
- Continue to publicly advertise all meetings and planned projects in a timely manner
- Continue to seek public comments on all transportation-related documents
- Seek to involve public in scenario planning workshops dealing with integrating transportation and land use planning
- Seek to involve public in workshops dealing with alternative modes of transportation
- Continue to actively seek other methods to increase public involvement such as surveys and public workshops on selected topics (e.g. access control, enhancements, corridor protection)
- Devise strategies to reach and involve underserved population in SUATS area
- Hold public “town hall” style meeting to discuss Transportation Planning Process, explain the public’s role and solicit input.
- Increase use of visualization including maps, conceptual drawing
- Implement all measure outlined in Participation Plan

PREVIOUS WORK: All meetings are open to the general public, and agendas are distributed to news media. A public participation policy under the guidelines of SAFETEA-LU is currently being implemented. Projects previously completed are:

- Increased public awareness and participation
- Actively seek public comment on transportation-related documents
- Implemented public involvement in an attempt to increase participation
- Conducted a survey to collect information for the Long Range Plan Update
- Hand delivered surveys in low to moderate income neighborhoods
- Kept records of public attendance and comments at all SUATS meetings
- Ensured that all SUATS meetings are publicly advertised in the local newspaper
- Assisted in the development of neighborhood associations in low to moderate income areas
- Held 3 day public charette on US 521 corridor
- Local newspaper (Sumter Item) hosted conceptual 521 corridor animation video on their website
- Initiated a number of transportation related news stories in local media
- Used local media to solicit public comment on transportation issues
- Adopted Participation Plan

STAFFING: Planning Commission staff will be utilized.

FINANCIAL

RESPONSIBILITY:

<u>Source of Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
80% FHWA (PL)	\$ 20,000.00
20% Local	\$ 5,000.00
TOTAL	\$25,000.00

IV-B INDUSTRIAL NEEDS ANALYSIS

OBJECTIVE: The objective of this task is to identify and assess concentrated areas of industrial and commercial development which are generators of large volumes of traffic, in terms of their impact on existing highway systems and in terms of possible needs for additional public transportation facilities. Another objective is to identify and assess freight facilities and major routes within the SUATS area.

EXPECTED PRODUCTS: Expected products for this task will be the collection of data to be tabulated and analyzed to determine where major industries might need improved transportation facilities. Inventory existing industries and major commercial centers with respect to number of employees, hours of operation, adequacy of access roads, and needs concerning public transportation. While the Development Board would continue to be involved primarily with specific development needs of particular industries, the planning staff would utilize data from the above-referenced inventories in order to make broad analyses of industrial development's impact on the overall transportation network, as well as to determine how existing and proposed transportation facilities might affect industrial growth. The objectives to complete for FY 2009-2010 are:

- Coordinate with the City's Economic Development Committee to include a transportation proposal in their marketing plan to attract prospective businesses
- Streamlining the City's permitting process to attract prospective businesses while ensuring that each business will have adequate access
- Use information from the SUATS Transportation Model to determine which areas need improvement
- Participate in the City of Sumter's visioning process by providing recommendations to alleviate congestion in high density areas
- Implement the 2000 Functional Class Designations

PREVIOUS WORK: The Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce has prepared a website as well as additional brochures and packets concerning industrial sites and available infrastructure. The Chamber of Commerce works closely with the City of Sumter, Sumter County, and the SUATS Policy Committee in an effort to ensure that infrastructure services are available to address the needs of incoming industry. Projects previously completed are:

- Coordinated with the Economic Development Board concerning proposed growth and development
- Closely monitored transportation facilities for changes in level of service as it related to industrial development
- Reviewed possible projects for the 2037 Long Range Plan to alleviate future traffic concerns
- Met regularly with industrial leaders on Long Range Travel Demand Study
- 521 Corridor Study has a large component dealing with freight movement through and around Suats Study Area

STAFFING: The Planning Staff, Chamber of Commerce Staff and Sumter Development Board Staff, and the City of Sumter Economic Development Committee will be utilized.

FINANCIAL

RESPONSIBILITY:

<u>Source of Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
80% FHWA (PL)	\$16,000.00
20% Local Match	\$4,000.00
TOTAL	\$20,000.00