

MINUTES
SUATS POLICY COMMITTEE
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2023 @ 8:30 A.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
(21 N. MAIN STREET, SUMTER, SC)

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: County Council Chairman **James T. McCain, Jr.**; State Representative **J. David Weeks**; Planning Commission Chairman **James Munford**; County Councilman **James Byrd, Jr.**; The Honorable Mayor **David P. Merchant**; Chairman; Sumter Economic Development Board President & CEO **Jay Schwedler**; Sumter County Administrator **Gary Mixon**; Sumter City Manager **Deron McCormick**.

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Sumter CTC Chairman **Hugh M. McLaurin, IV**; State Senator **J. Thomas McElveen, III**; State Representative **G. Murrell Smith** Shaw Air Force Base Commander Col. **Derek O'Malley**, SCDOT 5th District Commissioner **David E. "Gene" Branham**, and SCDOT 6th District Commissioner **John Barnwell Fishburne**.

OTHERS PRESENT: (See sign-in sheet)

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Senior Planner **Kyle Kelly**, Planning Director **Helen Roodman**, and Executive Assistant **Kellie Chapman**

A meeting of the Sumter Area Transportation Study (SUATS) Policy Committee was held on Friday, February 24, 2023, @ 8:30 a.m. in City Council Chambers (21 N. Main St., Sumter, SC). Chairman David P. Merchant called the meeting to order.

A motion to approve the agenda for the February 24, 2023, meeting was made by Mr. Byrd and seconded by Mr. McCain. The motion carried via unanimous vote.

A motion to approve the minutes from the February 3, 2023, meeting was made by Mr. Byrd and seconded by Mr. McCain. The motion carried via unanimous vote.

Sumter Walk + Bike Master Plan

Mr. Kelly explained that the Sumter Walk + Bike Master Plan will guide the Sumter area towards a more walkable and bikeable future by prioritizing pedestrian elements while placing emphasis on the importance of developing a bicycle network.

Mr. Kelly introduced Ms. Lakesha Dunbar, Project Manager with Toole Design. Ms. Dunbar presented the information to the Policy Committee on the Feasibility Study that Toole Design conducted.

The Plan provides data-driven solutions built on public feedback and analyses that reflect the unique perspectives of walking and bicycling in the Sumter Metro Area. It envisions Sumter as a dynamic and equitable community; one in which mobility options are expanded through a connected network of walking and bicycling facilities that increase comfort and reduce risk

for all users. This network will be maintained and supported through robust programs and policies.

Staff recommended that the Policy Committee formally accept the Walk+Bike Master Plan and begin exploring funding avenues for phased implementation.

A motion to accept the Walk+Bike Master Plan and begin exploring funding avenues for phased implementation was made by Mr. McCain and seconded by Mr. Schwedler. The motion carried a unanimous vote.

Amendment #11 to SUATS 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Mr. Kelly stated the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is used as the guide for how SUATS plans to invest in the area's transportation system over a 25-year period. Through the federal rulemaking process, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requires SCDOT and MPOs to monitor the transportation system using specific performance measures. These measures are associated with the national goal areas prescribed in MAP-21 and the FAST Act. The System Performance Report describes these national goal areas, rulemakings, performance areas, and prescribed measures. Performance measures have been identified for highway systems, including a set of measures to assess progress toward achieving the goals of the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program. The requirements and targets of these measures and tools to calculate them are summarized in this report.

Mr. Kelly added this System Performance Report presents the baseline, performance/condition measures, targets and progress made towards achieving those targets. These performance measures are a part of SCDOT's Strategic Ten-Year Asset Management Plan (STAMP). SCDOT's STAMP has been developed in a collaborative effort with the SC Division Office of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The plan has been designed to transcend the minimum federal rulemaking requirements by setting performance estimates for all state-maintained roads and bridges. By clearly identifying the needs of South Carolina's transportation infrastructure, the STAMP provides SCDOT a platform to communicate existing infrastructure conditions and project constrained performance targets for SCDOT's physical assets over the next decade. The STAMP is an all-inclusive document that houses the State's Strategic Plan, Ten-Year Plan (2018-2027), Asset Management Plan (2022-2032) and Performance Measures.

Staff recommends that the Policy Committee provisionally adopt proposed Amendment #11 to the 2045 SUATS Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), subject to opening a 30-day public comment period as required by the SUATS Public Participation Plan.

A motion to adopt Amendment #11 to the current SUATS Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) subject to a 30-day public comment period was made by Mr. Schwedler and seconded by Mr. McCain. The motion carried a unanimous vote.

FY2023/2024 – FY2024/2025 Unified Plannign Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Kelly mentioned the SUATS FY2023/2024 – FY2024/2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) will describe all urban transportation and transportation related planning activities anticipated in SUATS for the period from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025.

Mr. Kelly added the UPWP is a work program comprised of tasks to achieve the overall goal of bringing effective transportation improvements to the SUATS planning area. Each task has its own objective and is identified with the source of staffing to carry out the task to produce final products.

SCDOT has provided the summary of available planning funds for SUATS for the FY2023-2024 period, which represents a consolidated federal planning grant that combines Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Planning (PL) funds and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5303 Mass Transit Planning funds. This funding is outlined below:

FHWA/FTA Allocation	\$191,460.46
(Local Matching funds required (20%))	\$47,865.12
FY2021 Carryover	\$65,086.07
(Local Matching funds required (20%))	\$16,271.52
USDOT Rescission (<i>see explanation below</i>)	(\$2,992.16)
TOTAL	\$317,691.01

Mr. Kelly stated there are two items of national interest that impact SUATS funding this year:

USDOT Complete Streets Waiver – In January 2023, USDOT offered a waiver on the non-Federal match for Metropolitan Planning (PL) funds in support of Complete Streets Planning Activities. Under the waiver, MPOs are able to use federal funding for 100% of the expenses associated with such planning and research activities. MPOs are required to use not less than 2.5% of provided federal PL funds on Complete Streets planning activities.

USDOT Accounting Error and Resulting Rescission of Funds – In February 2023, USDOT found a major error in their accounting system. The issue is connected to billions in “old money” that reports as available to states via a daily electronic interface versus USDOT’s internal bookkeeping system. USDOT has taken the position that their internal bookkeeping system is the official record, and as a result is disallowing access to the “old money” that was appearing in the daily electronic interface. For South Carolina a total of \$32,913.79 is being equally rescinded across the 11 MPOs, with a resulting rescission of \$2,992.16 applicable to SUATS.

Mr. Kelly noted that this briefing is for the Committee’s information only at this time, and that a full draft of the proposed FY2023/2024 and FY2024/2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) would be presented to the Policy Committee no later than April 1, 2023, for review and adoption, subject to a 21-day public comment period.

Chairman Merchant accepted the report as information for the Committee and no further action was taken.

Active Projects Update

Mr. Kelly provided a brief status update on current area transportation improvement projects funded via the Sumter Penny for Progress sales tax initiative and SUATS

Guideshare Program. The briefing focused on the implementation schedules for each major phase of work.

With no further business, Mr. Byrd made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:25 a.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. McCain and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kellie K. Chapman

Kellie K. Chapman
Board Secretary