

MINUTES
SUATS POLICY COMMITTEE
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2022 @ 3:00 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
(21 N. MAIN STREET, SUMTER, SC)

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman; County Council Chairman **James T. McCain, Jr.**; County Councilman **James Byrd, Jr.**; State Representative **J. David Weeks**; Sumter Economic Development Board President & CEO **Jay Schwedler**; Sumter City Manager **Deron McCormick**; and State Senator **J. Thomas McElveen, III.**

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: The Honorable Mayor **David P. Merchant**; City Councilman **Thomas J. Lowery**; Sumter CTC Chairman **Hugh M. McLaurin, IV**; State Representative **G. Murrell Smith**; Planning Commission Chairman **Jim Crawley**; Shaw Air Force Base Commander Col. **Derek O'Malley**; SCDOT 5th District Commissioner **David E. "Gene" Branham**; Sumter County Administrator **Gary Mixon**; 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 11, @ 3:10 p.m. in City Council Chambers (21 N. Main St., Sumter, SC). Chairman James T. McCain, Jr. called the meeting to order.

A motion to approve the agenda as amended for the October 29, 2021, meeting was made by Mr. Weeks and seconded by Mr. Schwedler. The motion carried via unanimous vote.

A motion to approve the minutes from the June 25, 2021, meeting was made by Mr. Weeks and seconded by Mr. Schwedler. The motion carried via unanimous vote.

Revision #7 to FY2021-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Kelly advised the TIP is the SUATS area's transportation capital improvement program, which contains a matrix of transportation projects consistent with federal regulations and area policies and strategies. The TIP serves as a planning tool to ensure the most effective use of limited funding for transportation improvements. The FAST Act requires that any transportation improvement be identified in the TIP to be eligible for federal funding.

Mr. Kelly then added the drafted revisions to the current TIP for FFY2021-2027, which incorporates the following modifications:

1. Shift \$200,000 in preliminary engineering funds for the US-378 at N. Saint Paul's Church Rd. Intersection Improvement Project from FY2021 to FY2022.
2. Add \$35,000 in right-of-way acquisition funds for the US-378 at N. Saint Paul's

Church Rd. Intersection Improvement Project for FY2022.

3. Shift \$160,000 in planning funds for the SUATS Walk + Bike Master Plan from FY2021 to FY2022.
4. Shift \$200,000 in planning funds for the US-378 (Robert Graham Freeway) Operational and Design Improvements Project from FY2021 to FY2022.
5. Increase the annual Guideshare Allocation from \$2,536,000 to \$4,000,000 starting in FY2022.
6. Add a West Calhoun Street Traffic Calming Project (Church St. to N. Main St.) with a budget of \$200,000 in construction funds.
7. Correct previous obligation references in Figure 7.6: Transit.
8. Correct totals and capture refunds to the Regional Mobility Program from closed projects.

Staff recommended that the Policy Committee adopt proposed Revision #7 to the SUATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY 2021-2027 and open a 21-day public comment period as required by the SUATS public Participation Plan.

A motion to adopt Revision #7 to FY2021-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) subject to a 21-day public comment period was made by Mr. Schwedler and seconded by Mr. Weeks. The motion carried a unanimous vote.

Proposed Memorandum of Agreement Between SUATS and Santee-Wateree Regional Transportation Authority (SWRTA)

Mr. Kelly briefed the Committee on the proposed memorandum. The Santee-Wateree Regional Transportation Authority, commonly referred to as SWRTA, is the designated public transportation provider for the SUATS area, and provides fixed-route and on-demand public transportation services for Sumter. SWRTA also serves the four-county Santee-Lynches region, which includes Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, and Sumter Counties, and provides transit services for Calhoun and Orangeburg Counties on a contract basis.

Mr. Kelly mentioned as part of SUATS' ongoing effort to achieve the objective of Task 6B of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and ensure full compliance with federal regulations (23 CFR 450 subpart C (Metropolitan Transportation Planning and Programming, sub-section 450.310 (MPO Agreement), a comprehensive update to the agreement that specifies cooperative procedures for carrying out transportation planning and programming between SUATS and Santee-Wateree Regional Transportation Authority (SWRTA) is required.

Mr. Kelly stated the Memorandum of Understanding (MOA) between the two agencies was last updated in 2012. The proposed update outlines the areas in which SUATS will assist SWRTA with regard to planning functions, and the corresponding areas in which SWRTA will support SUATS. SUATS' support to SWRTA is part of implementation of task #6B of the current SUATS UPWP. This element of the work plan is funded via an allocation from

the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5303 program.

Staff recommends that the Policy Committee approve the proposed MOA.

A motion to empower the Policy Committee Chairman to execute the MOA was made by Mr. Weeks and seconded by Mr. McElveen. The motion carried a unanimous vote.

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.

Mr. Weeks requested clarification for naming a proxy in a members absent. Mr. Kelly confirmed that any member can name a proxy, when or if the member is unable to attend.

With no further business, Mr. Byrd made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 4:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. McElveen and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kellie K. Chapman

Kellie K. Chapman
Board Secretary