

**MINUTES**  
**SUATS POLICY COMMITTEE**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2024, @ 12:00 P.M.**  
**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**(21 N. MAIN STREET, SUMTER, SC)**

**POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** County Council Chairman **James T. McCain**, County Councilman **James Byrd, Jr.**; City Councilman **Colin Davis**, State Senator **J. Thomas McElveen, III**; State Representative **J. David Weeks**; State Representative **G. Murrell Smith**; SCDOT 5<sup>th</sup> District Commissioner; Planning Commission Chairman **James Munford**; Sumter Economic Development Board President & CEO **Jay Schwedler**; Sumter County Manager **Gary Mixon** and Sumter City Manager **Deron McCormick**.

**POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** The Honorable Mayor **David P. Merchant**; Sumter CTC Chairman **Hugh M. McLaurin, IV**; Shaw Air Force Base Representative **Ashley Nichols**; **David E. "Gene" Branham**, and SCDOT 6<sup>th</sup> 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 16, 2024, @ 12:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers (21 N. Main St., Sumter, SC). Chairman James McCain called the meeting to order.

A motion to approve the agenda for the February 16, 2024, meeting was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Byrd. The motion carried a unanimous vote.

A motion to approve the minutes from the November 28, 2023, meeting was made by Mr. Bryd and seconded by Mr. Smith. The motion carried a unanimous vote.

**Revision #1 to FY2024-2033 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

The Transportation Improvement Program (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. Federal transportation legislation requires that transportation improvements be identified in the TIP to be eligible for federal funding.

Mr. Kelly stated the Revision to the current TIP for FFY2024-2033:

1. Shift \$15,850,000 in State-provided Construction (C) funds and \$2,500,000 in local Construction (C) funds for the Manning Avenue Revitalization project from FY2024

- to FY2025. (\*Note: federal fiscal years are used for the TIP, meaning that FY2025 begins in October 2024.)
2. Correct FY2023 to FY2024 carryover balance from \$14,094,000 to 13,770,000, based on end-of-year SCDOT accounting records provided to SUATS after adoption of the TIP in November 2023.
  3. Update Chapter 5: Updates to the TIP to reflect the change in SCDOT's policy regarding thresholds for TIP Amendments, Administrative Amendments, Administrative Modification, and Right-Sizing Actions.

Recent SCDOT policy changes regarding the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) make the content of this revision an "Administrative Modification", which does not require additional public comment or SCDOT Commission or Secretary of Transportation approval.

In a departure from previous TIPs, the new TIP will cover a longer planning timeline (10 years instead of 7), which allows additional annual Regional Mobility Program (RMP) funds to be allocated and projects to be planned out over a longer lead time. SUATS anticipates receiving \$5 million per year for the Regional Mobility Program during the FY24-33 TIP, which, when combined with anticipated carryover funds of \$14.1 million, will result in a total budget of \$64.1 million. There is a total of \$11.3 million in committed project funding that will be carried over from the current TIP, leaving \$52.7 million available to program for projects between FY2024 and FY2033.

Staff recommended that the Policy Committee adopt Revision #1 to the SUATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY 2024-2033, in the category of an "Administrative Modification".

A motion to adopt Revision #1 FY2024-2033 SUATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), in the category of an "Administrative Modification", was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Byrd. The motion carried a unanimous vote.

### **Identification of 2050 LRTP Projects to be Funded via SUATS Regional Mobility Program**

SUATS currently has a projected \$42.335 million balance available during the FY2024-2033 TIP window.

While remaining phases for the existing projects (e.g. W. Liberty Street) and potential cost increases for active projects are likely to require a portion of these available funds, there remains an opportunity to begin planning the next SUATS Regional Mobility Program project(s).

The current SUATS 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan separates projects containing an emphasis on motorized transportation from those in which the emphasis is on non-motorized transportation. The categories are further separated by type, with intersection-scale projects and corridor-scale projects each listed separately.

During the planning horizon of the LRTP, the expected division of funds in these categories is expected division of funds in these categories is expected to be as follows: 31.8% for Roadway Intersection Projects, 20.6% for Walk+Bike Projects, and 47.6% for Roadway

## Corridor Projects.

The project ranking system established in the LRTP is, by default, reactive rather than proactive in identifying areas to be addressed on Sumter's transportation network. This means that new development (commercial, industrial, and residential) can create an impact on Sumter's transportation network that is not captured by available data or effectively scored via the established project prioritization system.

In situations involving new growth where Sumter's transportation needs can be best served by selecting a project that is ranked lower on the financially constrained project list or selecting a project that is not on the financially-constrained list, the SUATS Policy Committee may make project selection based on additional information (e.g. traffic impact studies, details on new development) that becomes available once new commercial, industrial, or residential development is planned.

Staff presents this information for the Policy Committee's consideration and discussion. No action is required at this time, though staff requests direction from the Policy Committee on the scope of projects the Committee would like considered for funding and the desired timeline for presentation of alternatives.

### **West Liberty Street Road Diet Project**

Mr. Kelly anticipates STIP programming of PE and ROW phases in March 2024. The intent is to use SCDOT "on-call" to select Design Consultant.

### **"Connect 378" – Robert E. Graham Freeway Feasibility Study and Conceptual Engineering Design Project**

Mr. Kelly informed the second Public Information Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 14, 2024, from 5:00 – 7:00 PM. The meeting will review on the 3 consultant-developed concept alternatives.

### **Thriving Communities Program Update**

The Thriving Communities Program (TCP) aims to ensure that eligible communities have the tools and capacity to deliver quality infrastructure projects that enable their communities and neighborhoods to thrive.

Sumter is part of the "complete Neighborhoods" Project Acceleration Cohort.

Sumter is 1 of 64 communities nationwide selected to be part of the program, and 1 of 3 in the State of South Carolina (including North Charleston and Atlantic Beach).

### **Safe Streets and Roads of All (SS4A) Project Update**

Sumter/SUATS awarded \$400,000 in FY2023 to develop a Safety Action Plan and to implement additional demonstration projects.

SUATS plans to issue an RFP to secure a 3<sup>rd</sup> party consultant to coordinate development of the Safety Action Plan.

### **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.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kellie K. Chapman*

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Board Secretary