

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

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

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: State Senator **J. Thomas McElveen, III**; State Representative **G. Murrell Smith**; City Councilman **Colin Davis**; State Representative **J. David Weeks**; Planning Commission Chairman **James Munford**; Shaw Air Force Base Representative **Ashley Nichols**; SCDOT Commissioner, 5th District **Curtis Spencer**; 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 Tuesday, June 21, 2024, @ 12:02 p.m. in City Council Chambers (21 N. Main St., Sumter, SC). Chairman James T. McCain called the meeting to order.

A motion to approve the amended agenda for the June 21, 2024, meeting was made by Mr. McLaurin and seconded by Mr. Byrd. The motion carried a unanimous vote.

A motion to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2024, meeting was made by Mr. Schwedler and seconded by Mr. McLaurin. The motion carried a unanimous vote.

Item #1 (Action Item) - Revisions to SUATS Bylaws

The SUATS Policy Committee maintains the SUATS MPO's organizational bylaws to provide for the transaction of business in the development and administration of transportation planning in the designated study area located within Sumter County, South Carolina.

The current organizational bylaws were last revised in February 2021.

Proposing revisions to the SUATS Bylaws, as follows:

1. Revise the Policy Committee Membership to clarify that representatives must reside in SUATS MPO jurisdiction.
2. Add alternative method for the Sumter Legislative Delegation to appoint representatives in the event there is no available Resident Senator or Resident Representative to fill a seat.

3. Add the Executive Director of the Santee-Wateree Regional Transportation Authority (SWRTA), as an Ex Officio non-voting member.
4. Adjust Technical Committee Membership, including titles, based on external organization realignments.
5. Remove references to “study team” as an alternative way of describing the organization’s Technical Committee.
6. Adjust the method of meeting notification for board members from postal mail to email.
7. Remove reference to a specific publication name in describing the newspaper of record for Sumter County.

A motion to adopt the proposed revisions to the SUATS Bylaws, was made by Mr. Schwedler and seconded by Mr. Merchant. The motion carried a unanimous vote.

Item #2 (Info Item) - 2050 LRTP Projects to be Advanced to SUATS FY2024-2033 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Kelly provided a briefing to the Committee regarding projects in development for the Committee’s future funding consideration. SUATS currently has a projected \$47.3 million balance available for the FY2024-2033 TIP window.

While remaining phases for some existing projects (e.g. West 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 projects.

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 projects and corridor projects each listed separately.

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 developments) that becomes available once new commercial, industrial, or residential development is planned.

Staff has reviewed the current LRTP projects list extensively, and has identified several candidate projects for potential advancement to a planning phase (PL), including the following:

Project ID	Project Name	Project Category	Project Rank
S-5	Broad Street Corridor Improvements	Roadway Safety	#1

G-7	Palmetto Park Connector	Greenway/Sidepath	#36
G-2 & G-3	Turkey Creek Greenway, Phase 1 & Lafayette Drive Greenway	Greenway/Sidepath	#17 & #1
RD-4	N./S. Harvin St Road Diet	Road Diet	#13
IO-4	Broad St. @ Mason Rd.	Roadway Intersection Safety	#11

Chairman McCain accepted the briefing on behalf of the Policy Committee, and no action was taken.

Item #3 (Info Item) – Momentum 2050 Update

Ms. Christina Lewis presented on behalf of SCDOT a briefing on SCDOT’s multimodal transportation plan update, titled “Momentum 2050”. Ms. Lewis detailed the planning process, goals, and community outreach planned for the project, and fielded questions from SUATS Committee members regarding the process for consolidating input and engaging with MPOs throughout the process.

Chairman McCain accepted the briefing on behalf of the Policy Committee, and no action was taken.

Active Projects Update

Mr. Kelly provided a 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.

Chairman McCain accepted the update on behalf of the Policy Committee, and no action was taken.

Respectfully submitted,
Kellie K. Chapman
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Board Secretary