

MINUTES
SUATS POLICY COMMITTEE
FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2026, @ 12:00 P.M.
SANTEE WATEREE RTA BUILDING – MEETING ROOM
(129 SOUTH HARVIN ST., SUMTER, SC)

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: State Senator **Jeff Zell**; Sumter CTC Chairman **Hugh M. McLaurin, IV**; State Representative **J. David Weeks**; Planning Commission Chairman **James Munford**; County Council Chairman **James T. McCain**; County Councilman **James Byrd, Jr.**; 5th District **Curtis Spencer** (*non-voting*); and SWRTA Executive Director **Tanisha Gibbons** (*non-voting*).

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT The Honorable Mayor **David P. Merchant**; *Sumter* Economic Development Board President & CEO **Jay Schwedler**; City Councilman **Colin Davis**; State Representative **G. Murrell**; Smith Sumter County Manager **Gary Mixon** (*non-voting*); Shaw Air Force Base Planner **Ashley Nichols** (*non-voting*); SCDOT Commissioner, Sumter City Manager **Deron McCormick** (*non-voting*), and SCDOT 6th District Commissioner **vacant** (*non-voting*).

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, April 22, 2026, @ 12:00 p.m. in Santee Waterree RTA Building – Meeting Room (129 South Harvin St., Sumter, SC). County Council Chairman called the meeting to order.

A motion to approve the agenda for the April 22, 2026, meeting was made by Mr. McLaurin and seconded by State Senator Jeff Zell. The motion carried a unanimous vote.

A motion to approve the minutes from February 27, 2025, meeting was made by Mr. Hugh McLaurin and seconded by State Senator Jeff Zell. The motion carried a unanimous vote.

Old Business

2050 LRTP Project(s) to be Funded via SUATS Regional Mobility Program (RMP)

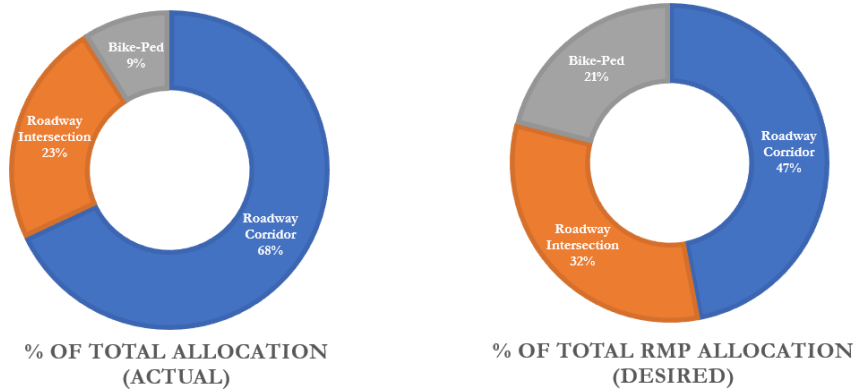
Mr. Kelly stated SUATS currently has a projected \$35.7 million balance available during the FY2024-2033 TIP window.

While remaining phases for existing projects (e.g. W. Liberty Street Corridor and Turkey Creek Greenway Phase 1) and possible inflationary cost impacts to active projects are likely to require commitment of a portion of these available funds, there are opportunities to begin planning a next SUATS Regional Mobility Program project.

The current SUATS 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan separates projects into three

primary categories to enable effective ranking within each category. During the planning horizon of the LRTP, the expected division of funds in these categories compared to the actual allocation in the diagram below:

Planned vs. Actual Regional Mobility Program Allocations



The project ranking system established in the LRTP is by its nature reactive to previously measured data in identifying areas to be addressed on Sumter's transportation network. This means that projected or planned development (commercial, industrial, and residential) can create an impact on Sumter's transportation network that is not included in available data or effectively scored via the project prioritization rubric.

In situations involving new growth where Sumter's transportation needs can be best served by selecting a project ranked lower on the project 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 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 scope of projects the Committee would like considered for funding and the desired timeline for presentation of alternatives.

New Business – Action Item

Proposed Revision #12 to FY2024-2033 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Kelly stated the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the Sumter area's transportation capital improvement program, which contains a matrix of transportation projects compliant with federal regulations and local 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.

Staff has drafted Revision #12 to the current TIP for FFY2024-2033, which incorporates the following changes, grouped by category of change (amendment, administrative

modification, and rightsizing):

Amendment:

Carbon Reduction Program

- **Add** Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Section to TIP Narrative, and details on two initial CRP projects (Shot Pouch HAWK Signal Pedestrian Detection Sensor Bollards and Uptown Sumter Signal Timing).

Administrative Modification:

Broad St. Corridor Improvement Project (Miller Rd. to Warren St.)

- **Shift** Right-of-Way (ROW) phase from FY26 to FY27.
- **Shift** Construction (C) phase from FY27 to FY28.

US-15 Southbound Bridge over Pocotaligo River

- **Shift** Construction (C) phase from FY27 to FY26.

US-76/378 Bridge over US-15 North

- **Shift** Construction (C) phase from FY26 to FY27.

Rightsizing:

Add Linious Martin Sauls, IV (SCDOT Commissioner. 6th Congressional District) to SUATS Policy Committee Membership Roster.

A motion to adopt Revision #12 to the SUATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY 2024-2033, in the category of an “Amendment”, subject to completion of a 21-day public comment period as required by the SUATS Public Participation Plan was made by State Senator Jeff Zell and was seconded by State Representative Weeks. The vote carried an unanimous vote.

Amendment #1 to FY2025/26 and FY2026/27 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Kelly added SUATS FY 2025-26 and 2026/27 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) describes all urban transportation and transportation-related planning activities anticipated for the period from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027. It contains a discussion of the major transportation issues, goals and objectives in the SUATS MPO Study Area.

The UPWP is a work program comprised of tasks to achieve transportation-related planning activities anticipated for the period from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027. It contains a discussion of the major transportation issues, goals and objectives in the SUATS MPO Study Area.

The UPWP is a work program comprised of tasks to achieve the overall goal of bringing effective transportation improvements to the SUATS planning area. The proposed

Amendment #1 to the current UPWP is required to reflect expenditures and projections to-date for Year 1 of the UPWP timeline and to incorporate actual funding allocations for year 2 of the UPWP, as received from SCDOT.

Specific details and activities for each major task are included in the draft UPWP, along with Federal funding resources and budget summaries for both FY2025/26 and FY2026/27.

Total FY2025/26 Funding and Expenditures (including projections for current year Q3 and Q4)	
Federal Share	\$243,884.74
Federal Carryover from FY23/24	\$26,857.38
Local Match (20%, less complete streets waiver eligible activities)	\$46,700.00
Total, FY2025/26	\$317,172.12
<i>Projected Carryover to FY2026/27</i>	<i>(\$4,287.88)</i>

Projected FY2026/27 Funding and Expenditures	
Federal Allocation	\$246,899.67
Federal Carryover from FY24/25	\$245,409.23
Local Match (20%, less complete streets waiver eligible activities)	\$54,600
Total, FY2026/27	\$546,908.90
<i>Projected Carryover to FY2027/28</i>	<i>\$203,908.90</i>

Staff has drafted Amendment #1 to the SUATS Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for FY2025/26 and FY2026/27, subject to completion of the 21-day public comment period as required by the SUATS Public Participation Plan.

A motion to adopt Amendment #1 to the SUATS Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for FY2025/26 and FY2026/27, subject to completion of the 21-day public comment period as required by the SUATS Public Participation Plan was made by State Representative Weeks and was seconded by State Senator Zell. The vote carried an unanimous vote.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kellie K. Chapman

Kellie K. Chapman
Board Secretary