

# *Spartanburg Area Transportation Study*

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## **SPATS Policy Committee Minutes**

*February 10, 2020*

### **Present:**

Roger Nutt

John Throckmorton

Rosalyn Henderson-Myers

Jared Wilson

Manning Lynch

Bob Walker

Larry Chappell

Mike Forrester

Julian Hankinson

Woody Willard

### **Welcome, Introductions and Approval of Minutes**

Chair Mike Forrester called the meeting to order. Mr. Forrester welcomed the new Legislative Delegation representative, Ms. Rosalyn Henderson-Myers. Mr. Forrester also thanked Stephanie Amell-Jackson from SCDOT for her many years of service as she is retiring.

Mr. Throckmorton moved to approve the minutes of the November 12th meeting as emailed, seconded by Mr. Wilson. The minutes will now be made available online on the SPATS website.

### **Election of Officers**

Mr. Willard moved to elect the slate of new officers for 2020 as follows by acclamation vote, seconded by Mr. Walker:

**Chair:** *Hon. Manning Lynch, Spartanburg County Council Chair*

**First Vice-Chair:** *Mayor Junie White, City of Spartanburg*

**Second Vice-Chair:** *Rep. Mike Forrester, Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation*

### **SPARTA Comprehensive Operational Analysis Update**

Ms. Emily Swearingen, AECOM, consultant for the City of Spartanburg, presented an update and public participation photos of the SPARTA Comprehensive Operational Analysis. The study focuses on developing ideas to improve efficiency for providing transit users with the highest level of service possible within current resource constraints. Stakeholders acknowledge that having access to transportation is a pathway to self-sufficiency and financial stability, especially for the transit dependent population (residents who depend on the bus service for transportation). Transit service in Spartanburg has remained mostly unchanged for the last 10 years. According to the National

Transit Database, from 2013 to 2017, SPARTA ridership has decreased by approximately 6% although the population has remained relatively stable. Ms. Swearingen reports that approximately 280 people participated in recent public involvement efforts for the study which included pop-up events, focus groups, rider's survey and an open house at locations including the Transit Passenger Center, the Soup Kitchen, the Department of Social Services, the Dorman Centre, City Hall, and via the SPARTA website. Those surveyed said they appreciate the service and want to see it succeed. More than 60% of SPARTA riders have been using the system for over 5 years. 100% of the riders surveyed walk to and from their destination. 60% would walk for 10 minutes, and 35% would walk for 20 minutes to ride the bus. Almost 80% transfer to another route. 49% ride for work, and 28% ride for completing errands and shopping. 44% ride 5 or more times per week and 33% ride up to four times per week. If the bus was not available, 30% would walk the whole trip, (although it is a safety issue that safe sidewalk facilities are not available along parts of the route), 28% would not have made the trip, and 21% would have gotten a ride with someone else. The most requested improvement to the service was later service (70%), followed by 58% requesting more benches and shelters available at bus stops, 57% more routes/services, and 42% requesting more frequent service on existing routes. Many want Sunday service and Saturday service same as weekday service.

50% of employers surveyed said one of the highest challenges for them is having employees live outside of the bus service area. 17% of employers surveyed are interested in carpools and shuttle services to compliment the bus system.

AECOM has presented short-term and long-term recommendations to the City. The short-term recommendations focus on cost neutral items such as streamlining and eliminating redundancies in the routes. Mid and Long Term recommendations include capital, operational, and personnel changes, including the coordination of vanpools and microtransit service.

### **I-85 Widening (Spartanburg and Cherokee County) Project Update**

Brad Reynolds and Shane Parris, SCDOT, gave an update and photos of the construction work for the I-85 widening project (Spartanburg and Cherokee County) including project scope, construction activities to date and upcoming, and schedule.

SCDOT is reconstructing existing pavement and adding a travel lane down the existing median. The project includes four interchange improvements (including ramps) at Exits 83, 87, 95, and 96.

- US 221 ramp B is paved and ready to open when SB I-85 is complete.
- SB I-85 mile marker 77-80 anticipated completion February 2020
- NB I-85 mile marker 77-80 anticipated completion May 2020
- Exit 83, 87, Sunny Slope and Overbrook bridge decks anticipated completion Summer 2020

Overall project completion anticipated for late 2023. For more detail, please see the project page on the SCDOT Project Viewer:

<http://www.85widening.com/>

### **Study Team Recommendation: Wadsworth Trail Phase 5/Anderson Mill Road Section**

Sherry Dull, SPATS Senior Transportation Planner, presented the Wadsworth Trail Master Plan overview and map of the almost four miles of trail that have been completed since 2006 (including Willis Road, Caldwell Drive, and Copper Line Drive by the Westside Club, and Copper Line Drive extension near Westview Elementary). Ms. Dull also reviewed planned trail work for future phases to connect to the historical Anderson Mill, the site of the first Spartanburg County Court, and the future North Tyger Greenway. The Wadsworth Trail has been a priority for the Spartanburg area ever since the first vision map was created in 2006 and the Westside Neighborhood Association was borne out of this effort. Work continues to complete the connection to the Westside from downtown Spartanburg.

Lisa Bollinger, SPATS Transportation Planning Manager, presented the Study Team Recommendation for the next Air Quality Mitigation Project. This project was submitted in November 2018 to SCDOT for the Transportation Alternatives Program but the program was put on hold by SCDOT for an undetermined time. Therefore, the Study Team recommends that the next phase of the Wadsworth Trail, Phase 5 along Anderson Mill Road, be completed with Guideshare funding under the Air Quality Mitigation line item. SCDOT estimates the cost to be 1 million for the new TIP project of the Wadsworth Trail Phase 5/Anderson Mill Road Section. The match source is the Spartanburg County Council/Parks Department Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure Fund from the Capital Improvement Fund for 2020-2024. A previous need identified in the LRTP Update from 2016, this project is part of the 2012 Spartanburg Urban Area Trails and Greenways Master Plan. Although our area is currently in attainment for air quality and therefore does not receive Congestion Mitigation funding, this line item is for projects that encourage residents to use trails and transit as an alternative to cars for travel.

Mr. Nutt moved to approve the Study Team recommendation, seconded by Mr. Hankinson.

### **Projects' Status Report**

Ms. Penny Phillips presented the updates and work construction photos for the SPATS projects:

**Country Club Road Improvements:** operational and safety improvements on S-47 for 3.3 miles from Union St. (SC 56) to Clifton-Glendale Road (S-30). Project includes east-west trail connection along Country Club Road linking the Mary Black Foundation Rail Trail to the Glendale Shoals area. PE 80% complete. ROW acquisition began October 2019. Approximately 10% of tracts settled. Construction expected to begin Spring 2021 depending on ROW acquisitions.

*Country Club Road Corridor Project link in SCDOT Project Viewer*

**SC 9 at Shoally Creek/4<sup>th</sup> Street Intersection Improvement:** includes widening of SC 9 to add third a travel lane in each direction, adding/lengthening turn lanes along with reconfiguring 4<sup>th</sup> St. at existing sharp curve, and installing a traffic signal at SC 9 and Candlenut Lane. PE 50% complete. ROW acquisition scheduled to begin Fall 2020. Project expected to be let for construction in Fall 2021.

[SC 9 and 4th St. Intersection Improvement Project link in SCDOT Project Viewer](#)

**Lyman Traffic Triangle:** improve traffic operations at three main intersections: US 29/Pine Ridge Road, SC 358 (Holly Springs Road)/Pine Ridge Road, and US 29/SC 129/SC 358 (Holly Springs Rd.)/SC 292. Preliminary Engineering 50% Complete. ROW Phase expected to begin Fall 2020. Project expected to be let for Construction in Fall 2021.

[Lyman Traffic Triangle Project Link in SCDOT Project Viewer](#)

Please see SCDOT Project Viewer for project status updates between SPATS meetings: <https://www.scdot.org/business/projectviewer.aspx>

### **Other Business and Adjourn**

Ms. Bollinger offered an update from Lance Estep, ACOG/lead agency on the Regional Freight Study: The ACOG, SPATS, GPATS and ANATS have partnered to conduct a Freight Study for our region, with input from SCDOT and FHWA. The notice to proceed was received in January with work to begin in March and last about a year. The Study will be overseen by a Steering Committee of stakeholders and a Freight Advisory Committee from private sector companies in the freight and logistics industry. Ms. Bollinger will serve on the Steering Committee and SPATS staff will participate in the Study meetings.

There being no other business, motion was made by Mr. Nutt to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Throckmorton. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 8, 2020.