

**MINUTES**  
**SUATS POLICY COMMITTEE**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 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**; Sumter CTC Chairman **Hugh M. McLaurin, IV**; City Councilman **Colin Davis**, State Senator **J. Thomas McElveen, III**; State Representative **G. Murrell Smith**; Sumter Economic Development Board President & CEO **Jay Schwedler**; Shaw Air Force Base Representative **Ashley Nichols**; SCDOT Commissioner, 5<sup>th</sup> District **Curtis Spencer**; Sumter County Manager **Gary Mixon** and Sumter City Manager **Deron McCormick**.

**POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** County Council Chairman **James T. McCain**, County Councilman **James Byrd, Jr.**; State Representative **J. David Weeks**; Planning Commission Chairman **James Munford**; 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 Tuesday, May 21, 2024, @ 12:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers (21 N. Main St., Sumter, SC). Chairman David P. Merchant called the meeting to order.

A motion to approve the agenda for the May 21, 2024, meeting was made by Mr. McElveen and seconded by Mr. Davis. The motion carried a unanimous vote.

A motion to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2024, meeting was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. McElveen. The motion carried a unanimous vote.

**Revision #4 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. **Add** \$1,227,527 in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 Small Urban Transit Funds for FY2024.
2. **Add** \$4,481,873 in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 Small

Urban Transit Funds in the prior year carryover category, along with a detailed carryover chart.

3. **Adjust** project name and description for project P042862 to “West Liberty Street Corridor Improvements”.
4. **Shift** \$10,000 in Right-of-Way (ROW) Funding for the W. Calhoun Street Road Diet Project from FY2024 to FY2025.

SCDOT policy regarding the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) makes the content of this revision and an “Amendment”, which requires a 21-day public comment period and SCDOT Commission or Secretary of Transportation validation.

Staff recommended that the Policy Committee adopt Revision #4 to the SUATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY 2024-2033, in the category of an “Administrative Modification”, and open a 21-day public comment period.

A motion to adopt Revision #4 FY2024-2033 SUATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), in the category of an “Administrative Modification”, was made by Mr. Schwedler and seconded by Mr. McLaurin. The motion carried a unanimous vote.

**Amendment #2 to FY2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

The SUATS FY 2024 - 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) describes all urban transportation and transportation-related planning activities anticipated for the period from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025. 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 #2 to the current UPWP is required for 2 reasons.

First, the UPWP budget must be rightsized to reflect actual expenditures from Year 1 of the UPWP and to incorporate actual funding allocations for year 2 of the UPWP, as received from SCDOT.

Second, the amendment would add 3 new planning activities for which 3<sup>rd</sup> party consultants may be engaged:

1. Pavement Quality Assessment
2. Fixed Route Transit Network Identity and Brand Update
3. Transit Stop ADA Transition Plan

Specific details and activities for each major task are included in the draft UPWP, along with Federal funding resources and budget summaries for both FY2024 and FY2025.

<b>Total FY2024 Expenditures (including projection for FY24 Q4)</b>	
Federal Share	\$320,683.18
Less USDOT Recission	(\$2,993.16)
Local Share	\$67,720.37
<b>Total, FY2022</b>	<b>\$387,211.39</b>
<i>Projected Carryover to FY2025</i>	<i>\$24,715.15</i>

<b>Projected FY2025 Funding</b>	
Federal Allocation	\$245,479.15
Federal Carryover	\$259,785.33
Local Share	\$63,500
<b>Total, FY2023</b>	<b>\$568,764.48</b>
<i>Projected Carryover to FY2026</i>	<i>\$8,764.48</i>

Staff recommends that the Policy Committee provisionally adopt proposed Amendment #2 to the FY 2024 – FY2025 SUATS Unified Planning Work Program and open a 21-day public comment period.

A motion to adopt Amendment #2 to FY2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Schwedler. The motion carried a unanimous vote.

#### **Resolution of Support for US-521 North Corridor Widening Project**

Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments is currently developing an application to the SC Transportation Infrastructure Bank for improvement/upgrade of the US-521 Corridor between I-20 and Little Rafting Creek Rd. The project goals are to create a safer transportation corridor for travelers, foster a more attractive environment for current and future economic development, and to meet the future needs of the region’s military installations.

Santee-Lynches has requested that SUATS consider providing a resolution of support as part of the supporting materials for the SCTIB grant application for the corridor improvement project.

A drafted resolution of support for the Santee-Lynches COG grant application, which is enclosed for the Policy Committee’s review and possible action.

A motion to adopt Resolution of Support for US-521 North Corridor Widening Project was made by Mr. McElveen and seconded by Mr. Schwedler. 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.

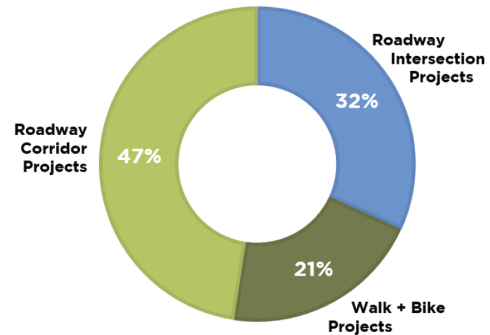
While remaining phases for existing projects (e.g. W. Liberty Street) and potential cost increases for active projects are likely to require a portion of these available funds, there remains an opportunity to begin planning the next SUATS Regional Mobility Program project(s).

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 to be as follows: 31.8% for Roadway Intersection Projects, 20.6% for Walk+Bike Projects, and 47.6% for Roadway Corridor Projects.

Figure 11.4 - Expected Allocation Percentages for Roadway and Walk+Bike Capital Project Categories



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 candidates projects for potential advancement to a planning phase (PL), including the following:

Project ID	Project Name	Project Category	Project Rank	Planning Level Cost Estimate
S-5	Broad Street Corridor Improvements	Roadway Safety	#1	\$5,000,000
S-8	N./S. Guignard Corridor Improvements	Roadway Safety	#3	\$7,000,000
G-7	Palmetto Park Connector	Greenway/Sidepath	#36	\$5,000,000
G-2 & G-3	Turkey Creek Greenway, Phase 1 & Lafayette Drive Greenway	Greenway/Sidepath	#17 & #1	\$8,100,000
RD-4	N./S. Harvin St Road Diet	Road Diet	#13	\$4,000,000
IS-3	Miller Rd @ N. Guignard Dr.	Roadway Intersection Safety	#3	\$5,000,000
IO-4	Broad St. @ Mason Rd.	Roadway Intersection Safety	#11	\$9,700,000

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$43,800,000</b>
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Staff presents this information for the Policy Committee’s consideration and discussion. No action is required at this time, though staff requests that the Policy Committee provide direction on which possible projects should be presented for Planning (PL) phase funding at the June 2024 Policy Committee meeting.

**West Liberty Street Road Diet Project**

Mr. Kelly stated Limited NTP issued to selected engineering consultant to begin collecting traffic counts and complete initial surveying. SCODT intends to issue full NTP in June 2024.

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

Mr. Kelly informed the second public information meeting was held March 14, 2024. The purpose was to review and comment on 3 consultant-developed concept alternatives:

Alternative #1 – US-378 Bridges @ Wesmark & Miller Rd.

Alternative #4 – Boulevard Traditional

Alternative #6 – Boulevard / Bridge Combo

**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.

One line of effort underway is development of a citizen-led advisory committee to support the SUATS Technical Committee and Policy Committee.

**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 develop 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