

FLORENCE AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (FLATS)
STUDY TEAM MEETING MINUTES
April 22, 2025 – Virtual Teams Meeting

Members Present:

Angela Gordon
Allie Coskrey
Brian Dix
David Gray
Don Strickland
Edwin Sharpe
Hannah Tito
Jeselle Toledo
Joey Skipper
Lyle Lee
Mark Pleasant
Roxanne Ancheta
Sophia Turner

Staff Present:

Caroline Dunlap
Ethan Brown
Shawn Brashear

[View Meeting Video](#) (meeting starts around 00:41:00)

10:33AM Caroline Dunlap called the meeting to order and informed everyone in attendance that if they received an invite, they were part of the Study Team membership and were able to vote on the items presented during the meeting. She then gave an outline of the items published on the meeting's agenda.

Mrs. Dunlap then moved on to the first official FLATS business item, which was to approve the January 21, 2025 Study Team meeting minutes. She asked if anyone would like to request changes or make a motion to approve the minutes as written/presented. Mr. Shawn Brashear made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; the motion was then seconded by Mr. Ethan Brown. All were in favor; the vote carried unanimously.

Mrs. Dunlap then moved on to provide an explanation of the next agenda item, which was the review and adoption of the FY26-FY27 Unified Planning Work Program or UPWP along with the FY26 proposed PL allocations published within the UPWP. She explained that this (the UPWP) was a federally-required program and that the MPO must publish all anticipated planning activities expected to be undertaken by the MPO in the upcoming 1-2 years and those planning activities would be reimbursed at 80% by SCDOT via the combined Metro PL funds available from FHWA PL Funds and FTA Sec 5307 funds. She noted that any activity not listed in the UPWP would not be eligible for federal reimbursement. She continued by stating that upon successful review by the Study Team and approval by the FLATS Policy Committee, the updated program would replace the currently approved FY24-FY25 UPWP. It was noted by Mrs. Dunlap that this was a 2-year document, so once approved, the same program would go on to be amended in the spring of 2026 with updated FY2027 PL Fund allocations once they were provided by the SCDOT Office of Planning.

Mrs. Dunlap continued to provide more information on the updated UPWP noting the required elements and the primary differences from the current FY24-FY25 UPWP. She provided, through an image of a table, the slightly updated work categories as well as the percentages and amounts of the FY26 PL Fund Allocations (provided to FLATS by the SCDOT Office of Planning) that FLATS staff had assigned to

each work category along with the 20% local match Florence County/FLATS would be expected to provide for each of these work categories. The total FY26 allocation for planning activities in the FLATS MPO including 20% local match, she explained, was \$940,723.80. She also provided an example of the formatting/cosmetic differences in the current UPWP compared to the proposed UPWP as well as the subtle changes in a few of the Work Categories. For example, the FY24-FY25 UPWP listed a “Mapping” work category, while the updated, FY26-FY27 listed a “Maps and Applications” work category.

Mrs. Dunlap also stated that Work Category 8, previously the I-95/SC327 Interchange Planning Study Work Category was updated to account for the required, five-year LRTP update the MPO has planned. She stated that an RFQ would be published in January of 2026 to begin the process to select a third-party consultant to assist FLATS Staff in the updating of the 2045 LRTP to the 2050 LRTP. She said that FLATS Staff estimated a consultant would be selected by July 2026 and the updated 2050 LRTP would be expected to go before the Study Team for review and Policy Committee Approval a year later in July of 2027. At that time, Mrs. Dunlap completed her presentation of the item and asked if there were any questions or comments on the updated UPWP, or if anyone would like to entertain a motion. Mr. Don Strickland made a motion to approve the FY26-FY27 UPWP as presented. The motion was then seconded by Mr. Shawn Brashear. All were in favor; the vote was carried unanimously to approve the FY26-FY27 UPWP.

The meeting then moved to the Transportation Agency Updates portion of the agenda. Mr. Don Strickland with PDRTA, provided the first update. He first thanked FLATS, Florence County, and the SCDOT for the assistance provided to execute the Transit Study. He explained that he had learned a great deal from the experience and was very excited to see the final results, once they become available. He mentioned he was also excited about presenting information on the existing findings of the Transit Study during the upcoming SCAPA conference in Florence on Friday.

The next Transportation Agency Update came from Mr. Brian Dix from SCDOT. He provided the Study Team with details concerning the Coles Crossroads (US 52/SC 51) Intersection Improvement project that the FLATS Policy Committee had just recently programmed in the TIP during the Feb 2025 meeting. Mr. Dix stated that the initial planning phases of this project would begin in the summer. At that time, Mr. Ethan Brown asked Mr. Dix if FLATS staff would be able to review the design upon completion of the Preliminary Engineering phase to which Mr. Dix explained they would be able to review these through the NEPA public involvement process. There were no other questions. This concluded the transportation agency update portion of the agenda.

There were no other agency updates, other business items, comments or questions posed by the members in attendance. With that, Mrs. Dunlap entertained motions to adjourn the meeting to which Mr. Brashear moved to adjourn, and Mr. Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 10:48am.