



## WHAT IS FLATS?

The Federal Highway Act of 1962 established the requirement for transportation planning in urban areas throughout the country. This Act is the federal authorizing legislation for expenditure of funds through Federal Surface Transportation Bills to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO). An MPO is defined in Federal Transportation Legislation (23 USC 134(b) and 49 USC 5303 (b)) as the designated local decision making body that is responsible for carrying out the metropolitan transportation planning process. An MPO must be designated for each urban area with a population of more than 50,000 people as designated by the Bureau of Census.

Congress created MPOs in order to ensure that existing and future expenditures of governmental funds for transportation projects and programs are based on a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive ("3-C") planning process.

The Florence Area Transportation Study (FLATS) is the MPO for the urbanized Florence area. There are currently eleven MPOs in the State of South Carolina. The FLATS MPO Study Area Boundary includes The City of Florence, Town of Quinby, City of Darlington, Town of Timmonsville and surrounding unincorporated areas of Florence and Darlington counties. The total population for the FLATS Study Area Boundary is 124,316. The federal funds for transportation related improvement projects can only be utilized within the FLATS Study Area Boundary.

The primary responsibilities of any MPO are to 1) develop a Long-Range Transportation Plan, which is, at a minimum, a 25-year transportation vision for the planning area; 2) develop a financially constrained Transportation

Improvement Plan, which is the agreed upon list of specific projects for which federal funds are anticipated; and 3) develop a Unified Planning Work Program, which identifies the annual transportation activities that are to be undertaken in support of goals, objectives and actions established in the Long Range Transportation Plan.

The Florence County Planning Department serves as staff for the FLATS MPO. The FLATS MPO is currently monitored by two committees. These committees are comprised of elected and appointed officials representing local, state and federal governments or agencies having interest or responsibility in comprehensive transportation planning. The FLATS Policy Committee is the official decision making body that establishes policies for the overall conduct of the MPO, adopts plans and programs and approves study recommendations. The FLATS Study Team, which is established by the Policy Committee, provides recommendations to the Policy Committee on technical methods, procedures and standards that are used in the development of transportation plans and programs. Membership of both committees is prescribed by the FLATS By-Laws.

The FLATS MPO is required to update and maintain Federal documents in order to remain compliant with federal regulations as outlined in the Federal Surface Transportation Bill. The previous Federal Surface Transportation Bill signed into Law on October 1, 2009 (P.L. 111-68) was (SAFETEA-LU) Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users. The current Bill is (MAP-21) Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act. MAP-21 was signed into Law on July 6, 2012 (P.L. 112-141).



## FY 2013-2014

The Florence Area Transportation Study (FLATS) is the metropolitan planning organization servicing a population of 124,316 from within two counties. The FLATS Study Team provides recommendations to the Policy Committee which has final local approval and authority. This committee consists of voting and non-voting members.

### VOTING

Senator Hugh Leatherman, Chair  
South Carolina Senate District 31

Steven J. Wukela, Vice –Chair  
Mayor, City of Florence

Representative Kris Crawford  
South Carolina House District 63

Waymon Mumford  
Councilman, Florence County

Ashby Gregg  
Mayor, Town of Quinby

James T. Schofield  
Chairman, Florence County Council

Mike Wooten  
Commissioner, SCDOT Seventh  
Congressional District

Sherwin Welch  
Chair, County Transportation Council

Glynn Willis  
Councilman, City of Florence

### NON-VOTING

Charles MacNeil, Director, Pee Dee  
Regional Transportation Authority

John Walsh  
State Highway Engineer, SC Department  
of Transportation

David Hobbs  
Chair, Florence County Planning  
Commission

Bob Lee  
Division Administrator, Federal  
Highways Administration

Jay Graham, Director  
Florence County Planning

Tom Kinard  
Chair, Pee Dee Regional Airport  
Authority

Rusty Smith  
Administrator, Florence County

Dennis Townsend  
Administrator, SCDOT Engineering  
District 5

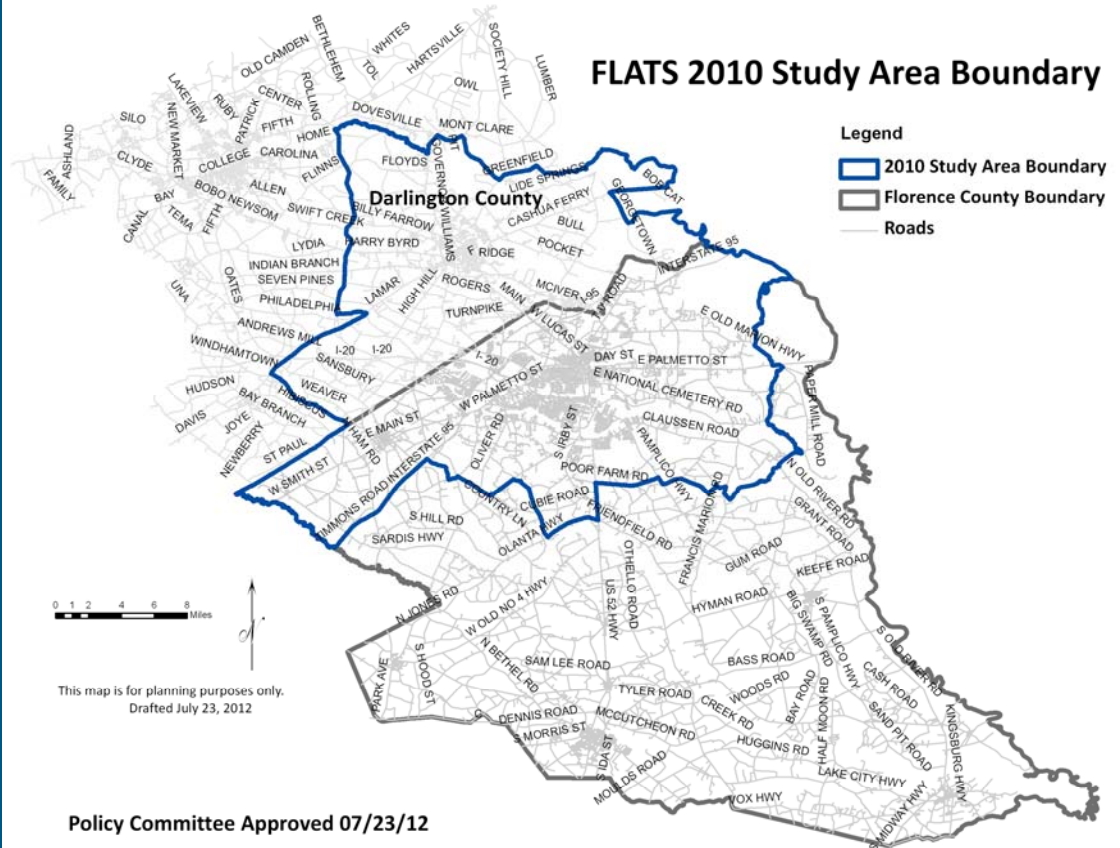
Drew Griffin  
Manager, City of Florence

Drew Chaplin  
Chair, City of Florence Planning  
Commission

Updates and/or amendments to each document must be presented to the Study Team for their recommendation to the Policy Committee for final approval. A specific comment period as outlined in the FLATS Public Participation Process Plan is held for each document prior to presenting to the Study Team and Policy Committee.

The FLATS Federal documents remain updated and are available for public viewing on the Florence County website at <http://www.florenceco.org/offices/planning/flats/>, at the Florence County Planning and Building Inspections Department, located at 518 S. Irby Street and in the FLATS County Planning binder at the Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation Library reference desk, which is located at 509 S. Dargan Street.

The FLATS MPO maintains a FLATS Distribution List and notifies all individuals electronically of upcoming committee meetings and other transportation related issues within the FLATS Study Area Boundary. Contact the Planning Services Department at (843) 656-1503 to be included in this list.



Florence Area Transportation Study (FLATS) • Florence County Planning Department  
518 South Irby Street, Florence, SC 29501 • (843) 676-8600  
<http://florenceco.org/planning/flats/> • <http://florenceco.blogspot.com/>