

Concentrating On Gateways Into Our Community

The Florence Area Transportation Study (FLATS) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) receives annual Federal funds through the FLATS Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). [The UPWP serves as the basis for Federal agencies such as the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Authority (FTA), State agencies such as the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), and local funding assistance for transportation planning activities.] The UPWP is required as a basis and condition for all funding assistance for transportation planning to State, local and regional agencies. The authority for this requirement and for the funding is found in two separate Federal legislative acts establishing transportation planning programs:

- 1) Title 23, U.S. Code Section 134, Section 5303(c) (Federal Aid Highway Act of 1962, as amended)
- 2) Title 49, U.W. Code Section 1603 et.al.: (Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, as amended)

The Unified Planning Work Program is intended to be consistent with the metropolitan planning requirements of the Federal Legislation: "Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act" or "FAST Act" and its implementing regulations. The FAST Act Bill, which provides five years of funding, was signed into law on December 4, 2015 {114-357} and directs transportation planning activities (Titles 23 and 49, United States Code). The Bill totals \$305 billion in spending and addresses a wide range of issues including highway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian, highway safety, motor carrier safety, rail and other related programs.

The work tasks in the UPWP are funded by a consolidated planning grant through FHWA Metropolitan Planning Funds (PL funds) {U.S. Code Title 23 Section 104(f)} and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 49 U.S.C. § 5303 Federal Program. The FHWA/FTA consolidated planning grant

allocates planning funds to the FLATS MPO each fiscal year to perform planning activities. These activities encourage and promote the safe and efficient management, operation and development of surface transportation systems. Surface transportation systems serve the mobility needs of people and freight and foster economic growth and development within and between State government and local urbanized areas. These planning activities also attempt to minimize transportation-related fuel consumption and air pollution. The Federal share payable to the FLATS MPO for activities using these funds is 80% of allowable costs. The remaining 20% is locally funded by Florence County.

The UPWP is updated every two years by Federal mandate. Transportation work tasks completed in the previous fiscal year, in addition to tasks anticipated for the upcoming fiscal year, are documented. A project must be noted in the UPWP and approved by the FLATS Policy Committee before these federal funds may be utilized.

The FLATS UPWP work tasks are categorized under three headings with sub-headings as shown below:

- A. Program Administration
 - A-1 Administration
 - A-2 Public Participation
 - A-3 Transportation Alternatives Program
- B. Surveillance
 - B-1 Mapping
 - B-2 Air Quality Surveillance
 - B-3 Traffic Surveillance
- C. Documentation and Analysis
 - C-1 Development and Maintenance
 - C-2 Socioeconomic and Land Use Data
 - C-3 Public Transportation Planning



FY 2016-2017

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 Phillip Lowe
South Carolina House District 60

Waymon Mumford
Councilman, Florence County

Ashby Gregg
Mayor, Town of Quinby

Roger M. Poston
Chairman, Florence County Council

Mike Wooten
Commissioner, SCDOT Seventh
Congressional District

Sherwin Welch
Chair, County Transportation Council

Teresa Myers Ervin
Council, City of Florence

NON-VOTING

Charles MacNeil, Director, Pee Dee
Regional Transportation Authority

Ron Patton, Deputy Secretary for
Intermodal Planning, SCDOT

Jody Lane
Chair, Florence County Planning
Commission

Emily Lawton
Division Administrator, Federal
Highway Administration

Jay Graham, Director
Florence County Planning

Glenn Greene
Chair, Florence Regional Airport
Commission

K. G. Rusty Smith
Administrator, Florence County

Kyle Berry
Administrator, SCDOT Engineering
District 5

Drew Griffin
Manager, City of Florence

Drew Chaplin
Chair, City of Florence Planning
Commission

The FY2016 and FY2017 UPWP was approved by the FLATS Policy Committee on June 8, 2015. The C-2 Socioeconomic and Land Use Data section includes a work task to procure consultants for studies on various corridors to develop a long-term plan of transportation and land use improvements that enhance aesthetics, introduce viable transportation options and provide functional facilities that are safe for all users.

The FY2016 and FY2017 UPWP may be downloaded from the Florence County website at: <http://www.florenceco.org/offices/planning/flats/>.

The Florence County Council requested financial assistance from FLATS to obtain a consultant for an Engineering Corridor Study and Design Plan for the U.S. Highway 76 corridor (E. Palmetto Street) from Church Street to Francis Marion University. The FHWA, FTA and SCDOT have reviewed a draft of the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to procure a consultant for this corridor study and have concurred that this study would be an applicable work task to utilize UPWP funds. In addition, the FLATS Policy Committee members unanimously voted to approve this project and have instructed FLATS staff to move forward advertising the RFQ.

Florence County and FLATS staff are in the process of reviewing the consultant proposals. There are many Federally required steps to follow before a consultant may be chosen, a contract negotiated and a Study begins. Once the Consultant has been issued a Notice to Proceed, the Study is anticipated to take a maximum of one year. During the process, the consultant will host various meetings to obtain public input and provide status updates to both City and County Officials, Community Stakeholders, Utility Companies and all interested residents of the City and County of Florence.

These meetings will be advertised in the Morning News, posted on the Florence County website and at various local venues, such as the Florence County Complex, the City Center, the Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation Library and the Florence County Planning and Building Department.

In addition, FLATS staff also maintains a distribution list consisting of interested residents, stakeholders, local, Federal and State governing officials just to mention a few who receive electronic notification regarding all FLATS activities. Meeting details are sent to the representatives on this distribution list. If you desire to be included on this list, please contact Debi Matthews at (843)676-8600 or dmatthews@florenceco.org.

FLATS staff, along with Florence County are excited to embark on one of many corridor studies to come that are considered gateways into our community.

“This Newsletter was funded in part through grant [s] from the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration and the U.S. Department of Transportation. The views and opinions of the authors [or agency] expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the U.S. Department of Transportation.”



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