

# The Greenville-Pickens Area Transportation Study

## A Citizen's Guide



# About GPATS

## **What is GPATS?**

GPATS is the **Greenville-Pickens Area Transportation Study**. It is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Greenville Urbanized Area.

## **What is a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)?**

An MPO is a federally required regional transportation planning organization. MPOs are responsible for planning and prioritizing all federally funded transportation improvements within an urbanized area. Every Urbanized Area with a population of 50,000 or more must create an MPO in order to be eligible for federal transportation funds from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

## **How is the GPATS Planning Area Defined?**

Each MPO is required by federal regulations to define a planning area that includes all of the current Urbanized Area, and the additional area that is likely to become urbanized during the next 20 to 25 years. The U.S. Census Bureau defines the boundaries of Urbanized Areas as a part of the Decennial Census. An Urbanized Area is made up of densely populated, contiguous (connected) Census Blocks that have a combined population of 50,000 persons or more.

## **How is GPATS Organized?**

GPATS operates with two committees: a Policy Committee and a Study Team.

The Policy Committee includes the mayors of each city in the GPATS area, County Council members from Greenville and Pickens Counties, State Senators and Representatives from the area, and the two South Carolina Transportation Commissioners representing the area. The Policy Committee determines transportation policy and priorities for the GPATS area.

The Study Team is the technical staff for GPATS. Planners, engineers, and public works officials from the cities and counties served by GPATS are represented on the Study Team, as well as officials from the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The study team develops plans, evaluates potential transportation improvements, and makes recommendations to the Policy Committee.

# About GPATS

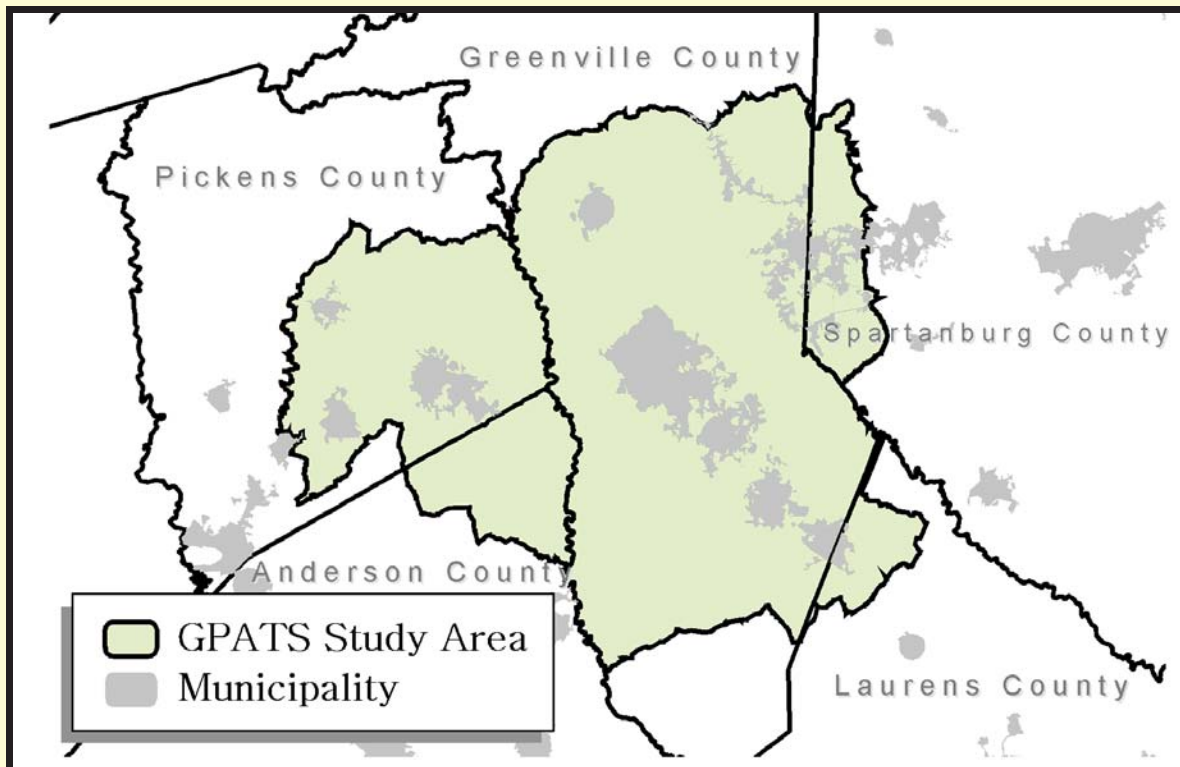
## What Does GPATS Produce?

The two key products of the GPATS develops are the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

The TIP is a list of all of the transportation improvement projects to be funded with FHWA or FTA funds in the upcoming three years. A project must be listed in an approved TIP before federal funds can be spent on the project. The TIP is the funded, short-range element of the regional transportation plan.

The LRTP is a 25-year plan that establishes transportation priorities for the region. The LRTP lists all projects that can be funded, based on estimates of available state and federal funds. A project must be listed in the LRTP before it can be added to the TIP.

## GPATS Study Area



The GPATS Study Area extends into five Upstate counties includes the cities of Easley, Fountain Inn, Greenville, Greer, Liberty, Mauldin, Pickens, Simpsonville, Travelers Rest.

## GPATS Policy Committee\*

Representation	Name
Greenville Legislative Delegation	Sen. J. Verne Smith
Greenville Legislative Delegation	Sen. Ralph Anderson
Greenville Legislative Delegation	Sen. David Thomas
Greenville Legislative Delegation	Sen. Michael Fair
Greenville Legislative Delegation	Rep. Louis Vaughn
Greenville County Council	Herman G. (Butch) Kirven
Greenville County Council	Scott Case
Greenville County Council	Jim Burns
Greenville County Council	Bob Taylor
Greenville County Council	Mark Kingsbury
Mayor of Greenville	Knox White
Mayor of Greer	Rick Danner
Mayor of Simpsonville	Dennis Waldrop
Mayor of Mauldin	R.C. Jones
Mayor of Travelers Rest	Roy Reynolds
Mayor of Fountain Inn	Gary Long
Pickens Legislative Delegation	Sen. Larry Martin
Pickens Legislative Delegation	Rep. Phillip Owens
Pickens County Council	Jennifer Willis
Mayor of Easley	Chris Christopherson
Mayor of Pickens	David Owens
Mayor of Liberty	Brian Deese
Anderson Legislative Delegation	Rep. Dan Cooper
SCDOT Commissioner -- Pickens	Marion P. Carnell
SCDOT Commissioner -- Spartanburg	Hugh Atkins

\*Voting Members

### How to Get Involved

GPATS is committed to providing everyone an opportunity for meaningful involvement in the planning process. Send an e-mail (with "GPATS Mailing List" in the title) to [planning@greenvillecounty.org](mailto:planning@greenvillecounty.org) or call 467-7270 to be added to our distribution list for newsletters and public meeting notices. Also let us know if you would like to get involved in one of our citizen's advisory committees.

For more information, visit our website at <http://www.greenvilleplanning.com> and pick "GPATS" from the contents bar. Other useful links with information about metropolitan transportation planning are:

Greenville Transit Authority (GTA) <http://www.greenvilletransit.com>  
 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) <http://www.fhwa.gov>  
 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) <http://www.fta.gov>  
 SC Department of Transportation (SCDOT) <http://www.scdot.org>