



Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS)

Policy Committee Meeting Friday, December 4, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Location: Zoom

The link to join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4830277728?pwd=cGZEMFgweUpNWFF5bzNwVHFqZ3lRZz09>

Meeting ID: 483 027 7728

Passcode: 8431969

To join by phone: (877)853-5247

Meeting ID: 483 027 7728

Passcode: 8431969

Policy Committee Members Present:

Chairwoman – Mayor Lisa Sulka, Town of Bluffton
Mayor Joe DeVito, Town of Port Royal
Susan Zellman, LRTA
Mike McFee, City of Beaufort
Mayor Harry Williams, City of Hardeeville
Barbara Clark, Jasper County
Tamara Becker Designee for Glenn Stanford, HHI
Paul Sommerville, Beaufort County Council

Policy Committee Members Absent:

Robby Robbins, SCDOT Commission Chairman
Sen. Tom Davis, JC Leg. Delegation Chairman

Technical Committee Members Present:

Kraig Gordon, Chairman Beaufort CTC
Mary Lou Franzoni, LRTA
Katie Woodruff, City of Hardeeville
Anne Cyran, Town of Hilton Head
Lisa Wagner, Jasper County

Technical Committee Members Absent:

Kevin Icard, Town of Bluffton
Rob Merchant, Beaufort County
Linda Bridges, Town of Port Royal
David Pritchard, City of Beaufort

LCOG Staff Present:

Sabrena Graham, Executive Director
Stephanie Rossi, Planning Director
Christian Dammel, Planner I
Kira Fuller, Executive Assistant

SCDOT Staff Present:

Craig Winn
LaToya Grate
David Gray
Betsey McCall
Scott Donahue
Travis Cooper
Erin Porter

Others Present:

Mark Wilkes, CORE MPO
Barbara Childs, LRTA
Allen Seifert, Town of Bluffton
Dan Frazier, City of Beaufort
Joe Crowley, Lowcountry Inside Track
Dan Wood, Town of Bluffton
Jared Fralix, Beaufort County
Van Willis, Port Royal

- a) Pledge of Allegiance
- b) Invocation
- c) Introduction of Members, Guests and Staff
- d) Designees – Tamara Becker, Town of Hilton Head Island
- e) Action on [October 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes](#)
 - i. Joe DeVito made the motion to accept the minutes. Mike McFee seconded. Tamara Becker Abstained. Motion carried unanimously.
- f) Action on [October 28, 2020 Special Called Meeting Minutes](#)
 - i. Mike McFee made the motion to accept the minutes. Susan Zelman seconded. Tamara Becker Abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

2) Old Business.

- a) Update on the LATS Long Range Plan Update – Stephanie Rossi
 - i. Stephanie Rossi reiterated that at the special called meeting in October the LRTP Consultant selection was approved giving LCOG staff the approval to move into negotiations with Kimley-Horne. Negotiations are still currently underway; Kimley-Horne has provided a Scope of Work and an exchange of comments between LCOG and Kimley-Horne is ongoing. Stephanie Rossi will keep the Policy Committee updated on the matter.
 - ii. Stephanie Rossi also updated LATS that the Savannah River Crossing Feasibility Study being conducted by GDOT is moving forward. They selected Arcadis to conduct the study and a notice to proceed was issued in October.
 - iii. Lisa Sulka's commented on the importance of receiving input from every municipality and local government to ensure the high-caliber quality of the LATS LRTP staff aim to achieve.
- b) [SCDOT US 278 and US 17 Project Update](#)—Craig Winn
 - i. US-17 project let in August; still awaiting on the notice of Intent from DHEC Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM). Completion date is expected to be September 30th 2025. Craig Winn went on to state that SCDOT is coordinating with Georgia on the Back River Bridge. GDOT is coordinating the work on phase two because the Back River Bridge can affect the Talmage Bridge. Impacts are not expected to come far into South Carolina. Still awaiting the land disturbance permit to start construction.
 - ii. US 278 – SCDOT is in the process of reviewing the preliminary findings of the Traditional Cultural Properties Review for the Stoney neighborhood they received last week. SCDOT currently has a verbal agreement on several mitigation items out of the Traditional Cultural Properties and recently added additional recommended mitigation items which they will propose at their next monthly coordination meeting with the Stoney Community on 12/8/20. The Environmental assessment is expected to be done and signed off by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) with a public hearing in the spring, however the TCP and mitigation issues need to be addressed prior to moving forward. SCDOT recently received a no impact signature from U.S. Fish and Wildlife stating that the US 278 project will result in a net benefit to the Pinckney Wildlife Refuge. Upon completion of the TCP and community mitigation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife will send a signed memorandum of agreement stating that which will be sent to DC for approval.

c) Palmetto Breeze Update—Mary Lou Franzoni

- i. The Urban Study Phase II was included in the agenda packet. The report contains information regarding new services in Bluffton and expansion on Hilton Head Island. Discussions regarding the implementation of the [Urban Study Phase II](#) which pertains to the new Bluffton transportation services as well as the expansion of the Hilton Head Island Trolley Route are likely to resume in the near future.
- ii. On December 1st, 2020 Palmetto Breeze resumed running the route for the Montage at Palmetto Bluff. The route had been previously discontinued. One trip in the AM and one in the PM to transport workers. This consolidates the many providers that had been providing this service.
- iii. Mary Lou stated that while its COVID dependent, they are hopeful that they will get back to planning and implementing the Urban Study recommendations in early to mid-2021.
- iv. Susan Zellman asked when they might be able to expect routes between Hilton Head Island and Bluffton to which Mary Lou stated that she is unable to give an exact timeline at this time given how its dependent on the amount of Local Match received for the grants used. The establishment of a connector route will follow the completion of Phase II.

d) Beaufort County Transportation Committee Update—Kraig Gordon

- i. The CTC is required to provide a [transportation plan](#) on an annual basis. The plan is included in the LATS agenda packet by Kraig Gordon and is also available on the SCDOT website. The transportation plan outlines the guidelines CTC is required to abide by and outlines how the funding is achieved. It is a living annual document regarding to how roads are analyzed and prioritized along with details their 5 Year paving program. Kraig Gordon said that due to Act 41 (gasoline tax increase) there has been an increase from the previous year of 25% funding for state routes to 27.3% for the current year which will increase to 33% in the following year. He went on to state that current funding they receive from the gas tax is roughly \$2.8 million. Additionally, they receive roughly \$380,000 in donor fees.
- ii. Joe DeVito inquired about Port Royal being included in those receiving independent data reports pertaining to secondary road systems as Port Royal had already submitted the required information for the evaluation. Kraig Gordon confirmed that CTC has received the required information from the Town of Port Royal and will make the amendment within the 2021 annual report to reflect that Port Royal will receive their independent data report.
- iii. Lisa Sulka inquired about adding Yemassee to which Kraig Gordon responded that he would need to look into but will get back to Lisa Sulka.
- iv. Lisa asked about the relationships between the CTC plan and the LRTP. Kraig stated we are coordinating the plans, but the funding sources are different.

3) New Business.

a) Approval of 2021 Safety Targets—Stephanie Rossi

- i. Stephanie Rossi provided a brief [overview](#) of the federally required performance based planning and programming process which requires the state adopt safety targets annually. Following the state adoption of the targets, MPOs have 180 days to either adopt them or create their own safety targets. LATS staff recommended that the committee adopt the state targets. Mike McFee made the motion to accept the state targets. Joe DeVito seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4) Other Business.

- i. Stephanie noted that two administrative modifications were submitted by SCODT for the TIP. They were processed and returned to SCDOT. These amendments do not require board action but are included for information.
 - i. US 278 Corridor Improvements: FY21 NHP funds moved to FY22
 - ii. I-95 Corridor Improvements Georgia State line to Exit 8: Modifications to PE funds and funding year

2) Public Comment

- i. Sabrena Graham thanked the LATS policy committee for all of the effort they have put forward this year and appreciated Lisa Sulka's prior comments regarding the importance of receiving input from every municipality and local government to ensure the high-caliber quality of the LATS LRTP staff aim to achieve.

Links:

[October 2nd, 2020 Meeting Minutes](#)

[October 28th, 2020 Meeting Minutes](#)

[SCDOT Project Update – US 278, US 17, & Others](#)

[Palmetto Breeze Small Urban Transit Implementation Plan](#)

[Beaufort County 2020/21 CTC Plan](#)

[2017-2021 State Safety Targets](#)