



Policy Committee Meeting
Friday, October 1, 2021, 10:00 a.m.
TCL New River Campus Conference Room

Policy Committee Members Present:

Lisa Sulka, Town of Bluffton
Joe DeVito, Town of Port Royal
Susan Zelman, LRTA
Mike McFee, City of Beaufort
Harry Williams, City of Hardeeville
Glenn Stanford, Hilton Head Island
Paul Sommerville, Beaufort County Council
Barbara Clark, Jasper County
Robby Robbins, SCDOT Commission Chairman

SCDOT Staff Present:

Craig Winn
LaToya Grate
David Gray
Betsey McCall
Scott Donahue
Travis Cooper
Erin Porter
Josh Johnson
Megan Groves

Policy Committee Members Absent:

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
Kevin Icard, Town of Bluffton
Lisa Wagner, Jasper County
Rob Merchant, Beaufort County

Others Present:

Shawn Colin, Hilton Head Island
Joe Crowley, Lowcountry Inside Track
Jared Fralix, Beaufort County
Barbara Childs, LRTA
John Fleming, Southern Carolina
Dan Woods, Town of Bluffton
Stu Rodman, Beaufort County

Technical Committee Members Absent:

Noah Krepps, Town of Port Royal
David Pritchard, City of Beaufort

LCOG Staff Present:

Stephanie Rossi, Planning Director
Christian Dammel, Planner I
Kira Fuller, Executive Assistan



AGENDA

1. Call to Order.

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Invocation
- c. Introduction of Members, Guests and Staff
- d. Designees
- e. Action on [August 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes](#).

Mike McFee made the motion to approve the August 6th, 2021 meeting minutes, Joe DeVito seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

2. Old Business.

- a. [SCDOT US 278 and US 17 Project Update](#)—Craig Winn, SCDOT

US 278

On August 22nd, 2021 the public comment period closed for US 278, SCDOT is currently working on categorizing the 546 comments received. Roughly, ten to fifteen will receive individual responses while the remaining comments are still being reviewed for potential project refinements. Additionally, SCDOT is continuing to work toward the finalizing of the environmental document.

US 17

The temporary concrete barrier wall has been completed on US-17. Currently, the widening of the road embankment is underway and will be worked on for the remainder of the year behind the concrete barrier wall. The installation is anticipated to be very slow and long process due to the poor soil condition. Additionally, the vertical wind drain installation to help consolidate the poor soil has been completed. Upon the completion of the widening, a surcharge will be added with an anticipated settling period of twelve to eighteen months. Settling will be checked by monitoring plates that will be installed. Upon completion of consolidation, the surcharge will be removed and further embankment will be added.

- Harry Williams asked Craig Winn about whether the traffic light at 315 was still on for March 2022. Craig Winn responded stating that he will check with the construction manager but believes it's next year and that some widening work needs to be done prior. Craig Winn will check and get back to Harry Williams.



b. Beaufort CTC Update—Kraig Gordon, Beaufort CTC

The pavement condition survey included four municipalities within Beaufort County as well as the County roads. It is anticipated to be completed by December first. The municipalities will be able to initiate their own paving management system to come up with a paving program for the next year or so as a result. The Beaufort CTC will also have their next 5-year plan due to the study.

- Lisa Sulka asked Craig Gordon who was helping Craig with the Town Bluffton roads and whether the staff was included. Craig Responded stating that he has been communicating with the Town's staff.

c. Palmetto Breeze Update—Mary Lou Franzoni, Palmetto Breeze

Mary Lou Franzoni spoke on Palmetto Breeze Trolley passenger counts and the increase in ridership that has occurred since the route launched four years ago. Of the four years the trolley has been in service, last year's passenger counts at 52,000, up from the second highest count the previous year of 15,000.

The newly established Bluffton Breeze shuttle route launched in September. Mary Lou, noted many local businesses are unaware of the service and she has begun to contacting local business's in the area to speak with managers and HR personal to inform them of the service and its stop locations as well as other commuter services for their employees. Mary Lou believes that the passenger counts for the Bluffton service will rise with the continued growth in Palmetto Breeze's community outreach and service awareness.

Mary Lou told the LATS Policy Committee that three of the MCI buses have recently been replaced. Palmetto Breeze also received additional money from SCDOT and has an two busses purchased and on order. The price for each MCI is \$600,000 and they are anticipated to last for twelve to fifteen years. Palmetto Breeze is looking to replace the remaining five MCI buses in the near future.

- Glenn Stanford stated that Hilton Head Island is very pleased with the success of the Palmetto Breeze Trolley and believes that one of the key reasons contributing to its success is that the Town has underwritten some of the cost, allowing the service to be offered free of charge. He went on to thank Mary Lou and encourage her to keep up the good work.
- Barbara Clark asked whether Mary Lou has noticed any decline in Palmetto Breeze Bus passenger counts since the starting of the Antioch bus line running out of Jasper



County. Mary Lou responded that she hasn't noticed any decline and that she believes that there's room for both services.

- Lisa Sulka asked whether Mary Lou has a flyer or brochure to assist with increasing awareness and the word of the Bluffton Breeze Shuttle Route. Mary Lou responded stating that they do as well as a section on the Palmetto Breeze website dedicated to it. She went on to tell Lisa Sulka that she will have her marketing person reach out and provide the marketing material. The shuttle's information will also be added to Bluffton's website.

d. Update on the LATS Long Range Plan—Stephanie Rossi, LCOG

Stephanie Rossi gave an update on the LATS LRTP. Currently the public [survey](#) for the LATS LRTP is live and has been extended to October 20th for responses. Stephanie Rossi encouraged the Committee to share the survey with contacts in order to spread the word and reach more individuals living within the LATS area. Additionally, the LRTP consultants, Kimley-Horn, had a call for projects. Staff from the LATS municipalities, and counties have submitted those projects over the past month.. Projects may be submitted to Stephanie Rossi either via the program offered or an excel spreadsheet. In addition to the call for projects, Kimley-Horn is also working on the travel demand model which is anticipated to be completed in the next month.

- Lisa Sulka made the suggestion to send the survey to the relevant Chambers of Commerce to have them send the survey out to their email contact lists.

3. New Business.

a. [Complete Streets Update](#)—LaToya Grate-Adams, SCDOT

LaToya Grate gave a [presentation](#) on the SCDOT Complete Streets Initiative on behalf of SCDOT. The "Complete Streets" policy requires SCDOT to work with the state's regional transportation planning partners and regional transit providers to identify and include walking, bicycling and transit needs as part of their regional visioning plans.

- Susan Zellman asked for clarification on whether SCDOT is assuming responsibility for crosswalk safety. LaToya responded stating that crosswalks would be part of the initiative, however, in the case of "decorative" or "stamp" crosswalks, those items would not be maintained by SCDOT.
- Joe DeVito stated that one of the issues he believes to significant to cross walk safety are the traffic signal timing changes. He has had great difficulty in making crosswalk timing changes from three seconds to eight stating it goes back and forth between local and state with no entity signing off on it.



- Lisa Sulka asked LaToya about who was on the local government aspect of the Complete Streets Committee. Michelle Peterson responded stating that the complete streets council is a cross sectional representation of disciplines in areas, with Stephanie Rossi being the COG representative. When it gets to the municipal and county government level, the multi-regional representation is expanded as well. However, the Complete Streets Council was not formed to discuss individual projects but rather to understand what interests and needs there may be for areas in terms of transportation alternatives. Mrs. Peterson went on to state that this information is gathered by MPO and COGs and relayed via the point of contact.
- Joe DeVito suggested that since municipalities already have initiatives similar to the Complete Streets initiative by SCDOT, that counties follow suit so as to ensure there is a uniform action by all three governmental bodies.

b. Approval of [updated 2018-2022 SCDOT Safety Targets](#)—Stephanie Rossi

Stephanie Rossi reviewed the 2018-2022 SCDOT Safety Targets. The Federally required Safety Targets are updated annually and are required to be adopted by February each year.

- Paul Sommerville asked for clarification on whether these were LATS targets or State Targets. Stephanie Rossi responded stating that these are the States Safety Targets which LATS would be supporting and contributing to through LATS planning and programming activities. Mrs. Rossi went to explain that there is an option for COGs and MPOs to create their own targets however LATS and all other COGs and MPOs in the state have been adopting to support the state’s targets.
- Lisa Sulka asked whether the fatalities listed on the handout in the four counties that LCOG is comprised of, overlap with LATS fatalities or if LATS fatality counts are pulled out and separated from LCOGs due to county overlap. Stephanie Rossi responded saying that they should be independent of each other but will double check and get back to Ms. Sulka.

Paul Sommerville made the motion to approve the [updated 2018-2022 SCDOT Safety Targets](#), Mike McFee seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

c. Approval of the [2022 LATS Policy Committee Meeting Schedule](#)—Stephanie Rossi

Stephanie Rossi presented the 2022 meeting calendar. There was no discussion.

Paul Sommerville made the motion to approve the [2022 LATS Policy Committee Meeting Schedule](#), Mike McFee seconded, the motion passed unanimously.



- d. [Amendment to Transportation Improvement Program to add \\$50,000 of 5310 FTA funding for the Beaufort County Disabilities and Special Needs](#) (purchase of service) —Stephanie Rossi

Stephanie Rossi presented the amendment to the TIP to include an additional \$50,000 for Section 5310 funds for Beaufort County DSN. There was no discussion.

Joe DeVito made the motion to [Amendment to Transportation Improvement Program to add \\$50,000 of 5310 FTA funding for the Beaufort County Disabilities and Special Needs](#) Susan Zelman seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

- e. [Amendment to Transportation Improvement Program to add 5 locally funded projects of regional significance](#)—Stephanie Rossi

Stephanie Rossi said that these projects of regional significance were requested by Beaufort County to be included into the LATS TIP. The projects are currently partially funded with local funds and aim to be eligible to receive federal grants in the future.

- Christina Lewis requested that the transmittals for each of the five projects would be sent to her office. Stephanie Rossi responded that they were ready to be sent upon approval by the LATS Policy Committee.

Joe DeVito made the motion to approve the [Amendment to Transportation Improvement Program to add 5 locally funded projects of regional significance](#), Harry Williams seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Other Business.

Jared Fralix stated that he has been in contact with Jasper County Staff which may allow for future opportunities and coordination regarding projects that would require approval by the LATS Policy Committee. During these talks the idea of having SC 170, US 278 and Argent Boulevard looked at as one major project rather than one at a time was discussed. Mr. Felix stated that in order to do so effectively, he believes that a study pertaining to widening US 278 from SC 170 to argent boulevard should be conducted so as to complement the existing LCOG SC 170 and Hardeeville's SC 170 to Argent Boulevard studies for a holistic approach. Mr. Fralix is asking the LATS Policy Committee to give consideration to undertaking a study on the US 278 section. He believes the appeal of a project of this scale, estimated to be roughly \$208 million in construction, would be it's more attractive price point for Federal and State grants.



Jared Felix asked the LATS Policy Committee to also consider an access management study for SC 170 from the Boundary Street in Beaufort, all the way to SC 46 traffic circle in Bluffton. Additionally, he suggested an access management study from the Back River Bridge to the SC 46 traffic circle.

5. Public Questions via Facebook Live.

There were no public questions via Facebook Live.

6. Next Meeting.

- a. Friday, December 3, 2021

7. Adjourn.