



Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS)
Policy Committee Meeting Friday, December 2nd, 2022, 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Location: In-Person TCL New River Campus Conference Room

AGENDA

Policy Committee Members Present

Glenn Stanford, Hilton Head Island
Lisa Sulka, Town of Bluffton
Barbara Clark, Jasper County
Joe Passiment, Beaufort County
Harry Williams, City of Hardeeville
Joe DeVito, Town of Port Royal
Mike McFee, City of Beaufort
Charles Mitchell, LRTA

Technical Committee Members Present:

Kraig Gordon, Chairman Beaufort CTC
Lisa Wagner, Jasper County
Mary Lou Franzoni, LRTA
Katie Woodruff, City of Hardeeville
Missy Luick, Town of Hilton Head Island
Kevin Icard, Town of Bluffton
Noah Krepps, Town of Port Royal
Eric Claussen, Beaufort County
Carrie Gorsuch, City of Beaufort

LCOG Staff Present:

Stephanie Rossi, Planning Director

SCDOT Staff Present:

Craig Winn
Travis Cooper
Meghan Groves
Lyle Lee

Others Present:

Stu Rodman, Beaufort County Council
Van Willis, Town of Port Royal
Andy Fluhum, Jasper County
Jared Fralix, Beaufort County
Mark Pleasant, FHWA
Dan Wood, Bluffton Town Council
Grant McClure, SCCCL
Frank Turano, Alliance Engineering
Joe Fragale
Jim Neal, Mattern & Craig Engineers
John Kemp, Jasper County

1. Call to Order.

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Invocation
- c. Introduction of Members, Guests and Staff
- d. Designees
- e. Action on October 7th, 2022, Meeting Minutes (Draft minutes attached.)
 - Glen Stanford moved to approve the meeting minutes, Charles Mitchell seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

2. Committee Report.



a. Report on October 31st, 2022 Technical Committee Meetings—Stephanie Rossi,

ACTION: Information

- Stephanie Rossi stated that the Technical Committee met on October 31st and endorsed the actions items on the Policy Committee agenda.

3. Project Updates.

a. SCDOT Project Updates—Craig Winn/Megan Groves, SCDOT

ACTION: Information

- Craig provided an update on US 17. The contractor is still working on the completing the surcharge of the southbound lanes and should be done by Thanksgiving. The settlement period will begin where very little activity will take place except for erosion control. Once the settlement period is over the surcharge will be removed and the lane will be paved. The traffic will shift to the east side for the proceed to take place on the westbound side. The project tis on schedule for completion September 30th, 2025. The contractor was behind at one point but have caught up.
- Craig did not have an SCDOT project update. Jared provided the US 278 update. The MOA between Hilton Head Island and Beaufort County has been finalized. Proposals to conduct the independent review were submitted before Thanksgiving. The committee as established in the MOA is in the process of reviewing the proposals. County and town action will be in January.
- Craig provided an update on the I-95 widening. In November SCDOT received the preliminary plan for the project. Bridge plans are coming in every two weeks for review. The project is on schedule. SCDOT is working with GDOT on the Savannah River Bridge and which seismic standards will be followed either SCDOT or GDOT.
- Exit 3 is close to being under contract for design.
- Barbara Clark questions how we can better get the project information out to the community. Lisa stated that the LATS members need to take the information from the Policy Committee out to their respective communities through their PIOs. through their PIOs. The SCDOT Project Bureau website is the best resource for SCDOT projects. Charles Mitchell noted he can share information on his Concerned Citizens of Jasper County page.

b. Beaufort County Engineering Update—Jared Fralix, Beaufort County

ACTION: Information

- Jared Fralix provided the Beaufort County Update. County Council is still looking at 20204 as the yar to include a transportation sale tax on the ballot. The County Council has provided \$6 million for staff to begin working on the some of the preliminary components of some of the priority projects that were recommended by



the TAC committee which in SC 170, SC 46, Reimagine Ribaut Road, safety projects and ITS projects. This will hopefully have County engineering prepared when the sales tax comes back around in 2024.

- Eric Claussen stated that the Reimagine Ribaut Road project was kicking off and the stakeholder meeting was taking place on Monday December 5th.
- Eric has participating on the selection committee for the adaptive signal system being implemented on Hilton Head Island.
- Eric updated the progress on SC 170 near term improvements from US 278 to SC 462. The effort included intersection modifications, safety improvements and lane realignment. They received comments from SCDOT and are waiting for comments on DHEC. They are hoping to go out to bid in early winter starting construction in March for a 6–7-month project. They are combining the portion near US 278 with the SCDOT resurfacing project so it will all go out to bid together. The County will provide written updates in the future.
- Lisa noted that Jasper County should be providing updates as well.
- Mayor Williams noted there is a still a significant backup at the SC170 and Argent light. The backup is on Argent Boulevard. Jared stated that improvements is part for the near SC 170 projects and will include a dual left turn and signal timing improvements.
- Mike McFee asked if there was a date for the Reimagine Ribault Road Project. The stakeholder kick off will be December 5th. The first public meeting will be determined afterward.

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

ACTION: Information

- Mary Lou stated the Hilton Head Island Study is in its final draft. The consultants could present at the February meeting.
- Palmetto Breeze is on track to start service to the airport if the County and the Town want to move forward with it. With the pilot shortage and late vehicle delivery the service was not an immediate need this season.
- Palmetto Breeze has had a lot of staff turnover as well as board member turn over. There are two vacancies for Colleton County and one for Beaufort County that need to be filled.
- Glen Stanford asked what is the proposed routing for the airport shuttle. Mary Lou responded it will be two routes. One from the airport to the south end to the Island and one from the airport to mid island locations. It would be about 25 locations with direct service. The plan will come out of the LATS and then to the Town for comment.

4. New Business.

a. FY 2023 Guideshare Increase—Stephanie Rossi

ACTION: Information



- Stephanie shared the letter from Secretary Hall stated the guideshare allocation increase in FY 2023 from 5.2 million to 5.9 million.
- b. Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program—Stephanie Rossi
- ACTION: Information
- Stephanie updated the Committee on the Transportation Alternative Set Aside Program. A letter of intent is due by December 9th for anyone intending to apply. In the future years there will be two call per year for projects. Depending on the location of the project SCDOT may provide the non federal share match. There is a minimum request of \$500,000 and no maximum. Project that aligns with SCDOT priorities such as Complete Streets Policy maybe prioritized in the scoring process. There is a recording of the webinar introducing the updates to the program on the SCDOT website <https://www.scdot.org/projects/community-transportation-alternatives.aspx>
- c. Add ITS Plan to the LRTP & the FY 2021- FY 2027 TIP—Eric Claussen/Stephanie Rossi
- ACTION: Approve addition of new project to the LRTP & TIP
- Charles Mitchel moved to approve, Glean Stanford seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
 - Stephanie stated the Technical Committee endorsed approval to add \$160,000 (\$40,000 local match) to FY 2023 to both the LRTP and the TIP to complete an ITS Plan for the region. Eric described that timing works well with some of the ongoing projects in the region such as adaptive signal timing on Hilton Head and Lisa Sulka noted this needs to include the entire region. Eric stated all partners will be included. Beaufort County is managing the project but it will be a regional project including Jasper County and Hardeeville. Joe asked if SCDOT was already actively burying fiber now. Eric responded that there is a project in the City of Beaufort and there will also be fiber added to SC 170 and US 278.
- d. Move US 278 Corridor Study to first time band of LRTP and add to the FY 2021- FY 2027 TIP—Stephanie Rossi
- ACTION: Approve modification the LRTP and add project to the TIP
- Harry Williams moved to approve moving the project into the TIP but not ahead of any previous programmed study, Barbara Clark seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
 - Barbara Clark raised concerns that the study would be displacing one of the studies currently in the TIP by moving it to FY 2024. The SC 170 Study is slated for FY 2025. The board agreed not to have the US 278 study to supersede the existing studies.
 - Mayor Williams suggested that we move the project up sooner than 2026 but not to supersede any existing programmed study.



- Stephanie noted this study was originally slated to take place after FY 2025. With the additional Guideshare allocation the study could be moved to the first time band of the LRTP and be programed in the TIP for FY 2025. The cost of the study is \$500,000 with no local match requirement. Stephanie noted that the study will not supersede or displace any of the other studies currently in the TIP.
 - e. Add Programs for Exception People (Vehicle Purchase) \$70,000 of FTA Section 5310 funds to the FY 20221-2027 TIP for FY 2022—Stephanie Rossi
ACTION: Approve addition of new project to the TIP
 - Joe Passiment moved to approve, Barbara Clark seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
 - Mayor Sulka suggested having PEP speak at a future meeting on their program and services.
5. Other Business.
- a. State Infrastructure Bank Discussion —Jared Fralix, All
 - The State Infrastructure Bank
 - Very important to make sure the project put forth meets their criteria. The most impactful project in the region at this time is the triangle project (SC 170/US 278/Argent Blvd). Jared stated his goal at this time is to get the LATS endorsement to move forward to
 - The SIB has not accepted applications since the US 278 and Exit 3 projects were submitted. 14 projects were submitted and 7 were funded. Instead of calling for new projects they have been pulling project form the original 14 submitted. They may open up a call projects again in the spring or early 2023. They may divide funding up between urban and rural projects.
 - Jared is suggesting we prepare the Triangle project as a joint project with Beaufort, Jasper and Hardeeville with Jasper County taking the lead applicant to help on the rural designation. Beaufort County staff can use \$2 million of the \$6 million set aside by the Council to do preliminary engineering. This will show the project is making progress. This is in addition to the previous SC 170 study, the near term improvements, Argent Study and the US 278 study. There is enough money to get started but not enough to complete the design. Being a \$200 million project, the design is likely \$15 million.
 - Jared suggested we submit the Triangle project although it may not be able to score high enough initially it can potentially be pulled “off the self” at a later date once more progress has been shown along with potential sales tax.
 - Joe Passiment asked how this affects the SC 170 near term improvements and Jared responded that the near term improvements will show the region is invested in this project and making progress and will only add to the package.



- Andy Flughum noted that Jasper County sales tax will end at the end of the year. This will put Jasper County in position to partner on a sales tax with Beaufort County in 2024. Jasper County is also exploring impact fees which could be another funding source.
- Mayor Williams suggested also possibly adding Bluffton and Hilton Head Island to the application as it is the primary route to access both communities and feeds tourism as well as evacuation. Jared stated they could be a stakeholder and provide a letter of support.
- Stephanie stated that she can look into getting the project more clearly stated in the LRTP. As of now they are three separate projects.
- Mayor Williams called for a straw poll of the LATS Policy Committee to proceed with the direction as suggested by Jared. The committee unanimously agreed to continue moving forward with Triangle project as a potential SIB nominee.
 1. Barbara Clark made a motion to state a straw poll to continue having Jared moving forward on the Triangle Project as a potential SIB project and Joe Passiment seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
 - (1) Charles Mitchell asked about local versus out of town contractors and Jared stated that is it typical a mix but will depend on the type of the project.
 - (2) Barbara Clark stated that the local need to make sure they are meet the specifications.

b. TIP Correction: \$13,300,000 for Bridge Replacement construction at I-95 SB over SC 46 was moved from FY 2022 to FY 2024. —Stephanie Rossi
ACTION: Information

c. TIP Correction: \$13,900,000 for I-95 widening construction from MM8 to MM21 was moved from FY 2022 to FY 2023. —Stephanie Rossi
ACTION: Information

d. TIP Correction: I-95 at Exit 3, remove \$900,000 of SIB funding from PE phase in FY 2022. Increase funding for PE phase in FY 2023 from \$1,000,000 to \$3,400,000 for PE phase. Remove construction phase from FY 2025 and FY 2026. Add \$39,400,000 for Construction phase to FY 2024—Stephanie Rossi
ACTION: Information

6. Public Questions via Facebook Live.

- There were no comments on Facebook.

7. Next Meeting.



a. Friday, February 3rd, 2023

- Mayor Williams reminded everyone to let Stephanie know before the next meeting if there are any assignments for the Policy Committee.
- Chair and Vice chair election will take place at the February meeting.
- The Committee can decide at the next meeting whether to have a 9:30 or a 10am meeting time going forward.
- Joe Passiment noted that in his discussions with SCDOT on the I-95 widening he would like to see the US 279 taken directly across to SC 321 as an improvement to the evacuation route. It's under consideration. It will be added to the February agenda for consideration to the LRTP.

8. Adjourn.

- Joe Passiment moved to adjourn and Barbara Clark seconded, the motion passed unanimously.