



Meeting Minutes

Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS)

Policy Committee Meeting Friday, February 3rd, 2023, 9:00 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:

Lisa Wagner, Jasper County
Carrie Gorsuch, City of Beaufort
Eric Claussen, Beaufort County
Mary Lou Franzoni, LRTA
Ashley Goodrich, HHI
Kevin Icard, Town of Bluffton

LCOG Staff Present:

Stephanie Rossi, Planning Director

SCDOT Staff Present:

Craig Winn
Travis Cooper
Meghan Groves
Lyle Lee

Others Present

Stu Rodman, Beaufort
Rachel Hatcher, RS&H
Beverly Davis, RS&H
Madison Devine, F&ME Consultants
Barbara Childs, LRTA
Anna Tabernik, Beaufort County Council
Marsha Harrison, Church of the Palms
Jared Fralix, Beaufort County
Mark Pleasant, FHWA
Lolita Huckaby, Lowcountry Inside Track
Rose Dobson-Elliot, Jasper County
Frank Turano, Alliance Engineering
Tom Henz, HHI-Bluffton Chamber
Ryan McClure, TranSystems
Jasmine Champion, CORE MPO
Shea Farrar, HHI

1. Call to Order.

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Invocation
- c. Introduction of Members, Guests and Staff
- d. Designees
- e. Action on December 2nd, 2022, Meeting Minutes (Draft minutes attached.)



- Glen Stanford moved to approve the meeting minutes, Mike Mcfee seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

2. Project Updates.

a. SCDOT Project Updates—Craig Winn/Megan Groves, SCDOT (audio issues)

ACTION: Information

- Craig provided an update on I-95. The project is in the preliminary design phase with a design field review scheduled for late February 2023 and a draft Non-Programmatic Categorical Exclusion (Non-PCE) submittal planned for March 10, 2023. Preliminary right of way plans is scheduled for SCDOT review in June 2023 with final plan reviews scheduled for February 2024. The project is on track and was accelerated from 50-month project to 34 months. Exit 8 will be a 6-lane diverging diamond interchange. At Exit 5 Frontage Road will be realigned to connect with US 17. Preliminary rail bridge plans were accepted in January. All bridge plans have been submitted to and reviewed by SCDOT.
- Construction is expected in 2025. Additional segment scheduled for 2027 and 2028. There is a 9-month period where all three segments maybe under construction at the same time.
- Mayor Sulka asked if there would be more space near the shoulder during construction for safety. Craig stated there will be at least 12-foot shoulders.
- Joe Passemment asked that when Exit 8 is worked if it under consideration if US 278 could be extended to SC 321. Craig stated that would have to be a separate project. The I-95 widened project is intended to focus on interstate function only.
- Mayor Williams asked about an update on Exit 3. Craig stated they have conceptional plans and is on schedule.
- Craig provided an update on US 17. The contractor is still working on the completing the surcharge of the southbound lanes and is beginning work on the northbound lanes. The settlement period will begin where very little activity will take pace 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 is on schedule for completion September 30th, 2025. Project remains on schedule.

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 will discuss the tax plan at the strategic retreat. The County Council provided some funding to begin design on some of the priority projects such as the Triangle Project in addition to safety and ITS projects.
- Eric Claussen stated that the Reimagine Ribaut Road project was kicking off and the stakeholder meeting was taking place on Monday December 5th. Project extents include Ribaut Road from Boundary Street to the Bell Bridge. The project fucuses on the complete



streets concept and they are doing the planning and traffic engineering and anticipating a public meeting to take place in March.

- Eric updated the progress on SC 170 near term improvements from US 278 to SC 462. They are getting close to going to bid. The effort included intersection modifications, safety improvements and lane realignment. 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.
- The County is also doing some safety projects looking at near, medium and long-term solutions: Ribaut Road and Lady’s Island Drive, Cat Island and Meridian Road. Mayor DeVito asked what the status was of the improvements. Eric stated that they are working through design, and it would take a couple months to do the analysis. Kimley Horn is contracted to complete the analysis. They are looking for low-cost safety improvements that could be installed by the fall.
- US 278 traffic improvements utilizing the adaptive signal system being implemented on Hilton Head and extend that into Bluffton to SC 170. Eric has participating on the selection committee. Glen Stanford asked if the same equipment would be used off Island as on Island. Eric stated that yes, the County would be using the contract to implement off island. Mayor Sulka asked if there were talks to extend into Hardeeville and Jasper County to I-95. Eric stated they are coordinating and there is coordination through the maintenance agreement with SCDOT. The Regional ITS Plan will also lay out a coordinated multijurisdictional plan for the adaptive signal systems.
- US 21 from Garden Corner to MCAS they are doing a corridor study looking at safety and access management improvements.
- Joe Passiment noted that the County Council is working with our legislators to get language updated in state law so that it is compatible with the BIL. Mayor Sulka noted to coordinate with LCOG staff.
- Barbara Clack introduced the Director of Engineering Services for Jasper County; Rose Dobson-Elliott.
- Lisa Sulka asked why the “no Turn on Red” was installed on Burnt Church Road and US 278. Craig though it was regarding a safety audit done at the location. He will provide follow up information.
- Mayor Williams asked about getting the message out to the residents about the projects taking plan within the region. (audio issues) A public forum with the counties and towns taking the lead. Possibly use SoLoCo and NRPIC.

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

ACTION: Information

- Mary Lou stated the Breeze Trolley will be starting on Hilton Head Island on April 1st. It will remain fare free and on the same routes as last year. Palmetto Breeze evaluated the ridership and there are not many riders between 11-12 on Friday and Saturday nights so those runs will be discontinued and instead the Trolley will run more service during the Shelter Cove fireworks.
- Due to the new urban area Palmetto Breeze will likely get additional funding in FY 2024.



- The Hilton Head Island Airport study was completed, and R&H will present.
- Palmetto Breeze has is looking for a Beaufort County resident to be a Board member. Mayor DeVito asked if there were any requirements of the Board member. They just need to be a Beaufort County resident.

d. Corridor Study Update—Stephanie Rossi, LCOG

ACTION: Information

- Stephanie stated that proposal was due this week for the SC 315/SC46 Corridor Study. Five proposals were received all from qualified firms. The project steering committee will be scoring the proposals and selecting a team.
- The LATS/LCOG grant application to complete a Safety Action Plan through the Safe Streets for All program was awarded funds.

3. New Business.

a. Election of Policy Committee Chair for a 2-year term per LATS By laws.

ACTION: Nomination and election of Chair

- Mayor William nominated Mayor Sulka. Mike Mcfee moved to approve, and Joe DeVito seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Election of Policy Committee Vice Chair for a 2-year term per LATS By laws

ACTION: Nomination and of election Vice Chair

- Barbara Clark nominated Mayor Williams. Glen Stanford moved to approve, and Mike Mcfee seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

c. Amendment to the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan: Combine US 278, SC 170 and Argent Boulevard project into one “Triangle Project”—Stephanie Rossi

ACTION: Approve Amendment

- Joe DeVito moved to approve, and Mike Mcfee seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

d. Adopt 2023 Meeting Calendar Time Change

ACTION: Approve Agreed Meeting Time

- Meeting time was changed to 9:30am.
- Mike McFee moved to approve, and Joe DeVito seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

e. Hilton Head Island Airport Transit Service Study —Rachel Hatcher, RS&H

ACTION: Information

- Rachel Hatcher presented the results of the airport transit service study.
- Glean Stafford asked about expected fares for the service. Rachel stated that the study established a range of \$2-\$3 and tested it up to \$5. For analysis purposes they used a \$3 fare. Glen noted that if this is to link to the Breeze Trolley which is free that could create some confusion.



4. Other Business.

- a. Correction to the FY 2021-FY 2027 TIP: I-95 Improvements from GA Stateline to US 278 in Jasper County
ACTION: Information
- b. Correction to the FY 2021-FY 2027 TIP: US 278 Corridor Improvements
ACTION: Information
- c. Regional Mobility Program (Guideshare) Use for Resurfacing and Bridge Projects—Stephanie Rossi
ACTION: Information

5. Next Meeting.

- a. **Friday, March 31st, 2023 at 9:30**

6. Adjourn.

- Mike Mcfee moved to adjourn and Harry Williams seconded, the motion passed unanimously.