



Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS)

Policy Committee Meeting Friday, February 5, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

**Meeting Location: Zoom**

**Policy Committee Members Present:**

Chairwoman – Mayor Lisa Sulka, Town of Bluffton  
Mayor Joe DeVito, Town of Port Royal  
Barbara Childs Designee for Susan Zelman, LRTA  
Mike McFee, City of Beaufort  
Mayor Harry Williams, City of Hardeeville  
Glenn Stanford, Hilton Head Island

**Policy Committee Members Absent:**

Barbara Clark, Jasper County  
Robby Robbins, SCDOT Commission Chairman  
Sen. Tom Davis, JC Leg. Delegation Chairman  
Paul Sommerville, Beaufort County Council

**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  
Josh Johnson  
Megan Groves  
Scott Donahue

**Others Present:**

Mark Pleasant, FHWA  
Allen Seifert, Town of Bluffton  
Joe Crowley, Lowcountry Inside Track  
Dan Wood, Town of Bluffton  
Jared Fralix, Beaufort County  
Van Willis, Port Royal  
Kay Gregali  
Noah Krepps, Beaufort County

1. Action on December 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes (Draft minutes attached.)
  - a. Mike McFee made the motion to approve the December 4<sup>th</sup> 2020 Minutes, Joe DeVito seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
  
2. Old Business.
  - a. Update on the LATS Long Range Plan Update – Stephanie Rossi  
Stephanie Rossi stated that the negotiations with the consultant selected, Kimley-Horne, were recently completed. The next step in the process is for SCDOT to approve the summary of the negotiations and issue a notice to proceed to move on to contracting. Lisa Sulka asked about the timeline to which Stephanie Rossi replied by stating she’s hopeful that by the next LATS meeting the next step will be completed.
  
  - b. SCDOT US 278 and US 17 Project Update—Craig Winn  
Craig Winn discussed US 17 and stated that the contractor finalized their baseline schedule with construction expected to begin in early February. He went on to state that due to the required time for land settlement, there will be several intermittent periods of 4 to 6 months between active construction on US-17. Lisa Sulka asked whether any policy members had any questions regarding the US 17 project. No questions arose and Craig Winn proceeded to discuss the US 278 project.  
  
Craig Winn stated that SCDOT was focusing on finalizing the environmental document for US 278, the main component of which was the traditional and cultural study which was finalized in December. As a result of that study, it was found that the Stoney community qualified as a traditional cultural property and as such it outlined some ways community enhancements need to be made to make it feel as a gateway to Hilton Head Island. SCDOT has five mitigation strategies/enhancements. The only item SCDOT and the Stoney Community don’t have an agreement on as of yet is new a new frontage road concept from Chamberlain Drive on the south side of US 278 to serve several properties there and improve the overall access to said properties. A meeting between the property owners and SCDOT is planned for February 17<sup>th</sup> 2021. SCDOT will also be meeting with impacted property owners and businesses within Stoney on February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> as well to show where the potential impacts may be on their property.  
  
Craig Winn went on to discuss the traffic aspect of the project stating that they are finalizing the intersection design concepts from Jenkins Island and Squire Pope to Spanish Wells road section of the project. Craig Winn said he anticipates having those worked out within the next month or so and presently are still getting additional information to ascertain the best solution for each intersection.  
  
Glenn Stanford asked whether it has been identified as to which portions of land are necessary for this highway expansion. Craig Winn responded saying they have a general idea of what tracts of land will be impacted and that those individuals are the ones they will be meeting with. Glenn Stanford proceeded to ask what the reactions have been to which Craig Winn responded saying that there’s more of a general curiosity of where locations would be. Based on the alternatives there would be two business relocations. They have already met with those businesses several months ago and will meet with one of them again on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Each are open to the idea of relocation and there wasn’t much concern expressed. Glenn Stanford to inquired about impacts to homes in the area and stated that he understands that Craig Winn doesn’t have the final ROWs

yet. Craig Winn said there are a few tracts that will have ROW impacts, likely 3 or 4 residential properties on the north side, but he doesn't expect any relocations. Glenn Stanford proceeded to ask who is participating in the meetings on behalf of the citizens and whether it varies from family to family. Craig responded saying it does vary from family to family and that it depends on the meeting but that he has also had good representation of all of the families within Stoney. Glenn Stanford inquired about whether the meetings are going well to which Craig Winn responded saying that they were and trust has been established. Glenn went on to ask whether Craig Winn and SCDOT has had interaction with the citizen review committee appointed by Hilton Head Island and Beaufort County. Craig Winn responded that he has not had any interaction with the committee, but they have provided information requested to the engineer and answer any questions. Lisa Sulk asked if they were still on track with the original schedule to which Craig Winn replied saying that they are not and are roughly four months behind the original schedule and went on to explain as to why that is noting quality of the final product and working with the community took additional time.

c. Palmetto Breeze Update—Mary Lou Franzoni

Mary Lou Franzoni stated that Palmetto Breeze is currently working with their funding partners on local match. Palmetto Breeze is in the planning phases for their Trolley Services in 2021. It is anticipated that they will open in April and operate until September. Mary Lou Franzoni went on to state that Palmetto Breeze is currently working on Bluffton services and will be meeting with the Town of Bluffton soon. The routes and scheduling have been redone to remove the Montage Palmetto Bluff due to a of lack of interest at this time resulting from the lack of visa workers that would have benefited from the service. Mary Lou Franzoni went on to state that Palmetto Breeze purchased three new MCI Coach Buses in December for a total of 1.8 million dollars. These new coaches replace three that were fourteen years old and had around one million miles on each of them. Mary Lou Franzoni expressed her gratitude to SCDOT for the purchase of one of the three old vehicles. The Volkswagen settlement round two applications are due in on February 26<sup>th</sup> and Palmetto Breeze will be applying again.

d. Beaufort County Transportation Committee Update—Kraig Gordon

Beaufort CTC took bids in December for the paving program. It paves an additional [10.8 miles](#) of county roads, bringing the total to over to 50 miles of resurfacing which is a little over a quarter of the county road network. Kraig Gordon went on to state that the Beaufort CTC [Asphalt Rejuvenator Program](#) will be done on a little over 5 miles of Bluffton Parkway.

In December the Beaufort CTC received 12 RFPs and is currently in the process of awarding their PMS for the Beaufort county roads and municipalities. Their goal is for completion by August. The Beaufort CTC has found that by lining up their projects with those of SCDOT in similar areas, overall costs have been reduced. The Beaufort CTC plans to meet with Beaufort municipalities to get their projects on a similar schedule. Lisa Sulka asked who is invited from the municipalities to which Kraig Gordon responded the engineers.

3. New Business.

- a. Approval of Transit Safety and Asset Management Targets—Stephanie Rossi  
Stephanie Rossi explained the Performance Based Planning and Program Process and the Transit System Safety and Asset Management Targets that need to be incorporated into the planning process. She asked for the LATS Policy committee to support/adopt the LRTA transit targets. Joe DeVito made the motion to approve, Mike McFee seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- b. 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 spoke on the continuation of a purchase of service for Beaufort County Disabilities and Special Needs and adding the project/funding to the LATS TIP for in FY2021. Mike McFee made the motion to approve, Joe DeVito seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.
- c. Amendment to Transportation Improvement Program to add \$13,250,000 of state funds for the Cross Island Toll Conversion—Stephanie Rossi  
Stephanie Rossi explained the funding to cover the costs for the Cross Island Parkway Toll Conversion to a conventional non-tolled road as per the toll agreement upon the bridge's construction need to be amended into the LATS TIP. Glenn Stanford made the motion to approve the inclusion into the LATS TIP, Mike McFee seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
- d. Amendment to Transportation Improvement Program to add the \$8,000,000 of Guideshare for the US – 17 Back River Bridge (Phase II) —Stephanie Rossi  
Stephanie Rossi explained that the second phase of US-17, the Back River Bridge, is being made into a separate project from US-17 with eight million in Guideshare funds being moved with it to 2024. Mike made the motion to approve, Glenn Stanford seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
- e. Approval of an alternate April Meeting Date. Current date (April 2<sup>nd</sup>) falls on Good Friday. Suggested date April 9<sup>th</sup> —Stephanie Rossi  
Joe DeVito made the motion to approve moving the next LATS Policy Committee meeting to April 9<sup>th</sup>, Mike McFee seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

#### 4. Other Business.

- a. Project :700 Crosswalks —Josh Johnson  
Josh Johnson spoke on an initiative called [Project: 700 Crosswalks](#) to combat the increasing trend of car crashes and pedestrians. The goal is to create or update 700 crosswalks within seven years from 2019 to 2025. To date, 142 have been completed. He asked the Policy Committee to review the document and if there's an opportunity for partnership to reach out to him. He will provide updated reports annually to the Committee on this project. Lisa Sulka asked who he has reached out to from the municipalities and counties. Josh Johnson responded saying he has reached out to at least one contact from each of the municipalities and counties with the exception of Port Royal. Lisa Sulka asked for Josh Johnson to give it to the Bluffton representative on the LATS Technical Committee and expressed her excitement for partnership in this regard. Joe DeVito asked Josh Johnson to make sure he adds the Port Royal town

manager on his contact list because they haven't seen this report before and would like assistance with a traffic signal that they've been having difficulty with. Josh Johnson responded that he could absolutely do that and would only need someone to provide him the contact information.

Stephanie stated she would follow up with Josh and get the contact names to him. Katie the chair of the Technical Committee would also send the information out to the technical committee.

5. Public Questions via Facebook Live.
  - a. There were no public comments.
6. Next Meeting. Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021
7. Adjourn.  
Glenn made the motion to adjourn, Mike McFee seconded.

**Meeting Document Links:**

[SCDOT Project Updates](#)

[Beaufort County CTC Resurfacing – Year 4](#)

[Beaufort County CTC Asphalt Rejuvenator – Year 4](#)

[Transit Safety and Asset Management Targets](#)

[TIP Amendments](#)

[Project: 700 Crosswalks](#)