



Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS)

Policy Committee Meeting Friday, June 4th, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Location: The Rotary Community Center at Oscar Frazier Park, Bluffton & Zoom

Policy Committee Members Present:

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

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

Technical Committee Members Absent:

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

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

SCDOT Staff Present:

Robby Robbins, SCDOT Commission Chairman
Craig Winn
LaToya Grate
David Gray
Betsey McCall
Scott Donahue
Travis Cooper
Erin Porter
Josh Johnson
Megan Groves

Others Present:

Joe Crowley, Lowcountry Inside Track
Matt Davis, Hardeeville
Kelly Farabee, S&ME Inc.
R. Pinckney
Jared Felix
Matt Gates, Hardeeville

LCOG Staff Present:

A Call to Order.

Action on April 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

- Susan Zelman made the motion to approve the [April 9th, 2021 Meeting Minutes](#), Glenn Stanford seconded, motion passed unanimously.

B Old Business.

Update on the LATS Long Range Plan—Stephanie Rossi

- Currently under contract with the consultants who will be present at the next meeting on August 6th, 2021.

SCDOT US 278 and US 17 Project Update—Craig Winn

- A public hearing for US-278 project will be at the Island Recreation Center on July 22nd with Public comment closing August 22nd. All documents and information will be made available prior to the public hearing date as well as the ability to comment via phone, email, and mail. The environmental document is currently being reviewed by FHWA.
- The US 17, Phase I traffic shift is almost complete, and the temporary concrete barrier wall has been installed. The contractors are currently clearing the grubbing on the south side of US 17. They are doing some temporary utility relocations. Initial widening of the roadway embankment will begin following the installation of the final barrier wall. A temporary signal submittal is complete and the contractors have tentatively scheduled the permanent installation for March 20, 2022.
 - o Harry Williams thanked Craig Winn for answering his questions from previous LATS Policy Committee meeting.
 - o Mayor Sulka asked Craig Winn where people can go to get updates on US-17. Craig Winn responded stating that the construction team will have media releases every month or every other month. If any questions come up Craig Winn offered to get in touch with the construction team and get the answers requested. Robby Robbins asked Craig whether the project is up on SCDOT's Project Viewer Webpage and Craig Winn responded saying it was but that recent updates wouldn't be available via that method.

Palmetto Breeze Update—Mary Lou Franzoni

- The Hilton Head Island Trolley route has been expanded to include the “mid-island route” which goes from Shelter Cove and terminates at The Westin. There has been an average ridership of 400 people a day with Sunday, May 30th, carrying 920 passengers.
- The new Bluffton shuttle route was anticipated to begin on July 1st, however due to a shortage of drivers, the service will begin on September 7st after the Hilton Head Island trolley service ends.
- The Chamber of Commerce on Hilton Head Island made Palmetto Breeze aware that there are some businesses interested and willing to contribute towards a second shift transportation route from the City of Beaufort to Hilton Head Island. Mary Lou stated that this could possibly begin in July depending on driver training which begins on June 21st. The service would be provided from July to Labor Day weekend.
- Three MCI coach buses that were 15+ years old with high mileage were recently replaced through SCDOT and CARES Act Funding. A grant for two additional MCI coaches has been awarded by SCDOT. Palmetto Breeze has not ordered them yet as they are awaiting the grants inclusion into the TIP/STIP prior to ordering.

Beaufort County Bicycle Pedestrian Plan—Rob Merchant

- Rob Merchant gave a presentation on the [Beaufort County 2021 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan](#). Glenn Stanford asked whether there has been thought given to E-Bikes. Rob Merchant responded saying he was aware of the issue and it will be explored further.

SC 170 Update—Jared Felix

- Jared Felix stated that SC 170 currently has safety, capacity, and other issues. Beaufort County Council has instructed staff to begin on the design element with the consulting engineers on the 6 (of 7) remaining immediate term recommendations of the [LCOG SC 170 Corridor Access Management Study](#). The design is currently funded.

The County is seeking funding for construction. The projects will be coordinated with all the appropriate stakeholders. Beaufort County is looking to put out some RFPs for the Long-term items in the project, in coordination with other projects.

- Lisa Sulka asked Jared Felix to keep Stephanie Rossi in the loop so as there can be greater coordination with LATS/LCOG.

C New Business.

Amendment to LRTP to include SCDOT 2021 System Performance Report—Stephanie Rossi

- Harry Williams made a motion to approve the [amendment](#) to the LRTP to include the SCDOT 2021 System Performance Measures, Paul Somerville Seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Amendment to FY 2021-2027 Transportation Improvement Program—Stephanie Rossi

- Proposed TIP [Amendment](#) to add \$1.2 million dollars in FTA 5339 Funds for LRTA purchase of two replacement buses. Harry Williams made a motion to approve, Glenn Stanford Seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Review Bylaws and recommended change to voting membership—Stephanie Rossi

- Proposed edits to the [bylaws](#) comprising of changing legislation members to ex officio members non-voting members, election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman to take place in December rather than January, and the requirements for a quorum. Paul Somerville made the motion to approve the updated Bylaws, Joe DeVito seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

D Other Business.

Joint Comment Letter to Census—Stephanie Rossi

- Stephanie Rossi provided the LATS Policy Committee the [Joint Comment Letter to Census Bureau](#) from various organizations throughout the nation regarding Urban Areas for the 2020 Census-Proposed Criteria.

Public Questions via Facebook Live.

- No questions

E Next Meeting.

- Friday, August 6, 2021