

Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS)

Policy Committee Meeting

Friday, May 4, 2018

10:00 a.m.

TCL New River Campus, Conference Room

Policy Committee Members Present:

Chairman Lisa Sulka, Mayor, Town of Bluffton
Paul Sommerville, Beaufort County
Richard Hamilton, LRTA Board Chair
David Bennett, Mayor, Town of Hilton Head
Island
Barbara Clark, Jasper County Council
Samuel E. Murray, Mayor, Town of Port Royal
Harry Williams, Mayor, City of Hardeeville

Policy Committee Members Absent:

Robby Robbins, SCDOT Commission
Sam Glover, SCDOT Commission
Rep. Bill Herbkersman, Jasper County Leg.
Delegation Chairman
Mike McFee, Council and Mayor *pro term*, City
of Beaufort

Technical Committee Members:

Lisa Wagner, Planning Director, Jasper County
Colin Kinton, Chair, Beaufort County
Mary Lou Franzoni, LRTA Executive Director
Carolyn Kassel, City of Hardeeville
Katie Woodruff, Planner, City of Hardeeville
Kevin Icard, Planner, Town of Bluffton
Shawn Colin, Planner, Town of Hilton Head
Anne Cyran, Planner Town of Hilton Head
Kraig Gordon, Chair, Beaufort County CTC
Neil Parson, City of Hardeeville
Aron Williams, City of Hardeeville
John McCann, Town of Hilton head
Van Willis, Town of Port Royal
David Spisso, Mayor Pro Tem, City of
Hardeeville

Technical Committee Members Absent:

Lauren Kelly, Planner, City of Beaufort
Linda Bridges, Planning Director, Town of Port
Royal

LCOG Staff Present:

Ginnie Kozak, Planning Director
Christian Dammel, Planning Assistant

SCDOT Staff Present:

Craig Winn, Project Manager
Michael Pitts, Program Management
Kenny Larimore, Program Manager
Megan Groves, Program Management
Jim Frierson, SCDOT Office of Public
Transportation
Betsy McCall, Design Manager

Others Present:

Phil Cromer, City of Beaufort, Sitting in for Mike
McFee
Kelly Farabee, Wolverton & Associates
Consulting Firm
Tom Kennedy, Beaufort County
Mark Wilks, Coastal Region MPO Savannah
Toby Tyler, Senator Lindsay Graham Staff
Elenore Lightsey, Lowcountry inside track
Joe Fragale, Greater Island Council

1. Call to Order.
 - a) Pledge of Allegiance
 - b) Invocation
 - c) Introduction of Members, Guests and Staff
 - d) Designees
 - e) Action on February 23, 2018 Meeting Minutes
Minutes: Approved

2. Old Business.
 - a) SCDOT US 278 Project Update
ACTION: Information

Mr. Winn discussed the status of on the 278-project noting that surveying has been 85% completed with the seismic activity evaluation of the 278 bridges to Hilton Head Island being completed on Sunday. The existing bridges are being reviewed and analyzed to see if they can be retrofitted, with Preliminary Geotech field explorations at 35% completion. A report determining whether the bridges can be seismically retrofitted, and various options will be generated upon completion of testing.

- b) Beaufort County Project Update
ACTION: Information

A handout containing updates on current Beaufort county projects was provided. It included the details pertaining to Boundary Street, US 278/Jenkins Island, US 278 Signal system initiatives, and new traffic signals. To view this handout please visit; [Beaufort County Project Updates - 5/4/18](#)

- c) Beaufort County Referendum Update
ACTION: Information

Mr. Sommerville mentioned that the 120-million-dollar referendum will move forward, with 80 million to the Hilton Head Island corridor expansion, 30 million towards Ladies island, and 10 million for bike paths and sidewalks. Competing referendums were discussed with concern being raised about the potential negative impact of having multiple referendums on a ballot. A consulting firm has been hired to educate the public on the transportation referendum. Mr. Bennett suggested to have Josh Gruber speak to various groups due to his “very impressive” update on the transportation sales tax referendum during a recent Greater Island Council meeting.

- d) LRTA/Palmetto Breeze
- i. Small Urban Area Transit Update;

Ms. Franzoni stated the urban transit study is well underway, with consultants having worked several months compiling and analyzing roughly 500 surveys and focus group meetings resulting in a draft report that will be finalized during the next month. Ms. Franzoni went on to state that two of the trollies are under construction with the third beginning in the near future. Although it is only required for the construction of 5 or more trollies/busses, The Palmetto Breeze maintenance director will also be going to Wisconsin to ensure the trollies are built according to RFP standards.

Two weeks ago, Palmetto Breeze awarded a marketing contract in response to proposals received. Mrs. Franzoni stated that the marketer has sent materials out and contacted various places on

Hilton Head Island as well as sending materials out. Mrs. Franzoni also stated that Palmetto Breeze will not be selling advertising on trollies and a start date of mid-July is anticipated. Additionally, they are looking into creating a mobile payment app to circumnavigate using electronic fare boxes, which would save roughly one million dollars in expenses.

ii. 5307 funding and amendment to LATS TIP

ACTION: Action: Approval of TIP Amendment

Ms. Franzoni stated that this year's total Federal funding amounts were higher than previous fiscal years as a result of 5/12ths of the previous year's revenue being placed into the current FY. That additional \$300 – 350 thousand will be used to purchase a 4th trolley bus.

Mr. Bennet asked Ms. Franzoni if this amendment was in coordination with Chamber of Commerce. To which she replied 'yes' and provided examples of the close partnership.

The motion for TIP Amendment was approved.

3. New Business.

a) DOT's new BUILD program for transportation infrastructure

- i. Discussion of project selection criteria, including local match
- ii. Regional (LATS) submission 2018 or 2019; sources of local match

ACTION: Information

Ms. Kozak stated that the TIGER grant is being replaced by BUILD grant for projects ranging from 5-25 million and will require a cost and benefit analysis to better demonstrate the potential impacts a project will have for an area versus its cost.

Senator Graham's Grants Coordinator Toby Tyler called in to discuss the BUILD program which is replacing the TIGER program. The enrollment as noted by Ms. Tyler is from June 24th to the end of July. Additional key points regarding the differences between the grants were discussed.

Ms. Tyler stated that, unlike the TIGER grant, the BUILD grant will now have local match as the primary determining factor in who is awarded. Additionally, projects in rural areas will not be required to contribute a local match but urban areas are required to invest at least 20% of the project, however Ms. Tyler pointed out that larger local matches are more competitive. Mr. Kinton inquired about the minimum and maximum amount of money a single project may receive from the BUILD grant, to which Ms. Tyler responded 25 million as the maximum, and at minimum, 5 million and 1 million for urban and rural projects respectively. Ms. Tyler went on to state that requirements for the maximum award amount of 25 million are universal regardless of population density, as well as, there being no limitations on the total cost of the project.

Ms. Tyler went on to state that currently the BUILD grants are applicable to road and bridge projects, public transportation projects, passenger and freight rail transportation projects, as well as, both inner and landward entry port infrastructure projects. Ms. Sulka asked for Ms. Tyler to expand on what Senator Graham needs to verify regarding the eligibility of projects. Ms. Tyler responded stating some of the items he is currently looking into such as the eligibility of repaving

and repair costs moving underground cables, brick roads, sidewalk installation, and storm water drainage costs.

Ms. Tyler offered to answer any questions that might arise in regard to the BUILD program. Ms. Kozak offers to provide Ms. Tylers email address to the committee in addition to a conduit for questions and contact with Ms. Tyler.

b) List of large-scale projects submitted by LATS jurisdictions. To be prioritized by LATS Technical Committee.

ACTION: Information

Large scale project lists were submitted from Hardeeville and Beaufort, with pending submissions from Bluffton and Jasper. Ms. Sulka suggested that committee members review their old list of projects which may assist them when building their new lists of projects that are to be reviewed and ranked. Ms. Kozak will create a new project list from submissions received by no later than May 15th. Projects outside of MPO as well as projects which SCDOT is handling as safety items will be removed. The LRTP list will be amended to prioritize items of greater weight, such as safety (accidents, fatalities etc.) and AADT. Additionally, Mr. Larimore mentioned that if the committee wished to alter the priority weighting criteria for ranking it would require a review by the DOT commission to gain approval before it could be implemented.

4. Other Business

5. Public Comment Period.

Joe Fragale from Sun City commented that Josh Gruber should speak to sun city. On May 16th Josh will be going to the Regional Committee meeting to advise how to educate the public on the referendum.

6. Next Meeting. Friday, July 13, 2018.

7. ADJOURN