

Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS)

Policy Committee Meeting

Friday, July 13, 2018

10:00 a.m.

TCL New River Campus, Conference Room

Policy Committee Members Present:

Richard Hamilton, LRTA Board Chair
Barbara Clark, Jasper County Council
Sen. Tom Davis, Beaufort County Leg. Delegation
Harry Williams, Mayor, City of Hardeeville
Mike McFee, Council and Mayor *pro term*, City of Beaufort

Policy Committee Members Absent:

Chairman Lisa Sulka, Mayor, Town of Bluffton
Samuel E. Murray, Mayor, Town of Port Royal
Paul Sommerville, Beaufort County
David Bennett, Mayor, Town of Hilton Head Island
Robby Robbins, SCDOT Commission
Sam Glover, SCDOT Commission
Rep. Bill Herbkersman, Jasper County Leg. Delegation Chairman

Technical Committee Members:

Mary Lou Franzoni, LRTA Executive Director
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
Tom Lennox, Town of Hilton Head Island?
Steve Riley, Town of Hilton Head Island
Susan Zellman, LRTA
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:

Lisa Wagner, Planning Director, Jasper County
Colin Kinton, Chair, Beaufort County
Lauren Kelly, Planner, City of Beaufort
Linda Bridges, Planning Director, Town of Port Royal

LCOG Staff Present:

Sabrena Graham, LCOG Director
Ginnie Kozak, Planning Director
Christian Dammel, Planning Assistant

SCDOT Staff Present:

Craig Winn, Project Manager
Michael Pitts, Program Management
Kenny Larimore, Program Manager
David Gray,
Mike Sullivan, Chief Planner
Wade Luther,
Megan Groves, Program Management
Jim Frierson, SCDOT Office of Public Transportation
Betsy McCall, Design Manager

Designees:

Alice Howard, Beaufort County, representing Paul Sommerville
Scott Marshall, Town of Bluffton, representing Lisa Sulka
Dave Willis, Port Royal, representing Mayor Samuel Murray

Others Present:

Thomas Keaveny, Beaufort County
Carolyn Kassel, City of Hardeeville
Bill Jordan, AECOM
Charles Cousins, Hilton Head Island Planning Director
Frank Turano, Alliance Construction Engineers
Jessica Hekter, FHWA
Emily Lawton, FHWA
Mark Wilkes, Coastal Region MPO Savannah
Joe Croley, Lowcountry inside track

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AGENDA

1. Call to Order.

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Invocation
- c. Introduction of Members, Guests and Staff
- d. Designees
- e. Action on May 4, 2018 Meeting Minutes
Action: Approved

2. Old Business.

- a. SCDOT US 278 and US 17 Project Update
ACTION: Information

Mr. Winn briefly reiterated key points pertaining to the SCDOT US 278 handout and the Current Project status handout. To view these handouts please visit; [SCDOT US 278 Project Updates](#) and [SCDOT Project Status Report](#).

- b. LRTA/Palmetto Breeze Small Urban Area Transit Update
ACTION: Information

Ms. Franzoni informed the committee of a ribbon cutting ceremony and dedication of the trolley busses being held in Shelter Cove on Monday, July 16, 2018, at 9:30 am. The trolleys will be free until August 1st, 2018 at which point there will be a dollar payable via cash or the Palmetto Breeze trolley app. Additionally a second app to locate trolleys will be deployed that day as well. Ms. Franzoni went on to state that Palmetto Breeze is wrapping up the public transit planning for the Small Urban area project, which will likely be issued within a month or so rather than in September according to Ms. Kozak. Ms. Kozak also mentioned that there will be a remote presentation with committee members receiving an executive summary beforehand. The study aims to provide insight into the future directions of urban transportation services in the area.

3. New Business.

- a. Amend LRTP Project description for US 278
 - i. The current wording in the plan:
US 278 Bridges over Mackay Creek and Skull Creek Bridge Widening

ii. The revised wording:

| | |
|---|---|
| US 278 from Buckingham Plantation Dr to Squire Pope Rd | Widening of US 278 from 4 to 6 lanes, including replacement of Mackay Creek Bridge, intersection improvements on Pinckney Island and improvements to Jenkins Island. |
|---|---|

ACTION: Approval of
Amendment

b. Amend LATS Prioritization—Corridor

The LATS Prioritization Corridor projects list was updated and revised in accordance with state law and the 2015 LATS criteria. The committee approved the [LATS Prioritization - Corridor](#) amendments.

ACTION: Approval of Amendment

4. Other Business.

Ms. Kozak asked Senator Davis if there would be anything he would like to add. Sen. Davis spoke about his discussion with the SC Port Authority, reminding them they were under a 2009 legislative directive to “expeditiously” develop the Jasper Ocean Terminal. In addition to reminding the SC Port Authority of its statutory obligation, Sen. Davis believes that the seven counties of the Southern Carolina Alliance up to speed with the history of project, delays, and directives in order for them to collectively ensure that the Port Authority complies with the legislative directive. Sen. Davis said that it is equally important to allocate the funding appropriated from the port infrastructure fund, which was established in 2007. Sen. Davis suggested implementing a staggered cost (possibly on a 5-year basis) of appropriations to cover the development of the port access road. He will be taking immediate action beginning with the next legislative session to address the Georgia Ports Authority’s concerns about reaching their capacity in Savannah in 2028 vs. the South Carolina Ports Authority’s Port of Charleston estimate of reaching their capacity in 2036. Due to the resulting delay of the development of the Jasper Ocean Terminal, the Georgia Ports Authority is now investigating other options, including expansion at Hutchinson Island, which would negate the need for the Jasper port. In order to prevent this, Sen. Davis said he spoke with the GA Port Authority to determine what assurances they would need from South Carolina to not abandon the Jasper port. They will get back to Sen. Davis following a meeting they are having on the subject today. The questions of whether there would be anything LATS or the public could do to support him was raised. Sen. Davis responded that he plans to have a conference call with all of his fellow legislators on Monday, July 23th. In

addition to making the conference call available to the public, Sen. Davis will also draft a resolution for the next LATS meeting.

5. Public Comment Period.
6. Next Meeting. Friday, September 7, 2018. (Previously august 31st)
7. ADJOURN.