



Meeting Minutes

Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS)

Policy Committee Meeting Friday, June 2nd, 2023, 9:30 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
Curt Freese, Desingee City of Beaufort
Joe Passiment, Beaufort County
Harry Williams, City of Hardeeville
Barbra Clark, Jasper County
Charles Mitchell, LRTA

Technical Committee Members Present:

Lisa Wagner, Jasper County
Carrie Gorsuch, City of Beaufort
Eric Claussen, Beaufort County
Mary Lou Franzoni, LRTA
Kraig Gordon, Beaufort CTC
Kevin Icard, Town of Bluffton
Katie Woodruff, City of Hardeeville

SCDOT Staff Present:

Craig Winn
Travis Cooper
Meghan Groves
Lyle Lee
Josh Johnson

Others Present:

Frank Turano, Alliance Engineering
Taylor Boykin, Southern Carolina Alliance
Stuart Day, Stantec
Michael Berry, FME
Madison Devine FME
Marilyn Arseneau, Jasper County Resident
David Kimball, LB/W Advocates
David H Baker, LB/W Advocates
Art Handman, LRTA
Bryan McIlwee, HHI
Jim Neal, Mattern & Craig
John Kemp, Jasper County Council
Emily Swearingen, AECOM

LCOG Staff Present:

Stephanie Rossi, Planning Director
Sabrena Graham, Executive Director

Call to Order.

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Invocation
- c. Introduction of Members, Guests and Staff
- d. Designees: Curt Freese for the City of Beaufort
- e. Action on March 31st, 2023, Meeting Minutes
 - Glen Stanford moved to approve the meeting minutes, Harry Williams seconded, the motion passed unanimously.



Committee Reports.

a. LATS Technical Committee—Eric Claussen, Beaufort County

- The LATS Technical Committee unanimously voted to endorse the LATS study area boundary for Policy Committee adoption.
- The LATS Technical Committee unanimously voted to endorse the Northern Beaufort County TIP amendment to the LATS Policy Committee for adoption.

New Business.

- Jedburg Corridor Study/Impact Fees—Stuart Day, Stantec and Josh Johnson, SCDOT

ACTION: Information

- The presentation focused on multiple developments taking place in the high growth Jedburg corridor and the use cost sharing on transportation impacts. Berkely County adopted an ordinance for the corridor based on the development cost per trip. SCDOT will endorse the concept specific to this corridor and require developers to enter into an agreement with the county requiring them to pay their fair share of the impacts.
- Mr. Passiment stated that this fits right in with what we need to do here. We have specific development and corridors in mind. We have been talking about standardizing the traffic impact analysis process.
- Mayor Sulka asked how do you guide the developer on where they put the improvements when the studies haven't been completed? Josh stated that will have to fall more on the local level.
- Glen Stanford asked if this was a unique product or something from the engineering toolbox. Both Josh and Stuart agreed they have not seen this before at this magnitude. Josh stated this will not apply to all scenarios. If there is already an agreement in place it may be too late. A corridor that has a lot of development occurring where there aren't agreements in place would be a good candidate.
- Mayor Williams requested Josh and Stuart to present the study to the City Council. Mayor Sulka suggested a joint meeting. Mayor Williams stated it would be good to figure out what corridors this would apply to.
- Eric Claussen noted that Beaufort County is trying to do this at a smaller scale near Cherry Point off SC 170 by doing design upfront where they anticipate future development.
- Lyle Lee stated that this is where SCDOT is heading with the Regional Mobility Program. One of the primary pillars is to have the locals have ordinances and tools in place at the local level so there is more responsible control over development.
- Joe Passiment noted this is multi-jurisdictional. We need to get the ordinance Berkely passed to see how we can modify our area to start this process.
- Stuart Day noted this concept worked because several projects were in the early process and had not been permitted.
- Mayor Williams stated that many Planned Development Districts have been in place for years, but they often come back for modifications and that may be a point to negotiate.



- A question was asked if the County will be the clearing house for TIAs? Eric Clausen replied that the developers pay for the TIA and the County could be the middleman to assist the municipalities. Typically, the only cost that may occur is if the developer uses their own engineer firm to conduct the TIA and the County has to use their on-call list to review the study. Mayor Sulka stated that Bluffton and Hardeeville are interested in using the County's concept of having 3 approved engineering firms to conduct TIAs in the region.

- Amendment to the FY 2021-FY 2027 TIP: Northern Beaufort County Transit Study, remove project from the TIP \$100,000 Guides share and \$25,000 of local match.
 - Joe Passiment moved to approve the meeting minutes, Glen Stanford seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

- Letter of Support from LATS for new Beaufort – Port Royal Urban Area to remain with LATS— Stephanie Rossi, LCOG
 - Joe Passiment moved to approve the meeting minutes, Barbra Clark seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

- Approve LATS Study Boundary — Stephanie Rossi, LCOG
 - Joe Passiment moved to approve the meeting minutes, Glen Stanford seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

- Triangle Access Management Plan — Jared Fralix, Beaufort County
 - Eric Claussen spoke on behalf of Jared Fralix. Beaufort County has presented the Triangle Project to Sun City and Hardeeville, and they are happy to share the presentation with those interested. The 2019 SC 170 Access Management Study (US 278 to SC 462) had near, mid- and long-term recommendations. The near-term plan is a \$3 million project with cost sharing between Beaufort County, Jasper County and Hardeeville. The project went out for advertisement this week. Beaufort County is also working with AECOM to update the 2019 SC 170 study since there has been so much growth since the initial study. The update will extend to the Del Webb/Sea Grass Station intersection as well as a possible relocated SC 462 intersection. The study should be completed within the next year. US 278 (Argent to SC 170) is wrapping up now and the Argent Boulevard Study (SC 170 to US 278) was completed in 2021. The full project is over \$200 million of improvements. The County is looking to put money and effort in on the front end to make the project more desirable for additional funding from state and federal sources. The 2024 transportation tax is a funding mechanism that will make the project competitive. AECOM has been asked to provide a scope of work for the design work for the entire project.
 - Mayor Sulka asked about how the relocation of SC 462 would work. The County stated at this point they will be doing a study to look at the possibly moving the intersection north.



- Marilyn Arseneau asked what the timeline of the studies was, and Eric responded that the 3 studies previously mentioned are completed with US 278 nearing finalization. The County is now looking to do 30% of the design plans and has requested a scope of work from their on call consultants.

Project Updates.

b. SCDOT Project Updates—Craig Winn, SCDOT

ACTION: Information

- Craig Winn provided an update on the I-95 improvements from Stateline to MM8. The NEPA document is under review. They are waiting for comments on Exit 8 improvements and the hope is to have those approved in the next month or two. The next major submission is the preliminary right of way plans in June with a plan to begin right of way in the fall. Everything is on schedule for late 2024.
- Exit 8 to 21 will be a bid build project and they advertised this week for a consultant. The Commission has also approved the study for Exit 33 to I-26. The I-95 at I-26 interchange will be a design build project that will begin later this year.
- Craig provided an update on US 17. There have been no major changes since the previous update. The project team is still monitoring settlement on the southbound expansion. They are doing some work on the northbound side as they are able. The project is on schedule for completion September 30th, 2025. Project remains on schedule.

c. Beaufort County Engineering Update— Eric Claussen, Beaufort County

ACTION: Information

- Beaufort County is doing a study on SC 170 from Parris Island Gateway to the Hawk Signal near Boundary Street as well as a study on US 21 from Gardens Corner to Boundary Street. Both studies are looking at access management and safety issues.
- Eric Claussen stated that they are working on the planning and engineering for the Reimagine Ribaut Road complete streets project which includes Ribaut Road from Boundary Street to the Bell Bridge. The county is putting some design dollars toward the project now to be ready for future funding opportunities. The project covers 5.5 miles and will likely need to be phased. A 3-day design workshop with Stantec is taking place later in June.
- The County is still working through the independent review on the US 278 bridges. CDG Engineering is working on a VISSIM model. The results can be presented to LATS later in the fall.
- Glen Stanford added that the town has bids out and is going through the selection process for their independent review of the US 278 bridge project.

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

ACTION: Information

- Mary Lou stated Palmetto Breeze had a difficult start to the season trying to ramp up staff for drivers and mechanics.



e. Corridor Study Update—Stephanie Rossi, LCOG

ACTION: Information

- LCOG is close to getting the final notice to proceed to contract with Kimley - Horn for the SC 315/SC 46 Corridor study. SCDOT did issue a limited notice to proceed so traffic counts could be collected before school got out and the counts were completed in May. Hardeeville secured a contract with Kimley - Horn to include US 278 from Argent to US 17 to be considered as part of the study and their traffic counts were also completed in May.
- Stephanie stated that LCOG staff will be working on updating the TIP to FY 2024- FY 2033 over the next several months. The new TIP will be due to SCDOT by February 29th, 2024.

f. Advisory Comments—Policy Committee members

- No discussion

Other Business

- a. Correction to the FY 2021-FY 2027 TIP: ITS Plan, increase FY 2023 Guideshare funds from \$160,000 to \$220,000 and increase local match funds from \$40,000 to \$55,000 for a total project cost of \$275,000.

ACTION: Information

- b. Correction to the FY 2021-FY 2027 TIP: Move the US 278 (I-95 to Sea Pines) Corridor Study from FY 2025 to FY 2023.

ACTION: Information

- c. Correction to the FY 2021-FY 2027 TIP: Move SC 170 (SC 46 to Boundary Street) Corridor Study from FY 2025 to FY 2023.

ACTION: Information

- d. Correction to the FY 2021-FY 2027 TIP: Move Bluffton Parkway Corridor Study (US 278 to SC 170) from FY 2025 to FY 2023.

ACTION: Information

Public Comment (in person only).

- None

Next Meeting.

- a. Friday August 4th, 2023

Adjourn.

- Joe Passiment moved to adjourn, Glen Stanford seconded, the motion passed unanimously.