



Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS)
Policy Committee Meeting Friday, October 7, 2022, 10:00 am
Meeting Location: In-Person TCL New River Campus Conference Room

Policy Committee Members Present

Glenn Stanford, Hilton Head Island
Lisa Sulka, Town of Bluffton
Barbara Clark, Jasper County
Paul Summerville, Beaufort County
Harry Williams, City of Hardeeville

Technical Committee Members Present:

Kraig Gordon, Chairman Beaufort CTC
Lisa Wagner, Jasper County
Laura Atkinson (for Mary Lou Franzoni), LRTA
Katie Woodruff, City of Hardeeville
Kevin Icard, Town of Bluffton

LCOG Staff Present:

Stephanie Rossi, Planning Director
Nikki Leak, Board Clerk

SCDOT Staff Present:

Craig Winn
Josh Johnson
Diane Lackey
Jim Walden

Others Present:

Stu Rodman
Barbara Childs, LRTA
Eric Claussen, Beaufort County
Mark Pleasant, FHWA
Dan Wood, Bluffton Town Council
BWebb

1. Call to Order
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance
 - b. Invocation
 - c. Introduction of Members, Guests, and Staff
 - d. Designees:
 - e. Action on August 5th, 2022, meeting minutes
 - Glen Stanford moved to approve the meeting minutes, Harry Williams seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

2. Old Business
 - Eric Claussen provided Beaufort County project updates.
 - The US 278 bridges project- The project is moving ahead with the MOUs with the Town of Hilton Head Island to form an independent review committee set up of 3 members from the Beaufort County and 3 members from Hilton Head Island.
 - SC 170 from US 278 to SC 462 project update- The right of way has been secured and Beaufort County is awaiting comments from SCDOT. The bid package is ready to go. The project includes safety and capacity improvements. The County is looking to add a phase two which will include the Del Webb/Sea Grass Station intersection.

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There is some development happening at the intersection and the County is awaiting the traffic study. The County is also looking at Old Field to be included. The Beaufort County CTC is working with SCDOT on including the overlays at the US 278 ramps. As part of the overlay the County is working to add a dedicated lane for those coming from SC 170 to US 278. It will be about a nine-month project once construction starts.

- i. Mayor Williams commented that there are two spots on 170 from the access management that continue to have high accident rates, Argent Blvd and SC 170. Eric responded that some of the improvements will include a dual left off of Argent and well as retiming.
 - ii. Mayor Sulka noted the importance of a signal at Sea Grass Station due to serious safety concerns.
 - Beaufort County will be making request for an ITS master plan for the region at the next LATS Technical Committee. SCDOT has a fiber project US 278 from SC 70 to Hilton Head Island. There is also a project on US 21 in the city of Beaufort. Town of Hilton Head has an adapted signal project. There are signal retiming projects on Boundary and Ribaut Road. The ITS Plan will help coordinate and bring these projects and future into a regional architecture.
- Craig Winn provided project updates for SCDOT.
 - The contractors are still working on adding surcharge to the new embankment on US 17. They are also working on erosion control and environmental compliance activities. The settlement period will be about 12 months. Once they are able to pave the new roadway, they will shift traffic and begin the process on the opposite side.
 - There was a public information meeting on September 15th for the I-95 widening project. 115 people attended the meeting. We are currently working on responding to comments from that meeting. Preliminary plans will be turned in early next month. They are expecting minor improvements at Exit 5 and major improvements at Exit 8. We are working through a traffic report. The project is on schedule for a late 2024 construction obligation.
 - i. Mayor Sulka commented that SCDOT needs to be aware for the limited space on the highway with the barriers in place. Craig said they are adjusting their Work Zones.
- Craig Gordon provided an update on the Beaufort County Transportation Committee.
 - In the five year paving program they have touched over 60 miles of roads. This year they will be touching 15 miles of county roads. The CTC is required to spend 33% of their dollars on the state road network. The committee has spent a million dollars on state roads. Half a million is spent on routes between 500 and 2000 ADT which are typically not touched by SCDOT. From 500 ADT down those roads will never be

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touched. These are roads that have very little traffic. A program has been put in place to look at these low volume secondary roads and a million dollars has been set aside to fix those secondary roads.

- Stephanie Rossi SC 315/SC 46/Bluffton Parkway update--
 - A subset the LATS Technical Committee met September 22nd, 2022 to develop a scope of work to submit to SCDOT for review.

New business

- Amendment to Unified Plan and Work Program to add two new tasks—Stephanie Rossi
Glen Stanford moved to approve the meeting minutes, Barbara Clark seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
 - Task C-1b Corridor access management study for SC 46/SC315 from SC 170 to US 17 and the Extension of the Bluffton Parkway
 - Task C-2a Northern Beaufort Transit Study
- Amendment to Transportation Improvement Program to add a new project I-95 Widening from MM8 to MM 21 in Jasper County —Stephanie Rossi
Barbara Clark moved to approve the meeting minutes, Glen Standford seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
- Approval of the 2022 LATS Policy Committee Meeting Schedule—Stephanie Rossi
Barbara Clark moved to approve the meeting minutes, Glen Standford seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

Councilman Rodman—The County has initiated a program and a third reading will be at the October meeting. The initiative includes 5-10 million dollars. The theory behind it is to set aside money for the preplanning, permitting of priority roadways to accelerate the engineering and planning portion.

Councilman Rodman—Update on 278, an agreement has been reached with the town and it frees us up to go forward with the environmental assessment and to be granted municipal consent.

Glen Stanford—The study will take 6 to 9 months, there is no consultant in place yet. The scope of the study is from I-95 to Sea Pines Circle.

Stephanie Rossi—in December meeting the new chair and vice chair will be elected.

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Barbara Clark—Asked is there is any improvement that will be made at Exit 5. Josh Johnson stated there will be no major change at the intersection as part of the I-95 project. The frontage road will need to be relocated. A long-term solution is still being explored.

Josh—On call contractors have been declining to do work. They are likely busy or favoring contractors with higher negotiated prices. The design for a signal at US 278 and Argent has been complete for 6 months but SCDOT can not get the contractor do the work. Some contractors have said they may take the work in the new year. This overall is delaying some work.

Public Questions via Facebook Live

There were no comments on Facebook Live.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Friday, December 2nd, 2022 at 10 am.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.