

Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS)
 Policy Committee Meeting Friday, August 5th, 2022, 10:00 am
 Meeting Location: In-Person TCL New River Campus Conference Room

Policy Committee Members Present	LCOG Staff Present:
Glenn Stanford, Hilton Head Island	Sabrena Graham, Executive Director
Lisa Sulka, Town of Bluffton	Stephanie Rossi, Planning Director
Barbara Clark, Jasper County	Nikki Leak, Board Clerk
Mike McFee, City of Beaufort (designee for Stephen Murray)	
Van Willis, Town of Port Royal (designee for Mayor DeVito)	SCDOT Staff Present:
Harry Williams, City of Hardeeville	Megan Groves
Charles Mitchell, LRTA	Jennifer Necker
	Travis Cooper
Technical Committee Members Present:	Diane Lackey
Kraig Gordon, Chairman Beaufort CTC	
Lisa Wagner, Jasper County	Others Present:
Mary Lou Franzoni, LRTA	Abraham Champagne, WSP
Katie Woodruff, City of Hardeeville	Barbara Childs, LRTA
Jared Fralix, Beaufort County	Eric Claussen, Beaufort County
	Mark Pleasant, FHWA

1. Call to Order

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Invocation
- c. Introduction of Members, Guests and Staff
- d. Designees:
- e. Action on May 13th 2022, meeting Minutes
 - Mike McKee moved to approve the meeting minutes, Kraig Gordon seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

2. Committee Reports

- a. Report on LATS June 14th and July 12th Technical Committee Meetings—Stephanie Rossi

The Tech Committee met twice since the June LTS meeting to discuss the proposed corridor studies since identified in the Long Range Transportation plan. The Tech Committee came to an agreement and identified the priority of the corridor projects and endorsed amending the TIP to reflect programming the studies.

The Tech Committee is in need of chair.

3. Old Business

- a. SCDOT US 278 and US 17 Project Update– Megan Groves, SCDOT

- US 278 Project is on hold while there are independent studies being conducted. SCDOT is working on the FONSI and completing the review of the public comments and will be available soon.
- US 17 is entering phase two of construction sequence. The southbound lanes have been completed and they will begin adding surcharge along the northbound lanes. The signal at SC 315 has been installed and it has helped improve safety and reduced delays.
- There is an upcoming public meeting for the I-95 widening project from mile 0 to mile 8 on September 15th from 5pm to 7pm at the Hardeeville Recreation Center. SCDOT has begun meeting with the property owners near the project.
- The next segments of the I-95 widening from mile 8 to mile 21 and mile 21 to mile 33 are out for public comment for inclusion in the STIP. Both of these segments will be on the October agenda for LATS for inclusion in the TIP.
 - o Glenn Stanford commented about US 278 project raising concern on the impact on the adjacent neighborhoods primarily the Stoney Neighborhood. Senator Davis secured \$5 million grant from the state legislature that will be used to with a Nonprofit Historic Neighborhoods Economic Development Corporation. Great opportunity to minimize the impact of the highway on that community and improve economic opportunities for that community.
 - o Mayor Sulka commented the US 17/SC 315 light is helped make the intersection safer.
 - o Mayor Williams commented with thanks to SCDOT for putting that light at that intersection which has improved safety.

b. Beaufort County Engineering Update—Jared Fralix, Beaufort County

- The County working with SCDOT received permission to install as traffic light at Windmill Harbor. It will be installed in advance of the US 278 project. They have a scope and proposal they are reviewing.
- The county is currently working with SCDOT to review comments for the SC 170 short term projects. The goal is to move forward with the projects and to start taking bids later this fall.
- The County is also looking at two other locations on SC 170 at Old Field and Dell Web where improvements can be made at those intersections.
- Regarding the sales tax, a green space sales tax has been proposed and moved forward. There was a second reading on the green space sales tax, while the transportation sales tax did not receive a second reading. The final reading for the green space sales tax is planned for Monday, August 8, 2022.
 - o Lisa Sulka commented to express disappointment that citizens had put so much effort into a project that won't get a second reading.
 - o Mike McFee asked for an update on Lady's Island improvements. Jared answered that everything in the 2018 plan is moving forward. The Lady's Island project was valued at \$72 million and \$30 million secured. The County is pursuing grants to close the gap.

- Mayor Sulka wanted an update on the Alljoy projects and Burnt Church. Alljoy has had several public meetings that have extended the timeline. Burnt Church project was expanded to include a larger scope.
 - 2024 is the likely the next time a penny tax for transportation would come up again. Several members expressed frustration without the penny tax.
 - Mayor Sulka invited LATS members to attend the Bluffton Town Council Meeting 5pm on Tuesday August 9th.
- c. Palmetto Breeze Update -- Mary Lou Palmetto Breeze
- The Hilton Head Island airport study has almost been completed. They are still waiting on one of the three vehicles due to several delays. An initial route was proposed but the route was rejected because the route was too long and was revised into two routes. The Study will come to LATS for a presentation once complete.
 - Regarding Bluffton Breeze, revisions to the route added old town. There hasn't been a big change in ridership once the dollar fare was introduced.
 - Glenn Stanford commented that he is pleased with the relationship with Palmetto Breeze and that the quality of the buses, and the quality of the bus drivers are excellent.
- d. Update on the LATS Long Range Plan – Stephanie Rossi
- The Rural and Urban plans have both been updated and finalized and are available for download at www.lowcountrycog.org.

4. New Business

- a. Amendment to transportation improvement program to add a new project to FY 2023 using \$100,000 of Guideshare funds for a Transit Study in Northern Beaufort— Stephanie Rossi.

Motion made by Mike McFee. Motion seconded by Harry Williams. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Amendment to transportation Improvement Program to add a new project to FY 2023 using \$450,000 of Guideshare funds for a study of SC 46/SC315 from SC 170 to US 17 and Bluffton Parkway from SC 170 to I-95— Stephanie Rossi

Motion to approve by Mayor Harry Williams. Seconded by Charles Mitchell. Motion passed unanimously.

- c. Amendment to Transportation Improvement Program to add a new project to FY 2024 using \$200,000 of Guideshare funds for a study of Bluffton Parkway from US 278 to SC 170— Stephanie Rossi

Motion to approve made by Harry Williams. Seconded by Charles Mitchell. Motion passed unanimously

- d. Amendment to Transportation Improvement Program to add a new project to FY 2025 using \$400,000 of Guideshare funds for a study of SC 170 from Boundary Street to SC 46—Stephanie Rossi

Motion to approve made by Barbara Clark. Seconded by Mike McFee. Motion passed unanimously.

e. Amendment to Transportation Improvement Program to add a new project to FY 2025 using \$ 200,000 of Guideshare funds for a Freight Study—Stephanie Rossi

Motion to approve made by Barbara Clark. Seconded by Harry Williams. Motion passed unanimously.

f. Safe Streets For All Grant for a Safety Action Plan—Stephanie Rossi.

Authorize for LCOG to move forward on behalf of LATS to apply for Safe Streets for All Plan. Mayor Harry Williams approved. Charles Mitchell seconded. Unanimous pass.

5. Other Business

a. Administrative modifications to the FY 2021-FY 2027 Transportation Improvement Program—Stephanie Rossi

6. Public Questions via Facebook Live.

- There were no comments on Facebook Live.

7. Next Meeting

a. The next meeting will be Friday, October 7th at 10 am.

8. Adjourn.

a. Meeting was adjourned at 11:17 am.