

Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS)  
Policy Committee Meeting  
Friday, December 6, 2019 10:00 am  
TCL New River Campus, Conference Room  
MINUTES

**Policy Committee Members Present:**

Chairwoman – Mayor Lisa Sulka, Town of Bluffton  
Lisa Wagner, Jasper County  
Sen. Tom Davis, JC Leg. Delegation Chairman  
Van Willis, Town of Port Royal  
Mike McFee, City of Beaufort  
Mayor Harry Williams, City of Hardeeville  
Robby Robbins, SCDOT Commission Chairman

**Technical Committee Members Present:**

Kraig Gordon, Chairman Beaufort CTC  
Mary Lou Franzoni, LRTA  
Katie Woodruff, City of Hardeeville  
Anne Cyran, Town of Hilton Head  
Rob McFee, Beaufort County

**LCOG Staff Present:**

Sabrena Graham, Executive Director  
Ginnie Kozak, Planning Director  
Christian Dammel, Planning Assistant  
Michelle Grimes, Executive Assistant

**Others Present:**

Charles Braddock, Oldfield  
Mark Sinkhorn, Oldfield  
Bill Jordan, AECOM  
Frank Turano, Alliance Cons. Eng.  
Marsha Harrison, Sun City  
Joe Fragale, Sun City  
Joe Croley, LIT  
Dillon Turner, Kimley Horn  
Mark McCain, Beaufort County CTC  
Joel Taylor, Coastal Carolina Hospital  
Mark Wilkes, CORE MPO  
John Fleming, SCA  
Alan Seifert, Town of Bluffton  
Mark Pleasant, FHWA  
Allan Ward, Ward/Edwards Engineering

**Policy Committee Members Absent:**

Mayor Samuel E. Murray, Town of Port Royal  
Paul Sommerville, Beaufort County Council  
Barbara Clark, Jasper County  
David Spisso, City of Hardeeville  
Richard Hamilton, LRTA  
Glenn Stanford, Town of Hilton Head

**Technical Committee Members Absent:**

Kevin Icard, Beaufort County  
David Pritchard, City of Beaufort  
Linda Bridges, Town of Port Royal

**SCDOT Staff Present:**

Megan Groves  
Craig Winn  
Stephen Allen  
LaToya Grate

1. Call to Order: Chairwoman Lisa Sulka called the meeting to order at 9:56 am
  - a. Pledge of Allegiance
  - b. Invocation – led by Mark Pleasant, guest
  - c. Introduction of Members, Guests and Staff
  - d. Designees - Rob McFee for Paul Sommerville, Van Willis for Mayor Samuel Murray, Lisa Wagner for Barbara Clark
  - e. Action on October 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes – Mayor Harry Williams made the motion to accept the minutes. Mayor Lisa Sulka seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.**
2. Old Business:
  - a. SCDOT US 278 and US 17 Project Update, including Guidesshare Advance status – Craig Winn
    - i. US 278
      1. Public information meeting in September. Received 340 comments during comment period. Letters are being drafted to address the comments, expected to be distributed by end of December.
      2. Bridge structures are 35% complete, further development expected in alignment workshop next week.
      3. 85% of natural resources study complete.
      4. Impact assessment is ongoing.
      5. Coordination call with Fish & Wildlife to discuss Pinckney Island improvements and compatibility next week.
      6. Project update going to town councils soon.
        - a. Chairwoman Sulka requested that the update be sent to all municipalities.
      7. Q: series of emails from private sector against this. How do we respond?
      8. A: the project update will explain and dispel any false narratives circulating.
      9. Q: SID applications are in. Any feel for when answers will be available?
      10. A: DOT has reviewed, don't know status. Initially heard January, likely pushed back.
      11. Q: Is there an evaluation committee?
      12. A: an evaluation committee has not met or any meetings been scheduled.
    - ii. US 17
      1. Environmental Permit – submitted October 2017. Charleston district CORPS of Engineers has signed. Savannah has not. Craig expects to have the permit signed after the holidays, sometime in January.
      2. Guideshares – 5 projects around the state have applied for guideshares.
        - a. Secretary Hall has to decide and approve. Spring/Summer would likely be the soonest for movement.
        - b. US 17 project is ready to go to construction after approval. Largest self-funded project in the state.
        - c. Suggested send Secretary Hall a letter emphasizing importance of the project, multiple county support and largest project. Send draft to Robby Robbins and Craig Winn for review.
        - d. Comment: have told our constituents the \$68 million project was approved in 2015 and the project was going to start in February 2017. What is not approved is the additional \$25 million. This is difficult to understand and explain to our constituents.
        - e. Q: What is the reason for the shortfall?
        - f. A: Geo Tech mitigation.
        - g. Q: Craig, was eval engineering done on this?
        - h. A: Yes
        - i. Comment: it would be invaluable to get something in front of contractors for bidding. SCDOT thinks it is over budget but does not know for sure. Has happened before that bids are submitted and learned that project is within budget.

- j. A: FHWA will not authorize the bidding funds before the project is fully funded.
            - k. Q: Why can't we put a bid out for the \$68 million while we wait for the last \$25 million to be approved, which won't be spent until 2025?
            - l. A: With federal funds there are fundamental requirements that have no variation. One of those requirements is the project be fully funded before bidding begins.
            - m. Comment: It may be helpful to establish a sub-committee that focuses on this project and tries to find some solution.
            - n. Committee agreed to a sub-committee chaired by Rob McFee.
- b. Beaufort County Project Update, including sales tax referendum projects and BTG – Rob McFee & Kraig Gordon
  - i. CTC – Kraig Gordon
    - 1. Palmetto Bay is under construction. 3 bridge approaches are funded in this project. Work expected to begin in the spring of 2020.
    - 2. Pope Avenue funding was resolved with Town of Hilton Head.
    - 3. Year 3 & 4 projects are contracted.
    - 4. PMS for 2020, Town of Port Royal & Hilton Head asked that their streets be included.
      - a. Pavement Study & municipality buy in will allow the data to be updated at the same time. CTC is discussing at next meeting.
      - b. Q: How do you get the list of roads in each municipality?
      - c. A: That is the issue, first time we did this 3 years ago, municipality participation was low. They have seen how this works and want to participate.
      - d. This establishes the pavement system, determining which roads get attention first, typically due to traffic volume.
  - ii. Sales Tax Referendum – Rob McFee
    - 1. Referendum is in the packet. Also posted on website. Contact Rob with any questions.
- c. Palmetto Breeze Update: Small Urban Area Planning, Phase 2 – Mary Lou Franzoni
  - i. In the preliminary planning stages of studying the expansion of urban transit services, working with consultants, AECOM, for Phase 2.
  - ii. Looking at starting public transit routes in Bluffton. Target start date April 1, 2020.
  - iii. Expansion of Hilton Head Trolley Service. Target start date April 1, 2020.
  - iv. Received 2 of the 5 cutaways for the expansion from grant monies.
  - v. Committee requested a presentation on the above at the February 2020 meeting.
3. New Business:
  - a. LRTP Amendment to add SC 170 Corridor Access Management Plan Recommendations
    - i. Replaces a section of original plan which did not include SC 170. SC 170 needs to be included in document if grants are to be applied for.
    - ii. Basically the presentation slide that highlights four issues. Committee approved this slide at the October meeting, as a summary of the general improvements that are needed.
    - iii. Issue 1 – Traffic Light at 462 - Rob McFee and Kraig Gordon
      - 1. Attended a Jasper County CTC meeting, asking for a match of funds.
      - 2. Jasper agreed and voted to contribute \$50,000; Beaufort County CTC also providing \$50,000; signalization funds provided by SCDOT
      - 3. Working with SCDOT, target completion date within 6 to 8 weeks.
    - iv. Motion: amend chapter pages 4-16 of plan to replace the old text with the current text that talks about the issues.
    - v. Q: We are not approving the whole plan?
    - vi. A: No, just the issues slide.
    - vii. Comment: City of Hardeeville has major concerns regarding the whole plan.
    - viii. We are reacting to segments of the plan. Committee voted in October to endorse the 4 issues.
      - 1. Issue #1: Install a signal at Lowcountry Drive (SC 462)
      - 2. Issue #2: Southbound SC 170 onto EB Loop On Ramp

3. Issue #3: SC 170 (US 278 WB Ramps to Palmer Grace Drive) – Coordinate with Okatie Center Crossing
  4. Issue #4: Palmer Grace Drive to Lowcountry Drive (SC 462) – Coordinate with East Argent Development
  - ix. Discussion on next steps strategy and concerns on the plan. Suggested that the concerns be run through TAC and a January meeting be added to the schedule to discuss further.
  - x. Motion to accept amendment to add SC 170 corridor access management plan. Mayor Harry Williams made the motion. Rob McFee seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- b. LRTP Amendment to update Performance Measures section – Stephen Allen
- i. All MPO's are required to adopt and implement federally established 7 national goals that include safety, addition of infrastructure, freight movement, performance of any guests, environmental sustainability and median speed of projects.
  - ii. PM 1 safety targets are adopted annually at the end of August. Have 180 days to adopt them.
  - iii. PM2 targets are set for 2 and 4 year targets. Have 180 days to adopt. Evaluation determines adjustment.
  - iv. The benefit of following along is contributing to the overall performance of all objectives. Projects in TIP are tied to these performance measures and adopted into the LRTP.
  - v. Motion was made by Mayor Harry Williams, seconded by Lisa Wagner to update the performance measures amendment. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- c. Meeting Schedule for calendar year 2020
- i. With the inclusion of January 10, meetings are conducted the first Friday of every other month.
  - ii. Motion was made by Mike McFee, seconded by Robby Robbins to accept the 2020 meeting schedule. **Motion carried unanimously.**
4. Other Business: None
  5. Public Comment Period: None
  6. Next Meeting: Friday, January 10, 2019
  7. Adjourn: Mike McFee made a motion to adjourn. Robby Robbins seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 11:12 am.