



Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS)
Policy Committee Meeting Friday, May 13th, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
Meeting Location: In-Person TCL New River Campus Conference Room

Policy Committee Members Present:

Harry Williams, City of Hardeeville
Glenn Stanford, Hilton Head Island
Lisa Sulka, Town of Bluffton
Barbara Clark, Jasper County
Charles Mitchel, LRTA Board
Mike McFee, City of Beaufort (designee for Stephen Murray)
Alice Howard, Beaufort County Council (designee for Paul Sommerville)
Brooke Plank-Buccola, Town of Port Royal (designee for Joe DeVito)

Policy Committee Members Absent:

Sen. Tom Davis, JC Leg. Delegation Chairman
Paul Sommerville, Beaufort County Council
Joe DeVito, Town of Port Royal

Technical Committee Members Present:

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

Technical Committee Members Absent:

Noah Krepps, Town of Port Royal
Anne Cyran, Town of Hilton Head Island
Rob Merchant, Beaufort County

LCOG Staff Present:

Sabrena Graham, Executive Director
Stephanie Rossi, Planning Director
Christian Dammel, Planner I

SCDOT Staff Present:

Craig Winn
LaToya Grate

Others Present:

David Spisso, Hardeeville City Council
Jared Felix, Beaufort County
Barbara Childs, LRTA
Allison Fluitt, Kimley- Horn
Starla Couso, Kimley- Horn
Hardeeville resident

1. Call to Order.

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Invocation
- c. Introduction of Members, Guests and Staff
- d. Designees: Mike McFee, City of Beaufort, Alice Howard, Beaufort County Council
Brooke Plank-Buccola, Town of Port Royal
- e. Action on [April 1, 2022, Meeting Minutes](#) (Draft minutes attached.)
Mayor Williams made the motion to approve the April 1st, 2022 meeting minutes, Glen Stanford seconded, the motion passed unanimously.



2. Committee Report.

- a. Report on LATS May 6th Technical Committee Meeting—Katie Woodruff, LATS Tech Committee Chair

Katie reported the Technical Committee met on May 6th and endorsed that all actions items to the Policy Committee.

3. Old Business.

- a. SCDOT US 17 Project Update—Craig Winn, SCDOT

The foundation for the traffic signal at SC 315 and US 17 is being completed. The signal should be operation within the next few weeks.

4. New Business.

- a. Public Hearing and Adoption of the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan

First call for Public Comment was announced by the Chair. No comments received.

Second call for public Comment was announced by the Chair.

- Barbara Clark commented on concerns for protections from the rapid development taking place, affecting the County and its infrastructure.

Third and final call for public Comment was announced by the Chair. No additional comments were received.

Stephanie Rossi stated that over 150 comments were received throughout the public comment period from both local agency staff and the general public. Starla Couso and Allison Fluitt of Kimley – Horn presented an update on the public comment period. The [presentation](#) summarized the project and the comments received and how they were addressed. The presentation is attached.

Glen Stanford commented that the Town of Hilton Head Island had a number of comments that were raised through the Technical Committee, and they were resolved. Town staff was satisfied with the revisions, and he stated he was pleased with the plan.

Mayor Williams stated that there is a large number of projects coming to the area and they will impact all of the region's major corridors and traffic. The City of Hardeeville has begun asking the developers to contribute toward corridor studies. There are plans for a developer to contribute \$300,000 to a study for the SC 315/SC 46 corridor. There may be potential funds available with future developments.

Alice Howard asked Mayor Williams how you are determining the amount of money to ask of development. Mayor Williams responded there is no set amount, and they will work with developers to determine an agreed upon amount. Barbara Clark started the need to



put some things in place to better understand the implications of the rapid development on the surrounding road network.

Lisa Sulka asked if there was a process in place to apply the funds to a LATS study. Stephanie stated that we could work on a process to have an MOU with LCOG to manage the funds on behalf of LATS. The funds could be used to offset some of the Guideshare.

Glen Stanford asked if Hardeeville was offering an incentive for developers who provide funds. Mayor Williams noted that the funds for the study were one of the concessions the developer made as part of the approval process. There was no formula in place but rather all parties came to an agreement.

Lisa Sulka stated the parkway to I-95 needs to be to be more than a theory. It will allow for additional routes instead of having all of the traffic routed through the same roads causing congestion.

ACTION: Approve the adoption of the 2045 Long Rang Transportation Plan. Mayor William motioned to approve the adoption of the 2045 Long Rang Transportation Plan and, Glen Stanford seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

- b. [Amendment](#) to Transportation Improvement Program to add \$500,000 of FTA Section 5339 funds to FY 2022—Christian Dammel

Mary Lou stated there was an opportunity to apply for lapsing funds through SCDOT. LRTA is required to match those funds.

ACTION: Approve adding FTA Section 5339 funds to the TIP. The item was moved and seconded the motion passed unanimously.

- c. [Amendment](#) to Transportation Improvement Program for modifications to the funding and funding years for the SC 170 Okatie Center Boulevard to SC 462 —Christian Dammel

ACTION: Approve amendments to the SC 170 project in the TIP. The item was moved and seconded the motion passed unanimously.

5. Other Business.

- a. [Administrative modifications](#) to the FY 2021- FY 2027 Transportation Improvement Program

ACTION: Information—Stephanie Rossi

Stephanie Rossi informed the committee about the administrative modification the FY 2022-2023 TIP. Jared Fralix provided additional information on the status of each project and the amendments were intended to update the current timelines of the projects.

- b. US 278 (SC170 to Argent Blvd) Study [Press Release](#)



ACTION: Information—Stephanie Rossi

Stephanie Rossi informed the committee about the US278 Project open house taking place the following week.

6. Public Questions via Facebook Live.

There were no comments on Facebook Live.

Jared Fralix provided a brief status update on Beaufort County projects. He noted the US 278 project is the last piece of the “triangle” project for US 278, SC 170 and Argent Boulevard area. The project team is hosting an open house Tuesday at 7pm at the Bluffton Recreation Center.

Jared informed the Committee that the near term intersection improvement for the SC 170 project is currently under review at SCDOT. They hope to have comments sometime this summer and will be able to begin construction in the late summer or early fall. Beaufort County is still working with Jasper County and Hardeeville on an Interjurisdiction Agreement to secure the funding for the near term improvements. Beaufort County is working with SCDOT to put out a risk assessment for possible opportunity for utilizing design – build opportunities for the implementing the recommendations for the Triangle area.

Jared Fralix updated the Committee on the Beaufort County sales tax. The Beaufort County Council initiated a Citizen Committee in February with three objectives regarding a new sales tax: how much is the tax, how long would the tax be in place and what projects would be funded with it. The committee met eleven times and determine unanimously that the tax would be one cent, for ten years with e goal of collecting \$700 million. The recommendations were sent to County Council. Half of the funds would be dedicated to specific large projects. The other half of the funds would be distributed through programs such as safety, resilience, resurfacing, dirt road paving, mass transit and a green belts. The program funds would be award through a call for projects.

7. Next Meeting.

a. Friday, June 3rd, 2022 is canceled. The next meeting will be August 5th, 2022.

8. Adjourn.