

Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS)
Policy Committee Meeting
Friday, April 5, 2019, 10:00 a.m.
TCL New River Campus, Room 138
AGENDA

Policy Committee Members Present:

Barbara Clark, Councilwoman, Jasper County
Mike McFee, Councilman and Mayor Pro Tem,
City of Beaufort
York Glover, Councilman, Beaufort County
Richard Hamilton, Board Chair, LRTA
Chairman Lisa Sulka, Mayor, Town of Bluffton
Harry Williams, Mayor, City of Hardeeville
Samuel E. Murray, Mayor, Town of Port Royal
Charles Cousins, Assistant to the Town
Manager, Town of Hilton Head Island

Policy Committee Members Absent:

Robby Robbins, Chairman, SCDOT Commission
Rep. Bill Herbkersman, Jasper County Leg.
Delegation Chairman
Sen. Tom Davis

Technical Committee Members:

Kraig Gordon, Chairman, Beaufort CTC
Kevin Icard, Planning and Community
Development Manager, Town of Bluffton
Mary Lou Franzoni, Executive Director, LRTA
Katie Woodruff, Planning Manager, City of
Hardeeville
Anne Cyran, Senior Planner, Town of Hilton
Head Island
Lisa Wagner, Planning Director, Jasper County

Technical Committee Members Absent:

David Prichard, Community and Economic
Development Director, City of Beaufort
Linda Bridges, Planning Director, Town of Port
Royal
Rob McFee, Director of Engineering and
Infrastructure, Beaufort County

LCOG Staff Present:

Ginnie Kozak, Planning Director
Meredith Burns, Regional Planner
Christian Dammel, Planning Assistant

SCDOT Staff Present:

LaToya Grate, SCDOT
Stephen Allen, SCDOT
Craig Winn, SCDOT
Megan Groves, SCDOT
Branford Breland SCDOT

Others Present:

David Spisso, Mayor Pro Tem, City of
Hardeeville
Michael Dennis, Ramey Kemp & Associates
Bill Jordan, AECOM
Frank Turano, Alliance Consulting Engineers
Pete Nardi, Hilton Head Public Service District
Manager, Town of Hilton Head Island
Mark Wilkes, Director, Coastal Region MPO
Savannah
Joe Croley, Lowcountry Inside Track
Joe Fragale, Greater Island Council
Matt Davis, Deputy City Manager, City of
Hardeeville
Michael Czymbor, City Manager, City of
Hardeeville
John Fleming, Southern Carolina Regional
Development Alliance
David Johnson, Hilton Head Island
John Glover, Beaufort CTC
Dan Wood, Councilman, Town of Bluffton

1. Call to Order.

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Invocation
- c. Introduction of Members, Guests and Staff
- d. Designees
- e. Action on February 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes (Draft minutes attached.)

Action: Meeting minutes from Feb. 8, 2019 were unanimously approved.

2. Old Business.

- a. Amendment to LATS By-Laws
The proposed amended wording is highlighted:

A Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be elected from among the voting membership for a two-year term at the first meeting of every other calendar year. An officer may succeed her/himself with no limitation on number of terms, except that such term will not continue in the event an officer becomes ineligible for membership on the Policy Committee. Each shall serve until his or her successor is elected and seated.

ACTION: Approval

Action: The amendment to LATS By-Laws was unanimously approved.

- b. Election of Policy Committee Chair and Vice Chair. Per LATS Bylaws.
ACTION: Nomination and election of officers

Action: Lisa Sulka was nominated and unanimously approved as Policy Committee Chair.

Action: Barbara Clark was nominated and unanimously approved as Policy Committee Vice Chair.

- c. SCDOT US 278 and US 17 Project Update—Craig Winn
ACTION: Information

Craig Winn provided an update on the US 278 project. The report can be found [here](#). The surveys are 90 percent complete, seismic evaluations of existing structures are 40 percent complete, the Preliminary Geotechnical Field Exploration is 55 percent complete, preliminary traffic counts are 95 percent complete, NEPA documentation is 9 percent complete, and public involvement is 35 percent complete.

Committee members reached a consensus that Mayor Sulka or Paul Sommerville will represent LATS at future stakeholder meetings for the US 278 project. Mr. Winn asked for municipalities to publicize the [project website](#), Twitter (@SCDOT278) and Facebook (SCDOT278Improvements) page to their online followers.

Mr. Winn also provided an update on the SCDOT US 17 project. He said SCDOT is working to acquire two tracts for right-of-way and finalizing the geotechnical work. Plans should be finalized this spring.

The status report for other projects in the LATS area can be found [here](#).

Mayor Sulka asked if the current work on Buck Island Road involved patching or an entire resurfacing. Mr. Winn said the road is being patched and will later be resurfaced. For more information, see Project ID P034691 in the [SCDOT report](#).

Ms. Clark asked if there were any plans to work on SC 315. Mr. Winn said a project to resurface the road was recently rejected because it fell outside of the federal guidelines for awarding contracts, but the project will be relet in about three months. Committee members discussed how a new traffic light at SC 315 proposed as part of the US 17 widening should help alleviate traffic. Mr. Winn said he was unsure if the light would go in before or after the US 17 widening, which he expects to be complete in 2023. Committee members reached a consensus to draft a letter to SCDOT requesting the light be installed before the widening is complete.

A member of the public asked if there was an update on I-95 widening. Mr. Winn said SCDOT will complete feasibility reports for the five sections of I-95 to help determine which sections will be prioritized.

A member of the public asked if there would be coordination between Beaufort County's Windmill Harbour project and the SCDOT US 278 project. Mr. Winn said there they are working with Beaufort County to coordinate the projects as much as possible, but there are no guarantees. York Glover asked how soon they would know because the county is moving forward planning the roughly \$7 million project. Mr. Winn said they would not know until 2020 when they have the traffic analysis and preferred alternative. Mr. Winn said he has been talking extensively about both projects with Rob McFee.

- d. Beaufort County Project Update, including sales tax referendum projects and BTG—Rob McFee and Kraig Gordon
ACTION: Information

Kraig Gordon provided an update on the Beaufort County Transportation Committee (CTC). He said the CTC completed a road analysis when it restructured and is now in year three of a five-year paving program. The year three program report can be found [here](#), and the list of projects the CTC has completed in the past three years can be found [here](#). Next year the committee will ask community members which roads they would like re-analyzed to evaluate work the CTC has already completed and document deterioration since the last road analysis.

Mr. Gordon said the CTC has also worked with Beaufort County's GIS department to complete a [road inventory](#) showing the condition of roads and if they are included in the resurfacing program. The committee is also interested in identifying roads throughout the county most vulnerable to sea level rise. Additional information about Beaufort CTC can be found [here](#).

- e. Hardeeville Project Update—Michael Czymbor
ACTION: Information

Michael Czymbor provided an update on the City of Hardeeville transportation projects. The city recently entered an agreement with Stantec to complete the IJR and traffic analysis for the new interchange at I-95 Exit 3. The report should be presented to the city in about six months, Mr. Czymbor. Within the East Argent Loop Road project, the first phase of Central Loop Road is under construction and the final two phases of Central Loop are expected to be completed within four years. A new interchange at I-95 Exit 8 has been discussed with SCDOT as part of the I-95 widening project, but no plans have been finalized.

Mr. Czymbor also said a traffic signal will be installed on US 278 at the intersection with Hilton Head Lakes and Margaritaville. When asked about when the signal would be installed, Mr. Winn said the traffic volume has to be high enough to warrant a signal.

- f. Palmetto Breeze Update—Mary Lou Franzoni
ACTION: Information

Mary Lou Franzoni provided an update on Palmetto Breeze. Ms. Franzoni said the trolley service on Hilton Head resumed April 1 and has already had high ridership. This year the trolley will run from 1-10:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 1 p.m. – 12:30 a.m. Friday and Saturday. The route has also now has stops at the Village at Wexford and Hilton Head Island Motorcoach Resort.

Ms. Franzoni said LRTA will soon start a planning study for bus service in Bluffton.

Ms. Franzoni also discussed Palmetto Breeze's funding challenges. The bus service receives federal grants that cover 50 percent of operating costs and 80 percent of capital costs, but counties and municipalities must cover the rest. Ms. Franzoni said the system usually seeks about \$150,000 in local match, which has historically been a struggle to collect. Ms. Franzoni said they want to find a dedicated funding source and are considering asking counties to raise road use taxes on car registrations \$1-5 and allocating the additional revenue to LRTA.

g. SC 170 Corridor Access Management Study Update
ACTION: Information

Bill Jordan of AECOM provided an update on the SC 170 Corridor Access Management Study. Jordan said they have completed a map showing crash data, collected a.m. and p.m. peak hour traffic counts at 16 intersections, and collected the 24-hour traffic count that showed 42,000 vehicles pass 278 and Argent Boulevard each day. The traffic analysis will also include a projection of peak hour demand in 2040. The project team will use a wikimap to solicit feedback from the public. That will go live after the LATS technical committee approves it. Mayor Sulka suggested presenting the recommendations to the SoLoCo group to reach elected officials and assist with implementation.

3. New Business.
4. Other Business.
5. Public Comment Period.
6. Next Meeting. Friday, June 7, 2019.
7. Adjourn