

Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS)
Policy Committee Meeting
Friday, July 12, 2019, 10:00 a.m.
TCL New River Campus, Conference Room
MINUTES

Policy Committee Members Present:

Barbara Clark, Councilwoman, Jasper County
Rob McFee as a designee for Paul Sommerville, Councilman, Beaufort County
Richard Hamilton, Board Chair, LRTA
Chairman Lisa Sulka, Mayor, Town of Bluffton
Harry Williams, Mayor, City of Hardeeville
Glenn Stanford, Councilman, Town of Hilton Head Island
Mike McFee, Councilman and Mayor *ProTem*, City of Beaufort
Robby Robbins, Chairman, SCDOT Commission
Sen. Tom Davis, Jasper County Leg. Delegation Chairman

Policy Committee Members Absent:

Samuel E. Murray, Mayor, Town of Port Royal

Technical Committee Members Present:

Kraig Gordon, Chairman, Beaufort CTC
Lisa Wagner, Planning Director, Jasper County
Mary Lou Franzoni, Executive Director, LRTA
Katie Woodruff, Long Range Division Manager, City of Hardeeville
Rob McFee, Director of Engineering and Infrastructure, Beaufort County
Kevin Icard, Planning and Community Development Manager, Town of Bluffton

Technical Committee Members Absent:

Anne Cyran, Senior Planner, Town of Hilton Head Island
David Prichard, Community and Economic Development Director, City of Beaufort
Linda Bridges, Planning Director, Town of Port Royal

LCOG Staff Present:

Ginnie Kozak, Planning Director
Meredith Burns, Regional Planner

SCDOT Staff Present:

LaToya Grate, SCDOT
Jennifer Necker, SCDOT
Craig Winn, SCDOT
Megan Groves, SCDOT

Others Present:

Steve Riley, Town Manager, Town of Hilton Head Island
Charles Cousins, Assistant to the Town Manager, Town of Hilton Head Island
John Fleming, Director of Development, SCA
Stephanie Rossi, Coastal Region MPO Savannah

Mark Pleasant, Federal Highway Administration
Joe Croley, Lowcountry Inside Track
Joe Fragale, Greater Island Council
Matt Davis, Deputy City Manager, City of Hardeeville
Lisa Schwartz, ICE
Lamar Mercer, Thomas & Hutton
Fred Holstein, Threene Corp
Danielle Johnson, Threene Corp

1. Call to Order.
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance
 - b. Invocation
 - c. Introduction of Members, Guests and Staff
 - d. Designees
 - e. Action on June 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes (Draft minutes attached.)

Action: The committee unanimously approved meeting minutes from June 7, 2019.

2. Old Business. Deferred. Reports attached
3. New Business.

- a. Resolution of Support for Hardeeville application to SC Transportation Infrastructure Bank for funding for I-95 Exit 3 Project (attached).
ACTION: Approval

Mayor Harry Williams said a few years ago the committee approved a resolution of support to the SC Transportation Infrastructure Bank for the Exit 3 project in Hardeeville. The city is now resubmitting its application for project funding, and it would like the committee to reaffirm its support.

Policy committee members offered suggestions to make the resolution more accurate and concise. The resolution was amended.

Mr. Glenn Stanford asked if this resolution takes away any weight from a similar resolution the committee passed last month supporting the US 278 project application.

Policy committee members discussed that both projects are needed in the region, and larger MPOs submit letters of support for multiple applications. Mr. Craig Winn also pointed out the application for US 278 is being submitted in the public need category while the Exit 3 project will be in the economic development category, meaning the projects will be scored differently.

The committee unanimously approved the resolution as amended.

- b. TIP Change: 5310 Grants to Organizations (attached)
ACTION: Approval

Ms. Ginnie Kozak said 5310 grants are awarded to social service organizations that provide transportation services to their elderly and disabled clients. Ms. Kozak said policy committee members should encourage organizations providing these services to apply for funding next year.

The committee unanimously approved the TIP change.

- c. Additional Funding by LATS for US 17 Widening Project—SCDOT staff

ACTION: Approval

Mr. Winn from SCDOT explained the request for additional funding for the US 17 widening project, which involves widening about 4 miles of US 17 from SC 315 to the Georgia state line. The current estimates, based on recently completed technical design work, have brought project costs to about \$25 million more than originally estimated, as the project moves forward to letting construction. This is because more extensive ground modifications are needed to keep the road, in its wetlands location, from settling.

Mr. Winn said the committee can request extending the LATS federal guideshare funding to cover the project's shortfall. The Lowcountry Council of Governments, which is splitting the project's cost with LATS, approved a similar request for guideshare advancement at its board meeting in June. How long the guideshare funding will need to be advanced is unknown because the funding changes each year, but it will likely require a roughly three-year advancement. Mr. Winn said SCDOT's road safety group might also be able to contribute \$1 to 2 million to the project.

The committee unanimously approved a request to extend federal guideshare funds to cover the US 17 widening shortfall of about \$25 million and submit a joint letter from LCOG and LATS.

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