

Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS)

Policy Committee Meeting

Friday, December 7, 2018, 10:00 a.m.

TCL New River Campus, Conference Room

AGENDA

Policy Committee Members Present:

Barbara Clark, Jasper County Council
Mike McFee, Council and Mayor *pro tem*, City of Beaufort
Bill Harkins, Town of Hilton Head
Harry Williams, City of Hardeeville
Paul Sommerville, Beaufort County
Richard Hamilton, LRTA Board Chair

Policy Committee Members Absent:

Rep. Bill Herbkersman, Jasper County Leg.
Delegation Chairman
Samuel E. Murray, Mayor, Town of Port Royal
Chairman Lisa Sulka, Mayor, Town of Bluffton
David Bennett, Mayor, Town of Hilton Head Island
Sen. Tom Davis

Technical Committee Members:

Kraig Gordon, Chair, Beaufort County CTC
Brian Herrmann, Town of Bluffton
Mary Lou Franzoni, LRTA Executive Director
Colin Kinton, Chair, Beaufort County
Katie Woodruff, Planning Manager, City of Hardeeville
Anne Cyran, Senior Planner Town of Hilton Head

Technical Committee Members Absent:

Lauren Kelly, Planner, City of Beaufort
Linda Bridges, Planning Director, Town of Port Royal
Lisa Wagner, Planning Director, Jasper County

LCOG Staff Present:

Sabrena Graham, Executive Director
Ginnie Kozak, Planning Director
Meredith Burns, Planning Assistant
Christian Dammel, Planning Assistant

SCDOT Staff Present:

Wade Luther, SCDOT
LaToya Grate, SCDOT

Others Present:

Kelly Farabee, Wolverton
Bill Jordan, AECOM
Frank Turano, Alliance Consulting Engineers
Pete Nardi, Hilton Head Public Service District
David Spisso, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Hardeeville
John McCann, Town of Hilton Head
Tom Lennox, Town of Hilton Head
Charles Cousins, Planning Director Town of Hilton Head Island
Mark Wilkes, Coastal Region MPO Savannah
Joe Croley, Lowcountry Inside Track

1. Call to Order.
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance
 - b. Invocation
 - c. Introduction of Members, Guests and Staff
 - d. Designees
 - e. Action on October 19, 2018 Meeting Minutes (Draft minutes attached.)

Meeting minutes from Oct. 19, 2018 were unanimously approved.

2. Old Business.
 - a. SCDOT US 278 and US 17 Project Update
ACTION: Information

The SCDOT US 278 project report can be found [here](#). The report states surveys are 45 percent complete, seismic evaluations of existing structures are 30 percent complete, the Preliminary Geotechnical Field Exploration is 55 percent complete, preliminary traffic counts are 95 percent complete, NEPA documentation is 5 percent complete, and public involvement is less than 20 percent complete.

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

- b. Beaufort County Project Update—Colin Kinton
ACTION: Information

Colin Kinton provided an update on various projects in Beaufort County. The report can be found [here](#). Mr. Kinton said the 278/Jenkins Island plans and field review are complete. County staff expect to be notified about BUILD Grants at the end of December. The contract for the project is expected to be awarded in early 2019 with construction starting in spring 2019.

Mr. Kinton said the Hilton Head Island Traffic Signal Re-Timing project, which is part of the 278 Signal System Initiative, is now complete. The report, which can be found [here](#), highlights a roughly 8 percent decrease in travel time, 6 percent increase in travel speed and a 13 to 1 cost benefit ratio. The Adaptive Traffic Signal System for US 278 should be completed next week, Mr. Kinton said.

Mr. Kinton said the three traffic signals in the City of Beaufort are under construction. Poles and mast arms have been installed at two of the intersections and they should be completed in about 45 days, he said. The long arm at the intersection of Carteret and Craven will be shortened.

Mr. Kinton said the WK Alston Connector Road is in the design phase. County staff received preliminary plans are now working on right of way documents and finalizing plans, he said.

Design is also underway on the US 21 Business (Woods Bridge) Intelligent Transportation System. Mr. Kinton said the system will provide motorists with real-time travel information for bridge closings and other traffic delays.

- c. Palmetto Breeze Update—Mary Lou Franzoni

Mary Lou Franzoni said December and January are considered the “off season” for the bus system because of low ridership, and her staff has been using the extra time to tackle various projects. Recently, they’ve focused on facility improvements, including re-covering the roof, installing a new HVAC system and purchasing a new generator.

Ms. Franzoni said they have submitted an urban grant application for the current fiscal year. If the grant is awarded they will order two more trolleys that will most likely arrive in 2020. Ms. Franzoni said she intends to request a higher than usual local match from counties and municipalities. That's because Palmetto Breeze received an additional \$900,000 through the federal urban grant and SCDOT, and a local match is required to use the money.

d. Re-revision to LRTP:

- i. Revision requested by SCDOT and approved by LATS Policy Committee July 13, 2018: "Widening of US 278 from 4 to 6 lanes from Buckingham Plantation Dr. to Squire Pope Rd, including replacement of the EB Mackay Creek Bridge, intersection improvements on Pinkney Island and improvements to Jenkins Island."

Ginnie Kozak provided a brief history of the proposed re-revisions. In July, SCDOT asked the LATS Policy Committee to add language to the LRTP about widening bridges on US 278. The committee approved the change, but there have since been discussions between local officials and SCDOT staff about whether the revised language is too specific.

Wade Luther added that because the NEPA study is supposed to look at all options for improvements, identifying widening as the solution before the study has been completed defeats the purpose of NEPA. Ms. Kozak said the project description will now be changed back to the previous wording.

- ii. Re-revision requested by SCDOT, "US 278 Corridor Improvements from Buckingham Plantation Dr. to Squire Pope Rd., including replacement of the EB Mackay Creek Bridge, intersection improvements on Pinkney Island and improvements to Jenkins Island."

See above.

- iii. Add SCDOT Performance Targets (attached)
ACTION: Approval

Ms. Kozak and Mr. Luther explained the proposed performance targets. Ms. Kozak said SCDOT and the federal government require performance measures for safety, pavement conditions, bridge conditions, and other areas to be included in the LRTP to help measure the effectiveness of various programs. Mr. Luther said the state has adopted performance measures for several different areas to comply with the FAST Act. MPOs have 180 days from when the state set the targets to adopt the state targets or develop their own targets. Mr. Luther said since this is the agency's first time tracking these targets, SCDOT recommends MPOs adopt state targets. Targets are revisited on two-year cycle and updated on a four-year cycle, he said.

Mike McFee asked if the committee was being asked to adopt two-year or four-year targets. Mr. Luther said they are four-year targets, but the targets can be amended at the end of a two-year cycle.

Bill Harkins asked if the targets are used to evaluate the final product or the process. Mr. Luther said the targets are intended to evaluate the overall effectiveness of different programs. For example, a factor in reaching the pavement conditions target will be the region's Pavement Quality Index (PQI), which is affected by both state and local projects.

The revisions to LRTP were unanimously approved.

3. New Business.

- a. Update to LATS UPWP:

- i. LRTA/Palmetto Breeze FTA 5307 Planning funds (attached). pp.22 and 24, highlighted sections only.
ACTION: Information

Ms. Kozak explained the first proposed change is to add money for planning new transit services in Hilton Head and the greater Bluffton-Hilton Head area. The planning would build off of the ideas from October's [New Public Transit Services presentation](#) by adding details about routes and service options.

- ii. Carryover funds from previous fiscal year to fund corridor study (attached). p. 19, highlighted section only.
ACTION: Information

Ms. Kozak explained the second proposed change is to carryover unused funds from last year to this year. The money will be used for a corridor study, which are increasingly favored by SCDOT.

Mr. Luther confirmed SCDOT has moved to a corridor-level approach for planning and building projects to avoid piecemeal projects. Instead of focusing on resurfacing an intersection or widening a particular area, they want to see how these types of projects can be tied together and if economies of scale can be achieved by looking at a corridor as a whole.

- b. Corridor Study Scope of Work. Colin Kinton.
ACTION: Information

Mr. Kinton said the section of SC 170 from the 278 interchange to 462 was selected as the subject of a corridor study because of the potential for future development and traffic issues. The corridor, which is the border between Beaufort and Jasper counties, was studied about 15 or 16 years ago but many of the assumptions have likely changed, Mr. Kinton said. The new study will revisit the prior study and focus on planning for future growth.

4. Other Business

- a. SCSPA Lawsuit. Tom Keveany
ACTION: Information

Tom Keveany sent an email to Mr. Kinton apologizing for not being at the meeting but saying that lawyer David Tedder would attend in his place; he did not. Barbara Clark said she attended a recent meeting with Sen. Tom Davis and representatives from the Southern Carolina Alliance and Port of Charleston. Ms. Clark said representatives from the latter two organizations encouraged county officials to postpone filing the lawsuit until the January council meeting.

5. Public Comment Period.

6. Next Meeting. Friday, February 8, 2019.

7. Adjourn