

Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS)

Policy Committee Meeting

Friday, February 23rd, 2018

10:00 a.m.

TCL New River Campus, Conference Room

Policy Committee Members Present:

Chairman Lisa Sulka, Mayor, Town of Bluffton
Vice Chair Paul Sommerville, Beaufort County
Richard Hamilton, LRTA Board
Sen. Tom Davis, Beaufort County Leg.
Delegation
David Bennett, Mayor, Town of Hilton Head
Island
Barbara Clark, Jasper County Council
Samuel E. Murray, Mayor, Town of Port Royal
Harry Williams, Mayor, City of Hardeeville

Policy Committee Designees Present:

Mike McFee, Council, City of Beaufort

Policy Committee Members Absent:

Robby Robbins, SCDOT Commission
David Blauch, Chairman, LRTA Board
Billy Keyserling, Mayor, City of Beaufort
Sam Glover, SCDOT Commission
Clifton Parker, SCDOT Commission
Rep. Bill Herbkersman, Jasper County Leg.
Delegation Chairman

Technical Committee Members:

Lisa Wagner, Planning Director, Jasper County
Colin Kinton, Chair, Beaufort County
Mary Lou Franzoni, LRTA Executive Director
Katie Woodruff, Planner, City of Hardeeville
Kevin Icard, Planner, Town of Bluffton
Shawn Colin, Planner, Town of Hilton Head

Technical Committee Members Absent:

Lauren Kelly, Planner, City of Beaufort

Linda Bridges, Planning Director, Town of Port
Royal

Kraig Gordon, Chair, Beaufort County CTC

LCOG Staff Present:

Sabrena Graham, Executive Director
Ginnie Kozak, Planning Director
Lawrence Holdsworth, Regional Planner

SCDOT Staff Present:

Craig Winn, Project Manager
Michael Pitts, Program Management
Kenny Larimore, Program Manager
Megan Groves, Program Management
Jim Frierson, SCDOT Office of Public
Transportation

FHWA Staff Present:

Others Present:

David Spisso, Mayor Pro Tem, City of
Hardeeville
Susan Zellman, LRTA Board
Joe Croley, Lowcountry Inside Track
Mark Wilkes, Director, CORE MPO
Mark McCain, Vice Chair, Beaufort County CTC
Tom Kaveaney, Attorney, Beaufort County
Andy Fulghum, Administrator, Jasper County
Gwen Cooler, Planner, Jasper County
Braggs Chisolm, Riverview Charter School
Davis Willis, Riverview Charter School
Chaz Brown, Riverview Charter School
Michael Burchstead, Attorney, Collins and Lacy

1. Call to Order.

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Invocation
- c. Introduction of Members, Guests and Staff
- d. Designees
- e. Action on November 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes (Draft minutes attached.)

The minutes were approved without discussion

2. Old Business.

- a. SCDOT US 278 Project Update presentation—Craig Winn
ACTION: Information

Mr. Winn provided a presentation with a timeline for the progress of the improvements to the US 278 Corridor, including the replacement of the MacKay Bridge to Hilton Head Island. To view the full presentation please visit the LATS website.

<http://www.lowcountrycog.org/Planning/Presentations/SCDOT%20HHI%20Chamber--2-12-18.pdf>

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

Mr. Kinton provided a progress update for projects on Boundary Street, US- 278 on Jenkins Island, signal retiming and adaptive management on US- 278, and signal installation and/or replacement at Hampton Parkway, Carteret and Craven, Boundary and Bladen, and Robert Smalls Parkway and Parris Island Gateway. For more information visit the Beaufort County Traffic Engineering website.

<https://www.bcgov.net/departments/Engineering-and-Infrastructure/traffic-engineering/highway-projects/index.php>

- c. LRTA/Palmetto Breeze Small Urban Area Transit Planning Update—
Mary Lou Franzoni
ACTION: Information

Ms. Franzoni offered details on the ongoing planning process for the small urban area, which is currently administering a travel survey and will be soon conducting focus groups in the region. A bid has been awarded by LRTA to conduct a master plan for improvements to their campus. Three trolleys have been ordered for seasonal service on Hilton Head Island beginning July 1st. LRTA will be participating in the Unite Workplace Summit next week. Hilton Head Bluffton Chamber of Commerce awarded LRTA Organization of the Year for facilitating food distribution to passengers in coordination with the Second Helpings foodbank.

- d. Technical Committee recommendation to adopt Performance Based Planning and Programming (PBPP) amendment to LRTP (attached)

ACTION: Approval

Ms. Kozak presented an amendment to the LRTP which would incorporate safety targets required by FHWA and developed for the State by SCDOT. Mr. Williams asked if data could be supplied for the policy committee that would illuminate safety issues in the LATS network. Mr. Larimore indicated that data would be forthcoming from the SCDOT safety office, and shortly available on the SCDOT website. The amendment was approved.

3. New Business.

- a. Beaufort County Sales Tax Increase Referendum Participation-- Michael Burchstead, Former Chief Council to SC Ethics Commission
ACTION: Information.

Mr. Sommerville reminded the committee of the need to clarify the role of elected officials ahead of the upcoming November 2018 penny sales tax referendum which would support the infrastructure improvements on US-278 and on Lady's Island, and introduced County Attorney Tom Kaveaney. Mr. Kaveaney introduced Michael Burchstead of Lacy and Collins, formerly of the SC Ethics Commission. Mr. Burchstead provided information on the SC Ethics Commission and the role it plays in enforcing the Ethics Act of 1991, with jurisdiction over all public officials and employees in the State. The two laws that relate to referenda are 813-13-46 and 813-765 which prohibit the use of government property, funds, or time to influence an election campaign, which includes referenda. This law does not prohibit public officials from providing information on the referendum and the merits of the projects that it supports, but does prevent officials using public meetings, communication, time, and property in ways that could be considered expressed advocacy such as encouraging citizens to vote for, or support a particular position. This law does not prohibit public officials from using private resources and time for advocacy purposes.

Mr. Burchstead offered that the Ethics Commission is available to offer advisory opinions on situations where the ethics law is not clear, and a formal opinion is being requested on behalf of Beaufort County Council for March 2018.

Mr. Kaveaney added that Beaufort County has a pending solicitation for an advertising firm to educate the public on transportation projects and the sales tax referendum. The solicitation closes March 8th.

- b. LATS Policy Committee 2018 Meeting Schedule

ACTION: Approval

Approved.

4. Other Business.

Ms. Kozak informed the committee that representatives from the offices of Senators Graham and Scott are looking for information on local projects, and that it might be productive for them to visit LATS and find out more about the work of the committee.

Ms. Sulka concurred and suggested that each jurisdiction provide the committee with details on upcoming projects.

5. Public Comment Period.

6. Next Meeting. Friday, April 6, 2018.

7. ADJOURN.