



Meeting Minutes

Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS)
Policy Committee Meeting Friday, October 6th, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Meeting Location: In-Person TCL New River Campus Conference Room

AGENDA

Policy Committee Members Present:

Glen Stanford, Hilton Head Island
Lisa Sulka, Town of Bluffton
Mike McFee, City of Beaufort
Harry Williams, City of Hardeeville
Charles Mitchell, LRTA
Anna Tabernik, Designee Beaufort County

Technical Committee Members Present:

Lisa Wagner, Jasper County
Mary Lou Franzoni, LRTA

SCDOT Staff Present:

Craig Winn
Travis Cooper
Lyle Lee
Megan Groves

Others Present:

Jim Iwanicki, Hilton Head Island
Scott Marshall, City of Beaufort
Brittanee Bishop, Beaufort County
Jared Fralix, Beaufort County
Rose Dobson Elliott, Jasper County
Brena Snowden, City of Hardeeville
Dan Fraizer, Town of Bluffton
Dave Kimball, Lowcountry Bike/Walk
Marilyn Arseneau, Resident City of Hardeeville
Abraham Champagne, WSP
Jessie White, CCL

LCOG Staff Present:

Stephanie Rossi, Planning Director
Sabrena Graham, Executive Director
Michael Gagliardi, Planner

1. Call to Order.

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Invocation
- c. Introduction of Members, Guests and Staff
- d. Designees
- e. Action on August 4th, 2023, Meeting Minutes (Draft minutes attached.)
 - Glenn Stanford moved to approve the meeting minutes, Mike McFee seconded, the motion passed unanimously.



2. Business.

- a. Changes to the Regional Mobility Program—Stephanie Rossi, LCOG/Lyle Lee, SCDOMT
ACTION: Information
 - Stephanie stated that the South Carolina Department of Transportation Commission met on the 21st of September and passed several items related to the new urban boundaries. The new Regional Mobility Program (Guideshare) allotments were also approved.
 - She informed the board that the current allocation is now at \$5.9 million annually, and will be going to \$7.2 million in 2024, and then in to \$8.5 million 2025 going forward. The TIP update will be based on these allocations.
 - The commission also passed a new local match policy clarifying when the state will cover local match versus when the local entities must provide the match share.

- b. Add CTC representative as a voting member to LATS Technical Committee—Stephanie Rossi, LCOG
ACTION: Approve Amendment to the LATS ByLaws
 - Glenn Stanford moved to approve the amendment, Mike McFee seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

- c. 2020-2024 Safety Performance Targets—Stephanie Rossi, LCOG
ACTION: Adopt the 2020-2024 SCDOT Safety Performance Targets
 - Each year the state adopts safety targets per federal requirements. The 2020-2024 safety targets have been set by the state. LATS has the option to adopt their own targets or support the states targets through the projects planned and programmed by the MPO.
 - Glen Stanford makes the motion to approve, Harry Williams seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

- d. Amendment to the FY 2021- FY 2027 TIP: Add \$70,000 in Section 5310 FTA funds for Program for Exceptional People Capital Expansion of a new “Purpose Built ADA” vehicle. — Stephanie Rossi, LCOG
ACTION: Approve Amendment to the FY 2021- FY 2027 TIP.
 - Stephanie noted this is a new non guideshare project FTA Section 5310 Funds The Programs for Exceptional People were awarded \$70,000 in federal funds and \$12,053 in local match funds.
 - Anna Tabernik makes the motion to approve, Mike McFee seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

- e. Approval of the 2024 LATS Policy Committee Meeting Schedule—Stephanie Rossi
ACTION: Approval of Meeting Schedule



- Lisa states that the meeting schedule is always the first Friday of the month, the meetings are every other month starting in February. A meeting can always be added if one has to be added in between she mentions.
- Mike Mcfee moved to approve the meeting schedule, Glenn Stanford seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

3. Status Reports (as time allows).

a. SCDOT Project Updates—Craig Winn/Megan Groves/Lyle Lee, SCDOT

ACTION: Information

- Craig Winn provided an update on the I-95 widening from the Stateline to Exit 8. SCDOT approved the ROW plans on September 21st and SCDOT has started ROW negotiations. Most of the ROW acquisitions are around Exit 8 with smaller portions around Exit 5 and John Smith Rd. A sub consultant is working on the ROW and most of the appraisals have been completed. 95% bridge plans will start coming in in November. 60% roadway plans for Exit 3 are coming next month for preliminary ROW with final plans expected in November. Next submittal is November 10th which is when SCDOT can start coordination with CSX to get on with ROW and approval from them. 95% of roadway plans are in February, which is about the time where SCDOT will start getting final plans. Everything is on schedule per Winn.

- I-95 Exit 8-21 is currently advertised for a consultant. The Exit 21-33 segment is in consultant negotiations right now. Exit 8 and John Smith will not be under construction at the same time, the goal is to get John Smith done first. They're all lumped together as the same overall project (I-95 and side projects along I-95).

- Carig provided an update on the US 17 widening. SCDOT is still waiting on the surcharge on the NB side. Drainage installations have started on the SB side, culvert extensions two and three are done, there is one more extension that has to be complete, but there is work being done on the other side of the road. The project is on schedule. September 2025 is the completion date.

- Glenn Stanford asks if the agreement between Georgia and South Carolina on the Back River Bridge has changed, if this relieved some of LATS' financial obligations for that project. Craig says no. Lisa wants an update from Georgia on their status with their portion of the project. A question was asked on when that project (Back River Bridge) would likely be programmed, Craig stated 2026.

b. Beaufort County Engineering Update—Jared Fralix, Beaufort County

ACTION: Information

- Jared updated LATS with a couple "wins". Windmill Harbor's traffic light has been installed and is now live. Secondly, the consultant, CBB, gave a presentation to the County Council on the US 278 corridor project. They will be giving that same presentation to the Hilton Head Town Council next week.



- Jared updated LATS on the SC 170 the near-term project intersection improvements. The contract was awarded. He states that this is temporary to provide for immediate relief before a longer-term project can be started.
- The Reimagine Ribaut Road project held an open house meeting on September 24th, to get public input to move forward with recommendations. Beaufort County will be working with the city, town, and Beaufort Memorial to get final comments from those stakeholders.
- A question was raised about 170/Argent, on when a second left turn lane will be added but Jared stated there is asphalt work to be done and restriping. Signal light timing will also be adjusted to improve the flow on Argent and 170.
- Concerns were raised by LATS committee members about the timing of all the 278 lights. Jared mentions that Hilton Head's engineer is working with adaptive signal timing with the hope to have that signal technology online in November. Jim, Hilton Head's engineer stated there was a slight delay which they are working through. The first part of November he expects the "smart" technology to come online. Jared mentions that these lights will have the technology to assess current traffic situations to adjust the timing of that individual light.

c. Palmetto Breeze Update—Mary Lou Franzoni, Palmetto Breeze

ACTION: Information

- Mary Lou begins the update mentioning that a new pilot route for the Bluffton Breeze has begun. It's a second route that is called the Okatie Route, traversing from the Food Lion near Sun City to the stores and medical building near the Hardeeville Walmart, then back to the Food Lion. It connects to the Buckwalter Route. She hopes that this will have a stop in Sun City in the future.

d. Corridor Studies & FY 2024- FY 2033 TIP Updates—Stephanie Rossi, LCOG

ACTION: Information

- Stephanie mentions that she has been meeting with LATS members to develop the new TIP. A draft will be put together to bring back to the policy committee for review.
- The SC 315/46 and Bluffton Parkway Extension has been issued a limited notice to proceed. The kickoff meeting is scheduled for next week. There has been a hold up because of a question on whether local match will be required, because a portion of this study utilizes a road that is not a state road. SCDOT will require local match for the Bluffton Parkway portion of the study.
- The Safety Action Plan had four qualified proposals. Two teams were selected for interviews which took place earlier this week. LCOG will enter into negotiations with the selected team.
- The 278/170 study is beginning the LTA process.
- The Northern Beaufort Transit Study local match request letters have gone out and a scope of work is drafted. She will offer an opportunity for staff from Beaufort County, the City of Beaufort and Port Royal to review the scope of work before going out to bid. Palmettos Breeze has already reviewed the scope.



e. Advisory Comments—Policy Committee members

ACTION: Information

- Lyle mentions that carbon reduction funds will be coming into LATS between FY 2024 and 2027, an extra \$1 million that he wanted to make LATS aware of, which can go towards signal performance improvements and corridors with high delays. More information to come on this program.

4. Other Business

a. Correction to the FY 2021-FY 2027 TIP for I-95 SB over Bagshaw Swamp: shift non guideshare funding from FY 2023 to FY 2024 and increase from \$4,309,462 to \$5,386,828 — Stephanie Rossi, LCOG

ACTION: Information

b. Correction to the FY 2021-FY 2027 TIP for I-95 Corridor Improvement from GA State Line to US 278: increase non guideshare funding for Right of Way funding in years 2023, 2024 and 2025 — Stephanie Rossi, LCOG

ACTION: Information

5. Public Comment.

- None

6. Next Meeting.

a. Friday December 1st, 2023

7. Adjourn.

- Harry Williams made the motion to adjourn, Mike McFee seconded, the motion passed unanimously.