

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS)**  
**Meeting of the Policy Committee**  
**Friday, June 26, 2015 – 10:00 a.m.**  
**TCL New River Campus Board Room – Bluffton, SC**

*LCOG staff sent agenda packets to Policy Committee members and posted an agenda in the lobby of the LCOG office at least 24 hours prior to the meeting time.*

**Policy Committee Members Present:**

Chairman Lisa Sulka, Mayor Town of Bluffton

**Policy Committee Designees Present:**

Alice Howard, Beaufort County Council, for  
Chairman Paul Sommerville  
Michael McFee, City of Beaufort Council, for Mayor  
Billy Keyserling  
Brana Snowden, Planning Director, Town of  
Hardeeville, for Mayor Bronco Bostick  
Tom Lennox, Town of Hilton Head Council, for  
Mayor David Bennett  
Richard Hamilton for Chairman David Blauch,  
LRTA

**Policy Committee Members Absent:**

Billy Keyserling, Mayor City of Beaufort  
David Bennett, Mayor Town of Hilton Head Island  
David Blauch, Chairman LRTA Board  
Barbara Clark, Chairwoman Jasper County Council  
Bronco Bostick, Mayor City of Hardeeville  
Sen. Tom Davis, Beaufort County Leg. Delegation  
Samuel E. Murray, Mayor Town of Port Royal  
Sam Glover, Commissioner SCDOT  
Clifton Parker, Commissioner SCDOT  
Rep. Bill Herbkersman, Jasper County Leg.  
Delegation Chairman  
Paul Sommerville, Chairman Beaufort County  
Council  
Jim Rozier, Commissioner SCDOT

**Technical Committee Members Present:**

Mary Lou Franzoni, LRTA Executive Director  
Jill Foster, Town of Hilton Head Island  
Karen Jarrett, Town of Bluffton

**Technical Committee Members Absent:**

Colin Kinton, Beaufort County  
Lauren Kelly, City of Beaufort  
Katie Woodruff, City of Hardeeville  
LeNolon Edge, Jasper County  
Linda Bridges, Town of Port Royal

**FHWA Staff Present:**

Jessica Hekter, Community Planner and Realty  
Manager

**SCDOT Staff Present:**

David Grey, SCDOT Office of Public Transit  
Kenny Larimore, SCDOT Area Planning Engineer  
Michael Pitts, SCDOT Program Management  
Joy Riley, SCDOT Program Manager

**LCOG Staff Present:**

Ginnie Kozak, Planning Director  
Jonathan Sherwood, Community and Regional  
Planner

**Others Present:**

Susan Zellman, Sun City Gov't and Business Affairs

## 1. Call to Order

Chairman, Ms. Sulka, called the meeting to order.

### a. Pledge of Allegiance

### b. Invocation

Mr. McFee gave the invocation.

### c. Tribute to Senator Clementa Pinckney

Ms. Sulka paid tribute to Sen. Clementa Pinckney by dedicating the MPO's work to the Senator. She spoke to his accomplishments and commitment and service to the community, including to transportation work. She announced an anonymous scholarship made in the Senator's name for a student going to USCB and encouraged people to contribute to the fund.

### d. Introduction of Members, Guests and Staff

Ms. Sulka asked members, guests, and staff to introduce themselves. The designees were announced as Brana Snowden for City of Hardeeville, Tom Lennox for the Town of Hilton Head Island, Michael McFee for the City of Beaufort, and Rick Hamilton, For LRTA.

### e. Action on June 27, 2014 Minutes

Ms. Sulka asked if everyone had the chance to review the minutes and, if so, for a motion to approve. Mr. Hamilton motioned to approve the minutes, Mr. McFee seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

## 2. Old Business

### a. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) – Jonathan Guy – Kimley-Horn

Mr. Guy reviewed the status of the LRTP and announced that the SCDOT Commission passed the Prioritization Criteria without comment. He explained that the consultants have started the process of ranking transportation projects with the approved criteria according to the data available to them at this time, such as livability, congestion mitigation, and multimodal integration measures. He said that SCDOT is actively working on providing the necessary data to finish the ranking. Then, the consultants will bring the final list of projects to the Policy Committee. Once the rankings are finished, they will be able to complete the financially constrained plan and implementation comments of the LRTP, which will finish the plan.

He spoke about the public meeting held in Hardeeville in April, attended by 40 participants and local media, which provided favorable coverage on TV and newspapers. He noted good comments from the public, which were centered on bike and pedestrian facilities and how the communities could make meaningful connections.

### b. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update: Final Draft Attached – Ginnie Kozak

Ms. Kozak presented on the UPWP, a document with format and contents standard per FHWA. She noted that the UPWP was submitted to SCDOT, Federal Highways Administration and Federal Transit Administration, and they sent the document back for a few minor changes that were made. The Technical Committee will use the document to determine what work will be done over the next two years, such as updates to the regional model. Ms. Jarrett added that she has consulted with Ms. Kozak to make changes. Ms. Hekter explained that once approved, she will review it and the document will be approved, then SCDOT can start billing FHWA. Mr. McFee made motion to approve the UPWP, Mr. Hamilton seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

**c. Designation of Public Transit Service Provider In Small Urban Area (UZA) – LRTA/Palmetto Breeze**

Ms. Franzoni gave an update on the designation of Public Transit Service Provider. She said that she has made a presentation to the jurisdictions in the Small Urbanized Area: Town of Hilton Head Island, Town of Bluffton, and the surrounding unincorporated area of Beaufort County. All jurisdiction are planning to pass the resolution designating the public transit provider in July. The Policy Committee will need to pass a designation resolution after the jurisdictions. Since it will take six to eight months for the Federal Transit Administration to process the designation, members and staff discussed the need for a meeting or other alternatives to a special meeting to approve and sign the resolution on behalf of the MPO Policy Committee. Ms. Hekter advised that the Policy Committee authorize the Chair to sign the document once the jurisdictions pass the resolutions. Mr. Hamilton made a motion to approve LRTA as the Designated Recipient for public transit and allow the Chair, Ms. Sulka, to sign the document after the pending corresponding resolutions from the jurisdictions, Ms. Howard seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**d. TIGER Grant Application Update – Jonathan Guy - Kimley Horn**

Mr. Guy explained problems with applying for the TIGER Grant for the US 17 widening project. He noted that obtaining the several million-dollar local match required was not possible under the short time frame for the application period. He explained that he and Ms. Kozak are working on a marketing packet to be used for applying for other grants and sources of funding as they are identified and/or become available. I will highlight the signature nature of the project for the area, but also regionally, including Savannah and Georgia. He noted the other potential funding sources, including USDA, Homeland Security, and Department of Defense.

**e. SCDOT Project Update – Joy Riley, SCDOT Program Manager**

Ms. Riley gave an update on the status of projects throughout the MPO Region. Mayor Sulka asked if the information was available on the website. Ms. Riley said it was and that it is updated regularly and can be separated out by town, county, and MPO region. Ms. Riley said that she would send Ms. Kozak the link and Ms. Kozak said she would distribute it to the Policy and Technical Committees. For US 17, the value engineering study will be finished soon and Ms. Riley will give an update next meeting with the details from the study.

**3. New Business**

**a. Transportation Conformity MOA – Ms. Kozak**

Ms. Kozak explained that this was required under the Clean Air Standards for DHEC, but stressed that LATS is not a non-attainment area. As a result, the regulation does not apply to the Lowcountry region, due to the lack of pollution and presence of ocean breezes. Mr. Larrimore added that DHEC requires all MPOs to sign the MOA to assume responsibility of the non-attainment process. He added the coastal area has very low readings for pollution. Ms. Hekter described the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and that only ozone and particulate matter apply to South Carolina at this time. Ms. Howard expressed concern that at some point pollution from the Savannah area may change the status, but added it was not likely any time soon. Ms. Howard made the motion to approve signing the Transportation Conformity MOA, Mr. McFee seconded and it passed unanimously.

**4. Adjourn**

Ms. Sulka adjourned the meeting at 10:45 AM.