

Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS)

Policy Committee Meeting

Friday, April 28, 2017

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
Council Chair

Harry Williams, Mayor, City of Hardeeville
Sen. Tom Davis, Beaufort County Leg.
Delegation

Richard Hamilton, Vice Chairman of the Board,
Lowcountry Regional Transit Authority

Policy Committee Designees Present:

Van Willis, Town Manager, Town of Port Royal
Tom Lennox, Town Council, Town of Hilton
Head

Lisa Wagner, Planning Director, Jasper County
Mike Mcfee, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Beaufort

Policy Committee Members Absent:

Samuel E. Murray, Mayor, Town of Port Royal
David Bennett, Mayor, Town of Hilton Head
Island

Billy Keyserling, Mayor, City of Beaufort

Barbara Clark, Jasper County Council

Sam Glover, SCDOT Commission

Clifton Parker, SCDOT Commission

Robby Robbins, SCDOT Commission

Rep. Bill Herbkersman, Jasper County Leg.
Delegation Chairman

Technical Committee Members:

Colin Kinton, Chair, Beaufort County

Katie Woodruff, City of Hardeeville

Mary Lou Franzoni, LRTA /Palmetto Breeze

Kevin Icard, Town of Bluffton

Kraig Gordon, Chair, Beaufort County CTC

Charles Cousins, Town of Hilton Head Island

Technical Committee Members Absent:

Lauren Kelly, Planner, City of Beaufort

Linda Bridges, Planning Director, Town of Port
Royal

LCOG Staff Present:

Sabrena Graham, Executive Director

Ginnie Kozak, Planning Director

Lawrence Holdsworth, Regional Planner

SCDOT Staff Present:

Brent Rewis, Program Manager (via telephone)

Craig Winn, Project Manager

Kenny Larimore, Program Manager

FHWA Staff Present:

Others Present:

Stewart Rodman, County Council, Beaufort
County

Jon Schor, Greater Island Council

Carolyn Kassel, City Council, City of Hardeeville

Don Kassel, Planning Commissioner, City of
Hardeeville

Nat Ball, US Army Corps of Engineers

Jon Gage, Moffatt Nichol

David Spisso, Mayor Pro Tem, City of
Hardeeville

Mark Wilkes, Interim Executive Director Coastal
Region MPO

Frank Turano, Engineer, Alliance Consulting

1. Call to Order.
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance
 - b. Invocation
 - c. Introduction of Members, Guests and Staff
 - d. Designees
 - e. Action on March 31, 2017 Meeting Minutes (Draft minutes attached.)
The Committee approved the minutes unanimously without amendment.

2. Old Business.

- a. SCDOT Project Update—Craig Winn
ACTION: information

Craig Winn offered details on the progress of SCDOT projects within the LATS boundary, including the repaving and reconstruction of US-17. The full report may be accessed at the LCOG website.

http://www.lowcountrycog.org/planning_and_transportation/transportation/transportation_project_reports.php

- b. Beaufort County Project Update—Colin Kinton

Mr. Kinton provided details about ongoing Beaufort County roads improvements including updates to the Boundary Street project, access management at Jenkins Island, intersection improvements, emergency vehicle preemption, and resurfacing projects throughout the County. The full report may be accessed at either the Beaufort County or LCOG websites.

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

http://www.lowcountrycog.org/planning_and_transportation/transportation/transportation_project_reports.php

- c. LRTA/Palmetto Breeze Update—Mary Lou Franzoni

Ms. Franzoni described the addition of the urban funding to the STIP, as well as ongoing efforts to secure local match from area jurisdictions. Ms. Franzoni suggested the use of a utility easement on Burnt Church road as a potential park and ride lot or transfer center. Mr. Larimore added that the ARTS MPO and Aiken County might be resource for this project with their recent completion of a park and ride lot.

- d. Jasper Ocean Terminal Update—Nat Ball, Army Corps of Engineers
ACTION: Information

Nat Ball described the Corps' role in the scoping of the JOT and the development of an EIS. Additional detail on this process can be found at the following link.

<http://www.jasperoceanterminaleis.com/>

Mr. Davis added that the current Senate budget includes a one million dollar appropriation for the JOT. The process for determining the board structures for various JOT developments is also underway.

- e. Technical Committee Follow-up from March 31 meeting:
 - i. Recommendations re Greater Island Council Technical Committee Resolution (resolution and Tech Committee recommendation attached).

Ms. Sulka provided some background on her recommendation that the LATS technical committee review the resolution from Beaufort County Council establishing a steering committee to coordinate with LATS and area governments on improvements to the US 278 corridor. Mr. Kinton summarized the technical committee's deliberation and choice of the following recommendation for an alternative resolution for the consideration of the Policy Committee. Mr. Kinton read the following recommendation.

Recommend that LATS Policy Committee serve as the designated advisory and steering committee for the proposed federally funded highway project as designated by the Governor of South Carolina. The Policy Committee will have regular and frequent correspondence with SCDOT regarding the project to provide input and receive detailed progress reports. The LATS Policy Committee will utilize the Technical Advisory Committee for closer technical design related coordination with SCDOT. The Policy Committee welcomes any citizen groups, such as the GIC Gateway Corridor Committee, to serve in an advocacy role with state representatives and others.

Mr. Winn said it was important as the project proceeds that federal funding depended on LATS, SCDOT, and Beaufort County communicating to federal entities with one voice. Mr. Winn outlined a process taking three years where the EIS statement is developed and eventually approved at the federal level. Broad public engagement would be one component included in this process.

Mr. Rewis described the steering committee composition as SCDOT, Beaufort County, and LATS. Other citizen groups will be considered stakeholders and engaged during regular public participation.

Stewart Rodman provided background of the interest of the Greater Island Council around transportation improvements in the region. John Schor from the GIC affirmed their role as advocates for needed transportation improvements in the region, particularly the bridges over Mackay and Skull Creek. Mr. Larimore suggested that the LATS

allocate a brief period for public commentary during Policy Committee meetings. Ms. Sulka agreed that this would be a welcome and necessary addition.

ii. ACTION: Approval

The recommended resolution was passed unanimously.

3. Other Business.

Ms. Sulka encouraged the committee to revisit the LRTP to ensure that all necessary updates are included in the ongoing revision.

4. Next Meeting

June 9th 10 am

5. ADJOURN