

Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS)

Policy Committee Meeting

Friday, October 6th, 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  
Sen. Tom Davis, Beaufort County Leg.  
Delegation

Barbara Clark, Jasper County Council  
David Bennett, Mayor, Town of Hilton Head  
Island  
Robby Robbins, SCDOT Commission  
Samuel E. Murray, Mayor, Town of Port Royal

**Policy Committee Designees Present:**

Susan Zellman, LRTA Board  
David Spisso, Mayor Pro Tem, City of  
Hardeeville  
Mike McFee, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Beaufort

**Policy Committee Members Absent:**

Harry Williams, Mayor, City of Hardeeville  
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  
Richard Hamilton, LRTA Board

**Technical Committee Members:**

Lisa Wagner, Planning Director, Jasper County  
Colin Kinton, Chair, Beaufort County  
Mary Lou Franzoni, LRTA Executive Director  
Anne Cyran, Planner, Town of Hilton Head  
Katie Woodruff, Planner, City of Hardeeville  
Kraig Gordon, Chair, Beaufort County CTC  
Will Howard, Planner, Town of Bluffton

**Technical Committee Members Absent:**

Lauren Kelly, Planner, City of Beaufort

Linda Bridges, Planning Director, Town of Port  
Royal

**LCOG Staff Present:**

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

**SCDOT Staff Present:**

Christy Hall, Secretary of Transportation  
Brent Rewis, Senior Program Manager  
Michael Pitts, Program Management  
Kenny Larimore, Program Manager  
Megan Groves, Project Intern  
Emily Thomas, Traffic Safety  
Crystal McCutcheon, Planning

**FHWA Staff Present:**

Dan Hinton, Safety and Traffic Engineer  
Jessica Hekter, Planning

**Others Present:**

Eleanor Lightsey, Lowcountry Inside Track  
Joe Croley, Lowcountry Inside Track  
Mark McCain, Beaufort County CTC  
Gwen Cooler, Development Coordinator, Jasper  
County  
Andy Fulgham, Administrator, Jasper County  
Rob McFee, Administrator, Beaufort County  
John McCann, Council, Town of Hilton Head  
Joe Fragale, Greater Island Council  
Keil Jenkins, Planner, City of Hardeeville  
Jon Gage, Moffatt & Nichol  
Frank Turano, Engineer, Alliance Consulting  
Andre Nanche, Hilton Head Island

1. Call to Order.

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

2. Old Business.

- a. SCDOT Project Update—Michael Pitts  
ACTION: Information

Mr. Pitts provided an overview of projects in the LATS boundary including progress on the Jarvis Creek Bridge replacement, the SC 802 roundabout, reconstruction and tree clearing on I-95, and the widening of US-17. For more information, reference the full report on the LCOG website.

<http://www.lowcountrycog.org/Planning/Project%20Reports/SCDOT%20Project%20Stat%20Report%20-10.06.2017.pdf>

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

Mr. Kinton offered details on the progress of the Boundary Street Project and planning for the Jenkins Island access management project. For more details on these projects please visit the Beaufort County Transportation website.

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

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

Ms. Franzoni gave information on LRTA activities starting with the planning for 5307 Small Urban funds, which are now active. LRTA hired additional administrative staff in charge of procurement and they are developing projects for upgrades to facilities and additions to the fleet. LRTA is continuing to coordinate with Santee Cooper for the development of a park and ride lot on a utility easement on Burnt Church Road, a project that will eventually need to be incorporated into the TIP to qualify for funding from SCDOT. Ms. Franzoni provided details relating to the disposal of a LRTA property on Argent Road, which will need to complete a wetland delineation before appraisal. Ms. Kozak added that the RFP for service planning in the urban area has been posted.

3. New Business.

a. Presentation: SCDOT & MPO/COG Planning Partnership—Secretary Hall

i. Rebuilding our Roads

ii. Performance Measures-Kenny Larimore

ACTION: Information

Secretary Hall provided an overview of the strategic objectives of SCDOT in utilizing the new transportation funding approved by legislation, emphasizing a coordinated approach with COG's and MPO's to achieve common goals. Ms. Hall emphasized focus areas of safety, bridge condition, pavement condition, and mobility. Ms. Hall offered how the new funding would be allocated between these goals, with safety as a first priority and secondly clearing the backlog of needed repairs and maintenance to pavement and bridges.

Mr. Davis inquired as to how much forthcoming recurring funding would be available to repair or retrofit the remaining three bridge spans to Hilton Head Island not currently identified for repair by SCDOT, and recommended a more detailed analysis of the criteria used by SCDOT to judge their obsolescence. Mr. Davis recommended that with the future commitment of safety funds by SCDOT, that the funding of the US 17 widening be revisited to see whether the State could account for a greater portion of those costs. Mr. Bennet addressed his concern over the Hilton Head Island bridges from the perspective of the potential economic impact of increased congestion on regional workforce and productivity. Ms. Sulka asked how transportation planning can be more proactive, in terms of addressing future requirements of industry and economic development, in reference to both the Hilton Head bridges and the future Jasper Ocean Terminal.

Mr. Larimore provided an introduction the implementation of performance measures which will help to evaluate the impact of infrastructure investments, and comply with Federal guidance on target setting for state DOT's and MPO's. Mr. Larimore explained that seven total performance measures will be evaluated, with safety targets being the first needed for consideration by the MPO. MPO's will adopt these goals and targets as part of the LRTP, with reporting required every two years.

Emily Thomas from the Traffic Safety Office offered additional details on the safety targets required, including serious injuries per VMT, fatalities per VMT, number of serious injuries, and number of fatalities. MPO's can either adopt the State targets for safety, or adopt the State's targets, as is recommended by SCDOT. Ms. Thomas offered statistics on the common types of collisions, whereas nighttime accidents and roadway departures are of particular concern Statewide. Ms. Thomas explained that these targets should inform the programming of projects, insofar as how they can incorporate safety components.

For more information, reference the full presentation at the LCOG website.

<http://www.lowcountrycog.org/Planning/Presentations/Funding%20and%20Target%20Setting%20October%206th,%202017.pdf>

b. Discussion: Progress Report, Beaufort County CTC—Kraig Gordon

ACTION: Information

Mr. Gordon provided the board with information on a CTC consultant's report stating that 94% of the County roads were rated as fair or good. Mr. Gordon explained that ACT 40, while raising the funding provided to the CTC from gas tax, requires that a higher percentage be spent on State secondary roads. Mr. Gordon provided information on Beaufort County and municipal road projects including pavement rehabilitation, bridge improvements, and signal retiming. For more information, please view the full report on the LCOG website.

<http://www.lowcountrycog.org/Planning/Project%20Reports/BC%20CTC%20Update%20Handout%20Oct%202017%20Pg%201-3.pdf>

4. Other Business.
5. Public Comment Period.
6. Next Meeting—Friday, November 10, 2017; Voting Members Workshop—TBA 2017
7. ADJOURN.