

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 10

Date: July 11, 2020

Time: 10:00 am – 11:55 pm

Location: Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees

Larenda Baxley, Ferndale
Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale
Gilbert Reeves, Ferndale
Earl Muhammad, Ferndale/Muhammad Mosque
Ruth Mae Whitney, Highland Terrace
Jeanaris Bannister, Liberty Park
Carolyn Varner, Liberty Park
Cynthia Anderson, Liberty Park
Doris Twiggs, Liberty Park
Angela Anderson, Russelldale
Prayonda Cooper, Joppa Way
Rick Day, Stantec
Amy Sackaroff, Stantec
LaTonya Derrick, Stantec
Ryan White, Stantec

Horrace Tobin, Stantec (Community Office)
Joy Riley, SCDOT (Project Manager)
Chad Long, SCDOT
David Kelly, SCDOT
Pamela Foster, FHWA
Yolonda Jordan, FHWA
Shane Belcher, FHWA
Kendra Stewart, The Riley Center
Marla Robertson, The Riley Center
Maxine Smith, Maximum Consulting
Mattese Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Carolyn Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Clay Middleton, Maximum Consulting
Jamelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies

Participant Summary:

Total participants: 29

Ferndale: 4	Adjacent/affected communities/agencies: 3	Community Office: 1
Highland Terrace: 1	SCDOT: 3	Stantec: 4
Liberty Park: 4	FHWA: 3	Facilitator: 1
Russelldale: 1	Community Liaisons: 4	

Meeting Summary:

Welcome and Introductions

- Roll call was taken, verifying participants connecting by phone only. There was a host and technical contact to address any issues with Microsoft Teams or phone connections during the meeting.
- Participants were welcomed and reminded that the meeting would be recorded for accuracy of meeting minutes.
- An overview of the agenda was provided:
 - Review of Administrative Items
 - Open Mic session

- Debrief Technical Review Committee Meeting #1
- Replacement Community Facility Concepts
- Review Draft Community Mitigation Plan
- CAC Environmental Justice Advocacy Training Overview
- Livability Plan Scope Development Session
- Conducting Outreach in a Public Health Crisis
- Update on Coordination with Local Organizations
- Outreach Update
- Summary & Next Steps

Administrative Items

- A brief review of Microsoft Teams logistics and features (general and private chat, raise hand icon)
 - Chat dialogue will be saved
 - All participants had access to Microsoft Teams, paper copy of CAC Meeting #10 packet, and phone connection
- Review of virtual meeting etiquette
- CAC Meeting #9 minutes were approved

Open Mic

- The floor was opened for discussion.
- CAC members and other participants were asked for insights or takeaways from CAC Meeting #9 (June 6, 2020) and the CAC Listening Session with the City of North Charleston (June 16, 2020).
- CAC members provided no comments or questions regarding previous meetings.
- CAC Members were asked if there were any comments or ideas shared by neighbors or residents they would like to discuss with the CAC or the project team.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - It would be helpful to have a timeline of all project activities
 - Project team member: Does the CAC prefer high-level or near-term milestones? The project team can provide as much detail as needed in developing a timeline.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - A timeline with all details is preferable because people in the community do not have the full picture of what is going and what will happen in the future.
 - I will defer to SCDOT regarding the long-term project construction.
 - We will prepare a timeline and include the mitigation plan schedule, the environmental document schedule, the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the final EIS statement, and transition from a Community Advisory Council to a project oversight committee and right-of-way acquisition.
 - This is the process of refining that timeline, with each meeting, with newer and clearer milestones to keep the CAC engaged.

- CAC Member feedback:
 - Providing the CAC with a timeline would assist the CAC in answering the questions they are presented with.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - Is the project team preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or an Environmental Assessment (EA)?
 - Project team member: The project team is preparing an EIS.
 - Allow the project team to draft a timeline to present at our next CAC meeting.
 - If it does not have enough detail or include information you need, the project team will make sure it gets incorporated.

Debrief Technical Review Committee Meeting #1

- The CAC held their first listening session with the City of North Charleston on June 16, 2020.
 - The session was the opportunity for the CAC to share ideas, concepts, and mitigation plans that have been discussed with the project team.
 - As a part of this process, we held the first Technical Review Committee (TRC) meeting on June 24, 2020.
 - This will be a series of ongoing meetings with the purpose of evaluating the requests and recommendations made by the CAC from a technical and policy standpoint and providing guidance and direction on how we implement programs and projects.
 - These meetings will parallel the Community Advisory Council meeting process.
 - The second meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 13th.
 - This is an opportunity for the technical and design staff to meet with the City of North Charleston staff to begin taking a more detailed look at all the requests that are made by the CAC.
 - The first meeting focused strictly on the community centers, so feedback from the initial meeting is related solely to design, review, construction, and programming related to community centers.
 - As the TRC continues to meet on different aspects of the project, we will report back to the CAC on expanded topics related to the project such as community improvements and mitigation plans.
 - The first take away is for the CAC to provide specific details regarding desired programs and what needs to be incorporated in the community center that will support specific programs that the CAC wants to see in the community centers.
 - There are also funding and potential staffing requirements that may need to be considered as we review specific programs requested by the CAC.
 - The CAC is asked to share specific programming ideas that the project team can take to the next TRC to help in guiding how the facilities are designed.
 - Some of the things the CAC discussed in previous meetings, for instance, were cultural programming or programs geared towards senior-level activities.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - One of the things the CAC has discussed is community block parties.
 - Project Manager recommended the CAC look at programs the other two senior centers are offering.
 - SCDOT is not as familiar with the programs that other existing centers offer.

- The City of North Charleston wants to have more information to be prepared for the expectations the CAC will have of them.
 - I suggest CAC members think about their programming preferences and bring ideas to the next meeting to discuss.
 - Look at what the senior center is offering and pull out what you feel is important for this community center, and perhaps look at what some of the other local youth centers are offering to bring back some more specific ideas, so they (the City) can understand the commitment for staff and program costs.
- It may be beneficial for the project team to develop a survey for the CAC, so we can assist them by listing different programming options.
 - This may allow them to identify various program options while also allowing them to select the programs that they are interested in that are not captured as part of the survey.
 - The project team developed an inventory of existing City of North Charleston programs that will be attached to the survey.
- The next key takeaway is related to the CAC's request that the new community centers provide employment opportunities for community residents .
 - The City of North Charleston cannot make hiring community/neighborhood residents for staffing community centers a requirement, but they can make it as a preference in job postings.
 - The project team views this as a positive outcome because the City of North Charleston has committed to community-based staffing considerations and preferences at the community centers.
- Another key item that came out at the conversations regarding inclusion of enclosed space at the Highland Terrace Community Center was the city noted that they want to continue to host afterschool programs at as many community centers as possible.
 - The City was in favor of constructing an indoor facility at Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Community Center and, if secured, at the Russelldale site as well.
 - The project team would like to give the CAC an opportunity to provide their feedback on this topic.
 - The City of North Charleston recommended removing the half-basketball court (from the proposed design) at the Highland Terrace-Liberty Park community center as a way to increase the size of an indoor facility.
 - The project team needs feedback from the CAC on the issue of having a larger facility at Highland Terrace-Liberty Park.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - We will look at summer programs for young people, including partnership with Danny Jones for swimming lessons.
 - African American children experience some of the highest rates of drowning because they do not get swimming lessons.
 - Community centers should also provide access to voting. You have a lot of elderly people who use the community center at Liberty Park to vote.
 - Regarding voting and enclosed space at Highland Terrace-Liberty Park, it is important to maintain that space because it is currently a voting precinct. We need to continue to allow for making voting as accessible as possible and making sure that space is large enough to accommodate voters.

- CAC Member feedback:
 - It may be possible to work with the board of registration office to register young people to vote at that location as well.
 - Bike safety could potentially be another youth program. It could include bike safety sessions, teaching the kids how to ride safely, as well as teaching them to take care of their bikes, and how to fit helmets properly.

- CAC Member feedback:
 - Another program idea is installing child safety seats.
 - If there are individuals that you know already have a trade or a passion about a specific program, that might be a great way to funnel neighborhood labor into the community centers.

- CAC Member feedback:
 - How involved will the advisory council be in the hiring process to ensure fairness in the selection process?
 - That is a question we will have to follow up on with the City because community center staff will be official City of North Charleston employees.
 - The project team will inquire about current hiring practices and whether community members can be engaged in the hiring process.
 - This should be a strong recommendation because the City/government tends to block out community or citizens and make the determinations (exclusive of the residents), even though they say that they are for the residents.
 - We should look at programs for single parents, who might need some classes on parenting skills.

- CAC Member feedback:
 - We should implement a summer youth hiring program. Providing jobs to youth is one of the primary ways to keep youth out of trouble.
 - Project team member noted that it appeared everyone agreed with the enclosed indoor space at Highland Terrace – Liberty Park location, and that the primary goal for that location is identifying programs.
 - One of the key takeaways for Highland Terrace was to continue using it is a voting precinct.
 - Identify programs to be incorporated into all of the community centers, bike and car safety, parenting, nutrition, tutoring programs, family skills , and investigating and recommending summer youth hiring programs were noted as potential community center programs.
 - Those are all things we will take to the city during the TRC meeting on July 13th, but we will also create a survey so we can continue to develop this list for potential programs.
 - Another key takeaway from the June 24th TRC meeting was specific to the Russelldale location.
 - The parcel that was initially being considered for the Russellville pocket park was purchased by another entity, so the City noted that they would work with the project team to try to identify any abandoned or condemned properties within the Russelldale community that could potentially be used as a location for the pocket park.
 - The final topics to be discussed with the City during the July 13th Technical Review Committee meeting are connectivity and traffic calming measures.
 - We will be looking at identifying locations for recommended sidewalks and crosswalks, as well as measures to reduce speeding within the community and improved bike, pedestrian, and transit connections in our July 13th TRC discussion.

Replacement Community Facility Concepts

Filbin Creek Community Center

- Review of the most current revisions to the community center conceptual drawings.
- There were environmental concerns at the parcel that we are initially looking at for the Filbin Creek location at Elder Avenue.
 - The project team is looking at an additional location in the vicinity of Deacon Street and Elder Avenue as another potential location for the Filbin Creek Community Center.
 - The updated concept for Filbin Creek indicates new access via Deacon Street, as well as from Elder Street. With this drawing, there are two entry points to improve efficient access and circulation.
 - In previous meetings, a common concern expressed by CAC members was the potential difficulty in easily accessing the community center when several programs are held simultaneously.
- Regarding gym space, there is more than 7,900 square feet of gym space, 4,500 square feet of office space, and 3,600 square feet of classroom space.
 - The project team will continue to evaluate how we can make some of the office and classroom space more flexible with features such as dividers so community members can have multiple uses for these spaces.
 - Regarding connectivity and existing paths on the Filbin Creek, the project team seeks to improve connections to existing pathways as well as to existing and proposed sidewalks.
 - The project team is also seeking to coordinate with the City of North Charleston as part of this plan and with their resiliency grant to continue to progress the proposed Filbin Creek Greenway.
 - Connectivity has continued to be a key theme for the project team.
 - We are trying to improve connections to Russelldale and provide parcel space under the interstate to extend our parks further south into the Russelldale community.
 - A playground as well as parking has been placed in the vicinity of the proposed ramps for I-526.
 - We are looking to extend the Filbin Creek Community Center further south under the highway as a way to improve access to recreational facilities for the residents in Russelldale.
 - The project team is continuing to develop this concept.

Russelldale Community Pocket Park

- The proposed Russelldale parcel was acquired by another entity (buyer), but SCDOT is continuing to investigate the possibility of acquiring this parcel from its new owner.
 - It is important to note again that because of some of the challenges, we are looking at potentially extending the Filbin Creek Community Center further south to provide access to the community centers.
 - The City is still working with the project team to identify potential parcels for pocket parks.
 - This is an ongoing effort on our part to try to provide either improved access to the Filbin Creek Community Center for the residents of Russelldale as well as still trying to identify a location for a pocket park within the Russelldale community.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - It was asked if SCDOT cannot acquire the property then Russelldale will not have a pocket park?
 - We are currently continuing to look for a plan B to seek a parcel that will allow us to provide a much larger facility at Filbin Creek Community Center, especially utilizing some of the additional

- properties or right-of-way that SCDOT is going to acquire to put some resources as close to the existing Russelldale Community Center.
 - We can utilize the right-of-way under the bridges to get us close to the existing Russelldale Community, but as of right now the parcel we were looking at has been acquired by a developer.
 - We want to also consider other opportunities that will still provide improved access and connectivity.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - I just do not want the Russelldale community not to receive any amenities or improvements.
 - The location for the Russelldale concept in the meeting packet is our first choice.
 - We are in contact with the developer who purchased this property and he said he is planning to build affordable housing or multi-family housing on the parcel.
 - If we cannot get a deal to buy it, we must have a back-up plan. What you were shown on the previous slide (Filbin Creek Community Center, pg. 5), where we have put the same amenities on the southside of Filbin Creek behind the church. It is in an area where there are a couple of homes, but those homes are being displaced by the project regardless of where we put the park.
 - We do need to replace the facilities. It is not looking positive that we will be able to get this property on Rebecca Street so SCDOT had the project team develop a plan B.
 - The plan B location has the same amenities that would have been at the Rebecca Street location.
 - On the Filbin Creek Community Center slide, there is parking, a playground, and a full basketball court.
 - The TRC meeting scheduled for July 13th is to discuss improving connectivity with sidewalks.
 - Plan B is close to where the Russelldale Community Center is but, because we may not be able to locate the pocket park in the Russelldale community we're looking at how we can make sure it is safe for residents to travel between this location and their neighborhoods.
 - We are proposing a series of sidewalks, crosswalks, and traffic calming measures along roadways to ensure safety if there is going to be additional travel required to get to those sites.

Highland Terrace Pocket Park (HTPP)

- This revision is based on the City of North Charleston's recommendation and desire to continue to maintain programs at this facility.
 - The City recommended eliminating the half basketball court to provide a larger building.
 - We are investigating the size and orientation of the building in order to maximize the amount of space we can have on this site, being mindful of the widening of the highway as well as ensuring some of the other amenities that were requested.
 - We are going to continue to develop concepts and provide them to the CAC as we continue to strive for an acceptable concept regarding Filbin Creek Community Center, but I do want to get final input regarding the idea of sacrificing the half court in order to gain a larger building.

Review Draft Community Mitigation Framework

- The mitigation plan is a major milestone that will be incorporated into the timeline that you requested. Part of the DEIS (Draft Environmental Impact Statement) process is submitting a community mitigation plan.
- Organizational training for the CAC/Project Oversight Committee will be provided to address content, how it fits into the larger scheme of the CAC, and how the group moves forward together in a manner that optimizes community cohesion.
- The key to enhancement is ensuring that there is improved connectivity between the community centers and the communities they serve.
- Regarding preservation, the CAC discussed historic community preservation in previous meetings. Maximum Consulting has identified several photographers as well as historians that can assist with the process.
 - The project team is currently developing the scope. Items being considered for inclusion are the oral history of the communities, developing a visual archive, and collecting historical photographs of the communities prior to the construction of I-26 and I-526.
 - A goal is for communities to be able to tell a story of what the communities looked like and how they continue to grow and develop, as well as documenting the changes that have occurred.
 - The project will also include recent images, the development of a report, and identification of community-related visuals that can be incorporated into the community centers, whether in the form of murals from artists or other concepts that can be incorporated into the playgrounds.
- CAC Member feedback: Has weatherization been omitted as a CAC initiative?
 - SCDOT team: We can continue to explore the weatherization program. We need to meet with the Department of Energy to discuss their local program for weatherization to figure out how it could be funded. There are potentially some limitations on funding for that program from a federal standpoint, but we are interested in continuing to explore the program and figuring out if its something that could be implemented as part of this project.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - I had a conversation with one of the residents who lives on James Bell, not only on weatherization, but also regarding the openness of the sounds that will be coming from the lane that will be constructed.
 - It will be much closer to the residents that will remain on James Bell.
 - Can we look at it from a preservation standpoint?
 - We need to consider those persons who will still be living there and their quality of life. Many of them are elderly, but they do come out and enjoy the outdoors.
 - The noise levels are significant.
 - Project Manager: There are federal regulations and specific requirements on how noise may be abated.
 - SCDOT team: We need to explore the program and I would appreciate any comments that the CAC or Community has regarding the need and benefits of the program and how that relates specifically to community preservation and community cohesion.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - Information was provided on Dominion Energy because they had a small weatherization program in which they weatherized homes in Charleston, and we can probably expand it.
 - Another program we can look at also, is solar panels for the community center.

- They do have solar panels that have battery backup.
 - If some people need to go to the community center in the event of a hurricane, you will have a community center with solar panels and battery backup.
- SCDOT team: We have reached out to the Department of Energy but have not setup a meeting yet.
- We will continue to explore how these programs work and how it could be related and tied back into community mitigation.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - There were impacted members of the community during the initial construction of I-26 that were not involved in the process.
 - When it came through, there were some unhappy residents who experienced impacts from the project they felt were never resolved.
 - I would like to feel as if everyone in the neighborhood would welcome this mitigation/EJ process
 - Project team member: We are working on a community mitigation plan that will be shared with to the community this fall for public comment.
 - The project team needs to determine which requests are eligible for federal funding.
 - We must determine whether state funding must be made available to implement certain requests. Receiving state funding is very difficult right now because of the pandemic.
 - Gas tax revenues are much lower than they typically are.
 - If there are things in the mitigation plan that we are not able to get funded, I would suggest that as CAC members you compel your community members to come out and discuss the purpose and need.

Livability Plan Scope Development Session

Dr. Kendra Stewart, the Director of the Riley Center for Livable Communities, and a professor at the College of Charleston of political science and public administration, and Ms. Marla Robertson provided a session on the Livability Plan Scope Development.

- The Riley Center is working with communities and helping them build their capacities to make communities more livable.
 - We will talk about what a livability plan is and about the overall concept to see if this is something the CAC may be interested in, moving forward.
 - The Riley Center's mission is to leverage the intellectual resources of the College to support the economic and cultural vibrancy of the City of Charleston and other communities throughout South Carolina, the United States, and around the world.
 - The Riley Center is the outreach arm of the College of Charleston. We use faculty, staff, and students to work with nonprofits, local governments, neighborhoods, and other groups within the community on various projects or research that they bring to us.
 - The Riley Center is community driven.
 - Communities bring issues to the Riley Center and the Center then provides support that might not exist in other ways to help communities or organizations find solutions or establish connections with entities that can help communities address needs.
- Marla Robertson is an MPA (Master of Public Administration) graduate of the College of Charleston. She is a Program Coordinator for the MPA office and is also the Director of the Master of Public Administration Community Assistance Program.

- The purpose of the program is to allow graduate students from diverse backgrounds with skills and experiences in working with nonprofit or government agencies to be coupled with projects with the community organizers and nonprofit organizations, very similar to the goals of the Riley Center, on a smaller scale.
- We worked in-depth last year with the CNA on the racial bias audit for the police department.
- We worked with them to revitalize their strategic plan.
- They matched what citizens said they wanted with different city departments who are empowered to actualize that change.
- Dr. Stewart provided a few examples of relevant projects the Riley Center has worked on in the Charleston area, particularly regarding neighborhood empowerment and helping neighborhoods identify both assets and challenges in their neighborhoods, and the community resources necessary to address those issues.
 - A livability plan serves as a guide for a community and helping to establish the vision for that community and the resources necessary to meet that vision.
 - Developing a livability plan is community-driven and requires a collaborative process.
 - The goal of The Riley Center is to facilitate and capture community conversations.
 - It would be based on the four pillars developed by the CAC and project team, as well as the mitigation plan.
 - The goal would be to take the community beyond the I-526 plan, looking at it from a broader scope and helping to determine the solutions or the strategies necessary to meet the community's vision.
 - The plan also involves empowering the neighborhood and members of the community to have the tools to hold others accountable for meeting the goals and strategies that have been established.
 - Our goal is to empower the people who live in the neighborhoods and to provide some type of tool or guide to track progress and to ensure that everybody knows who is accountable for the different elements of the plan that have been agreed upon.
 - It would also help community members define what it is that they want to see and what success would look like.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - Our responsibility and accountability are to the needs expressed by community groups. We are not held accountable by individual entities that make up some of the structures of this group, but our investment is in quantifying what the change looks like in providing resources, but also pushing through to have it actualized.
 - We walk communities through actualizing all pieces of the livability plan.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - Would the Riley Center serve as technical support to the CAC and the community?
 - An example of a past projects is one we did with the Eastside neighborhood.
 - We held member focus groups and meetings and helped them articulate things in their community that they needed addressed, then we created a schedule, as well as a timeline and an accountability chart .
 - We helped the community understand who was going to oversee each part and when it would come to fruition, and if it did not what measures could be taken to ensure they were addressed.
 - That would be like our role with the CAC, helping you articulate what it is that you need, identifying who is responsible beyond mitigation, and helping the community.

- Part of that is embedded into the process in the sense that as the community is deciding what its goals and needs are, engaging the local governments in that process (during livability plan development) was really important in previous projects.
 - Bringing local elected officials into the process early helped us pressure some of the city officials to come to these meetings to hear community members and get the agreement there.
 - The Riley Center works with local governments. Getting them to join in and agree to the process is a part of the livability plan.
 - Success is driven by persuasion of the neighborhood and the assistance of the Riley Center providing data or other information necessary to convince the local government as to why this needs to happen.
 - We create dashboards or graphic visuals that we regularly update that are easily available and accessible to members of the community.
 - We tailor things to each community that we are working with or each organization depending on their needs.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - How does the Riley Center fit into the I-526 program/process in relation to SCDOT and Stantec?
 - Dr. Stewart: The goal of creating a livability plan would be to compile all the mitigation factors together into a central hub, so that issues can be addressed for the current I-526 plan, but also to address issues beyond the mitigation plan.
 - The livability plan would have a broader scope to include those issues and work in tandem so there is not an overlap.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - Who is overseeing the environmental justice plan and who is responsible for the livability plan?
 - Project team member: SCDOT and FHWA would finalize the environmental justice mitigation plan with the record of decision at the conclusion of the NEPA process, which would take place around November 2021.
 - As part of the environmental justice mitigation plan, one of the components would be a commitment by SCDOT to develop the livability plan for the community.
 - With that commitment, the livability plan could potentially begin as early as this fall but it could also likely extend beyond the end of the NEPA process because we want the public involvement and the stakeholder process, that is typically included in a livability plan, to be as robust as possible.
 - We can tie that back into our schedule that we are developing, and you can see how it fits in with the mitigation plan being developed for the entire project and the conclusion of the NEPA process.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - In my experience, the livability plan is a part of the environmental justice implementation, especially when you are conducting an EIS.
 - Project team member: We have been looking at Corpus Christi, Texas to see how they have implemented the livability plan.
 - They made a commitment in their environmental document to complete the livability plan within a year after the conclusion of the NEPA process.
 - We will provide a specific timeline regarding development of the livability plan.

- There were numerous topics that the CAC presented or brought to the project team from the community that go beyond the scope of what we can do as a part of the mitigation plan.
- This livability plan is a great communication tool for the community to really become organized through this process and to create a vision for their community.
- This can not only help you inform or communicate the issues identified as a part of the CAC process, but as the City of North Charleston does zoning or development plans or other projects that extend beyond the mitigation plan, this is a great tool to express the community's vision.

Conducting Outreach in a Public Health Crisis

- Project team member: Discussion about how the project team could potentially utilize virtual meetings, pop-ups, drive-thru meetings, and information packets to meet the needs of the residents during the pandemic.
- We are modifying those concepts and will be meeting with SCDOT in the near future to discuss the possibility of engaging through weekly Zoom meetings to review each of the pillars of the environmental justice mitigation efforts.
- We are tracking the status of the pandemic but making efforts to ensure we are not missing opportunities to meet face-to-face, while not creating greater risks.
- With this in mind, pop-ups might be more of a challenge, but if there is an organization that is hosting an event in which we might be able partner, the project team would love for you to share those opportunities so that we can share project information as a part of the resources distributed at various events and activities.
- Great opportunity to keep the project fresh on the minds of community members
- If CAC members have ideas after the meeting today, contact the project team or the Office.

Update on Coordination with Local Organizations

- Maximum Consulting is continuing to coordinate with local organizations by phone and are adding to the database.
- Lowcountry Street Grocery is delivering food bundles to some residents in the impacted neighborhoods.
 - They would like to expand the opportunity for residents to get food using the Healthy Bucks program in which people who receive food stamps are able to use \$5 in food stamps to purchase \$20 worth of food.
 - They provided a survey for us to consider giving to people who receive food stamps in the impacted neighborhoods so they can become engaged in the Healthy Bucks program and receive food bundles using EBT cards.
 - This information will be forwarded to the project team to share with CAC members.

Outreach Update

Provided by Horrace Tobin

- Community Office update for May 28-June 24, 2020
 - Received 5 incoming calls
 - Placed 3 outgoing calls
 - Responded to 6 voice messages

- COVID
 - The Office has been closed since March 17, 2020 due to the pandemic, but Office Manager Horrace Tobin is on-site daily to address concerns and request received by email, postal mail and phone.
 - Right-of-way Liaisons are not currently scheduling face-to-face appointments but are continuing to communicate by phone with the property owners identified in the Meeting #7 packet.
 - Request that CAC members please continue to share with community members that Mr. Tobin is available in the office to take calls, and address project-related requests and concerns appropriately.

CAC Environmental Justice Advocacy Training Overview

- Environmental Justice (EJ) Advocacy training is needed as the CAC transitions into the project oversight committee.
 - Maximum Consulting will provide training in order to empower CAC members during their transition to the Project Oversight Committee
 - The training will help CAC member better understand EJ engagement when engaging with the stakeholders and government.
 - EJ Advocacy efforts will align with activities sponsored by the Department of Energy, as well as other federal agencies, as it relates to EJ engagement.
 - The intent of the training is to take a deeper dive with CAC and POC members on how to establish and require accountability from stakeholders in implementing the livability plan.
 - How can we measure what is expected now and 12-24 months from now?
 - All activities dovetail into the livability plan.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - The proposed training would be really good as an EIS component.
 - The proposed training is based on the EPA and DOE collaborative engagement under the Obama Administration.

Summary and Next Steps

- CAC Member feedback (additional information for Update on Coordination with Local Organizations):
 - In the midst of the pandemic, we are trying to stay connected with the community through programs that would have been held face-to-face but are not possible under the circumstances.
 - We have partnered with Charleston County School District and targeted two schools that serve the communities impacted by the I-526 West project (Russelldale, Ferndale, Liberty Park, and Highland Terrace), to make sure that children enrolled in the summer program have access to computers.
 - Computers have been given to the students.
 - Approximately 43 students have been served by this program.
 - The end of July has been set as a goal for program completion.
 - The program, called Virtual Buddies, is designed to promote innovative ways to inspire children to learn and think out-of-the-box daily, even in the midst of the uncertainty of school re-opening plans associated with the pandemic. The group is comprised of a team of retired teachers,

including a CAC member, dedicated to rekindling their passion for teaching by working with children and families from the impacted areas.

Action Items:

- A proposed project timeline including items achieved to-date, upcoming milestones, and the Draft and final EIS and Record of Decision. The livability planning process and Environmental Justice Advocacy Outreach training will also be included.
- A survey will be developed as a means to solicit more input from the CAC regarding community center programs, in addition to program ideas already shared by the CAC. The survey will be accompanied by an inventory of programs that are currently being supported by the City of North Charleston at some of the adjacent community centers to give CAC members a better understanding of what programs are available, specifically and in proximity to the impacted communities.
- The project team will present questions regarding community involvement in the decision-making process for community center staffing and consideration of residence as a hiring preference in staffing the community center to the Technical Review Committee on July 13th.
- The next CAC meeting will be held on August 1st, 2020.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - How do we ensure that the concerns identified early in the CAC process will not be lost as we identify new issues and enter new phases of the project?
 - Project team member: All information discussed in early meetings was captured through the Social Needs Assessment and community drop-ins, and has been incorporated and summarized directly in the mitigation plan. The Social Needs Assessment conducted during CAC Meeting 2 in November 2019 is the foundation of the mitigation plan. The CAC also had a productive mitigation work session in March 2020 in which concerns such as traffic-calming, speeding, flooding, and stormwater management were captured and catalogued.

CAC Meeting #11 is scheduled for August 1, 2020, 10:00 - 11:30 AM. Unless otherwise notified, we will continue to use the Microsoft Teams online platform for our August meeting.