

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 9

Date: June 6, 2020

Time: 10:00 am – 12:24 pm

Location: Adobe Connect Virtual Meeting

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees

Larenda Baxley, Ferndale
Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale
Rev. David L. Johnson, Ferndale
Angela Anderson, Russelldale
Jeanaris Bannister, Liberty Park
Carolyn Varner, Liberty Park
Doris Twiggs, Highland Terrace
Cynthia Anderson, Liberty Park
Prayonda Cooper, Joppa Way
Earl Muhammad, Muhammad Mosque
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
Maxine Smith, Maximum Consulting
Mattese Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Carolyn Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Janelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies

Participant Summary:

Total participants: 24

Ferndale: 3

Highland Terrace: 1

Liberty Park: 3

Russelldale: 1

Adjacent/affected communities/agencies: 1

SCDOT: 3

FHWA: 2

Community Liaisons: 3

Community Office: 1

Stantec: 4

Facilitator: 1

Meeting Summary:

Welcome and Introductions

- Roll call
- Welcome and reminder that the meeting would be recorded for accuracy of meeting minutes

Administrative Items

- Overview of Adobe Connect features and meeting logistics
- Virtual meeting etiquette review
- Host provided instructions for any technical issues during the meeting

- CAC Meeting #8 minutes required an edit whereby a comment was attributed to the wrong speaker. Modifications will be made accordingly and distributed to the CAC for approval at Meeting #10.
- An overview of the agenda was provided:
 - Review of Administrative Items
 - Open Mic session
 - Report on FHWA EJ Peer Exchange
 - Report on Meeting with the City of North Charleston
 - Replacement Community Facilities Conceptual Plans Update
 - Review Draft Community Mitigation Plan Framework
 - Engaging with Elected and Appointed Officials Work Session
 - Community Livability Plan
 - Update on Coordination with Local Organizations
 - Outreach Update
 - Summary & Next Steps

Open Mic

- Prior to addressing formal project issues, CAC members were acknowledged for their continued participation in the I-526 West LCC project in the midst of the pandemic and the current civil unrest.
- Time was taken to allow CAC members and other participants to share their insights on the current state of our nation and any associated personal impacts.
- The floor was opened for discussion.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - The I-526 project bus was effective, but it would be good to send the bus into the Liberty Park and Russelldale communities to inform residents more directly about details of the project.
 - Project team member: The bus was a part of a pop-up event and EJ efforts. Continued and ongoing efforts are planned throughout the affected communities as the project team works through post-pandemic planning associated with re-opening strategies.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - Will security cameras be placed throughout the community, in and around the recreation facilities?
 - Surveillance and speeding throughout neighborhoods will be addressed during this meeting in preparation for our meeting with the City of North Charleston.

Report on FHWA EJ Peer Exchange

- Coordination with FHWA to look at projects across the country that have experienced similar impacts to EJ communities.
- The goal of the peer exchange was to help the project team identify mitigation action items that were implemented in other projects that the I-526 LCC West project team may not have considered.
- A two-day workshop was conducted on May 13-14, 2020 to examine similar EJ mitigation projects in Colorado, Ohio, and Texas.

- Maximum Consulting is leading the efforts to document the oral and photographic history of impacted communities.
 - They are currently working to identify local historians and photographers who will best support these efforts.
 - Input from CAC members on local experts and knowledge of community resources was solicited by the project team.
 - CAC member contributions will be critical to integrating community history into the community center and pocket park/playground designs.
 - These efforts will also be important in developing a historical document, with community-based stories and photographs, that can be placed in the community center and checked out by residents.
- The Neighborhood Livability Plan will support the I-526 LCC West EJ mitigation efforts, including concerns identified in CAC meetings and discussions.
- Implementing home improvements and weatherization efforts will include (but will not be limited to) sound proofing and noise walls, in an effort to evaluate a wider range of potential impacts.
- A Technical Review Committee will involve various departments from the City of North Charleston, SCDOT, and other technical staff to determine the most effective approaches to implementing action items. This will include an ongoing exchange of ideas and recommendations between the technical review committee and the CAC.
- Voluntary Relocation Program and other homeowner programs were discussed for the purpose of educating homeowners and implementing programs that can help interested renters become homeowners.
- Providing outreach to the homeless population
- Development of a Community Resource Guide
 - These efforts will be led by Maximum Consulting.
 - The guide will serve as a living document and will include a wide range of community resources such as non-profits and government agencies that residents can tap into.
 - Resources will range from healthcare to home improvements and will help communities manage direct and cumulative impacts.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - Recommendation to contact Gerald Freeman [Program Manager of Dominion Energy SC Neighborhood Energy Efficiency Program] to learn more about how Dominion Energy could potentially support weatherization efforts by the project team.

Report on Meeting with the City of North Charleston

- On May 19, 2020, SCDOT met with the City of North Charleston.
 - The goal of the meeting was to provide an update regarding ongoing EJ mitigation discussions and to set the stage for the CAC listening session scheduled for June 16, 2020.
 - SCDOT indicated that the meeting was productive and felt the City was open to collaborating on the mitigation process.
- The June meeting will be a virtual meeting.
 - The project team will contact everyone to ensure proper software or plug-ins in order to participate virtually and are working to offer an option for participants to join by video.

- Video participation will not be required, but it is encouraged so that people can associate faces with names and voices.
- The project team is still evaluating the software platform that will be used for this meeting.
- *Monthly Coordination Meetings*
 - Technical meetings will be held, beginning June 24, 2020, between SCDOT, the City, and other technical agencies related to mitigation actions the City will not oversee. This group will comprise the Technical Advisory Council (TAC).
 - The TAC will provide feedback/updates to the CAC including screening of mitigation requests and developing ideas for how to implement requested mitigation items/actions.
 - Part of the role of the TAC is to refine mitigation requests.
 - Another goal of coordination meetings is to develop a series of agreements with the City regarding which mitigation requests will be implemented.
 - Refining the “asks” will help the project team better understand which items will be included in the Community Mitigation Plan
 - Monthly or bi-weekly coordination meetings will include topics discussed during CAC meetings such as:
 - Sidewalk improvements
 - Public safety
 - Replacement recreation facilities
 - Transit (Bus Rapid Transit public participation and plans)
 - Additional neighborhood street improvements
 - The City received a \$250,000 planning grant to evaluate Filbin Creek and Noisette Creek watersheds
 - The project team had a discussion with the City to discuss opportunities to partner on long-term improvements regarding flooding issues and potential connectivity along Filbin Creek to the community center and as well as other areas in North Charleston. These actions will be included in the community livability process and plan.
 - The project team shared the recreational facility renderings presented to the CAC in Meeting #8 with the City during the meeting.
 - The renderings included Filbin Creek Community Center, Highland Terrace Pocket Park, and Russelldale locations.
 - The City provided significant input and seemed open to partnering with SCDOT to proceed with the proposed facilities.
 - Feedback provided by the City that was of particular importance was regarding the Filbin Creek Community Center.
 - They suggested that the project team weigh the importance of spectator space in the gymnasium.
 - Considering the balance between optimizing floor space for larger basketball courts (geared towards more space for leisure play) versus the inclusion of bleacher-space for spectators (geared towards scheduled spectator events)
 - The project team will be seeking guidance from the CAC on the preferred use and design of the Filbin Creek Community Center.
 - Regarding the Highland Terrace and Russelldale locations, the City expressed some concern about the size of the enclosed facilities.
 - The project team revisited comments and feedback provided by the CAC in Meeting #8, and updated renderings to include enclosed spaces based on discussions.

- The City is concerned that at the Filbin Creek Community Center location, based on the programs they offer, the size of the facility may not be large enough.
 - The project team will need to discuss potentially increasing the size of the enclosed buildings with the CAC.
 - Trade-offs will be required for Highland Terrace and Russelldale locations if the size of the Filbin Creek location is increased.

Replacement Community Facilities Conceptual Plans: Update

Filbin Creek Community Center

- CAC Member feedback:
 - Will there be an opportunity to get input from other residents in the communities to see what features they want in the new community center or will we implement the plan? Also, do we have the property at the Filbin Creek location to build the plan presented in the rendering?
 - Project team member: From the outreach perspective, part of the process is to get input from the public on our proposed plans.
 - The approach is to develop a concept (conceptual drawings) and to get input from the CAC and from the City that provides a framework for the project team to work from.
 - The challenge with the recreational facilities project is space limitations, but the project team is working to include as many features as possible in the conceptual drawings before presenting it to the public for comments.
 - The project team is working with the City of North Charleston to secure the large parcel of land on which the Filbin Creek building structure would be built.
 - The project team is still working on how to acquire the parcel, as well as parcel 1 on Dorothy Williams Boulevard).
 - Both parcels of land are owned by the City.
 - Some of the other parcels are privately owned.
 - The project team is talking with those landowners, as well as those who own the property identified in the Russelldale renderings.
 - Some of the land has been secured. But, some of the acquisitions are still in the process of being secured
- CAC Member feedback:
 - The City of North Charleston just built a brand new athletic facility. How much is the City using the centers in each of the communities?
 - Perhaps we need to talk with the City to better understand their plan.
 - What will be the extent of their access to all of the recreational and community centers in the city?
 - The project team has not yet discussed programming at recreational facilities with the City, but this is an agenda item for the listening session planned for June 16th.
 - The CAC has identified outside entities receiving priority over residential use at community centers.
 - The concern has been with tournaments using resources and space while residents are unable to use the facilities.
 - One goal during the June 16th listening session is to gain clarity from the City on the topic of residential access and programming at recreational facilities.

- If this question is not fully addressed at the listening session, it will also be discussed during the TAC on June 24th.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - Can we make a final decision about Filbin Creek before we understand the logistics of programming and planning for recreational centers throughout the City of Charleston?
 - [Point of clarification] Because there is a limit to the size of the gymnasium that can be built, if we add bleachers or spectator seating to the design, we take away from the size of the court in the gymnasium.
 - The project team's take away from the May 19th meeting was that the City was leaving it up to the CAC to determine which feature is most important (floor space or seating).
 - From previous conversations with the CAC, the impression of the project team is that the primary concern of the CAC for the community center is for children and residents to have access to the facilities – more usable space, not having outside entities hosting tournaments.
 - This is an item we can discuss with the City to gain a better idea of the role they think the Filbin Creek facility will play in the citywide programming plan.
 - The size of the parking lot at the Filbin Creek Community Center will likely change.
 - The project team is working through additional regulatory requirements.
 - The Highland Terrace/Liberty Park Community Center is something called a Section 6(f) property, meaning some of the money that went towards the facility came from a federal act called the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
 - In order to be in compliance with that act, we have to make sure we build the right facilities on site so that we are meeting or exceeding what was at the impacted facilities. The parking lot in the current rendering is fairly large.
 - That will likely change as the project team continues to meet with the city.
 - It is important that CAC and community members prioritize their desired outcomes from the project.
 - They should make sure the Filbin Creek Community Center is something that will accommodate everyone's needs.
 - The City of North Charleston just put an athletic center on Remount Road within walking distance from the Liberty Park/Highland Terrace neighborhoods.
 - The athletic center is a bus ride for the Ferndale and Russelldale communities.
 - Regarding a previous question about input from residents on their desires for the recreational centers, the use of pop-up activities will help community liaisons talk with community members using storyboards as a resource to generate discussions about proposed plans.
 - They recommend “across the fence” and “front porch” informal conversations with 2-3 people in the neighborhood at a time to discuss the proposed changes and to receive feedback from community members.
 - CAC members are encouraged to initiate conversations with community members.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - [Point of clarification] The reason for the question regarding community input is that the senior center was built less than two years ago, and it is too small.

- Given the current pandemic, the facility is too small to accommodate people safely. The gym holds less than eight people at a time, and residents are only allowed to use the space for 30-minute increments.
 - If the senior center is too small, that means the project team may want to prioritize more class space over a full court gymnasium.
 - Those are the types of concerns the CAC should provide to the project team to be included in technical coordination discussions.
 - We are operating with a limited amount of space, but there are some tradeoffs that we could make if classroom space is more valuable.
 - We will continue to refine the list of priorities throughout the process , but we will take direction from the CAC regarding decision making on recreational space versus classroom space.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - What would accessibility to the Filbin Creek Community Center if there are multiple activities being held on-site in a given day?
 - Project team member: As a reminder, this is a high-level concept, but the project team is trying to ensure there are various points of access as well as ample parking. The current renderings contain satellite parking in order to increase accessibility to all aspects of the community center.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - The primary concern is about getting in and out of the property if several activities are held within a given time frame.
 - That is part of the refining process – not just focusing on the building features, but on parking and accessibility.
 - That type of discussion will help the project team transition from a conceptual stage to development of the design.
 - Another part of the process is the property acquisition component. It is important to remember that the project team has not yet acquired all of the parcels presented in the renderings.
 - The City does not own all of the desired parcels.
 - Therefore, the current conceptual drawings may change depending on how successful the project team is in acquiring the additional properties.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - In reference to using the building, occasionally, the seniors would like to have socials.
 - Is it possible to design the classrooms in such a way as to have a larger meeting venue for community meetings or socials with partitions that can create smaller classroom spaces?

Russelldale Community Pocket Park

- The project team added an 800 square-foot enclosed building.
 - The City expressed concerns that the building would be too small based on the programs and activities they current host.

- This is an issue the project team will continue to work on as they gain more understanding about the amount of enclosed space they should include in the design.
- The driveway/side access that was presented in the previous rendering has been removed in the current drawing.
 - This allowed the park space to be extended further south on the parcel, making room for a full-sized basketball court and 800 square-foot building.
 - The City echoes the concerns expressed by the CAC regarding the small size of the enclosed building. Based on the City's concerns, the project team is awaiting size recommendations for the enclosed buildings at the pocket park.
 - A review will have to be conducted to determine what space(s) can be sacrificed to accommodate larger buildings.
 - Community engagement through pop-ups will help with the process of including feedback and input from residents.

Highland Terrace Pocket Park (HTPP)

- (Version 2) The project team modified the space to add a 900 square-foot building.
 - A full- and half-sized basketball court were added to the design.
 - As with the enclosed building at the Russelldale location, the size of the enclosed building will be evaluated based on the City's concerns.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - The current size of the Highland Terrace rendering is small enough.
 - There would be no advantage in further reducing the size of that location.
 - The current design seems to only be appropriate for smaller children, with a covered unit in the event of inclement weather.
 - The HTLP pocket park has been reduced because of the I-26 widening project, but the project team is trying to optimize the space available at the location. The ultimate goal is to maintain usability of the facility.
- (Version 3) The rendering has the same amenities with a different layout. The CAC indicated in the previous meeting they preferred the play area away from the street. Version 3 uses buildings as a screen for the playground area from traffic
- CAC Member feedback:
 - Being a lifelong resident of Liberty Park, I have used these facilities for many events, primarily family reunions.
 - The building is currently too small.
 - It can only hold approximately 50 people comfortably.
 - The parcel is too small to take additional space away.
 - The center was too small when it was built initially.
- The primary responsibility of SCDOT is to do our best to mitigate for impacts caused by the project.

- Our goal is to retain pre-existing amenities, but supplement this facility as well as the loss of Russelldale.
 - The project team is trying to balance all of the different needs for a recreational center site, but supplement with a much larger site at the Filbin Creek location.
 - It is a trade-off, but ultimately the project team is trying to supplement the loss of space at Highland Terrace with what is being proposed at Filbin Creek.
 - The project team does understand your concerns.
 - We are working with the City to see how we can increase the size of the enclosed space, at a minimum, match whatever the program requirements there are for the programs that are currently being held at the Highland Terrace Community Center.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - Why can't these programs be transferred to Filbin Creek?
 - Instead of trying to build a small building in this location, why not transfer the Highland Terrace programs to a large, nice building where children have more space for their afterschool programs.
- The addition of enclosed buildings was a response to comments we received during last month's CAC Meeting 8. We initially did not include enclosed buildings in the design.
 - Only playgrounds, picnic tables, and basketball courts were included in the initial rendering.
 - There was concern about the heat for residents and seniors using the space, so enclosed buildings were added.
 - If the CAC thinks it may be more beneficial to move programs to Filbin Creek and not add enclosed buildings at the park pocket parks, that is something the project team will consider.
 - The project team is looking for the CAC to let us know what they want so that those requests can be included in discussions with the City.
- Filbin Creek should be designed in such a way that it will accommodate family reunions.
 - The meeting space should be large enough to use partitions to create age-level activities in different rooms.
 - We have to be realistic about our priorities and what can be done.
- This is why it is also important to get feedback from residents during pop-ups.
 - The project team can use that feedback to work on a more detailed design.
 - Priorities must be determined by the neighborhoods, so input from the CAC and respective communities is critical.

Draft Community Mitigation Framework

- The project team has taken direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts from a series of projects and other transportation-related improvement projects, as well as from CAC input through the Social Needs Assessment. Based on all of this information, the project team is developing a mitigation plan for impacts.

- The framework is a way for the project team to present all of this information in an organized fashion that will ultimately translate to commitments and agreements between SCDOT, the City, and other agencies.
- Potential Mitigation issues that will be discussed with the City of North Charleston on June 16th include:
 - Community center functions, staffing, and services
 - Improved access and connectivity to community centers
 - Address current and potential safety issues (Speeding, traffic calming, surveillance, break-ins)
 - Maintain public spaces - consistent garbage pick up
 - Transit stop improvements and connectivity (safe connections between communities and bus stops)
 - Maintain community fabric (Community Livability Plan)
- CAC Member feedback:
 - Drivers do not acknowledge the stop sign at the three-way stop at the intersection of Elder and Taylor Streets. The situation seems to be getting worse.
 - We need to install cameras, speed bumps, etc.
- Speed bumps, traffic calming that force speeders to slow down, speed tables, etc., will all be included in technical discussions with the City.
 - Beautification will also be combined with some of the measures to address speeding in neighborhoods.
 - Many of these items were compiled from the Social Needs Assessment and have been identified in the online GIS Viewer, but they are also issues that will be discussed during the meeting with the City on June 16th.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - Agreement on speeding as an issue on Taylor Street.
 - Communities also need a proactive program for cutting tree limbs so that when the City experiences a hurricane, snowstorm, or ice storm, residents in Liberty Park and Ferndale are not without power for extended periods of time.
 - This is particularly an issue for older residents who may use oxygen tanks.
- CAC Member feedback:
 - There is also a problem with speeding in Russelldale. Speed bumps are needed at the entrance of the neighborhood where speeding seems to be a significant problem.
- Is surveillance or additional policing still an issue that CAC members would like to address within the context of the current social climate?
 - Does the CAC want to revisit how they would like to “package” this request regarding crime, policing, and surveillance?
 - How would you like to address some of the issues you have with crime?
 - This is something to think about in preparation for the meeting with the City.
 - We can discuss your thoughts on this now or in a follow up meeting that we can schedule with the CAC to discuss before our listening session with the City

- CAC Member feedback:
 - Regarding drainage problems, there are serious issues from Rivers Avenue onto Taylor Street and James Bell.
- Significant runoff issues related to I-26 were mentioned earlier in the meeting.
 - Some of the issues will be addressed by the project design, but there are larger scale drainage issues that the project team can address as part of the livability plan process which will include partnering with the City on the Filbin Creek Floodplain Study (Filbin Creek and Noisette Creek).
 - These issues will be addressed by the technical committee as well as through the livability plan program.
- SCDOT is currently working on the details of how to address the concerns expressed by the CAC.
 - It will take some patience as SCDOT and the City develops coordination efforts on tangible efforts such as pedestrian improvements, drainage improvements, and street calming.
 - SCDOT is also exploring items such as law enforcement and neighborhood patrolling, which are concerns SCDOT cannot directly impact, but may be able to facilitate cooperation with the City to increase/improve those programs.
- Other on-going mitigation efforts include:
 - Quantifying direct and indirect project impacts to better define the list of “asks.” It is important that the project team is clear in defining the impacts.
 - Bi-weekly work sessions to refine the list of “asks” developed by the CAC. This will help the project team to better understand the commitments and agreements that need to be made with the City and with other agencies.
 - Investigating the development of a Community Livability Study.
 - Assessing other programs identified during the EJ Peer Exchange to improve implementation of mitigation measures based on the list of “asks” developed by the CAC.

Engaging with Elected and Appointed Officials

Understanding the Scope of Limitations of Primary Stakeholders

- As the CAC prepares to meet with elected and appointed officials, it is helpful to have a clear understanding of the scope and limitations of the primary stakeholders involved in the mitigation process.
 - SCDOT and FHWA is conducting the mitigation study as required by the National Environmental Policy Act.
 - They are working in collaboration with the City of North Charleston to facilitate more rapid recovery of displacement associated with the I-526 LCC West project.
 - That includes some of the items the project team has focused on including replacement recreation facilities (programs and staffing), public safety, transit and connectivity, stormwater, and community appearance.
 - The CAC serves as the “boots on the ground” to help facilitate changes and improvements through ongoing communication and collaborations with SCDOT, FHWA, and the City, as well as with

residents of the four impacted neighborhoods and communities. The CAC serves as the liaisons for facilitating success of the programs that will be implemented.

Goals and Expectations

- The project team wants to introduce the CAC to the City of North Charleston leadership and staff to discuss mitigation opportunities that the CAC has identified over the course of the project.
- The meeting with the City will also include a discussion about the Community Livability Plan.
- The goal is to begin developing a plan for consistent engagement between the CAC and the City to address the Community Advisory Council’s list of “asks” based on the primary areas of concern (replacement recreation facilities, programs and staffing, public safety, transit and connectivity, stormwater, and community appearance)
- One thing the CAC must decide upon before engaging with the City on June 16th is what are the expectations from the City and from the meeting.
 - What do you consider realistic expectations during the meeting as well as action items to be taken from the meeting?
 - What would make the CAC feel as if the meeting on June 16th was a success?
- It is important to understand that coordination efforts with the City will be a process and that every concern will not be resolved during the first meeting.

Meeting Preparation, Engagement, and Interactions

- It will be important to set the meeting tone at the onset of the meeting.
- CAC Members were encouraged to address the following questions ahead of the June 16th meeting:
 - Will the full CAC attend and engage in the meeting with the City?
 - Will the CAC delegate a spokesperson or will there be some combined efforts by the CAC to share your concerns with the City?
- Whomever serves as spokesperson(s) should be able to do so comfortably.
 - The dynamics have changed since our initial plans to meet with the City in person.
 - Due to concerns over the pandemic, we will meet with the City virtually.
- The significance of a few factors will be much greater meeting virtually.
 - In virtual meetings, people are unable to read body language.
 - Even though people can hear voice inflection, it is much more important that we are aware of the tone we use when we are speaking, by phone or virtually.
 - Keep in mind that members of the project team and the CAC have become familiar with each other’s style of communication.
 - However, CAC members are not familiar with the City of North Charleston leadership team and staff, nor do they know the CAC members.
- One of the actions CAC members can do to best prepare for the meeting is to have a comprehensive list of concerns to discuss with the City, a list of questions you would like to ask.
- Individual preparation is important, but it is just as important that CAC members coordinate with each other prior to the meeting with the City so that the group can present their concerns in an organized manner.
- The ideal situation would be to meet with the City in person, particularly for the first meeting.

- Under the current circumstances, that is not practical, but use of the video feature during the virtual meeting is strongly encouraged because body language is important.
- Physical, face-to-face interactions are important in relationship-building.
- We will not have the opportunity to establish those interactions in the June 16th meeting, so the project team strongly encourages CAC members to join by video if you are comfortable with doing so.
- The CAC has always been both direct and respectful in expressing concerns about individual neighborhoods as well as the entire community.
 - The same authenticity in which CAC members discuss concerns during the monthly meetings should be shared with members of the City of Charleston so that the discussion is organic (natural).
 - This should encourage transparency during discussions.
- CAC members should expect a two-way dialogue.
 - Although the meeting is planned as a listening session, and it will be an opportunity for CAC members to systematically lay out their concerns and members should condition themselves for an information exchange.
- This is why is important for CAC members to coordinate questions, prioritize concerns, and define a set of realistic expectations and outcomes from the project before meeting with the City for the first time.
- Regarding “offensive vs. non-offensive” interactions, that is a perceived non-issue with the CAC.
 - The CAC always expresses themselves in an articulate and thoughtful manner; the project team encourages the CAC to maintain that practice as they enter into discussions with the City.
 - The June 16th meeting will be a meeting of first impressions for both the CAC members as well as the City.
- Rather than using the terms “offensive vs. non-offensive,” perhaps better phrasing is “conflict vs. conflict-resolution” and “tonality.”
 - The goal of the first impression is to leave a good, lasting impression.
 - There is some residual anger because some residents feel they have not been treated fairly in the past, but there is a way to present concerns without tarnishing the message.
 - First impressions are important. Your issues are important.
 - Keep in mind that your issues may be in conflict with how someone else feels what should be done.
- This is absolutely correct. The goal in preparing for the meeting is not to refrain from sharing information, it is to lay out all concerns in an organized manner.
 - Prepare ahead of time for the discussion.
 - Do not wait until the day of the meeting to begin thinking about how to present your concerns.
 - Even if you want to address issues from the past (that may be contentious), CAC members are encouraged to address their issues.
 - The key is to prepare your statements ahead of time so that you present your issues in a thoughtful, objective manner.

- Share your thoughts with other CAC members, the Stantec team, or with Maximum Consulting before the meeting to better organize your thoughts.
- Preparation and coordinated messaging amongst CAC members will be key to a successful first meeting with the City.

Next Steps

- Would it be beneficial for the project team to provide the CAC with a list of concerns that have been expressed to-date to use as a starting point for developing their thoughts and ideas for the meeting with the City?
- An abbreviated summary has been prepared based on previous CAC meeting discussions, the mitigation workshop, the Social Needs Assessment, the community office comment log, and community drop-ins .
 - The project team is tailoring the summary to be used as a tool during the meeting with the City of North Charleston.
 - That document will be forwarded to the CAC when SCDOT and FHWA have had an opportunity to review it.
- CAC Member: Whatever the project team can do to assist the CAC would be helpful.
- The CAC may add or remove any items from the summary provided.
 - The CAC should also consider how information will be presented to the City (individual CAC member comments, CAC spokesperson(s), or some combination of CAC spokesperson(s)/CAC member comments.
 - The more organized the more effective your message.
- CAC member: Can you provide an administrative person to consolidate the concerns of the CAC?
- During our face-to-face meetings, we provide comment cards for people who are not comfortable with asking questions publicly.
 - That is a tool we can implement in the virtual meetings as well.
 - A project team member will serve as the point person to make sure all information is collected.
- Two things to consider:
 - Preparation of compiled and condensed comments collected during the past nine months.
 - Identification of a spokesperson or spokespersons who feel comfortable talking with the City.
 - In the long term, it is important that the CAC thinks about who will serve in the role of spokesperson(s), and ultimately, on behalf of the impacted communities.
 - CAC members will take ownership of discussions with the City at some point, so it may be helpful to begin the process early.
- [Point of clarification] The CAC would like someone who can collect multiple concerns from multiple people across the represented communities because CAC members may not have the resources

(equipment), facilities, or time to collect and compile concerns discussed during the previous nine months.

- The project team will provide any administrative support necessary. Does the CAC have any additional requests for support in preparation for the meeting on June 16th with the City?
- The project team will provide the summary document to CAC members.
 - CAC members are asked to provide feedback on the summary document, as well as guidance on how the project team can best support the CAC in preparing for the meeting with the City on June 16th.

Community Livability Plan

- A “livable community” is defined as equitable access for all residents to education, jobs, health care, food, housing, as well as diverse opportunities in arts, culture, and recreation.
- The plan is being developed based on the Social Needs Assessment and public input, pop-ups, public meetings, as well as through continuing engagement with the CAC.
- The Community Livability Plan serves as a tool that:
 - Establishes a vision for the future of the community based not only on input from the CAC, but also from a wide range of community members.
 - Identifies needs and coordinates resources and partnerships beyond the scope of the I-526 project mitigation efforts, for example the Community Resource Guide being developed by Maximum Consulting and the meetings being held with the City of North Charleston.
 - Promotes collaboration while restoring a spirit of community that unifies a neighborhood.
- SCDOT is evaluating contracting the Riley Center as a local resource to assist the project team, working in conjunction with the CAC two develop a Community Livability Plan for EJ neighborhoods .
- The final version of the community livability plan will be developed before the final environmental document for the project, Fall 2021.
- This is an opportunity to charter a long-term vision for impacted communities.
- CAC members provided no comments or questions.

Update on Coordination with Local Organizations

- The Community Resource Guide is an ongoing guide. Maximum Consulting is currently adding information regarding points of contact, physical addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers for listed resources. The document currently includes over 41 resources, categorized by:
 - Food Insecurities
 - Health and Wellness
 - Home Repairs
 - Financial Assistance
 - Minority-Owned Businesses

- Referral Agencies
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the organizations listed in the guide remain closed. Maximum will continue development of the guide as organizations begin to re-open.
- The project team will update the CAC on development of the Community Resource Guide.

Outreach Update

Provided by Horrace Tobin

- Community Office update for April 27-May 22, 2020
 - Received 5 incoming calls
 - Placed 3 outgoing calls
 - Responded to 3 voice messages
 - The number of calls have increased during the week of June 1, 2020.
- COVID
 - The community office is closed to visitors, but the Office Manager 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.

Update on Coordination with Local Organizations (Continued)

- Pop-up events will resume when COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted.
 - Care Packages for Seniors (food boxes) are still being planned. The event was originally planned for June 27, 2020 but has been postponed indefinitely.
 - Summer Learning Loss activities will be held on July 27th from 9:00-11:00 AM at the Ferndale Community Center, and from 12:00-2:00 PM at the Biblical House of God in the Russelldale Community. This program will help students who need assistance completing school assignments.
 - Maximum Consulting has invited the South Carolina Forestry Commission, the Clemson University Youth Learning Institute, and the Department of Natural Resources. Invited agencies are expected to bring new resources, ideas, and opportunities to students in the affected communities. One goal of this program is to expand the scope of education beyond math, science, and reading to also build skills in advocacy and vocations that may provide direction in choosing a career path.
 - Tri-County Ministries is able to provide senior food boxes (produce and various staples), distributed monthly, and minor home repairs

- Maximum is requesting from CAC members a list of senior residents who need minor home repairs and tree-trimming so they can begin locating and scheduling services; Please provide a list of names, addresses, and specific needs of senior residents who need assistance.
 - The ministry provides weekly produce
- Healing Hands Ministry provides assistance with prescriptions on Wednesdays, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM.
 - Provide assistance with mortgage, rent, and utility payments.
 - Provide personal products for seniors, Eligibility requirements:
 - Must have an income of less than \$1,307 for an individual
 - Must have an income of less than \$1,832 for two people
 - Also houses people who are temporarily displaced (homeless) in a former fire station.
- Maximum currently has a list of volunteers comprised of people who live outside the affected communities. They need community volunteers who live in the affected communities, including CAC members and other residents, to volunteer for all planned pop-up activities.
- All information regarding coordinated community events and activities will be shared with LaTonya for distribution to CAC members.
- Lowcountry Street Grocery provided food bundles. Has anyone received feedback on the packages received?
- CAC Member feedback:
 - Received feedback from several residents has been positive. Recipients were appreciative
- Lowcountry Street Grocery will provide weekly food bundles.
 - They are currently seeking more residents who need food deliveries.
 - The produce is donated by local farmers.

Summary and Next Steps

- Poll was conducted to get feedback from meeting participants on preferred meeting date for CAC Meeting #10.
- July 4th is the first Saturday of the month, our normal meeting day.
 - Alternate dates proposed were June 27th and July 11th.
 - The project team suggested July 11th.
 - CAC members voted to change the meeting date to July 11th.
- CAC members were asked to let LaTonya know of their availability for a follow-up conversation on June 27th after the meeting with the City of North Charleston on June 16th.
- CAC Meeting #10 agenda will include a possible follow-up training session, further discussion on refined mitigation actions, and follow-up on action items from the June 16th City of North Charleston Listening Session.
- Update on COVID-19/SCDOT Public Engagement Policy
- Lowcountry Rapid Transit virtual public meeting is accessible at lowcountryrapidtransit.com from June 10, 2020 until July 10, 2020.
 - This information will also be sent to CAC members via email.
 - This is an ongoing public involvement process.

- The project team encourages the CAC to use this as an opportunity to provide your input/concerns through the process regarding improved stations and public transit.
- Final roll call was conducted for meeting participants joining by phone only.
- Thanks, on behalf of SCDOT and FHWA to everyone for your time and patience as we continue to work through COVID-19 restrictions.

CAC Meeting #10 is scheduled for July 11th, 2020, 10:00 - 11:30 AM. Look for updates from LaTonya on the format that will be used for this meeting.