



MEETING MINUTES

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 2

Date: November 1, 2019

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:05 pm

Location: Harvest Pointe Church, 4870 Piedmont Avenue, North Charleston, SC

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees:

Michael S. Halls, Sr., Ferndale

Gilbert Reeves, Ferndale

Larenda Baxley, Ferndale

Beverly “Amy” Gregory, Ferndale

Comeletia Robertson, Ferndale

Charlynn Smith, Ferndale

Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale

Ruth Mae Whitney, Highland Terrace

Carolyn Varner, Liberty Park

Jeanaris Bannister, Liberty Park

Tony Grasso, Russelldale

Rev. David L. Johnson, Harvest Pointe Church

Earl Muhammad, Muhammad Mosque

Prayonda Cooper, Joppa Way

Juanita Porter, Joppa Way

Saint Julian Corey VanHannegeyn IV, Deas Hill

Annette McCrorey, THC, Inc.

Willie Johnson, THC, Inc.

Jesse Williams, Community Action Network for Justice

Pamela Foster, FHWA

Yolonda Jordan, FHWA

Jessica Hekter, FHWA

Joy Riley, SCDOT

David Kelly, SCDOT

Mark Westbury, SCDOT

Fran Bickley, SCDOT

Angela Page-Smith, SCDOT

Henry Jones, SCDOT

Rick Day, Stantec

Ryan White, Stantec

Amy Sackaroff, Stantec

LaTonya Derrick, Stantec

Jamelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies, LLC

Participant Summary

Total participants: 33

Ferndale: 7

Highland Terrace: 1

Liberty Park: 2

Russelldale: 1

Adjacent/affected communities/agencies: 6

SCDOT: 6

THC (ROW Liaisons): 2

FHWA: 3

Stantec: 4

Facilitator: 1

Meeting Summary

Welcome and Introductions

- Roll call
- Safety review/emergency exits

Administrative Items

- Distribution of CAC Meeting #1 minutes, CAC Meeting #2 agenda and notebook materials, including door hangers and relocation/right-of-way acquisition flyers
- Agenda Review
 - Administrative Items

- Rules of Engagement
- Social Needs Survey
- Break/Dinner Served
- Community Drop-In Meeting Materials Preview/Discussion
- Looking Ahead
- Summary and Next Steps

Rules of Engagement

- Review of Rules of Engagement developed during CAC Meeting #1
- The CAC was reminded that the rules will serve as ideals and guiding principles that the group will use to work together in a collaborative and productive manner.
- Bullet 3 (“Determine how much of each community will be affected”) was removed.
- The remaining 15 Rules of Engagement were approved by the CAC.

Final Rules of Engagement:

1. Respect others’ opinions
 2. Address one community at a time
 3. Consistent attendance and participation
 4. Respect meeting time and agenda
 5. Ask questions/active participation
 6. Listen with an open mind
 7. Silence cell phones
 8. Remain solution-oriented and stay on topic
 9. Agree to disagree
 10. Agree to table topics that need additional research
 11. Respect privileged information and maintain confidentiality
 12. Give time for community leaders to discuss concerns shared by community members
 13. Attack the issues, not the person
 14. Engage with the SCDOT team in an honest way to best facilitate the process
 15. Be mindful of meeting times (children, work, etc.)
- Point of emphasis regarding Bullet 11: No photos of the proposed maps are allowed.

Break

- The CAC decided upon email as the preferred method of communication with project team members. The project team will email materials distributed during CAC meetings to CAC members unable to attend, upon request. The project team will follow up with CAC member(s) who are absent from meetings.

Community Office hours of operation were established by the CAC as follows:

Two weeknights (9 AM - 8PM)

Two weekends a month (10 AM – 2PM)

The project team will schedule meetings by appointment in addition to the set times. Community Office hours of operation may be modified at any time, with the approval of the CAC.

Social Needs Assessment

- The Social Needs Assessment (survey) was administered to CAC members to identify and prioritize the current needs of the impacted communities and to understand how to best address them.
- CAC responses to survey questions are important because they will help guide planning efforts associated with the mitigation process.
- The survey included a set of specific questions that focused on how important certain issues are and how satisfied the community is with specific existing issues.

Highlighted comments from Social Needs Assessment session:

- CAC members represent themselves **and** their communities when providing survey responses. Social Needs Assessment questions are designed to encourage CAC members to think about the broader range of community issues.
- Results from the Social Needs Assessment will serve as a springboard for future discussions as the project team develops the mitigation plan.
- The project team will review results of the Social Needs Assessment at CAC Meeting #3 to provide a platform for discussing current CAC views and perspectives on services and amenities available in the impacted communities and the CAC's vision for these communities through the mitigation process.
- CAC members provided the following as important areas of concern that were not addressed by the Social Needs Assessment but that should be included in future CAC discussions on community needs to include in the mitigation plan:
 - Limited through-way access
 - Neighborhood used as cut-throughs
 - Area/neighborhood crime
 - Lack of ample and consistent police presence

Community Drop-In Meeting Materials Preview/Discussion

- The project team showed the Virtual Public Information Meeting video.
- A list of five Community Drop-in locations and dates along with the Public Information Meeting date and location are included on Community Drop-In flyers.
- The Virtual Public Information video will be presented at each Community Drop-in and at the Public Information Meeting on November 21, 2019. It will also be available online. The video is currently in the editing stage.
- The project team and CAC reviewed maps that will be presented at the Community Drop-ins and at the Public Information Meeting.
- The project team reiterated that no pictures or videos should be taken during map review. This is critical because the maps shown during Meeting #2 are still being developed and have not been finalized. It is important that incomplete and/or unauthorized documents not be released for public consumption to avoid confusion or transfer of incorrect information to the general public.
- The CAC reviewed roll plots which are maps that depict the entire I-526 LCC WEST corridor and proposed improvements as well as neighborhood/community-level features.
- SCDOT expert staff members were present to answer right-of-way and acquisition questions.
- Additional maps will be available for review in future meetings.
- CAC members were encouraged to provide feedback during the map preview session.

- CAC comments/suggested revision to maps:
 - Place a symbol beside each station on each map identifying exact locations
 - Label more streets
 - The project team explained that smaller maps will be provided that will better highlight (define) local streets
 - The project team also clarified that fine details are often omitted from larger maps in order to minimize a cluttered effect
 - CAC members requested the inclusion of identifying marks on impacted parcels to designate what is being “lost.”
 - Mobile home
 - Vacant parcel
 - Single-family or multi-family dwelling
 - Business/Commercial Lot
 - Include if the parcel is in a flood zone
 - CAC member requested directional markers on roadways, particularly at the system-to-system interchanges (Interstate 26 to/from I-526).
- The project team reviewed Community Drop-in dates and locations (November 9th, 13th, 14th, 18th, 19th) and stressed the significance of these meetings as valuable opportunities for community input and feedback. Each Community Drop-in will be held for a three-hour period.
- CAC members were encouraged to visit the Community Project Office and to invite neighbors to visit to view the maps and video.

Looking Ahead: Planning to Implementation

- The project team discussed the duration of the CAC and the mitigation process as well as the importance of CAC commitment. In addition to community and public meetings, there are a number of studies and technical reports (community impacts, environmental impacts, etc.) the project team will develop and release for public comments. These documents are public records and legal documents that must receive approval at various levels.
- The CAC will partner with the project team throughout the mitigation process as follows (overview):
 - The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS summarizes all impacts associated with the project. The final environmental document is a Record of Decision that will be developed once alternatives have been agreed upon.
 - Right-of-way acquisition will take place in 2020. Early acquisition in 2020 will be key. The CAC and project team will discuss early acquisition during relocation meeting discussions.
 - The target for completion of document review and public comment periods is through Fall 2021.
 - Construction is projected to begin in 2023.
 - The project team and CAC must make significant progress early in the process in order to maintain the anticipated timeline.
 - There will be a hiatus after completion of environmental documents and during the right-of-way acquisition.
 - Once construction begins, meetings will become less frequent. CAC members are asked to commit to a more intense schedule in the short term (early in the process), then meetings will become less frequent as the team transitions into the implementation phase.
 - During the implementation phase (construction), the CAC will transition into an oversight committee to ensure decisions are implemented according to the vision established by the CAC.

- The project team stressed the importance of the CAC serving as representatives of every impacted community. This group will be comprised of homeowners and tenants of Russelldale, Liberty Park, Ferndale, and Highland Terrace. CAC members were encouraged to identify other residents, particularly from Russelldale to join and participate in the CAC.

Summary and Next Steps

Next steps:

- The Public Comment period after the Public Information Meeting lasts until January 4, 2020.
- Next CAC meeting is scheduled for Saturday, December 7, 2019, 10 AM-12 PM (following the November community drop-ins and the Public Information Meeting on November 21)
- Comments may be submitted as written comments or audio-recordings at the Public Information Meeting. Comments may also be submitted online or mailed-in.

Upcoming meeting topics (CAC Meeting #3):

- Social Needs Assessment summary and discussion
- Vision Statement Activity
- Determining the appropriate size of the CAC
- Information and FAQ session on Right-of-Way and Relocation

CAC meeting #3 is scheduled for December 7, 2019 beginning at 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM at the I-526 Lowcountry Corridor Community Office, 5627 Rivers Avenue, N. Charleston, SC.