



526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR

Community Advisory Council

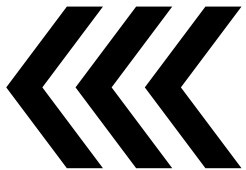
Meeting No. 1

9.30.2019

Logistics



Food



Exits



Restrooms



Welcome and Introductions

- Advisory Council Members
- SC Department of Transportation
- Federal Highway Administration
- Stantec



Meeting Facilitator – Dr. Jamelle H. Ellis



- President and Managing Director of Empowerment Strategies, LLC
- Master of Science in *Environmental Engineering* from Clemson University
- Ph.D. in *Environmental Health Sciences* from the University of South Carolina
- Teaches at the University of North Carolina
- Native of Charleston, SC
- Currently married with three children and living in Columbia, SC

Agenda

- Project overview and schedule
- What is Environmental Justice?
- Why create a Community Advisory Council?
- Group Activity: Developing the CAC Vision Statement
- Framework for Future Meetings
- Summary and Next Steps



Project Overview and Schedule



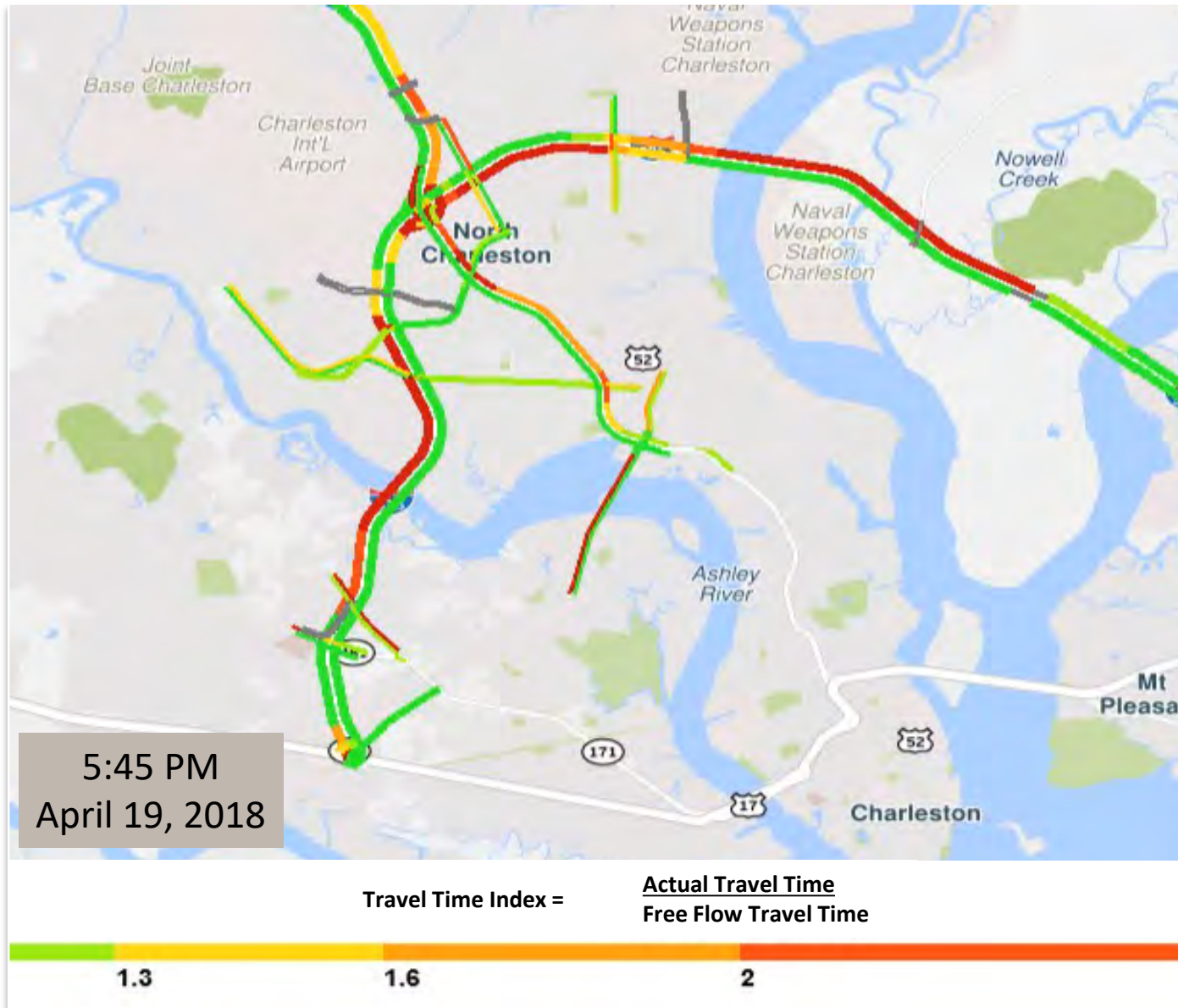
I-526 Lowcountry Corridor **WEST**

Project Termini

**Virginia Avenue
North Charleston**



**Paul Cantrell Boulevard
West Ashley**



Project Need

- I-526 is one of SC's most congested freeways

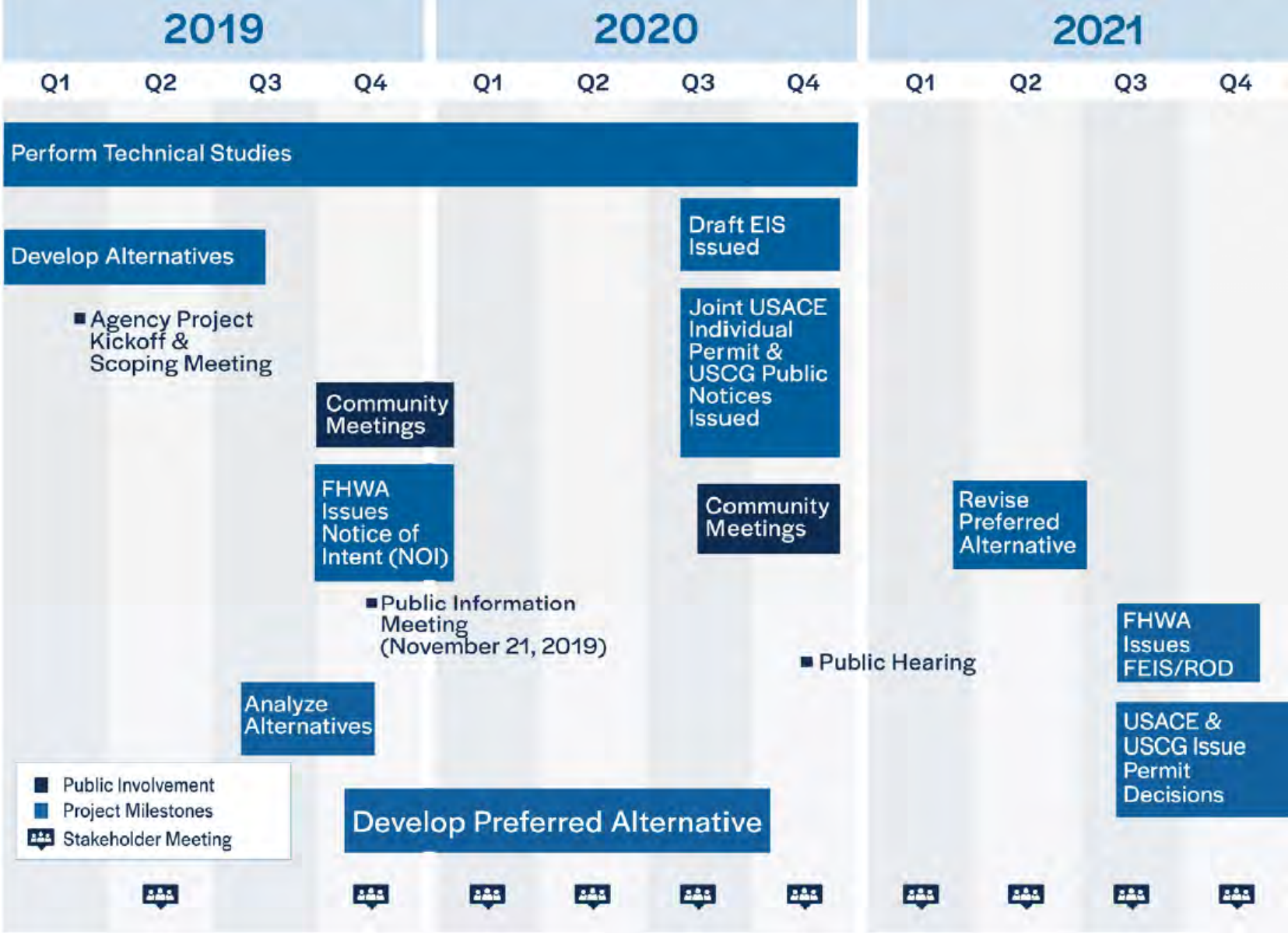
Project Purpose

- Improve System-to-System Interchange Operations
- Improve I-526 Mainline Operations
- Improve System Capacity

Project schedule

Highlights

- Final environmental document: Fall 2021
- Right-of-way acquisition: 2020**
- Construction: 2023



** Start of early acquisition



What is Environmental Justice?

What is Environmental Justice?

Executive Order 12898:
Federal Actions to Address
Environmental Justice in
Minority Populations and
Low-Income Populations

- The **fair treatment** and **meaningful involvement** of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income

FHWA Order 6640.23A:
FHWA Actions to Address
Environmental Justice in
Minority Populations and
Low-Income Population

- Clarifies that disproportionately high and adverse effects **have a greater impact** on minority and low-income populations

Title VI of the
1964 Civil Rights Act

- Bars intentional discrimination as well as **inadvertent impact discrimination**

Environmental Justice Principles

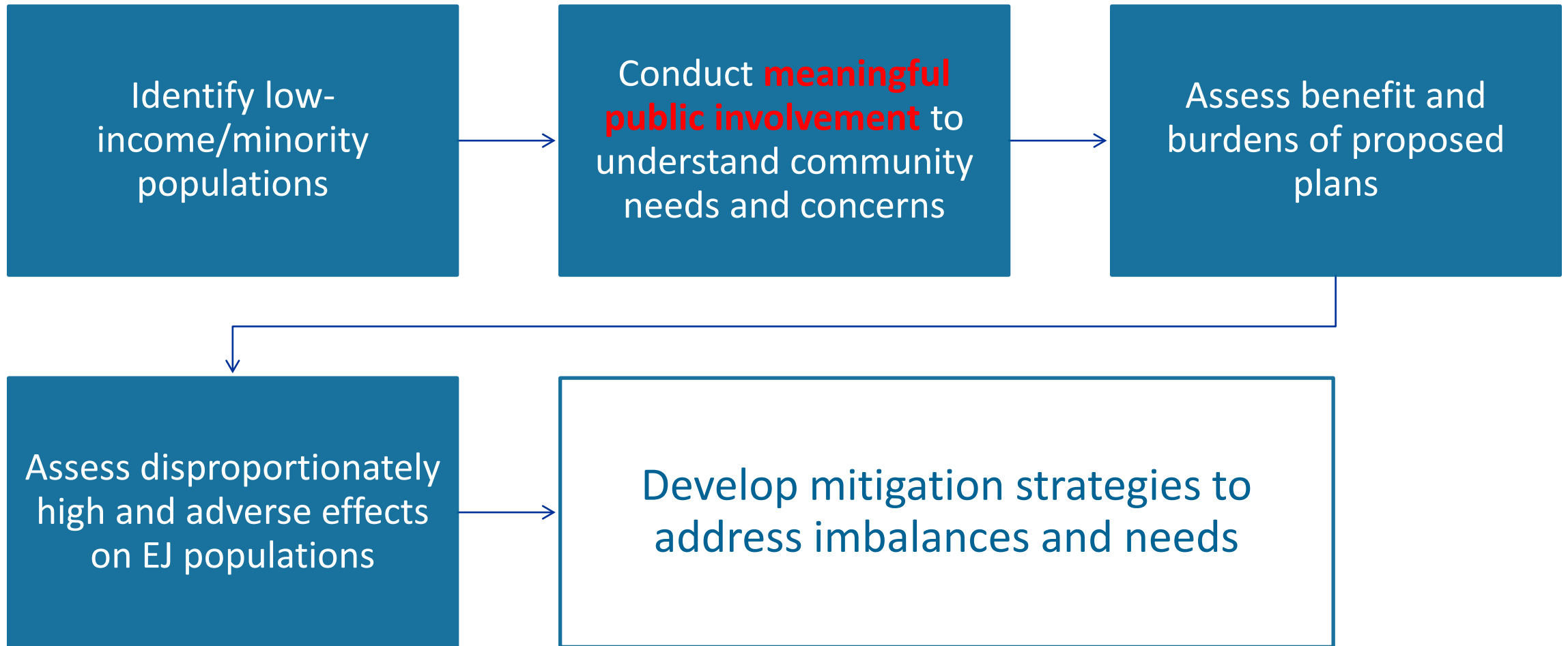


To **avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects**, including social and economic effects, on minority populations and low-income populations.

To **ensure the full and fair participation** by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process.

To **prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits** by minority populations and low-income populations.

USDOT Environmental Justice Process



Outreach 2019-2020



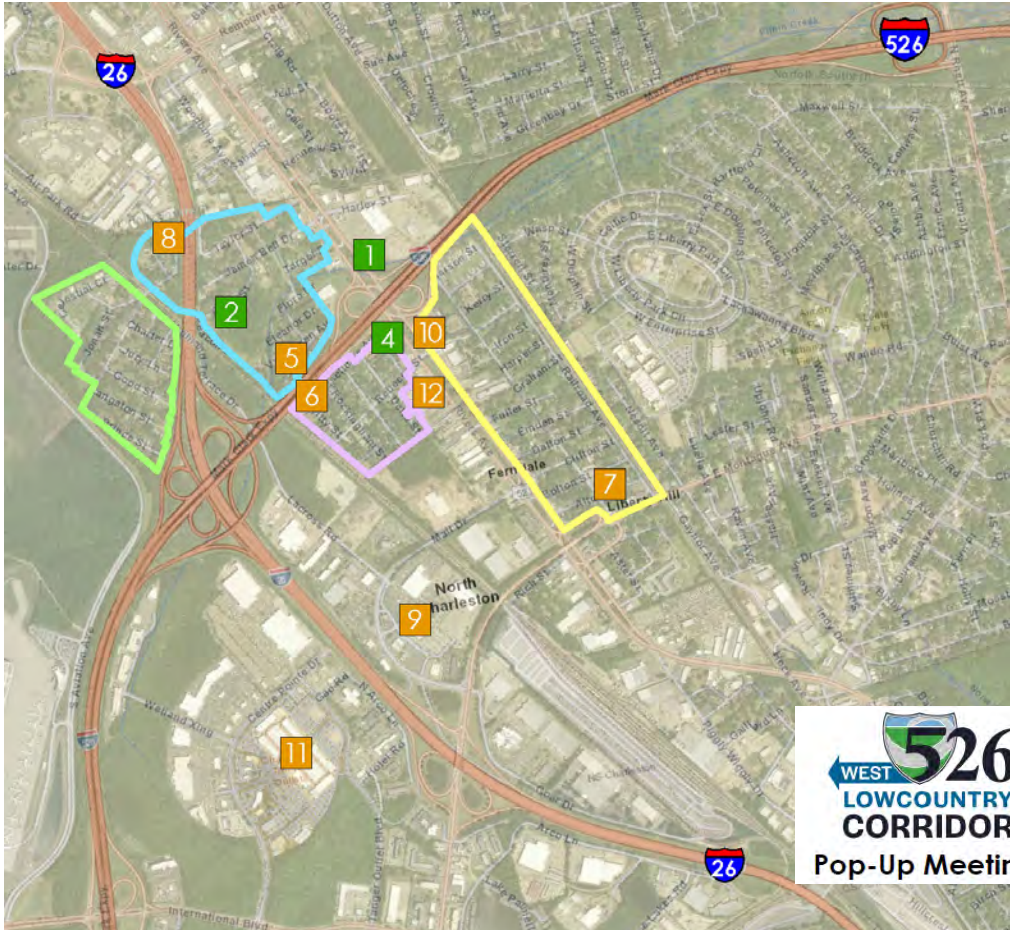
- Community Drop-In's
- Pop-up informational booths
- Public Information Meeting
- Festivals
- Project information boxes
- Doorhangers
- Postcards
- Newsletters
- Website
- Community Advisory Council

Outreach 2019

- Community Drop-In's
 - Biblical House of God – 11/9
 - Ferndale Community Center – 11/13
 - Life Changers Covenant Ministries – 11/14
 - Danny Jones Recreation Center – 11/18
 - Citadel Mall – 11/19

- Public Information Meeting
 - Charleston Area Convention Center – 11/21

- Pop-up Meetings
 - Various locations throughout the fall



Legend

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|---|
| EJ Neighborhoods | | | |
| Ferndale | Bethel Pentecostal Holiness (9/15 & 9/29; 11am-12pm & 1:30-2:30pm) | Russelldale Community Center (Proposed: 10/3; 2:30-5:30pm) | North Charleston City Hall (Proposed: 10/31; 11am-3:30pm) |
| Highland Terrace | North Charleston HS Game (9/20 & 10/18; 6-10pm) | Ferndale Community Center (Proposed: 10/17; 2:30-5:30pm) | Exchange Factor Thrift Store |
| Liberty Park | Roper St. Francis Clinic (10/12; 12-5pm) | Highland Terrace Community Center (Proposed: 10/24; 2:30-5:30pm) | Tanger Outlets |
| Russelldale | Biblical House of God (Proposed: 9/28) | | Berlin Restaurant Supply |
| PPG Paints (9/15; 12-5pm) | | | CARTA Superstop |
| PENDING | | | Brentwood Shopping Center |
| CONFIRMED | | | Lannie Hamilton Building |
| | | | Cumulus Radio Event |
| | | | Home Depot |
| | | | Bon Secours Hospital |

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Miles

Outreach 2019: Community Advisory Council

“A collection of individuals who bring **unique knowledge** and **skills** which augment the knowledge and skills of the formal project team in order to more **effectively guide** the organization.”



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process

Wildlife

Endangered Species Act of 1973; Marine Mammal Protection Act; Anadromous Fish Conservation Act; Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act; Migratory Bird Treaty Act; Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976, as amended, with Essential Fish Habitat requirements at 16 U.S.C. § 1855(b)(2)

Historic and Cultural Resources

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; 23 U.S.C. § 138 and Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966; Preservation of Historical and Archaeological Data; Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979; Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)

Air Quality

Clean Air Act, with the exception of project level conformity determinations

Hazardous Material Management

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA); Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA); Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)

Parklands and Other Special Land Uses

Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966; Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act

Social and Economic Impacts

Environmental Justice, community impacts, indirect and cumulative effects

Water Resources and Wetlands

Clean Water Act; Coastal Barrier Resources Act; Coastal Zone Management Act; Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA); Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899; Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; Emergency Wetlands Resources Act; Wetlands Mitigation; Flood Disaster Protection Act; FHWA wetland and natural habitat mitigation regulations

Noise

Noise Control Act of 1972; FHWA noise regulations at 23 C.F.R. Part 772; Airport Noise and Capacity Act of 1990



Informational Materials

- Meeting Information
- Guiding Principles
- Project Background
- Project Development Process
- Educational Materials
- Glossary
- Contacts



BREAK TIME





Why create a Community Advisory Council?

Why develop a Community Advisory Council?

- Provide a way for you to voice **your opinions, feelings, and ideas**
- **Help shape this project** and create a positive, local impact
- Provide **input on actions to minimize and mitigate** impacts
- Build **relationships**
- Convey **ownership**
- **Meaningful** engagement

“Cities have the capability of providing something for everyone, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody.”

- Jane Jacobs

Desired Outcomes of the Community Advisory Council

- Provide forum for **open communication** between the project team and the community
- **Early collaboration** to frame expectations and identify solutions
- Help SCDOT understand the community **history, needs, concerns, and priorities**
- Help SCDOT gain a **better understanding of the project impacts** on the community
- Help **shape the community mitigation** package



Responsibility of the Community Advisory Council



I-526 LCC WEST EJ Mitigation Strategy: Overarching Goal

- *Effectively mitigate direct, indirect, and cumulative (/recurring) impacts on EJ communities by **establishing relationships, building trust, and gathering feedback that will inform decisions** on mitigative measures and other aspects of project development.*



Case Study: Newtown Pike Extension Project, Lexington KY





Group Activity: Developing the CAC Vision

Draft Vision Statement Activity

- Think about:
 - Your life experiences: How has the existing highway affected you? How will the proposed project affect you?
 - What brought you here today: What are your values and what motivated you to participate in the Advisory Council?
 - **What you would like to see from this process?**

Our Cause
Who? What? Where?

Our Actions
What we do

Our Impact
Changes for the better

- Write down your thoughts to share

Example Vision Statements *(word count in parenthesis)*

Human Rights Campaign: *Equality for everyone* (3)

The Nature Conservancy: *To leave a sustainable world for future generations.* (8)

Oceana: *seeks to make our oceans as rich, healthy and abundant as they once were.* (14)

Save the Children: *A world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development, and participation.* (15)

Clinton Foundation: *To implement sustainable programs that improve access worldwide to investment, opportunity, and lifesaving services now and for future generations.* (19)

Goodwill: *Every person has the opportunity to achieve his/her fullest potential and participate in and contribute to all aspects of life.* (21)

Kiva: *We envision a world where all people – even in the most remote areas of the globe – hold the power to create opportunity for themselves and others.* (26)

Amnesty International: *A world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments.* (26)

Special Olympics: *To transform communities by inspiring people throughout the world to open their minds, accept and include people with intellectual disabilities and thereby anyone who is perceived as different.* (28)

VFW: *Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.* (32)

Draft Vision Statement Activity cont.

- Some possible themes:



Other themes to consider:

- Focus on informed and involved community
- Safe and accessible neighborhoods
- Cultural diversity and inclusiveness
- Social responsibility
- Change, innovation and new ideas
- Respect for heritage
- Effective communication



Framework for Future Meetings

Framework for Meetings Nos. 3-6

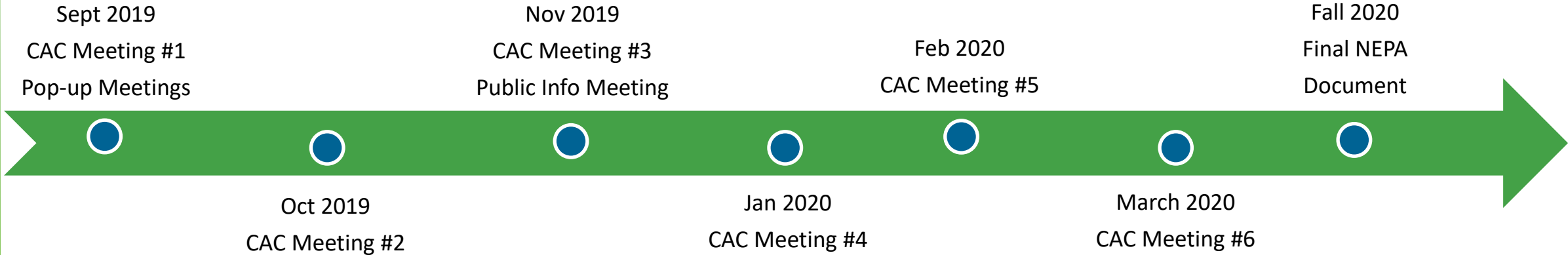
| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| #3 (Early November 2020) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public meeting maps and materials• Enlist CAC member support in advertising community drop-in's and PIM• Confirm project team understanding of community issues and priorities• Gather CAC member thoughts/suggestions for mitigation measures• Discuss CAC transition into a 'project oversight committee' after planning |
| #4 (January 2020) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present high-level draft mitigation concepts developed in consideration of community issues/priorities• Educational piece on community land trusts• Gather input on high-level mitigation concepts |
| #5 (February 2020) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide update on mitigation concept development• Additional items to be developed in consideration of previous meetings |
| #6 (March 2020) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present draft Mitigation Plan framework and other draft technical information for CAC review• Initiate discussion on how CAC can transition into a 'project oversight committee' to oversee implantation of EJ Mitigation Plan• Revisit the CAC Vision Statement for implementation oversight phase• Additional items to be developed in consideration of previous meetings |



Next Steps

Next Steps: Topics for Next Month

- Finalize Vision Statement
- Community issues and priorities
- Community Drop-In's
- Public Information Meeting
- Set definitive schedule for next 4 meetings
- Start conversation on community oversight during implementation phase



Contact Information



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Ryan.White@Stantec.com



LaTonya Derrick | NEPA/Public Engagement Specialist
LaTonya.Derrick@Stantec.com



Thank you for your involvement!



MEETING MINUTES

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 1

Date: September 30, 2019

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:35 pm

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

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees

| | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Henry Jones, SCDOT | Earl Muhammad, Muhammad Mosque |
| Barbara Beagles, SCDOT | Prayonda Cooper, Joppa Way |
| Yolonda Jordan, FHWA | Gilbert Reeves, Ferndale |
| Joy Riley, SCDOT | Tony Grasso, Russelldale |
| Chad Long, SCDOT | Larenda Baxley, Ferndale |
| Ryan White, Stantec | David Johnson, Ferndale |
| Jamelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies, LLC | Saint Julian Corey VanHannegeyn IV |
| Amy Sackaroff, Stantec | Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale |
| DeAndre Muhammad, Muhammad Mosque | Ruthie Mae Whitney, Highland Terrace |
| Carolyn Varner, Liberty Park | Michael S. Halls, Sr., Ferndale |
| Charlyne Smith, Ferndale | LaTonya Derrick, Stantec |
| Amy Gregory, Ferndale | Pamela Foster, FHWA |

Meeting Summary:

Jamelle Ellis (Facilitator) began the meeting by having meeting participants introduce themselves. There was a total of 24 participants, 14 of which were Community Advisory Council (CAC) members representing affected residential communities. The importance of transparency and active engagement were emphasized to meeting participants in order to optimize the experience and outcomes of the CAC and mitigation process.

Joy Riley (SCDOT Program Manager) provided a project overview and schedule for the I-526 Lowcountry Corridor West project, providing a map of the geographical footprint of the project, its purpose (increase capacity and improve operations), schedule (thru construction in 2025), outreach components (2019-2020), and the regulatory impetus for project development.

Amy Sackaroff (NEPA/Public Engagement Specialist) explained Environmental Justice, discussed the purpose of the CAC and the roles and responsibilities of its members, and reviewed the CAC handbook which was provided to each CAC member during the meeting. The Newtown Pike Extension (Lexington, KY) video was shown in order to demonstrate a similar project to the I-526 West project with successful outcomes.

Joy encouraged the CAC to share their thoughts, feelings, and experiences throughout the process. She stated that the project team is relying on the CAC to help advise them and better inform the process. The

CAC will help the project team answer questions of efficiency and effectiveness such as whether we are disseminating information in a way that is helpful to the community and whether messaging is constructed in a way that is relevant and practical to the community (do they understand/receive information being communicated?). She also stated that the CAC handbook is a living document and the project team's approach will be fluid in order to best meet the needs of the community. The approach will include some level of trial and error, so adjustments will be made if something is not currently working.

CAC Discussions/Comments:

CAC Member Suggestion: There was a concern about holding CAC meetings in the evenings for people with school-age children. The point was made that more people were not in attendance because it was a school night. Joy reassured the CAC member (and council) that the project team would take her feedback into consideration in scheduling future meetings. *[Update: the second CAC meeting is scheduled for a week night due to constraints related to staff and facility availability; however, this suggestion will remain in mind as future CAC meetings are scheduled.]*

CAC Member Concern: There are other community groups that are meeting regarding the I-526 West project. There is a lot of misinformation being distributed as a result of those meetings. For instance, the CAC member referenced rumors about planned efforts in their communities and the existence of physical plans of proposed changes to their communities. Contrary to rumors circulated in his community, he learned during the first CAC meeting that no definitive plans have been prepared. He asked how the CAC should manage rumors. Joy responded that she cannot control rumors, but she has an open-door policy for anyone who has questions. Her phone number is on most of the project flyers. She recommends people call and get their information from the source. She stressed that she takes an upfront, full-disclosure approach, so if someone calls and asks her a question, she is going to tell the truth. She encourages people to have an open mind and come out to listen to what SCDOT says – to hear and gather information and stressed working together to develop solutions.

CAC Member Question: Do you have door hangers with printed facts that we can take back to the community? Stantec responded that they could be produced before the next CAC meeting. The CAC Member indicated door hangers with Q&As would help with questions they have, so that after meetings they could take them back to the community to help answer questions and possibly offset the spread of misinformation. Joy: Door hangers will also be distributed 3 weeks in advance of the November 13th community meeting. *[Update: FAQs related to relocation/right-of-way acquisition will be distributed at CAC Meeting No. 3 in conjunction with an information session on the subject.]*

CAC Member Question: Will you also hold meetings in the areas that will be affected as well? That will allow the residents who are actually going to be affected to come out to hear what we're hearing and give their input based on how they feel regarding how the improvements project is affecting them. Joy indicated that if community members want the project team to present at homeowners association meetings, they will accommodate those requests. Currently, there are meetings scheduled at Biblical House of God (Russelldale). The meeting schedule is outlined in the CAC handbook. The primary, all-day Public Information Meeting is scheduled for November 21st at the Convention Center. If there are additional meetings that need to be scheduled, the project team welcomes those opportunities. The team looked at having a meeting at the Highland Terrace Liberty Park Community Center, but it wasn't

large enough to accommodate the anticipated number of participants. It is important to note that these are advertised meetings so people who live in other communities may also attend.

Jamelle facilitated a brainstorming session to develop a list of rules of engagement to help govern the CAC process for the life of the project. The CAC developed the following list.

Rules of Engagement:

1. Respect others' opinions
2. Address one community at a time
3. Determine how much of each community will be affected
4. Consistent attendance and participation
5. Respect meeting time and agenda
6. Ask questions/active participation
7. Listen with an open mind
8. Silence cell phones
9. Remain solution-oriented and stay on topic
10. Agree to disagree
11. Agree to table topics that need additional research
12. Respect privileged information and maintain confidentiality
13. Give time for community leaders to discuss concerns shared by community members
14. Attack the issues, not the person
15. Engage with the SCDOT team in an honest way to best facilitate the process
16. Be mindful of meeting times (children, work, etc.)

Recommendation that #3 be removed from this list, and noted accordingly, but addressed as a part of strategic project discussions. A printed copy of the Rules of Engagement will be provided to all CAC members to include in their handbooks upon their approval.

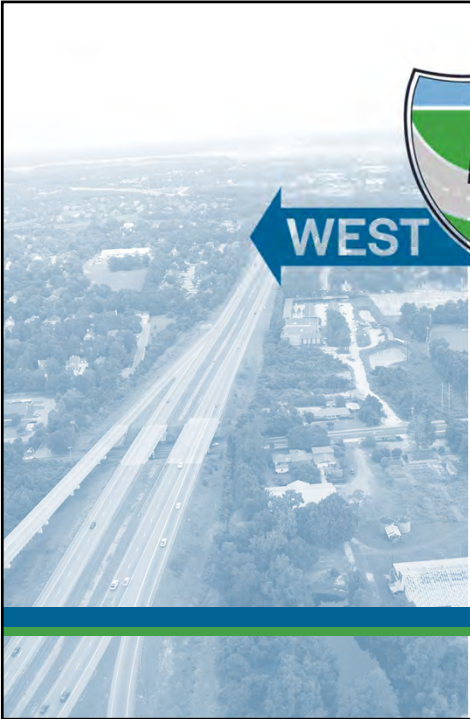
Upcoming meeting topics

- The CAC decided that weekday evenings are going to be a challenge for people who work, but if meetings are held on weekdays, we should maintain the 6-8 PM meeting time. Need to determine if Fridays are the most preferable weekday? Saturday mornings 10 AM-12 PM? Thursdays? Should an anonymous vote (ballot) be taken to determine the best day/time?
- Amy: There is an understanding that everyone will not be able to make every meeting, so for any meeting a CAC member misses there will be updates. CAC members will be kept informed. The project team will ensure that meeting times remain flexible in order to accommodate the majority of the CAC.
- Reviewing the Rules of Engagement. Once the CAC finalizes and approves, they will go into CAC binders.
- Next meeting will be the end of October or the beginning of November ahead of the community drop-in on November 21.
- The project team and CAC will review maps and public meeting materials.
- The CAC should familiarize themselves with meeting places and times.

- The project team should bring to the next meeting flyers and door hangers for CAC members to distribute
- The CAC should work to confirm community issues, needs, and priorities
- The CAC and project team will start the conversation about mitigation measures
- When necessary, the project team will bring subject matter experts who are able to answer technical questions regarding specific elements of the project
- Open mic segments of the meetings will allow CAC members to share what they are hearing from their neighbors. A specific amount of time (eg. 30 minutes) should be allotted during each meeting for open mic.
- Brief recap by Amy: The project team does a series of meetings ahead of the drop-in on November 21, 2019. The project team will come back and talk about what they learned. That will involve a few high-level mitigation concepts, reporting back to the CAC, the project team compiling and learning about complex housing regulations and guidelines, and getting the CAC feedback on those topics
- Anticipated that the February 2020 meeting will be spent fine-tuning mitigation concepts
- The March 2020 meeting will be spent reviewing a draft framework with detailed input from the CAC on potential modifications
- Vision statement activity will be conducted during the next meeting


Respectfully submitted,

Jamelle H. Ellis, Ph.D.
President/Managing Director
Empowerment Strategies, LLC



526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR

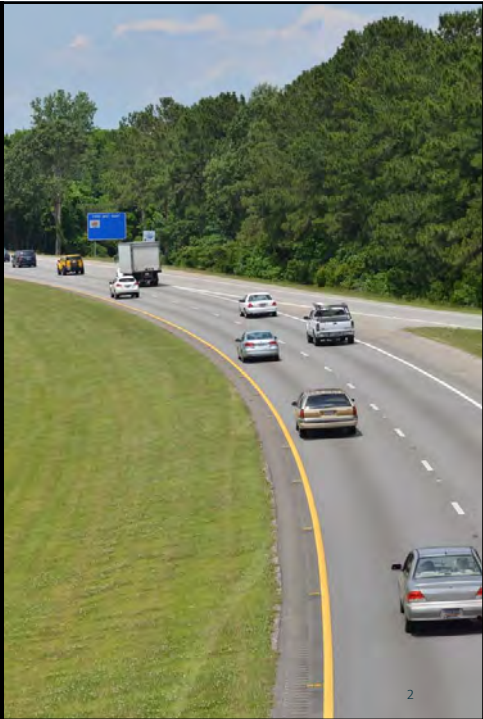
*Community Advisory Council
Meeting No. 2
10.28.2019*



Welcome and Logistics

-  Food
-  Exits
-  Restrooms

I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST



Agenda

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



Administrative Items

Administrative Items

- For Distribution:
 - CAC Meeting No. 2 Agenda
 - Minutes from CAC Meeting No. 1
 - Door hangers/project information flyers
- Notes:
 - Relocation/right-of-way acquisition information session and FAQ sheet
 - Meeting scheduling

Administrative Items cont.

- For Input:
 - Best way to keep members informed if a meeting must be missed?
 - Best hours for Community Office?
 - *Three days during the week from 10am to 6pm?*
 - *Two days during the week until 8pm?*
 - *One day on the weekend from 10am to 2pm?*

| HOURS | | |
|-------|----------------------|-------------------------|
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| TUES | <input type="text"/> | to <input type="text"/> |
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Rules of Engagement

Rules of Engagement

- 1 Respect others' opinions.
- 2 Address one community at a time.
- 3 Determine how much of each community will be affected.
- 4 Consistent attendance and participation.
- 5 Respect meeting time and agenda.
- 6 Ask questions/active participation.
- 7 Listen with an open mind.
- 8 Silence cell phones.

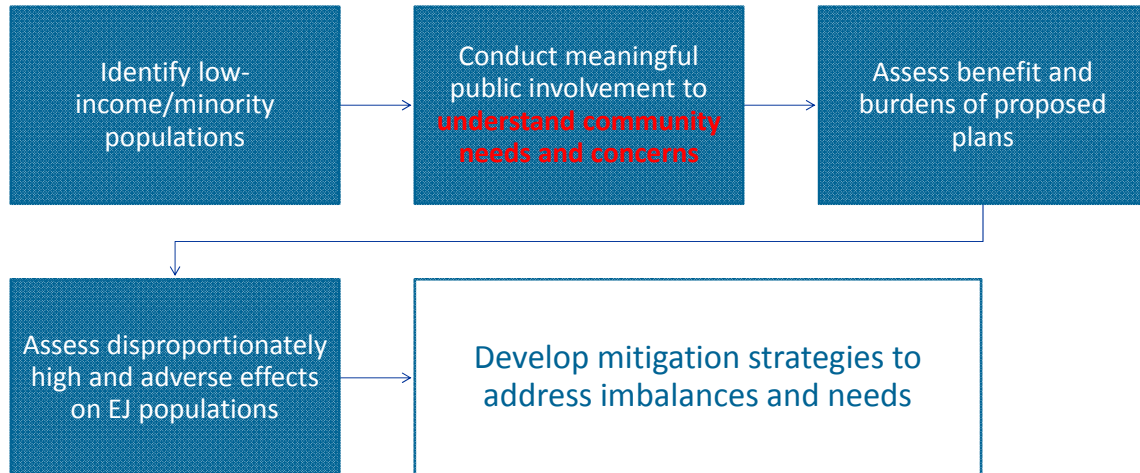
Rules of Engagement cont.

- 9 Remain solution-oriented and stay on topic.
- 10 Agree to disagree.
- 11 Agree to table topics that need additional research.
- 12 Respect privileged information and maintain confidentiality.
- 13 Give time for community leaders to discuss concerns shared by community members.
- 14 Attack the issues, not the person.
- 15 Engage with the SCDOT team in an honest way to best facilitate the process.
- 16 Be mindful of meeting times (children, work, etc.)



Social Needs Assessment

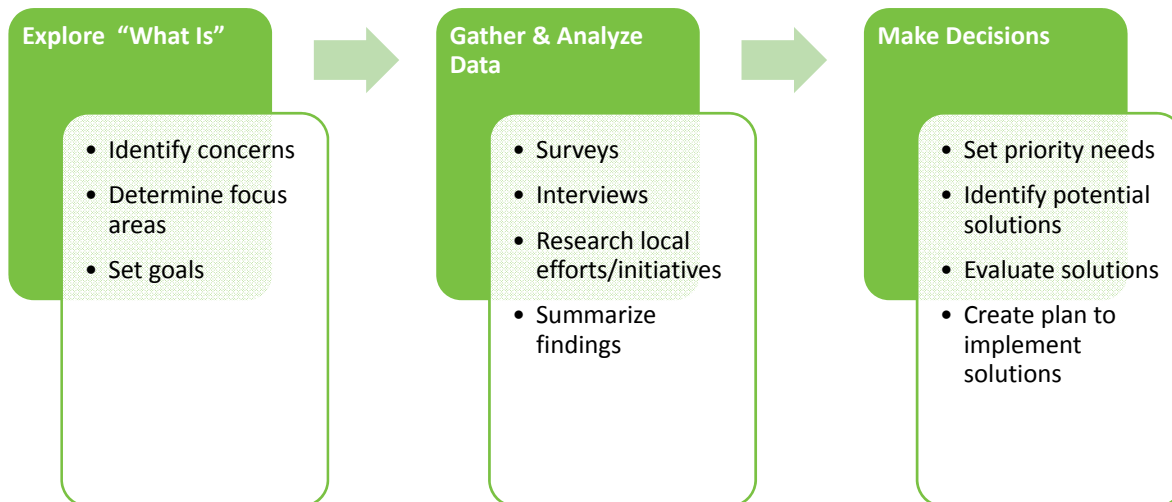
Review: Environmental Justice Process



Understanding Community Needs and Concerns

- Need: the gap between what is and what should be
- Social Needs Assessments help:
 - Identify health and wellness needs
 - Examine their nature and causes
 - Set priorities for future actions

Social Needs Assessment Process



Assessment Factors



We want your input!

- For each question, choose the number on your clicker that best represents your opinion
- Your answer is anonymous
- Two-part questions:
 - How important is the issue to you
 - How satisfied you are with current services



10 Minute Break



Virtual Public Meeting

I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST



Public Meeting Materials Preview

I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST

Community Drop-In's

Purpose

- Present project update
- Inform the communities about the Public Information Meeting
- Get community-specific feedback on impacts and concerns
- Provide opportunities to stay involved in the project

Topics

- Project schedule
- Updates on Public Involvement outreach efforts
- Project development process
- Project alternatives
- Maps with potential community impacts

Drop-In Dates to Note



Map Preview

- Overview
- Privileged information at this point
- Questions and feedback are welcomed!

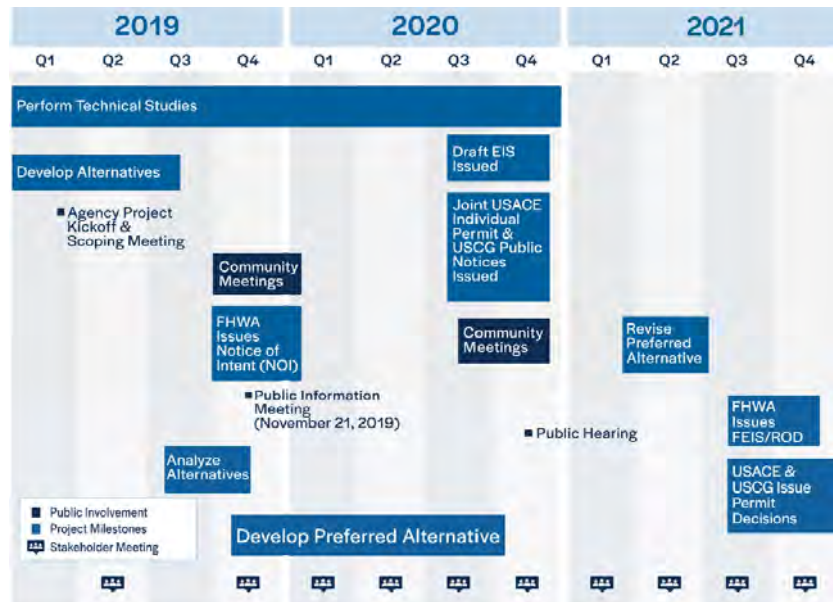


Looking Ahead

Schedule

- Final environmental document: Fall 2021
- Right-of-way acquisition: 2020**
- Construction: 2023
- CAC transition to Oversight Implementation Committee

** Start of early acquisition



Summary and Next Steps

Summary and Next Steps

- CAC Meeting No. 2 Recap
- Date for CAC Meeting No. 3

| November | | | | | | 2019 |
|---|--|---|--|------------|---|------|
| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SAT/SUN | |
| 28 October | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 November | 2/3 | |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9/10 Community Drop-In Biblical House of God 2:00-4:00 pm | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 Community Drop-In Ferndale Community Center 5:00 – 8:00 pm | 14 Community Drop-In Life Changers Covenant Ministries 5:00 – 8:00 pm | 15 | 16/17 | |
| 18 Community Drop-In Danny Jones Community Center 5:00 – 8:00 pm | 19 Community Drop-In Citadel Mall 5:00 – 8:00 pm | 20 CAC Meeting No. 3? 6:00 – 8:00 pm | 21 Public Information Meeting 8:00 am – 4:00 pm | 22 | 23/24 | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 Thanksgiving | 29 | 30 / 1 December | |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7/8 | |

Contact Information



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LaTonya Derrick | NEPA/Public Engagement Specialist
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Thank you for your time!



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 | Willie Johnson, THC |
| Gilbert Reeves, Ferndale | Jesse Williams |
| Larenda Baxley, Ferndale | Joy Riley, SCDOT |
| David L. Johnson, Ferndale | David Kelly, SCDOT |
| Beverly “Amy” Gregory, Ferndale | Mark Westbury, SCDOT |
| Cameletia Robertson, Ferndale | Fran Bickley, SCDOT |
| Charlynn Smith, Ferndale | Angela Page-Smith, SCDOT |
| Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale | Henry Jones, SCDOT |
| St. Julian Corey Van Hannegeyn IV, Deacon Hill | Pamela Foster, FHWA |
| Ruthie Mae Whitney, Highland Terrace | Yolonda Jordan, FHWA |
| Prayonda Cooper, Joppa Way | Jessica Hekler, FHWA |
| Juanita Porter, Joppa Way | Rick Day, Stantec |
| Carolyn Varner, Liberty Park | Ryan White, Stantec |
| Jeanaris Bannister, Liberty Park | Amy Sackaroff, Stantec |
| Tony Grasso, Russelldale | LaTonya Derrick, Stantec |
| Earl Muhammad, Muhammad Mosque | Jamelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies |
| Annette McCrory, THC | |

Participant Summary

Total participants: 33

Ferndale: 9

Highland Terrace: 1

Liberty Park: 2

Joppa Way: 2

Russelldale participants: 1

Undesignated: 1 (Jesse Williams)

Deacon Hill: 1 (St. Julian Corey Van Hannegeyn IV)

Non-returning CAC participant(s) from Meeting 1: DeAndre Muhammad, Muhammad Mosque

First-time CAC participants: 2 (from THC)

SCDOT: 6

FHWA: 3

Stantec: 4

Facilitator: 1

Meeting Summary:

The meeting was started with participant introductions. Exits and emergency meeting locations were reviewed. Administrative issues were addressed (distribution of CAC Meeting 1 minutes, CAC Meeting 2 agenda and notebook materials, including door hangers and relocation/right-of-way acquisition flyers). The importance of transparency and active engagement was emphasized in order to optimize solutions and outcomes of the CAC and mitigation process.

Rules of Engagement

Rules of Engagement (Rules) developed in CAC Meeting 1 were reviewed. 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”) from the original list was removed since it is considered tactical rather than a guiding in nature. There were no objections by the CAC to this modification. The remaining 15 Rules of Engagement were reviewed and 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.)

There was a point of emphasis on Bullet 11, stressing that no photos should be taken of the maps scheduled to be reviewed later in the meeting.

The meeting resumed after a brief time to plate meals with a discussion of proper communication for missed meetings. The CAC decided that email is the preferred method of communication. For participants unable to attend a meeting, the project team will send an email with materials distributed during the meeting upon request. The project team will also contact 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 was explained and administered. The assessment is a survey to identify and prioritize community members' current needs and to understand how to best address them. For future discussions, the CAC was asked to consider their reasons for their responses and reminded that responses to questions will help inform local planning efforts. The survey included 25 two-part questions that focused on "how important is the issue to you?" and "how satisfied are you with the service?" During survey administration, no participants requested clarification or asked questions about the meaning of questions.

Comments/notes during the Social Needs Assessment administration:

- CAC members should keep in mind that they are representing not only themselves, but members of their communities.
- Social Needs Assessment questions should make the CAC think about the broader range of community issues and will serve as a springboard for discussions as the 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 target communities and the Council's vision for these communities through the mitigation process.
- When asked if there were any areas of concern omitted from the survey, CAC members provided the following feedback as concerns that should be included in future social needs discussions:
 - Limited through-way access
 - Neighborhood used as cut-throughs
 - Area/neighborhood crime
 - Lack of ample and consistent police presence

Virtual Public Information Meeting

The project team showed Virtual Public Information meeting video.

Comments/notes during the Virtual Public Information discussion:

- On back of the distributed Community Drop-In flyer, there is a list of 5 community drop-in dates and the public information meeting date and location.
- The video will be presented at each community drop-in and at the Public Information Meeting on November 21, 2019; However, it will also be available online in order to maximize the number of viewers.
- The video is still in the editing stage.

Community Drop-in meeting materials/discussion

Review of 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.
- Roll plots, various maps that depict the entire I-526 corridor and the proposed improvements as well as smaller neighborhood were reviewed by the CAC.
- SCDOT expert staff members were present to answer right-of-way and acquisition questions.
- More maps will be available in future meetings.

- CAC members were encouraged to ask questions regarding the presented maps.
- CAC Comments/Suggested revision to maps:
 - Sign by each station/map identifying the location
 - Label more streets
 - Explained to CAC Member that the smaller maps will highlight the local streets better
 - Minimizes busyness of the larger maps
 - Identify on the impacted parcel 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 asked if something could be added to identify the travel direction on roadway.
 - Like a caret (^) or less-than/greater-than symbol (< >) on top of the new roadway, particularly at the system-to-system interchange

The project team reviewed Community drop-in dates and locations (November 9, 13, 14, 18, 19) 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.

Planning to Implementation

The project team discussed the duration of the CAC and mitigation process and 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 of the impacts.
- The final environmental document is a Record of Decision that will be developed once alternatives have been agreed upon.
- Right of way acquisition 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 of 2021.
- Construction in 2023.

In order maintain the anticipated timeline, the project team and CAC must make significant progress early in the process. It will be critical to transition the CAC team to an oversight committee to ensure decisions made are actually implemented.

There will be a hiatus after completion of environmental documents and during the right of way acquisition, so meetings will be less frequent once construction begins. The intense work will be in the short term (early in the process), then meetings will become less frequent as the team transitions into the implementation phase (under the oversight committee formally the CAC).

The project team strives to ensure the CAC is representative of every 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:

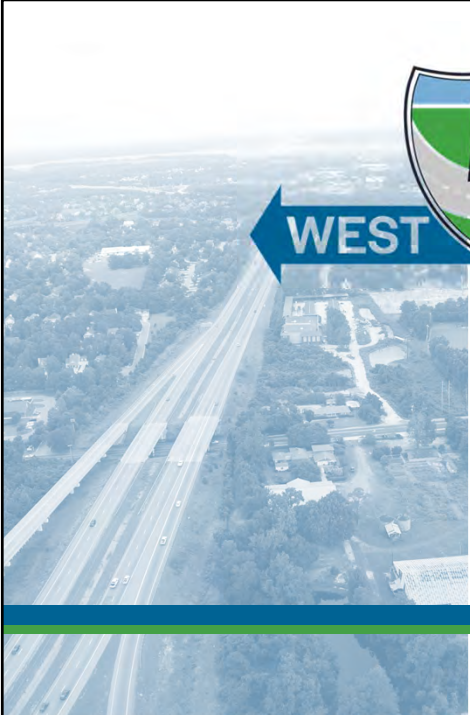
- Public Comment period last until January 4, 2020
- Next meeting scheduled for Saturday, December 7, 2019, 10 AM-12 PM (following the November community drop-ins and the Public Information Meeting on November 21)
- At the Public Information Meeting comments may be submitted as written comments or audio-recordings.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

Upcoming meeting topics (CAC Meeting 3, December 7):

- Social Needs Assessment summary and discussion at the next meeting
- Vision Statement Activity
- Discussion about the appropriate size of the CAC
- Information and FAQ session on Right of Way and Relocation


Respectfully submitted,

Jamelle H. Ellis, Ph.D.
President/Managing Director
Empowerment Strategies, LLC



526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR

*Community Advisory Council
Meeting No. 3
12.7.2019*



Welcome and Introductions

- Advisory Council Members
- SC Department of Transportation
- Federal Highway Administration
- Stantec



Logistics



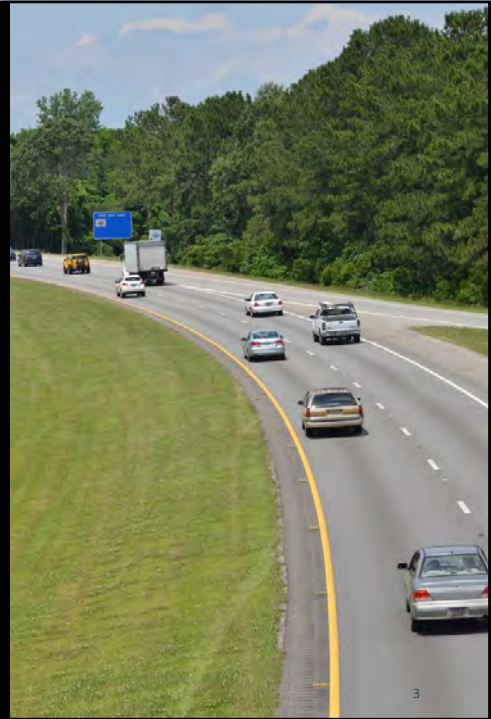
Food



Exits



Restrooms



Agenda

- Administrative Items
- Revisit/Finalize Rules of Engagement
- Recap of November Public Outreach Efforts
- Social Needs Assessment Survey – Results/Discussion
- Break
- Right-of-Way/Relocation Information Session
- ‘Open Mic’ Session
- Summary and Next Steps



Administrative Items

I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST

Administrative Items

- For Distribution:
 - CAC Meeting No. 3 Agenda
 - Minutes from CAC Meeting No. 2
 - Comment cards for Open Mic/other
 - Community Office Flyers
 - Relocation/right-of-way acquisition information session and FAQ sheet

I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST

6



Rules of Engagement

Rules of Engagement

- 1 Respect others' opinions.
- 2 Address one community at a time.
- 3 Determine how much of each community will be affected.
- 4 Consistent attendance and participation.
- 5 Respect meeting time and agenda.
- 6 Ask questions/active participation.
- 7 Listen with an open mind.
- 8 Silence cell phones.

Rules of Engagement cont.

- 9 Remain solution-oriented and stay on topic.
- 10 Agree to disagree.
- 11 Agree to table topics that need additional research.
- 12 Respect privileged information and maintain confidentiality.
- 13 Give time for community leaders to discuss concerns shared by community members.
- 14 Attack the issues, not the person.
- 15 Engage with the SCDOT team in an honest way to best facilitate the process.
- 16 Be mindful of meeting times (children, work, etc.)

How to address requests to join the CAC or attend meetings?



Recap of November Public Outreach Efforts

November 2019: Public Outreach Results

- 11/9/19 Biblical House of God (45, 7)
- 11/13/19 Ferndale Community Center (36, 5)
- 11/14/19 Life Changers (30, 8)
- 11/18/19 Danny Jones (53, 11)
- 11/19/19 Citadel Mall (24, 0)
- 11/21/19 Public Information Meeting (223, 29)

(Total attendance, # written comments)



Social Needs Assessment

Understanding Community Needs and Concerns

- Need: the gap between what is and what should be
- Social Needs Assessments help:
 - Identify health and wellness needs
 - Examine their nature and causes
 - Set priorities for future actions

Preliminary Results

- CAC (16)
- Drop-In's (25)
- Combined (31)
- Surveys still being collected from Community Office visitors

| | CAC | Drop-Ins | Combined |
|---|-----|----------|----------|
| Grocery Stores (13) | 16 | 10 | 13 |
| Affordable Day Care (24) | 24 | 24 | 24 |
| Quality of Day Care (21) | 21 | 16 | 21 |
| Quality of Teaching (7) | 13 | 2 | 7 |
| Safety of Schools (10) | 10 | 6 | 10 |
| Available Medical Services (16) | 19 | 13 | 17 |
| Well-Lit Streets (6) | 8 | 3 | 8 |
| Emergency Services Response Time (23) | 20 | 23 | 23 |
| Garbage Collection (25) | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| Parks & Rec Facilities (18) | 18 | 21 | 18 |
| Employment Opportunities (19) | 17 | 22 | 19 |
| Adequate Public Transportation Facilities (14) | 9 | 18 | 14 |
| Available Supervised After-School Activities (12) | 7 | 20 | 12 |
| Available Youth Employment Opportunities (11) | 14 | 11 | 11 |
| Stormwater Management (1) | 1 | 5 | 1 |
| City Response to Public Service Requests (15) | 11 | 17 | 15 |
| Available Affordable Housing (4) | 2 | 8 | 4 |
| Available Quality Housing (3) | 3 | 7 | 3 |
| Adequate Sidewalks/Bicycle Facilities (2) | 6 | 1 | 2 |
| Appearance of Neighbors' Homes (9) | 12 | 4 | 9 |
| Opportunities for Small Businesses (20) | 22 | 15 | 20 |
| Ability to Open Small Business (22) | 23 | 14 | 22 |
| Available Agencies for Senior Services (5) | 4 | 9 | 5 |
| Available Agencies for Youth Services (8) | 5 | 12 | 6 |
| Available Employment-Assistance Services (17) | 15 | 19 | 16 |



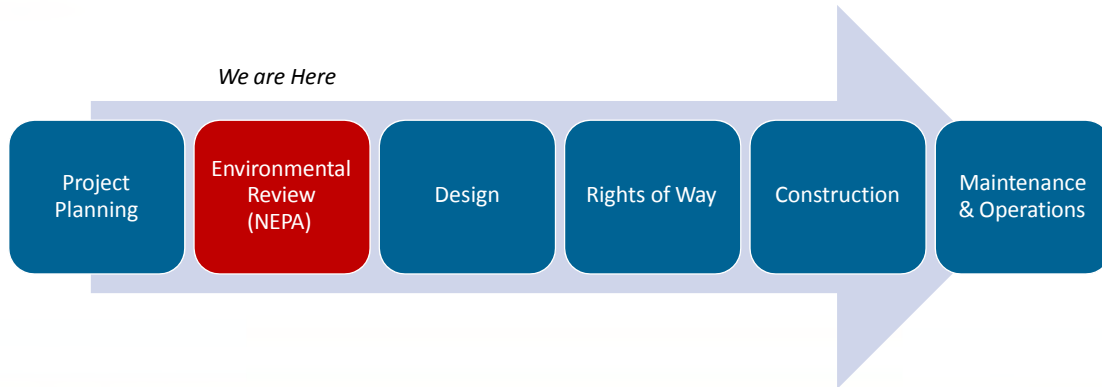
10 Minute Break



Right-of-Way/Relocation Information Session



Major Stages/Phases of Project Development



Preliminary ROW Impact Analysis Identification of Project ROW Challenges

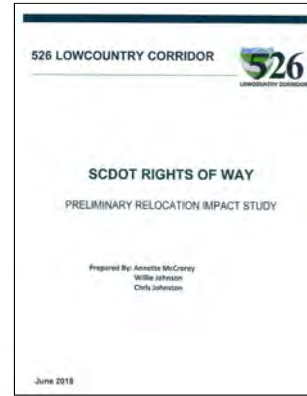
- Replacement Housing Inventory
- Affordable Housing for Tenants
- Vacant Lots in Communities
- Relocation Options in Community
- Community Impacts





Preliminary ROW Relocation Impact Study

- ✓ Identified scale of potential ROW impacts
- ✓ Types of housing impacted
- ✓ Investigated availability of replacement housing in the community
- ✓ Recommended strategies to mitigate for challenges & potential opportunities



Significant Right of Way Impacts



| Right of Way RELOCATION IMPACTS | I-526 WEST Project TOTAL |
|---|--------------------------|
| Apartment Units (16 Buildings/Duplexes) | 68-90 |
| Single Family Homes / Mobile Homes | 48-67 |
| Parks / Community Centers | 2 |
| TOTALS | 159 |





How do we approach right of way impacts?

AVOID

MINIMIZE

MITIGATE



Rights of Way





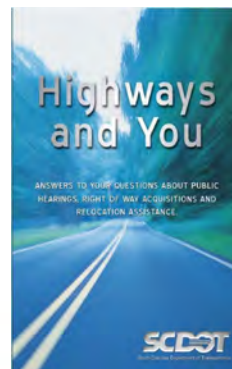
Rights of Way Laws & Regulations

- ✓ Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act of 1970 (Codified in Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations-Transportation)
- ✓ Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations- Highways
- ✓ South Carolina Code of Laws Title 57- Highways, Bridges, Ferries
- ✓ South Carolina Code of Laws Title 28- Eminent Domain



Uniform Relocation Assistance & Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970

Ensures property owners and tenants are treated **fairly, equitably** and **receive relocation assistance** when property is acquired for public use.





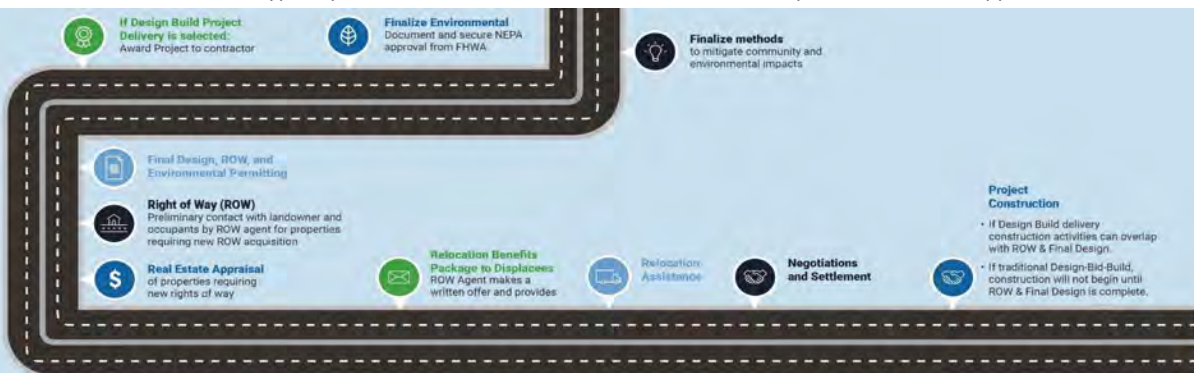
SCDOT's Commitment to You

- Be transparent and provide information available
- Public involvement opportunities to give the public a voice in the decision making process
- Explain the procedures for acquiring ROW
- Explain the Relocation Assistance available
- Work with each individual to find the best solution in making them whole through the process



When does ROW start?

ROW activities typically do not initiate until after the Environmental Impact Statement is Approved.





Rights of Way Key Terms

- **Eminent Domain** - The government's right or power to acquire private property or property rights for public use without the landowner's consent for fair or just compensation.
 - "For the public good"
- **Just Compensation** - Payment required by law for the loss sustained by the landowner as a result of taking or damaging of property for public use.
- **Condemnation** - Process by which property or property rights are acquired for public purposes through legal proceedings under the laws of eminent domain (Can only argue the value of the taking, not the right)

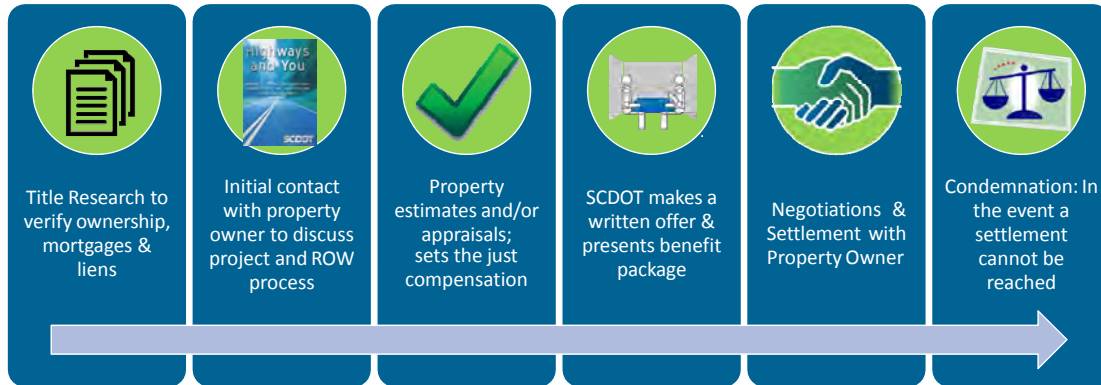


Rights of Way Key Terms

- **Appraisal** - a written statement independently and impartially prepared by a qualified appraiser setting forth an opinion of defined value of an adequately described property as of a specific date, supported by the presentation and analysis of relevant market information.
 - Sets just compensation
- **Appraisal Waiver Valuation** - a determination of value based on a prepared cost estimate. (also called "cost estimate offer")
 - For values of \$20,000 or less, when there are no damages to the remainder.
- **Administrative Settlement** - an amount above just compensation agreed to as a result of negotiations between the landowner and the government.



ROW Acquisition & Relocation Process



New Video: Understanding the Right-of-Way Process



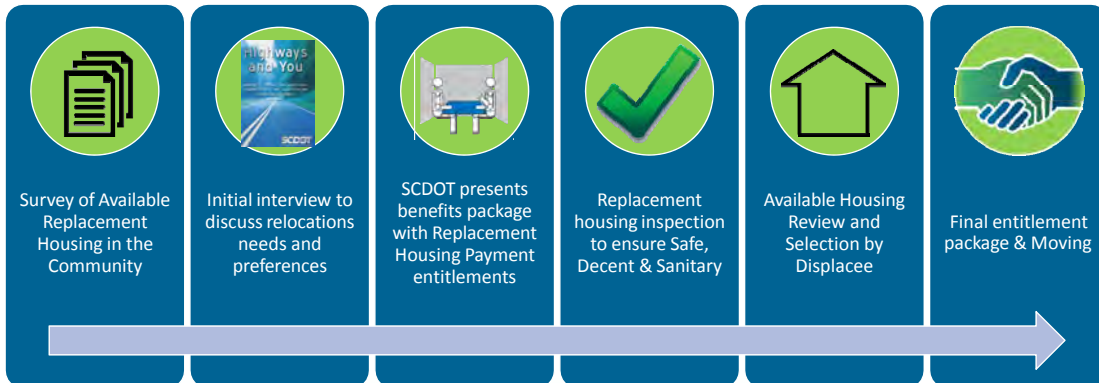
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISDHJxjUqSw>

Relocation Assistance Program Categories

- Owner Occupant of residential property
- Tenant Occupant of residential property
- Sleeping Room tenant
- Business, Farm or Non-Profit Organization



ROW Relocation Assistance Services



Example of Replacement Housing Payments

Tenant Rent Supplement Example:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Present rent (\$300) plus utilities (\$224) = | \$524.00 |
| <u>Comparable rent (\$590) plus utilities (\$133) =</u> | <u>\$723.00</u> |
| Difference of actual versus market rate = | \$199.00 |
| Basic Rent Supplement Calculation = \$199 X 42 = | \$8,358.00 |

LOW INCOME - USE 30% Area Median Income CALCULATION

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Comparable rent (\$590) plus utilities (\$133) = | \$723.00 |
| <u>Monthly Income = \$1,500 X 30% =</u> | <u>\$450.00</u> |
| Difference of market rate to Affordable Rate = | \$273.00 |
| Adjusted Rent Supplement \$273 X 42 months = | \$11,466.00 |
| <u>Moving Expenses</u> | <u>\$ 725.00</u> |
| Total Entitlements | \$12,191.00 |

No Before Photo
Available in File



Example of Replacement Housing Payment

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Displacement Dwelling Appraised value | \$ 65,000 |
| <u>Replacement Dwelling Market Price</u> | <u>\$139,000</u> |
| Replacement Housing Payment Eligibility | \$ 74,000 |

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Appraised Value of Displaced Home | \$ 65,000.00 |
| Moving Expenses | \$ 1,225.00 |
| Mortgage Interest Differential Payment | \$ 1,803.50 |
| Closing costs | \$ 2,774.40 |
| <u>Replacement Housing Payments</u> | <u>\$ 74,000.00</u> |
| Total Entitlements | \$143,802.90 |

*Mortgage taken out in the amount of \$34,000.00

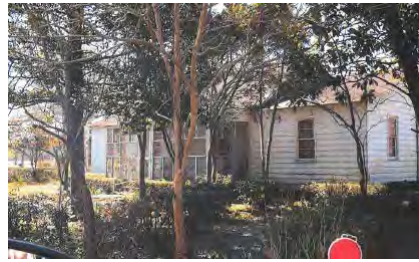
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Example of Replacement Housing Payments

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Appraised Property Payment | \$ 22,880 |
| Replacement Housing Payment | \$ 92,120 |
| Closing Costs | \$ 1,700 |
| Moving Costs | \$ 2,075 |
| Total Entitlements | \$118,775 |

*New Construction home example on property remainder; construction low bid was \$115,000



Example of Replacement Housing Payment

| | |
|---|--|
| Displacement Dwelling Appraised value | \$ 87,000 <i>*owner only had 75% ownership interest</i> |
| Replacement Dwelling Market Price | \$150,000 <i>(purchase price of selected home \$119,000)</i> |
| Replacement Housing Payment Eligibility | \$ 63,000 |

Owner was unable to qualify for a mortgage so needed to find home for cash payment w/ **NO MORTGAGE*

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Payment for Displaced Home | \$ 65,250.00 |
| Moving Expenses | \$ 3,745.12 |
| Replacement Shed/Room Built on Site | \$ 4,774.30 |
| Repairs to Home to meet DSS | \$ 6,144.08 |
| Legal Fees to Clear Title / Closing costs | \$ 3,780.00 |
| Replacement Housing Payments | \$ 59,650.00 |
| Total Entitlements | \$143,343.50 |





Right of Way FAQs



My house or apartment is shown as being impacted, should I go ahead and move now?

Do not move from the property you now occupy without contacting a ROW agent to determine your eligibility. Moving early may jeopardize or void your rights under the relocation assistance program.



Right of Way FAQs



What if my home does not appraise for enough to buy a new home?

The right-of-way agent will inform you in writing of the specific comparable replacement housing and the sales prices or rent used as the basis for establishing the upper limit of the replacement housing payment and the basis for that determination. So you will be aware of the amount of the replacement housing payment to which you may be entitled. If the comparable replacement housing available on the market are priced higher (property appraised value or rent), the homeowner may be eligible for supplemental benefits for a period of time to cover this price differential, including increased mortgage interests costs and all eligible incidental expenses (such as closing costs).





Right of Way FAQs



What about the increased property tax associated with a new home?

The comparable replacement housing offered to the property owner should be within the property owner's financial means, meaning the monthly payments and estimated average utility costs at the replacement housing does not significantly exceed their current payments. The benefits payment does not address the increased property taxes on the property. SCDOT's agent will inform the property owner of the estimated property taxes of any comparable replacement housing offered and ensure that the property owner is aware of this difference prior to any decisions regarding the replacement property.



Right of Way FAQs



What if I am a renter and do not own?

All displaced persons, whether a property owner or a tenant, may be eligible for relocation assistance. The assistance available to tenants may include agent assistance in finding comparable rental replacement housing, transportation to view housing options if needed, advisory services, actual moving expenses, and supplemental rent payments. If a renter wishes to consider property ownership as part of the relocation assistance program, then the benefits payment could be used by a displaced person for a down payment and closing costs on a replacement house if desired.



Right of Way FAQs

Do we have a choice of whether we have to move, or is SCDOT going to use eminent domain?

SCDOT works with each property owner or tenant to ensure they understand the impacts to their property/home and the benefits they are eligible to receive. SCDOT works with individuals to negotiate a reasonable settlement in most cases. However eminent domain is a tool which will ultimately allow the courts to decide the settlement if SCDOT and the property owner cannot reach agreement.

Early Right of Way Strategies

Under Development



Securing properties that could be utilized for construction of replacement housing



Community Office with ROW Specialists



Early Right of Way phase to identify or create Affordable Replacement Housing



Develop Construction Program for Replacement Homes in Community



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Affordable Housing / Replacement Housing

Google Earth
SCDOT

526 EAST LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR

Questions & Suggestions

Joy Riley
SCDOT Project Manager
(803) 737-1346
rileyj@scdot.org



526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR

SCDOT



Open Mic

Open Mic Session

- Goal: Open Mic session as part of every CAC meeting
- Opportunity to express opinions, voice concerns, ask questions
- Can be directed to Advisory Council and/or Project Team
- Can speak or use comment card
- Time limit: will vary depending on how many people wish to speak and time left in meeting; may have to set 3-5 minute limits if necessary
- Speak from your own experiences without broad generalizations
- Recall Rules of Engagement related to listening and limiting speakers to one at a time

Open Mic Session

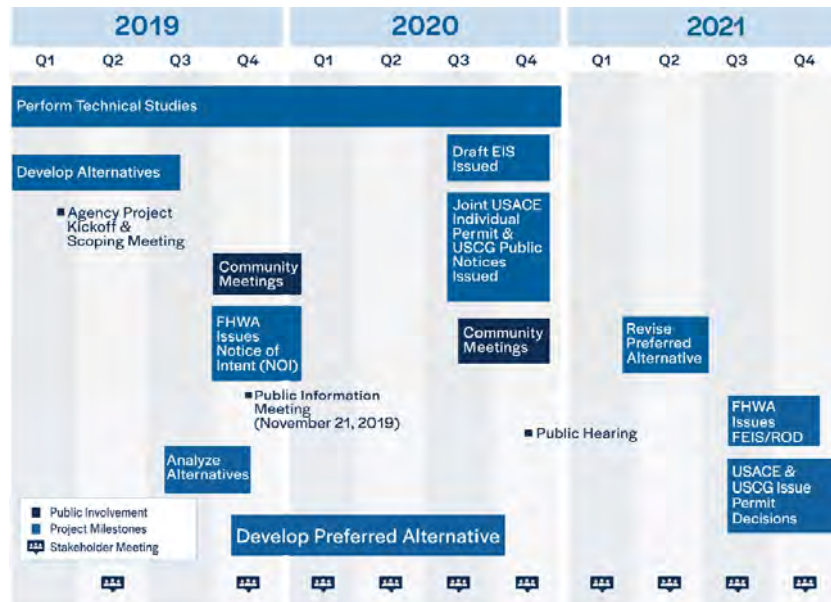


Summary and Next Steps

Schedule

- Final environmental document: Fall 2021
- Right-of-way acquisition: 2020**
- Construction: 2023
- CAC transition to Oversight Implementation Committee

** Start of early acquisition



Summary and Next Steps

- CAC Meeting No. 3 Recap
- Dates for CAC Meeting Nos. 4 (Jan) and 5 (Feb)
- Community Office Open House (Jan – *exact date to be determined*)
- Informational Workshops at Community Office (Winter/Spring 2020)
- Potential topics for upcoming CAC meetings
 - Confirm project team understanding of community issues and priorities
 - Gather CAC member thoughts/suggestions for mitigation measures
 - Discuss mitigation concepts based on input from CAC and other stakeholders
- Are there specific topics you would like to see on future agendas?*

Contact Information



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Ryan White | NEPA/Public Engagement Specialist
Ryan.White@Stantec.com



LaTonya Derrick | NEPA/Public Engagement Specialist
LaTonya.Derrick@Stantec.com



Thank you for your time!



COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 3

Date: December 7, 2019

Time: 10:00 am – 12:17 pm

Location: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor Community Office, 5627 Rivers Avenue, N. Charleston, SC

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees

- | | |
|--|--|
| Gilbert Reeves, Ferndale | Amy Sackaroff, Stantec |
| Larenda Baxley, Ferndale | LaTonya Derrick, Stantec |
| David L. Johnson, Ferndale | Fran Bickley, SCDOT ROW |
| Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale | Joy Riley, SCDOT |
| Geneva Swett, Ferndale | Chad Long, SCDOT ESO |
| Ruth Mae Whitney, Highland Terrace | Yolonda Jordan, FHWA |
| Nathan Bryant, Highland Terrace | Maxine Smith, Maximum Consulting (Community Liaison) |
| Carolyn Varner, Liberty Park | Mattese Lecque, Maximum Consulting (Community Liaison) |
| Doris Twiggs, Liberty Park | Frank Scott, N. Charleston Housing Authority |
| Tony Grasso, Russelldale | Horrace Tobin, Community Office |
| Saint Julian Corey Van Hannegeyn IV, Deas Hill | Jamelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies |
| Earl Muhammad, Muhammad Mosque | |
| Rick Day, Stantec | |
| Ryan White, Stantec | |

Participant Summary:

Total participants: 25

| | | |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| Ferndale: 5 | Adjacent/affected communities/agencies: 3 | Community Office: 1 |
| Highland Terrace: 2 | SCDOT: 3 | Stantec: 4 |
| Liberty Park: 2 | FHWA: 1 | Facilitator: 1 |
| Russelldale: 1 | Community Liaisons: 2 | |

Meeting Summary:

Welcome and Introductions

All meeting participants provided introductions. Restroom location, exit, and external emergency meeting location were reviewed. Administrative issues were addressed:

- Reminder to all participants to provide signatures for attendance and initials for consent to record meeting
- Review and approval of Meeting 1 minutes
- Distribution of CAC Meeting 2 minutes for review
- Confirmation of Community Office hours of operation
- Distribution and review of Meeting 3 agenda
- Outlined the intent and guidelines for open-mic session, including distribution of comment cards during the break for anyone wishing not to ask questions of the project team directly

- Vision Statement exercise will be conducted if there is time. Otherwise, the exercise will be conducted during CAC Meeting 4 in January 2020.
- Community Office flyers available to the CAC to take and distribute to community members and neighbors. CAC Members were also encouraged to take pictures for convenience in sharing with other community members

Rules of Engagement

Reviewed and approved the final Rules of Engagement. A poster board of Rules of Engagement will be printed and displayed in the Community Office during CAC meetings.

The group discussed how to manage interest of residents in areas outside of the potentially impacted neighborhoods of Ferndale, Highland Terrace, Liberty Park, and Russelldale. There will be two Open House meetings scheduled in 2020 during which non-CAC members may present project-related questions and concerns to the project team and CAC members. The project team is still seeking subject matter experts to serve as presenters for informational and educational purposes. The project team also continues to seek CAC members to represent the Russelldale community, but general CAC membership and participation will be finalized and capped in January 2020. In order to preserve the integrity of the CAC meetings and in order to clearly define community representatives serving on the CAC, no new members will be invited to the CAC after that time.

- One CAC member expressed concerns about capping membership in January, stating they would like to leave an opportunity open for people who may express interest later in the process (particularly from one of the lesser represented communities), and citing relatively significant representation of the Ferndale community on the CAC but much lower representation of other communities within the project scope.
- The project team agreed that more representation is needed from underrepresented communities such as Russelldale, as well as tenants. A few people that stopped by the Community Office and attended the community drop-ins were extended invitations to attend CAC meeting 3. It was reiterated that the CAC should be comprised of residents of one of the four affected communities: Ferndale, Highland Terrace, Liberty Park, or Russelldale. However, if CAC members are interested in revisiting or revising criteria for membership, the group should make those changes as desired. Membership criteria (considered by the project team during discussions with potential new members) include: being a resident, a property owner, or a tenant. However, if there are additional criteria the CAC would like the project team to consider for new CAC members, current members are encouraged to provide guidance and feedback to the project team.
- A CAC member requested the names of any contacts made during Community Office visits or community drop-ins so that they could follow up and encourage increased participation and CAC membership.
- A Community Liaison inquired about and encouraged participation by CAC members in civic groups and meetings and indicated these meetings as the best opportunities for identifying new CAC members.
 - In response, a CAC member shared that the challenge in their community is that most people are tenants rather than homeowners. According to this member, attendance at neighborhood association meetings have been a challenge, historically.
- The project team stressed that if there are any resources or support they can provide to improve the process, CAC members should let project team members know. CAC members are not expected to go through the process of identifying new CAC members without the support of the project team.
- Interested candidates should also be directed to the Community Office to talk with community liaisons, Dr. Smith and Ms. Lecque.

- Another CAC member expressed concerns about not capping new CAC memberships.

Recap of November Public Outreach Efforts

Community Office Director provided an update on participant activity (# attendees and # written comments):

- The number of people attending and the number of comment cards completed were reported during the recap. All slides and corresponding data were included in the handout packet for CAC Meeting 3.
- Public Information Meeting had 223 attendees and 29 completed comment cards.
- The number of visits since the Community Office opened on November 1st is 64. There has been a progressive increase in traffic since the office opened.
- Over the past week, there had been an increase of out-of-town visitors stopping by the office with aging relatives who live in one of the four focus communities.
- Visitors are encouraged to invite others in the community to visit the office to learn more about the project.
- A CAC member asked if the CAC will have access to all comments to which the project team responded affirmatively.
 - The project team will compile all comments provide during November meetings as well as throughout the comment period.
 - A summary with major themes from the comments will be made available to the CAC by mid-January 2020.
- Informational workshops will be held at the Community Office in the first quarter of 2020 to address educational needs of the community.

Social Needs Assessment Survey – Results/Discussion

The Social Needs Assessment Survey results represent the survey administered during CAC Meeting 2 (in October 2019) and all additional surveys completed to date (thru early December 2020). The push-button survey was comprised of 25 questions. CAC members were reminded that each topic/service included a 2-part question: “How important the issue is to you?” and “How satisfied you are with the current services?” From the information provided, the project team was able to obtain an aggregate (combined) score. Aggregated data helped the project team to prioritize survey topics. The results of the Social Needs Assessment are important as the group moves towards the mitigation plan because it helps the project team better understand community needs and priorities.

- Some categories are outside of SCDOT’s control and some within. The responsibility of the project team is to inform other relevant agencies of specific needs identified by the community that are outside the scope of the SCDOT project to increase visibility and potential resolution by appropriate groups. This is referred to as Integrated Planning.
- Results were categorized by CAC surveys and Community Meeting surveys. Hard copies of results were made available to all meeting attendees. Surveys will continue to be administered through the next month.
- Results from the Social Needs Assessment will inform the upcoming Community Impact Assessment and Environmental Justice Mitigation Plan.
- Project team provided a detailed review of survey results. The top issues of concern included: Quality of teaching, safety of schools, well-lit streets, stormwater management, available affordable housing, available quality housing, adequate sidewalks/bicycle facilities, appearance of neighbors’ homes, available agencies for senior services, and available agencies for youth services.
- A CAC member expressed concern about a potential lack of understanding of survey takers regarding grocery stores receiving generally satisfactory results. He expressed significant problems associated

with the lack of quality grocery stores in the target communities. He felt the lack of quality grocery stores should be in the top five or six. The project team took note of CAC concerns regarding grocery stores and emphasized it as a key example of a project (building grocery stores) that falls outside the scope of the current project, but that they could work with other key entities such as Fresh Future Farm to identify practical, sustainable solutions for better quality grocery stores.

- Any questions regarding the Social Needs Assessment after CAC Meeting 3 should be directed to the project team.
- A CAC Member asked if the CAC has a “voice” when addressing issues identified during the CAC process, that fall outside of the scope of the project plan, to other entities engaged in the Integrated Planning process.
 - SCDOT’s Project Manager spoke about mitigation plans. SCDOT has done a lot of work with community mitigation. This project is allowing SCDOT to try something different and more proactive because the impacts are so great. In the past, funding has been allocated to issues identified in needs assessments, but spending has been left to local entities to implement mitigation initiatives. Sometimes, those initiatives were unsuccessful if those entities were not fast enough in getting projects implemented, and by the time communities try to spend the funds 10 years later, the funding may no longer be adequate to complete the initial goals. With this project, things like building affordable housing, installing sidewalks, putting in street lights, SCDOT is experienced in accomplishing within the scope of the project. But there may be other things that SCDOT partners with other entities like Trident Technical College for job training so that people who live in the communities can work on part of the project or find employment. SCDOT may be able to partner with the City on initiatives like grocery stores, or to incentivize development. The CAC will be critical in determining what the mitigation plan looks like. As Project Manager, SCDOT is a little less inclined to leave funds for outside/local entities to apply to projects. Results of the Social Needs Assessment have been shared with the City, but the project team will continue to keep the CAC in the loop on other initiatives.
- A Community Liaison emphasized that the CAC can go to any one of these groups (agencies) to advocate for represented communities. The project team further stressed the point that the CAC should advocate for themselves, but that they do not have to do it alone. The Community Office staff and project team will assist with detailed resources and research to support these efforts. The project team also encouraged CAC members to contact each other directly whenever there are meetings of interest to the community that fall outside of the scheduled I-526 LCC meetings.
- The CAC is in the process of collecting data. As the CAC moves into role of oversight when mitigation is determined, the expectation is that the group will take collected information and drive change while working with the project team.

ROW/Relocation Info Session

The Project Manager provided an overview of the Right-of-Way process. The project team is very early in the process, but this is one of the most important steps. ROW was identified as one of the biggest challenges for the project. There was a review of current structures built near the bridge. SCDOT would never design communities that way today. The interstate cannot be shut down and the current configuration makes it difficult to repair damage. SCDOT commissioned a study to understand the level of ROW impacts, what types of housing and businesses we would potentially impacted, the ability of the Charleston real estate market to absorb those types of impacts (was there readily available replacement housing, are there developments within the community that SCDOT could partner with to take advantage of some of the new housing). This study was the first step in identifying issues, challenges, and potential solutions.

- The study identified the four communities within the project scope as those receiving the greatest adverse impact.
- Approximately 75% of the ROW/Relocation impacts are in these communities.
- There are also commercial property impacts further north of these communities on the corridor.
- The potentially impacted communities are losing the first row of homes whereas the homes along some areas of I-526 are primarily losing areas of vegetative buffer.
- SCDOT started with seven alternatives, then narrowed it to the 2-4 alternatives displayed on the walls at the meeting.
- The purpose is to fix the traffic problems on the Interstate. After analyzing alternatives to determine which alternatives actually address the problem, SCDOT began considering the footprint that is going to have the least significant impact on the both the human and natural environment. Throughout the process, SCDOT will work to minimize the impacted footprint.
- Residents who are adamant they want to stay will live next to the interstate without a buffer. SCDOT will respect homeowner's right to stay in their current homes.
- Mitigation of unavoidable impacts was discussed.
- The ROW process focuses on making people "whole."
- Community mitigation – Even if a homeowner isn't directly impacted, the work taking place around them may impact them.
- Laws have changed since the original construction of I-26 and I-526 that are more protective of homeowners.
- The *Highways and You* document is the first material SCDOT provides to impacted homeowners to explain their rights as a homeowner in plain language. There are also a number of additional resources available to residents to help them better understand the ROW process. This information is available to the public at the Community Office. SCDOT is very people-oriented and is transparent throughout the process, including: information on the funds invested in this project, how the money is spent, how the new housing is built, what proposed housing will look like, and how communities are going to look in the future. The goal is to make sure residents who live in the community are the ones who benefit from the process.
- The ROW benefits package is very specific to individuals. The Project Manager encouraged attendees to visit the Community Office to have a ROW Specialist determine the best package for individuals or families. ROW Specialists will also work with renters to facilitate homeownership.
- The ROW process has been expedited compared to the traditional ROW timeline because of the limited Charleston housing market. There is an opportunity in the area on a lot of undeveloped land. SCDOT may have to build some replacement housing for people to move into.
- SCDOT is starting early ROW activity geared toward single family developments, to partner with developers and non-profits, so that when they do start "knocking on doors," there are already homes built or almost completed. For renters to consider home ownership, there is some preliminary work that needs to be done to connect first time homeowners with credit counselors. The Project Manager requested the CAC assist the project team in understanding the needs of the community by asking community members to visit the community office.
- Review of terms such as *eminent domain, just compensation, condemnation, appraisal, appraisal, appraisal waiver valuation, and administrative settlement*. Definition of all terms were provided in the handout packet.
 - Most acquisitions on this project will require an appraisal, but SCDOT will make their own estimates on property values below \$20,000. However, the property owner has a right to request an appraisal on any property. Appraisals are required for property values above \$20,000.

- The property owner is allowed to be present during appraisals and can offer any additional information to the appraiser during the process. Once an appraisal is complete and the report has been issued, a homeowner can accept it or negotiate to settle at a higher price. SCDOT prefers administrative settlements rather than going to court.
- A CAC member asked if a jury trial is possible under terms of condemnation. The Project Manager confirmed.
- ROW Acquisition and Relocation Process:
 - Title Research
 - Who owns the property (Clear title, heirs property, multiple owners, estate, etc.)
 - Mortgages or liens on property
 - Initial contact with property owner
 - Usually done by ROW agent
 - Opportunity for homeowner to ask questions
 - Property appraisal completed
 - Must be coordinated with property owner
 - SCDOT provides to property owner:
 - Written report
 - Written offer
 - Benefits package (property purchase and/or relocation)
 - Tenants (renters) are entitled to relocation benefits
 - Property owners are entitled to appraised value to purchase home and property
 - Residence who are also home/property owners will receive appraisal and relocation benefits
 - Negotiations and Settlement with property owner
 - Condemnation
 - Only executed if a settlement agreement cannot be reached with the property owner
- *Understanding the Right-of-Way Process* video; Online @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISDHJxjUqSw>
- Informational Workshops
 - Staffing of the Community Office
 - Workshops will be held during the first quarter of 2020
 - Resources and assistance provided by the Community Office in coordination with the Center for Heirs Property Preservation, Charity Foundation, and SC Community Loan Fund:
 - Heirs property
 - Wills
 - Financial literacy
 - Resume development/interviewing skills
 - Mentoring
 - Available to all community members
 - Suggestions from CAC members for continued improvement of resources offered during the informational workshops are welcome
- Project Manager reviewed examples of ROW transactions
 - Addressed property owner concerns of appraisal values not being sufficient to cover the costs of a new home in the Charleston housing market
 - The Uniform Act accounts for making people “whole” and providing comparable homes and amenities through relocation.
 - Reviewed Tenant Rent Supplement Example (included in CAC PowerPoint packet)

- Homes classified in the low-income bracket will receive an additional 30% (of area median income) supplement for 42 months
- Allows tenant time to determine long-term housing plans
- Not intended to be a long-term solution, particularly for tenants on fixed incomes
- Designed to encourage building affordable housing which is deemed a more sustainable solution
- Supplement payments may be used as a down payment for affordable permanent housing
- **Question from CAC member:** Will SCDOT use current HUD data to determine the 30% supplemental rates
 - **Response:** Yes, based on SC HUD tables. Information such as proof of income (pay stubs, tax returns, etc.) would be required to determine whether tenants meet the low-income designation to qualify for the 30% supplement.
 - For clarification, 30% is the percent of the tenant's gross monthly income.
- **Question from CAC member:** For clarification, is the intent of SCDOT to entice current renters to own their own property?
 - **Response:** That is something SCDOT has always tried to do. SCDOT is also looking for vacant lots to build on, but SCDOT is not looking to be property managers.
- *Time check: 11:45 AM*
- Reviewed Replacement Housing Example #1
 - Homeowners are eligible to receive Displacement Dwelling Appraised value plus the Replacement Housing Payment towards the purchase of a new home
 - If a homeowner has a current mortgage, they will likely still have a mortgage in the new home. The new mortgage should be the same as the mortgage for the home from which the homeowner was displaced.
 - SCDOT will pay the increased interest expense, if applicable, should the homeowner's new mortgage interest rate be higher than that of the previous mortgage.
- Reviewed Replacement Housing Example #2
 - There are some cases where SCDOT widens the highway and the highway is now encroaching on the front of the home. SCDOT will demolish the existing home and build a new one near the back of the property.
 - SCDOT will obtain a floor plan similar to the current plan and secure a builder that can replicate the structure, set further back on the property.
- Reviewed Replacement Housing Example #3
 - Homeowner was on a fixed income and could not qualify for a mortgage.
 - Owner did not have clear title. Another party held 25% ownership of the property.
 - The homeowner/resident had rights to only 75% of the Displacement Dwelling Appraisal value.
 - SCDOT was able to locate a home that needed repairs and renovated the home for him. After all entitlements were implemented, the homeowner was able to move into a renovated home with no mortgage (before and after displacement).
- Right of Way FAQs
 - Posted on the website
 - Included in the handouts
- Project team is not knocking on doors, talking to property owners yet
 - Currently focused on identifying replacement housing
 - Details of findings will be shared with the CAC as concrete opportunities begin to unfold
 - The Project Manager encouraged the Community Office with ROW Specialists to tell people about opportunities as details become available, especially if they live in impacted

- areas. This will be important so that the project team can begin working with homeowners, individually.
- SCDOT will begin developing a construction plan for replacement housing to build new homes on vacant lots
 - The project team is interested in talking with people who own land in impacted communities that may be interested in selling their property. SCDOT would like to place new construction on existing vacant lots.
 - Review of Affordable Housing/Replacement Housing slide
 - Orange – properties for which SCDOT has current options to purchase; zoned for multi-family development
 - Pink – City-owned properties that SCDOT can partner with to develop
 - Blue – SCDOT-identified properties without current dwellings; Ownership of these properties has not been established
 - SCDOT will begin conducting research and contacting property owners with purchase offers
 - SCDOT will keep the CAC in the loop at every step in order to minimize rumors and confusion in the affected communities
 - ROW Q&A
 - **CAC Member:** What will the project team do to inform and educate renters that affordable home ownership is a better choice than long-term renting?
 - **Response:** The project team will provide comprehensive education on ROW and Relocation, but cannot mandate home ownership on anyone. The project team wants to ensure that they make the information, resources (such as credit counseling), and options available to them.
 - **CAC Member:** Where are the lots located that SCDOT has the option to buy?
 - **Response:** Behind the mobile home park, adjacent to existing apartments
 - **CAC Member:** During the video, you showed apartments along the highway which happens to be on Russelldale Avenue. Do the current maps include the buffer or will the impacted area extend beyond the current footprint (represented in orange)?
 - **Response:** The current maps should be encompassing of everything.
 - **CAC Member:** I haven't heard the word "beautification" in any of the discussions so far. Under the current highway, there have been people living in tents, people with port-o-potties (defecating and urinating under the highways), SCDOT-installed chain-linked fences, trash dumped, lighting is poor, etc. In comparison to Mount Pleasant which is "set up nicely, will we have the same thing when this is finished or will we just have a wider overpass?"
 - **Response:** Addressing those types of issues is part of this process. There are multiple components in the mitigation process:
 - ROW
 - How the project is implemented/how the project is built
 - What the project looks like (eg. Noise walls, lighting, etc.)
 - Community mitigation (putting funds back into communities that are most impacted)
 - This addresses making the community "whole" as opposed to ROW which focuses on working with individual tenants and homeowners to make individuals and families "whole"
 - **CAC Member:** Will the lack of adequate lighting on I-526 be addressed as a part of this project?

- **Response:** Yes. The lighting has been repaired, but there are still some lights that are broken and needing to be replaced. There still exists some patchiness in repairs. Part of the issue in that area is that there was a temporary electrical connection to SCE&G for power because the transformer kept blowing out. That is an issue that will be addressed and upgraded as a part of this project.
- **Follow-up question:** How soon do you anticipate the lights that are currently damaged will be repaired?
 - **Response:** The lights are on and the electrical is on, but there are still damaged lights. There is a team currently working on repairs. The Project Manager will get a status update and follow up with the CAC.
- **CAC Member:** Are the maps displayed on the walls at the Community Office the same as the maps distributed at the Public Information and November community meetings?
 - **Response:** Yes.
- **CAC Member:** Are solar lights an option for the Interstate?
 - **Response:** Uncertain. That is outside of the scope of this project. The Project Manager is aware of the use of solar lighting in some smaller applications, but is unaware of solar lighting on the Interstates. Project Manager will look into it and follow up.
- **CAC Member:** There were rumors years ago that when I-526 was built between I-26 and the river, it crossed over areas where there was asbestos. Do you know anything about that? A part of the story is that because of the asbestos that was buried there, the EPA mandated that the area would remain untouched.
 - **Response:** Project team is unaware of buried asbestos related to the original I-526 construction project (would have been discovered in the HAZMAT assessment), but emphasized that SCDOT conducts extensive studies as an ongoing part of the process, none of which has indicated concerns with buried asbestos in the project area.
- **CAC Member:** Will local builders be used to help build parts of the project?
 - **Response:** A big component of the project is ensuring the community has an opportunity to participate in the project. This could include job training, partnering with larger contractors, etc. Larger companies are normally hired to serve as prime contractors because they are able to large enough bonds. But, SCDOT can arrange meetings between prime contractors and local contractors. The CAC's role is to provide thoughts and suggestions such as these, on how local businesses should be included as a part of the mitigation plan. Including local businesses in mitigation projects is standard practice for SCDOT. The project team is always open to suggestions.
- **CAC Member:** Will bike trails still be included under the Interstate as a part of this project?
 - **Response:** Yes, evaluation of foot traffic and alternate means of people traveling from one community to another is always included in the project. SCDOT evaluates how they can restore some of those connections.
- Time check: 12:00 PM
 - **CAC Member:** Other than me going and knocking on doors (in Ferndale), what is the best way to ensure that all community members know what is going on (regarding the I-526 project)? I've already heard from two people living on the "back row" near the Interstate that they don't know anything about the project.
 - **Response:** The project team is open to suggestions regarding communication and awareness efforts. Community liaisons requested to talk further with the CAC member following the meeting. Maximum Consultants and community liaisons can report back to the counsel on a strategy moving forward.

- Open House dates
 - Will be held at the Community Office to generate publicity and to ensure the public knows and understands what services are being offered
 - Open House date: Saturday, January 25, 2020, 1:00-4:00 PM
 - Advertisement strategies will include:
 - Neighborhood door hangers
 - Notices placed in Charleston Chronicle
 - Partnering with Cumulus Media, Inc.
 - Local radio station broadcast during
 - Suggest “A Taste of Gas Light Square” to incentivize attendance
 - Music
 - Social Media/Facebook page
 - Post the event on Community Boards
 - Community Transportation for the Open House
 - Perhaps providing bus passes for community members to attend
 - Primary focus of this event will be on the impacted communities, but should be open to the larger community because lots of people travel on I-526
 - Recommendation from CAC Member to reach out to other restaurants in the community (eg. My Three Sons from the Ferndale community) to provide refreshments also. That would be a benefit to the restaurant and to the community.
 - CAC Member: What about going into other communities to hold Open House sessions throughout the year?
 - Response: Purpose of the Open House is to have people come to the Community Office to meet staff and understand the function of the office. Community liaisons offered to remain after CAC Meeting 3 to discuss further.
- Project team will continue to work on the meeting agenda to more effectively balance CAC engagement and time management
 - Open Mic will be scheduled for the next meeting
- Project team briefly reviewed the project schedule

Summary and Next Steps

- Next meeting scheduled for Saturday, January 4, 2020, 10 AM-12 PM at the Community Office
- Begin developing priorities based on the Social Needs Assessment; Mitigation conceptualization
- Vision Statement development

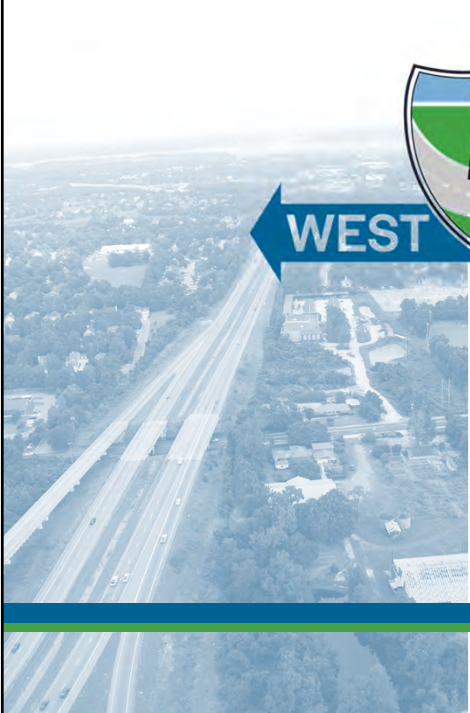
Post Wrap-up Discussion

- **CAC Member:** Discussion on beautification should be included in future meetings
- **CAC Member:** When you increase the number of members in this type of group (CAC), you increase the amount of feedback. There should be more time and respect given to the people who are here serving on the CAC. CAC members who are able to stay longer should be allowed to make comments. When the project team is rigid in adhering to the two-hour time frame, CAC members may feel more guarded in their feedback. This may increase the likelihood of participants leaving with misunderstandings or not enough information to share with other people in the community.
- **CAC Member:** At the last meeting, the project team talked about downsizing the CAC. Is there any update?

- For logistical purposes, the project team asked the best way to communicate with the CAC. CAC members responded that email is the best form of communication. Project team asked CAC members to accept email invitations (or not) when they are sent, for proper planning of CAC meetings.


Respectfully submitted,

Jamelle H. Ellis, Ph.D.
President/Managing Director
Empowerment Strategies, LLC



526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR

*Community Advisory Council
Meeting No. 4
1.4.2020*



1

Welcome and Introductions

- Advisory Council Members
- SC Department of Transportation (SCDOT)
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Consultant Team



2

Logistics



Food

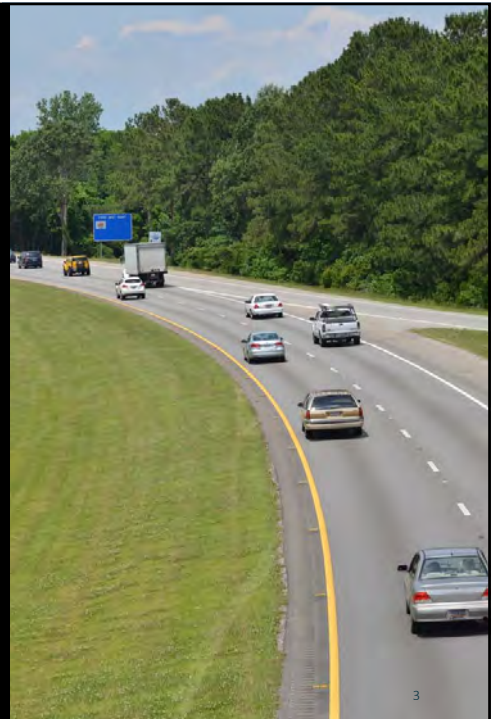


Exits



Restrooms

I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST



3

3

Agenda

- Administrative Items
- 'Open Mic' Session
- CAC Roles and Responsibilities
- Vision Statement Activity
- Break
- Meeting Logistics survey
- Outreach Update
- Brainstorming Session: Potential Mitigation Ideas for Recreational Facilities
- Summary and Next Steps

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4



Administrative Items

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Administrative Items

- For Distribution:
 - CAC Meeting No. 4 Agenda
 - Minutes from CAC Meeting No. 3
 - Comment cards for Open Mic/other
 - Flyers for January 25, 2020 Community Office Open House
 - CAC member demographic survey
 - CAC Roles and Responsibilities document

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Open Mic

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Open Mic Session

- Goal: Open Mic session as part of every CAC meeting
- Opportunity to express opinions, voice concerns, ask questions
- Can be directed to Advisory Council and/or Project Team
- Can speak or use comment card
- Time limit: will vary depending on how many people wish to speak and time left in meeting; may have to set 3-5 minute limits if necessary
- Speak from your own experiences without broad generalizations
- Recall *CAC Rules of Engagement* related to listening and limiting speakers to one at a time

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Open Mic Session



CAC Roles and Responsibilities

CAC Roles and Responsibilities

- Housekeeping:
 - Finalize CAC roster and reach consensus on maximum number of CAC members
 - Leave seats open for underrepresented neighborhoods/demographics
 - File CAC Roles and Responsibilities in binder under “Guiding Principles”
- Items of note:
 - Freedom of Information Act requirements
 - CAC meetings are not open for general public participation
 - Encourage neighbors to attend a “Meet Your Advisory Council” Open House *(dates to be determined)*
 - You are the community connection (council@526lowcountrycorridor.com)
 - Public can always contact SCDOT project team to relay questions, concerns, and information they would specifically like shared with the CAC
- If votes are taken at any point, only formal CAC members may participate in a vote

11



Group Activity: Developing the CAC Vision

12

Example Vision Statements *(word count in parenthesis)*

Human Rights Campaign: *Equality for everyone* (3)

The Nature Conservancy: *To leave a sustainable world for future generations.* (8)

Oceana: *seeks to make our oceans as rich, healthy and abundant as they once were.* (14)

Save the Children: *A world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development, and participation.* (15)

Clinton Foundation: *To implement sustainable programs that improve access worldwide to investment, opportunity, and lifesaving services now and for future generations.* (19)

Goodwill: *Every person has the opportunity to achieve his/her fullest potential and participate in and contribute to all aspects of life.* (21)

Kiva: *We envision a world where all people – even in the most remote areas of the globe – hold the power to create opportunity for themselves and others.* (26)

Amnesty International: *A world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments.* (26)

Special Olympics: *To transform communities by inspiring people throughout the world to open their minds, accept and include people with intellectual disabilities and thereby anyone who is perceived as different.* (28)

VFW: *Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.* (32)

13

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Draft Vision Statement Activity

- Think about:
 - Your life experiences: How has the existing highway affected you? How will the proposed project affect you?
 - What brought you here today? What are your values and what motivated you to participate in the Advisory Council?
 - What you would like to see from this process?**



14

14

Draft Vision Statement Activity cont.

Our Cause
Who? What? Where?

Our Actions
What we do

Our Impact
Changes for the better

Example responses:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cultural diversity and inclusiveness ▪ Social responsibility ▪ Informed and involved community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Effective communication ▪ Embrace change, innovation, and new ideas ▪ Sustainable, equitable, and inclusive approaches | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Equitable and inclusive housing ▪ Educated, healthy, and safe community ▪ Job opportunities for all socio-economic groups ▪ High degree of civic involvement |
|--|--|---|

Example vision statement:

A diverse and engaged group of residents

working together, embracing new ideas to develop a sustainable, equitable, and inclusive approach to address project related impacts and contribute to

building a healthy and safe community

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16



10 Minute Break

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Poll: CAC Meeting Logistics

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Public Outreach Update

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December 2019: Public Outreach Updates

- Public Information Meeting comment period extended through January 31st
- Community Office activity
 - Visitor traffic
 - Telephone land line being installed
- New actions resulting from comments
 - Air quality analysis
 - Community office visitor survey

I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST

20

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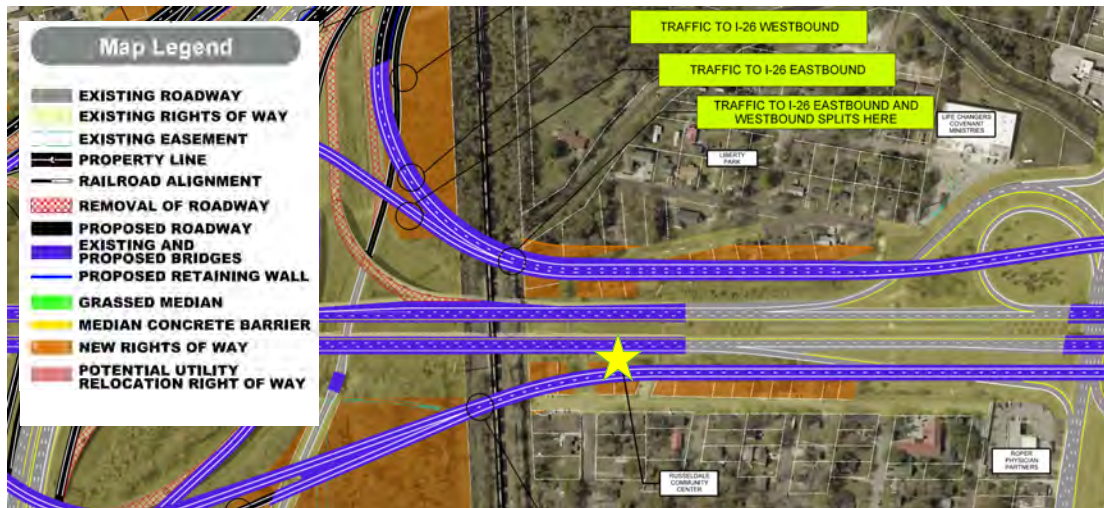
Direct Impacts to Recreational Facilities



* Community center would be impacted by all alternatives under evaluation (Alts 1, 1A, 2, and 2A)

https://storage.googleapis.com/stateless-www-526lowcountryrcor/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/526_26_alternatives.pdf

Direct Impacts to Recreational Facilities cont.



* Community center would be impacted by all alternatives under evaluation (Alts 1, 1A, 2, and 2A)

https://storage.googleapis.com/stateless-www-526lowcountrycor/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/526_26_alternatives.pdf

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Mitigation Requirements

- Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act
 - Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Community Center
- Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act
 - Russelldale Community Center
- Early public involvement and public review are part of regulatory process
 - CAC input on potential replacement locations / facility amenities, etc.
 - Focus group with community center staff, City staff, school transportation officials, and others
 - Proposed relocation

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Mitigation Requirements cont.

- Connection to Environmental Justice (EJ) /Cumulative Effects Mitigation:

Can the replacement facilities address direct impacts from the project but also include elements that address community issues and priorities as identified in the Social Needs Assessment and in conversations with the CAC?

GOAL: Work with CAC, focus group(s), the public and local entities to develop replacement recreational facilities as part of comprehensive EJ mitigation plan

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Brainstorming Session: Recreational Facilities



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Brainstorming Session: Recreational Facilities cont.

- High-level questions *(see activity sheet)*
- What we've heard:
 - Children in Russelldale also use Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Community Center *(reason for question on number/size of facilities)*
 - Children in Joppa Way walk home across railroad from Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Community Center *(reason preliminary mapping shows parcels in Joppa Way)*
- All ideas are on the board

RELEVANT NEEDS FROM THE SOCIAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

Availability of:

- Services for seniors
- Services for youth
- Youth employment opportunities
- Supervised after-school youth activities



Summary and Next Steps

Schedule

- Final environmental document: Fall 2021
- Right-of-way acquisition: 2022
- Construction: 2023
- CAC transition to Oversight Implementation Committee



Summary and Next Steps

- CAC Meeting No. 4 Recap
- Dates for CAC Meeting Nos. 5-7
- Community Office Open House (Jan 25)
- Informational Workshops at Community Office (Winter/Spring 2020)
- Potential topics for upcoming CAC meetings
 - Mitigation development workshop
 - *Are there specific topics you would like to see on future agendas?*

Contact Information

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| |  <p>Thank you for your time!</p> |
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COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 4

Date: January 4, 2020

Time: 10:08 am – 12:15 pm

Location: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor Community Office, 5627 Rivers Avenue, N. Charleston, SC

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees

Gilbert Reeves, Ferndale
 Larenda Baxley, Ferndale
 David L. Johnson, Ferndale
 Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale
 Charlyne Smith, Ferndale
 Ruth Mae Whitney, Highland Terrace
 Nathan Bryant, Highland Terrace
 Jeavaris Bannister, Liberty Park
 Doris Twiggs, Liberty Park
 Prayonda Cooper, Joppa Way
 Tony Grasso, Russelldale
 Rick Day, Stantec
 Ryan White, Stantec

LaTonya Derrick, Stantec
 Joy Riley, SCDOT (Project Manager)
 David Kelly, SCDOT
 Pamela Foster, FHWA
 Yolonda Jordan, FHWA
 Maxine Smith, Maximum Consulting (Community Liaison)
 Carolyn Lecque, Maximum Consulting (Community Liaison)
 Horrace Tobin, Community Office (Coordinator)
 Jamelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies (Facilitator)

Participant Summary:

Total participants: 22

| | | |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| Ferndale: 5 | Adjacent/affected communities/agencies: 1 | Community Office: 1 |
| Highland Terrace: 2 | SCDOT: 2 | Stantec: 3 |
| Liberty Park: 2 | FHWA: 2 | Facilitator: 1 |
| Russelldale: 1 | Community Liaisons: 2 | |

Meeting Summary:

Welcome and Introductions

All meeting participants provided introductions. Restroom, exit, and external emergency meeting locations were reviewed. Administrative issues were addressed:

- Reminder to all participants to provide signatures for attendance and initials for consent to record meeting
- Approval of Meeting 2 minutes
- Distribution of CAC Meeting 3 minutes for review
- Distribution and review of Meeting 4 agenda
- Overview of agenda items
 - ‘Open Mic’ Session - Distribution of comment cards to CAC members for open-mic session for written questions or comments. The purpose of comment cards is to allow CAC members to ask questions or make comments via the facilitator. The project team adjusted the agenda for

Meeting 4 in order to conduct the open mic session at the beginning of the CAC meeting, and in an effort to allow adequate time to address all questions, comments, and concerns of CAC members. CAC members were encouraged to continue to present questions or comments that arise after meetings to the project team.

- Demographic Survey was distributed in CAC Meeting 4 packet. CAC members were asked to complete the survey and submit it to the project team by the end of the meeting.
- A draft of the Roles and Responsibilities guiding document was included in the packet.
- Brainstorming Worksheet for potential mitigation ideas for recreational facilities included in CAC Meeting 4 packet

Open Mic

Facilitator: CAC members were asked if there were any outstanding questions or comments from CAC Meeting 3, community drop-ins, or the Public Information meeting that were not previously addressed.

The printed Rules of Engagement poster was displayed in front of the room for CAC members. CAC members were asked to remember the Rules of Engagement as the group navigated through discussions.

The floor was opened for discussion.

Project team member reminded the CAC that the Community Office was established to serve as the source of factual information about the I-526 Lowcountry Corridor project within the community, so if there are things that CAC members are hearing that seem confusing or in conflict with information discussed with or by the project team, the open mic session is a perfect opportunity for the project team to provide clarification. It was reiterated that the project team wants to ensure accurate information on issues, such as the project schedule, is being disseminated to the community from the Community Office directly rather than from outside entities that may not have a clear understanding of the mitigation process.

CAC member emphasized that he did not want additional auto access in the back of the Ferndale neighborhood because that area serves as a pedestrian access.

CAC Member revisited the issue of beautification. Stressed that community members in Russelldale are currently dealing with wooded areas where there are rats and mice, and people living under the bridges. He asked if these issues would be addressed when the bridge is widened.

- Project Manager: Responded that once the right of way is finished, SCDOT will demolish and remove everything in that area.

CAC Member asked who cuts the brush or the sides of highways where there is an accumulation of trash and overgrowth on the swales and in the streets. CAC Member asked if it was possible to erect a façade to block visibility of the trash.

Project Manager: SCDOT has played a much bigger role in addressing trash removal on the interstate than we have in past years, but trash removal is a much larger issue that SCDOT doesn't typically manage. If its within our right of way, citizens can submit a maintenance request. SCDOT has agreements with some municipalities to do some of the maintenance in this county.

CAC Member stated this is the entry way to North Charleston and that more should be done to beautify this section of the Interstate in a way that would make the community proud to welcome dignitaries.

- **Project Manager:** Project Manager validated the CAC Members concerns., and shared that she thought the City of North Charleston was proposing to do a gateway entrance and landscaping at the Remount exit but the project was postponed due to the current project (I-526 West). Stakeholder did not want to damage or remove new structures because of the requirements of the current project. She encouraged the CAC Member to present those concerns to the City if they wanted to get more information, but stated that a gateway sign project would not be done until after this project has been completed or it could be a part of the project. At some point, SCDOT will hold a charrette to get into the fine details of what the community mitigation project looks like. [Through this process], SCDOT can actually “put lines on paper” to define areas of concern and visually mark what should happen in those areas as a part of the mitigation process.

CAC Member expressed concern was about more than beautification. Near the sliver of Deacon Street that was left after the first I-526 expansion, there is a ditch that is in front Deacon Street, between the railroad tracks and the street itself. Because of the water movement, the ditch is widening. As a result, the street is starting to wash away. It is now a safety issue. Trees are being uprooted. One tree has fallen.

- **Project Team:** One of the issues that came up in previous meetings was stormwater management as an issue, even beyond this project, in terms of areas being low and flat. In looking at the proximity of Deacon Street to the widening of I-26 as part of the interchange process, new ditches will have to be cut along the outside of I-26. Project team member was not certain the new ditches will address all of the issues, but stated there will be some changes based on the project that will impact current stormwater flow along that section of I-26.

CAC Member asked if ditches could be replaced entirely by underground pipes.

CAC Member expressed that ditches were supposed to be replaced by pipes in the last expansion, and that after the last expansion, water started to run off of the interstate and there was no access point for maintenance. The dirt eventually washed down in the backyards of residents who were right up against the fence because there wasn't enough right-of-way purchased to maintain it.

CAC Member stated there is an unkept, clay cut-through path under the bridge in their area. It goes under the bridge and it isn't safe to walk through. The weeds removed so that residents can see “unsafe people.”

- **Project team member:** Stated that point was related to the previous discussion regarding pedestrian connectivity and how the project team can improve walkways and sidewalks within the larger scope of the mitigation project. Project team member asked about the location of the clay path.

CAC Member referenced the Piedmont (clay/dirt foot path) that goes under the bridge to get to the stores on Rivers Avenue.

CAC Member indicated there are a few foot paths in Russelldale. People cut the chain-link fence. Residents do not want to walk to Delta Street or Rebecca Street when there are closer gas stations. He stated that he would like to see the project include installing sidewalks that provide better, safer access to Rivers Avenue.

Another CAC Member added that she would like to see flowering trees planted rather than trees like Elms.

- Project team member referenced the Project Manager's earlier comments about the project team eventually holding charrettes and that charrettes are where beautification can be discussed. The project discussions will also include pedestrian walkways as a part of a much bigger plan, but vegetation makes a huge difference in the appearance and the required maintenance.

CAC Member expressed concerns that the current overpass (I-526 and Rivers Avenue) has a sloping edge and that there are people with mattresses sleeping underneath. He asked if it is possible to construct a deterrent to vagrancy as a part of the project, and referenced the vertical walls at the overpasses in Mount Pleasant that deter the homeless population.

- Project Manager: Stated that this is an issue in all urban areas. From a geotechnical standpoint, vertical walls at underpasses are not our first choice, but the project team can look at what other cities have done. It is being policed more now because of the fire that happened in Atlanta that damaged the interstate bridge. That was the result of homeless people living under the bridge. There is currently a more robust program to sweep those areas, but it requires regular enforcement to keep people out of those areas. We can look at some methods for deterring vagrancy.

Open Mic session was closed, but CAC members were encouraged to complete comment cards. Any outstanding questions or concerns would be addressed at the end of the meeting.

Roles and Responsibilities

Project team member: One of the objectives of CAC 4 meeting was to cap the size of the advisory council. The advisory council currently has 20 people. That was the original goal as outlined in the Rules and Responsibilities. The goal was to balance participation on the CAC among the four impacted neighborhoods.

- A current breakdown of participation on the CAC by neighborhood is: 7 members from Ferndale, 3 from Highland Terrace, 2 from Liberty Park, 2 from Russelldale, and 2 from Joppa Way.
- Pastor Johnson represents Harvest Point Church.
- Mr. Muhammad representing Muhammad Mosque.
- The current number of council members is acceptable, but the numbers are a somewhat skewed toward the Ferndale community. Because the CAC has more Ferndale members, the project team gauged if any CAC Members were interested in serving in other roles during outreach sessions in order to bring balance to the team. The project team would continue to leave open seats on the CAC to invite future members from some of the more underrepresented communities like Russelldale. Feedback on the structure of the council was requested in order to finalize membership and document how the team determines who serves on the CAC.

CAC Member stated that some of these (residential) areas are just hard to get commitments from the community and that the project team is going to have to work with the representatives who have already committed. [Seconded by another CAC member.]

- Project team member: Asked the CAC if there other approaches the CAC or project team can take to more effectively solicit community members to serve on the CAC.

CAC Member responded no.

CAC Member indicated they have begged people to come to community association meetings. They may show up one time if they have a big or special project that is particularly interesting and that affects them directly, or food. Attendance is typically inconsistent after a special project or program.

- Project team member: The goal for the next meeting (Meeting 5) is to present the final Roles and Responsibilities document for the CAC.

CAC Member sCAC Member suggested using gimmicks to get community members' input and having CAC members collect information and apply it appropriately.

- The project team is proposing open houses at the Community Office. There will be other opportunities to get people from the community in the Community Office to meet the CAC and the Community Office staff. There are resources available to ensure that people are prepared for the project moving forward. The project team wants to ensure that we leave space on the CAC for underrepresented neighborhoods to be better represented if there is future interest from the community.

CAC Member emphasized that community members are meeting, but they are meeting in settings where misinformation is being disseminated. There are other people outside of the SCDOT process who have established side committees. That is the reason for low participation and engagement in the CAC process. People don't know what to believe or who to trust. There are trust issues in a lot of these areas. People are operating in fear because there are other "officials" sending [mixed or incorrect] messages into the community.

Community Office Coordinator has planned for the Maximum Consulting Group to go into the communities, door-to-door, passing out flyers, talking with people and inviting people to come to the Community Office for more information. Open House is planned for January 25th, but the Community Office is always open to suggestions from the CAC team on how to get people to visit the Community Office. Recommended CAC members brainstorm amongst themselves or communicate with the Community Office staff to figure out what they can do to get more people into the office.

CAC Member stated that a part of the problem is that in areas like Ferndale, the majority of people are renters and they may not want to invest the energy into a place where they may not live in the next couple months or the next year. That may apply to Russelldale or Liberty Park as well.

CAC Member indicated he heard about agendas [meetings] in which they were using elected officials in the area to spread incorrect messages about property seizures for political gain.

CAC Member stated that he has gone door-to-door, passing out flyers and has spoken with a lot of residents. Some had mixed feelings, but he gave them the schedule of community meetings and invited them to attend. About a third of those people attended the meetings he attended. He agreed with the CAC Member's statement earlier, that the project team should use the CAC members who have currently committed and stated the people currently representing the CAC are the ones who are serious about their communities.

Facilitator: What do you see as the CAC in countering the messaging that is coming out of some of the [unofficial] meetings mentioned earlier? Do you think there is a role for the CAC to counter some that messaging?

CAC Member replied that the basis of counter-messages is finance [personal financial impacts]. He stated people are hearing 'they're going to take your property and you're not going to get the value [of] your property.' [Agreement from other CAC members.] Those are the scare tactics keeping community members away. Some people don't feel this [CAC meeting/mitigation process] is a necessity. He indicated there are always pros and cons. He felt addressing the congestion problems on I-526 is a necessity for people traveling it daily, but unimportant to those who don't travel it every day.

Facilitator: Do you think there is an opportunity for the CAC to develop a strategy together to come up with something this group can do to work against incorrect messaging that's coming out of some of these off-shoot groups?

One CAC Member stated having a commercial on tv is the solution. He had seen some commercials, but suggested doing more. Another member suggested social media.

- Project team member: How can we drive more traffic to social media when the Facebook page has been in existence since months after the project kicked off? And there's been a lot of push and sponsored advertising targeted to the markets.
- Project Manager: You can target markets. And we have done that. For instance for the Open House, all of the social media advertising will be targeted toward the communities that are tied to the project.

CAC Member asked if the project team was referencing Facebook and Twitter.

Community Coordinator asked if the communities being impacted would be on social media.

CAC Member stated that most of senior-citizen residents are retirees and go to church on Sundays. He suggested using churches as an avenue to get the word out. Residents have to trust the system in order to make it better. If we can't gain their trust, they are not going to participate. Ultimately, the CAC should direct individuals in those meetings to come and talk with Community Office staff because they are best equipped to share accurate information with the project.

- Project Manager stated that is why SCDOT hired Maximum Consulting into the Community Office. They are a local business who is here to serve as the liaison between community members and SCDOT. They don't work for SCDOT, are not SCDOT employees, and have no special interests in this project. They are here to help community members to get information. When the CAC thinks something is not fair or is not right, Maximum takes those concerns to SCDOT to try to reach some resolution.
- The project team stated the biggest resource is the credibility of the CAC and Maximum Consulting. The project team, within the confines of this project, is trying to fix wrongs that were done. There is also legislation that requires the project team to fix some issues based on cumulative impacts.

CAC Member asked about the actual count or approximate number of people who will be misplaced.

- The Project Manager responded with 115, but stated the number may be a little higher based on a recent count that included liens.

CAC Member inquired about why residents are not contacted directly regarding displacement.

- The Project Manager explained that the CAC and Community Liaisons are allowed to communicate with the public through outreach efforts. SCDOT follows the Uniform Act which has rules about when SCDOT can discuss specifics with communities. Residents can come to SCDOT and SCDOT can give them information. SCDOT is also allowed to use outreach to try to encourage community members to attend meetings or to contact SCDOT directly; but, SCDOT cannot contact residents directly at this point to inform them of displacement. CAC Members are free to disseminate information now.

Community liaison suggested that displacement numbers not be used in discussions with residents. The next event that Maximum will help to promote is the Open House on January 25th. They will be meeting with and going to the neighborhoods to meet with the residents. They will meet one-on-one with seniors, who are not on social media, and who may not have email addresses to receive an eblast. They will meet with them face-to-face.

- The Project Manager stated the project implementation design is being developed and is evolving as the project team moves forward. The team always wants to show worst case scenario at the beginning of the process. Then, we are going to try to minimize the impacts when possible, within reason. SCDOT wants to minimize leaving a resident in an undesirable situation.
- Project team member cautioned against discussing numbers [associated with displacement] as well due to its sensitive and emotional nature.

Community Consultant emphasized that discussing numbers also makes people fearful of the process.

CAC Member stated that he is not familiar with what happened years ago, but has heard from people in neighborhoods like Liberty Park and things that happened during the I-26 expansion and believes people still think about past offenses. He asked what SCDOT has done regarding public relations to let people know that this process is going to be different. He felt the public relations approach of inviting people to meetings sounds like it sounded to community members 20-30 years ago and stated SCDOT should take accountability for its mistakes and present impacted neighborhoods with how they are doing it differently this time, and let that come directly from SCDOT and not from people who are in the community. There are significant discrepancies between the conversations taking place in the community (expressing a lack of trust) and the discussions taking place in the CAC meetings. He suggested SCDOT get on media outlets and explain how the process is different now than when interstate expansions took place years ago.

Community Liaison explained that one of the ways that Maximum will help with messaging is to schedule radio interviews for the Project Manager. One of the meetings Maxim will schedule next week is with Cynthia Bell who coordinates all of the advertising. Community liaison would like for the Project Manager to be interviewed in person or by phone and let those interviews run continuously over the next few weeks so she can tell SCDOT's story. By taking this approach, not only is SCDOT inviting people to come to the open house but they are saying that 'in the past, this was done...but, this is now and this is what we

are going to do.’ Maximum did not write the press releases or public service announcements. Maximum’s responsibility to get the message on the radio waves that our people [affected communities] listen to.

- Project Manager suggested the project team can host another right-of-way workshop if CAC Members believe community members would attend to get that information. She encouraged CAC members to continue inviting community members to visit the community office and just talk to the staff and give them an opportunity to get authentic, direct answers from the office.

Community Liaison stated she would like to see the project pay for the advertisement in the Black newspaper, The Chronicle. The churches subscribe to the Chronicle and on Sundays, a lot of churches will distribute them to their members.

- Project team member stated, “a lot of what is being said that ‘people need to hear,’ has already been said. If you review media content from when this project started, there is an article where Joy [Project Manager] is quoted. She has stated early in the project that ‘this is a new day, ‘ but the key is making sure we’re using the right tool to convey that message. Because while its being said here, [only] you hear it. So, it needs to be marketed to the right audience using the tools your target audience uses to obtain information. Not everyone subscribes to the Post and Courier. So, the CAC telling the project team the right tools the community uses would be very helpful in implementing the most effective means of communication.”
 - To revisit Roles and Responsibilities as it relates to higher representation on the CAC by Ferndale residents, because there is only one CAC member representing Russelldale and the two communities are close in proximity, the project team encourages collaborative efforts in supporting grass roots efforts between communities represented by the CAC. Project team member expressed that the project team knows everyone will have flyers for events, but not everyone can go out and walk the street and distribute them. She asked if the 5 CAC Members from Ferndale would support the efforts the Russelldale member.

SCDOT Team member observed that there seems to be huge issues with trust based on what happened in the past and asked if there is a way to create a list of grievances from the previous project, itemizing offenses of the previous project and providing specific steps SCDOT is taking to avoid recurrence of those offenses in the current project.

- Project Manager agreed that approach is something SCDOT would like to include in the impact analysis, in the historical and cumulative impacts.

SCDOT team member agreed with the Project Manager, but emphasized the importance of making it available to the community in order to increase credibility. Admitting the specific ‘wrongs’ rather than trying to manage vague, high level concerns.

- Project Manager reminded everyone the same laws were not in place during previous expansions and they were not as protective of communities as current laws.

CAC Member indicated that was the reason she called the Project Manager about the project initially, to let her know she would only remain committed to the project if the process was transparent. It comes back to trust.

CAC Member asked for specific examples from the past expansion of what caused the current distrust.

CAC Member 6: My dad had property on Drury Lane when I-26 was expanded. They clipped the front of the property and took acreage that took away his front yard. My dad trusted them. He let it go. When I-526 came through, they took the remainder of his property. With the check he received from the deal, he couldn't buy another piece of property. The years he owned the property, paid taxes on the property and maintained the property – it was a giveaway to the state. In an effort to embrace the future, I wouldn't like to see that happen to anyone. Take away their property and when they leave they don't have money to purchase other property. After two interstates came through he had no profit.

CAC Member3: Deacon Street and Elder Street about the water running off and running under the house. The wood under the house decays and the water continues to run under the house.

CAC Member asked how SCDOT would handle those issues today.

- Project Manager stated SCDOT would purchase entire lots today. In the past, there may have been situations to avoid relocating someone, SCDOT would opt just to purchase just a front yard, but property owners can dispute that and asked to be relocated. We don't want to do that. Residents will probably be better off allowing SCDOT to purchase their entire property so they can receive the full purchase price and apply it to relocating.

CAC Member asked if those options available in the 1960s.

- Project Manager responded no,, not in the 60's. The current rules were not in place in the 60's. Anytime SCDOT cuts off the front of a property, in some cases we take off too much so you're now eligible for proximity damages so you should receive a payment to compensate for that. There are different things in the law to account for those situations. Because these communities have been affected in the past and now they are being affected again, people need to know their rights. You have basic rights but because these are low income communities that have cumulative impacts, if you feel like something is unfair then bring it to our attention and we will see what we can do to make it right.

CAC Member stated in response to area being considered "low income," that his home is fully equipped with everything but an elevator and a dishwasher (by choice). He expressed concerns about his home being classified as low income when he has kept his home updated.

- Project Manager stated the value of property is based on your appraisal and you can provide information that the appraiser will take into consideration - including investments and improvements that you have made.

CAC Member expressed concerns about his property being considered low-income.

- Project Manager stated that although she is not an expert on appraisals, she is aware appraisers use recent sales to determine costs, but they also use comparable homes. Anything you dispute in the appraisal, you can ask for your own independent appraisal.

CAC Member stated that is the type of information residents need to know. Inform residents of their options.

- Project Manager: The Community Office is here for that reason, so that people can come here and get the information they need. There are two Right-of-Way specialists that are here one day a week for residents to come in and talk about their specific situations and potential impacts. These lines [on the maps displayed] may change a little. We start the process with a big footprint because there's a big impact in being "front row" on the interstate. Sometimes, people who live on the front line want to be able to make that choice.

CAC Member expressed concern that the Liberty Park and Highland Terrace communities are so tight that somebody is going to be affected [regardless of how the lines are drawn]. Another asked if there is a definite route (footprint) of the houses that will be affected?

- Project Manager: There is always a "No Build" alternative. Based on the public comments to date, there is a large contingent that doesn't want this project to proceed.

CAC Member asked if people who oppose the project they live in this area or drive through.

- Project Manager: The data hasn't been analyzed on that level yet, but she expressed that interstates are a critical route. Leaving an interstate where it is currently is a lot less impactful than building a new road in another location. No matter what area we consider in Charleston, we will still face the same issues of relocation (displacement) and many of those communities would also be African American, minority, or low-income communities. The current plan is less impactful than building a road somewhere else.

CAC Member stated she did not think it would be fair to her tenants to not inform them of the potential for their rental units to be taken from them by the project, while she is still collecting monthly rent. Although she wants to give them time to look for another place, she does not want to alarm them too early.

- Project Manager: That may be an issue for long term renters, but keep in mind that displacement for tenants is not anticipated for another 3-4 years. SCDOT is trying to create housing that offer them options. They can choose to move where they'd like. But we want to ensure that we have provide options. As a landlord, you should know that as we get closer, if you feel uncomfortable or are having trouble securing tenants because of the pending project, we can start paying protective rent or buy you out early once we get a little closer to the 5 year target. That is included under protective rights in the laws. Similarly, with hardship rules. If you own a house and you need to relocate, but you put your house on the market and no one wants to purchase because the house falls within the project footprint. Contact us so that we can do a hardship early purchase. There are several scenarios like these that are covered in the rules, but we need residents to come into the Community Office and ask questions. Those are also things we can explore when we get closer to construction, but we don't want to alarm everyone to make a mass exodus right now.

CAC Member asked what protections are in place or will there be protections to keep it housing affordable long-term.

- Project Manager: We haven't determined the mechanism to ensure long term affordability, but we are working on that. We will have protections in place.

CAC Member asked if long-term residents with criminal backgrounds would be able to obtain housing in the relocation process since they will be required to have a background check.

- Project Manager: We work with a variety of issues and we will work with that tenant to find a solution on that matter. We have to ensure that people are relocated into affordable housing in which we can place them.

CAC Member asked about the chance of this project not going through.

- Project Manager: The project is definitely needed. If we don't do this we would have to do something else. Most of the comments we received for the "No Build" option have a misunderstanding about how transportation works because they want SCDOT to invest instead in transit. So, if we don't build the project here, it will be used for an interstate project in another area. The funds are allocated specifically for interstate projects. It will not go to transit projects because its earmarked for interstate projects. A number of comments, for example, direct us to construct a bus lane. Under the current legislation cannot close a lane and make it a bus lane only. However, the new construction project improvements are being developed in a way that will allow for future operational options. That's why we're doing 12-foot shoulders. A lot of the things that people are asking for in this project (but are not included in the scope of the project) cannot happen without this project. This infrastructure improvement will allow many of those projects to happen.

CAC Member asked for clarification on "traffic management"

- Project Manager: Traffic Management is actually related to the infrastructure to help manage traffic. Its an actively managed system, so every half mile there are overhead message boards with digital notifications to help move traffic during peak hours. But, it takes the infrastructure, having a traffic management center with staff to operate the cameras and controls...it's a huge investment to get to the point where you can implement project like that. People who express a desire for "no build" typically fall into one of two groups: (1) "no build" because it's not worth the community impact. Those people probably don't drive on the interstate. (1) "no build" that drive on the interstate but believe SCDOT can provide public transit, and put busses in one of the lanes on the interstate, which is not possible. And, there are some people who know that its needed and just want to make sure that SCDOT is doing the right thing.
- Project team member: Before we move on, I want to revisit what [SCDOT team member] mentioned regarding development of a list of offenses ('historical wrongs') against community members in previous interstate expansion projects. Scheduling a session to address those issues should be an action item. We will discuss that in our follow up internal project team call.

Vision Statement Activity

Facilitator tabled the vision statement activity due to time constraints. , but provided a brief discussion for clarification between the mission statement (statement of purpose) and vision statement. Members were asked to think about their vision for the group as they transition from the CAC to the oversight committee.

Project team member distributed survey clickers to survey the CAC on issues such as resource allocation and to ensure proper utilization of the Community Office space (CAC meeting access). The office is open

five days a week and every other Saturday. CAC Members were guided through a Community Office use logistical survey.

Survey results:

- CAC members prefer to meet on a recurring date & time, 1st Saturdays
- CAC members prefer to extend the meeting to 3 hours, from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- CAC members would like the option to meet together outside of the regularly scheduled CAC meetings

As information, the public comment period has been extended to the end of January. CAC members were encouraged to have friends, relatives, and neighbors to visit the website or come to the community office to engage with project team and community office staff.

Outreach Update:

Community Office Coordinator: Since the community office opened, there have been approximately 107 visitors, approximately half of which represent the impacted communities. The office is averaging about 14 people per week. The holidays presented a bit of a slowdown during the holidays.

Brainstorming Session: Potential Mitigation Ideas for Recreational Facilities

Project team members: There have been 291 comments (comment cards) submitted. We are categorizing them by general themes such as noise, meeting experiences, meeting requests, etc. Questions were asked about various project dynamics, right of way, bus lanes, bike and pedestrian lanes, transit, affordable housing, environmental concerns, maintaining access to rivers, alternatives for smaller maps displaying system-to-system interchange (N. Rhett Avenue and manage lanes), etc. One of the more specific (commonly asked) questions was feedback from community drop ins. There were 61 comments in support of “no improvements,” people who are advocates for alternative methods of travel. The 31 comments made at drop-ins are public information, but printed copies can be provided to CAC members upon request. CAC member requested the be sent by email.

Air quality related to existing traffic and air quality in the neighborhoods immediately adjacent to I-526 corridor. The project team will be conducting an air quality analysis project.

Review of Community Office form for visitors to complete in order to assist the project team in collecting information on needs for housing replacement needs throughout the community. This is the next stage of the social needs assessment (which will run through the end of the comment period).

In upcoming meetings, the project team will address a path forward for mitigation based on the impacts gathered and prioritized from the social needs assessment and community office forms. Some parcels have already been provided and are included in your packet. CAC was asked to be mindful that the project team has not begin talking with property owners. The project team emphasized the critical need for confidentiality in the current stage of the project. The project manager reminded everyone that when the notification process begins, residents must be a willing seller. SCDOT cannot force to sell. CAC members were asked to continue thinking about the value the community center will add to neighborhoods and to consider uses or services that may not yet be included in the plan. This will be revisited at the next meeting.

Summary and Next Steps

- Reminder to complete the Demographic Survey and return it to the project team before the end of the meeting
- Reminder to CAC members to request missed materials from Meeting 3, if they were absent
- CAC Members requested an email meeting reminder one week prior to the meeting
- Open House flyers will be distributed to CAC Members at the Community Office on Monday, January 6, 2020
- CAC Members were encouraged to email questions, concerns, or ideas for meeting topics to Council@526Lowcountrycorridor.com or stop by the Community Office
- Next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 8, 2020, 10 AM-1 PM at the Community Office

Respectfully submitted,

Jamelle H. Ellis, Ph.D.
President/Managing Director
Empowerment Strategies, LLC



526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR

Community Advisory Council

Meeting No. 5

2.8.2020

Welcome and Introductions

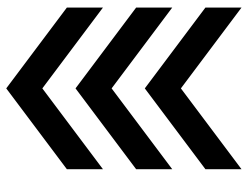
- Advisory Council Members
- SC Department of Transportation
- Federal Highway Administration
- Consultant Team



Logistics



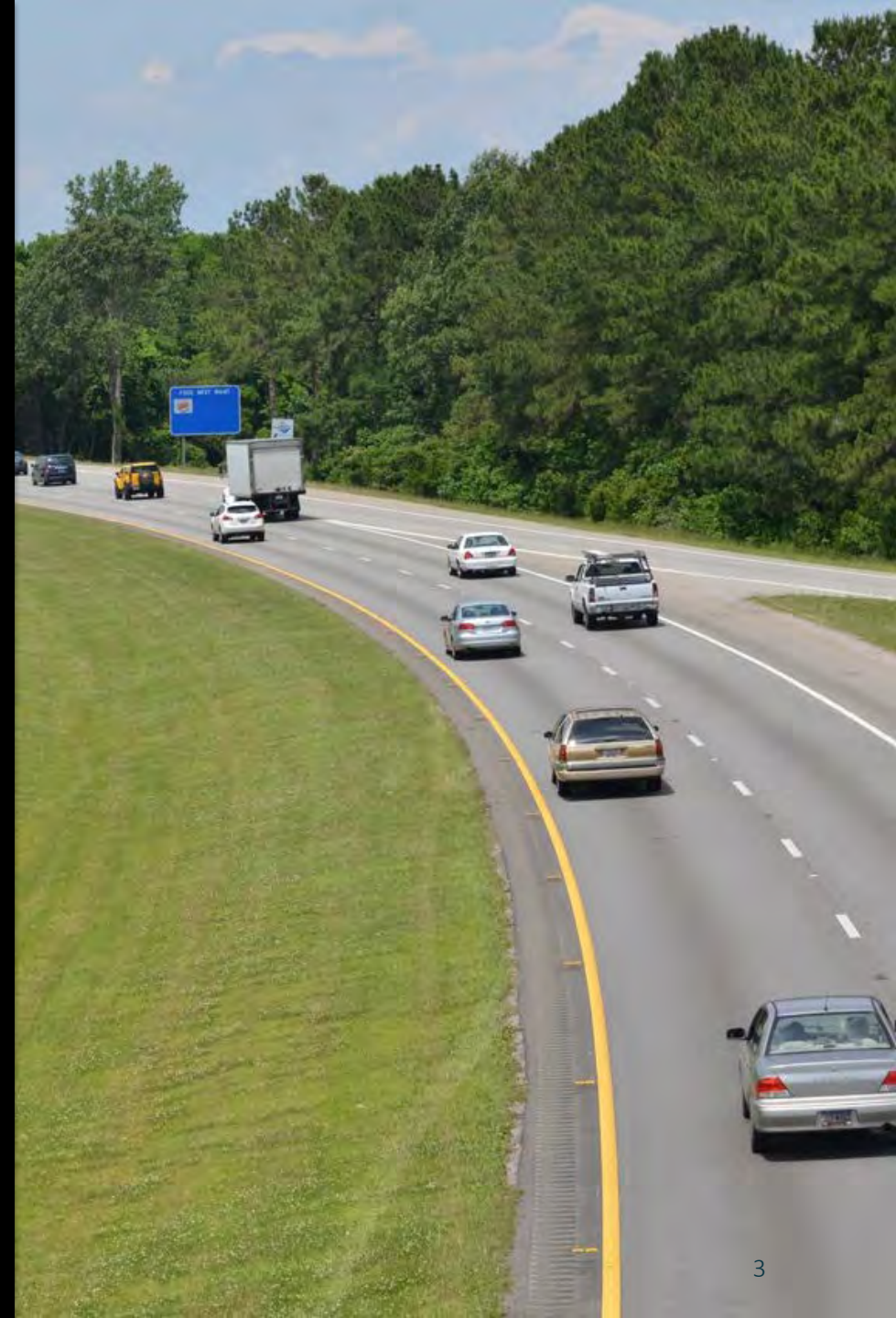
Food



Exits



Restrooms



Agenda

- Administrative Items
- Approve CAC Roles & Responsibilities
- Items Currently in the Parking Lot
- ‘Open Mic’ Session
- Highway Project Impacts
- Break / Lunch
- Vision Statement Activity
- Brainstorming Session: Potential Mitigation Ideas for Recreational Facilities
- Outreach Update
- Summary and Next Steps



Administrative Items

Administrative Items

- For Distribution:
 - CAC Meeting No. 5 Agenda
 - Minutes from CAC Meeting No. 4
 - Comment cards for Open Mic/general use
 - Approve Final CAC Roles & Responsibilities
 - Worksheet for mitigation brainstorming activity



Approve Roles and Responsibilities

Roles and Responsibilities

- File in binder under “Guiding Principles”
- Highlights:
 - Freedom of Information Act requirements
 - CAC meetings are not open for general public participation
 - Encourage neighbors to attend a “Meet Your Advisory Council” Open House
 - You are the community connection
 - Public can always contact SCDOT project team to relay questions, concerns, and information they would specifically like shared with the CAC
- If votes are taken at any point, only formal CAC members may participate in a vote



Open Mic

Open Mic Session

- Goal: Open Mic at every CAC meeting
- Express opinions, voice concerns, ask questions
- Can address Advisory Council and/or Project Team
- Can speak or use comment card
- Time limit: will vary; may have to set limits if necessary, based on agenda
- Speak from your own experiences; avoid generalizations
- Recall Rules of Engagement related to listening and speaking one at a time



Parking Lot

Currently in the Parking Lot

■ Aesthetics

- I-526 bridge over Rivers Avenue and bridge over Bryant Street
- City gateway at Rivers Avenue and I-526
- Flowering trees
- Maintenance of brush/weeds to help prevent crime by improving line of sight
- Trash pick-up
- Vagrancy deterrents at Rivers Avenue overpass

■ Bike/pedestrian facilities

- Better facilities
- Better connectivity to Rivers Avenue

■ Stormwater runoff

- Stormwater on Deacon Street: widening ditch and uprooting trees
- Stormwater management for project? Storm drains? Dirt washing down fill slopes into backyards



Highway Project Impacts

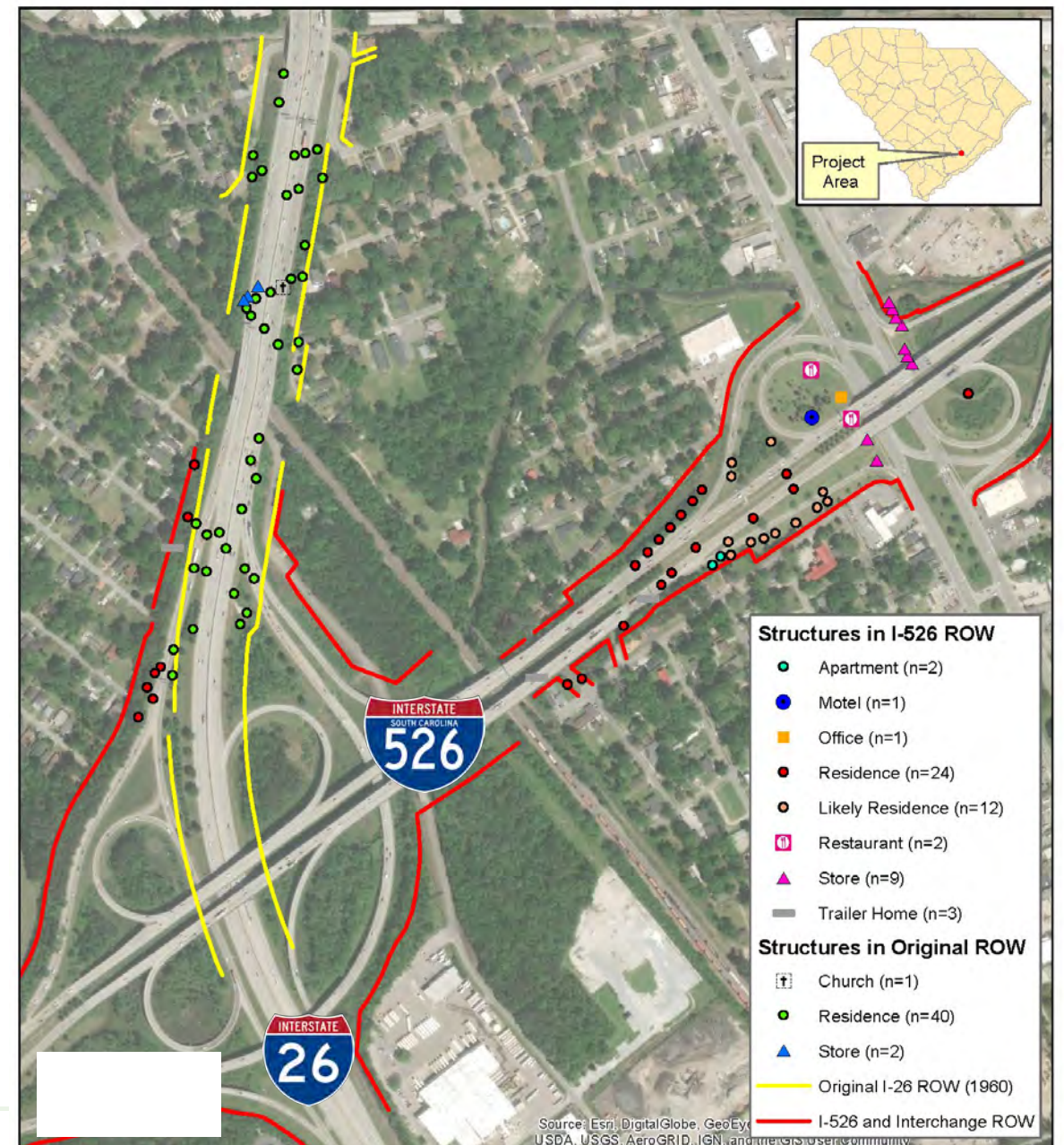
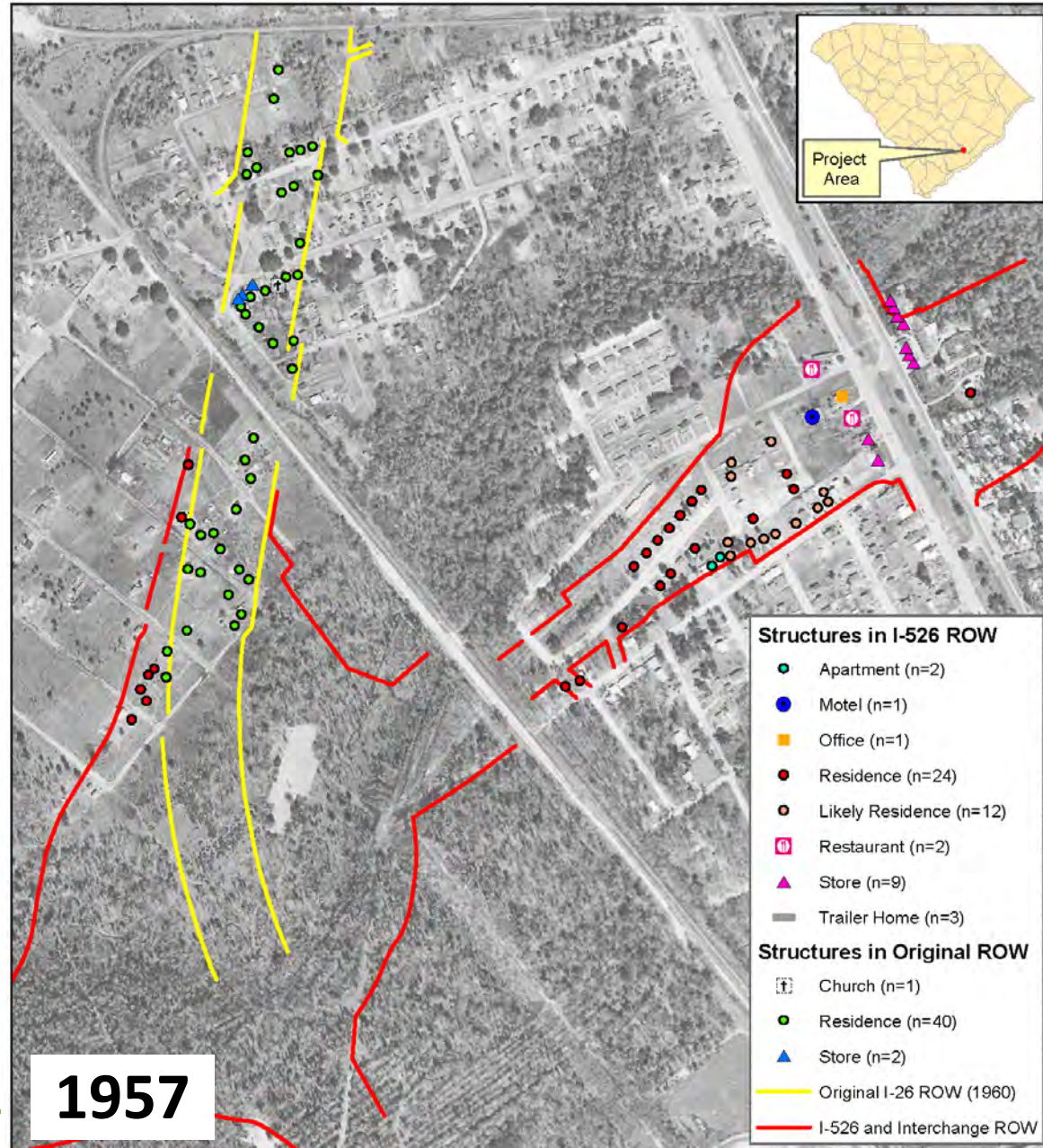
Direct Impacts from I-526 WEST Project



- Residential displacements
- Affordable housing takes
- Recreational facilities displacement

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Past Impacts from Highway Projects (cont.)



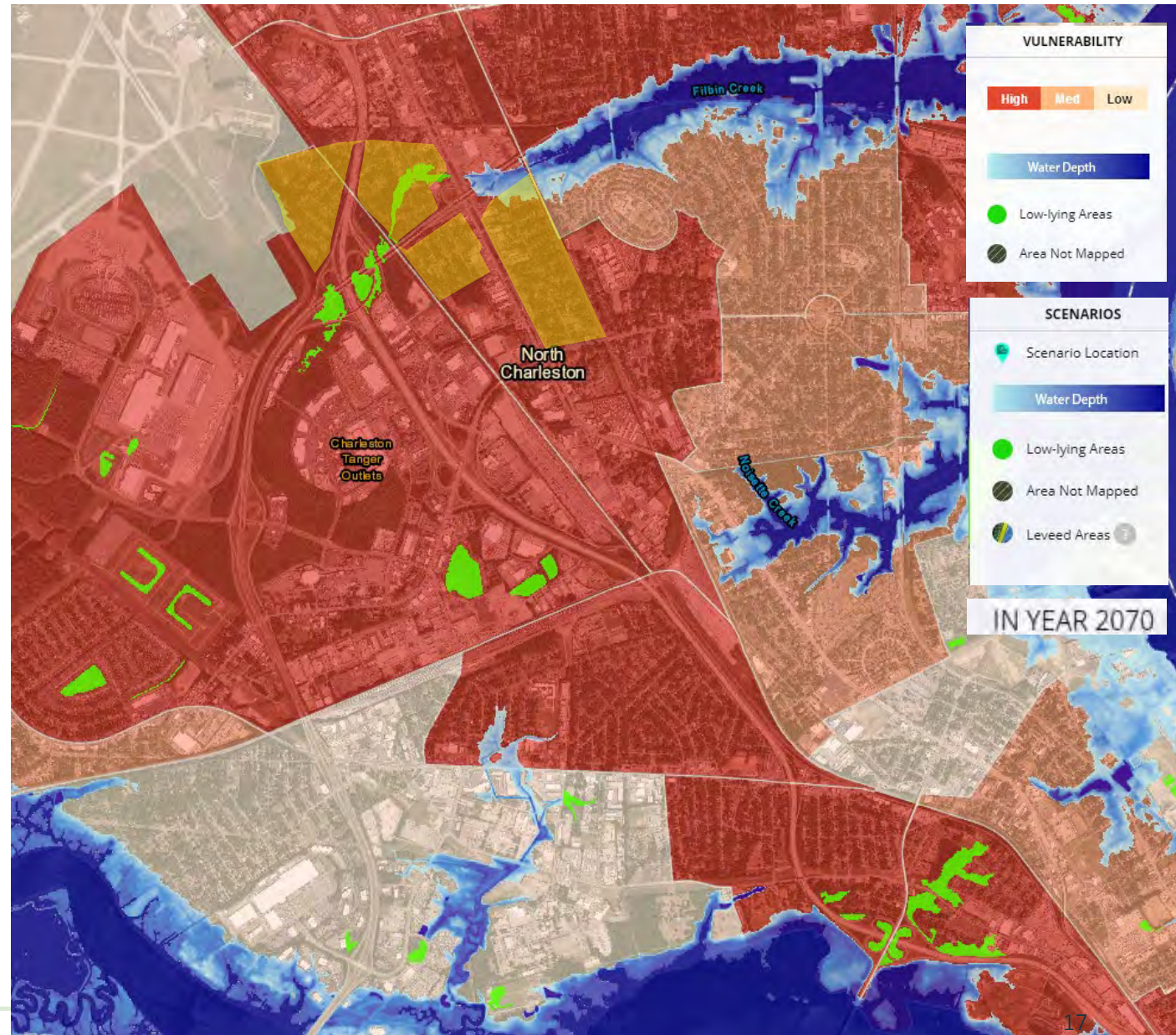
Past Impacts from Highway Projects (cont.)

- Direct impacts from construction of I-26 and I-526
 - Residential relocations/encroachment
 - Business relocations
- Indirect/cumulative impacts from I-26 and I-526 construction
 - Community cohesion
 - Effects on neighborhood property values
 - Increased imperviousness/water quality effects
 - Increased noise
 - **Unaddressed project effects/mitigation:** stormwater management; sidewalk/bicycle facilities; replacement housing; well-lit streets/sidewalks (** also identified in Social Needs Assessment*)



Community-wide cumulative/recurring EJ Impacts

- Intergenerational poverty
- Segregation and isolation
- Surface transportation projects
- Changing job market
- Lack of affordable housing
- Environmental pollutants
- Flooding
- Limited access to transit
- Lack of sidewalks, bike facilities
- Language barriers



I-526 West EJ Mitigation Strategy: Overarching Goal

- *Effectively mitigate direct, indirect, and cumulative (/recurring) impacts on EJ communities by **establishing relationships, building trust, and gathering feedback that will inform decisions** on mitigative measures and other aspects of project development.*

I-526 West EJ Mitigation Strategy: Looking Ahead

Questions to think about for upcoming mitigation work session:

*What do you feel where the **impacts not addressed**
from past transportation projects?*

*What do you see as **effective mitigation** for:*

Direct impacts (relocations/encroachment)

Indirect effects (air/noise)

Cumulative effects (decreased community cohesion; blight)



Lunch / Break (15 Minutes)



Developing the CAC Vision

Developing the Community Advisory Council Vision

Our Cause
Who? What? Where?

Our Actions
What we do

Our Impact
Changes for the better

Motivators

How has the existing highway affected you?

What brought you here today?

What are your values?

How will the proposed project affect you?

What motivated you to participate in the Advisory Council?

What you would like to see from this process?

CDM Smith

Themes

Cultural diversity and inclusiveness

Social responsibility

Informed and involved community

Effective communication

Embrace innovation and new ideas

Equitable and inclusive approaches

Educated, civically-involved, healthy, and safe community

Community Advisory Council Vision Statement - DRAFT

Our Cause
Who? What? Where?

Our Actions
What we do

Our Impact
Changes for the better

*“A **diverse and engaged group** of residents **working together**, embracing new ideas to develop an **equitable and inclusive approach** to address project-related impacts and contribute **to building a sustainable, healthy, and safe community.**”*



Public Outreach Update

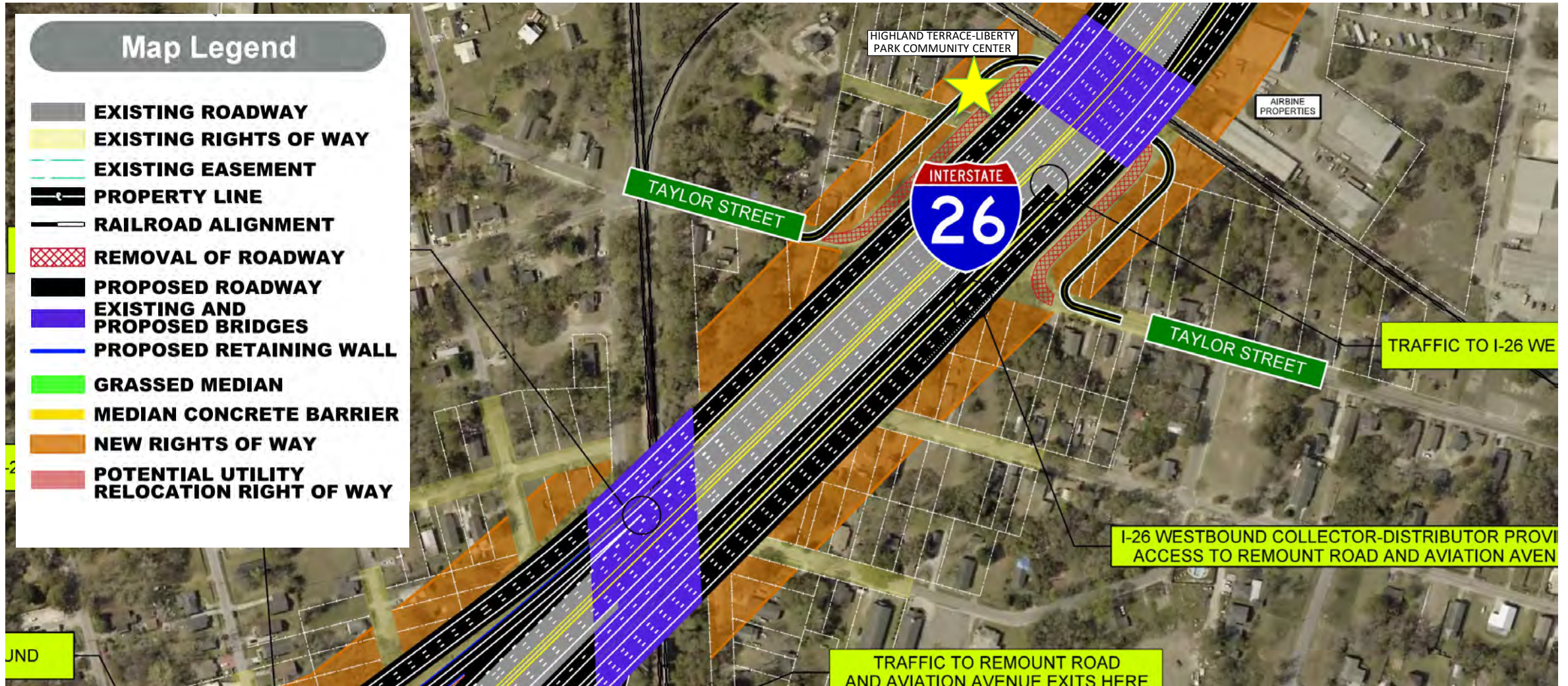
December 2019: Public Outreach Updates

- Comments from PIM
- Community Office activity
- Open House – January 25th, 2020
- Informational Workshops
- *Meet Your Community Advisory Council* Open Houses



Brainstorming Session: Potential Mitigation Ideas

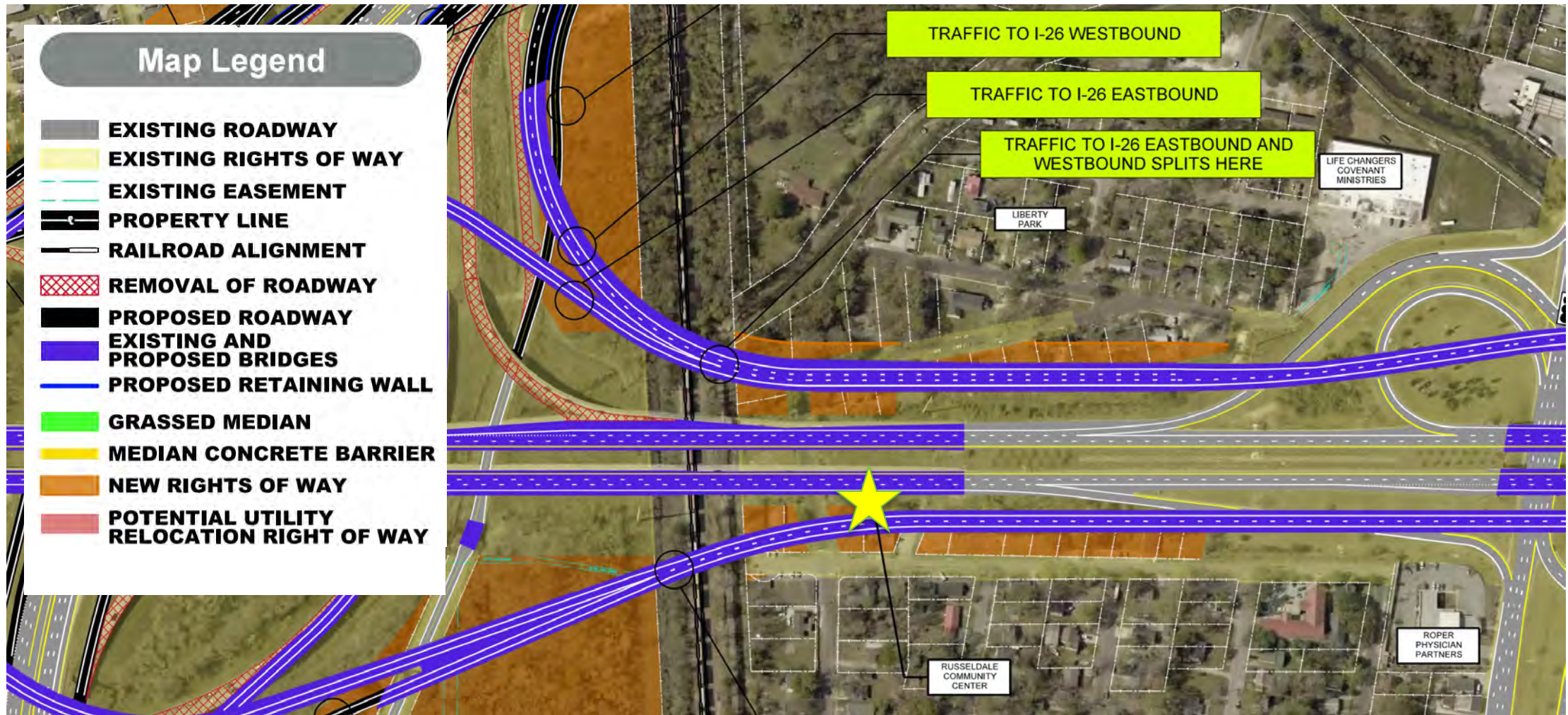
Direct Impacts to Recreational Facilities



** Community center would be impacted by all alternatives under evaluation (Alts 1, 1A, 2, and 2A)*

https://storage.googleapis.com/stateless-www-526lowcountrycor/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/526_26_alternatives.pdf

Direct Impacts to Recreational Facilities cont.



** Community center would be impacted by all alternatives under evaluation (Alts 1, 1A, 2, and 2A)*

https://storage.googleapis.com/stateless-www-526lowcountrycor/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/526_26_alternatives.pdf

Mitigation Requirements

- Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act
 - Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Community Center
- Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act
 - Russelldale Community Center
- Early public involvement and public review are part of regulatory process
 - CAC input on potential replacement locations / facility amenities, etc.
 - Focus group with community center staff, City staff, school transportation officials, and others
 - Proposed relocation

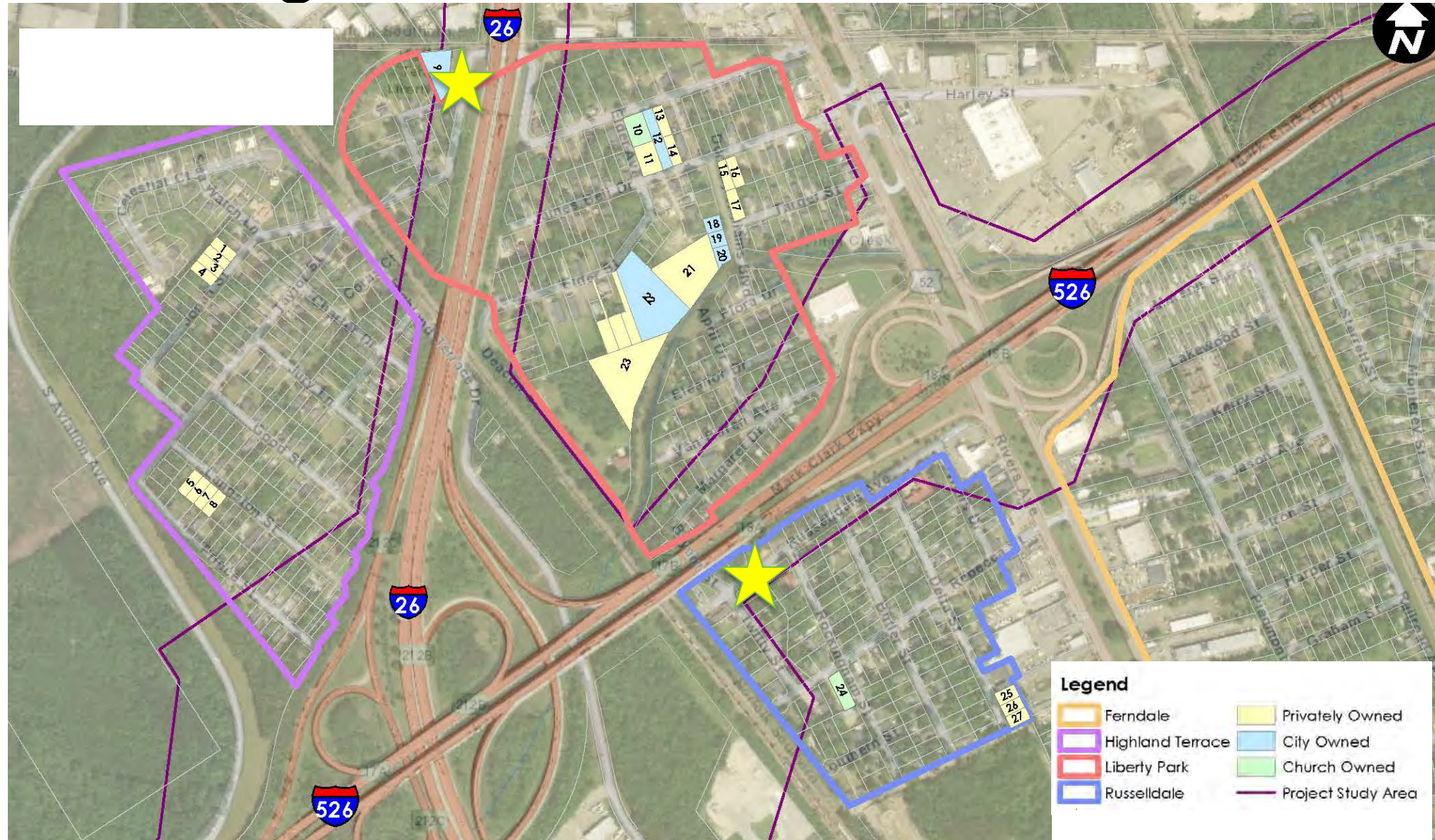
Mitigation Requirements cont.

- Connection to Environmental Justice (EJ) /Cumulative Effects Mitigation:

Can the replacement facilities address direct impacts from the project but also include elements that address community issues and priorities as identified in the Social Needs Assessment and in conversations with the CAC?

GOAL: Work with CAC, focus group(s), the public and local entities to develop replacement recreational facilities as part of comprehensive EJ mitigation plan

Brainstorming Session: Recreational Facilities



Brainstorming Session: Recreational Facilities cont.

- High-level questions *(see activity sheet)*
- What we've heard:
 - Children in Russelldale also use Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Community Center *(reason for question on number/size of facilities)*
 - Children in Joppa Way walk home across railroad from Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Community Center *(reason preliminary mapping shows parcels in Joppa Way)*
- All ideas are on the board

RELEVANT NEEDS FROM THE SOCIAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

Availability of:

- Services for seniors
- Services for youth
- Youth employment opportunities
- Supervised after-school youth activities

Brainstorming Session: Recreational Facilities

- Will be conducting focus group with community center staff, City staff, school transportation officials, and others
- Early public involvement and public review are part of regulatory process*
- Leads into Mitigation Development Work Session
- Connection to Social Needs Survey
 - Confirm team understands community issues and priorities
 - Team will examine direct impacts and proposed relocation as part of cumulative effects assessment
 - Helps set priorities for future actions

** Section 4(f) of the USDOT Act and Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act*

Brainstorming Session: Other Mitigation Ideas

- High-level ideas
 - What resources are lacking?
 - Thoughts on preferable location(s)?
 - Other?
- All ideas are on the board



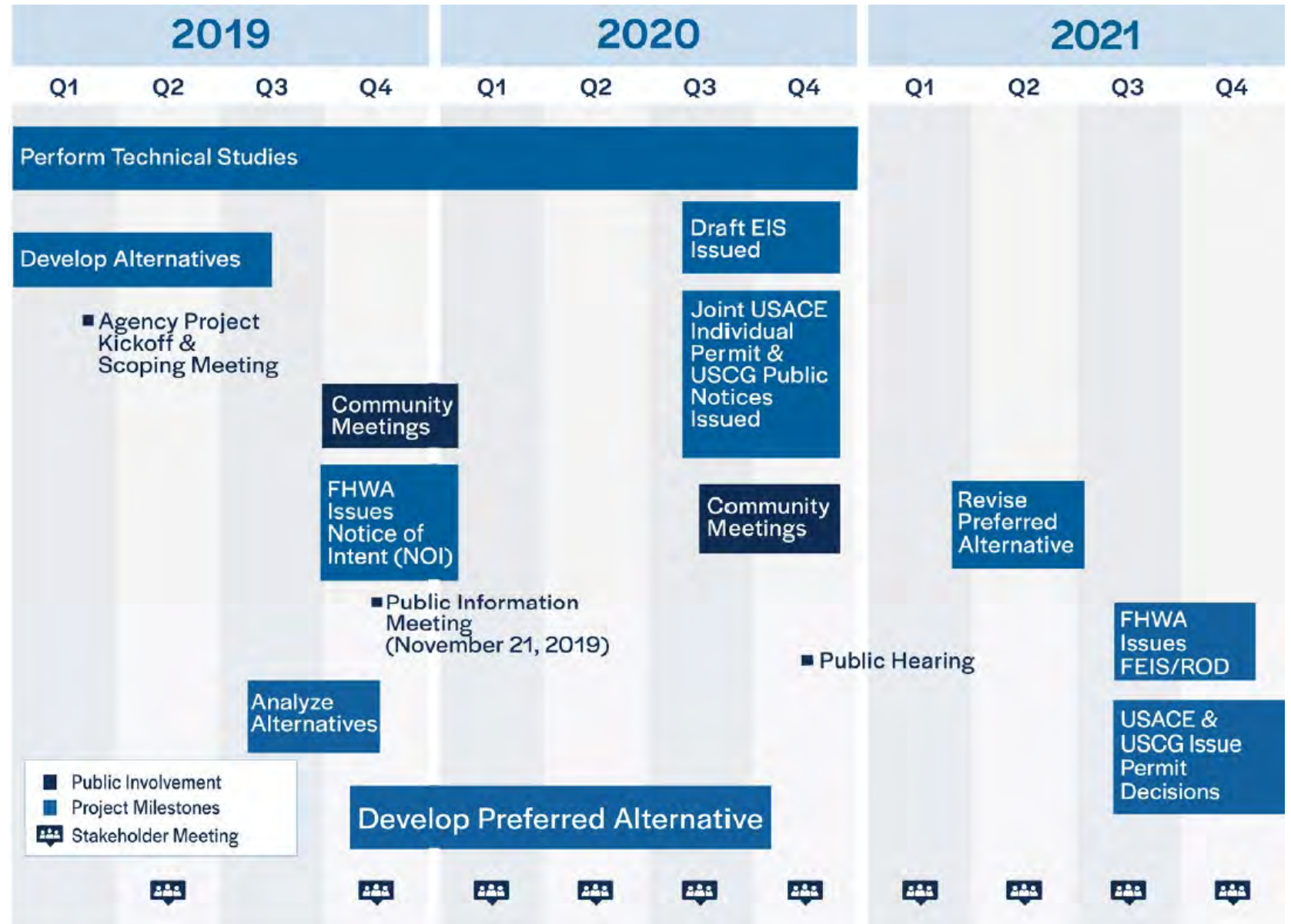
Petersburg Park in Louisville, KY



Summary and Next Steps

Schedule

- Final environmental document: Fall 2021
- Right-of-way acquisition: 2022
- Construction: 2023
- CAC transition to Oversight Implementation Committee



Summary and Next Steps

- CAC Meeting No. 5 Recap
- Mitigation development work session:
 - Need to hold work session soon
 - Extend next meeting to four hours? OR have another three-hour meeting in February plus regular meeting in March?
- Poll group for *Meet Your Advisory Council* Open House date(s)
- Confirm schedule for upcoming CAC Meetings

Contact Information



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Thank you for your time!

BRT Links

- <https://lowcountryrapidtransit.com/>
- <https://lowcountryrapidtransit.com/transit-oriented-development.html>
- [https://lowcountryrapidtransit.com/docs/LCRT Online Meeting Press Release.pdf](https://lowcountryrapidtransit.com/docs/LCRT_Online_Meeting_Press_Release.pdf)



MEETING MINUTES

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 5

Date: February 8, 2020

Time: 10:00 am – 1:05 pm

Location: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor Community Office, 5627 Rivers Avenue, N. Charleston, SC

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees

Larenda Baxley, Ferndale
Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale
Charlynn Smith, Ferndale
Geneva Swett, Ferndale
Ruth Mae Whitney, Highland Terrace
Jeanaris Bannister, Liberty Park
Carolyn Varner, Liberty Park
Prayonda Cooper, Joppa Way
Tony Grasso, Russelldale
Angela Anderson, Russelldale
Venus Silva, Russelldale

Earl Muhammad, Muhammad Mosque
Rick Day, Stantec
Amy Sackaroff, Stantec
LaTonya Derrick, Stantec
Joy Riley, SCDOT (Project Manager)
David Kelly, SCDOT
Pamela Foster, FHWA
Yolonda Jordan, FHWA
Maxine Smith, Maximum Consulting (Community Liaison)
Janelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies (Facilitator)

Participant Summary:

Total participants: 21

Ferndale: 4

Highland Terrace: 1

Liberty Park: 2

Russelldale: 3

Adjacent/affected communities/agencies: 2

SCDOT: 2

FHWA: 2

Community Liaisons: 1

Community Office: 0

Stantec: 3

Facilitator: 1

Meeting Summary:

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting began with self-introductions of everyone in attendance. Restroom, exit, and external emergency meeting locations were reviewed. Administrative issues were addressed:

- Meeting participants were reminded to sign in and that the meeting was being recorded to ensure an accurate record of discussions
- Request for approval of Meeting 3 minutes
 - A request was made to correct the spelling of “Jeavaris” to “Jeanaris”
 - Meeting 3 minutes were approved
- CAC Meeting 4 minutes were distributed
- Meeting 5 agenda was distributed
- Overview of agenda items

- ‘Open Mic’ Session - CAC members were offered an opportunity to complete comment cards for the open-mic session for written questions or comments. The purpose of comment cards is to allow CAC members to ask questions or make comments via the facilitator if they do not wish to speak. Otherwise, CAC members are encouraged to ask candid questions regarding the mitigation process.
- Reminder to CAC members to complete the Demographic Survey that was distributed in CAC Meeting 4. Demographic Surveys were provided to members who were unable to attend Meeting 4. CAC members were asked to complete the survey and submit it to the project team by the end of the meeting.
- Approval of final Roles and Responsibilities guiding document. The document was provided to CAC members who were unable to attend Meeting 4. Roles and Responsibilities should be placed under the Guiding Principles tab in CAC binders. The primary purpose of this document is to:
 - Outline the expectations for the Community Advisory Council and the project team
 - Establish the CAC as a non-voting body
 - Limit the CAC’s membership to 20, with flexibility to accept additional members from the Russelldale community to ensure proper representation
 - Establish that no single chair will be selected to represent the CAC. Members will represent their respective communities.
 - Change the timeframe for meetings from a 2- to 3-hour format
- All discussions in CAC meetings are subject to the Freedom of Information Act
- CAC Members are encouraged to use the Open Mic session to bring to the full Council and project team any questions and concerns that they have discussed with stakeholders (primarily community members outside of CAC meetings). The CAC is also encouraged to direct community members to visit the Community Office (CO) to discuss questions directly with CO staff and liaisons.
- CAC members who were unable to attend Meeting 4 were provided the Brainstorming Worksheet for potential mitigation ideas for recreational facilities
- A CAC member requested for meeting minutes to be distributed for approval prior to CAC meetings, rather than receiving them during CAC meetings.

Open Mic

Facilitator: CAC members were asked if there were any outstanding questions or comments from CAC Meeting 4 or from discussions with residents in respective communities.

The floor was opened for discussion.

A CAC member expressed concern about rezoning causing unforeseen problems. There is a meeting scheduled on February 10th at City Hall regarding rezoning (R1, single-family to R2, two-residential dwelling units) on Cary Street/Piedmont Street in the Ferndale community with the idea of multifamily units, specifically apartments. Ferndale residents are opposed to more apartments because of the associated problems (e.g. crime, particularly drug-related). They expressed concerns that higher density means higher crime. They prefer duplexes or single-family housing.

Project Manager: SCDOT is considering purchasing five lots in that area. Three of them are adjacent to the existing apartments. Two are at the corner of Piedmont and Cary. The two smaller lots are designated as R1, so SCDOT is not certain the property is large enough to accommodate an apartment complex.

However, there is a significant number of renters who will be displaced as a result of the project. While SCDOT is working to get as many residents to enter into homeownership, there will be a percentage that cannot or will not choose to do so. For those residents, SCDOT must be able to provide replacement rental units. Ferndale and Russelldale are the only two communities that have parcels zoned for multifamily units.

CAC Member: Expressed desire to see multifamily units, such as duplexes like the units on Jason Street, as opposed to apartment complexes.

Project Manager: [Although the project team is still working on the details], the mobile home park will likely be moved and the land will be used for a multi-faceted development that includes new affordable housing and some type of recreational facility. Multi-use facilities can sometimes discourage certain activities (i.e. crime).

CAC Member: Each time rezoning has resurfaced as a possibility, residents have fought it. They plan to fight this one as well. Although they understand the rationale behind considering apartment complexes, apartments have created problems in the past. Once it is rezoned, the community is stuck with it.

Program Manager: SCDOT is required to collaborate with the Housing Authority under the tax incentive program. The property in question is not Housing Authority property. The property falls under the Tax Incentive Program in which developers must qualify by meeting certain criteria for the housing to remain affordable for a certain number of decades. Under the program, developers own the property. They have a rigorous inspection program. SCDOT wants to ensure that new apartments will be nice units and that they will be maintained for the duration. These are anticipated to be different from the current apartments which are owned by developers, but under the current program, are not required to be maintained. So, it isn't just the criteria of rent levels, but also standard of living that is being considered.

CAC Member: Re-emphasized the tax credit programs she is aware of have much more rigorous background checks and management takes better care of their units.

Program Manager: Agreed with the CAC Member and stressed that they are required to be more stringent in order to receive tax incentives annually. The developer cannot build the unit and walk away and never deal with it again. They are also vetting potential tenants to make sure they don't have someone making \$100,000. These units are for people who qualify as low-income, and need an apartment at a lower rate. These will be market-rate apartments (with amenities) at a lower rent rate.

CAC Member: Not everyone will meet the criteria. What happens to low-income tenants who engage in drugs and drinking who will be displaced?

Project Manager: From SCDOT's perspective, any housing they create (SCDOT) will be built to house people who are displaced. As long as the current tenants meet the requirements and can pay the rent, if they are displaced by this project, they will be placed in a new unit. SCDOT is required to offer replacement housing that is safe, decent, sanitary, and at the same rent rate that they are currently paying. They are guaranteed to be qualified if they meet the criteria during the relocation period. If someone begins to make a higher income or doesn't pay rent, there may be a time when they no longer qualify. Once a person is in a unit, as long as that person complies with the criteria of their lease, it is not anticipated they can be removed because of subsequent background checks [absent a crime committed

post-lease]. These are the types of questions we need. Community members are concerned about sustainability, so all of the questions you are presenting are things we need to know and consider as we begin the relocation process.

CAC Member: Stated he understood the concerns expressed by the previous CAC member regarding large, highly populated units leading to more problems, and asked if it would be possible to distribute money to current residents and allow them to find housing on their own rather than placing them all in one unit.

Project Manager: There isn't enough housing available for everyone, and SCDOT cannot cut checks and wish residents good luck. However, people have choices of the type housing in which they would like to relocate. SCDOT's responsibility is provide choices and comparable pricing. SCDOT has to give people choices. There's always going to be the choice to go into a single family home ownership situation. We would encourage people to use their benefits package to make that step for long term stability in affordable housing. But, we have to provide choices. Not everybody wants affordable housing. SCDOT cannot force people to make housing decisions.

CAC Member: Have you done a survey to understand where SCDOT will be taking people from (current residence) and where you plan to move them? In other words, are they leaving homes (houses)? Are the majority of residents currently in apartments, and your goal is to move them into more apartments?

Project Manager: We have already done a relocation study. The results of the study provided us with confirmation that we will have a lot of displacements with this project, specifically in the four communities that center around the I-26/I-526 system to system interchange. In the relocation study the team looked at all of the different types of housing that will be impacted, whether single family homes, apartment duplexes, etc. Then they look at the market and determine the availability of housing that would be comparable to the housing in this region. The study also told us that there are not a lot of affordable housing options available in the Charleston or in the Tri-County region, and certainly not enough to absorb the number of displacements we're going to have. Having that information made it clear that SCDOT has to figure out a solution to this problem because we can't move everybody. We can't disrupt people's lives. They have jobs. They have families that are here. We have broken up communities numerous times with past interstate construction projects. With this project, we don't want to disrupt communities anymore that we have to. We don't want to make people move out of communities they have lived in their whole entire lives, but everyone has a choice. If you want to move to Monks Corner, then we're going to help you find housing. And if you want to move to New York state, we're going to help you find housing in New York. But, we cannot relocate 150 people, which is probably the number of units we're looking at in North Charleston. A large percentage of residents are going to have good jobs here, and they're going to want to stay here. So we have to create options. Apartments are only one component of that. There are many lots in these communities that are single family lots that don't currently have homes on them. One of the other things we're working on is identifying whether or not the owners of some of those vacant lots would be interested in selling. Once we have lots, it is fairly easy to bring in home builders, get home plans, and build homes. We have to have a variety of things. We're also looking at other developments that are actively going on. There's a town home development that is currently being constructed. But, they will be owner-occupied town homes. We have to give people options because if you're in a single family home and you own it, you're probably going to want another single family home. We usually relocate people in the same type of housing they are being displaced from or better, but the choice will be left to individual residents.

CAC Member: I see this as putting the cart before the horse. I'd like to see you go to everybody that's going to be displaced and ask them where they want to live. Somebody in Ferndale might not want to live in Ferndale if they have someplace else they prefer. Somebody in Russelldale might not want to live in Russelldale. Somebody in Russelldale might not want to come to Ferndale. And then in the meantime, you've built an apartment that people don't want in the neighborhood, but somebody will have to be put in it. [The current residents might not need to be relocated] and we'll be stuck with something in our neighborhood, especially apartments, that the police has told us many times they hate because of the trouble associated with them.

CAC Member: Same in Russelldale, absolutely. Awful. Awful idea.

Project Manager: Is there a difference between apartments versus the duplexes?

CAC Member: The apartments have denser occupancy so you have maybe 10 families in a building where duplexes house only two families. So there's lower chances that you will have crime. Less crime, less police calls.

CAC Member: First of all, I'm concerned about all areas, but Liberty Park and Highland Terrace are supposed to be single family dwelling only. What about modular homes? We have had issues with modular homes before. But we have been to City Hall in the past trying protest modular homes in the area because they reduce your appraisal value for a stick-built house. Are modular homes included in this project or just stick-built houses?

Project Manager: We generally like to upgrade residents. So, I guess it depends. And I don't know what perception is. What is the perception of modular homes?

CAC Member: Are you talking modular homes or mobile homes? Modular homes are more expensive. Yeah, they're basically stick-built homes. They're just built in a factory and they're brought to the location in parts.

CAC Member: We had an incident in Liberty Park two years ago where there was a double wide trailer. But they said at City Hall that it was a modular home.

CAC Member: If it's a mobile home it can be moved. If it's a modular home, it is there permanently.

CAC Member: If they take the wheels off, it's there permanently.

Continued discussion about modular vs. mobile homes

CAC Member: [Recommended CAC members read an article in The Chronicle newspaper by Bonnie Blakely in which he was asked for his opinion about the I-26 corridor.] My main concern is whether new homes will be slab-built houses. And most houses I see now are slab-built homes vs. homes with a crawl space. Another issue is that in Liberty Park and Highland Terrace it seems as if there are going to be a lot of vacant lots that will be taken. I don't see a whole lot of families in Liberty Park.

Project Manager: There are some. I think we're finding a lot. Even single family homes have renters in them. We're trying to collect that information as people come into the Community Office to discuss right-

of way. We can't go knock on people's doors, telling them they are going to be displaced. There are rules we must follow.

CAC Member: In that area, the literature is out because we put the literature out.

Program Manager: I would encourage them to come into the Community Office so we can talk with them and find out if they are going to be displaced. Then we can find out what they are interested in doing as far as relocation.

CAC Member: I can speak for Liberty Park and Highland Terrace, we have a lot of renters in houses that don't stay here [in the community].

Project Manager: This is why you are here. Generally, we want to start off single-family homes. We would build homes that are similar to all the other homes [in the community]. We're not going to build three-story houses that look completely different than other homes in the neighborhood. But the CAC is here to help shape some of that because as we move forward, we're going to start actually putting some lines on paper to begin conceptualizing what this mitigation package looks like. That would include apartments with recreational areas and other amenities. We're going to draw something up so that when we have a CAC Open House, we can present you with some of the ideas we've come up with, and give you an opportunity to give feedback so that you have a voice. We want to know your opinions, which things you like and which you don't. I can already see that there are going to be a lot of opinions about the housing component.

CAC Member: Take for instance Joppa Way. Joppa Way is a new neighborhood and is still growing. They have a selection of different style homes, but they [the style of homes] fit in the community.

CAC Member: Is there the opportunity along with those recreational areas to upgrade street lighting to help the overall community?

Project Manager: Yes. Housing is only one piece, and it's twofold. Not only were we trying to create replacement housing, but we have to mitigate for our impact to affordable housing in North Charleston, meaning if no one chooses to move into the housing that we build, we still have to build it because we're removing so many apartment complexes. We can't come in and wipe out all the affordable apartment units in North Charleston in this region and not put something back, regardless of who decides to live there. So, it's multifaceted in that we have to mitigate the impact to your communities, even if you're not displaced. Some of that is beautification.

CAC Member: I know that this is a hard pill to swallow, but when the project is completed, the neighborhood is going to be so much better as long as we can all come together and create this opportunity.

Project Manager: Right. That's why it is important that we not focus on an isolated piece of property. When all those pieces come together, it will actually change the look and feel of the neighborhood. I'm not a crime expert, but we could probably get some people to come in here and help us figure out ways that we can also make it less desirable for crime.

CAC Member: I hear you saying 'affordable housing,' but there's a difference between low-income housing and affordable housing. Affordable housing means you have to meet a median (income). So I think sometimes there is confusion between low-income and affordable housing. It's income-based when you say low income. So that means if someone has no income, they still qualify. Affordable housing means they have to have some income, and usually it's the median of the surrounding area. So I think sometimes it gets confused. But you may have some low-income people that's going to get displaced.

CAC Member: We don't want to make it a worse situation for everybody concerned. It's one thing to have a mobile home park and you've got the area in the back. You've got 15 mobile homes that have been your replaced, 15 families. It's another thing to take all of those 15 families and place them in one apartment complex. You know there is going to be a problem because we've seen it in the past. We know what came in when those apartments were built. I was very little when they came in, but I remember the difference in having a family versus a ton of families move in.

Project Manager: North Charleston is also redoing their zoning plan, and we have repeatedly asked the city tell us what you want. Tell us what you want for these communities. Of course, we want to know what the community members want for their communities in the hopes that we can all come together. SCDOT does not want to dictate that we're in the business of planning a neighborhood development. That is up to you guys. The community members themselves are going to carry more weight through this process than the City. But the City does control zoning. We have to agree at some point on how to proceed.

CAC Member: How many people did you say you're being relocated?

Project Manager: It fluctuates with the alternatives. We will have more precise numbers this fall.

CAC Member: What was the approximate number?

Project Manager: It's It fluctuates between anywhere for 129 to 175

CAC Member: So, let's say it's a 150. Are there not 150 individual lots?

Program Manager: No. They're not 150 individual lots. But we've talked to some people who were not interested in staying in the community. Some of the owners are older and they're at a time in their lives when they want to make a change anyway, so they're going to represent a percentage of people who want to move somewhere else. We still have to provide options. Even if half of them want to stay that's still a lot of housing to create.

CAC Member: You mentioned you're looking at some vacant lots. Are you also looking at lots that are vacant, but have homes that are boarded up?

Project Manager: Yes, absolutely. And if you know the owners and they are willing to sell please send them up here.

CAC Member: We can get you a list of the owners.

Project Manager: We have pulled all that information. Right now, we're kind of focusing on the multi-family because that's the most complex part of the project. The single family, we're just going have to get

the money and start going out trying to purchase land. We monitor the MLS listings, to try to take advantage of things. I'm still working through some funding issues right now to make sure that I have the money to purchase, but we're working towards that. We [the project team and the CAC] have some long meetings in the coming months. But we've got to get this mitigation piece done because once I start buying land, I need to know it is within the vision of this mitigation plan and that it is something the community feels good about.

CAC Member: All I can say is good luck getting the City to open up about what they want to do. [We] cannot obtain information on their 5- or 10-year plan.

Project Team Member: You have access to that information.

Project Manager: That's why I say community members drive this process. We are bound by the same zoning laws that everybody else is. I can't come in and override anything so whatever we come up with in this process, the CAC (and community members) have some power. And the City is going to want these infrastructure improvements. It helps them as an entity. And part of getting this project done is going through this process of mitigating and going through, minimizing impacts is mitigating for them. Which is why you guys are here, to help us figure out how to do that. So it's a powerful thing that we do have leverage and that whatever we come up with is going to have the strength. All state representatives are going to stand behind you because this is what the community has spoken and this is what they said they want to see for mitigation of your community. It will be hard for North Charleston to not support you. You have a powerful voice through this process. So I encourage you to really think about the big picture.

Project Team Member: And just a side note, we're putting together what we can to support your decision making process. So we have some mapping that we're putting together that shows a lot of the vacant underdeveloped parcels, proximity to transit school district's lines, voting district boundaries, things like that. So that when we're looking at maps and trying to think what might be some good locations for these things for the you know, the replacement properties that we have that information, you all have that information on hands to be able to make those decisions. Because I do think personally, I'm very curious about the renter aspect and what the demographics are. If it's mostly young people of working age, they want to be closer to employment centers, things like that. So we'll have to get into that a little bit further. North Charleston has also updated their comprehensive plan and, I believe, it is going to council this month. As soon as that is released, we're going to bring that all to you so you could have their future zoning maps. We will be the data collectors and bring that information to you. Mr. Muhammad, I know you asked about the bus rapid transit and I tried to go through the website and synthesize some of the information, and I think we might just need to get some material from them directly.

Project Manager: We are actively coordinating on the design side of things.

Project Team Member: There are already prepared materials. But if you have questions like how does the bus rapid transit fit into this area? What is transit-oriented development going to look like on Rivers Avenue? Because those questions dovetail with what we're trying to do here.

Project Manager: That's part of why North Charleston is doing the comprehensive plan, because they know the bus rapid transit is coming. If you want to use that bus lines and trains, they're going to have to have employment centers and housing on that line. You have to decide where everything should go. If North Charleston met with the community and decided we want to transition the neighborhood

completely to single family homes, we would be looking at doing apartments probably somewhere along Rivers Avenue. We can help leverage what the community wants with the City.

CAC Member: We need affordable housing for low income people. What sets the dollar value of what a low income family is considered? Where is the dollar value? You need to be able to provide that affordable housing. I own property. There's no such thing as low income taxes, low income city fees, low income material to build a house. There's no such thing as low income anything for me. So what level do I have to be at to provide that home for a low income person? Is it the difference between working a Taco Bell or Boeing? What's that dollar value that you need to be at to provide that?

Project Manager: We're trying to make sure that we create something comparable to what we're displacing. When I say comparable, I'm talking about if there is a three bedroom, two bath units and the rent is \$700 a month. [CAC Member states that isn't possible.] Okay, but I'm going to create it. That's the thing. That's where the betterment comes in...if you're living in one of those three apartments and they're old, they are not maintained, we're going to create the same size and type of apartment. It's going to be a market rate apartment. It's going to be a brand new apartment, but the rent is going to be the same as what you were paying in that previous apartment.

CAC Member: I could not rent one of my three bedrooms for \$700. And its old. How are you going to do that with a new unit?

Project Manager: The tax credit program is there to make the math work because you can't build brand new apartments and then charge that low rent because it costs more to build and operate the maintain. That's where the tax credit program in the Senate's come in. They get the tax credits. They get the seed money. That helps off-set that difference and we get first rights on those units. So the residents who are being displaced under this project can get in those units. But, they still have to pay their rent and meet the requirements of their lease.

CAC Member: There's already a shortage of apartments. That's without the highway. How long is that going to be applied on that tax credit to each of those people that move in and is it going to go up three years later?

Project Manager: Those are things we're working through right now? We're still collecting information for people who come in here to see whether they are Section 8 voucher holders. Are they receiving any kind of housing assistance at this time? Some of those programs will be transferrable, right? So that's when we need to create a sort of a variety of housing so that you can accommodate anybody. There might be people in those apartments that wouldn't qualify. If we use tax credits for a sum of money, the housing will be affordable housing for the duration. We don't have to decide what duration, be it 30-50 years, whatever it is and so they do have income criteria. We wouldn't be able to put people in there that wouldn't meet that criteria. We have to have some other options of housing for people that make too much money to be in that affordable housing. That's why we have to create single family homes, different levels of housing, and it helps us to know who we're displacing so that we can make sure we have options for everybody

Facilitator: That is why it is important that people come into the Community Office so that the project team has a better understanding of the needs of the community.

CAC Member: I'm listening to everything that's being said and I hope the same thing doesn't happen that happened with the John C. Calhoun project when people were displaced and promised they would be able to move back into the community, but that did not happen. People were made the promise they would be able to come back and that did not happen. They got displaced and told they would be able to come back once the project was rebuilt. I'm sitting here listening to both sides are saying, and I'm just praying and hoping that's not going to be the same thing. A lot of people with that project [John C. Calhoun] fell through the cracks.

Project Manager: And that's why we're trying to get in people in now so that we're actively moving people directly into the housing, not moving them somewhere else with a promise of when we get housing you come back because that is a risky situation all the way around. We've learned our lesson. We've done affordable housing and incentives on other big projects. But on a lot of those projects we have given the money to the City and said 'You guys are responsible for implementation' and it didn't happen within the required timeline. Now, the money is not enough to do what you were originally supposed to do because it's 10 years later. So, SCDOT is trying to avoid that and instead, take control and responsibility and do it as a part of project.

CAC Member: There's a lot of people, especially in Ferndale. We've had a lot of influx investors who've come in and renovated a lot of the houses. I mean, it's made a huge improvement. There's no doubt about it. What about seeing if you could work with some of them, through a tax incentive or something – the trick there being that they build a house, it doesn't necessarily have to be built and sold. It could be rented. That's fine. But make sure that they do have certain criteria that they have to follow. Because one of the things we have had trouble with in Ferndale is you've got people who are renting properties that don't have a working bathroom or they don't have a sink in the kitchen or there's holes in the floor and they're afraid to say anything because they get kicked out and have no place to go. But the landlords get away with that. If we take that route, we want to make sure that they are held accountable.

Project Manager: That's why we are encouraging affordable housing. SCDOT is not in the business of apartments or property management. We don't do that. We meet with the Housing Authority regularly. They have a vigorous program. They were moving away from building their own housing, using incentives to partner with developers and holding them to the wire. That is key. They have the resources to get in there and do enforcement and inspection every year because SCDOT can't do that. We have to partner with another agency to do that because the last thing we wanted to build apartments or put money towards apartments with a developer and then we walk away. He could choose not to maintain home. He can kick people out, raise the rent. We've got to have controls in there. Otherwise, we're not helping the situation from a timeline standpoint.

Project Team Member: That is why we are starting to look at titles on some of the potential properties. That's another lesson learned that sometimes acquiring the property titles can take a long time and that can put us behind, too. So that's another lesson learned to get a jump start on that effort now so that people can be moved from the houses that they're in right into the replacement housing. So we're trying to learn other lessons from other projects across the country and not make the same mistakes here.

CAC Member: Housing is not the best now. I started working with the Housing Authority in 1987. They were great back then. I have my own housing. I have had homes on housing and off. But I would not rent if not on housing, because you do get some sort of cushion. They would check more, but now you have to do your own walk-throughs (inspections). Now, I write that into my contracts.

Project Manager: The inspection program is a lot more rigorous on apartments under the tax credit program. At least that's what we've seen so far.

CAC Member: Warned against slum landlords that just want the money and do not maintain the property.

CAC Member: Revisited the John C. Calhoun project where people did not meet the requirements to move back in, and asked if there is a mitigation plan for displaced residents who spent time in prison and have a felony record, but are required to have a background check. Is there a mitigation plan to ensure people who fall into this category will qualify for the tax credit?

Project Manager: That's why this is good discussion, because I don't know about all of these nuances. So those were things that we're talking with them about because we have to make sure that we can provide safe, decent, and sanitary housing to everyone we displace - to everyone, no matter what. We're meeting on a regular basis with the Housing Authority trying to come up with the best way to move forward because we know we have some Section 8 voucher holders that we will be displacing. We want to make sure that we mitigate for the affordable housing impact we're having. Regardless of whether they move into a unit that we create or they move into a market-rate apartment or house, SCDOT is required to provide housing for everyone displaced.

CAC Member: Can they just decide to take the money and then go where they want?

Project Manager: No.

FHWA: You have to spend the money to receive the money, then provide SCDOT with assurances the money was spent appropriately.

CAC Member: So, it's like reimbursement?

CAC Member: I believe we have a lot of members here who own or manage property. Are they a part of that meeting that you're having to determine what needs to be done or do you have people who are doing the negotiations and are already familiar with how to manage properties?

Project Manager: No. The meetings taking place are between two state agencies to determine if they can partner with each other to mitigate for affordable housing under their existing programs and with funding SCDOT is required to spend towards those efforts.

CAC Member: Can the property owners take part in those meetings to serve in an advisory capacity.

Project Manager: No. Developers who develop their own property are going to compete to get that contract. So they can't be in the room helping to develop the details of what the procurement is going to look like, because they would have an advantage to come in and get that contract. So it's the Housing Authority and SCDOT talking together to see if we can partner through their regular tax credit program to at least build some of the housing that falls within the mitigation plan of this project in North Charleston.

CAC Member: I think what he's asking is whether you're partnering with a private individual like me.

Project Manager: No. We talked about doing that. But we're not set up to manage that. The Housing Authority is set up to do that. We are talking to developments, and we have other tools through the right-of-way process that we can use. For example, let's say, there's a townhome complex that's about to be built across the river. When that development comes to fruition, goes to construction, and we're getting close to starting to displace people, I may go in and say there is an option to buy 10 units within this complex so that if I have a displaced resident that wants to go over there, I have 10 units that they can choose from. There are tools like that that we will use as well to make sure that we're not losing opportunities for housing because housing here sells quickly, at least the ones that we want to buy. So we need to make sure that we can come to the table with each property owner and say here are the options that we have for you.

CAC Member: The only reason I'm asking, and I'm just trying to get clear. You have members of this council who are property owners and who have a better understanding of what needs to be done and what should be done. Can they be a part of the advisory for [property] management?

Project Manager: That's part of your role here [as a CAC member], to help come up with mitigation. I think in our next meeting we will actually start coming up with real concepts that we could go back and draw. We will move into different phases. Once we figure out what that mitigation plan is, the mitigation plan will focus on 15 things. Then, we move into the implementation phase and making sure those things happen. That's the role the CAC plays. Coming up with an idea is one thing. But then you have to determine how is this going to work, logistically? How is SCDOT going to do that? Who is going to be responsible? When is the work going to happen? What's the mechanism? We'll continue to work together through those things. The Project Manager will then come back to the CAC with options that she has developed, for questions and recommended changes. Then, the Project Manager and project team will go back and work on the plan again. So, part of the CAC's role is to advise us through the entire process.

CAC Member: So, you've never been a landlord.

Project Manager: I have been a landlord in my past life. I didn't like it very much. That's why I don't do it anymore.

CAC Member: But, you would understand if I made this statement to you. I did not go into business to support low-income housing. When I bought property, I bought property to gain as much money as I can as a businessman. That's what I've done. So this is something you are going to be fighting against, especially with landowners like myself. I don't want to be under the government of somebody telling me how much I've got to take, which I went through this in my last Section 8 tenant. I told Section 8 to get that tenant out of my house, because they came out, they told me they were going to stop paying me for things that tenant damaged. And I said, 'That's it. I'm not doing it.' I won't do it again. I don't want somebody tell me how to run my business.

Project Team Member: These are good things to keep in mind once we get those maps in front of us and we start thinking about the kind of themes that we have talked about regarding revitalization versus redevelopment and how to make sure that some of the integrity of the neighborhoods is being preserved and enhanced and that we're not doing things with this project that are creating other kinds of ripple effects such as gentrification. So next time be prepared to come with your sleeves rolled up to see what we can come up with.

An email invitation will be sent to CAC email addresses for the next meeting which will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2020. CAC meetings will continue to be held the first Saturday of every month. A summary of the parking lot issues from CAC Meeting #4 was reviewed and is included in the meeting presentation packet for CAC Meeting #5. CAC Members were asked to provide any parking lot items from Meeting #4 that were not included on the summary sheet. No additional comments or concerns were presented.

Highway Project Impacts

Direct impacts to recreational facilities were discussed. Because of the proximity to the project, the Russelldale Community Center and Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Community Center will have to be relocated. The project team reviewed preliminary displacement totals and maps displaying the proposed new locations for each recreation facility-based alternatives 1 and 2. CAC Members were invited to look at maps in greater detail during the break.

- Cumulative Impacts from past highway projects (review of aerial maps of pre-and post I-26 and I-526 construction, in 1957 and 2018 respectively)
 - Historically, there were a significant number of homes on Taylor Street and in Highland Terrace; I-526 construction split the Russelldale community
 - **CAC Member:** Revisited concerns about SCDOT taking portions of property in the past and residents not having enough acreage to build or profit from sale of the parcel of land
 - **Project Manager:** With the current project, everyone has the right to express concerns about property damage associated with taking partial parcels of land, and make a decision to relocate. The difference in the relocation process today is that local governments have requirements on how far back houses must be from the road
 - If SCDOT violates those requirements, they must pay damages. Because most of the neighborhoods have smaller lots, it is likely many of them will have setback violations.
 - If a resident stays in a home that violates setback requirements and their home is destroyed by hurricane or fire, they cannot rebuild, and they still end up having to move. Some people take that because they rather receive \$30,000 in damages and the fair market price of the land and stay there or make a decision to relocate because they don't meet the requirements.
 - CAC Member also asked how SCDOT handles renters who decide not to stay, but want to use the money for relocation, if they have identified a place of residency outside of the project area
 - **Project Manager:** A Right-of-Way workshop was held and these questions were reviewed. She offered to talk with the CAC member one-on-one to address remaining questions.
 - Right-of-Way experts are also at the Community Office to answer any related questions on Wednesdays.
 - **CAC Member:** If a renter has to move, would they be eligible for moving expenses?
 - **Project Manager:** Renters are eligible to receive benefits of moving expenses, real estate services, and supplemental rent for up to 42 months.
 - SCDOT must ensure that new units are comparable, but, safe, decent, and sanitary

- A formula is used to determine the minimum number of bedrooms a replacement unit can have based on the number of individuals that currently live in the home
- Because supplemental rent is limited to 42 months, SCDOT encourages residents to consider the affordable home option which will have longer term benefits of 30-50 years. SCDOT does not want to create for residents a situation that is unsustainable if they are unable to maintain rental payments beyond the 42-month window. Even if they have an income increase, they will still have to find another place to live.
- **CAC Member:** North Charleston is building up, but when you refer to “affordable housing,” it is affordable for those who are working. So, if someone has a criminal background, they can’t afford to go to Trident Tech to advance into jobs that allow them to obtain affordable housing.
 - **Project Manager:** Job training should be a part of the Community Mitigation Plan
- **CAC Member:** That's why the people being displaced should visit the Community Office
 - **Project Manager:** Would like to see the Community Office be one of the more successful based in part on the workshops offered (that will be offered) such as contractor job training, financial planning, and resume writing.
- **Project Team Member:** Completed review of Past Impacts from Highway Projects and Community-wide cumulative and recurring EJ Impact

Developing the CAC Vision Statement

The CAC decided to adopt the draft vision statement provided by the project team which states, “A diverse and engaged group of residents working together, embracing new ideas to develop an equitable and inclusive approach to address project-related impacts and contribute to building a sustainable, healthy, and safe community.”

Brainstorming Session: Potential Mitigation Ideas

Project Manager/Project Team provided clarification for the term mitigation and the difference between right-of-way and mitigation within the context of this project.

- Mitigation means to offset negative/cumulative impacts (for example, if you mitigate an impact, you’re going to do something else to tip the scale back a bit)
- Right-of-way is the part of the project in which you have to spend the money to get the process. Mitigation is the big picture

CAC Member: Can I add something to your mitigation meaning? I hear a bit of micromanaging here. In other words, I hear you have to spend the money in order to get the money.

Project Team member: That is due to the mitigation process.

Project Manager: Project Manager provided clarification on the difference between mitigation and right-of-way. Right -of-way requires that you spend the money to get the money. Mitigation is an overarching approach to offsetting impacts to the community. In the right-of-way process, we will interact with every renter. In the case of the I-526 construction, how were the apartments that were there before construction impacted? What was the community like? Was there crime before I-526 was constructed? Did the construction of I-526 being so close to those apartments devalue them and make it less desirable

to live there? All of these things are considered impacts and those are things that we are trying to mitigate for. So how do we replace those apartments in a way that makes it better or returns it to the same quality as it was before I-526 was constructed? We have to do mitigation regardless of whether anybody who's displaced chooses to live there. We are still required to mitigate for affordable housing.

CAC Member: Rather than you going out and determining that the carpet is not good enough, walls are not painted, there is an outlet hanging out of the wall, so you can't have this [rental unit], have you looked into surveying how many would settle for just a payment for moving and that's it?

Project Manager: We have federal laws that dictate that process. I don't have options. I have to comply with federal laws. People will make their own decisions about where they're going. We are required to move them into a new residence that is safe, decent, and sanitary.

CAC Members: Expressed concerns about some residents taking relocation funds and spending them on items unrelated to housing and relocation. The Program Manager emphasized that as the reason controls are in place to reduce mishandling of allocated funds.

- **CAC Member:** Giving people money to spend it on housing as they wished is a quicker, easier approach than building a 200-unit apartment complex.

Program Manager: But that would not mitigate for the impacts to the community because of construction. Our focus is on whether the quality of those apartments was diminished because they were 20 feet from the interstate. Moving relocated residents into subpar housing would not be mitigating, but rather perpetuating a problem.

Project Team member: Good clarification. These were some of the questions that we will be asking and that we'd like you to be thinking about. Going back to the open mic session from the last meeting, some of the impacts that were not addressed from past transportation projects were discussed. Today, we're just going to talk about the recreational facilities and the fact that they are being impacted and that we will be looking at replacement locations for those properties.

Maps of proposed new recreational facility locations were reviewed. Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Community Center is a 6(f) property. That means the property or a portion of the property was purchased with Land and Water Conservation Act funding. When you impact that type of property, you need to find a replacement location of comparable appraisal value. We're essentially trying to recreate something of the same value or better under the 6(f) requirements. And then something else called Section 4(f), that's of the U. S. Department of Transportation Act, which is related to the Russelldale Community Center. Under federal law, we are required to mitigate the impact. Early public involvement is part of both processes. And so, in addition to working with you all to identify potential locations, we will also be working with City staff and other local entities, school transportation officials, etc., on being able to finally hone in on where the mitigation plan would propose to have the recreational facilities relocated.

CAC Member: Asked if the plan was to place both recreation facilities back in their respective communities. [Project team member responded yes]. CAC member did not think that would happen.

CAC Member: The new location will present a little longer walk, but that's where the sidewalks could come in under the highways. They have to give us some access that

Project Manager: We did meet with the people that run those recreational sites and, you know, cities expressed a desire to have a more centralized community center that's more of a betterment, like a gymnasium with indoor classrooms. They have a lot of after school activities there, a lot of events there and then maybe have some pocket parks, you know, because land is an issue buying lots to build houses is one thing. One thing buying a lot big enough to build a community center and have playgrounds and all that is a much bigger piece of property.

Project Team member: But that's one of the ideas that we need you all the way.

CAC Member: Liberty Park and Highland Terrace are already compact communities. So, where will a new recreational facility be placed?

Program Manager: The City already owns some pretty big lots in Liberty Park. So our initial goal would be to look and see if some of the other landowners surrounding that would be interested in selling some of their property to make one big lot. The city owns the lots next to Filbin Creek.

CAC Member: Is that off of Dorothy Williams, where the drainage ditch is located? [Another CAC Member confirms.] That is a lowland area.

Project Team member: Right. That's one of the things that could actually work in our favor because you can put picnic shelters, playgrounds - things like that - in those low areas.

Project Manager: That area has some flooding, but we are required to do a full hydraulic study as a part of this project. That will address some of the issues with drainage.

CAC Member: When it rains, that water floods that area/Taylor Street.

Project Manager: It's the bridge on Rivers Avenue that's holding everything back. There is a culvert and a bridge that is not allowing the water to flow through. We're studying that now to see what happens when we replace that bridge - how it affects flooding upstream and downstream. The current proposed location for the recreational facilities is the ideal area to get a big enough piece of property combined with the city property to potentially build. The facility would have a nice indoor facility with computer classrooms and indoor gymnasiums and some outdoor amenities. We are also hopeful we can secure smaller parcels for playgrounds close to the communities. You will also have the after school events center that's upgraded and a much nicer facility.

CAC Member: Recommended not using the small wooded lots in the back corner due to safety reasons. The Project Manager acknowledged the feedback.

CAC Member: Shared information she felt was a lesson learned from one of the other project communities that would not have a new recreational center built as a part of this project. There was an opportunity for the church on Bolton Street to sell their community center to the City. There were a couple of problems. (1) The community doesn't get to use it because the City rents it out to other groups, so our kids don't get to use it. (2) Because it is no longer centrally located, children on one end of the community don't get to use it.

- CAC Member advised that two things are made clear before entering into an agreement: (1) how the facility will be used and what types of limitations will be placed on the residents to use it. (2) Determine whether people will allow their children to go to the facility if it isn't going to be centrally located

Project Manager: Our understanding is that the Russelldale and Highland Terrace/Liberty Park facilities are very well used, both for afterschool and for community events.

CAC Member: Ours was, too, until they moved it. (Ferndale Community Center)

Project Manager: SCDOT will not own these facilities. Although SCDOT is building the facilities, we are giving them to the City as an asset. Ownership will belong to the City, but we can place stipulations on how the facility is used to better ensure community members are able to use them.

Project Team member: Hopeful the new athletic center would work in our favor in terms of making the recreational facilities a community focus. There may be parking limitations that would require more land for facilities and make it less enticing. The goal is to make it more walkable.

- The relevant needs identified as primary concerns from the social needs assessment were service for seniors, service for youth employment opportunities, and supervised after school youth activities. The project team can ensure those elements are being addressed in the relocation of facilities from staff with the city. We've heard that children in the Russelldale community also use in the Highland Terrace- Liberty Park Community Center. So that would be from a walkability standpoint. We want to make sure that we were connecting everybody. Children in Joppa Way walk home across the railroad tracks from the Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Community Center. Rail safety is important.
- Brainstorming should include high level ideas. CAC Members may consider writing down thoughts to bring to the next meeting. Potential areas to discuss:
 - What resources are lacking?
 - What are your thoughts on preferable locations?
 - Based on the maps provided, what do you think about the potential locations? What do you think would be some of the more optimal locations for residents going back to that idea of having multiple facilities?
 - What are some of the resources you would like to see?
 - We've heard it would be really nice to have some computers and fax machines at the community center.
 - Recreational facilities amenities such as walking trail, shaded play areas, picnic tables, grills, benches, pickleball, bike racks, lockers, outdoor drinking water fountains and space for a community garden.

CAC Member: Would like have books at the recreational facilities.

Project Team member: Noted that libraries are South and North, but none in close proximity to the impacted communities.

CAC Member: Will recreational facilities have monitoring (for crime)? Expressed concerns about local police being unfamiliar with streets in their communities and the lack of police presence less than three

blocks from City Hall. Residents need to have casual (non-emergency) patrols through the neighborhood occasionally.

CAC Members: Installation of cameras for security

Project team member: Encouraged CAC members to complete the brainstorming worksheet home. Additionally, two hard copy resources were distributed during the meeting: Planning for Equity and Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED). We will discuss these documents at the next meeting.

Project team member: Provided Public Outreach Updates

- During the month of February, the Community Office has had 14 visits
- Managed 5 calls (February 2020); Made calls to residents who provided comments after the Public Information Meeting public comment period
- No calls received on the toll free line this month; To-date, we have answered 11
- An additional Social Needs Assessment participant
- The January 25th Open House was successful. There were approximately 58 people, including about 10 CAC members, one elected official and one city official maybe a couple of spouses of CAC members.
- At the beginning of March, office hours will change to Monday thru Friday, 10 AM – 6 PM. Staff will accept appointments for meetings outside regular office hours. Right-of-way experts are in the office on Wednesdays from 10 AM – 4 PM, both walk-ins and appointment.
- “Asked and Answered” flyers are being distributed in venues such as churches. CAC members were asked to review them and provide any suggestions for additional content so that information provide remains relevant to the community.

Community Outreach Liaisons

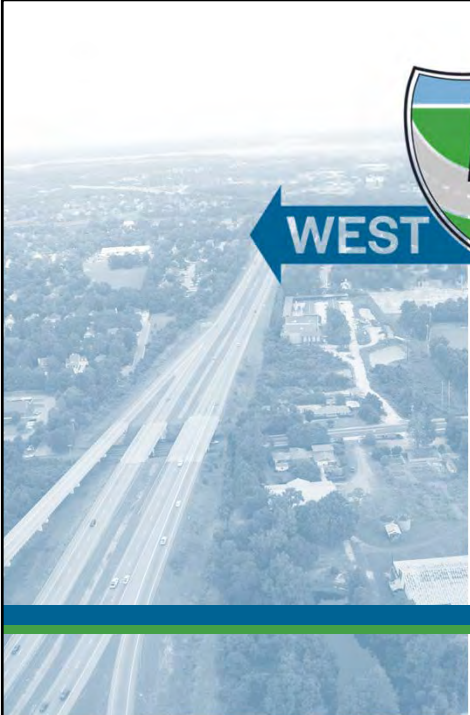
- Conducted two ride-along canvassing efforts were conducted on January 15th and 17th, 2020. Leaflets placed in doors or mail slots.
- The January 25th Open House was intended to focus on Russelldale. As stated previously, there were 58 participants. Recommend hosting more open house events.
- Canvassing will be held leading up to any event
- The Community Office will have a booth for the EJ Mitigation Project at the Black Expo on March 14th at the Charleston Area Convention Center from 10 AM - 5 PM
- March 19th MUSC Senior Expo, 9AM – 1 PM, Charleston Area Convention Center
- First in the series of Informational Workshops will be held on March 21st. Capacity is approximately the session is 20. Consultants will rotate different topics each quarter. Topics will be selected from a list of 8-9 topics selected by Maxim Consulting. Three sessions will be held during each Informational Workshop:
 - 9 – 10:15 AM
 - 11 AM - 12:15 PM
 - 1 – 2:15 PM
- Subsequent Informational Workshops will be held on June 20, September 19, and January 2021, for which a specific date has not yet been identified.
- CAC Members encouraged to use the meeting space as a resource and to notify the Community Office of events that are held throughout the area that may be beneficial to the community such

as the Black Expo or MUSC Senior Expo. This includes events at local churches, including health fairs.

- Community Liaisons attended the Ferndale Community meeting recently
- **Project Team Member:** Proposed “Meet Your Community Advisory Council” Open Houses where the draft mitigation plan would be available as a resource when residents stop the Office to ask CAC members questions. Renderings can be made available. Target timeframe is April 2020.
- Outreach will be conducted before the CAC Open House is held.


Summary and Next Steps

- Review of project schedule
- Next meeting scheduled for March 7, 2020, 10 AM – 2 PM
- CAC Member: Asked that the Mitigation Process also addresses the effects on Senior Citizens.
- Facilitator: How is the senior population, particularly those who may be disabled and unable to visit the Community Office, informed and included in the mitigation process
 - Community Liaison – Home visits will provide better information on senior and disabled populations. This will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
 - Transportation can be provided
 - Contact the Senior Center on Dorchester Road



526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR

*Community Advisory Council
Meeting No. 6
3.7.2020*



1

Welcome and Introductions

- Advisory Council Members
- SC Department of Transportation
- Federal Highway Administration
- Consultant Team



2

Logistics



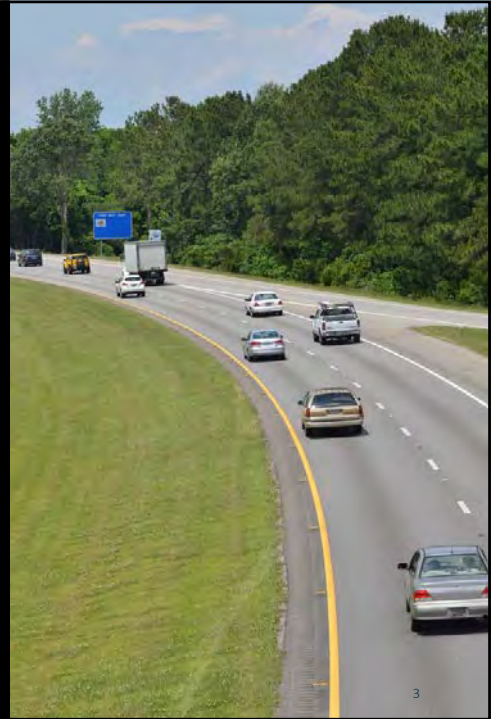
Food



Exits



Restrooms



3

Agenda

- Administrative Items
- Approach for Mitigation Work Session
- Group Work Sessions 1 and 2
- Break / Lunch
- Group Work Sessions 3 and 4
- Break
- Input Review and Group Discussion
- Summary and Next Steps

4



Administrative Items

I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST

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Administrative Items

- For Distribution:
 - Flyers for Informational Workshop on March 21, 2020
 - CAC Meeting No. 6 Agenda
 - Minutes from CAC Meeting No. 5
 - Mitigation Workbook (*If you don't already have a copy!*)
 - Stand-alone sets of Mitigation Worksheets

I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST

6

6



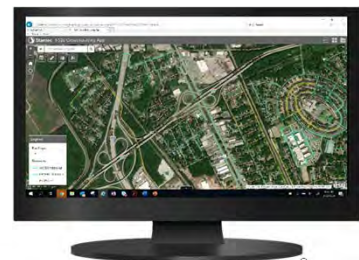
Approach for Mitigation Work Session

I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST

7

Approach for Mitigation Work Session

- Group will work through materials and worksheets together
- Project team will record your comments using online GIS viewer in order to document specific locations within the project area
- Four 30-minute work sessions
- Group discussion and consolidation of duplicate comments
- Summary and next steps



I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST

8

Mitigation Workbook: Contents

- Project Impact Overview
- Community Impact Mitigation Pillars
- Social Needs Assessment Results
- Parking Lot
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED):
Overview of Specific Design Elements
- Case Study Mitigation Examples
- Sessions 1-4 Information and Worksheets
- Reference Maps



9



Input Review and Group Discussion

10



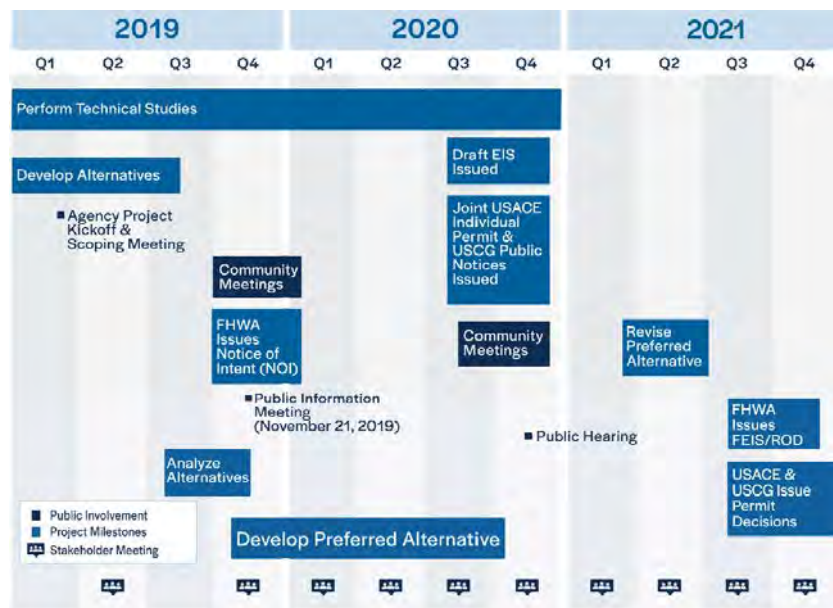
Summary and Next Steps

I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST

11

Schedule

- Final environmental document: Fall 2021
- Right-of-way acquisition: 2022
- Construction: 2023
- CAC transition to Oversight Implementation Committee



I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST

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12

Summary and Next Steps

- CAC Meeting No. 6 Recap
- Date for CAC Meeting No. 7: April 4, 2020 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
- Informational Workshops at Community Office: March 21, 2020
- Main topic for next CAC meeting
 - Project team to provide update on mitigation plan development, providing available details and gathering additional feedback
 - *Are there specific topics you would like to see on future agendas?*

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Contact Information



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Thank you for your time!



MEETING MINUTES

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 6

Date: March 7, 2020

Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Location: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor Community Office, 5627 Rivers Avenue, N. Charleston, SC

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees:

Larenda Baxley, Ferndale
Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale
Charlynn Smith, Ferndale
Geneva Swett, Ferndale
Gilbert Reeves, Ferndale
David L. Johnson, Ferndale
Michael S. Halls, Sr., Ferndale
Ruth Mae Whitney, Highland Terrace
Jeanaris Bannister, Liberty Park
Carolyn Varner, Liberty Park
Doris Twiggs, Liberty Park
Prayonda Cooper, Joppa Way
Angela Anderson, Russelldale
Earl Muhammad, Muhammad Mosque
Rick Day, Stantec

Amy Sackaroff, Stantec
LaTonya Derrick, Stantec
Ryan White, Stantec
Hannah Clements, Stantec
Joy Riley, SCDOT (Project Manager)
Chad Long, SCDOT
David Kelly, SCDOT
Pamela Foster, FHWA
Annette McCrorey, THC
Willie Johnson, THC
Horrace Tobin, Community Office (Coordinator)
Maxine Smith, Maximum Consulting (Community Liaison)
Mattese Lecque, Maximum Consulting (Community Liaison)
Carolyn Lecque, Maximum Consulting (Community Liaison)
Jamelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies (Facilitator)

Participant Summary:

Total participants: 30

Ferndale: 7

Highland Terrace: 1

Liberty Park: 3

Russelldale: 1

Adjacent/affected communities/agencies: 4

SCDOT: 3

FHWA: 1

Community Liaisons: 3

Community Office: 1

Stantec: 5

Facilitator: 1

Meeting Summary:

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting began with self-introductions of everyone in attendance. Restroom, exit, and external emergency meeting locations were reviewed.

- CAC Meeting 4 minutes approved
- CAC Meeting 5 minutes distributed

Approach for Mitigation Work Session

Amy explained the logistics of the work session to CAC members and provided an overview of the CAC Mitigation Work Session packet. Every CAC Member received a copy of the CAC Mitigation Work Session packet to review and complete prior to CAC Meeting #6. The worksheets accompanied a detailed work session guide which was also provided prior to the meeting. Both documents were used to guide the meeting discussion.

Group Work Session

The Mitigation Work Session was based on the four pillars of Community Impact Mitigation: Community Cohesion, Community Enhancement, Community Preservation, and Community Revitalization.

Immediately following is a detailed account of the work session discussion. A summary of key topics presented by the CAC during the work session is presented at the end of the meeting minutes.

Community Cohesion

Facilitator provided context for community cohesion as direct and cumulative impacts from past and planned highway projects and other factors such as crime, high cost of living and home ownership trends that have reduced the amount of community locations in the affected environmental justice neighborhoods. The purpose of this activity was to gather the CAC's input on potential measures that can be evaluated to improve community cohesion.

What do you see as resources that are currently lacking that would improve community cohesion?

CAC Member Feedback:

- Residents are not allowed to use the Ferndale Community Center gym. Tournament schedules get priority over general use by neighborhood children.
- The city dictates the community center schedule.
- The Ferndale Community Center should have designated hours for general residents to have access to the gym and other activities. Currently, residents are not allowed access until after basketball season and tournaments end in March. Residents cannot use the gym during the summer months because of summer programs, so general residential use is limited to March (after basketball season ends), April, and May.
- Residents can submit a request to use the gym, but available slots are limited. CAC members feel time slots are intentionally blocked for use primarily related to tournament events.
- CAC member emphasized that the point wasn't scheduling the gym, it is that on a broad scale, their children are not allowed to go into the community center to play. The kids have no place to play during the summer months.
- One recommendation is to build another smaller facility near the back of the neighborhood. There was one on Iron Street in the past. Many of the neighborhood children don't have close parental supervision. Parents don't want children walking to the other side of the neighborhood to be able to play.
- Russelldale experiences similar challenges to Ferndale with the exception of restrictions on use due to basketball tournaments. The children have to be off the courts by 9:00 PM. During the day, the community center isn't open to neighborhood children because of afterschool programs. There are limitations on the community center in the summer months due to summer camps. The only thing

available to neighborhood children is an outside basketball court, but there is nothing available for younger children.

- CAC members feel the Ferndale Community Center is used more as a “City” center than a community center for the children who live in Ferndale.
- When asked if there was a time when they were able to use the current facility, CAC member responded by saying that residents could use the old facility with the exception of afterschool programs or summer camps they were not registered for. In the new facility, the “big gym” is the focal point. If there is a program taking place inside the gym, neighborhood children are not allowed to play on the outside equipment, even though it isn’t being used. They don’t offer an explanation. They are in charge, so they just say “no.”
- CAC member shared the reason given for not wanting the community children to play outside on the equipment is due to liabilities associated with community kids “mixing” with scheduled tournaments and practices taking place on the inside of the facility. Another CAC member felt that rationale was not logical, but rather an excuse.
- CAC member emphasized that even though they (tournament personnel) are on the inside, they have liability during tournament-related activities for the entire facility (inside and outside).
- When asked if the construction of the new large facility changed anything. CAC members responded by saying it became worse because the larger facility attracted more people. Now, they use the large facility for the games, and the other facilities for practice.
- CAC emphasized that Ferndale needs a community center. What it has is a city athletic/activities center.
- CAC member shared that when her boys were younger, police would stop and complain, but they don’t stop kids now because they figure it is giving them something to do, whether they’re blocking the road or not.
- When asked if there are other factors that will contribute to bringing community members together, CAC members stated, “yes, because where you have kids, you have parents.”
- CAC member shared that neighbors have expressed when there is a nice community center, it provides a place to host drives, meeting your representatives on City Council, the mayor, etc. because oftentimes people in the community do not know the people representing them. The member also suggested that meeting police officers that patrol or have a presence in their neighborhoods at the community center would help them better understand situations such as them driving at 50 miles per hour through residential communities.
- CAC members also shared the following thoughts regarding the community center:
 - It could provide employment opportunities to residents, especially adult residents. Counselors could be hired for upkeep of the center as well as supervision of the children. Young people seeing adults from the community employed at the center will increase their respect for community adults.
 - It could be operated like the senior center. There is a fee for seniors to participate at the senior center, approximately \$10 a month or \$100 a year.
 - It is a place for people to congregate and learn about each other. People from different backgrounds can use the center as a common meeting place. The current community center is not for the community at this time. It is for the City. It is for those that are coming in that need a space. But it is not for the community. CAC member indicated that while

growing up in the Chicora/Cherokee area, they had a community center where during the summer they could visit and play with the other kids. They offered a lunch program. That's something they don't have now. Another CAC member added that now parents have to pay for summer programs for the kids.

- Current community center programs seem to be geared to younger children that need childcare during the day, mostly afterschool. Perhaps consider expanding facilities where there are commitments for programs for all members - not just young children, but teenagers, young adults trying to get into the work force, seniors, parents.
- Community centers should focus on children first.
- Probably 90% of people that use the Ferndale community center don't live anywhere near Ferndale. The facility is rented out for basketball practice, rented out for middle school drum practice, dance practice.

What about after the power is out after a storm? Do you see any use for a community center to serve as a hub for the distribution of water or related activities?

- Yes, that will be the perfect thing to bring the community together. When there is a hurricane or threat of a hurricane, everyone has to evacuate. But if you have a community-based center, residents can congregate there for water, blankets, and shelter, for those in the community that cannot leave. There are also some seniors and disabled people who cannot evacuate during hurricanes, that the center would benefit as shelter.
- Employing residents at the center will increase accountability in children. They will see familiar adult faces from the community and respect them as someone they know from the community, and know that if they are misbehaving, community members will tell their parents. They are much more likely to experience that type of community cohesion with employees who are from the community than with someone who is hired from outside the community.
- Community liaison summarized that community centers are (1) not staffed by a local residents or not staffed at all, (2) the planned activities are not geared toward the community, (3) there is no place in the community for the children to participate (not child-centered). The point was made that the Liberty Hill community center is actually staffed by residents.
- Residents don't want to see another "four walls" built because they feel it is a waste of taxpayers' money. But when you have an area that is conducive to a variety of activities as well as diverse in inviting people in the neighborhood to come, then they will come and they will also stand up for it so that the city of North Charleston or anyone else will not come and take over the schedule for the activity that's going on there.
- CAC member addressed Liberty Park/Highland Terrace. The community center needs to be a staffed, "working center" with scheduled activities (day and evening programs) that engage the community. That may include day programs for seniors that transition into joint (youth and senior) programs in the afternoon/evening. In order for this type of program to be successful, the center must be staffed with someone who will be responsible for maintaining a program or schedule that may even extend to events such as weddings, services such as physical therapy, or activities such as embroidery and other crafts.

- The model that is being used at the senior center needs to be used as a model for the community center. The bulk of the time should be allocated for community use and the other 25% for other (non-residential) events.
- Another example of a successful model is the Danny Jones swimming pool where they host a variety of activities. It is rare that the entire pool is blocked out for one activity. They have swim team practice, swim lessons or water aerobics. They almost always have lanes that a person can use. They follow an equitable schedule.
- CAC member was concerned about Russelldale losing its community center for a more centralized facility.
- Project Manager: SCDOT is actively looking for property for affordable housing and community centers, and finding the property is the first step. If we build a facility like the one the CAC is describing, that is staffed all day, that has indoor classrooms, gymnasiums and those types of facilities, likely, we would only get one of those, and that's why we're looking for a bigger piece of property in the middle of all the communities to do that bigger facility. However, if we do that, SCDOT will probably look for smaller areas for pocket parks with things like basketball courts that would still be within the actual smaller communities. Russelldale is one of the tightest areas. There's one property that SCDOT is trying to purchase, but it is probably half an acre and the biggest piece of property in the center of the community that doesn't have anything on it. The work session packet probably includes some pictures where common areas are placed under the bridges, but that would be a last resort. We would rather have something that's not underneath an interstate bridge. However, as we work to get property, that's always an option we can look at as well. It's probably a last resort.
- Project Manager: If you know people that have property and are interested in selling it, for a specific purpose, let us know because that's a big hurdle for us to overcome. Residents might be willing to sell their property if they know what's going to happen on it, but they may wonder if they can trust SCDOT to do what they say they are going to do. Land is key to every issue that the CAC has discussed to this point. To build these types of larger community centers is probably the biggest logistic challenge that we're going to have going forward. The money is there to do enhancements in the community, but getting the land to do it is probably first and biggest hurdle.

What measures can be taken to increase the number of “eyes” on the street to help minimize crime in these areas?

- Well-lit streets – All common areas free of “dark spots”; Going above code for minimum requirements
- Private/public areas that are well-defined
- Areas that welcome people who are supposed to be there and deter people who are not supposed to be there
- Use of signage
- Boundaries don’t always need to be established with fences, but rather with more user-friendly landscaping
- Establishing proper physical and law-enforcement boundaries with police officers; Officers should approach residents differently within neighborhoods as compared with on main thoroughfares, such as Rivers Avenue
- Eliminating abandoned properties and overgrown lots

- Transparency of agreements with the community as they are being developed
- Identifying a courtesy officer that lives in apartment complexes or neighborhoods (perhaps incentivized with compensation or tax credits)
- Street cameras would deter crime
- CAC member made comment that North Charleston owns a significant number of lots and asked if those lots were being considered by SCDOT. Project Manager stated that SCDOT has to partner with local municipalities on community centers because management of those centers is outside of their scope. SCDOT can secure property, build infrastructure (roads, bridges, buildings, etc.), but the county or city will ultimately be required to take ownership of community center, including long-term maintenance.
- SCDOT will work with municipalities to develop an intergovernmental agreement that will outline many of the programs, services, and structural components the CAC wants to see in the community centers. SCDOT will provide seed money for municipalities to start the programs agreed upon in the agreement, but in order for them to receive the money they have to agree to both start and maintain programs. Those agreements can be written to include language that gives residents priority on the issues identified by the CAC. Ultimately, SCDOT must partner with municipalities for maintenance, operation, and long-term implementation.
- CAC member asked about transparency during the process of developing the agreement between SCDOT and municipalities so that community members are kept informed of the initial terms of the agreement as well as any subsequent changes that may take place.
- The project manager emphasized that in order to ensure transparency, it is going to take a lot of participation by the community and community organizations. The more organized communities and community associations are, the more leverage and power communities have in ensuring terms of intergovernmental agreements are enforced. Some of the expectations addressed by the CAC will be addressed as part of the environmental document, which serves as an additional enforcement tool. But, the effectiveness of community groups is based on that groups' ability to come together and hold government representatives accountable
- CAC member asked about Tim Scott's proposal for opportunity zones, potential federal grant money associated with that proposal, and whether the grant money has been considered by SCDOT for this project. The project manager indicated she didn't think the four communities in this program are currently in the opportunity zone, but SCDOT researched opportunity zones early in the process.
- CAC member spoke about apartment complexes that have courtesy officers who live in affected neighborhoods or apartment complexes and are compensated or incentivized by free or discounted housing. Courtesy officers would be responsible for the safety of designated areas and would deter people from hanging out in neighborhoods. An apartment will be given to the courtesy officer and he will be there to maintain order in neighborhoods.
- Street cameras in Downtown Charleston were referenced as an effective crime deterrent and were suggested as a possible resource for reducing crime in the affected communities. Placing cameras at corner lots was suggested.
- Community members have requested more street lights, but have been told that the current lights meet code. CAC member suggested that in some cases, the number of street lights installed should go beyond code. Another CAC member agreed and indicated that insufficient lighting on Russelldale

behind the car lot is also a problem. There is a light at the car lot, but further down the street, closer to her residence, there is no light.

- CAC member discussed how dark it is at the corner of Railroad and Harper. She called SCE&G to increase/improve lighting around her home, and she currently pays for two additional street lights. Another CAC member felt she should not have to pay more for proper lighting around her home.
- Project team member worked with CAC member to identify poorly lit areas on the map. CAC member indicated that high speed chases would often take place in the same area (identified on the map with the project team member) and end on the dark section of Russelldale Avenue because of poor lighting.
- CAC members suggested speed humps as a possible solution to speeding through neighborhoods. Project team member indicated there were different design options on speed humps that may be acceptable to residents but deter unwanted speeding in communities. Another CAC member indicated that no one should be against speed bumps when it relates to the safety of young people and seniors in a community.
- A CAC member mentioned that in addition to speeding being an issue and having a lack of speed bumps, there are also no sidewalks on Rebecca Street. A speeding study was conducted, but the final report indicated there wasn't enough evidence of speeding to have speed bumps installed.
- Stop signs at Railroad Avenue and Piedmont Avenue were requested and denied as well.
- CAC member referred back to the lighting issue and recommended "common sense" (no dead-heading) tree trimming to improve lighting. He also recommended "common sense," strategic placement of street lights so that lights are not blocked by trees.
- CAC member mentioned that the power company offers packages for additional lighting at \$3 per month. As it relates to installation of security cameras, not everyone can afford cameras, but perhaps community members can identify a company that would offer a discount, but anything would help in reducing crime.
- There is a large, dark, empty lot at the end of Good Street in Highland Terrace where people meet for undesirable and potentially criminal activities. A light should be installed in that area. CAC member indicated she has called police officers when she sees those activities, but they never respond. CAC member and Project Team member identified and marked location on the map.
- In Liberty Park and Highland Terrace, the problem is that most lots are 50 feet wide with lighting placed every 300 feet, so their area is essentially "black." The entire area needs to be revamped regarding the placement of lights.
- The Project Manager clarified the difference between pedestrian-scale lighting versus street lighting. Standard placement of street lights placed much farther apart because it is based on visibility. Pedestrian-scale lighting is lower-level lighting that will light everything. CAC member stated that as a lifelong resident and a senior citizen, the issue of lighting is a matter of personal and community protection.

What activities would you like to see in your neighborhood?

- Cross-cultural activities and educational workshops
- Health and wellness screening
- Historical programs, activities, and festivals that highlight and preserve history

- Impacts on children, leaving a legacy; “We want [to leave] a legacy that we were here,” and archive the things we were able to accomplish in our communities
- Harvest Church could be designated as a historical marker to capture the history, personal contributions, and changes in the landscape that have occurred; Resident at 2019 church yard sale brought year book that gave historical context, information on streets, A-Z, in the community; Project team member recommended collecting pictures from community members (“documentation beats conversation”)
 - Jazz mobile played music in the community during summer months
 - Various neighborhood associations (such as block or tennis associations) were in place during youth; Should be put in place again for neighborhood children to see how things used to be and how they should be (“this is how I am supposed to act,” “this is how I’m supposed to think about things that need to be done”); Dealing with the present, shaping the future
- Cross-cultural cohesion
- National Night Out
 - Was once held in Ferndale, but has been moved to Park Circle
 - Resource officers no longer provided for National Night Out if residents choose to host in Ferndale community
- Community Yard Sale (in vacant lot at front of neighborhood)

What measures can be taken to show a sense of ownership (public or private)?

- Signage (Designating property as private or public; directional)
- Dead end, “No drive-thru” signs
- Shrubs/landscaping (Wire fences are not necessary)
- Common areas in neighborhoods (to meet, walk dogs, etc.) with attractive aesthetics
- Community gardens
- Hold monthly neighborhood clean-up days (Neighborhood Sweeps)
- Adopt-a-street (engage neighbors)
- CAC member recommended all CAC members form a monthly Clean Sweep/Neighborhood Cleanup, engage other community members, and rotate efforts through the four affected communities
- Request the City pick up debris (for example sheetrock, shingles, etc.) quarterly; CAC member identified for project team member on the map where sheetrock has been left for an extended time on James Bell. James Bell, Jonah, and Dorothy Williams Streets were cited as common dumping locations for all types of debris that normal trash collection won’t pick up.
- CAC member indicated there was a similar problem at the end of Elder Street about 10 years ago, but she called and had a “No Dumping At Any Time” sign installed. The area looks much better. Project team member marked the area on the map.
- Request the County commit to one or two days per year for pick up of special materials/items being discarded.
- Project team member shared that in Richland County, some of the elected officials will routinely have district-wide clean up days where construction, demolition debris, hazardous paint (such as paint) and white goods (such as appliances) on the corner by a certain time on Friday and it will be picked up on

Saturday. Residents are given a 30-day notice. This pickup is for things that should not go into the municipal solid waste (landfill). So, it is recommended that the CAC and community members contact elected officials to leverage coordinated neighborhood cleanup activities.

Community Enhancement

What are your thoughts on having a single, larger, centrally-located replacement facility versus two smaller facilities?

- CAC member referenced conversation from CAC Meeting 5 in which the Project Team discussed a single replacement center and asked where the new facility would be relative to Russelldale and Highland Terrace residents.
- The Project Manager stated that SCDOT is considering a site that leverages several properties near Filbin Creek that are owned by the City of North Charleston. She is currently working to contact the owner of a piece of property in the middle of the area in consideration to determine their interest in selling the property to SCDOT. The property is located at Dorothy Williams and Elder Streets on property that extends back to the creek.
- CAC member asked, in terms of safety, if the expectation is for kids from Russelldale to walk from their home community to the proposed location for the new community center.
- Project Manager: If SCDOT builds a larger facility, similar to the senior center or the North Charleston gymnasium, a large piece of property will be required to build the facility. If the main building was built in the highland area and other features such as picnic tables, walking trails, etc. were placed on some of the other parcels, such as the one on Rebecca Street to do outdoor parks, playgrounds, etc., we'd have to build several of those features in the smaller communities. The Project Manager stressed that having a facility that is big enough to do everything in one location is not possible. And with a single facility, you won't be able to bring elements of the park (such as basketball) into each of the smaller communities. Currently, the Dorothy Williams and Elder Street property is the largest piece of land SCDOT has been able to locate. The benefit of leveraging the property owned by the City is it would reduce the impact on other property owners.
- CAC member asked if there were existing sidewalks in the areas being considered. Project Manager stated they would have to incorporate sidewalks and safe pedestrian access from other communities into the project plan. SCDOT cannot design sidewalks without addressing drainage.
- A Project Team member highlighted that the large piece of property on Elder Street doesn't provide network connectivity from Russelldale Avenue to Elder. So, an option is some type of pedestrian bridge at the end of April Avenue over Filbin Creek.
- Another CAC member asked why it is that residents don't see many sidewalks. Is that because of codes? Project Manager responded that it's likely because the affected communities are simply older neighborhoods. There are challenges associated with sidewalks because then I don't have enough room to maintain the lane widths. Drainage adds another layer of challenges. Accessing people's yards and determining setbacks presents another set of challenges, such as whether or not so much of their yards will be taken away that they will not be able to park. The units are small, don't have garages, and sidewalks may require parking in driveways. Funding, logistics (setbacks), and physical impacts and limitations (installing pipes) of installing sidewalks present significant challenges.

- SCDOT will figure it out. It may involve limiting staying on the current street and increasing access at the front of Filbin Creek.
- CAC member stated that sidewalks are important to safety and health benefit because it allows people to be more mobile.
- CAC member asked about “spacing,” placing pocket parks or amenities throughout smaller communities. The Project Manager stated that implementation will be determined by the land SCDOT is able to acquire. That is one of reasons why the CAC is so important to the process. SCDOT has mapped undeveloped properties that don’t have homes on them. What SCDOT doesn’t know is what land has homes that are abandoned. Those are harder to identify, so please let SCDOT know because we can add them to our mapping and try to reach out to property owners to see if they are willing to build. Ultimately, SCDOT will not displace residents to build a park.
- Project Team member directed the CAC to the overhead screen to show a map with green lines representing existing sidewalks and yellow lines representing proposed sidewalks. She also emphasized the timing on this CAC discussion being a good time because the City is working on their comprehensive plan, and they are taking comments from residents on where sidewalks should be placed.
- CAC member asked about sidewalks on James Bell with elevated curbs vs. Taylor street which has flat sidewalks. Many people park their cars on the flat sidewalks as if they are parking pads. Also, there are no bike trails. He uses curbed sidewalks in the community to ride his bike because it is safer. None of the streets, April Avenue, Russelldale, and Dorothy Williams, have sidewalks and they are dangerous areas. CAC member mentioned the need for safety or guard posts in those areas.
- Project Manager: SCDOT does not include sidewalks on a resurfacing job, but if there is a full reconstruction or reconfiguration, which is the case with some of the streets in this project, we would look at doing sidewalks as long as it makes sense. In this area, it would make sense because you have so many other sidewalks. If we’re doing a project in an area where there are no sidewalks, SCDOT will not build a half mile of sidewalk. The bus rapid transit project is going to add numerous pedestrian accommodations, so some of the issues being discussed here will overlap and be addressed through that project. Realistically, SCDOT will not be able to put sidewalks on every street in all four neighborhoods. But, we want to look at safe connections to the community centers and to transit stops on Rivers Avenue, and making sure we are selecting the best locations to make those connections.
- There are currently no proposed sidewalks in Russelldale.
- Project Team member summarized the high points with land limitations, larger facilities with smaller amenities (pocket parks) throughout communities, potentially building two larger, similar facilities on either side of I-526, and providing connectivity from the four communities to the community center.
- Project Manager asked the CAC to consider that staffing the facility or facilities is going to be another limitation (in addition to land acquisition). She urged the CAC to keep in mind the operating costs of the type of enhanced facility being discussed and the challenges that may be associated with building two of them. Two large facilities may be more difficult for the City to support. If you want it to be successful, it must be manageable long term.

- Based on CAC concerns expressed regarding lack of access to the current community center parks and playgrounds, pocket parks would be an option that would be open to the community all of the time.
- CAC member asked for clarification: If the CAC prefers a larger, centrally located center, would it be a community center or a City center?
 - Project Manager: Those types of stipulations would be included in an intergovernmental agreement to include issues like residents getting first priority to use the facility, even for paid programs such as childcare. At some point, she anticipates that SCDOT will bring the CAC together with the City to talk through the logistics of the agreement so that the CAC has an opportunity to voice their concerns directly to the City.
 - CAC member asked whether the terms of the intergovernmental agreement would go through the community council (CAC) long term. The Project Manager stressed that the decision for the CAC to stay together long term will be entirely up to CAC members. She stated that she would like to see the group stay together because it would be powerful and that SCDOT is going to stay with the group through the process. At some point, we will have a plan, and we would hope the CAC would stay together with SCDOT through the implementation phase of the plan to ensure the plan is carried out the way it is supposed to be carried out.
 - Project Manager also stressed that at some point, when SCDOT finishes the project (which could be 10 years from now), the County or the City will be required to implement a long term continuation of operation of these facilities and programs, and the CAC may choose to stay together to maintain oversight and feedback on how the facility is managed.
 - CAC member asked in order to ensure that residents remain a part of the decisions, how would you ensure that the representatives from the neighborhood are heard from? Who will ensure, for instance, that center staff will be hired from the community?
 - Project Manager stated that there will be an intergovernmental agreement, most likely with the City of North Charleston because this is their jurisdiction. The intergovernmental agreement will lay out the terms of how things will happen at the facility. SCDOT will build a specified list of structures, and at the end of the project, turn over ownership to the City. She suggested the CAC or some kind of community organization be maintained that will hold the County accountable. At that point, SCDOT will have no mechanism to monitor how the City manages the community center after the intergovernmental agreement is final.
- CAC member asked if the community can come together and voice their opinions. Project manager responded affirmatively.
- Project Manager: That is what the CAC is designed for. We will have open houses where we will bring in the rest of the community members to see what you come up with. When we bring the City of North Charleston to the table, your request can be presented to them and SCDOT will verify its part of the agreement in supporting the CAC. I think it's very important that they hear from the CAC and the community. We may be able to do an open house if the City is agreeable.
- CAC member asked if all of the communities would meet with the City in a joint meeting or as individual neighborhoods. After some discussion, the CAC agreed that it may be better to have a joint meeting because it would better support community cohesion and consistent feedback across communities with the City.

- Facilitator: It is important to understand the timeline, the process, and being involved in that process up front, because if you let certain milestones pass, then it's too late to come back after the fact to modify the agreement. That is the purpose of the CAC coming together. And that's one of the benefits of this type of meeting today because you're getting all these ideas on paper and in an organized way. While there are things that SCDOT will be able to manage, there are some things that the CAC will have to take the lead on, so timing is important.
- CAC member: On the subject of staffing, one person can staff each community center, but volunteers are needed from the neighborhood (which is what we want anyway) because you want all of the key stakeholders involved.
- CAC member prefers the term 'neighborhood center' as opposed to 'community center' because what may be common or accepted for one community may not be for another. She advocated for one large center with smaller common areas, that are close to the neighbors and that particular neighborhoods can work for. If the larger facility is spacious and easily accessible, let people with the expertise design a building that is for now and in the future. Let's not put ourselves in a small box and have a little community center like the one that we have presently. Let's go for neighborhood areas with bike paths, wheelchairs, and accessible sidewalks. All of these things are very critical to how we operate in the now and in the future. The CAC should consider diverse uses for the community center - broader-scale, forward-thinking, multifaceted. Make sure a qualified person (organization) is designing the building. It doesn't matter whether it's one large area or some smaller areas, as long as it's not a box. Everyone in the neighborhood should see a use for the center. That's most important. The staff hired for the center, along with volunteers, will manage scheduling with the City of North Charleston and community sports groups, because they will be the watchdogs.
- Project Team member directed CAC members to the mitigation packet (under community enhancement) to example pictures of requested community center enhancements (such as computers and Internet access) based on CAC feedback. Feedback was requested specifically regarding outdoor athletic equipment and pocket parks.
 - CAC member indicated that the Ferndale community has tried to get a picnic table and covered area (shelters) for cookouts, birthday parties, family reunions, etc.
 - Project team member suggested additional amenities such as shaded playgrounds, special needs playground equipment, benches, bike racks, lockers, outdoor drinking water fountains.
- CAC member stated that there is a need for advocacy training ("Advocacy 101 Workshop") because people don't know how to advocate for themselves. They need to know how to do that, and there is a process.

Session break for lunch

Community Preservation

Do you walk as a means of transportation or to access public transit? If not, why? What reasons are related to infrastructure needs?

- CAC member stated that her tenants walk to work, shopping, to the bank, etc. and that she fears for them because of the lack of streetlights and because there are areas that are wooded that they walk through such as Elder Avenue. This area belongs to the City and is not cleaned up, so there is trash and heavy debris.
- Project Team member asked what are some of the paths people are taking?
- CAC members identified the area on the map near Elder Avenue, James Bell, and Deacon Streets as having inadequate lighting and frequent issues with debris. This is particularly an issue at 6:30 or 7:00 in the morning when it is dark. There is a bus stop in the area, but the CAC member has picked tenants up due to safety concerns.
- Other streets identified as having lighting issues are Target, April, and Russelldale.
- CAC member stated that all lighting in Highland Terrace and Liberty Park is 300 feet apart.
- There is also a path that leads to World Overcomer's Church (*confirmed as Life Changers Covenant Ministries*). There was a gate installed, but the gate is broken. Some residents use that pathway to get to Rivers Avenue, to go to the store, or to the bus stop as a common path.
- CAC member suggested potentially having CARTA or a shuttlebus (with seats/not standing only) to transport neighborhood residents at least during the early morning and evening hours; CARTA covered bus shelters needed at stops such as Russelldale and Target Avenues/Ferndale. Accessibility for disabled people should be included in the considerations for providing covered shelters.
- The main streets to exit the Ferndale community are Piedmont and Railroad Avenues. There are currently no sidewalks on Railroad Avenue, it is dark at night, and it is very dangerous for pedestrians. Would love to see statistics on who has been injured on Railroad Avenue because it is dark. There is a drainage ditch on one side. Lights don't overlap at all. Piedmont has sidewalks.
- Railroad Avenue is a "drag strip."
- Covered areas are needed for children waiting for school buses. Children don't have individual stops so they congregate in large groups. They stand in the rain and cold.
- Project Manager: A number of enhancements related to shelters will be addressed under the Bus Rapid Transit project, but SCDOT will try to connect to or enhance the work done on that project.
- Pedestrian accommodations across Rivers Avenue are also an issue. The main foot traffic across Rivers Avenue: Railroad track at Highland Terrace, Taylor Street, James Bell, Target Street, Fuller, Rebecca Street, residents (veterans) crossing at Patriots Villa
 - Many Patriots Villa residents cannot walk well and have difficulty crossing Rivers Avenue
 - There was a pedestrian fatality last year; Another wheelchair-bound resident has been hit twice (once by a train)
- The back end of Ferndale beyond Jason does not have sidewalks
- Footpaths underneath I-526 – The City is planning a multi-use path along Filbin Creek. The information collected from the CAC about those areas will be provided to the City.
- From Fuller to the back of the neighborhood, there is no access to Rivers Avenue, so residents have to walk through unimproved and unsafe areas to get food and general shopping.

- Because of the way Ferndale is designed, would there be an access street in the back or would construction have to go through the neighborhood when the project starts? Concern about construction equipment in the neighborhood during the construction phase. Project Team member noted that the City will need to address concerns regarding the logistics of construction equipment in neighborhoods.
- Project Manager: Most of the time on interstate projects, construction crews access through the ramps. Oftentimes, they will fence off a lot of the construction zone and to access the surface street, they will come off a ramp. SCDOT would never go through a neighborhood street unless it was absolutely necessary because construction equipment can tear up roads and they have to be repaired. So SCDOT crews will likely access the site from Rivers Avenue or a ramp.
- Project Team member addressed another pedestrian location at east and west Deacon Street, under I-26. There is a footpath connecting the two streets that goes over the train tracks that goes to Highland Terrace. It is the property of the railroad, is overgrown, is and presents a safety concern. There have been serious issues with that area, including someone losing their life there. There is currently a path leading to Elder Street. CAC member asked if it is possible to create a barrier to stop people from taking Deacon to Rivers Avenue. People take chances jumping the tracks. The footpath should not be continuous. A fence runs from Taylor to James Bell and stops at the corner of Elder Street where there is a house. If someone continues on the path, it leads to a ditch with a 6-foot drop. Placing a barrier would eliminate access. Project Team member and CAC member identified the area on the map.

Where is stormwater runoff or standing water a problem in your neighborhood?

- Russelldale at the corner of Rebecca and Rivers Avenue (flooding after rain events)
- Liberty Park at the corner of James Bell and Taylor to Rivers Avenue; Yard flooding at first house on Taylor Street because they (the City) changed the drainage system so that it runs alongside the fence so the drain is constantly overflowing whenever there is an extended period of rain. CAC member says she has reported it, but nothing has been done to address it.
- The Woodbine Avenue area (with warehouses – *identified as Palmetto Heights*) has built up the property higher near the train tracks which has changed the flow of water, increased water flow and flooding on Taylor Street; from Taylor up to Elder Avenue. Project Team member marked this location on map. Drains are not being cleaned. CAC member speculates that water runs from Taylor Street properties onto James Bell which creates a drainage issue for them.
- Project Manager: Some streets are SCDOT streets, some are city streets. There is a maintenance request form on the SCDOT website (scdot.org) or you can call 855-GO-SCDOT. Don't call the local DOT office. The Department of Transportation does not know drains need cleaning unless residents tell them. Formal requests submitted online or through the telephone number provided are monitored by the Secretary and they have a designated turnaround time. Maintenance crews are graded on response times. Drainage issues get higher priority than signage issues.
- In Ferndale, between Graham and Emden Streets, there is a two-story brick house; large lot flanked by large ditch with poor drainage (marked on map).
- Harper and Railroad; On Harper Street, there is a lot of open space in front of the yards that is always muddy because of standing water.
- CAC member identified a parcel next to the L-shaped parcel that has been open for 20 years.

What do you see as barrier(s) to “aging in place” in your neighborhood?

- A lot of landlords are taking their properties off Section 8 designation, so a lot of people have had to move out of the neighborhood.
- CAC member listed the following as challenges: Home repairs, transportation (access to transit), meals, home health, expenses, lawn maintenance, and ramps. If the aging population is low-income, they cannot afford most of these items.
 - Sidewalk access
 - Inadequate services for seniors
 - Neighborhood centers
 - Meals on wheels (limited service)
 - Residents may not know the requirements to qualify for the program
 - More access to resources (Community/Senior Center)
 - Free health screenings
 - CAC member cited home maintenance and repair as the biggest challenge for seniors
 - There were programs in place at one time several years ago to assist with upkeep of homes. When you visit the homes of elderly people, sometimes you see that something needs to be fixed, but they can't afford to have it fixed. Homes begin to decline, and people do not even realize it unless they are visiting elderly neighbors.
 - Block grants are available to assist with home repairs. CAC member indicated she knows people who have applied for but did not receive the grants and are living with other people because they cannot afford repairs; asked for the guidelines.
 - Another CAC member suggested contacting the City Council representative.
- CAC member revisited an earlier comment, stating that seniors don't know how to advocate for themselves. He indicated he'd visited seniors that haven't had electricity for months or are without water or don't have a bathtub because they don't know how to get it fixed. They may not have the financial means for home repairs. Many people are disconnected from family. They don't have resources nor the educational level, so having a “third space” for them to get a break from their house and their living conditions and to understand what financial resources are available to them would be beneficial.
- CAC member has spoken to the City on behalf of several people, because they do have block grants, but all of the funding goes to the south side of North Charleston. There is supposed to be funding available to repair roofs, but Metanoia receives a lot of the money which stays in the south side of North Charleston. The north end residents may receive funds, but it is like going through a “round robin” to receive the funds.
- There is someone at the senior center who comes in to talk with seniors about Medicare and additional resources available to them. For example, some people need in-home care, but they don't know those resources exist. Providing seminars and workshops would be beneficial. There are grants available to seniors. She has worked with people who have received grants. There are plenty of resources, we just have to know where they are and how to access them.
- CAC member referred back to the role of the community center staff. The staff at the community center should serve as a resource who can interpret the needs of the senior community; volunteers should also be enlisted. Staff person should live in the community, inform the senior community about grants and senior citizen resources, and provide caregiver relief at no cost to the senior citizen. Hired community

center staff have to be able to envision what is needed for that community and point the neighborhood in the direction to access resources, and to follow-up consistently. Follow up is very important.

- Community Liaison: The window of opportunity for grants is narrow; you have to get in, qualify for the grant, and have all of your documentation. If you don't do that, you're not going to get the grant. There are grants out there, but they are so small and the window to apply is so tight, and the requirements are very strict.
- Community Liaison: There are several local colleges: The Citadel, Charleston Southern, Trident Tech, and MUSC. They all have nursing schools. Why not get some kind of an agreement with them in which some of the nursing students can come out and visit seniors to do blood pressure checks and see what's going on in the house? They also have students who study nutrition and social studies. We should partner with local colleges to develop a program that will allow students to earn class credits to do senior health checks quarterly. As a part of their visit, they can also include in-home inspections to document things like bathroom floors that are falling in or seniors who may not have running water. This type program for senior/graduate students would benefit both students and seniors (elderly).
- CAC Member: Grants are often community grants or community partnerships that have resources that can support many of the issues being discussed without having to totally rely on grants. During the 2015 Thousand-Year flood, I developed relationships with several companies. Georgia Pacific and two other companies agreed to bring tractor trailer loads of sheet rock and roofing supplies to repair damaged roofs, but I had nowhere to store the materials. I couldn't store the materials outside of the church building, and the City would not assist in finding a location to store the materials. And we had people lined up to provide labor for repairs. So, there are a lot of resources out there, but we have to find a way to collaborate and work together.
- CAC Member: Regarding the senior population, many of them don't have transportation. They spend a lot of money on Uber and cabs because they can't walk to the bus stop. Sometimes they make a decision not to take their medicine or not paying a bill because they need to get to the grocery store. There is an increased expense for locations like Ferndale and Russelldale in the back, because they do not have easy access to buses. They don't feel safe walking to the bus stop by themselves.
- CAC Member: Even if you applied for Teleride, you are charged for each trip. They pick you up and drop you off, but seniors cannot afford the service. If a person goes to the doctor on Monday, the grocery store on Tuesday, and to do laundry on Friday, that's \$15 per week which is outside of their budget.
- Facilitator revisited the Thousand-Year flood discussion, curious about the efforts and outcomes associated with a CAC member coordinating efforts to obtain materials, secure laborers, and provide temporary lodging to volunteers willing to assist the community in recovery after a natural disaster. CAC member was asked: *What would have been a solution outside of relying on the city [to store donated items]?* His response was, "Well, mine was just finding places like a warehouse that would allow me to hold use a space for a brief period because what would happen is I formed relationships with organizations outside of South Carolina. There were people...college groups, church groups that... would be willing to come here as a mission trip to help work on houses. And I got all the supplies...They lived in our building...We asked [the community center] could we use the gym, because the gym had showers. They wouldn't allow us to use it because they had basketball... So...we brought a shower trailer outside our church building, and we have people living in our building a week after we come in...electricians, roofers and we replaced most of the houses in Pepper Hill. I think we got 27 houses, gutting them out...insulation, everything and all the supplies were donated. Almost \$700,000 worth of stuff was

donated and services, and they kept telling us... 'we'll try to get this building. We'll try to get this.' And so we had, you know, we had everything we needed. We just can't get in your report. Then I find out later we were messing up the FEMA numbers because we're doing all this stuff for free and they couldn't get the money for it because we were doing it for free."

- Community Liaison asked "Have you ever thought about getting a media partner where you have someone who has access to the airwaves that will say, 'we've got this donated, we've got this donated, but we need a warehouse?'" She suggested the church think about doing something like that and extended an offer of support their efforts.
- Facilitator clarified the reason for the question being the fact they live in Charleston, that will not be the last time the community will face inclement weather that sets the community back.
- CAC member revisited the word *advocacy* and noted that CAC members seem to be knowledgeable about a lot of different things. He reiterated that this group has the potential to advocate for whole area (all four communities) in terms of speaking to government representatives. Another CAC member agreed and added that the CAC could also promote networking. Using the example of the flood and the fact that the Charleston area experiences annual storms starting in June, she emphasized that people from different neighborhoods may have common needs, as well as personal issues, but if communities continue and grow the current (CAC) brokerage from various neighborhoods they know who has different levels of expertise, knowledge, and skills from each neighborhood to best support each other. This will support community cohesion.

Community Revitalization

What do you see as the top priority for revitalization in your neighborhood and why?

- CAC Member: Removing and renovating boarded homes and to limit the amount of time boarded homes can be there. Currently, boarded homes can remain intact indefinitely as long as they meet criteria which is an issue, particularly if you live next door to a boarded home.
- CAC Member: I have housing in this area: Charleston, North Charleston and now it's moving on towards Dorchester County, Berkeley County. We're in desperate need of adequate housing for families moving in to take on jobs with the different industries coming into the area. Based on available vacancies, I recommend providing single rental units as opposed to multi-family dwellings like apartments or condos at this time, unless it's very tastefully done...mobile and manufactured homes, like-wise. Another concern was regarding small businesses in which the CAC member expressed a desire to see neighborhoods with a small, dedicated businesses. She would like to see small businesses that do not raise prices unnecessarily (price gauge) community members, but rather are vested in that particular neighborhood to provide for groups like the elderly who cannot always get to big grocery stores to buy fresh foods and other items. She would also love to see businesses like barbershops and beauty shops, and all types of services.
- In some parts of Columbia, SC there are developments in some communities where small business owners have a storefront on the bottom and their residence upstairs. Usually the owner may have a barber shop.
- CAC member expressed a specific concern with a particular business located at James Bell and Rivers. The owner is not suspected of living in the area, but they have a huge business. Their business traffic

spills over into the streets and people have to allow them to finish their business before you can pass through. If there is fire truck or some emergency vehicle, they don't have to go back out and go around to Taylor Street or Target Street, to get into the neighborhood. That's not fair to the residents in that neighborhood. And I think if one elderly person is sick, there should be an entrance for an emergency vehicle to come through and not have to go around.

What types of barriers need to be overcome to achieve revitalization without inducing gentrification?

- CAC member asked how Russelldale become light industrial
 - The City proposed a plan to rezone the area. It's part of the 10-year plan. Another CAC member mentioned that the public has until March 31st to call about rezoning, so there's still time for people from the Russelldale community to protest.
- Community Liaison stressed that they have held five hearings and emphasized that is why the community office is here, so that people can ask questions. We know two years from now people will say 'I didn't even know you were doing this.' It was publicized on television, radio, in papers - that they were having these five hearings. The last one was last week. We don't want anybody to come up with 2022 say that I don't know anything about this.
- Project Team member stated that a lot of times, if you couple things like improved community centers, sidewalks, and well-lit streets with the pressure that property owners are getting from developers, "let me come in and purchase your land." A developer first purchases a street, then a block, and then a corner before you know it that area is gentrifying. It is transitioning. When government agencies start putting in additional facilities, the concern is that it is going to "tip the needle" towards the gentrification process. So, how do we make sure that we developed this mitigation plan that isn't going to create some other issues afterwards? I think some of the things that we've identified, as far as making sure that the community centers are for the neighborhoods they served, that's a big one - keeping the residence as the main recipients of the amenities.
- Community Liaison stated that if you don't go to the City Hall meetings, you don't go to the planning meetings, you don't go to the zoning meetings, you're not going to hear anything. So, you can't wait for someone to bring you the message. They meet every third Thursday in the month and you've got to be vigilant and you need to go to see democracy at work. Neighborhoods that care about their neighborhoods, they come in droves and they're telling the city 'No, we're not going for it.' And they get heard because they come in numbers, and we're going to have to invest in that system in order to know what's happening to your neighborhoods. There's just no way around it. And you can't wait for me to tell you. There's a schedule out there and you need to look at that schedule and be at those meetings.
- Project Team member stated that you may also just want to be aware of what's happening in other neighborhoods and provide support because those people may come back and support you when you need advocates.
- Community Liaison stated that all communities can work together.
- Facilitator stressed how important it is to have cross generational engagement. The CAC is all here, fighting the good fight every meeting, but although this group may be able to give a little more time than people with young families, the CAC has to figure out which people in the community have time to commit, at every generational stage, because that's the only to achieve sustainable advocacy. The CAC needs to have a succession plan in place with young people. You will be the group to educate them. Like

it or not, you're here. You're getting all of the information. It's up to you to carry that information back and educate other people about some of these issues. You've got to get people across generations onboard with you, because some of the issues that you guys were talking about extend far beyond the SCDOT project.

- CAC member spoke about the importance of the history of all of the communities. It is important to research the history for each community and place it in the planned community center.
- CAC member addressed a question that was skipped in Section 7c (Community Preservation): **Is speeding a persistent issue anywhere in your neighborhood?**
- Railroad & Piedmont
- Rebecca Street/Russelldale
- Taylor Street & Elder (4-way stop sign; CAC recommends speed humps)
- Willis Drive/Rebecca (children's bus stop)

Summary and Next Steps

- The Project Team will compile all of the feedback and present a summary at CAC Meeting #7.
- CAC Meeting # 7 will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2020 and the agenda will include an update on the mitigation plan development and providing available details, gathering additional information at that time on potential housing.
- Informational workshops scheduled will be held on Saturday, March 21st. Please let the community office know if you would like more flyers.
 - We're also working at some of the locations where we have either internal or external information boxes where these flyers or any project-related flyers are being housed or distributed or can be collected. If you have places that you would like to see them added, please let us know because we track it to make sure we're meeting the needs of the community. We recognize that not everybody that lives in the area commutes in the area all the time. So if there are other places that you know residents are going or even within the community, let us know. If there are times when you feel that the office can be a space for you to convene a moderately sized group, if you need a space to have a conversation, particularly with your neighbors, and you want to get more feedback from them in a place where they're comfortable, the office is available for you to use the space and have conversations that are going to be beneficial to you and the group.
- **Informational Workshops, Saturday, March 21, 2020**
- **CAC Meeting #7 scheduled for April 18, 2020, 10 AM – 1 PM**

Recommendations:

The Facilitator asked a follow-up question to Reverend Johnson's experience during the Thousand-year flood out of curiosity for how their communities dealt with resiliency during the floods. Within the context of social vulnerability and the social vulnerability index, it may be beneficial to all stakeholders (the four communities, SCDOT, the City of North Charleston, etc.) to build those considerations into the mitigation plan via the design of the facility and the capability of the center to convert into an emergency shelter in the event of natural disasters. This would strengthen the supporting narrative of community cohesion and

community preservation through tangible community center systems and features that proactively address social vulnerability.

| COMMUNITY COHESION |
|---|
| <p><i>Limited Use of Community Center for community children</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ferndale – residents not allowed to use the community center gym • Current Ferndale Community Center used as “City” center • Community children should have access to the community center/limited use based on basketball/tournament season • Smaller facility in the back of neighborhood should be considered • Russelldale faces similar challenges to Ferndale with the exception of basketball tournaments • Community center staff concerned about liability associated with “community kids,” “mixing with scheduled tournament events and practices • Center should keep kids off the streets • Focus should be on children first • 90% of current center use by outside people and activities • Senior center operations should be used as model for the current/proposed community center(s) • Development of an “equitable schedule” |
| <p><i>General Limitations of Current Community Center</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ferndale Community Center – not staffed, not staffed by community, not geared toward community, not child centered • Liberty Park/Highland Terrace – Need a staffed, “working” center with scheduled activities that engages the community |
| <p><i>Potential/Desired Use of Community Center</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To hold meetings with government and community representatives • To congregate with other community members • Evacuation shelter, particularly for seniors and the disabled • Cross-cultural activities • National Night Out • Historical programs/archives that highlight/preserve history |
| <p><i>Benefits of the Community Center to the Affected Communities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide employment opportunities specifically for residents; Increased respect of adult center staff by community youth • A place to learn more about neighbors • Cross-cultural cohesion – impacts on children; leaving a legacy |
| <p><i>Historical (past) uses for community centers/meeting spaces in the affected communities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch programs for youth • Jazz mobile • Block association • Tennis association |

| COMMUNITY COHESION | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Neighborhood activities</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Community yard sale (in vacant lot in front of neighborhood)</i> |
| <i>Crime</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-lit streets; going above code for minimum requirements for spacing of street lights • Private/public areas are well-defined <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Signage ○ Fencing should not be first choice; geographic boundaries should be user-friendly ○ Proper law enforcement/ police understanding enforcement boundaries ○ Eliminating abandoned properties/overgrown lots • Designated courtesy officer who lives in the community or apartment complex (provide compensation, tax credits) • Street cameras • Practical tree-trimming (to unblock existing street lights) • Additional street lights (nominal cost; discount/reduced price package) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Install light at the end of Dark Street (Good St) ○ Pedestrian-scale (lower-level) lighting vs. Street lights (spaced every 300 feet) |
| <i>Speeding and General Safety</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of speed humps • Installing stop sign at Piedmont |
| <i>Sense of Ownership</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage (Directional) • Shrubs/landscaping • Common areas/informal designations • Community garden • Monthly neighborhood sleeps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CAC members lead rotating neighborhood sweep (between 4 communities) ○ Adopt-a-highway (engage neighbors) • Quarterly debris cleaning (City of Charleston) • County pick-up once or twice a year for special waste (appliances, paint, etc.) |
| COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian bridge to help children avoid traffic • Lot spacing will depend on specific land acquisition • Need for advocacy (Advocacy Workshop 101 suggested) |
| <i>Sidewalks</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about walkability for children to the proposed community center • Benefits of sidewalk installation: increased drainage and safety • Challenges associated with sidewalk installation: achieving proper drainage and infrastructure challenges • Russelldale – uneven, non-existent sidewalks; discrepancies noted between sidewalks on maps and actual sidewalk locations |
| <i>Community Center</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single, centrally-located facility vs. two smaller facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Limitations related to two facilities: staffing and land acquisition |

COMMUNITY COHESION

- Consider pocket parks, covered areas, grills
- Residents' first choice options (amenities) should be included in the intergovernmental agreement; CAC input in the intergovernmental agreement with the City of North Charleston
- Providing connectivity to the community center
- Staffing and volunteers (community buy-in)
- "Neighborhood" center vs. community center (CAC does not want a box design)
 - Broad-scale, diverse use, forward-thinking, multi-faceted
- Staffing should be qualified to run the center

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION

- Tenants as pedestrians – safety issues related to poor lighting, walking to bus stop, trash, debris (Elder/James Bell)
- CARTA/shuttle bus (with seats) to transport residents, morning and evening; bus shelters
- Piedmont and Railroad Avenues (no sidewalk currently)
 - Poor lighting drainage issues
- Railroad Avenue used as drag strip
- Covered areas for school bus stops
- Bus shelter needed at Russelldale Avenue; no covered bus stops currently
- Pedestrian accommodations over/across Rivers Avenue; safety issues for veterans crossing at Patriots Villa across Rivers Avenue
- Importance of safe, practical footpaths
- Safety for bike riders
- Construction traffic in neighborhoods during the construction stage
- Standing water
 - Russelldale – Rebecca and Rivers
 - Liberty Park – James Bell and Taylor
 - Harper and Railroad
 - Submit maintenance request to scdot.org or call 855-GO-SCDOT
- Aging in place
 - Landlords taking homes off Section 8
 - Home repairs
 - Community block grants; narrow window of opportunity
 - Lack of ramps/inaccessibility
 - Meals/food security
 - Inadequate services (Community center, health screening)
 - Community center staff should serve as a resource and follow-up
 - Advocacy and self-advocacy – educational and financial resources
 - Limited access to affordable transportation
 - Potential partnerships with local college nursing programs to develop health and wellness program for senior residents (win-win scenario)
- CAC as advocates for community residents; networking
- Speeding
 - Railroad/Piedmont
 - Russelldale
 - Taylor Street (4-way stop)
 - Willis/Rebecca

| |
|--|
| COMMUNITY COHESION |
| |
| REVITALIZATION |
| • Remove or renovated boarded homes |
| • Prefer single-family rental units to multi-family units/mobile homes/modular |
| • Prefer small businesses vested in the community |
| • Avoiding gentrification |
| • Including history in community center |

Name: _____



Community Advisory Council
CAC Meeting #7

April 18, 2020

How to Join the Meeting!

- *Reference your Adobe Connect Quick Start Guide on the following page*
- Call: **1-800-753-1965**
- Enter Access Number: **7236718**

Agenda

- Welcome
- Administrative Items
- 'Open Mic' Session
- Results from Mitigation Work Session: Review & Discussion
- Replacement Recreational Facilities Discussion
- Replacement Housing Discussion
- Outreach Update
- Summary & Next Steps

Administrative Items

- Technology check
- Review virtual meeting etiquette
- Confirm CAC members have all meeting materials
 - Meeting packet
 - Minutes from CAC Meeting No. 6
- Approve minutes for CAC Meeting Nos. 5 and 6



LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR

ADOBE CONNECT Quick Start Guide

1

RUN CONNECTION TEST PRIOR TO MEETING

We recommend that you test your computer prior to attending the meeting. You can do so by visiting:

http://admin.adobeconnect.com/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm

2

JOIN THE MEETING

You should have received an email invitation with meeting access information. When the meeting time arrives, click on the link or enter the URL into your browser. The meeting login screen will appear. Choose *Enter as a Guest*, type in your first and last name, and click *Enter Room*. The meeting room interface will appear once the meeting begins.

3

MEETING AUDIO

When the *Connect My Audio* window pops up after joining the meeting, select *Dial-in to the meeting via phone*. The dial-in information is as follows:

Phone Number: 1-800-753-1965

Access Number: 7236718

Note: Please keep your phone muted at all times unless speaking.

4

CHANGE STATUS

Within the meeting, you can change your status to provide feedback. To change your status, click the arrow on the *Status Options* dropdown list on the *Application Bar*. Here you can select from *Raise Hand*, *Agree*, *Disagree*, *Step Away*, *Applause*, etc.

5

CHAT

To send a message to everyone, simply type your message in the chat pod and hit enter or click the send icon.

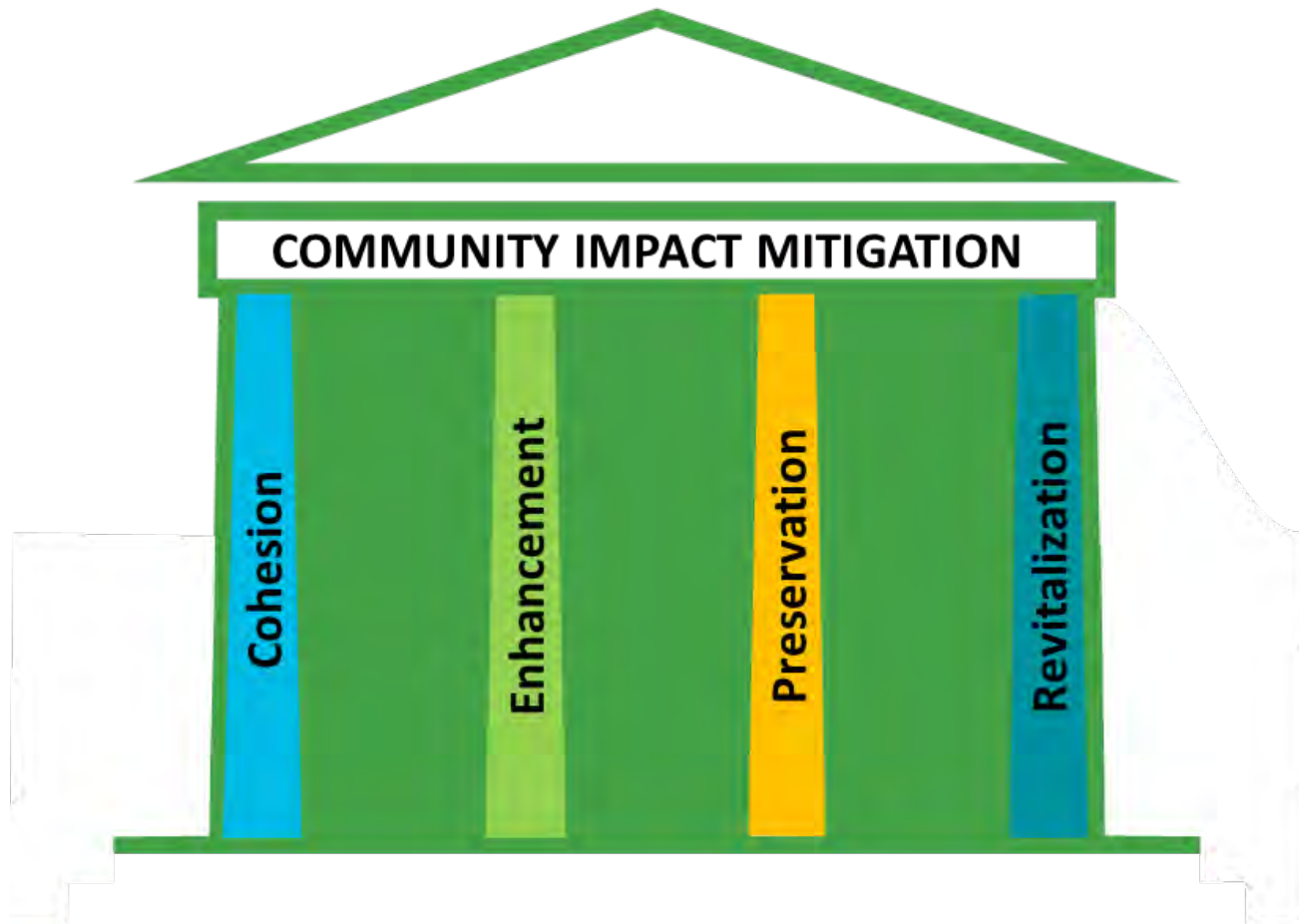
Open Mic



Outside of mitigation measures (which we'll be discussing later in the meeting), are there other items you would like to bring up with the CAC or project team?

Did you speak to any neighbors or residents who had additional comments for the project team?

CAC Community Impact Mitigation: Overview



Community Cohesion

- FOCUS AREAS: Actions that strengthen neighborhood connections



Community Enhancement

- FOCUS AREAS: Community center and recreational facility replacement



Community Preservation

- FOCUS AREAS: Infrastructure needs



Community Revitalization

- FOCUS AREAS: Replacement housing and employment/economic opportunities

Mitigation Workshop Results



Community Cohesion

- FOCUS AREAS: Actions that strengthen neighborhood connections

MITIGATION WORK SESSION QUESTIONS AND PROMPTS

“What do you see as resources that are currently lacking that would improve community cohesion?”

“What do you see as resources that are currently lacking that would improve community cohesion?”

Do you see use for a community center to serve as a hub for the distribution of water or related disaster-relief activities?

What measures can be taken to increase the number of “eyes” on the street to help minimize crime in these areas?

What activities would you like to see in your neighborhood?

What measures can be taken to show a sense of ownership (public or private)?

Mitigation Workshop Results



Community Cohesion

- FOCUS AREAS: Actions that strengthen neighborhood connections

More access to community center for community children

- As example, Ferndale residents not allowed to use the community center gym
- Current Ferndale Community Center used as “City” center
- Community children should have access to the community center/limited use based on basketball/tournament season
- Smaller facility at the opposite end of the neighborhood should be considered
- Russelldale faces similar challenges to Ferndale with the exception of basketball tournaments
- Community center staff concerned about liability associated with “community kids,” “mixing with scheduled tournament events and practices
- Center should be focused on keeping kids off the streets
- Focus should be on children first
- 90% of the Ferndale center’s use by outside people and activities
- Senior center operations should be used as model for the current/proposed community center(s)
- Development of an “equitable schedule”

Address general limitations of current community center

- Ferndale Community Center – not staffed, not staffed by community, not geared toward community, not child centered
- Liberty Park/Highland Terrace – Need a staffed, “working” center with scheduled activities that engage the community

Desired benefits of the community center to the community it serves

- Provide employment opportunities specifically for residents; Increased respect of adult center staff by community youth
- A place to learn more about neighbors
- Cross-cultural cohesion – impacts on children; leaving a legacy

Mitigation Workshop Results



Community Cohesion

- FOCUS AREAS: Actions that strengthen neighborhood connections

Potential/Desired Use of Community Center

- To hold meetings with government and community representatives
- To congregate with other community members
- Evacuation shelter, particularly for seniors and the disabled
- Cross-cultural activities
- National Night Out
- Historical programs/archives that highlight/preserve history

Historical (past) uses for community centers/meeting spaces

- Lunch programs for youth (USDA Summer Feeding Program)
- Jazz mobile
- Block association
- Tennis association

Neighborhood activities

- Community yard sale (in vacant lot in front of neighborhood)

Crime Prevention

- Well-lit streets; going above code for minimum requirements for spacing of streetlights
- Private/public areas are well-defined
 - Fencing should not be first choice; geographic boundaries should be user-friendly, possibly naturescape-based; signage installed
 - Proper law enforcement/ police understanding enforcement boundaries
- Eliminating abandoned properties/overgrown lots
- Designated courtesy officer who lives in the community or apartment complex (provide compensation, tax credits)
- Street cameras installed
- Practical tree-trimming (to unblock existing streetlights)
- Additional streetlights (nominal cost; discount/reduced price package)
 - Install light at the end of Dark Street (Good St)
 - Pedestrian-scale (lower-level) lighting vs. Street lights (spaced every 300 feet)

Mitigation Workshop Results

Community Enhancement

- FOCUS AREAS: Community center and recreational facility replacement

MITIGATION WORK SESSION QUESTIONS AND PROMPTS

Based on the preliminary mapping of potential locations for replacement facilities, what are your thoughts on locations that would be most optimal for neighborhood residents?

What are your thoughts on having a single, larger, centrally-located replacement facility versus two smaller facilities? How would the location of the replacement facility, or facilities, affect your thoughts on this idea?

What do you see as outdoor resources that are currently lacking or could be improved at local community centers?

What do you see as resources for after-school programs, youth/young adults, and seniors that are currently lacking or could be improved at local community centers?

What are your thoughts on having a single, larger, centrally-located replacement facility versus two smaller facilities?

Mitigation Workshop Results

Community Enhancement

- FOCUS AREAS: Community center and recreational facility replacement

Sidewalks

- Concerns about walkability for children to the proposed community center
- Pedestrian bridge across Filbin Creek to help children avoid traffic
- Benefits of sidewalk installation: increased drainage and safety
- Challenges associated with sidewalk installation: achieving proper drainage and infrastructure challenges
- Russelldale – uneven, non-existent sidewalks; discrepancies noted between sidewalks on maps and actual sidewalk locations

Community Center (also reference feedback under “community cohesion”)

- Single, centrally-located facility vs. two smaller facilities
- Limitations related to two facilities: staffing and land acquisition
- Consider pocket parks, covered areas, grills
- Residents’ first choice options (amenities) should be included in the intergovernmental agreement; CAC request for input in the intergovernmental agreement with the City of North Charleston
- Provide bike/pedestrian connectivity to the community center
- Staffing and volunteers (community buy-in)
- “Neighborhood” center vs. community center (CAC does not want a box design)
- Broad-scale, diverse use, forward-thinking, multi-faceted
- Staffing should be qualified to run the center
- Staff should focus on providing activities and resources that meet the needs of the communities

Mitigation Workshop Results

Community Preservation

- FOCUS AREAS: Infrastructure needs

MITIGATION WORK SESSION QUESTIONS AND PROMPTS

*Do you walk as a means of transportation or to access public transit?
If not, why? What reasons are related to infrastructure needs?*

*If you do walk for transportation means, where do you walk?
What infrastructure needs like sidewalks, sidewalk improvements,
streetlights, bus stops, and bus stop locations do you see?*

*Where do you frequently see people walking?
Do you see seniors and/or children walking? Where?*

Is speeding a persistent issue anywhere in your neighborhood?

*Where is stormwater runoff or standing water
a problem in your neighborhood?*

*Are there areas that frequently flood during large storms
or days of heavy rainfall?*

*Do you see other stormwater/floodplain or open space-related needs
that would help residents prepare for and recover from severe weather?*

Are there specific locations you would suggest for improvement?

*What do you see as barrier(s) to “aging in place” in your neighborhood?
Of these barriers, which ones can be addressed by infrastructure
improvements like sidewalks and access to transit?*

Mitigation Workshop Results

Community Preservation

- FOCUS AREAS: Infrastructure needs

Barriers and recommendations related to walking and biking

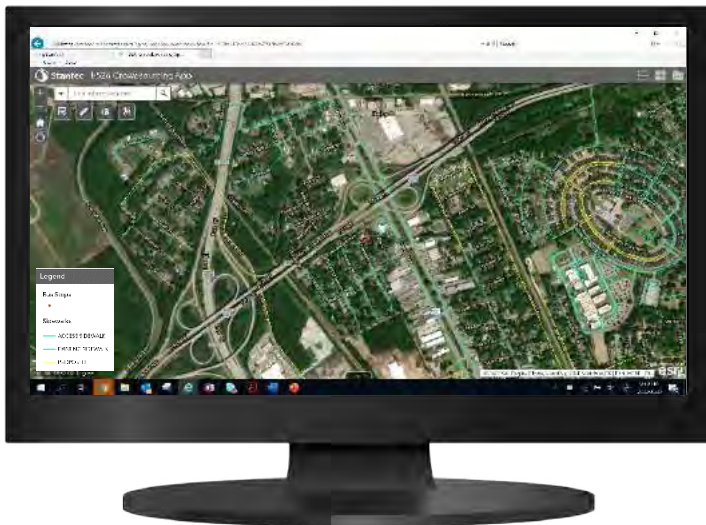
- Facilities that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Safety issues related to poor lighting, walking to bus stop, trash, debris (Elder/James Bell)
- Piedmont and Railroad Avenues (no sidewalk currently)
 - Poor lighting; drainage issues
- Railroad Avenue used as drag strip
- Pedestrian accommodations over/across Rivers Avenue; safety issues for veterans crossing at Patriots Villa across Rivers Avenue
- Importance of safe, practical footpaths
- Safety for bike riders

Flooding/Stormwater Management

- Standing water
 - Russelldale – Rebecca and Rivers
 - Liberty Park – James Bell and Taylor
 - Harper and Railroad

Speeding

- Railroad/Piedmont
- Russelldale
- Taylor Street (4-way stop)
- Willis/Rebecca



Your feedback from the mapping activity during the Mitigation Work Session was digitized in an online viewer.

See Page 17 for instructions on how to access and leave new comments.

Mitigation Workshop Results



Community Preservation

- FOCUS AREAS: Infrastructure needs

Barriers and recommendations related to transit and school buses

- CARTA/shuttle bus with enough frequency to transport residents, morning and evening
- No covered bus shelters
- Covered bus shelters with seats recommended along Rivers Avenue
- Covered areas for school bus stops

Traffic Calming and General Safety

- Installation of speed humps
- Installing stop sign at Piedmont
- School bus stop safety

Aging in place

- Landlords taking homes off Section 8
- Home repairs
 - Community block grants; narrow window of opportunity
- Lack of ramps/inaccessibility
- Meals/food security
- Inadequate services (Community center, health screening)
 - Community center staff should serve as a resource and follow-up
- Advocacy and self-advocacy – educational and financial resources
- Limited access to affordable transportation
- Potential partnerships with local college nursing programs to implement periodic health screenings

Online GIS Viewer

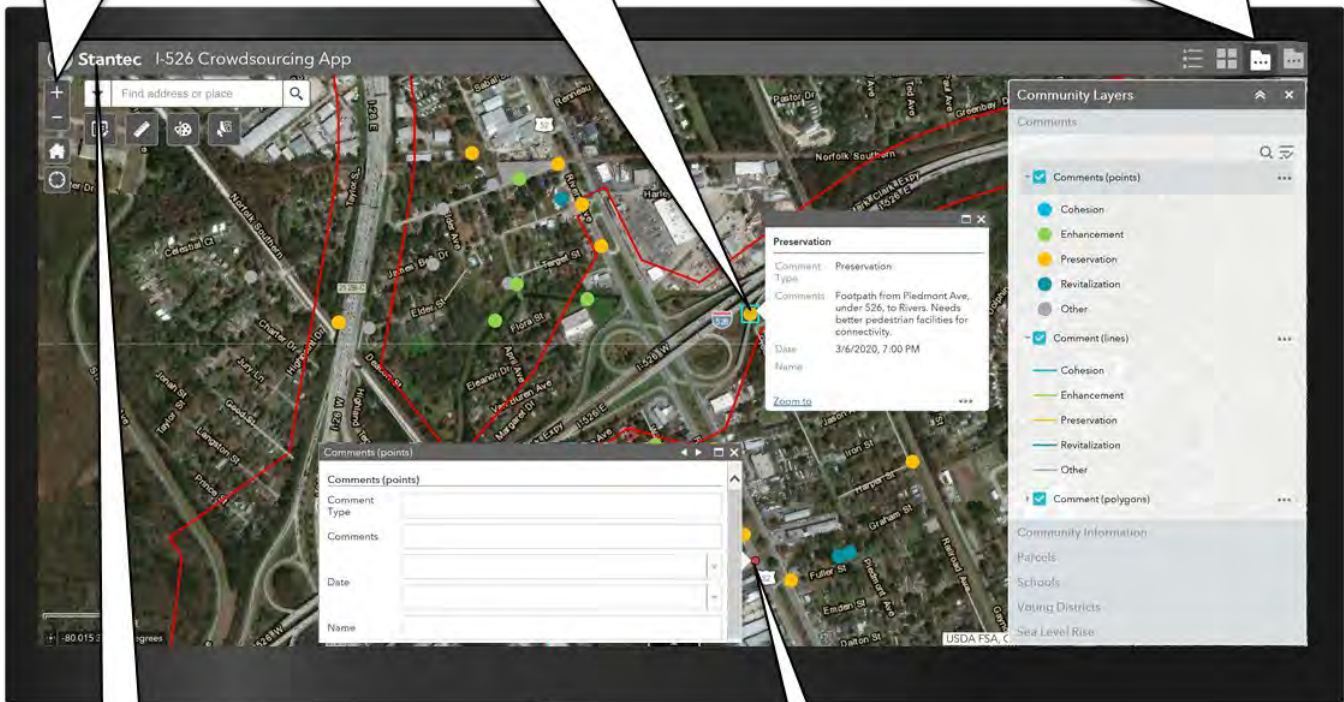
You can use the project online viewer to review CAC input on specific infrastructure needs.

1) Click [here](#) and enter username: **1784_stantec** and password: **Stantec!784**

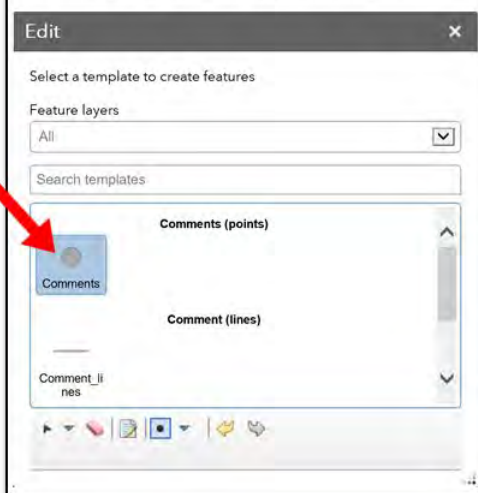
3) Zoom in and out with + and - buttons

4) Click any icon to see associated comments

2) Click "Community Layers" to see CAC comments color-coded by mitigation pillar



5) To leave new comments, click on "Edit" then "Comments"



6) Click on the map where you want to add your comment and fill out the pop-up menu (see below) then click "Close" to save your comment.

The screenshot shows the 'Comments (points)' pop-up form. It has a title bar 'Comments (points)' and a close button. The form contains several input fields with red text indicating where to enter information: 'Comment Type' (ADD MITIGATION PILLAR), 'Comments' (TYPE YOUR COMMENT HERE), 'Date' (ADD DATE), 'Time' (ADD TIME), and 'Name' (ADD NAME). At the bottom, there are 'Delete' and 'Close' buttons.

Mitigation Workshop Results

Community Revitalization

- FOCUS AREAS: Replacement housing and employment/economic opportunities

MITIGATION WORK SESSION QUESTIONS AND PROMPTS

What do you see as the top priority for revitalization in your neighborhood and why?

What types of barriers need to be overcome to achieve revitalization without inducing gentrification?

Are there details that could be added to make these needs more specific to your neighborhood?

Improved neighborhood aesthetics

- Remove or renovated boarded homes
- Eliminate barriers related to obtaining permits/approvals for repairs to homes occupied by residents with Heirs issues (new roofs, etc.) *(via public input Nov. 2019)*

Type of replacement housing

- Prefer single-family rental units, not multi-family units/mobile homes/modular
- Lot spacing will depend on specific land acquisition

Economic revitalization

- Prefer small businesses vested in the community values

Social/cultural preservation

- Avoid gentrification
- Incorporate references to local history in community center
- Need for advocacy (Advocacy Workshop 101 suggested)

Potential Locations for Replacement Community Facilities

Community Enhancement

- FOCUS AREAS: Community center and recreational facility replacement

The project team is searching for potential locations for replacement recreational facilities. The map on Page 22 and table on Page 23 show properties that have been identified as vacant or underdeveloped (meaning they may have building(s) onsite but no one lives on the property). During the April 18th CAC meeting, we will discuss the map and table to gather your feedback on the feasibility of the properties shown in the mapping as well as your input on any other properties that should be investigated. We will revisit the following questions from the Mitigation Work Session:

Based on the preliminary mapping of potential locations for replacement facilities, what are your thoughts on locations that would be most optimal for neighborhood residents?

What are your thoughts on having a single, larger, centrally-located replacement facility versus two smaller facilities?

How would the location of the replacement facility, or facilities, affect your thoughts on this idea?

Are there other locations, not identified on the mapping, that would be suitable location(s) for replacement facilities?

Potential Locations for Replacement Community Facilities



| # | Letters Sent on 3/19/20 to Following Property Owners | Address | Neighborhood | Size |
|----|---|-----------------------|--------------|---------|
| 25 | Mekiel Mitchell | 2233 James Bell Drive | Liberty Park | 2.19 ac |
| 29 | Leah Heineck & Nathan Heineck | 2329 Elder Avenue | Liberty Park | 0.19 ac |
| 11 | Caleb Harper | 2234 James Bell Drive | Liberty Park | 0.34 ac |
| 32 | William J. Goff, Sr. | 5228 April Avenue | Liberty Park | 0.32 ac |
| 27 | Corine Goodley | 2321 Elder Avenue | Liberty Park | 0.29 ac |
| 28 | Evelyn Frasier | 2325 Elder Avenue | Liberty Park | 0.22 ac |
| 10 | Faith Tabernacle of Jesus Christ Ministry (Rev. Robert McCleod Grant) | 2233 Taylor Street | Liberty Park | 0.34 ac |
| 30 | Hattie Ruth Levy Anderson | 5260 Deacon Street | Liberty Park | 5.72 ac |
| 34 | God's True Deliverance Church Inc. | 2249 Rebecca Street | Russelldale | 0.25 ac |



Legend

- Letter Sent on 3/19/20
- Privately Owned Vacant/Underdeveloped
- City Owned
- Church Owned Vacant
- Business Owned Vacant
- Ferndale
- Highland Terrace
- Liberty Park
- Russelldale
- Denotes that only a portion of parcel is currently being researched



Potential 6(f) Replacement Properties

I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST
 Charleston County
 Last Updated by HC on 3/30/20

Potential Locations for Replacement Community Facilities

| Map ID # | Acres | Owner | Street # | Street Name | Letter Sent 3/19/20 |
|----------|-------|---|----------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | 0.15 | AMEZQUITA INVESTMENT LLC | 0 | JONAH ST | |
| 2 | 0.15 | LEE VERNON JAILOR | 0 | JONAH ST | |
| 3 | 0.15 | LEE VERNON JAILOR | 2548 | JONAH ST | |
| 4 | 0.15 | JEROME MARTIN MYERS | 0 | JONAH ST | |
| 5 | 0.15 | PATRICIA ANN CROKER | 5329 | LANGSTON ST | |
| 6 | 0.15 | ERNEST MOSS | 0 | LANGSTON ST | |
| 7 | 0.15 | ERNEST MOSS | 0 | LANGSTON ST | |
| 8 | 0.15 | ERNEST MOSS | 0 | LANGSTON ST | |
| 9 | 0.87 | CITY OF NORTH CHARLESTON | 2410 | RICHARDSON DR | |
| 10 | 0.34 | FAITH TABERNACLE OF JESUS CHRIST MINISTRY | 2233 | TAYLOR ST | Yes |
| 11 | 0.34 | CALEB HARPER | 0 | ELDER AVE | Yes |
| 12 | 0.34 | CITY OF NORTH CHARLESTON | 2229 | TAYLOR ST | |
| 13 | 0.17 | PCAAAN REAL ESTATE INC | 2227 | TAYLOR ST | |
| 14 | 0.17 | HENRY THOMPSON | 2222 | JAMES BELL DR | |
| 15 | 0.15 | SAMMIE L SMALLS | 126 | JAMES BELL DR | |
| 16 | 0.17 | SHERALD D MOSES | 113 | CHIME ST | |
| 17 | 0.19 | SHELIA M SIMMONS | 0 | TARGET ST | |
| 18 | 0.17 | LOLA MAE MYERS | 2135 | TARGET ST | |
| 19 | 0.17 | ERNEST GREEN | 2125 | TARGET ST | |
| 20 | 0.17 | ERNEST GREEN | 111 | TARGET ST | |
| 21 | 0.65* | RLB INC | 5255 | RIVERS AVE | |
| 22 | 0.14 | CITY OF NORTH CHARLESTON | 0 | DOROTHY WILLIAMS BLVD | |
| 23 | 0.14 | CITY OF NORTH CHARLESTON | 0 | DOROTHY WILLIAMS BLVD | |
| 24 | 0.14 | CITY OF NORTH CHARLESTON | 0 | DOROTHY WILLIAMS BLVD | |
| 25 | 2.04* | KEITH GREGORY | 0 | JAMES BELL DR | Yes |
| 26 | 1.85 | CITY OF NORTH CHARLESTON | 0 | ELDER AVE | |
| 27 | 0.29 | CORINE GOODLEY | 0 | ELDER AVE | Yes |
| 28 | 0.22 | EVELYN M FRASIER | 0 | ELDER AVE | Yes |
| 29 | 0.27 | LEAH AND NATHAN HEINECK | 0 | ELDER AVE | Yes |
| 30 | 1.73* | HATTIE RUTH LEVY ANDERSON | 5260 | DEACON ST | Yes |
| 31 | 0.10* | WILLIAM J GOFF | 2206 | ELEANOR DR | |
| 32 | 0.30 | WILLIAM J GOFF SR | 5228 | APRIL AVE | Yes |
| 33 | 0.56 | CITY OF NORTH CHARLESTON | | | |
| 34 | 0.25 | GOD'S TRUE DELIVERANCE CHURCH INC | 2255 | REBECCA ST | Yes |
| 35 | 0.14 | GRASSO ANTONIO A | 0 | DELTA ST | |
| 36 | 0.14 | SPE PROPERTIES LLC | 0 | DELTA ST | |
| 37 | 0.15 | SPE PROPERTIES LLC | 0 | DELTA ST | |

This table corresponds to the map on Page 20 and is color-coded by type of owner:

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| | Privately Owned Vacant/Underdeveloped |
| | City Owned |
| | Church Owned Vacant |
| | Business Owned Vacant |

UPDATE: SCDOT sent letters of interest on March 19, 2020 to nine property owners (as shown in the table to the left) to gauge potential interest in the sale of vacant or under-developed properties for use as locations for replacement community center(s), recreational facilities, and/or pocket parks.

SCDOT's next step is to contact these property owners to discuss potential opportunities. If the project team is not successful in acquiring any of these 'first round' properties, additional letters will be sent out to other property owners on this list.

If you have any information about the potential availability of any of these, or other, potential properties, please let a project team member know.

*Designates a portions of a parcel where development could occur without displacing residents



843.258.1135
info@526LowcountryCorridor.com
Community Office
5627 Rivers Avenue
North Charleston, SC 29406
www.526LowcountryCorridor.com

RE: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor West Project– Charleston County

Dear _____:

The South Carolina Department of Transportation is developing an interstate improvement project on the existing interstate 526 corridor between Virginia Avenue and Paul Cantrell Boulevard. This project will impact community centers currently located adjacent to the interstate in North Charleston near the interchange between I-526 and I-26. We would like to inquire about the possibility of purchasing properties that could be utilized for construction of new community centers as part of the I-526 Lowcountry Corridor West project. Our records indicate that you own property that may be of interest to the Department. In order to discuss the potential acquisition, it will be necessary for us to meet with you at your earliest convenience.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the sketch showing your property and a “Highways and You” brochure describing the acquisition process. The brochure will assist in answering questions however; it is imperative that we meet with you to discuss the possibility in person.

SCDOT has opened an I-526 community office at 5627 Rivers Avenue in North Charleston where you can learn more about the project and meet with members of our project team. Due to our current emergency pandemic, the office is only open by appointment only during this event. We would like to schedule a time to meet with you at your convenience and discuss this matter further. To schedule a time to meet, please call 843-258-1135.

Sincerely,

Willie Johnson

Willie Johnson
Right of Way Outreach Specialist

Enclosures

Ec: Joy Riley, SCDOT Project Manager
Horrace Tobin, I-526 Community Office Manager

Potential Locations for Replacement Housing

Community Revitalization

- FOCUS AREAS: Replacement housing and employment/economic opportunities

The SCDOT project team would like to gather feedback from the CAC on the suitability of different areas for different types of housing.

The project team is searching for potential locations for replacement housing. The map on Page 24 shows the geographical area that SCDOT is monitoring for potential replacement housing locations. It includes the neighborhoods of Russelldale, Liberty Park, Highland Terrace, and Ferndale as well as other neighborhoods within the immediate vicinity. The boundary was set based with the intent to find locations that could provide a similar proximity to public transit and other public services in the area, as such, the northern boundary runs along Remount Road and the southern boundary runs generally along Dorchester Road.

SCDOT is monitoring residential real estate (MLS) listings within this area and have mapped parcels owned by the City of North Charleston and privately-owned vacant/underdeveloped properties that could be investigated as potential locations for replacement housing.

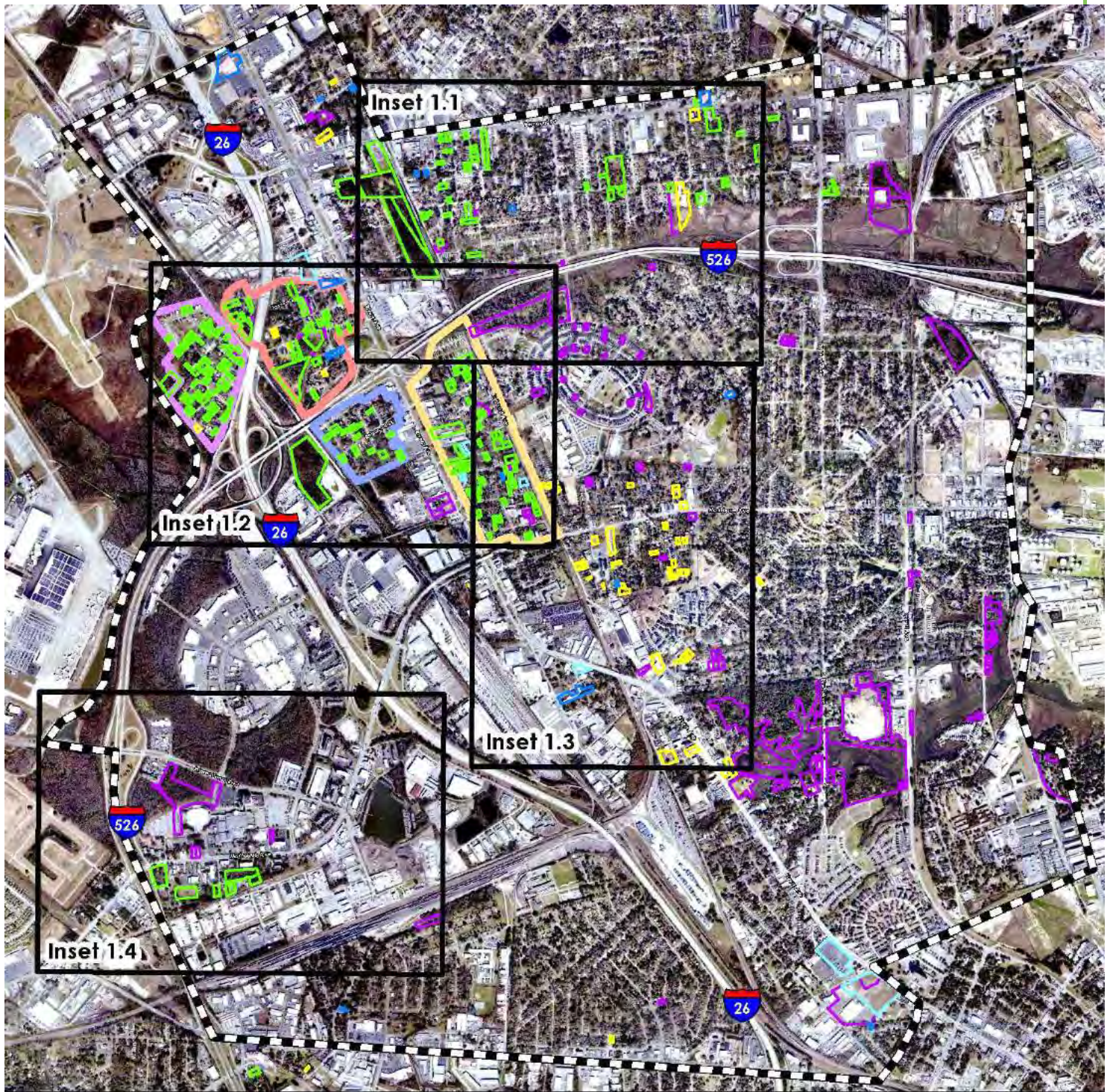
As you review the maps, think about the pro's and con's of the different areas shown in the mapping.

Are there areas nearby that would be attractive to renters that would provide same or better access to transit, public facilities, employment centers, planned development, and other services?

Are there other areas that you would recommend monitoring for potential replacement housing?

Potential Locations for Replacement Housing

This map shows the geographical area that SCDOT is monitoring for residential real estate (MLS) listings. Within this area, SCDOT also mapped parcels owned by the City of North Charleston and privately-owned vacant/underdeveloped properties that could be investigated as potential locations for replacement housing. The maps on Pages 26 through 29 are close-up views of the areas shown as “Insets” in the map below.



Legend












- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| Ferndale | Search Boundary for Replacement Housing Opportunities |
| Highland Terrace | Parcel ID'd by the City of North Charleston as Underdeveloped |
| Liberty Park | Vacant/Underdeveloped Private Parcel |
| Russelldale | Vacant Church Owned Parcel |
| Parcel for Sale (3/27) | Vacant/Underdeveloped - Owned by the City of North Charleston |

Part of SCDOT's studies include gathering feedback from you on what areas you think are suitable for different types of replacement housing.

Potential Locations for Replacement Housing



Legend

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Fermdale |  Search Boundary for Replacement Housing Opportunities |
|  Highland Terrace |  Parcel ID'd by the City of North Charleston as Underdeveloped |
|  Liberty Park |  Vacant/Underdeveloped Private Parcel |
|  Russelldale |  Vacant Church Owned Parcel |
|  Parcel for Sale (3/27) |  Vacant/Underdeveloped - Owned by the City of North Charleston |
|  Charleston County Parcels | |



Potential Replacement Housing Opportunities

I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST












Inset 1.1

Last Updated by HC on 3/27/20

Potential Locations for Replacement Housing



Legend

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Ferndale |  Search Boundary for Replacement Housing Opportunities |
|  Highland Terrace |  Parcel ID'd by the City of North Charleston as Underdeveloped |
|  Liberty Park |  Vacant/Underdeveloped Private Parcel |
|  Russelldale |  Vacant Church Owned Parcel |
|  Parcel for Sale (3/27) |  Vacant/Underdeveloped - Owned by the City of North Charleston |
|  Charleston County Parcels | |



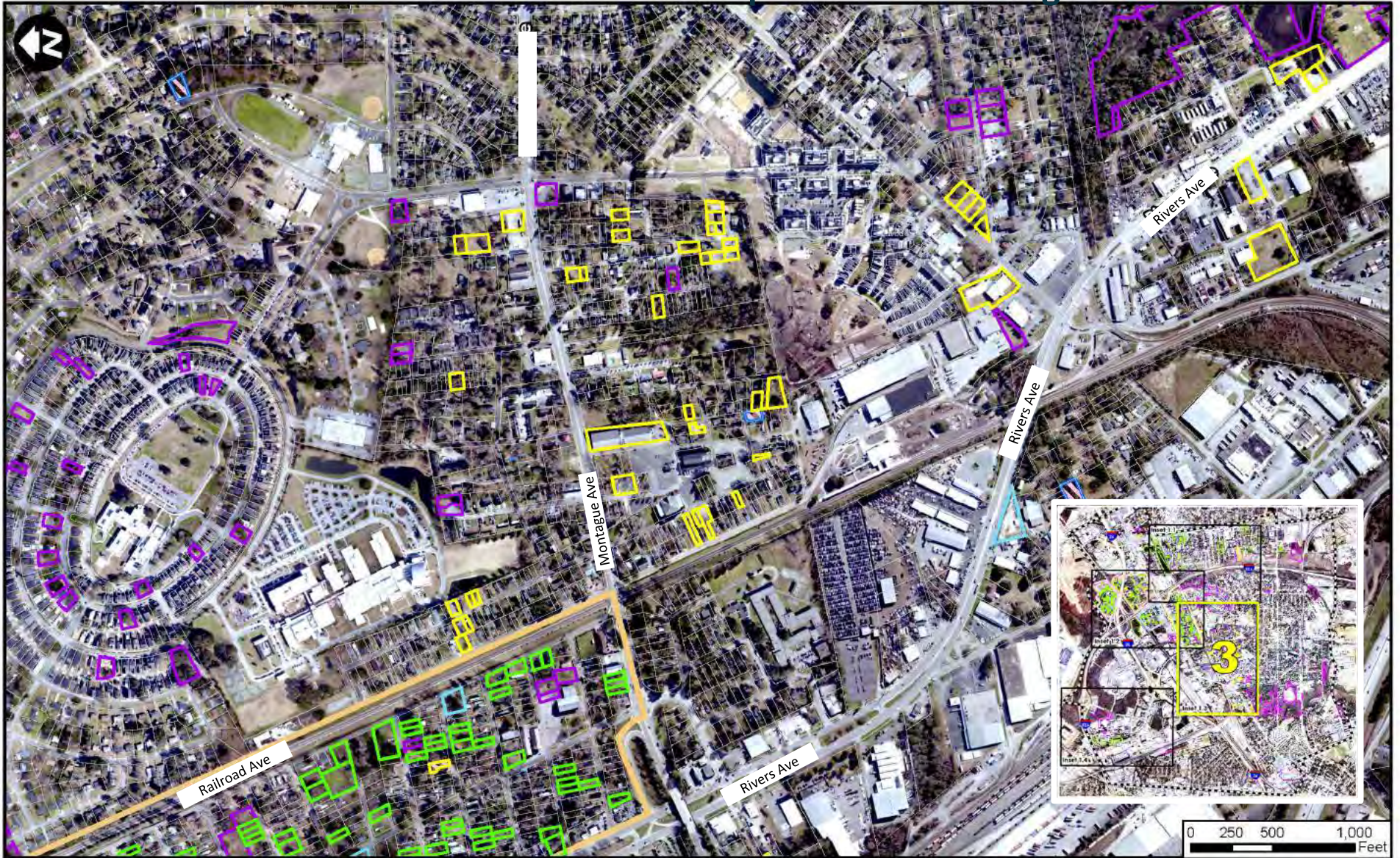
Potential Replacement Housing Opportunities

I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST












Inset 1.2

Last Updated by HC on 3/27/20

Potential Locations for Replacement Housing



Legend

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|---|
|  | Ferndale |  | Search Boundary for Replacement Housing Opportunities |
|  | Highland Terrace |  | Parcel ID'd by the City of North Charleston as Underdeveloped |
|  | Liberty Park |  | Vacant/Underdeveloped Private Parcel |
|  | Russelldale |  | Vacant Church Owned Parcel |
|  | Parcel for Sale (3/27) |  | Vacant/Underdeveloped - Owned by the City of North Charleston |
|  | Charleston County Parcels | | |



Potential Replacement Housing Opportunities

I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Inset 1.3

Last Updated by HC on 3/27/20

Potential Locations for Replacement Housing



Legend

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--|---|
| | Ferndale | | Search Boundary for Replacement Housing Opportunities |
| | Highland Terrace | | Parcel ID'd by the City of North Charleston as Underdeveloped |
| | Liberty Park | | Vacant/Underdeveloped Private Parcel |
| | Russelldale | | Vacant Church Owned Parcel |
| | Parcel for Sale (3/27) | | Vacant/Underdeveloped - Owned by the City of North Charleston |
| | Charleston County Parcels | | |



Potential Replacement Housing Opportunities

I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Inset 1.4

Last Updated by HC on 3/27/20

Community Office

- Office Data
 - Days open in March: 22 days
 - Call-ins: 13 calls
 - Outreach Calls: 10 calls
 - Voicemail Follow-ups: 2 calls
 - Walk-ins/Appointments: 11 visits
 - Calls to CAC (postponed Informational Workshop): 11 calls
- COVID:
 - The Community Office is closed to visitors, but Office Manager Horrace Tobin is onsite daily to address concerns and requests received by email, postal mail, and phone.
 - Right-of-Way Liaisons are not currently scheduling face-to-face appointments but are handling related requested received in the Community Office by phone.
- Community Liaisons:
 - Clay Middleton, a new employee to Maximum Consulting, is also an addition to the Community Liaison staff.
- Informational Workshop:
 - The sessions planned for Saturday, March 21st will be rescheduled.

Summary and Next Steps

- Confirm schedule for upcoming CAC Meetings
- 5/2/20 agenda to include update on mitigation plan development, providing available details and gathering additional feedback on potential housing mitigation
- Poll group for CAC open house date: post-COVID



MEETING MINUTES

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 7

Date: April 18, 2020

Time: 10:00 – 11:45 am

Location: Adobe Connect Virtual Meeting

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees

Larenda Baxley, Ferndale
Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale
Gilbert Reeves, Ferndale
Rev. David L. Johnson, Ferndale
Michael S. Halls, Sr., Ferndale
Nathaniel Bryant, Highland Terrace
Jeanaris Bannister, Liberty Park
Carolyn Varner, Liberty Park
Doris Twiggs, Liberty Park
Prayonda Cooper, Joppa Way
Earl Muhammad, Muhammad Mosque
Rick Day, Stantec
Amy Sackaroff, Stantec
LaTonya Derrick, Stantec

Ryan White, Stantec
Hannah Clements, Stantec
Mollie Rhett, Stantec
Joy Riley, SCDOT (Project Manager)
Chad Long, SCDOT
David Kelly, SCDOT
Pamela Foster, FHWA
Yolonda Jordan, FHWA
Horrace Tobin, Community Office
Maxine Smith, Maximum Consulting
Mattese Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Carolyn Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Clay Middleton, Maximum Consulting
Janelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies

Participant Summary:

Total participants: 28

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Ferndale: 5 | Joppa Way: 1 | Stantec: 6 |
| Highland Terrace: 1 | Adjacent/affected communities/agencies: 1 | Community Office: 1 |
| Liberty Park: 3 | SCDOT: 3 | Community Liaisons: 4 |
| Russelldale: 0 | FHWA: 2 | Facilitator: 1 |

Meeting Summary:

Welcome and Introductions

- Joy (Program Manager) welcomed and thanked the CAC members and participants for adapting to the circumstances and joining the meeting via Adobe Connect
- LaTonya Derrick served as the technical contact throughout the meeting
- Janelle provided overview of Adobe Connect features and logistics
 - Chat room (general and private discussions); chat dialogue will be saved
 - Raise hands

- All participants had access to Adobe Connect, paper copy of CAC Meeting #7 meeting packet, and phone connection
- Review of virtual meeting etiquette
- CAC Meeting #5 minutes approved
- CAC Meeting #6 minutes approved
- An overview of the agenda was provided
 - Results from Mitigation Work Session: Review & Discussion
 - Replacement Recreational Facilities Discussion
 - Replacement Housing
 - Outreach Update
 - Summary and Next Steps

Adobe Connect Quick Start Guide

An Adobe Connect information page was provided in the CAC #7 meeting packet and in the Adobe Connect slide as information only on how to join and participate in the meeting. Participants were advised to contact LaTonya with any technical questions throughout the meeting.

Role call was conducted.

Open Mic

Rather than having a separate Open Mic session, Open Mic comments and questions were addressed within the results discussions related to the four pillars of the Mitigation Work Session (CAC Meeting #6) including: Community Cohesion, Community Enhancement, Community Preservation, and Community Revitalization. Amy led the summary of the results discussion from the mitigation work session, including open mic topics within each pillar is as follows:

Results from Mitigation Work Session: Review and Discussion

Community Cohesion

Focus Areas: Actions that strengthen neighborhood connections

What role could the community center play in fostering community cohesion?

Amy provided a short list of the overarching topics of importance to CAC members (expressed during Meeting #6) regarding community cohesion, which included:

- Community centers should focus on community children to keep them “off the streets”
- Development of an equitable schedule for the community center; the center should be used primarily by the community that it was intended to serve
- Center should be staffed by community residents
- Community residents should play a significant role in determining the uses of the community center (for example, meetings, programs, and activities that are unique to the community residents)
- Crime prevention through environmental design
- Landscaping and establishing common areas for community members to safely congregate and socialize

CAC Member Feedback:

- CAC members provided no comments or questions

Community Enhancement

Focus Areas: Community center and recreational facility replacement

What type of amenities could be incorporated into the design of the community center?

Amy provided a short list of the overarching topics of importance to CAC members (expressed during Meeting #6) regarding community enhancement, which included:

- Ensuring walkability to the community center
- Access to the community center for bike riders and pedestrians, particularly with regards to the safety of community children
- Repairing uneven sidewalks or installing sidewalks where they do not currently exist, but are needed
- Limitations associated with having one versus two community centers; Challenges associated with having two facilities include limited available land and potentially limited staffing
- CAC members do not want the center to have a “box design,” but rather a broad-scale, multi-use facility that will meet the needs of a diverse community; forward-thinking

CAC Member Feedback:

- CAC members provided no comments or questions

Community Preservation

Focus Areas: Infrastructure needs

What are the barriers related to biking and walking, sidewalk needs, street lights, stormwater management, and speeding deterrents on streets with a high frequency of speeding?

Amy provided a short list of the overarching topics of importance to CAC members (expressed during Meeting #6) regarding community preservation, which included:

- All feedback from the mitigation workshop community preservation discussion (CAC Meeting #6) was captured and put into the online GIS Viewer by topic and by location
 - All information uploaded in the GIS Viewer will be used in communications with local governments
 - CAC members were encouraged to access the GIS Viewer to add comments related to infrastructure needs, directly; instructions to add comments can be found on page 17 of CAC Meeting #7 packet; Please be certain to add your name to the comments so the project team can follow up as items are being addressed, appropriately
 - Ryan White sent an email on April 15th titled “I-526 Low Country Corridor (LCC) - West: Community Advisory Council Meeting #7 - Material Distribution” in which he provided the link, username, and password for access to the online GIS Viewer
- Concerns about speeding; possible installation of speeding deterrents (such as speed humps)
- Need for covered bus shelters
- Resources that may make aging in place more feasible, including (but, not limited to):
 - Home repairs
 - Food security
 - Access to affordable transportation

CAC Member Feedback:

- CAC members provided no comments or questions

Community Revitalization

Focus Areas: Replacement housing and employment/economic opportunities

What are the top priorities for revitalization in your neighborhoods? What types of barriers need to be overcome to achieve revitalization without causing gentrification?

Amy provided a short list of the overarching topics of importance to CAC members (expressed during Meeting #6) regarding community revitalization, which included:

- Improving neighborhood aesthetics (appearance/beautification)
- Preference for single-family rental units; Opposed to multi-family, mobile homes, and modular units
- Encouraging small businesses that reflect community values
- Ensuring that mitigation does not foster gentrification
- Incorporating local history in the community center
- CAC serving as the advisory entity that will advocate on behalf of the whole community (including issues that affect individual neighborhoods)

CAC Member Feedback:

- Clarification: Under “type of replacement housing,” modular homes are acceptable in any neighborhood; manufactured homes are not preferred. For the record, “modular,” should be replaced with “manufactured” as a type of replacement housing that is not preferred by the CAC (T. Baxley)

Replacement Recreational Facilities Discussion

- SCDOT is diligently looking for potential replacement locations; seeking vacant or underdeveloped properties; mapped identified locations
- CAC members were asked to keep in mind the question of having a single larger community center versus two smaller centers as the group proceeded through the discussion
- The project team has initiated contact with some property owners (Phase 1)
- SCDOT sent letters to nine (9) property owners on March 19, 2020 inquiring about the possibility of purchasing properties for construction of the new community center as a part of the I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST project.
 - If the project team is not successful in acquiring properties in the “first round,” a second round of letters will be sent to other property owners on the list
 - The project team is attempting to identify multiple parcels that would provide enough land to accommodate the community center project [Currently focused on the Liberty Park community]
 - Russelldale does not currently appear to have enough land available to support the projected size of the community center
- The project team is focusing on properties along Filbin Creek because the City of North Charleston is proposing construction of a greenway along Filbin Creek; the project team thinks that locating the

community center near the proposed greenway may enhance community connectivity (easier/safer access)

- A smaller parcel in Russelldale (#34 on “Potential 6(f) Replacement Properties” map in the CAC Meeting #7 packet, pg. 21) is being considered for a pocket park, playground, or combined playground/open space area
- Multiple, conjoined parcels (#10-14) between Taylor Street and James Bell Drive are both publicly and privately owned, and are also being considered by SCDOT for a combined playground/open space recreational area

CAC Member Feedback

- What is the potential challenge associated with parcel #26 (1.85 acres, owned by the City of North Charleston)? Is there an access entrance to the property from Elder Avenue or would you have to go through another property to access it? Is there enough acreage to accommodate the project? (J. Bannister)
- Amy: Yes, the property can be accessed from Elder Avenue. In terms of the usability of the parcel, the project team is currently evaluating the parcel (for example, for flood plains and wetlands) to see if there is enough “upland” (usable land above the flood plains) to place the main structure of the community center. The parcel’s low-lying areas are also being evaluated for compatibility with features such as playgrounds, basketball courts, and picnic tables that, if impacted by flooding, would not present direct damage to the structural integrity of the main structure of the community center. Site visits are being scheduled to evaluate high and low-lying areas.
 - The project team is also considering the balance of land purchases for both replacement housing and for the new community center. If the nine parcels considered in Phase 1 are all used for the community center, less land will be available for replacement housing.
- Amy: Does the CAC approve of focusing on development of a single, larger facility as opposed to two smaller facilities given the limitations of available land?

CAC Member Feedback:

- CAC members provided no comments or questions

Replacement Recreational Facilities Discussion

- Amy provided a brief overview of the sample letter to property owners (immediately following page 22 of the Meeting #7 packet)
- The project footprint is generally bordered by Remount Road on the north boundary and Dorchester Road at the south boundary. This was done to keep the focus on the Ferndale, Highland Terrace, Liberty Park, and Russelldale communities while also considering Charleston Farms (a little north of these communities), as well as further south to the east side of Park Circle, and the area north of Dorchester Road
- The project team is also monitoring real estate listings to make inquiries as properties are placed on the market
- In the CAC #7 meeting packet, maps of Inset 1.1 and 1.2 are representative of areas that include or are closer to the current Ferndale, Highland Terrace, Liberty Park, and Russelldale residences. Insets 1.3

and 1.4 present alternatives that are still within the area, but a little farther away from the original communities

CAC Member Feedback:

- Since the project team is potentially considering areas closer to Dorchester Road for replacement housing, there is a property located just off the Dorchester Road exit. There is currently an old, boarded hotel that could possibly be the site of a new apartment complex since it is already zoned for multi-use. (T. Baxley)
- Amy: Amy acknowledged Ms. Baxley's suggestion and ensured her the project team would add this parcel to the list of considerations. Some of the parcels outlined on Inset 1.4 represent high density usage like apartments, and were selected for consideration based on proximity to public transportation and to potential employment centers
- Review of vacant parcels shown in Inset 1.1. CAC members were asked for feedback on or insights into any of the parcels highlighted that they may be familiar with or whose owners they may know
- Joy: If there are areas that SCDOT has identified as potential locations for replacement housing that the CAC does not feel the community at-large would want to move to for various reasons, please let us know. We don't want to present options to the community for replacement housing they feel is not comparable to their existing neighborhoods.
- Amy: Any feedback that can help shape or direct where SCDOT is putting their efforts in terms of replacement housing is welcome.

CAC Member Feedback:

- Liberty Park and Highland Terrace have more single-family homes versus multi-use parcels. There are several available lots in the Liberty Park and Highland Terrace communities. Will each resident be relocated based on the characteristics of the community they are being relocated from? (Will efforts be made to relocate residents to comparable zoning areas?) And will the area maintain a predominately single-family home profile? (J. Bannister)
- Joy: We haven't started trying to buy single family home lots, but that is the plan. We're taking a stepped approach. Right now, our critical path (top priority) is finding land to build the new community center. That's why we are pursuing some of the bigger lots now for the community center, but we still have to secure a willing seller. I have to go through that process and then we'll see what's left. We will then try to secure lots that could either have townhomes for multi-family rentals or single family homes for homeowners, but we do need to provide a variety of options. The reason we're looking for bigger, more dense developments outside of this neighborhood is because we know we have so many renters. While we will work with individuals that want to go into homeownership, there will be a large number of people that just need to get into a rental unit and are only comfortable with going into another rental unit. We want to make sure we have enough options for them.
- Chad: [To the project team] I think it's important to contextualize what the impact is going to be on an individual basis. Impacts may vary by homeowner. (Based on previous comments made by CAC

members) Some people may want to sell their property and take the money. So, we may need to contextualize in order to understand the true impact on the community.

- Amy: Are there any other comments or anything that you would like to see at our next meeting related to housing?

CAC Member Feedback:

- Regarding access of on- and off-ramps from I-526 at Rivers Avenue: Will the existing ramps remain in place or will SCDOT close access to Rivers Avenue? (E. Muhammad)
- Joy: We are currently refining the selection of preferred alternatives. Based on the comments and initial assessment of the impact studies, it looks like the preferred path forward would be for the ramp to remain as is. The new bridge will be built parallel to what is there now and fly over the existing Rivers interchange. People will still be able to get access onto and off I-526 to Rivers Avenue, but they will not be able to access I-26 West directly from Rivers Avenue. So, if you want to access I-26, you'll have to go to Remount Road at I-26 or down to Montague Road at I-26.

CAC Member Feedback:

- Expressed concerns about this contributing to traffic congestion in all directions (E. Muhammad)
- Joy: We have laid out improvements at the Remount Road and Rivers Avenue intersection. That intersection does currently back up traffic onto the ramp and onto the main line of I-26. The improvements that we would be proposing are the same types of improvements that the Bus Rapid Transit project is making at that intersection, so it may happen with that project or with our project. But we will be coordinating improvements in that area to help mitigate traffic flow.

CAC Member Feedback:

- Regarding the Bus Rapid Transit plans, will we (the CAC) be able to review those plans or are they confidential? (E. Muhammad)

Joy: We will actually provide that. The plan is being developed by the BCDCOG (Council of Governments). They are managing that project. Since we overlap, SCDOT will display an information board in our Community Office about the project. They are in the very early stages of the environmental phase, so it will probably be the end of this year or early next year before they have a visual that they can share with us that we can then share through our office. But, we will bring that information to the CAC.

CAC Member Feedback:

- Will CAC members be able to participate in any of the conversations with the BCDCOG, or should we wait? (E. Muhammad)
- Joy: The Bus Rapid Transit project will be doing public involvement and reaching out to the community, so the project team will make sure the CAC is made aware of that. And we will share any

communication we have as far as our coordination with that team. But, there will be opportunity for the CAC to have a voice in that project as well.

- Amy: The project team is trying to make sure we are tracking opportunities for public input on any local plans and keeping the CAC informed.

Outreach Update

- Office Data
 - The Community Office was open for 22 days during the month of March
 - Received 13 in-coming calls
 - Placed 10 out-going calls
 - Responded to 2 voice messages
 - Had 11 walk-in visits
 - Notification calls to 11 calls to CAC members to postpone the scheduled Informational Workshop
- COVID
 - The Community Office has been closed to visitors since March 17, 2020; Office Manager Horrace Tobin is onsite daily to address concerns and requests received by email, postal mail, and phone.
 - Mr. Tobin has received calls from upset residents regarding misinformation that the I-526 LCC WEST project has been terminated. He assured them the project was still active and validated the appropriate steps they had taken in calling the Community Office to inquire about the misinformation. He also re-emphasized that only SCDOT, Right-of-Way officers, and the Community Office are authorized to provide feedback on logistical or technical questions to the public.
- Community Liaisons
 - Clay Middleton is a new employee of Maximum Consulting, and an addition to the Community Liaison staff. Mr. Middleton has worked with the US Department of Energy, was the Associate Director of the Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships with the Office of the Corporation for National Community Service. He is a graduate of the Citadel where he earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees.
 - Mr. Middleton is a native of Charleston. He worked for Congressman Jim Clyburn for 10 years and continues to do work for him. He expressed his enthusiasm in working on this project for the duration.
- Informational Workshop
 - The sessions planned for Saturday, March 21st will be rescheduled. The project team and CAC members will be notified when a new date has been set.
- New Business

CAC Member Feedback:

 - Due to the Community Office being closed, will the telephone lines remain open to anyone who has questions? There have been communications from various entities to residents in the

Liberty Park/Highland Terrace communities. Residents need to be able to reach someone at the Community Office if they need to have important questions answered. (D. Twiggs)

- Received a call from a resident who received misinformation and had questions and concerns about it. Mattese told her (the resident) she would deliver maps that would provide clarification and a better visual of the placement of her property within the footprint of this project.
 - Horrace confirmed that both office numbers remain active and will be answered or available to leave a message (to be answered as soon as possible)
 - Amy suggested the project team mail the requested maps to the concerned resident in order to avoid person-to-person contact
- Carolyn (Lecque): The Maximum Consulting team is planning to schedule community meetings. Maximum will coordinate with members of the CAC and SCDOT (Joy) to determine when the staff can schedule respective community meetings in order to dispel some of the misinformation CAC members and residents have encountered.

Summary and Next Steps

- Amy asked if Adobe Connect is an appropriate alternative format to continue meeting while we are in the midst of the pandemic
- LaTonya conducted a poll to determine if CAC members are available and willing to meet on May 2, 2020 at 10:00 AM for CAC Meeting #8
 - LaTonya will email separate links for feedback on preferences for the duration of Adobe Connect meetings, post-COVID activities, etc. She noted that CAC members seem comfortable with the Google platform for polling as opposed to a more limited platform, like Survey Monkey
 - Polling will also be sent to the CAC regarding potential dates for upcoming open house events
- Chad thanked the CAC again for their continued participation and flexibility in the midst of the pandemic
- Amy reiterated the project team's commitment to assisting the CAC and Maximum Consulting with administrative tasks (phone calls, mailers) that will facilitate avoiding of person-to-person contact during the pandemic
- Michael asked if it is possible to use both the audio and visual features on Adobe Connect rather than also calling into the meeting on the phone
 - LaTonya shared that Adobe Connect provides protections that other platforms such as Zoom cannot currently offer; She solicited feedback on any suggestions that would offer similar protections, remain as user-friendly as possible, and consolidate methods of communication.

CAC Meeting #8 is scheduled for May 2, 2020, 10:00 – 11:30 AM. We will use the same Adobe Connect link and phone number to access the meeting.

Name: _____



Community Advisory Council
CAC Meeting #8

May 2, 2020

How to Join the Meeting!

- *Reference your Adobe Connect Quick Start Guide from Meeting No. 7 packet*
- Call: **1-800-753-1965**
- Enter Access Number: **7236718**

Agenda

- Welcome
- Administrative Items
- 'Open Mic' Session
- Potential Site Layout for Replacement Community Facilities
- Replacement Community Facilities: Potential Functions and Services
- Community Mitigation Plan Development: Coordination with Local Organizations
- Outreach Plans for 2020
- Outreach Update
- Summary & Next Steps

Administrative Items

- Technology check
- Review virtual meeting etiquette
- Confirm CAC members have all meeting materials
 - Meeting packet
 - Minutes from CAC Meeting No. 7
- Approve minutes for CAC Meeting No. 7

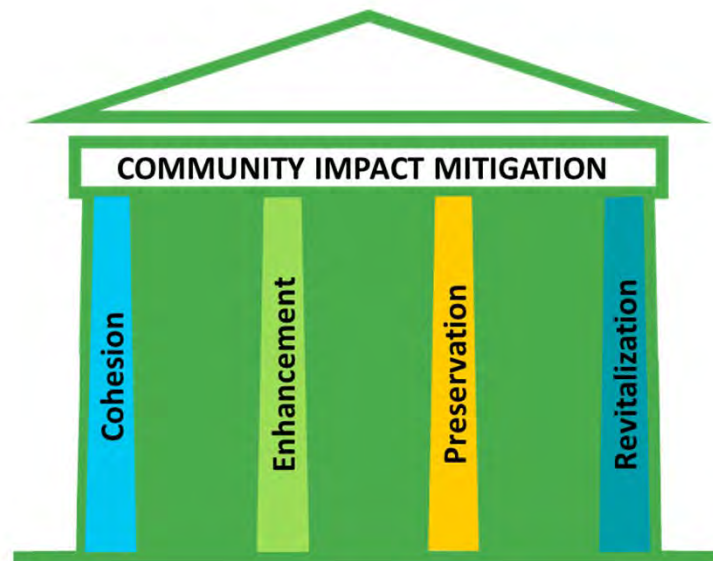
Open Mic



*Are there unanswered questions from last meeting?
Are there other items you would like to
bring up with the CAC or project team?*

*Did you speak to any neighbors or residents who have
comments for the project team?*

CAC Community Impact Mitigation: Overview



Today's conversations are going to focus on CAC mitigation recommendations related to community preservation (*recreational facility replacement*), community cohesion (*CAC priority recommendations on community center functions and services*), and community preservation and revitalization (*actions the team can take now to explore ways to implement CAC recommendations*).



Community Cohesion

- FOCUS AREAS: Actions that strengthen neighborhood connections



Community Enhancement

- FOCUS AREAS: Community center and recreational facility replacement



Community Preservation

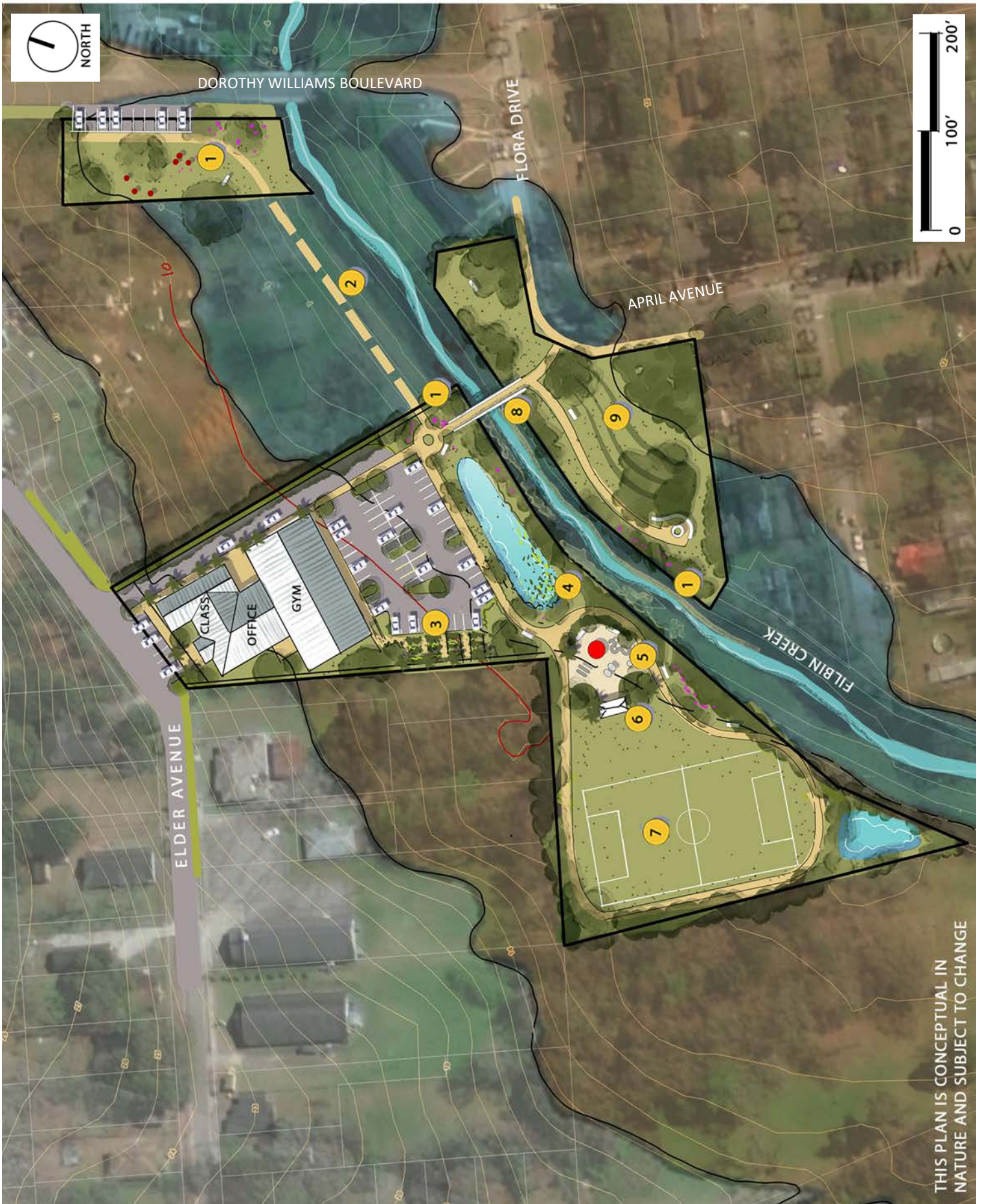
- FOCUS AREAS: Infrastructure needs



Community Revitalization

- FOCUS AREAS: Replacement housing and employment/economic opportunities

Potential Site Layouts for Replacement Community Facilities



THIS PLAN IS CONCEPTUAL IN NATURE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

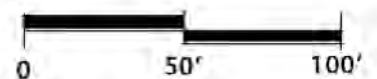
Potential Site Layouts for Replacement Community Facilities



HIGHLAND TERRACE COMMUNITY POCKET PARK

- 1 OPEN AIR PAVILION AND BENCHES
- 2 MULTIPURPOSE COURT
- 3 HALF COURT BASKETBALL
- 4 FULL COURT BASKETBALL
- 5 PICNIC TABLES
- 6 3000 SF PLAYGROUND
- 7 SIDEWALK CONNECTION
- 8 IMPROVE CROSS WALKS

THIS PLAN IS CONCEPTUAL IN NATURE
AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE



Potential Site Layouts for Replacement Community Facilities



RUSSELDALE COMMUNITY POCKET PARK

- 1 IMPROVED CROSSWALKS
- 2 FLOWERING SHRUBS AND PARK SIGNAGE
- 3 PRIVACY PLANTING
- 4 FLOWERING ACCENT TREES
- 5 TRICYCLE LOOP
- 6 PARK BENCH
- 7 15' X 30' OPEN AIR PAVILION
- 8 2500 SF PLAYGROUND
- 9 PUBLIC ART

THIS PLAN IS CONCEPTUAL IN NATURE
AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE



Replacement Community Facilities: Potential Functions and Services

How would you prioritize the CAC recommendations on potential community center functions and services? Please number the recommendations 1 through 7 in order of priority.

- ___ A weekly programming/activity calendar that prioritizes programs for community seniors and youth such as meeting spaces, youth lunch programs, and tennis associations
- ___ A hiring structure that provides priority employment opportunities for neighborhood residents
- ___ A yearly calendar of community center events that focuses on events that foster community cohesion such as those that highlight/preserve local history, involve meeting with government representatives, and cross-cultural activities
- ___ Programming that provides access to educational and financial resources for community advocacy and self-advocacy
- ___ Health and wellness program for senior residents that utilize replacement community center for program activities
- ___ Volunteer opportunities with priority on neighborhood residents
- ___ Service as location for neighborhood events such as a Saturday Farmers Market or Craft Festival

What are your most important priorities? Why?

Community Mitigation Plan Development: Coordination with Local Organizations

There are potential actions the team can take now to explore ways to coordinate with local organizations to implement CAC recommendations:

CAC Recommendation: Remove barriers to residents' ability to 'age in place'

- Identify local organizations to work with to address needs, including assistance with home repairs, ramp installation, and food security
- Coordinate with local organizations on programs that facilitate ability to age in place such as periodic health screenings and health/wellness educational materials
- Research community block grants and other opportunities for financial assistance

CAC Recommendation: Prefer small businesses vested in the community

- Look for existing programs such as a Saturday Farmers Market or Craft Festival

CAC Recommendation: Potential partnerships with local college nursing programs to develop health and wellness program for senior residents

- Research existing programs to see if there is an opportunity to work with local college nursing program to develop health/wellness programs for senior residents and utilize replacement community center for program activities

What are your thoughts on these proposed next steps?

Outreach Plans for 2020

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ENGAGEMENT TOOLS



Which community events would you prioritize for EJ outreach?

| EVENT | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|
| Summer Block Party | Build trust and engage residents in the EJ neighborhoods with a block party; possibly combine with other events (Hunger-Free Summer, Back-to-School Supply Fair, health screenings, etc.) |
| Hunger-free Summer | Partner with neighborhood organizations to access those impacted by food shortages |
| Summer Learning Loss Activities | Partner with Charleston County School District and community centers to identify learning activities available for children |
| Back to School Supply Fair | Coordinate with the City of North Charleston to host a back-to-school supply pick-up event (and other organizations) prior to the start of the school year |
| Fall/Halloween Giveaway | Provide a candy and toothbrush giveaway on Halloween at the community centers in the EJ neighborhoods |
| Care Packages for Seniors | Partner with organizations (AARP, Trident United Way, etc.) to give care packages to senior citizens (i.e., socks, masks, bottles of hand sanitizer, etc.) |
| Thanksgiving Raffle/ Secret Santa Raffle | Provide a turkey or \$25 gift card to Walmart as a drawing for those attending. This event could be held at the Community Office, but publicized in the EJ neighborhoods |

Outreach Update

- Community Office Data: April 1-24, 2020
 - Call-ins: 2 calls
 - Outreach Calls: 8 calls
 - Voicemails: 4 calls
- COVID:
 - The Community Office is closed to visitors, but Office Manager Horrace Tobin is onsite daily to address concerns and requests received by email, postal mail, and phone.
 - Right-of-Way Liaisons are not currently scheduling face-to-face appointments but are handling related requested received in the Community Office by phone.
- Status update on events postponed due to COVID

Summary and Next Steps

- Confirm schedule for upcoming CAC Meetings: June 6, 2020
- 6/6/20 agenda to include update on mitigation plan development, providing available details and gathering additional feedback on potential housing mitigation



MEETING MINUTES

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 8

Date: May 2, 2020

Time: 10:00 am – 12:07 pm

Location: Adobe Connect Virtual Meeting

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees

Larenda Baxley, Ferndale
Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale
Gilbert Reeves, Ferndale
Rev. David L. Johnson, Ferndale
Angela Anderson, Russelldale
Ruth Mae Whitney, Highland Terrace
Jeanaris Bannister, Liberty Park
Carolyn Varner, Liberty Park
Doris Twiggs, 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
Clay Middleton, Maximum Consulting
Janelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies

Participant Summary:

Total participants: 26

Ferndale: 4

Highland Terrace: 1

Liberty Park: 3

Russelldale: 1

Adjacent/affected communities/agencies: 2

SCDOT: 3

FHWA: 2

Community Liaisons: 4

Community Office: 1

Stantec: 4

Facilitator: 1

Meeting Summary:

Welcome and Introductions

- LaTonya conducted a roll call, verifying participants connecting by phone only
- Janelle welcomed and thanked the CAC members and participants for joining the meeting via Adobe Connect and reminded everyone the meeting would be recorded for accuracy of meeting minutes
- An overview of the agenda was provided
 - Review of administrative items
 - Open Mic session
 - Potential Site Layout for Replacement Community Facilities
 - Replacement Community Facilities: Potential Functions and Services

- Community Mitigation Plan Development: Coordination with Local Organizations
- Outreach Plans for 2020
- Outreach Update
- Summary & Next Steps

Administrative Items

- LaTonya served as the host and contact for technical issues throughout the meeting.
- Jamelle provided overview of Adobe Connect features and logistics
 - Chat room (general and private discussions); chat dialogue will be saved
 - Raise hands
 - All participants had access to Adobe Connect, paper copy of CAC Meeting #8 meeting packet, and phone connection
- Review of virtual meeting etiquette
- CAC Meeting #7 minutes approved

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. Time was taken to allow CAC members and other participants to share insights regarding impacts related to the pandemic.

CAC members provided no comments or questions.

A general overview of the steps the CAC has taken to date was provided, in which meetings one through five included brainstorming sessions while meetings six and seven allowed CAC members to focus more on specific community needs. Although the project team and CAC have not developed a draft mitigation plan, discussions and resulting documents are beginning to lay the groundwork for potential mitigation plans related to the four pillars identified in the Mitigation Work Session (CAC Meeting #6) including: Community Cohesion, Community Enhancement, Community Preservation, and Community Revitalization. The CAC will begin to move from meetings that are solely devoted to brainstorming into discussions about the potential actions required to put plans into place. CAC members were asked to share any observations or to ask any questions arising since CAC Meeting 7 (April 18, 2020).

CAC members provided no comments or questions.

Potential Site Layout for Replacement Community Facilities

Ryan reviewed potential site layouts for the replacement community center. He emphasized that the layouts were conceptual drawings to give the CAC an opportunity to provide feedback on improving the plans.

Project design team considerations:

- Focus potentially on a single, larger community center
- The project team will need to identify multiple adjacent parcels that can accommodate a larger facility based in Liberty Park
 - Designed to meet the CAC's request for a facility that would provide meeting spaces for various programs

- Focus on children in the community to ensure they have a safe place to congregate and play, and that would provide constructive activities
- Landscaping and common areas for neighbors to safely congregate and host a variety of community events; Open space is important because they will provide opportunities for community cohesion
- Small parcel, pocket park proposed for the Russelldale community

Filbin Creek Community Center

- City of North Charleston is proposing a greenway along Filbin Creek which will provide a direct connection to various areas of Liberty Park. Other features include:
 - Parking along Dorothy Williams Boulevard
 - Parking at the main facility with access from Elder Avenue
 - There is a separate parcel (#9 on layout) south of Filbin Creek with the potential for additional parking on the creek side edge of the property
 - Parking and accessibility from various parts of the community were considered in the design
 - Walkability between various greenways and amenities within the facility
 - The main facility includes a gym, classrooms, and office space in an effort to provide residents with a multipurpose facility that will also accommodate the elderly and children
 - Pollinator loop and birdboxes to enhance the wildlife element of the park
 - Space for a community garden, educational wetlands
 - Playgrounds, pavilions, picnic areas
 - A multi-use sports field
 - A pedestrian bridge over Filbin bridge to provide connectivity to the north and south sides of the park and community
 - A turf amphitheater
- Joy stressed that this is the first round of conceptual drawings. SCDOT is talking to property owners. Several of the proposed lots are owned by the City of North Charleston. Several are not. Conceptual models were developed for two purposes: (1) To start the conversation with the CAC about what they want in the space and (2) for use when talking with property owners to give them an idea of what SCDOT would do with the property. Joy stated that the layout presented represents a conservative model of what the layout may look like and that SCDOT would like to purchase more land than what is displayed on the layout. SCDOT could spread out the design if more land can be acquired.

CAC Member Feedback:

- Will Filbin Creek Community Center serve all represented communities (Liberty Park, Highland Terrace, Russelldale, Joppa Way, and Ferndale)? (Bannister, J.)
 - The proposed facility will provide a much larger facility for the broader community. (White, R.)
 - One of the reasons it makes sense to have one larger community center is because SCDOT is asking North Charleston to enhance services (activities and programs) and to provide staff and an operations budget for daily operations. If three facilities are built, the City is much less likely to provide the same level or quality of services than with a single facility. (Riley, J.)
- How do we prevent repeating past practices in which community center activities are not tailored to community members/residents? How do we ensure the community center remains for the community so that we maintain access and don't lose the community "feel?" (Johnson, D.)
 - An Intergovernmental Agreement will be developed between SCDOT and the City of North Charleston to specify what the community center will have to include. Because of way the City

develops programming, they will have to have some flexibility because they have to engineer and build the facility and be able to make it work, from a permitting and programming perspective. SCDOT will give the City the funds to do that, as well as initial funds to start specific programs the CAC is asking the City to set up in the agreement. The City will be committing to setting all this up then operating and maintaining it throughout the life of the community center. The CAC can stipulate some requirements, but those are things that will have to be negotiated with the City. The first step is for the CAC to come up with what they want. The CAC will need to develop their “asks,” after which SCDOT will negotiate with the City. We will have meetings with CAC members and with the City to prepare to have those conversations as constituents of the City of North Charleston. The CAC has a powerful voice in making decisions in the communities that affect them (Riley, J.)

- CAC members were encouraged to provide feedback from both a personal perspective but also from the standpoint of the broader needs of respective communities (White, R.)

Highland Terrace Community Pocket Park

- The Highland Terrace pocket park layout was designed taking into consideration the proposed improvements to I-26. Based on interchange modifications, additional lanes will be added to I-26 which will require Taylor Street to be realigned. As a result, the project team has a smaller footprint (a smaller amount of land) to design the pocket park, while trying to maintain as many of the original intended features as possible:
 - On-street parking and sidewalks on Taylor Street. The project team will continue to evaluate the sidewalks and mid-block crossing based on the location of the current crossing near Taylor Street.
 - Basketball courts
 - Open air pavilion and benches, picnic tables and playground
 - The primary original feature discussed by the CAC team (not included in the conceptual drawing) was a multipurpose building. However, the need in this area for a multipurpose building is intended to be filled by a larger Filbin Creek Community Center.
 - It was reiterated that this design was based on the available property that will remain after the I-26 widening.

CAC Member Feedback:

- CAC member enthusiastically supported the idea of having activities, such as basketball courts, on the back end of the property as opposed to its current location on the front end, where traffic is higher. (Twiggs, D.)
- Is it possible to use meeting spaces at the Russelldale Community Center since the Highland Terrace pocket park will not have a meeting space? (Bannister, J.)
 - CAC members were reminded that the existing community center (at Russelldale) will be impacted by the I-26 improvements. That facility will no longer exist, but that is why the design of the larger, Filbin Creek Community Center is so important. The project team has an opportunity to redesign the current layout to include more open space. The conceptual layout presented to the CAC had the same number of basketball courts as the current Russelldale facility, but more open space can be incorporated into the design if there is a need. (White, R.)
 - Both pocket parks have open air pavilions with benches or picnic tables for outdoor type events. We could also look at doing covered spaces with picnic tables for instance near the bird park. The project team is asking for the CAC’s preferences for these locations. (Riley, J.)

- The question was asked about CAC members' concern for the lack of enclosed space or open space. If there is a concern with open space the design team can review the plan to identify more open space for activities. If there is a concern at this particular location because you're looking for an enclosed building, that is something that will need to be revisited as well. (White, R.)
- CAC Member had two concerns: (1) to have a recreational space for the children and (2) for an enclosed space for the entire community to use, specifically seniors. If Filbin Creek Community Center will fill those requests and needs then the CAC member accepts closed spaces only at the Filbin Creek Community Center. (Bannister, J.)
- CAC members were asked which proposed amenities designed to enhance the pocket park would they remove from the design if they had to sacrifice a feature or what tradeoffs is the CAC willing to make? In order to provide a closed-space facility, what amenities would the CAC be willing to give up in the current proposal? (White, R.)
 - It was reiterated that the design team would be informed that having the park near the back of the neighborhood is a plus. They will continue to work on designs with open-air, covered, and enclosed facilities. (White, R.)
- CAC member asked, as the project team looks at the size of the facility, please consider that because there are times when it is very warm outside, it is especially challenging for seniors who would not be as comfortable outside as the children. If the team can bring back to the CAC sizes and scales of the proposed facility, it would provide a better frame of reference when considering the pocket park. CAC member indicated they don't want to shortchange activities and facilities they've asked for by having pocket parks that don't provide ample space. They do not want to go through this process feeling as if they did not do a good job researching this for the community. CAC member asked that the project team bring options back to the CAC to review. (Twiggs, D.)
- One of the concerns discussed in previous meetings was ease of travel for seniors. It would be more convenient for seniors to have a path to community centers when they don't have to go over railroad tracks or highways. Seniors should have priority in being able to access the Filbin Creek Community Center, particularly if they demonstrate they are members of the community. Regarding the Highland Terrace Pocket Park, CAC member suggests thinking about indoor enclosed facility. If there is no way to construct an indoor site at Highland Terrace, then the community should have full access to the Filbin Creek Community Center. (Muhammad, E.)
 - Community liaison inquired about the distance between the Filbin Creek, Russelldale, and Highland Terrace sites. Stated that knowing the distance between sites would determine the feasibility of enclosed buildings in the pocket parks. If the Filbin Creek site is within walking distance of the pocket parks, there may be no need for enclosed structures at the pocket parks. During the day it may be difficult to find personnel that can keep the building open and staffed based on the City of North Charleston's typical allocation of funds. CAC members may want to think about Filbin Creek Community Center as the center for all of their activities and pocket parks used for outdoor activities as opposed to having a building that will be closed most of the time. (Lecque, M.)
 - It is less than one-half mile between the proposed Highland Park and Filbin Creek locations. From one parcel to the next is less than one-third mile. Access is important because of how the interstate intersects the neighborhood and there is a considerable population on both sides. Noting the short distance and accessibility issues, we will ask the design team to consider other

options available to provide an enclosed structure for indoor activities at the Highland Terrace Pocket Park. (Derrick, L.)

- In response to concerns about access, once North Charleston assumes operations at the new community center, the project team and CAC should consider putting in place a mitigation monitoring plan. As the CAC transitions more into an oversight committee, post construction, the project team can build in meeting times and some type of monitoring to ensure the goals of the CAC in having the community center open and accessible to all members of the community and that their needs are being met. (Long, C.)

Russelldale Community Pocket Park

Features include:

- Located at the corner of Rockingham Street and Rebecca Street
- There is limited space at this location which both limits amenities, but also helps determine which amenities may be included at a site. The design team has a goal to incorporate as much open space as possible
- Park benches, pavilion, 2,500 square foot playground, shrubs, public art
- There is an L-shaped drive that wraps around the park which connects Rebecca Street and Rockingham Street
 - Current layout has more open space; but if CAC members think there should be another basketball court at this location, the design team will include it. As with the Highland Terrace Pocket Park, if a feature like basketball courts is included in the design, there will be a tradeoff. CAC member will have to decide what is more important for this location. Is it open space? Basketball courts? Combined open space and basketball courts? CAC members were asked to keep in mind the community is losing the existing basketball courts at the Russelldale Community Center (White, R.)
- CAC member expressed that it appears Russelldale is getting the short end of the deal because they are losing a whole community center, and the basketball courts, and currently they are not getting the basketball courts back as a part of the proposed plan. While she understands not having an enclosed meeting space on the small parcel, she feels that the neighborhood children will have to walk to Highland Terrace Pocket Park if they want to play basketball. Russelldale should at least get a half court for the children who live in that community. Requiring children to walk from Russelldale to Highland Terrace Pocket Park or Filbin Creek Community Center creates a safety issue. (Anderson, A,)
 - That is something we can incorporate and still try to find the balance between basketball courts and open spaces and provide an updated concept. We may be able to reduce the size of the driveway to get more space for the pocket park. (White, R,)
- What is the distance between Russelldale and Filbin Creek? This is important because Russelldale has many residents who don't have cars and primarily walk most places. (Anderson, A.)
 - The walking/driving distance between the existing Highland Terrace Community Center and the Elder Avenue entrance to the Filbin Creek Community Center is 0.4-mile. The walking/driving distance between the existing Russelldale Community Center and the April Avenue/Flora Street entrance to the Filbin Creek Community Center (at #8 on the site plan) is 0.4-mile. The walking/driving distance from the existing Russelldale Community Center to the

- Elder Avenue entrance of the Filbin Creek Community Center via Dorothy Williams Boulevard and James Bell Drive would be 0.7-mile. (Sackaroff, A., via chat window)
- LaTonya shared Google Earth in the Adobe Connect display with pins on the locations of the proposed Filbin Creek Community Center and the existing parcel on which the Highland Terrace Pocket Park would be developed (reduced footprint of existing HT-LP CC). She presented a measured distance of less than 0.4 miles (lines) from pin to pin.
 - The design team will focus on adding a basketball court, maximizing open space so that it is a multi-use park, while maintaining the playground (White, R.)

Replacement Community Facilities: Potential Functions and Services

- Brief discussion about the importance of prioritizing functions and services at the various community centers for residents based on CAC recommendations from previous meetings. This will help prioritize the CAC's "asks" when they meet with the city of North Charleston (White, R.)
- No CAC response to this question at this time, but Ryan stressed the importance of CAC feedback on developing priorities list prior to plan discussions with the city

Community Mitigation Plan Development: Coordination with Local Organizers

- Clay Middleton was introduced as a new member of the Maximum Consulting team who was charged with leading the discussion on coordination with local organizations (Smith, M.)
- Maximum Consulting has been charged with identifying potential courses of action to move forward as the CAC transitions into the oversight committee (Middleton, C.)
- These topics were discussed as potential actions the team can take now to explore ways to coordinate with local organizations in order to implement CAC recommendations including:
 - Removing barriers to residents ability to 'age in place'
 - Home repairs and food insecurity, health and wellness, and community development block grants in financial assistance
 - Preference for small businesses vested in the community
 - Discussion about support from minority owned businesses in North Charleston
 - Potential partnerships with local college nursing programs to develop health and wellness programs for senior residents
 - Discussion about entities and organizations with related resources
- Would need to identify specific homes in which residents are homebound and have food insecurity. This information would allow Maximum Consulting to develop a plan for how these organizations may meet individual level needs
- Pointed out that the USDA has food programs that are available throughout the year
- Noted that there are additional organizations like the Tri-County Black Nurses Association (not listed under health and wellness on the slide)
- Recommended scheduling a meeting with the City of North Charleston's CDBG programs
- If you have relationships with anyone who serves in an official or volunteer capacity with any local organizations, we welcome your engagement with them so that we can foster relationships more quickly (Derrick, L.)

- Maximum Consulting is prepared to move forward immediately with helping CAC members make connections with any of the organizations listed. For instance, there is a way to enlist the help of youth with Palmetto CAP in conducting some of the assessments that will be needed for those with food insecurities or in need of home repairs (Middleton, C.)
- In response to the lists, CAC member stated he has spoken to a couple of the organizations on the list on behalf of Ferndale and they indicated that their funding is limited to certain areas, which often did not include Ferndale communities or Liberty Park, especially as it relates to community block grants. Would the CAC be speaking with the City of North Charleston CDBG group about including these areas moving forward? (Johnson, D.)
 - Block grants would include these areas. In reference to how these areas ‘age in place,’ the organizations listed are those that can assist with that. As it relates to CDBG funds, it is typically a year-long process for a group to be included in future programming. (Middleton, C.)
- My concern is still that although we are reviewing nice conceptual plans once the pandemic is over, the City remains responsible for making sure everything is still in place fiscally. How do we ensure that funds are not diverted from community needs (related to the use of the community center) and that the City will not start renting out the new community center to outside parties to adjust for current economic losses? CAC Member does not want the community needs to be put on the backburner but wants to ensure that the CAC actually becomes a project oversight group. CAC Member is also concerned the communities will experience a repeat of what is happening now with a lot of the communities’ residents being pushed out. (Johnson, D.)
 - I would suggest as we move forward especially as the CAC transitions to project oversight that an assessment be done to say here is how we move forward despite living in a COVID-19 environment. But because of COVID-19, there will be resources available at the federal level provided to the City of North Charleston to help because people will have a longer recovery period. Federal resources will be available to remove that barrier. (Middleton, C.)
- We have to ensure that we have the power to enforce and monitor what is happening in our communities because everything sounds good now but if we don't put plans in place to ensure the community benefits this will be a waste of time. (Muhammad, E.)
- If we want to add organizations to the list, will we have the ability to do so? We have veterans who are homeless and who have medical problems. Do we have a relationship with the veterans administration downtown Charleston? (Muhammad, E.)
 - Trident Technical College has a veterans upward bound, one of the few in the country, that services veterans from the educational standpoint and also for other resources. We also have the VA center in North Charleston that will visit your office or conduct events to review the services such as getting access to health care or helping people with their claims. Through the VA, there is an annual event that focuses on homelessness and getting veterans who are not a part of the VA into the VA system so they can receive the wrap-around services. There will be opportunities to specify veterans issues and concerns throughout this process. Some of these activities can happen parallel to the mitigation. We can have a focus workshop to provide a veteran focused workshop. (Middleton, C.)
- Do we contact you or the office with any recommendations of other organizations? Also, we have a mixed community of different ethnicities. Will we be able to accommodate diverse groups? we need

to have organizations that can work with people from all different ethnicities on health issues. (Muhammad, E.)

- All service providers will provide printed materials in Spanish and will be able to speak Spanish as well as to make sure you can mitigate effectively (Middleton, C.)
- As Mr. Middleton indicated, there are several organizations that can be contacted now in order to initiate services for the community. The key, when we made some of these recommendations that are on the list, is that some of them served as barriers. You have to jump through hurdles to get their services. The other thing is having knowledge of how quickly you can get their services. And it is a turn off when someone tries to get services and they are put on a list. If they are even contacted is a long time before their issues are addressed (Twiggs, D.)
- [To Mr. Middleton] Would you be able to come back to us from time to time and keep us abreast of what's out there? How active can we be with getting these services so that when we talk to people in the community, we will have a connection and there will not be a long wait or barriers they will have to go through? (Twiggs, D.)
- For example, ramp installations can be done on a local level despite national and global issues (Twiggs, D.)
 - The only thing I would emphasize is knowing what the assessment is. Who are the individuals in your communities that need a ramp or a roof repaired or their homes weatherized? By having an itemized list of needs we can approach planning holistically. (Middleton, C.)
 - Maximum Consulting will begin assisting families in the Liberty Park community when Ms. Twiggs is able to provide them with a list. (Smith, M.)
 - Maximum Consulting's purpose is to get in touch with 'the powers to be' and give you that point of contact. You are the voice for the community. You have a lot of power. There are services that can help identify underlying reasons for homelessness in the veteran population. (Lecque, M.)
 - Joy clarified that the two primary goals of this project include focus on developing the mitigation plan and on doing outreach in the community. Part of that is identifying resources for the community that they may not be an aware of. We have an opportunity to bring those types of meetings or discussions to the community through the community office for the next decade. We can facilitate partnerships with some of those organizations through the mitigation plan that will last beyond the life of this project. (Riley, J.)

Minority owned businesses in North Charleston

- There are a number of locally owned businesses that we can go to that would provide sponsorship and lend their expertise through workshops or services that support the needs of the community.
- We can also have mobile festivals or culturally based festivals in your communities (Middleton, C.)

Potential partnerships with local college nursing programs

- These programs can come to the community or to the community office to provide health programs. It is our task to figure out when they can come to the community office or to individual homes once assessments have been made (Middleton, C.)
- May consider establishing a relationship with MUSC to do mobile health care units throughout the neighborhood (Ellis, J.)

- Charleston County and MUSC have recently partnered to provide mobile health care services. This is a service that may be available to the represented communities but we have to ensure there are enough people to support the program. They may be willing to provide a mobile unit at the community office as well. (Middleton, C.)

Outreach plans for 2020

- CAC provided guidance and feedback on how they would like to see the community office used those responses will be shared with the CAC before meeting #9. (Derrick, L.)
- CAC was asked to prioritize community events for EJ outreach in 2020
- Once we get an all clear from SCDHEC and the CDC regarding when we can have group events, we will know how to best proceed with planning for how many events we can have between now and the end of 2020. Carolyn will discuss how we can combine events if we are unable to have all 7 events. (Smith, M.)
- Everything will depend on the pandemic. We will need residents from communities to help with those events because people want to see familiar faces so volunteers will come from the neighborhoods (Lecque, C.)
- Carolyn provide an overview of the Seven proposed events the CAC identified as the top three EJ outreach events:
 - Care packages for seniors
 - Summer learning activities
 - Back to school supply fair

The CAC will be contacted to determine how they would like to proceed with planning these events.

CAC Member feedback:

- Supports moving forward with EJ outreach events. Committed to being engaged when the project begins. (Bannister, J.)
- Support rotating outreach EJ events throughout the represented communities on some frequency. (Muhammad, E.)
- Expressed concerns about identifying a realistic way of getting neighbors to participate in neighborhood council meetings. They have had challenges with consistent participation for years. Any help with getting community members consistently engaged would be appreciated. (Baxley, T.)
 - It may take a few of us getting started, then others will join in. It is important that neighborhoods work together to effect the change that we want to see. It is her experience that neighborhood councils are not easy, but she encouraged CAC members not to give up. Suggested inviting kids and seniors to attract more people. (Lecque, C.)
 - Please access the link which includes additional events for the CAC to vote. Not only can the CAC vote on the top three preferences, you can also provide additional suggestions in the recommendation section of the poll. Please share as much as you can. Suggestions may also be provided to LaTonya anonymously. (Derrick, L.)
- Round Robins are a great idea. CAC member committed to engaging in events (Baxley, T.)

Outreach Update

Provided by Horrace Tobin

Community Office update for April 1-24, 2020

- Received two incoming calls
- Placed eight outgoing calls
- Responded to four voice messages

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 handling related requests received in the community office by phone.

Status update on events postponed due to COVID

- Black Expo has been rescheduled for June 20th at the North Charleston Coliseum from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM. Confirmation of this event will be shared with LaTonya for distribution to the team. (Smith, M.)

Summary and Next Steps

- Topics for CAC Meeting #9 will include a discussion of outcomes from an upcoming meeting scheduled with the City of North Charleston where we will be providing them with feedback received from the CAC during the mitigation workshop. The project team will relay outcomes from that meeting back to the CAC on June 6th. During our next meeting we will focus on transition from CAC to the project oversight committee. We will be discussing how to include advocacy training to ensure everyone is on the same page in terms of roles and responsibilities in the project oversight committee. We will also discuss the potential housing mitigation update.
- Supplemental information from today's meeting will be provided with the invitation and materials for meeting #9. If maps or other information is requested by community members, please have them call the Community Office and Mr. Tobin will coordinate delivery of requested materials.
- Joy and Chad thanked everyone for their time, input, and participation at this meeting
- Pam thanked everyone for their time and active participation. She thanked the team and the CAC for their time wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day, and sent congratulations to everyone with 2020 graduates

CAC meeting #9 is scheduled for June 6, 2020 beginning at 10:00 AM until 11:30 AM. Look for updates from LaTonya on the format that will be used for this meeting.

Name: _____



Community Advisory Council
CAC Meeting #9

June 6, 2020

How to Join the Meeting!

- ***Reference your Adobe Connect Quick Start Guide from Meeting No. 7 packet***
- Call: **1-800-753-1965**
- Enter Access Number: **7236718**

Agenda

- Welcome
- 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

Administrative Items

- Technology check
- Review virtual meeting etiquette
- Confirm CAC members have all meeting materials
 - Meeting packet
 - Minutes from CAC Meeting No. 8
- Approve minutes for CAC Meeting No. 8

Open Mic

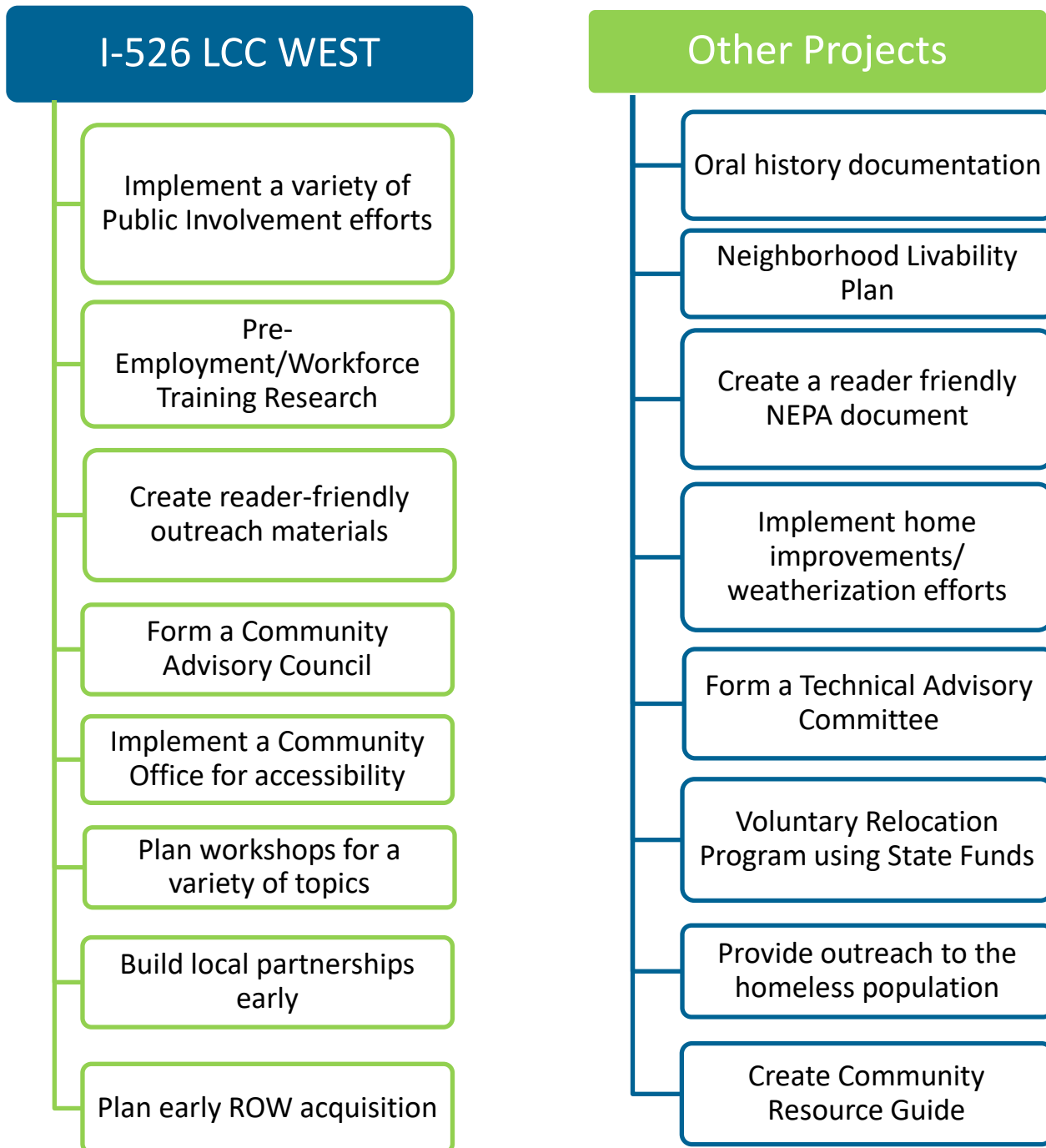


*Are there unanswered questions from the last meeting?
Are there other items you would like to
bring up with the CAC or project team?*

*Did you speak to any neighbors or residents who have
comments for the project team?*

FHWA Environmental Justice Peer Exchange

The purpose of the FHWA EJ Peer Exchange was to assist SCDOT in developing EJ mitigation strategies for the I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST project. Four mentor projects from Ohio, Texas, and Colorado were identified as having similar urban settings and impacts to EJ communities. The following chart shows I-526 mitigation/outreach efforts and ideas that were shared by SCDOT along with examples of effective mitigation concepts and practices presented by the other state DOTs.



Meeting with the City of North Charleston

The I-526 LCC WEST project team met with the City of North Charleston on May 19, 2020 to provide a project status update and facilitate future coordination.

CAC Listening Session

Purpose: Coordinate meetings between the CAC and the City of N. Charleston to voice concerns, address expectations, and verify a spirit of cooperation with implementing relevant portions of the mitigation plan.

- City of N. Charleston staff/SCDOT/CAC listening session
 - Date: June 16, 2020
 - Time: 6 – 8 pm
 - Location: Montague Terrace at North Charleston Coliseum & Performing Arts Center

Monthly Coordination Meetings

- Technical Coordination Meeting: Meeting between the City of N. Charleston and SCDOT to evaluate technical aspects of the mitigation requests. Meetings start June 24, 2020. Items to discuss include, but are not limited to:
 - Sidewalk connectivity improvements
 - Replacement recreational facilities, staffing, and programs
 - Transit stops and coordination with Rivers Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
 - Neighborhood street improvements
- CAC/City of N. Charleston Coordination Meetings:
 - After listening session, SCDOT/N. Charleston to develop schedule for coordination meetings

Other Items of Interest

- Mitigation Grant – N. Charleston received a \$250,000 planning grant to evaluate Filbin Creek watershed.
 - Provides opportunity for SCDOT to coordinate I-526 LCC WEST Filbin Creek mitigation efforts with City of N. Charleston

Meeting with the City of North Charleston, continued

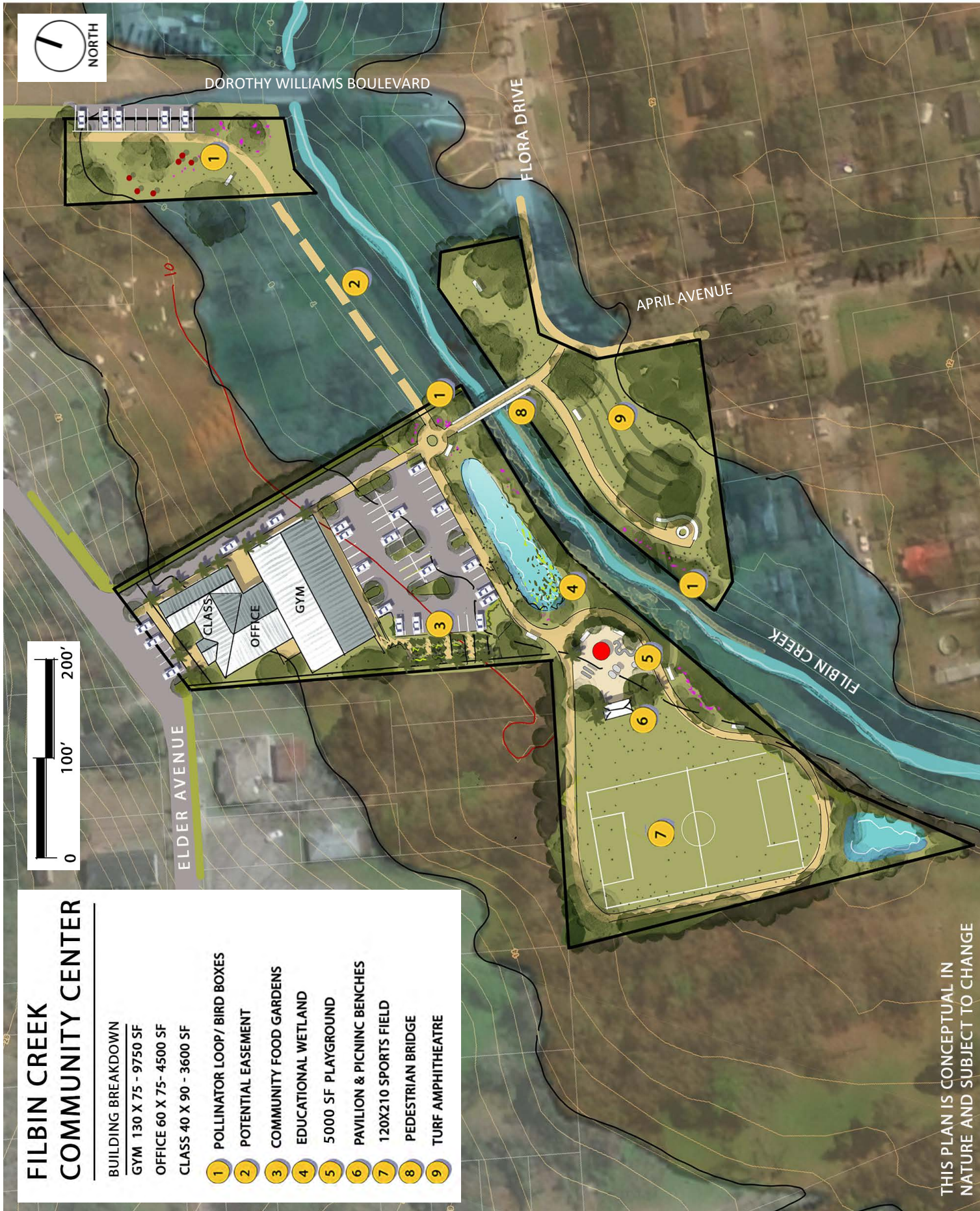
Conceptual Recreational Facility Renderings

Determine how the City of N. Charleston will be involved in the long-term sustainability of the replacement recreation facilities. SCDOT would provide funding for resources, land, and facilities; however, agreements with the City would need to be developed related to mitigation implementation/operations and maintenance/or other City commitments to ensure **long-term success**.

- Filbin Creek Community Center
 - Need to weigh importance of spectator space in the gymnasium?

- Highland Terrace/Russelldale Community Parks
 - Recommend larger indoor facilities – Need to be larger than 800 square feet to meet Recreation Department program requirements. City of N. Charleston Parks and Recreation Department will provide a recommendation for appropriate building size.
 - Due to limited space at the Highland Terrace park site, the proposed half-basketball court may need to be removed to accommodate a larger building

Replacement Community Facilities Conceptual Plans: Update



FILBIN CREEK COMMUNITY CENTER

BUILDING BREAKDOWN
 GYM 130 X 75 - 9750 SF
 OFFICE 60 X 75 - 4500 SF
 CLASS 40 X 90 - 3600 SF

- 1 POLLINATOR LOOP/ BIRD BOXES
- 2 POTENTIAL EASEMENT
- 3 COMMUNITY FOOD GARDENS
- 4 EDUCATIONAL WETLAND
- 5 5000 SF PLAYGROUND
- 6 PAVILION & PICNIC BENCHES
- 7 120X210 SPORTS FIELD
- 8 PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
- 9 TURF AMPHITHEATRE

THIS PLAN IS CONCEPTUAL IN NATURE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Replacement Community Facilities Conceptual Plans: Update



VERSION 2 RUSSELDALE COMMUNITY POCKET PARK

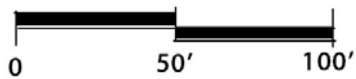
- 1 IMPROVED CROSSWALKS
- 2 FLOWERING SHRUBS AND
PARK SIGNAGE
- 3 PRIVACY PLANTING
- 4 BASKETBALL COURT
- 5 TRICYCLE LOOP
- 6 800SF BUILDING
- 7 15' X 30' OPEN AIR PAVILION
- 8 2500 SF PLAYGROUND
- 9 PUBLIC ART

THIS PLAN IS CONCEPTUAL IN NATURE
AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Replacement Community Facilities Conceptual Plans: Update



Replacement Community Facilities Conceptual Plans: Update



VERSION 3 HIGHLAND TERRACE COMMUNITY POCKET PARK

- 1 OPEN AIR PAVILION AND BENCHES
- 2 ON STREET PARKING
- 3 HALF COURT BASKETBALL
- 4 FULL COURT BASKETBALL
- 5 900 SF BUILDING
- 6 4000 SF PLAYGROUND
- 7 SIDEWALK CONNECTION
- 8 IMPROVE CROSS WALKS

THIS PLAN IS CONCEPTUAL IN NATURE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Draft Community Mitigation Framework

Potential Mitigation Actions to discuss with City of N. Charleston

- Community center functions, staffing, and services
- Improved access/connectivity to community centers
- Address current and potential safety issues
- Maintain public spaces – consistent garbage pick up
- Transit stop improvements and connectivity
- Maintain community fabric

Are there other potential mitigation actions that should be added to the conversation with the City of N. Charleston?

On-going efforts

- Quantifying project impacts to better define mitigation measures
“Project impacts drive the mitigation”
- Bi-weekly work sessions to refine the mitigation measures
- Investigating the development of a Community Livability Study
- Assessing programs identified during EJ Peer Exchange to improve implementation of mitigation measures

Engaging with Elected and Appointed Officials



Understanding the Scope and Limitations of Primary Stakeholders

- SCDOT
- FHWA
- City of North Charleston
- Community Advisory Council



Goals and Expectations

- What is the goal of the meeting?
- What does the list of “asks” include?
- What does the CAC consider realistic expectations regarding feedback?



Meeting Preparation, Engagement, and Interactions

- Ask questions comfortably
- Meeting behavior
- Information exchange: receiving and delivering information effectively when in dialogue
- Offensive vs non-offensive interactions



Next Steps

- Need for additional resources or training? Format?
- North Charleston Meeting logistics

Community Livability Plan

What is a “Livable Community?”

“Livable community” – equitable access for all residents to education, jobs, healthcare, food, housing, as well as diverse opportunities in arts, culture, and recreation

What is a Community Livability Plan and why is it being developed?

A Community Livability Plan should, at a minimum, serve as a tool that:

- Establishes a vision for the future of the community
- Identifies needs and coordinates resources and partnerships beyond the scope of the I-526 project mitigation efforts
- Promotes collaboration while restoring a spirit of community that unifies a neighborhood

| Potential Livability Plan Components | Mitigation Action |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Public Safety | Crime / Surveillance |
| | Speeding |
| Community Appearance | Abandoned/Overgrown lots |
| | Improve Sense of Neighborhood Pride/Common Area/Landscaping/signs |
| | Maintain Public Spaces |
| Long-term Community Cohesion | Implement Cohesion Activities |
| | Advocacy Training |
| | Prioritize Small Businesses |
| | Maintain Community Fabric |
| Public Health | Stormwater / flooding |

Partnership with the College of Charleston Riley Center for Livable Communities

- SCDOT is evaluating partnering with the Riley Center as a local resource to assist the project team, working in conjunction with the CAC, to develop a Community Livability Plan for the EJ neighborhoods

Update on Coordination with Local Organizations

The **Community Resource Guide** has been developed as a supplemental resource for the CAC to use before, during and after the I-526 LCC WEST project. This guide helps identify local organizations and contacts that may be able to assist the neighborhood residents with the following categories:

1. Food Insecurities
2. Health & Wellness
3. Home Repairs
4. Financial Assistance
5. Minority-Owned Businesses
6. Referral Agencies

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, many listed entities are still closed. The project team will confirm contact information and other details once local organization begin to open back up. Once finalized, the project team will use this guide to start forming relationships with local organizations to initiate potential mitigation opportunities.

The project team will continue to update a **Community Resource Guide** that has been developed for the Community Advisory Council. Please include this list in your notebooks for future reference.

Please take a moment to review the list of community resources provided. Are you aware of additional entities that should be included on this list?

Outreach Update

- Community Office Data: April 27 – May 22, 2020
 - Call-ins: 5
 - Outreach Calls: 3
 - Voicemails: 3
- COVID:
 - The Community Office is closed to visitors, but Office Manager Horrace Tobin is onsite daily to address concerns and requests 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 your Meeting #7 packet.

How can we best reach your neighbors to gather feedback on potential mitigation ideas?

Summary and Next Steps

- Confirm schedule for upcoming CAC Meetings: First Saturday in July falls on July 4th – propose meeting on July 11th as an alternative
- 7/2020 CAC Meeting # 10 agenda to include possible follow-up training session, further discussion on refined mitigation actions, and follow-up on action items from the City of North Charleston Listening Session
- Update on COVID-19/SCDOT Public Engagement Policy



MEETING MINUTES

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, Religious Leader
Angela Anderson, Russelldale
Jeanaris Bannister, Liberty Park
Carolyn Varner, Liberty Park
Doris Twiggs, Liberty Park
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: 2

Highland Terrace: 0

Liberty Park: 4

Russelldale: 1

Adjacent/affected communities/agencies: 3

SCDOT: 3

FHWA: 2

Community Liaisons: 3

Community Office: 1

Stantec: 4

Facilitator: 1

Meeting Summary:

Welcome and Introductions

- LaTonya conducted roll call, verifying participants connecting by phone only. She also served as host and technical contact to address any issues with Adobe Connect or phone connections during the meeting.
- Janelle welcomed and thanked CAC members and participants for joining the meeting via Adobe Connect and reminded everyone the meeting would be recorded for accuracy of meeting minutes. She also provided a few words of encouragement to the team as our country navigates through a national pandemic and civil unrest.
- 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

Administrative Items

- Jamelle provided a brief review of Adobe Connect features and logistics
 - Chat room (general and private discussions); chat dialogue will be saved
 - Raise hands feature
 - All participants had access to Adobe Connect, paper copy of CAC Meeting #9 packet, and phone connection
- Review of virtual meeting etiquette
- CAC Meeting #8 minutes required an edit whereby a comment made by Ms. Carolyn Lecque was attributed to Ms. Mattese Lecque. Modifications will be made accordingly and distributed to the CAC for approval at Meeting #10.

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.

CAC members provided no comments or questions.

CAC Members were asked if there were any unanswered questions from the last meeting, if they shared comments from neighbors or residents, or if there were other items they would like to discuss with the CAC or the project team.

CAC Member feedback:

The I-526 project bus that was provided across from Liberty Park and Russelldale in the shopping center parking lot 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. (Anderson, C.)

- The bus referenced was the tent used at the pop-up events for EJ outreach 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. (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member feedback:

Will security cameras be placed throughout the community, independent of security features placed in and around the recreation facilities? There are ongoing problems with theft (personal and experiences

shared by neighbors). Additionally, incidents of speeding on Taylor Street seem to have worsened. Neighbors have requested help in slowing down speeding traffic on Taylor Street. (Varner, C.)

- Surveillance and speeding throughout neighborhoods will be addressed during this meeting in preparation for our meeting with the City of North Charleston. (White, R.)

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. Outcomes of the peer exchange included: (White, R.)

- 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. It was noted that 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 Advisory 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. (Anderson, C.)

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. Chad 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. LaTonya will contact everyone to ensure proper software or plug-ins in order to participate virtually. She is 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 the 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 (FCCC), Highland Terrace-Liberty Park 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 FCCC 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 they would like to see in the new community center or will we just implement the plan? Also, do we have the property at the Filbin Creek location to build the plan presented in the rendering? (Bannister, J.)

From the outreach perspective, part of the process (once we have presented our draft environmental document and mitigation plan) 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. (White, R.)

The project team is working with the City of North Charleston to secure the large parcel of land (parcel 3 on page 7) 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 (Sackaroff, A.)

CAC Member feedback:

The City of North Charleston just built a brand new athletic facility. How much is the City “tapping” (using) the centers in each of the communities? Perhaps we need to talk with the City to better understand their plan. I'm concerned about the City “threading” all over the place. What will be the extent of their access to all of the recreational and community centers in the city? (Varner, C.)

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. (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

So, we can't make a final decision about Filbin Creek until we understand the logistics of the programming and planning for recreational centers throughout the City of Charleston? (Varner, C.)

[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. (White, R.)

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 success 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. (Sackaroff, A.)

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. (Lecque, C.)

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. In the current pandemic state, 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. (Bannister, J.)

If the senior center is too small, that means the project team may want to prioritize more class space over a full court gymnasium. But, 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. (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

Could you walk me through accessibility to the Filbin Creek Community Center if there are multiple activities being held on site in a given day? (Twiggs, D.)

As a reminder, this is a high-level concept, but what the project team is trying to do is 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. (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

My primary concern is about getting in and out of the property if several activities are held in a given time frame. (Twiggs, D.)

That is part of the refining process – not just focusing on the building features, but the 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. (White, R.)

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? (Muhammad, E.)

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. (White, R.)

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. (White, R.)

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. (White, R.)

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. (Bannister, J.)

The HTPP 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. (White, R.)

(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. (White, R.)

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. (Bannister, J.)

The primary responsibility of SCDOT is to do our best to mitigate for impacts caused by the project. Our goal is 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 some 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 to, at a minimum, match whatever the program requirements are for the programs that are currently being held at the Highland Terrace Community Center. (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

Why can't this program be transferred to Filbin Creek? Instead of trying to build a small building in this location, why not transfer the Highland Terrace programs? I would rather them be in a large, nice building where children have more space for their afterschool programs. (Varner, C.)

The addition of enclosed buildings was a response to comments we received during last month's CAC Meeting 8, where initially we 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. (White, R.)

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. (Lecque, C.)

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. (White, R.)

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. (White, R.)

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. (White, R.)

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 combing, 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 breaks, etc. (Bannister, J.)

Speed bumps, traffic combs 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 there are also issues that will be discussed during the meeting with the City on June 16th. (White, R.)

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. (Anderson, C.)

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. (Anderson, A.)

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 (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

Regarding drainage problems, there are serious issues from Rivers Avenue onto Taylor Street and James Bell. (Bannister, J.)

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 Flood Plains Study (Filbin Creek and Noisette Creek). These issues will be addressed by the technical committee as well as through the livability plan program. (White, R.)

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. (Riley, J.)

Other on-going mitigation efforts include (White, R.):

- 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 (Ellis, J.)

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 (Ellis, J.)

- 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 of the things 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 (Ellis, J.)

- 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, 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 people feel they have not been treated fairly in the past, but there is a way to present your concerns without tarnishing your message. First impressions are important. Your issues are important. But, keep in mind that your issues may be in conflict with how someone else feels what should be done. There is a way you can express yourself without anger. (Lecque, M.)

This is absolutely correct. The goal in preparing for the meeting is not to refrain from sharing information, it is to lay out all of your concerns, but in an organized way. Prepare ahead of time for the discussion. Don’t 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. (Ellis, J.)

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? (Long, C.)

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. (Derrick, L.)

Whatever the project team can do to assist the CAC would be helpful. (Long, C.)

The CAC may add or remove any items from the summary LaTonya provides as they see fit. 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. (Ellis, J.)

Can you provide an administrative person to consolidate the concerns of the CAC? (Anderson, C.)

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. LaTonya will serve as the point person to make sure all information is collected. (Derrick, L.)

Two things to consider: (1) Preparation of compiled and condensed comments collected during the past nine months. (2) Identification of a spokesperson or spokespersons who feel comfortable talking with the City. Long term, it is important that the CAC thinks about who will serve in the role of spokesperson(s) on behalf of the CAC, 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. (Ellis, J.)

[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. (Anderson, C.)

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? (Ellis, J.)

CAC members provided no comments or questions.

LaTonya 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. (Derrick, L.)

Community Livability Plan

- Defines a “livable community” 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 the Riley Center as a local resource to assist the project team, working in conjunction with the CAC to 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 (White, R.)

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. (Smith, M.)

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 has 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.

CAC members provided no comments or questions.

Update on Coordination with Local Organizations (Continued)

Pop-up events will resume when COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted. (Lecque, C.)

- 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 Bible 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: (1) Must have an income of less than \$1,307 for an individual or (2) Must have an income of less than \$1,832 for two people.
 - House people who are temporarily displaced (homeless) in former fire station.
- Maximum currently has a list of volunteers comprised of people who live outside the affected communities. They are in need of 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 (Twiggs, D.)

Received similar feedback from another resident. (Bannister, J.)

Lowcountry Street Grocery will provide weekly food bundles. They are currently seeking more residents who are in need of 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. (White, R.)
- Final roll call was conducted for meeting participants joining by phone only. (Derrick, L.)
- Thanks to everyone for your time and patience as we continue to work through COVID-19 restrictions. (Long, C.)
- Thanks to everyone for your flexibility as we work through a different environment. Thanks to Stantec and SCDOT for providing seamless meetings. Thank you for your efforts. (Jordan, Y.)

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.

Name: _____



Community Advisory Council
CAC Meeting #10

July 11, 2020

How to Join the Meeting!

This will be the first CAC meeting using the Microsoft Teams platform. Please use the link in the meeting invitation email, or call-in using the information below:

- Call: **(833) 436-6264**
- Enter Access Number: **606 243 692#**

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- 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

- Technology check
- Review virtual meeting etiquette
- Confirm CAC members have all meeting materials
 - Meeting packet
- Approve minutes for CAC Meeting No. 9

Open Mic



*Are there unanswered questions from the last meeting?
Are there other items you would like to
bring up with the CAC or project team?*

*Did you speak to any neighbors or residents who have
comments for the project team?*

Debrief: Technical Review Committee Meeting #1

The I-526 LCC WEST project team met with the City of North Charleston on June 24, 2020 to discuss recreational facility amenities and facilitate future coordination.

Key Takeaways

- The City has requested specific details regarding the desired programs as they evaluate square footage and amenity requirements as well as to determine long-term funding commitments.
- The City has hired residents of the neighborhoods in which the Community Centers are located as staff for those sites. If it is not possible to *require* residency status per the Human Resources Department, an option may be to include it as a *preference* on the job listing.
- Because the City wants to continue hosting after-school programs at as many facilities as possible, keeping an indoor facility in Highland Terrace-Liberty Park and Russelldale would be a benefit.
 - Consider removing the half court at Highland Terrace-Liberty Park to increase the size of the indoor facility.
- To assist with identifying options for a pocket park in Russelldale, the City will coordinate with its Code Enforcement Division to determine if there are any abandoned or condemned properties that could be considered.
- Connectivity and traffic calming will be discussed at Technical Review Committee Meeting #2.

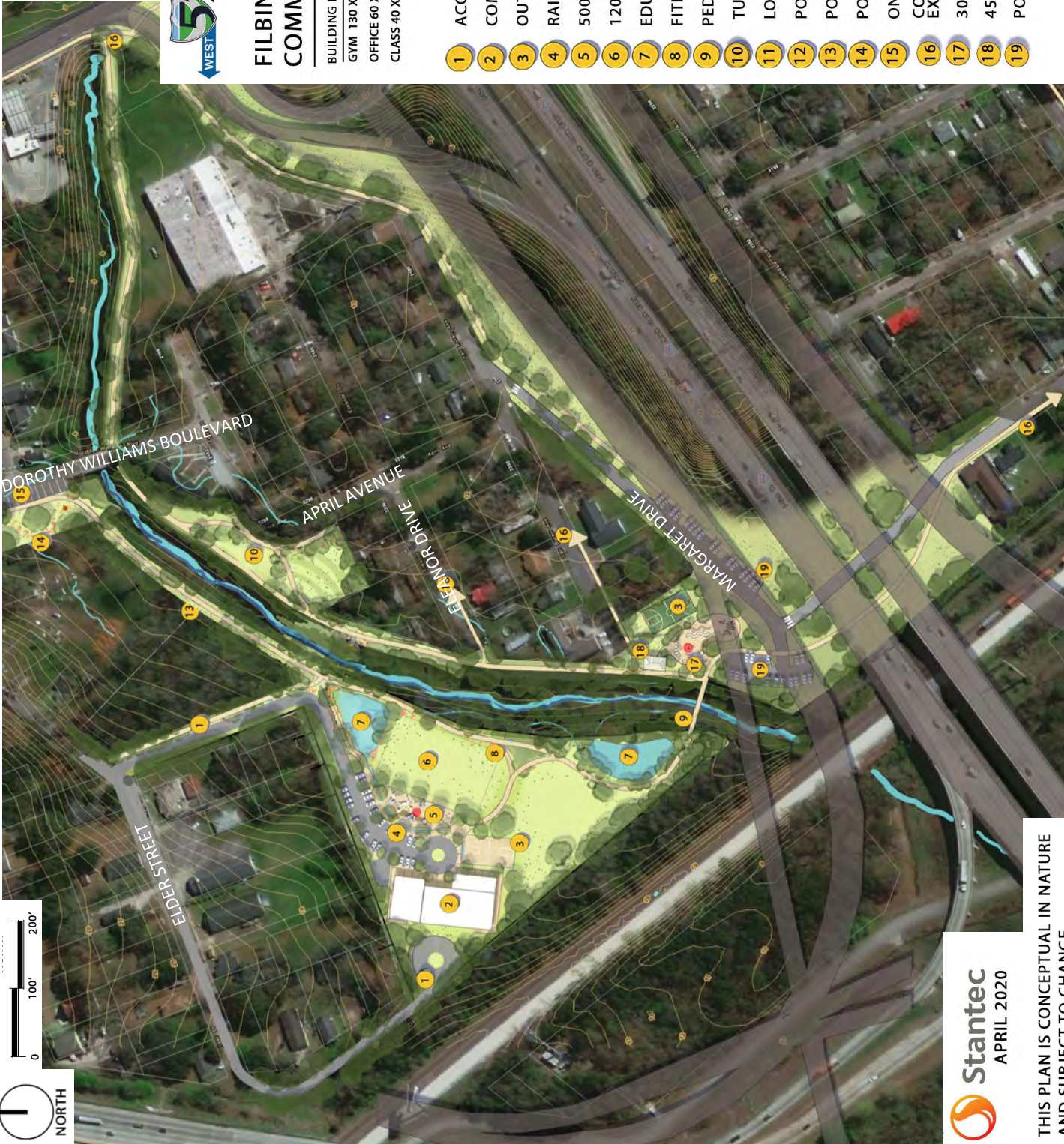
Replacement Community Facility Concepts: Filbin Creek



FILBIN CREEK COMMUNITY CENTER

BUILDING BREAKDOWN
 GYM 130 X 75 - 9750 SF
 OFFICE 60 X 75 - 4500 SF
 CLASS 40 X 90 - 3600 SF

- 1 ACCESS DRIVE TBD
- 2 COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING
- 3 OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURT
- 4 RAIN GARDEN
- 5 5000 SF PLAYGROUND
- 6 120X210 MULTI USE FIELD
- 7 EDUCATIONAL WETLAND
- 8 FITNESS LOOP
- 9 PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
- 10 TURF AMPHITHEATER
- 11 LOOKOUT AND BENCHES
- 12 POLLINATOR LOOP
- 13 POTENTIAL GREENWAY
- 14 POLLINATOR LOOP & BIRDBOXES
- 15 ON STREET PARKING
- 16 CONNECTION TO EXISTING PATHS
- 17 3000 SF PLAYGROUND
- 18 450SF OPEN AIR PAVILION
- 19 POTENTIAL PARKING AREAS



THIS PLAN IS CONCEPTUAL IN NATURE
AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Replacement Community Facility Concepts: Russelldale



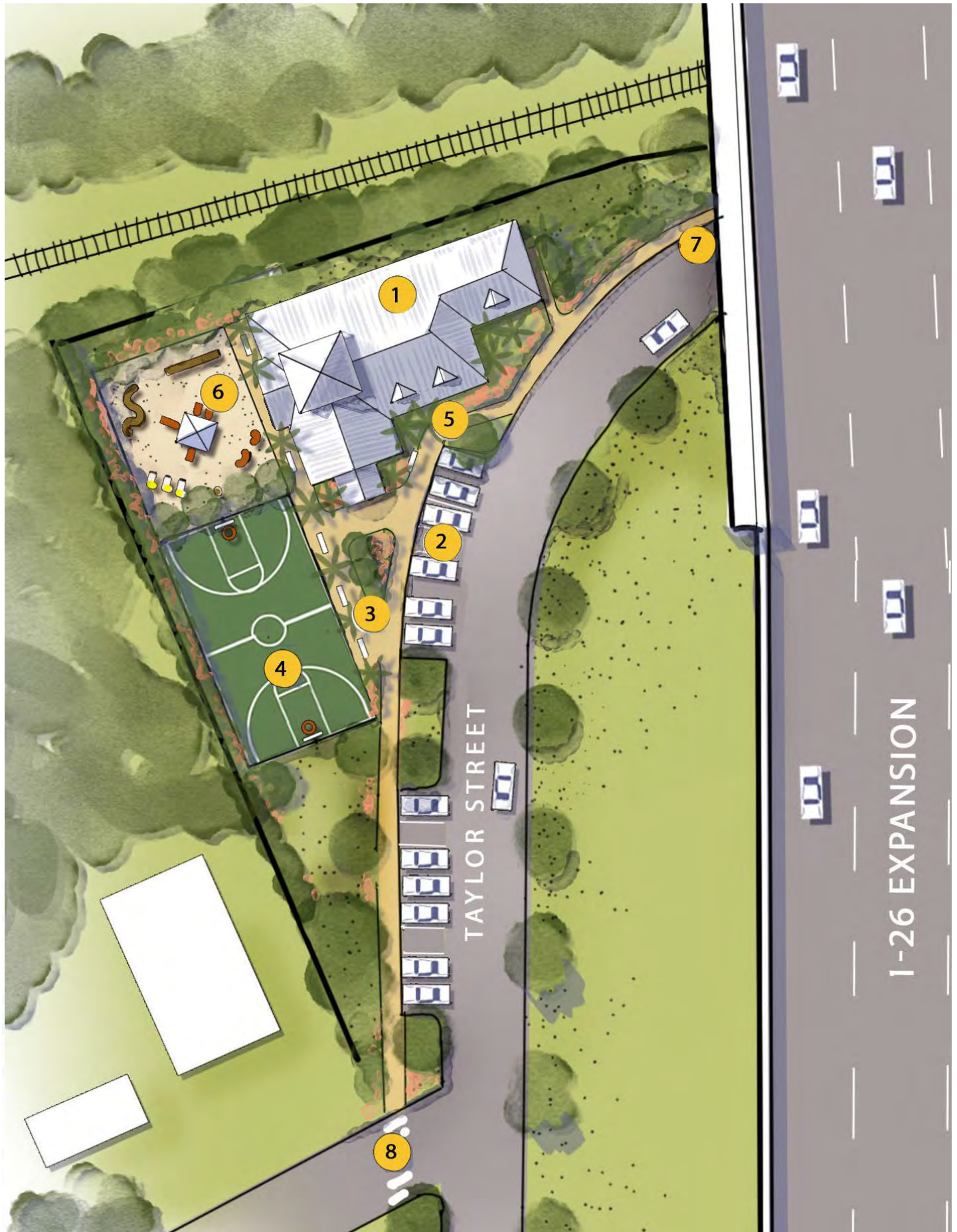
WEST 526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR

RUSSELDALE COMMUNITY POCKET PARK

- 1** IMPROVED CROSSWALKS
- 2** FLOWERING SHRUBS AND PARK SIGNAGE
- 3** PRIVACY PLANTING
- 4** BASKETBALL COURT
- 5** TRICYCLE LOOP
- 6** WOOD BENCHES
- 7** 15' X 30' OPEN AIR PAVILION
- 8** 2500 SF PLAYGROUND
- 9** PUBLIC ART

THIS PLAN IS CONCEPTUAL IN NATURE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Replacement Community Facility Concepts: Highland Terrace – Liberty Park



Review Draft Community Mitigation Plan

COHESION

Actions that Strengthen Neighborhood Connections

- Organizational Training for the CAC/POC

ENHANCEMENT

Community Center and Recreational Facilities

- Recreational Facility Improvements such as ball courts, covered shelters, directional signage, user friendly pedestrian facilities
- Recreational Programs and Amenities in Coordination with the City of North Charleston
- Connectivity and Bike/Pedestrian Safety

PRESERVATION

Infrastructure Needs

- Weatherization
- Community History Preservation
- Construction Impact Mitigation with a focus on air quality, noise, stormwater, hazardous materials

REVITALIZATION

Replacement Housing & Employment/Economic Opportunities

- Residential Relocation Assistance
- Affordable Housing
- Financial and First-Time Home Buyer Counseling
- Business Relocation Assistance
- Career Development Training and Job Search Resources
- School to Work Scholarship Program

COMMUNITY LIVABILITY PLAN

Revitalizing the Communities

- Public safety
- Community Appearance
- Long-term Community Cohesion

CAC Environmental Justice Advocacy Training Overview



PURPOSE

- Provide additional background on Environmental Justice (EJ) engagement
- Explore supplemental tools to support the CAC and the Project Oversight Committee (POC)



GOALS

- Understand EJ engagement strategies
- Empower the CAC and POC members to advocate for measured results
- Provide a framework to advance community issues and hold elected and appointed officials accountable



OBJECTIVES

- Determine what CAC and POC can control
- Be able to maximize the groups collective efforts
- Conduct a SWOT analysis (to illustrate Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)
- Create individual vision boards

Livability Plan Scope Development Session

“The Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities is an interdisciplinary initiative of the College of Charleston whose 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 Mission Statement

Dr. Kendra B. Stewart, the Director of the Riley Center for Livable Communities, and Marla Robertson will be hosting a discussion during the CAC meeting to address the following topics:

- ***What is the Riley Center and what do they do?***
- ***What is a livability plan & how does it differ from mitigation?***
- ***Why is a livability plan important?***
- ***How do we develop a tool to track progress & measure success?***
- ***How can a livability plan support CAC and/or POC in providing oversight?***

*Do you have any additional questions for Dr. Stewart?
Feel free to use the space below to take notes or write
out your questions or comments.*

Livability Plan Scope Development Session

Master of Public Administration Community Assistance Program (CAP)

The MPA Community Assistance Program is a clinic staffed by graduate students that provides high-level support to nonprofit and municipal organizations to build capacity and maximize the effectiveness and community impact of the client organizations.

Sample Projects:

- Illumination Project
- Community Plans
 - Eastside neighborhood
 - Ashleyville/Maryville West Ashley
 - West Oak Forest, East Oak Forest, Washington Park, Magnolia West Ashley
- Economic Score Cards
- Strategic Plans



Livability Plan Scope Development Session

Livability - Equitable access for all residents to education, jobs, healthcare, food, housing, transportation as well as diverse opportunities in arts, culture, and recreation.

What is a Livability Plan?

- Collaborative process
- Building on previous efforts
- History of community
- Capture vision of future of community
- Identify solutions to move community forward
- Ensure neighborhoods have tools to sustain vision and plan
- Living document
- Based on mitigation plan pillars: Cohesion, Enhancement, Preservation and Revitalization

Importance of a Livability Plan

- Empowers community
- Provides tool for tracking progress
- Articulates success
- Provides transparency & accountability
- Provides support to CAC and POC

Conducting Outreach in a Public Health Crisis

As the I-526 LCC WEST project progresses forward during this unprecedented time, the project team must create and implement safe, meaningful, and inclusive public outreach methods to effectively engage with residents likely to be impacted by the project. Please consider the following ideas and provide feedback during the CAC #10 meeting.

- Virtual meetings to include at least 3 videos explaining the project and anticipated impacts
- Pop-up meetings in each neighborhood with proper social distancing and limited contact
- Drive through meetings to hand each participant a packet of information
 - Perhaps include an audio portion on a radio frequency?
 - Partner with a local organization hosting food drives?
- Packets of project information mailed to residents

Please provide any ideas or recommendations on how the project team can provide meaningful, safe, and effective engagement in your neighborhood

Update on Coordination with Local Organizations

SCDOT and the project team continue to evaluate the appropriate timing and safety precautions needed to pursue meaningful outreach and engagement activities. The Community Mitigation concepts will be a key component of the next phase of information sharing.

Over the past month, Maximum Consulting has either conducted or scheduled conference calls with an extensive and diverse group of non-profit organizations, educational resource providers, and outreach agencies to support both the current needs of the impacted communities' residents as well as the mitigation needs of the 526 LCC WEST project. A log of those interactions is being maintained and can be provided upon request.

The local organizations that have been contacted can be categorized under the following topics:

Food Insecurities

Health & Wellness

Home Repairs

Financial Assistance

Minority-Owned Businesses

Arts

Education

Local Government

Are there any other topics of concern that our team should consider including in our outreach efforts?

Outreach Update

- Community Office Data: May 20 – June 24, 2020
 - Call-ins: 5
 - Outreach Calls: 3
 - Voicemails: 6
- COVID:
 - The Community Office has been closed since March 17, 2020 but accepting visitors by appointment only. Office Manager Horrace Tobin is onsite daily to address concerns and requests 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 your Meeting #7 packet.

***How can we best reach your neighbors to gather
feedback on potential mitigation ideas?***

Summary and Next Steps

- Next CAC Meeting: August 1, 2020
- **Outreach Opportunities**



MEETING MINUTES

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: 3

Highland Terrace: 1

Liberty Park: 4

Russelldale: 1

Adjacent/affected communities/agencies: 2

SCDOT: 3

FHWA: 3

Community Liaisons: 4

Community Office: 1

Stantec: 4

Facilitator: 1

Guests: 2

Meeting Summary:

Welcome and Introductions

- LaTonya conducted roll call, verifying participants connecting by phone only. She also served as host and technical contact to address any issues with Microsoft Teams or phone connections during the meeting.
- Jamelle welcomed meeting participants and reminded everyone 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

- Jamelle provided 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

Prior to addressing formal agenda topics, 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. (Anderson, C.)

Does the CAC prefer high-level or near-term milestones? The project team can provide as much detail as needed in developing a timeline. (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

A timeline with all details is preferable, because people in the community don't have the full picture of what is going and what will happen in the future. (Anderson, C.)

I will defer to SCDOT regarding the long-term project construction. What I am hearing, what we will include for the proposed timeline, and what we will present for public involvement is inclusion of the mitigation plan schedule, the environmental document schedule, the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the final EIS, and transition from a Community Advisory Council to a project oversight committee and right-of-way acquisition. What you will see as we move through this process are higher level schedule items. This is the process of refining that timeline, with each meeting, with newer and clearer milestones as a way to keep the CAC engaged. (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

The CAC would appreciate that because a lot of people in the community are receiving information, and providing the CAC with a timeline would assist the CAC in answering the questions they are presented. (Anderson, C.)

CAC Member feedback:

I have a technical question. Are you guys preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or an Environmental Assessment (EA)? (Anderson, C.)

The project team is preparing an EIS. (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

That generally takes years. Have you started? (Anderson, C.)

Yes, we are deep into the process. (White, R.)

[LaTonya and C. Anderson will talk offline to discuss project team EIS progress and status.]

That is a great suggestion for a timeline. Allow the project team to draft a timeline to present at our next CAC meeting. If it doesn't have enough detail or include information you need, the project team will make sure it gets incorporated. (Long, C.)

CAC Members were asked to provide additional open mic questions or comments.

CAC Members provided no comments or questions.

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. These 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 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 of the requests that are made by the CAC. The project team is taking a targeted approach. Because of that, 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 they need specific details regarding any desired programs, what needs to be incorporated in the community center (such as locker rooms or other amenities) 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. What programs does the CAC want to see at community centers? If there are specific

programming ideas that we can take to the next TRC, that would definitely be a lot more helpful in guiding how the facilities are laid out and designed. (White, R.)

Some of the things the CAC discussed in previous meetings, for instance, were cultural programming or programs geared towards senior-level activities. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member feedback:

One of the things the CAC has discussed is community block parties. (Cooper, P.)

I recommend the CAC look at what the other two senior centers are offering as far as programs. 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. (Riley, J.)

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. (Long, C.)

We can do that. The project team developed an inventory of existing City of North Charleston programs. We can attach that to the survey as well. I will add that to my list. (White, R.)

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 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. (White, R.)

Another key item that came out at the conversations regarding inclusion of enclosed space at the Highland Terrace – Liberty Park Community Center was the City noted that they want to continue to host afterschool programs at as many community centers as possible. So, 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 the Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Community Center. (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

I think you need to also 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 don't 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. (Anderson, C.)

So, to summarize, you would like to see swimming lessons offered at the Filbin Creek Community Center. But, regarding voting and enclosed space at Highland Terrace-Liberty Park, it is important to maintain that space because it is currently a voting precinct and the desire is to continue to allow for making voting as accessible as possible, and making sure that space is large enough to accommodate voters. (White, R.)

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. (Anderson, A.)

Building on your idea for swimming lessons, bike safety could potentially be another youth program, with 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. (Sackaroff, A.)

CAC Member feedback:

Another program idea is installing child safety seats. (Anderson, C.)

I want to offer synergy between the programs that you want at these facilities and employing the people who live in the community. 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. (Robertson, M.)

CAC Member feedback:

In reference to hiring practices for the community centers, will residents of the community have input into who is going to be hired to staff the community centers or will hiring decisions be solely the responsibility of the City? I know the human resources department has requirements that a candidate must meet for hiring, but how involved will this advisory council be in the hiring process to ensure fairness in the selection process? (Muhammad, E.)

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. We will add that to our list of questions to revisit with the City when we meet with them on Monday. (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

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. Also, as far as programs, our communities have some young ladies who are single parents, who might need some (classes on) parenting skills or some help as far as raising two children, nutritional guidelines, and how to help with homework, and just doing things that are too overwhelming for a parent or parents. We can bring in people to provide sessions on parenting skills, budgeting skills, and all that it takes to actually have a viable family. (Muhammad, E.)

CAC Member feedback:

I also suggest implementing a summer youth hiring program. Providing jobs to youth is one of the primary ways to keep youth out of trouble. (Anderson, C.)

Project team member noted that it appeared everyone was in agreement 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 using it as a voting precinct. The CAC would like to continue to enable residents to be able to vote from that location. Considering a higher level of identifying programs to be incorporated into all of the community centers, bike and car safety, parenting, nutrition, tutoring programs, as well as family skills, as well as 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. (White, R.)

Another key takeaway from the June 24th TRC meeting was specific to the Russelldale location. The parcel that was initially being considered for the Russelldale 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. (White, R.)

The final topics to be discussed with the City during the July 13th TRC 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. Are there any items related to connectivity, traffic-calming, or speeding that the CAC would like the project team to address in this meeting? (White, R.)

CAC Members provided no additional comments or questions.

Replacement Community Facility Concepts

Filbin Creek Community Center

This was a review of the most current revisions to the community center conceptual drawings.

There were environmental concerns at the parcel that we were 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 replacement community center. The updated concept for what we've been calling the Filbin Creek Community Center 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. This will provide dual access for cars. (White, R.)

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 feature number 16 on the conceptual drawing (*Connection and Existing Paths* on the Filbin Creek packet slide, page 5), we are looking 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 still looking at feature number 10 (Turf Amphitheater on the Filbin

Creek packet slide, page 5) and the parcel at the corner of April Avenue and Eleanor Drive. We are also considering utilizing the SCDOT right-of-way space under 526, as well as the proposed lanes and additional space in the vicinity of Margaret Drive and Bryant Street. We are trying to improve connections to Russelldale and provide parcel space under the interstate as a way 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. This rendering is a result of some of the challenges in acquiring the parcel in Russelldale. 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. (White, R.)

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 farther south as a way 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. (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

So, currently Russelldale will not have a pocket park, if SCDOT cannot acquire the property? (Anderson, A.)

As of right now, we are 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 are able to utilize the right-of-way under the bridges to get us fairly close to the existing Russelldale Community, but as of right now the parcel we were looking at has been acquired by a developer. Again, we are trying to work with the City to identify additional locations. We are hopeful but want to be realistic in the event those opportunities do not pan out as we are hoping. We want to also consider other opportunities that will still provide improved access and connectivity. (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

I just don't want the Russelldale community not to receive any amenities or improvements. (Anderson, A.)

The location for the Russelldale concept in the meeting packet (pg. 6), is our first choice. However, we can't condemn for this purpose. We have to find a willing seller. 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 have to 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's 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. This is the #2 option or the backup plan. We do need to replace the facilities. It is not looking positive that we will be able to get this property on Rebecca Street. That is why SCDOT had the project team develop a plan B. Some of the new design is under the bridge. Some of it is behind the church where they will have a little surplus right-

of-way, where we displaced the homes at the end of Margaret and Bryant Streets. The plan B location has the same amenities that would have been at the Rebecca Street location. (Riley, J.)

On the Filbin Creek Community Center slide, there is parking, a playground, and a full basketball court. The basketball court is identified by feature number 3 (*Outdoor Basketball Court* on the Filbin Creek packet slide, page 5) and the playground is feature number 17 (3,000 sf playground). Those are all connected to the Filbin Creek Community Center by the bridge over Filbin Creek. 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, 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. So 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. (White, R.)

I appreciate the comment regarding the need for Russelldale to have some type of recreational amenity. That carries a lot of weight with us. Ryan mentioned a plan B. We will exhaust all options to make sure the Russelldale community has some type of pocket park or some type of recreational amenity, moving forward. (Long, C.)

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 as a way 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. The size presented in this concept is going to be revised because the project team is trying to maximize space. We have to be mindful of the orientation and some of the widening of the highway as well as parking in other amenities as well. 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. Is that something the CAC is open to? (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

I think we are. (Anderson, C.)

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. We will submit the community mitigation plan as a part of the DEIS. I will provide a review of the items that will be included in the mitigation plan. Although the community mitigation plan is a work-in-progress, based on input from the CAC and the social needs assessment, the slide presented is a snapshot of mitigation plan development to-date. Under the "Cohesion" header, organizational training for the CAC/Project Oversight Committee will be provided to address content and how it fits into the larger scheme of the CAC, as well as how the group moves forward. The next header is "Enhancement" with a

focus on community center and recreational facilities programs. Key to this work is ensuring that there is improved connectivity between the community centers and the communities they serve, as well as bus stops along Rivers Avenue and trying to ensure safe travel for pedestrians and cyclists between committees. Regarding “Preservation,” the CAC discussed historic community preservation in previous meetings. Maximum Consulting has identified a number of photographers as well as historians that can assist with the process. We are currently developing the scope, but as of right now the items that we are being considered for inclusion (based on input received from the CAC) are the oral history of the communities, developing a visual archive, 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. Are there any other items that we need to be mindful of because one of our key steps is developing the scope and trying to initiate this piece of the mitigation sooner than later? Any thoughts in regards to community history preservation? (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

Am I missing something? I see weatherization under *Preservation* in the physical packet that I received, but I don’t see it on your slide. (Twiggs, D.)

Weatherization is continuing to be investigated. I will defer to SCDOT. There are some continuing discussions on how or if that can be incorporated into this process. (White, R.)

The weatherization program is something that we are exploring. I think 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’re interested in continuing to explore the program and figuring out if it is something that could be implemented as part of this project. (Long, C.)

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, and I’m just concerned that if we drop this issue, what else will be dropped? How can we look at it from a preservation standpoint? We have to remember 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. A key point, when I was standing there outside the gate talking to this particular resident, the noise level was tremendous. That’s going to be another issue. I don’t think the CAC brought that up when we were talking about this earlier (in previous meetings), regarding the noise level. I was just wondering why weatherization was dropped from the list? (Twiggs, D.)

Those are excellent points. I would not say that weatherization has been dropped. I think we need to continue to explore it. As far as the noise impact perspective, there are federal regulations and specific

requirements on how noise could be abated. But I like those types of comments, especially, from local residents about how weatherization could be beneficial. One component of this that was addressed as part of another project in Colorado was related to the impacts from the construction itself and what happens during construction, especially when homes do not have air conditioning. They have to have their windows open, so that in Colorado they were able to provide some air conditioning window units. I think it is still a program that we need to explore 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. (Long, C.)

CAC Member feedback:

I used to run the program with the Department of Energy. And if you need some help, let me know. I provided some information to LaTonya 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 would have a community center with solar panels and battery backup. You have a lot of solar companies now in Charleston. There are a lot of bus stops that have solar panels so, at nighttime when people have to take the bus, they have lights. If you need help making appropriate contacts, just let me know. (Anderson, C.)

I think those are great suggestions. We have reached out to the Department of Energy, we just haven't had a chance to set anything up. But I think this is something worth exploring and maybe including it as a possible agenda item in the future unless we learn more about the program. One of the things I think that we've been encouraged to do is to seek partnerships with these organizations regarding potential weatherization programs. So we will continue to explore how these programs work and how it could be related and tied back into community mitigation. (Long, C.)

CAC Member feedback:

Some of you have heard this from me before during the initial drafting of I-26 in our neighborhood. When it came through, there were some unhappy people (residents) who experienced impacts from the project they felt were never resolved. Even with my engagement, those issues haven't been resolved. But I would not like for those persons who will remain near the new ramp to feel as if they're not counted and they are not heard. That's my reason for bringing it up and I will continue to monitor to make sure those persons who are remaining in the neighborhood will be well taken care of. And that, to me, is more important in terms of keeping the history, keeping the community preservation, and keeping it healthy. I would like to feel as if everyone in the neighborhood would welcome this [mitigation/EJ process as] opposed to what we had in the past with the construction of I-26 coming through our communities. (Twiggs, D.)

Thank you very much for that comment. Those types of comments are helpful and beneficial to this process. Keep making them. It is very important that you do keep making them. So I appreciate it. (Long, C.)

I want to add to what Chad said. The next 12 months are going to be critical to this community mitigation plan. What we are working on now is coming up with that draft plan that will be go out and be shown to the community this fall for public comment. One of the things that Chad and I are having to do is taking all these things that you guys have suggested and figuring out which are eligible for federal funding. We have to determine whether state funding has to be made available to implement certain requests. Receiving state funding is very difficult right now because of everything that is going on. Gas tax revenues are not where they usually are. Public input is so critical. Whatever goes into the draft plan is not the final. That's for public comment. If there are things in the mitigation plan that we are not able to get funded and in there then, I would suggest that as CAC Members you compel your community members to come out and make comments regarding things that they feel should be in there or why they feel they should be in there. Public input makes a huge difference because our leadership (state legislators, your local government leaders) will be looking at this. If the voice of the community is there, it will help us make this community mitigation plan as strong as it needs to be. Those voices are usually what helps local government officials release funds for constituent initiatives. Whatever we include in the draft plan, I've got to get commitments from our leadership to put those things in there. We've got to know that we can pay for them. That holds true for SCDOT and the City of North Charleston. We're not going to put something out there that we don't know how were going to pay for it. If there are things that we haven't worked out the funding for, that don't fully get in there, then the community voice will be extremely important through this process this fall. (Riley, J.)

To build on that, as we continue to look at some of the items that are going to be incorporated into the mitigation plan, we're also looking at replacement housing and economic opportunities for residents as well. Dr. Stewart from the Riley Center at the College of Charleston will talk about the Community Livability Plan in a bit more detail today, but I want to first note some of the challenges with social distancing. We are looking at ways to make sure we can push this mitigation plan out this fall. So we are going to have to be really creative in how we do that. As Joy mentioned, it is extremely important that you and your neighbors' requests are incorporated into that plan. We will keep you posted in regards to how we are going to push it. But this fall is ultimately when the neighborhood will get there first crack at actually seeing the detailed mitigation planning with all the components. (White, R.)

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 mission is presented on the slide [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.

They don't develop ideas or projects and bring them to communities. 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. (Stewart, K.)

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, as with the Riley Center concerning the Illumination Project. The work entailed community, focus group, and accountability-focused initiatives. They matched what citizens said they wanted with charging those needs to different city departments who are empowered to actualize that change. (Robertson, M.)

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. We would build on the work the CAC has already done. This wouldn't be starting over. 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 and who is supposed to carry them out. It would also help community members define what it is that they want to see and what success would look like. Are there any questions? (Stewart, K.)

CAC Member feedback:

How do you fit into the overall process? Are your services pro bono (without charge) or are you being paid by the project? (Anderson, C.)

The current proposal is that we would be paid by the project, but there would not be any cost to the community. (Stewart, K.)

CAC Member feedback:

So, in essence, you work for the community? (Anderson, C.)

Our responsibility and accountability is to the needs of what is 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 not only in quantifying what the change looks like in providing resources, but also pushing back through to have it actualized. We walk communities through actualizing all pieces of the livability plan. If you think about all of the different pieces of a puzzle, the livability plan is the picture on the front of the box. It incorporates all of the different pieces of the mitigation plan (e.g., environmental justice, housing, etc.), but making it a little more holistic. (Robertson, M.)

CAC Member feedback:

Would the Riley Center serve as technical support to the CAC and the community? (Anderson, C.)

Correct. 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 particular 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 be in charge of each part and when it would come to fruition, and if it didn't what measures could be taken to ensure they were addressed. That would be similar to our role with the CAC, helping you all articulate what it is that you need, identifying who is responsible beyond mitigation, looking at other things, and helping the community. So, our support would be to the communities answer your question. (Robertson, M.)

Any other questions for the Riley Center staff in regards to the livability plan development process? (White, R.)

To the extent that the City or County will have some participation in this plan, how will their inability or unwillingness to support requests of community members be addressed? How will this plan be developed with those entities in mind to ensure that this plan is viable? How would this work with the elected officials cooperating with the communities to address issues? (Lecque, C.)

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. It would be a very grassroots-based effort and we would work collaboratively. The Riley Center works often with local governments, so trying to get 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. (Stewart, K.)

I have a question about the tools that you use for tracking progress. What are a couple of examples of how you track progress? (Ellis, J.)

It depends on what the neighborhood or the community is looking for. We have not used any particular software. Generally, we have created dashboards or graphic visuals that we regularly update that are really 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 what it is they are looking for. So, it's not necessarily any particular software although we have worked with them, but it's generally what the neighborhood or the community or the organization feels most comfortable with. (Stewart, K.)

CAC Member feedback:

How does the Riley Center fit into the I-526 program/process in relation to SCDOT and Stantec? (Anderson, C.)

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 with those so there's not an overlap, but that it all is seamlessly working together for this broader vision that you all have from your community. (Stewart, K.)

CAC Member feedback:

Those are issues that are addressed as a part of the environmental justice plan, so who is overseeing the environmental justice plan and who is responsible for the livability plan? (Anderson, C.)

Regarding the environmental justice mitigation plan, that that is something that SCDOT and FHWA would finalize 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 wouldn't want to limit our ability to allow that process to unfold based on the timing of our project. So I think this is something related to maybe a few previous questions about developing a schedule and how all these things tie in together. Maybe that's something the project team can do after today's meeting. If everyone feels that a livability plan is something that would be beneficial to the community. 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. (Long, C.)

CAC Member feedback:

In my experience, the livability plan is a part of the environmental justice implementation, especially when you are conducting an EIS. So, I just want to make sure all of these plans are connected and that we have a timeline and a framework for the path forward. (Anderson, C.)

Absolutely. We have been looking at a city in 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. (Long, C.)

While there are a lot of things we are going to do to enhance the community project, 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. This is something that can carry forward and help the community as they become organized and give them a voice on issues beyond the mitigation plan. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member feedback:

To reiterate the previous statement, it is important that there is a plan for the people who still live in Liberty Park and Russelldale and that they are not left out. (Anderson, C.)

Thank you for that comment, Yes, we agree. Thank you. (Stewart, K.)

Are there any additional comments or questions for Dr. Stewart or Ms. Robertson? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Members provided no comments or questions.

Dr. Stewart and Ms. Robertson were thanked for providing an overview of the Riley Center services to the CAC and project team. (Ellis, J.)

Conducting Outreach in a Public Health Crisis

As CAC Members are personally experiencing the need to make adjustments to how you interact in your homes and communities, the project team is having to make adjustments, but we don't want to have missed opportunities to provide meaningful engagement and interaction with the documents that we discussed today - the environmental justice community mitigation or livability plans. The meeting packet includes a few bullet points about how the project team could potentially utilize virtual meetings, pop-ups, drive-thru meetings, and information packets provided to residents. 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 some organization that is hosting an event where we might be able to tag along or partner, the project team would love for you to share those opportunities with us so that we can share project information as a part of the resources distributed at various events and activities. If a church is doing a food giveaway, there may be literature we can share with them to include with their offerings. That would be a great opportunity to keep the project fresh on the minds of community members. If there are specific opportunities to engage the larger community, that you think would be safe but also be meaningful over

the next two to three months as we approach the public hearing later this year, I'd love to get your feedback on that. If you think of ideas after our meeting today, you know how to reach me or you can always call the community office and leave a message. If you have ideas outside of office hours or don't wish to speak to someone directly, you can call the office and leave a message and we will respond to you in a timely manner. The community liaisons, through Maximum Consulting, have been doing a phenomenal job of identifying opportunities. We have to be mindful of being protective not only of the community, but of the staff as well. Are there any thoughts? (Derrick, L.)

The outline presented is very good and if we receive information on additional meetings, we will let you know. (Anderson, C.)

CAC Members provided no additional comments or questions.

Update on Coordination with Local Organizations

Maximum Consulting is continuing to coordinate with local organizations by phone and we are adding to the database. (Smith, M.)

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 LaTonya to share with CAC Members. (Lecque, C.)

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 community office has been closed since March 17, 2020 due to the pandemic, 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.

CAC Members provided no comments or questions.

CAC Environmental Justice Advocacy Training Overview

Environmental Justice Advocacy training will be needed as the CAC transitions into the project oversight committee. Maximum Consulting will provide training in order to empower CAC Members as well as the Project Oversight Committee (since some would continue to serve in in this role, post-construction). This will provide CAC Members an opportunity to better understand what EJ engagement is, in particular 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 not only now but 12-24 months from now? All of these activities dovetail into the livability plan. If CAC Members feel that such a training is needed and would like to go through this training, I would provide the training. It would be an enlightening conversation as it relates to the work that has already been done, but more importantly it will prepare CAC Members to know what questions to ask and how to navigate conversations that optimize stakeholder accountability. Are there any questions regarding this proposal? (Middleton, C.)

CAC Member feedback:

The proposed training would be really good if you added a component to ensure CAC Members understand environmental justice advocacy within the framework of the EIS process. (Anderson, C.)

I would defer to Ryan and the project team on that because I know there was preliminary work done on this last September at the inception of the CAC process. The proposed training is based on the EPA and DOE collaborative engagement under the Obama Administration. (Middleton, C.)

I agree with you 100%. I think it is a good idea. (Anderson, C.)

Any other questions, comments, or concerns? I appreciate the opportunity to present this and look forward to the decision from the CAC on whether you want to move forward with the proposed training. I hope it is clear how the proposed EJ training complements the livability plan presented by the College of Charleston. (Middleton, C.)

Are there any follow-up questions, comments, or suggestions regarding the proposed EJ Advocacy training? If CAC Members would like to provide feedback after the meeting, please follow-up directly with Latonya to provide any feedback. (Ellis, J.)

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). We have partnered with two schools, Dunston Elementary and North Charleston Elementary, to make sure that children enrolled in the summer program have access to computers. I have reviewed a wonderful program with John Cobb and Jessica Richards. Retired teachers have volunteered to work with parents and students to make sure they

take advantage of this opportunity. Computers have been given to the students. We are looking at about 22 students at Dunston and approximately 21 students at North Charleston Elementary. The schools can provide more, but we are hoping that we will be able to maintain this program through July. Whether children go back to school in August or not, we need to start thinking out-of-the-box and embracing the fact that learning must take place daily. Learning can take place through a variety of platforms, not just through direct or face-to-face instruction. We need to help parents identify every avenue of learning, not just waiting for it to happen. I call the program Virtual Buddies. We are retired teachers, but we have not retired our brain power or initiatives we have implemented in the past. We are ready to rekindle and work with the children and families in this area. (Twiggs, D.)

I think that is an excellent program, especially at this time. I think the effort that you all have put into initiating and coordinating this with the schools is phenomenal. Thank you for sharing this with the group. Are there any questions for Ms. Twiggs? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Members provided no comments or questions.

Ms. Twiggs, if there is any additional information that we need to communicate through the project team that would support you in your efforts, please let the project team know. (Ellis, J.)

On behalf of CAC Members and the project team, thanks to Dr. Stewart and Ms. Robertson for joining us today and providing us with information on the Riley Center. (Ellis, J.)

Thank you to all CAC Members, project team members, and our guests from the College of Charleston. We appreciate your participation today. We especially appreciate the CAC's commitment to the process. (Long, C.)

Action Items:

- A proposed timeline was requested by the CAC. Included in that timeline will be items achieved to-date, upcoming milestones (to include a timeline for when the project team will present the mitigation plan to the public), and the Draft and final EIS and Record of Decision. The livability planning process and Environmental Justice Advocacy Outreach training will also be included in the timeline. (White, R.)
- 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:

Is it possible for the CAC to review the concerns that we diligently labored over, making sure we included every detail when we were given the survey at the beginning the CAC process? I don't want the CAC to start creating new projects without ensuring we have actually captured and are addressing the items many of us labored over in developing a list for the mitigation plan. Did we not put together a composite of all of

those, and were we given a copy? As the project team is developing a timeline, can you ensure these items are not missed? This process is intense to the point where if we are not careful, we'll continue to add new ideas without fully accounting items that have already been identified. I don't want to lose that in developing our timeline. (Twiggs, D.)

All of the 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 CAC will review the timeline before it goes to the public. The foundation of the mitigation plan is the social needs assessment. (White, R.)

We also had a very productive mitigation work session in March 2020. That was an invaluable experience. Not only did the CAC convey concerns about how your community looks and operates, and how you will be impacted; but, your passion during that session was noted just as much as your comments. We definitely would not lose sight of that. (Derrick, L.)

We also have a detailed map all of the notes we took during the March meeting. Anywhere the CAC noted concerns such as traffic-calming, speeding, flooding, and stormwater management, the project team is maintaining a catalog and moving everything forward together. (Sackaroff, A.)

CAC Member feedback:

Thank you. I trust you guys but, I have to say it. (Twiggs, D.)

- This was a very productive meeting and there was a lot of good information sharing today. We appreciate the continued commitment by the CAC Members and all of the departments involved. This was a very good showing of the continued dedication on the part of the CAC Members, and I appreciate that. You have shown that you are committed to the mission of the CAC, and I want to go on record as saying that we appreciate that. (Foster, P.)
- If you all have any comments or concerns or anything you want to add about the livability plan, the outreach efforts, or the advocacy training opportunities, please let the project team know and we'll send some tools to gauge your interest. (Derrick, L.)
- Please keep Reverend Johnson and his family in your thoughts as they are traveling and are personally managing issues related to the pandemic. (Derrick, L.)

CAC Meeting #10 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.



Community Advisory Council
Meeting #11

August 29, 2020

Table of Contents

- Neighborhood Update
- 1-Year CAC Recap
- Community Center & Pocket Park Update
- Recreational Program Survey
- Project Schedule / Milestone Review
- DEIS EJ Project Commitments
- Outreach Update
- Summary & Next Steps

Neighborhood Update

*Are there unanswered questions from the last meeting?
Are there other items you would like to
bring up with the CAC or project team?*



*Did you speak to any neighbors or residents who have
questions or comments for the project team? Please
note any specific items your neighbors would like to
bring to the project team's attention.*

1-Year CAC Recap

Why develop a Community Advisory Council?

- Provide a way for you to voice **your opinions, feelings, and ideas**
- **Help shape this project** and create a positive, local impact
- Provide **input on actions to minimize and mitigate** impacts
- Build **relationships**
- Convey **ownership**
- **Meaningful** engagement

Desired Outcomes of the Community Advisory Council

- Provide forum for **open communication** between the project team and the community
- **Early collaboration** to frame expectations and identify solutions
- Help SCDOT understand the community **history, needs, concerns, and priorities**
- Help SCDOT gain a **better understanding of the project impacts** on the community
- Help **shape the community mitigation** package

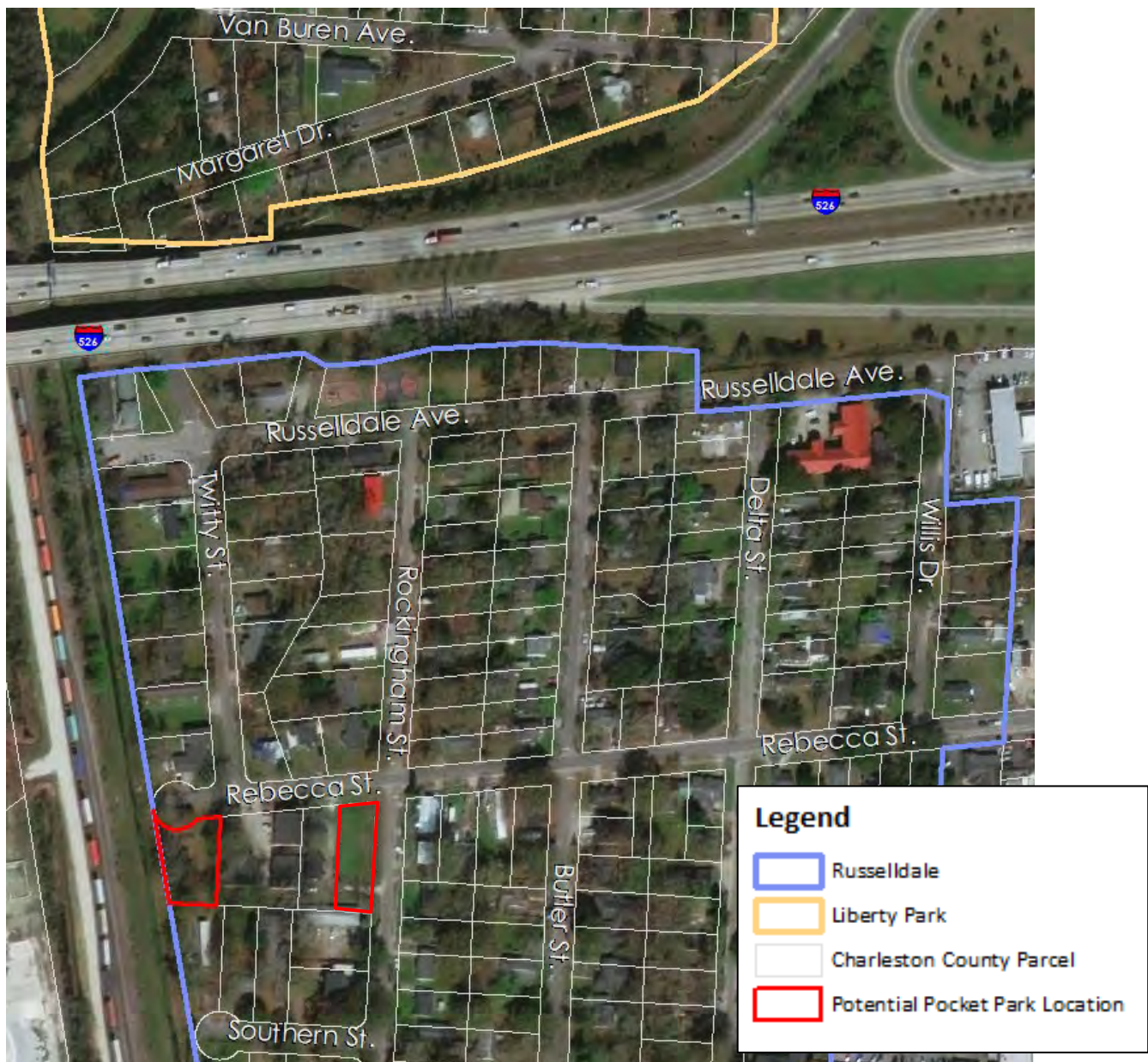
“Cities have the capability of providing something for everyone, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody.”

- Jane Jacobs

Russelldale Pocket Park Update

Update

- SCDOT is currently investigating the acquisition of one of the parcels shown below in red at the western end of Rebecca Street, as potential locations for the Russelldale Pocket Park. If one of these parcels can be acquired, the amenities previously shown previously along Margaret Drive as part of the Filbin Creek Community Center concept would be moved to this location.
- Either of these locations would be compatible with current proposed infrastructure improvements on Rebecca Street which may include:
 - Crosswalks with pedestrian crossing signs
 - Curb improvements with ADA compliant sidewalks
 - Increased streetlights
 - Traffic calming measures on Rebecca Street to reduce vehicle speeds



Replacement Community Facility Concept: Russelldale



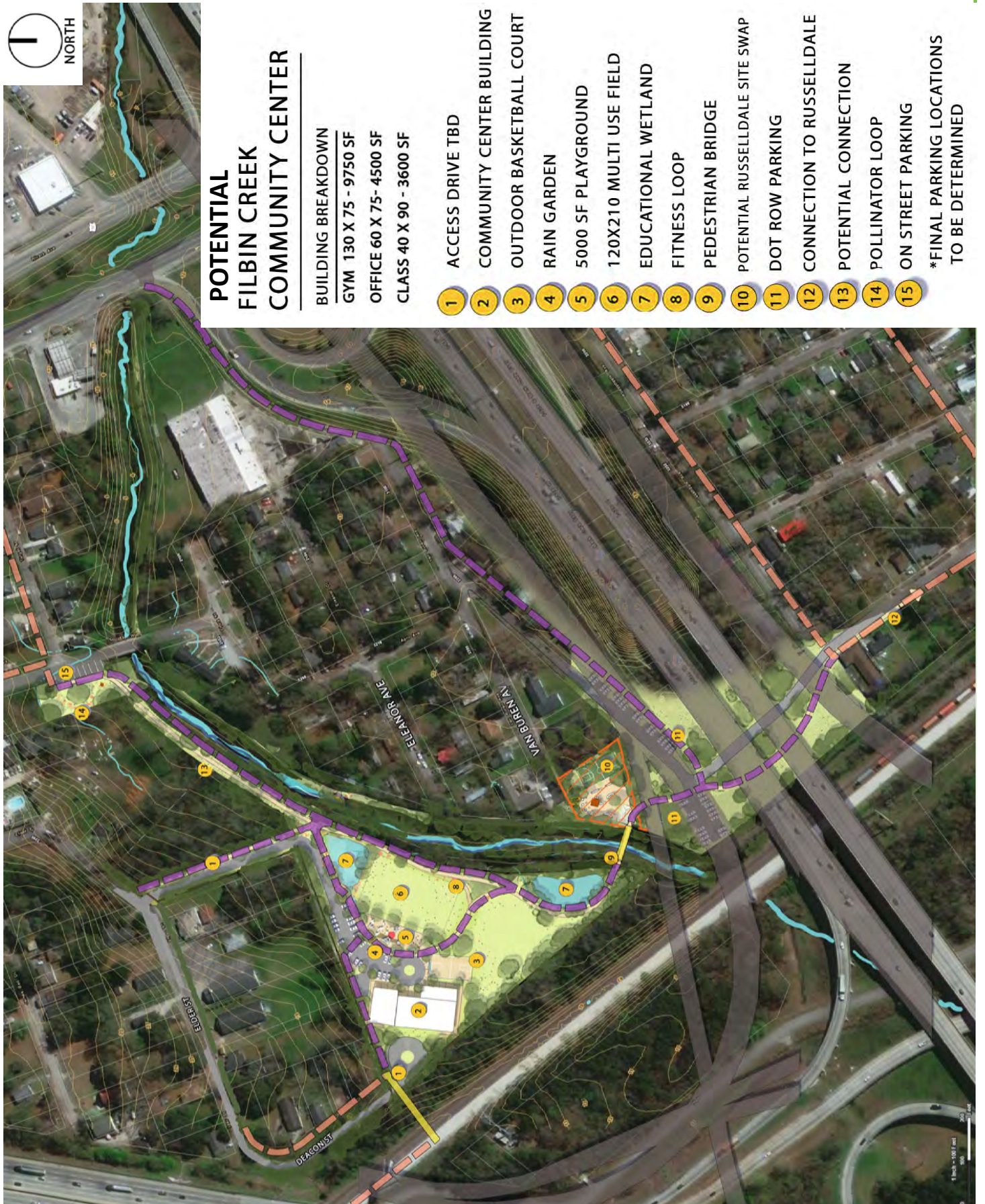
Replacement Community Facility Concept: Filbin Creek



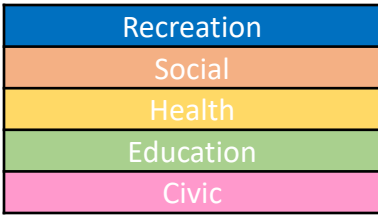
POTENTIAL FILBIN CREEK COMMUNITY CENTER

BUILDING BREAKDOWN
 GYM 130 X 75 - 9750 SF
 OFFICE 60 X 75 - 4500 SF
 CLASS 40 X 90 - 3600 SF

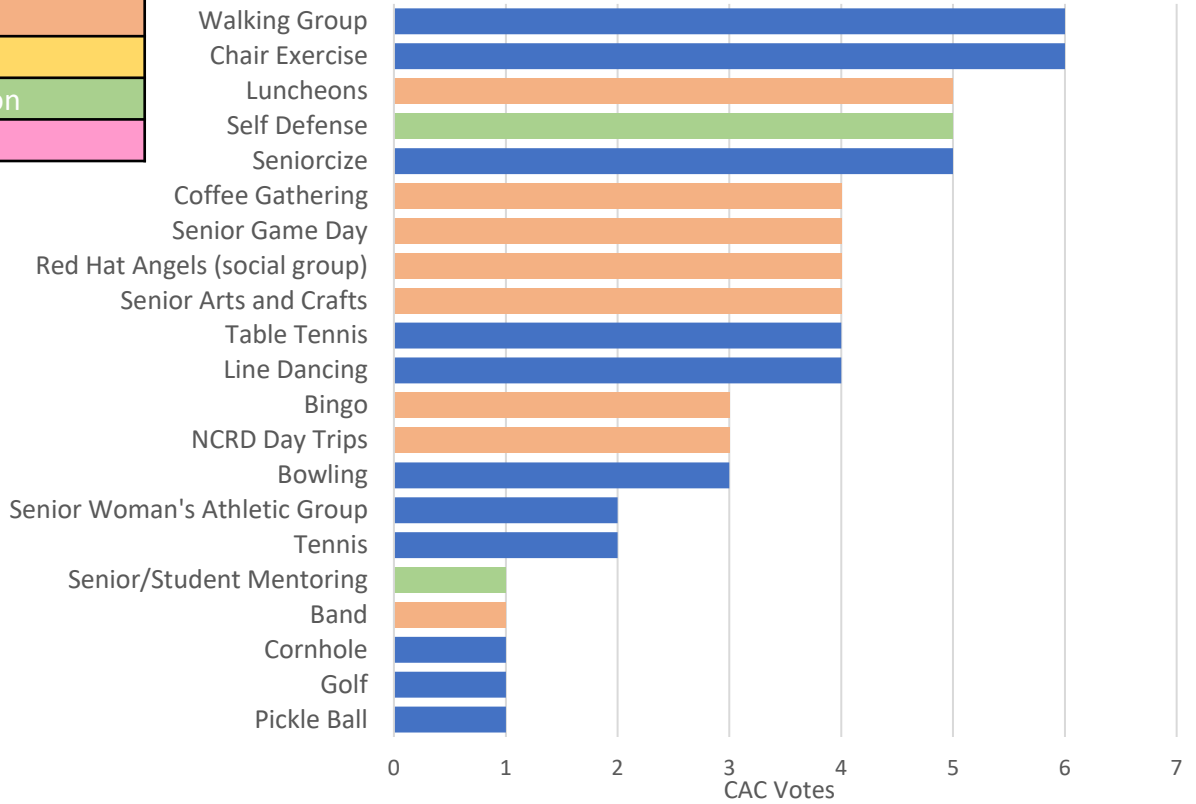
- 1 ACCESS DRIVE TBD
 - 2 COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING
 - 3 OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURT
 - 4 RAIN GARDEN
 - 5 5000 SF PLAYGROUND
 - 6 120X210 MULTI USE FIELD
 - 7 EDUCATIONAL WETLAND
 - 8 FITNESS LOOP
 - 9 PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
 - 10 POTENTIAL RUSSELLDALE SITE SWAP
 - 11 DOT ROW PARKING
 - 12 CONNECTION TO RUSSELLDALE
 - 13 POTENTIAL CONNECTION
 - 14 POLLINATOR LOOP
 - 15 ON STREET PARKING
- *FINAL PARKING LOCATIONS TO BE DETERMINED



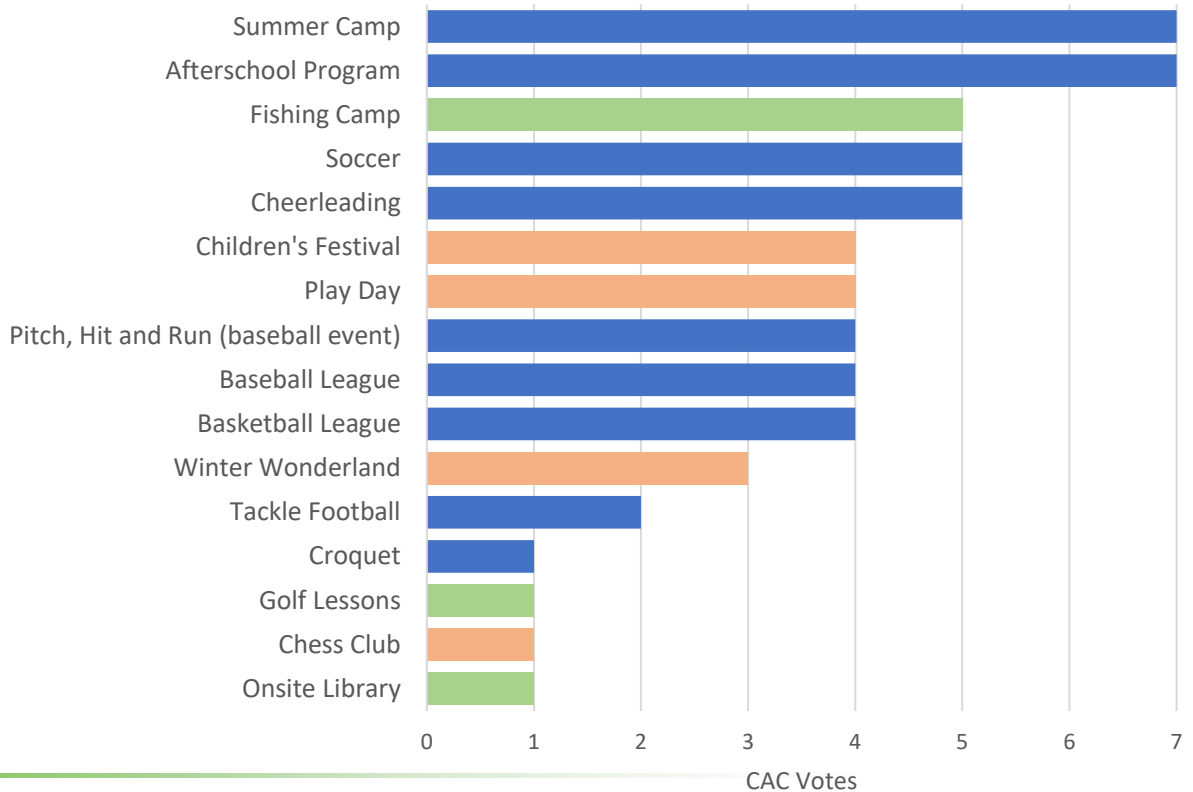
CAC Recreational Program Recommendations (Survey)



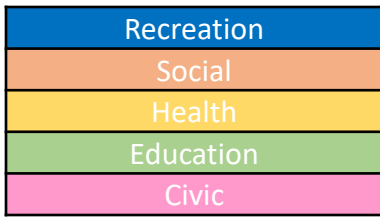
Senior Focused Programs



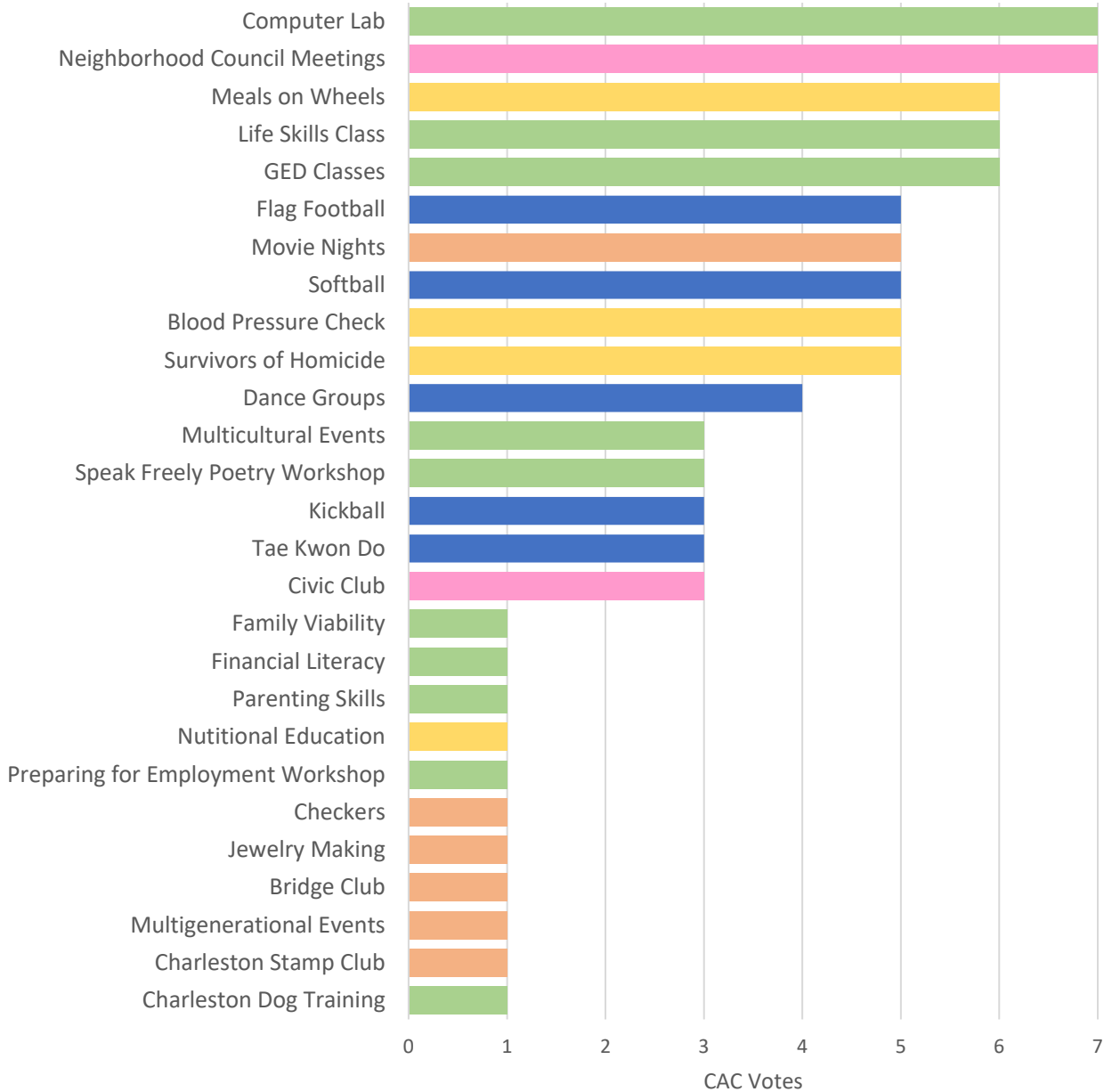
Youth Focused Programs



CAC Recreational Program Recommendations (Survey)



Programs for All Ages



Recreational Program Recommendations (CAC Survey)

Top 9 Recommended Programs (at least 85% of participants voted for these items)

- Computer Lab
- Summer Camp
- Afterschool Program
- Neighborhood Council Meetings
- Meals on Wheels
- Life Skills Classes
- GED Classes
- Walking Group
- Chair Exercise Class

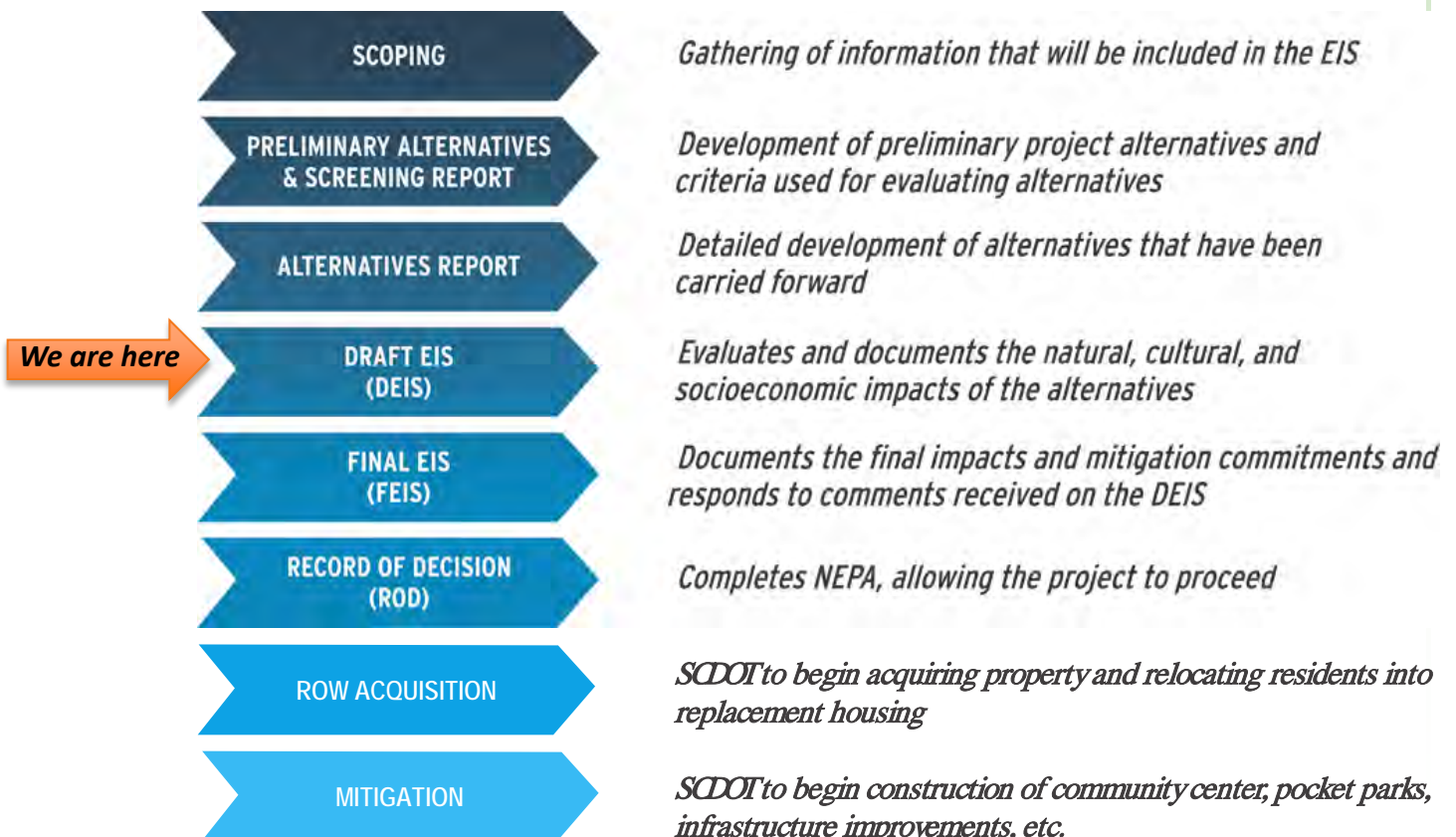


Key Takeaways

- A computer lab within the classroom space of the community center is important
- Specific sports programs will depend on the facilities
- Health initiatives ranked high, but there are not many programs available
- All community center programs should prioritize the local residents
- Additional requests discussed include:
 - Educational courses that address:
 - Parenting for new parents and single-parent households
 - Nutritional guidelines
 - Financial literacy and budgeting
 - Bike and pedestrian safety
 - Child safety seat requirements and installation
 - Arts/crafts for children, youth and seniors
 - Chess Club for children and youth
 - Mentoring programs, particularly those that create a synergy between existing resources and skills of residents and the interested mentee(s)
 - Summer youth employment opportunities at the community center
 - Installation of solar power with battery back up for community center to support families during weather perils

Project Schedule / Milestone Review

- The **Community Advisory Council (CAC)** will continue to meet on a monthly basis until Winter 2021 when the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) are issued by FHWA. During this timeframe, the CAC will focus on further developing the details of the Community Mitigation Plan and related Project Commitments that were included in the Draft EIS.
 - When the FEIS/ROD is issued, the CAC will transition into the **Project Oversight Committee (POC)** and be responsible for overseeing implementation of the Community Mitigation Plan.
 - It is recommended that, at a minimum, the POC meet quarterly beyond 2022 to track the implementation of the commitments during the Final Design, Right-of-Way Acquisition, and Construction phases.
- **Draft Community Mitigation Plan**
 - An overview of the Draft Community Mitigation Plan will be made available for public review and during Fall 2020.
 - The detailed version of the Draft Community Mitigation Plan will be available for public review when the DEIS is published in November 2020.
- **History Preservation Study**
 - Community residents will be able to provide input into the History Preservation Study from its Kick-off in Fall 2020 through the Right-of-Way Acquisition phase of the 526 LCC WEST project.



Focused Outreach



Community Advisory Council (CAC)

SCDOT will continue to support the Community Advisory Council (CAC) which was established in September 2019. The CAC consists of residents and property-owners from the impacted Environmental Justice (EJ) communities, who serve the following roles during the project development phase:

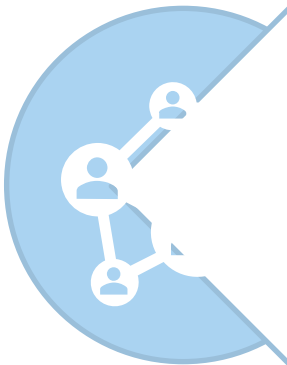
- (a) share individual knowledge and perspectives with the project team;
- (b) provide input on project-related impacts and proposed mitigation;
- (c) serve as a voice for the EJ neighborhood residents; and,
- (d) share project-related information.

SCDOT will continue to support the CAC, through the approval of the FEIS/ROD, by facilitating their regularly scheduled monthly meetings, providing technical assistance, and providing administrative support as needed.



Organizational Training

SCDOT will provide support for training to transition the Community Advisory Council to a Project Oversight Committee (POC). This training will also be made available to residents of the impacted EJ communities who are interested in joining the POC or other groups looking to initiate community advocacy.



Community Office

SCDOT will maintain a Community Office throughout the project development, final design, and right-of-way phases of the project. The Community Office will continue to be staffed with a full-time Office Manager, Community Liaisons/Outreach Specialists, and part-time Right-of-Way Specialists, who will be available to provide community residents with real-time project and right-of-way information. The Community Office will also be available to serve as meeting space for the CAC and the POC. The Community Office will remain in operation until the completion of the Right-of-Way Acquisition Phase.

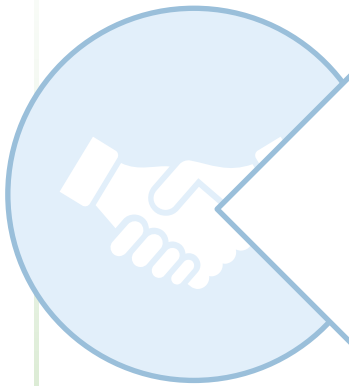
Discussion:



Affordable Housing

SCDOT will develop a plan with the South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority to construct replacement affordable housing units in the vicinity of the impacted EJ communities. The location and final number of affordable housing units will be determined prior to the approval of the FEIS/ROD.

SCDOT is conducting early acquisition of vacant lots within the EJ communities in order to ensure families displaced by the I-526 LCC West project have affordable replacement housing options within their communities. SCDOT is investigating provisions and partnerships that will enable the replacement housing to remain affordable in the future. Displaced residents would have to meet the qualifications for the affordable housing programs.



Financial Literacy and First-time Home Buyer Counseling

SCDOT will develop partnerships with the local organizations to provide financial literacy and first-time home buyer counseling to displaced residents, which could assist them in securing residential loans and transitioning from renters to homeowners. The counseling will be initiated during first quarter 2021.

Discussion:



School-to-Work Program

SCDOT will develop partnerships with educational institutions to develop school-to-work employment programs with the goal of enhancing employment opportunities within the fields of construction and engineering. Each year ten (10) high school or college students from the impacted neighborhoods can participate in the program through the completion of the project. Each year the program will be evaluated to determine its effectiveness and subsequent funding.



Pre-employment Training

This program will be established prior to construction to provide training and job readiness skills to individuals from the affected communities. SCDOT will determine the number of participants required completing the program and the program will be the responsibility of the contractor. The contractor's program plan and curriculum will be reviewed and approved by SCDOT. Graduates of this program will be considered for participation in On-The-Job Training (OJT) Program.

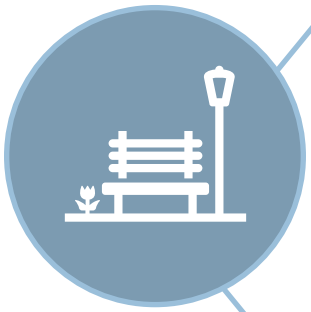


College Aid Initiative

Prior to construction, SCDOT will develop a partnership with local educational institutions and provide up to \$50,000 to fund a scholarship program. The scholarship program will be for high school and college students from the impacted EJ communities that intend to or currently attend the selected educational institutions.

Discussion:

Recreational Amenities



Facilities and Amenities

SCDOT will fund the construction of replacement recreational facilities and associated infrastructure to mitigate project impacts and satisfy Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) requirements. SCDOT will acquire parcels located within the affected neighborhoods and provide funding to the City of North Charleston who will oversee construction of one large, centrally located community center complex and two pocket parks within the impacted EJ neighborhoods. Final details of the amenities to be included in the community center and the pocket park will be included in the FEIS/ROD. Construction of the new centrally located community center and the pocket parks will be completed prior to the start of construction of the I-526 LCC-West improvements.

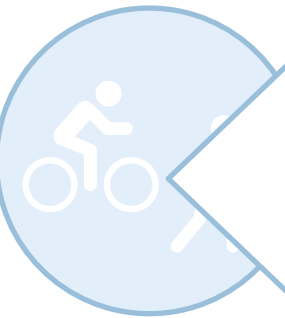


Programs and Activities

Prior to the approval of the FEIS/ROD, SCDOT and the City of North Charleston will develop an intergovernmental agreement outlining the programs, services, structural components, and arrangements for long-term operation and maintenance of the replacement community centers and recreational facilities. The agreement will include language that gives residents of the communities served by the centers priority in areas such as program enrollment/participation, reserving facility space, and volunteer opportunities.

The City of North Charleston will continue to look for qualified candidates that live in the impacted environmental justice neighborhoods. The City of North Charleston will post job openings within the neighborhoods and encourage the CAC and neighborhood councils to submit qualified applicants.

Final details related to programs, amenities, and community member employment opportunities at the recreational facilities will be included in the FEIS/ROD.



Connectivity and Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety

SCDOT will develop a plan to improve bike and pedestrian connectivity, safety, and mobility between the replacement community centers and recreation facilities, the surrounding EJ communities, and transit stops along Rivers Avenue. These improvements may include new and upgraded sidewalks, improved lighting, crosswalks/pedestrian signage, traffic calming, and CARTA transit stop improvements.

Discussion:



Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan

A Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan would identify a set of improvements to address bicycle and pedestrian safety, access to community centers, enhanced street aesthetics project-related stormwater improvements, and traffic calming measures that would be implemented as part of the project.

Discussion:



Community History Preservation Study

SCDOT will fund a study to document the cultural history and character of the impacted EJ communities through the support of a qualified historian and photographer. The study efforts will include collecting oral history, archival research, collection of historic photography, and the development of a report that will be available for viewing online and at the community center. The Community History Preservation Study will be complete within two years of the FEIS/ROD.

Discussion:

Project Schedule / Milestone Review

WHAT IS PROPOSED TO BENEFIT MY COMMUNITY? And When?



PROPOSED SCHEDULE

PUBLIC HEARING

FINAL DESIGN 2021-2023

RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION 2023-2027

CONSTRUCTION 2027-2032

Mitigation Schedule is based on approval of environmental documentation without legal challenge; subject to change



Community History Preservation Study

A study will document the cultural history and character of the impacted neighboring communities. This study will be available online and at the new, replacement community center.



Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan

A Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan would identify a set of improvements to address bicycle and pedestrian safety, access to community centers, enhanced street aesthetics, project-related stormwater improvements, and traffic calming measures that would be implemented as part of the project.



Community Centers & Parks

A large, centrally located community center complex and 2 smaller parks will be constructed within the affected neighborhoods to replace lost, smaller centers and parks.



Community Programs & Activities

The new modern community center will be equipped to provide enhanced programs and activities, including priority for community residents for programs and facilities.



Connectivity; Bike & Pedestrian Safety

Enhanced bike and pedestrian facilities within the community to provide safe access to new community centers, parks and transit stops.



Affordable Housing

Replacement affordable housing (multi- and single-family) will be constructed near the impacted communities. SCDOT is acquiring vacant lots within the communities early so displaced families will have affordable housing options within their communities.



Financial Literacy/First-time Home Buyer Counseling

Financial literacy and first-time home buyer counseling will be made available to displaced residents to assist in securing residential loans and transitioning from renters to homeowners.



School-to-Work Program

Will partner with educational institutions to develop internship opportunities within the fields of construction and engineering.



College Scholarships

Up to \$50,000 in scholarships will be awarded to students from the impacted communities (up to 10 scholarships of \$5,000 each)



Pre-Employment Training

Job readiness training will be provided to prepare program participants for On-The-Job Training during the project's construction.

*Schedule is tentative and subject to change

Outreach Update

Getting the draft Community Mitigation Plan to your neighbors and collecting feedback:

➤ Traditional Mail

- Infographic highlighting the concepts
- Include options to receive more information
 - Obtain a copy of the draft plan from the Community Office
 - Download a copy from the project website
 - Request a mailed copy of the draft plan
 - Call the Community Office to discuss with a Liaison or the EJ Team
 - Request an appointment to discuss at the Community Office

➤ Online Engagement Options

- Video Series on the project website and social media sites
- MetroQuest – online public involvement tool/survey
- EJ Website
 - Project educational resource material
 - EJ Community Mitigation Commitments
 - Introduce the CAC
 - ✓ Purpose
 - ✓ Membership
 - ✓ Meeting notes

➤ Tele-Reach (*telephone-based options to reach residents and obtain feedback*)

- Project Hotline

➤ Invite Team526 to Your Meeting

➤ Hispanic/Latino Community Outreach

- Radio and Online engagement

How can we best reach your neighbors to gather feedback on potential mitigation ideas?

Outreach Update

Magnet Outreach Effort

The I-526 LCC WEST team plans to send a neighborhood resource list as a magnet to the residents in the EJ neighborhoods. This magnet will be sent along with a letter from SCDOT Project Manager, Joy Riley, to encourage calls or appointments at the community office to discuss questions or concerns about the project with the community liaisons or Right-of-Way agents.

DRAFT
Neighborhood Resource List
Just for you!
(Ferndale, Highland Terrace, Liberty Park & Russelldale)

| | |
|---|--|
| Emergency | |
| EMS..... | 911 |
| Fire Station #3 Dispatcher..... | 843-743-7200 |
| Police Department..... | 843-740-2800 |
| Poison Control..... | 800-222-1222 |
| Animal Control..... | 843-740-2815 (Office); 843-822-1094 (Cell) |
|  | |
| Resources | |
| Lowcountry Food Bank..... | 843-747-8146 |
| Trident Area Agency on Aging..... | 843-554-2275 |
| Emergency Preparedness..... | 843-740-2884 |
| North Charleston Code Enforcement..... | 843-740-2672 |
| Trident United Way..... | 211 |
| Clerk of Court..... | 843-740-2601 |
| Veterans Community Resources & Referral Center..... | 843-789-6804 |
|  | |
| Medical | |
| Roper St. Francis Emergency Room..... | 843-824-8733 |
| Nason Urgent Care Northwoods..... | 843-773-9903 |
| Trident Medical Center..... | 843-797-7000 |
| Bon Secours St Francis Hospital..... | 843-402-1000 |
| SC Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC)..... | 843-953-2450 |
|  | |
| City Government / North Charleston | |
| Mayor's Office..... | 843-740-2504 |
| Councilman Sam Hart, Dist. 7..... | 843-554-1249 |
| Councilwoman Dorothy Williams, Dist. 6..... | 843-735-1539 |
| Councilman Bob King, Dist. 8..... | 843-744-1041 |
| Ombudsman Teddie Pryor..... | 843-740-5819 |
|  | |

DRAFT
Distributed by the SCDOT I-526 Lowcountry Corridor West Project

Visit our website: 526LowcountryCorridor.com
Call our hotline: 866-632-5262
 Visit [Facebook@526Corridor](https://www.facebook.com/526Corridor)
 To request special accommodations, contact 866-632-5262.

Outreach Update

Project Signs for Your Yard

The I-526 LCC WEST team needs your help to advertise the community office in order to best provide educational outreach opportunities for your neighbors. Please review the two sign options below. Which option would you prefer to see in your front yard?

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? CALL US!



www.526lowcountrycorridor.com
843.258.1135

LET'S TALK!



www.526lowcountrycorridor.com
843.258.1135

Outreach Update



Feeding the Community

Want Fresh Fruits & Vegetables?

The ***Lowcountry Street Grocery (LSG)*** works with farmers in South Carolina to bring fresh food to communities and neighborhoods in the Lowcountry.

Their goal is to help make nutritious food affordable and available. If you need fresh food, please call the ***I-526 LCC WEST*** Community Office at **866.632.5262** and leave a message. The community liaisons will return your call and connect you with the folks at ***LSG***.

FYI, persons with ***EBT*** cards can spend \$5 and get \$15 in free produce, which equals the cost of one bundle of fresh food from ***LSG***.

LSG exists to help provide you with fresh fruits and vegetables!



MEETING MINUTES

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 11

Date: August 29, 2020

Time: 10:00 am – 12:39 pm

Location: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor Community Office, 5627 Rivers Avenue, N. Charleston, SC,
Microsoft Teams (Virtual)

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees

Larenda Baxley, Ferndale
Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale
Gilbert Reeves, Ferndale
Earl Muhammad, Ferndale/Muhammad Mosque
Tony Grasso, Russelldale
Jeanaris Bannister, Liberty Park
Carolyn Varner, Liberty Park
Doris Twiggs, Liberty Park
Prayonda Cooper, Joppa Way
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
Clay Middleton, Maximum Consulting
Janelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies
Rick Day, Stantec
Amy Sackaroff, Stantec
LaTonya Derrick, Stantec
Ryan White, Stantec
Hannah Clements, Stantec
Horrace Tobin, Stantec (Community Office)

Participant Summary:

Total participants: 25

| | | |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| Ferndale: 4 | Adjacent/affected communities/agencies: 1 | Community Office: 1 |
| Highland Terrace: 0 | SCDOT: 3 | Stantec: 5 |
| Liberty Park: 3 | FHWA: 2 | Facilitator: 1 |
| Russelldale: 1 | Community Liaisons: 4 | |

Meeting Summary:

Welcome and Introductions

- Roll call (in-person, online, and phone participants)

Administrative Items:

- Participants were thanked for joining and participating in CAC Meeting 11.
- CAC Meeting 11 was hosted using a hybrid approach with participants joining via the Microsoft Teams platform, by phone, and in person.
 - The meeting was recorded solely for accuracy of meeting minutes.
 - LaTonya will serve as the technical host for participants joining remotely.
 - Participants may raise their hands, virtually and in person, to ask questions.

- CAC Meeting 11 packets were distributed to meeting participants prior to the meeting date, including minutes for CAC Meeting 10.
- CAC Meeting 10 minutes were approved with no recommended changes.

Review of Agenda:

- Neighborhood Update
- 1-Year CAC Recap
- Community Center & Pocket Park Update
- Review Recreational Program Survey results
- Project Schedule/Milestone Review
- DEIS EJ Project Commitments
- Outreach Update
- Summary & Next Steps

Neighborhood Update:

Facilitator: CAC Members representing each of the impacted communities were asked to share concerns expressed by the residents of impacted communities regarding the I-526 project since CAC Meeting 10.

CAC Member(s) Feedback (Liberty Park):

- COVID has made it difficult to go into communities and connect with residents, but he would like to begin distributing flyers again and using visual tools, such as yard signs. This may motivate the community to get involved by calling the office and to have ample opportunity to plan for and participate in CAC meetings.
- Community members have asked if there will be additional interstate expansion 10-20 years from now.
- Requested distribution of flyers containing accurate I-526 project information in order to help prevent inaccurate information within the community.

CAC Member Feedback (Joppa Way):

- Looking forward to the I-526 project yard signs to help inform communities about the CAC

Facilitator:

- I-526 project yard signs will be discussed in further detail during the Outreach Update portion of the meeting agenda.
- The project team encourages questions from the CAC and community members from the impacted communities.

Project Team Member:

- A large part of the CAC Meeting 11 agenda will cover the EJ Mitigation Plan. We will ensure that the mitigation plan includes making information available to the public, including sending out a flyer and getting feedback. The target date for the start of the Public Comment period is October 1, 2020, which will be discussed in more detail later in the meeting.

One-Year CAC Recap:

- Why develop a Community Advisory Council? A review was provided as a reminder of the reason the CAC was formed and the main responsibilities of CAC members.
 - Provide a way for you to voice your opinions, feelings, and ideas
 - Help shape the project and create a positive, local impact
 - Provide input on actions to minimize and mitigate impacts
 - Build relationships that will facilitate and sustain long-term solutions for impacted communities
 - Convey ownership
 - Meaningful engagement

- Desired outcomes of the Community Advisory Council
 - Provide a forum for open communication between the project team and the community
 - Emphasis placed on the importance of cross-generational (all age groups) and cross-cultural (all represented races and ethnicities) engagement during the pre-construction and post-construction phases of the I-526 project to facilitate long-term programs and solutions
 - Early collaboration to frame expectations and identify solutions
 - Social Needs Assessment (CAC Meeting 2, conducted October 28, 2019)
 - Mitigation Work Session (CAC Meeting 6, March 7, 2020)
 - Help SCDOT understand the community history, needs, concerns, and priorities
 - Including the Community History Preservation Study led by Maximum Consulting
 - Help SCDOT gain a better understanding of the project impacts on the community
 - Help shape the community mitigation package

Facilitator:

- CAC Members must make a distinction (know the difference) between their role as the Community Advisory Council and the role that members who choose to serve as the Project Oversight Committee will play. Currently, the CAC is in place to ensure that all initial (recreational facility design) concepts and general community concerns are captured and included in the initial mitigation plan because once the Final Environmental Impact Statement and the Record of Decision have been finalized and approved, those documents serve as the final contract. No changes may be made to the mitigation plan once these documents are finalized.
- CAC and community input are critical in the development of the mitigation package. It is the responsibility of the CAC and community members to submit comments and questions, or to voice their concerns during the public comment period.
- CAC members are encouraged to submit comment cards or contact the project team with any questions you may not feel comfortable speaking about in front of the group or if you have additional input after the conclusion of the meeting.
- The public hearing and comment period will take place in October 2020.

Project Manager:

- The draft mitigation plan will be released and available for public comment October 2020 through December 2020.
- She reiterated that this is the time for the CAC and community members to have their voices heard. The project team will give their best effort to make sure information is distributed in the community, and to ensure community members know how to get involved and how to submit their comments and opinions on I-526 project (impacts and design) during the public comment period.

- Some community members may think SCDOT already has plans in place. That is not the case. Community input is valued and considered during the planning process.
- This is the big opportunity for the CAC and community members to look at the different options SCDOT is presenting and to submit feedback for the project team to take into consideration. Public (community) input will be taken into consideration until next year, but the window for public input will eventually close.
- This is the time for people to voice their opinions and to be a part of the process.
- The Community Mitigation Plan addresses issues and concerns, such as traffic expertise, affordable housing, and community amenities that are not managed by SCDOT. Issues that are outside of SCDOT authority and the I-526 West LCC project scope of work, must be addressed and solutions must be driven by community members.

Community Center & Pocket Park Update:

Project Team Member:

- Two locations in Russelldale are being considered for the pocket park. Both will be compatible with recommended infrastructure improvements (such as crosswalks, pedestrian signs, curb improvements, and traffic calming measures) and will provide safety considerations and features. Two locations under consideration:
 - Parcel at the corner of Rebecca and Rockingham (original location)
 - Parcel in the cul-de-sac at the corner of Rebecca and Twitty Street

Project Manager:

- Requested feedback from CAC members.
- She is actively pursuing parcel located at Rebecca and Rockingham. SCDOT cannot condemn the property for this use. The current property owners will not sell this parcel unless we can trade it for another property that can be used for duplex construction. She is checking into potentially trading some of the property purchased in Ferndale for this parcel. However, they may not agree to trading those properties. Because she is on a timeline, she would like feedback on the next best option(s).
- The property at Rebecca and Rockingham Streets is in the open and feels safe.
- The property at the end of Rebecca Street next to the railroad seems isolated, and perhaps less safe, but she asked for feedback from the community.
- If none of the options presented are acceptable, the project team could consider some of the original pocket park concepts that were situated near the overpass on Margaret Drive. This location would be a last choice for the project team because it would be difficult to construct and remain open prior to the interstate widening. We would not be able to construct the pocket park until the interstate widening project is complete because we don't want a playground in the middle of an interstate construction project.
- For CAC members, if we are unable to secure the parcel at the corner of Rebecca and Rockingham, what are the second and third options preferred for purchase?

CAC Member: Requested an explanation of the purpose of and amenities associated with the pocket park.

Project Manager:

- The amenities associated with the pocket park include a basketball court, a playground, and an open-air pavilion. It will not contain a community center.

- Based on feedback from the City of North Charleston, having three separate community centers is not feasible due to operational and maintenance costs associated with enclosed facilities. The City has expressed their preference for the single, larger facility at Filbin Creek. This would include no additional enclosed facilities at pocket parks.

CAC Member:

- What can be done to reduce or eliminate drug activity in the vacant areas, particularly in the Russelldale/Ferndale areas?

Project Manager:

- Law enforcement issues are outside of SCDOT control. These concerns may be expressed to the City of North Charleston.
- Reiterated her concerns with the Rebecca and Twitty Street parcel. The Margaret Drive locations are more open, but construction logistics will cause challenges to community use of the pocket park.

CAC Member:

- Community member reported witnessing crime on Rockingham and Delta Streets and recommended posting hours of operation and signage at pocket parks to help prevent illegal activities.
- Concerns that a pocket park on Rockingham will encourage drug activity.

Project Manager:

It may be possible to install cameras or other means to discourage illegal behavior and keep the area safe.

Asked the CAC to prioritize the following pocket park locations.

- Rebecca and Rockingham Street parcel
- Rebecca and Twitty Street parcel
- Filbin Creek Community Center (Margaret Drive) parcel

CAC Member:

Expressed concern about planning based on a property that has not yet been purchased

Project Manager:

- We are in negotiations with the owners of both parcels on Rebecca Street, but we must have a back up plan if we are unable to secure those properties.
- Traffic calming audits and lighting audits will need to be conducted and included in the final plans. The City of North Charleston is ultimately responsible for lighting because they pay the associated power bills. SCDOT does not have a funding source for non-interstate lighting.

CAC Member:

Regarding safety concerns for residents, particularly children that use the facilities, adequate lighting and the right amenities to minimize the current safety concerns in the Russelldale community.

Summary:

CAC was asked to prioritize the following parcels as potential pocket park locations:

- Rebecca and Rockingham Street parcel
- Rebecca and Twitty Street parcel
- Filbin Creek Community Center (Margaret Drive) parcel

CAC Member:

The Filbin Creek location was prioritized as the preferred location based on access, connectivity, and safety for all communities.

Project Team Member:

Pedestrian safety and lighting components have been included in each community center option.

Project Manager:

Many of these items may not be included in great detail in the draft Mitigation Plan. However, we will have to include the details in the final plan. SCDOT will do lighting and traffic calming audits. Results must be shared with and co-signed by the City of North Charleston. These ideas will continue to be discussed and developed, and included in the final Mitigation Plan. This applies to issues such as sidewalks and trails as well.

CAC Member:

What feedback do we give to community members who will remain in the area and are asking where we are in the process? My biggest concern is how the community will look when we walk away.

Project Manager:

We should be able to answer this question when we discuss the mitigation framework in today's agenda. There is a planning process to tie all of the components together. These will be discussed during the discussion of the Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan.

CAC Member:

What is the status of the Liberty Hill/Highland Terrace pocket park?

Project Team Member:

- Trying to include as many amenities as possible at the Filbin Creek Community Center
- No enclosed spaces at the Russelldale and LH/HT pocket park in order to maximize connectivity and
- Both pocket parks will have outdoor, covered pavilions

CAC Member:

(Called in by phone to make provide feedback regarding preferred pocket park locations)

- Losing a whole community center is not good (for the Russelldale community)
- A pocket park is preferred so that children have recreational options in the Russelldale community
- Older residents may want to have an option for an outdoor facility in the Russelldale community
- This will also encourage Russelldale residents to have more pride in their community
- CAC member prefers the parcel at the corner of Rebecca and Rockingham streets for the pocket park that will service Russelldale. She also likes the Rebecca and Twitty street parcel, but only if there is a barrier that protects the property from the railroad and provides proper lighting.

Recreational Program Survey

- Survey was distributed to CAC members in July 2020
- Thank you for your participation in the survey.
- The data is presented and sorted based on existing programs that received votes.
- Items that received no votes were not reflected in the survey results.

- Other options deemed important by survey participants:
 - Family dynamics
 - Health programs that benefit all ages and various health situations
 - Mentoring
 - Professionals
 - Crafts
 - New/single parents
- Based upon CAC feedback, solar power was added as a community center feature.

Project Schedule/Milestone Review:

- A high-level review of the project was provided. Request for CAC input on the Mitigation components.
- CAC will continue to meet until December 2021.
 - The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and the Record of Decision will include the final commitments when they are published.
 - The committee will continue to help develop the Mitigation Plan until that time. Input from the community is also needed.
- December 2021 – Transition into a Project Oversight Committee (POC). Any members of the CAC with continued interest in serving on the POC will have responsibility to ensure that the commitments made by the CAC and accepted in the FEIS and Record of Decision are completed. The structure of this committee has not been finalized. The CAC will play a role in developing the structure, roles, and responsibilities of the POC.
- An overview of the draft Community Mitigation Plan is projected to be available to the public on October 1, 2020. This will begin the public comment period for community members to voice their opinions about the details of the draft Community Mitigation Plan.
- A project website is available to the public.
- A mailer about the plan and timeframe will be distributed throughout the impacted communities. The mailer will direct residents to the website to get more details about meeting with Community Liaisons and learning about this process and Environmental Justice.
 - November 2020 – Draft EIS issued. This will include the draft Mitigation Plan.
 - December 2021 – Final EIS projected to be issued. This will be combined with the Record of Decision. This will complete the NEPA process.
 - 2023 – Right-of-Way Acquisition projected to begin. SCDOT will begin to acquire the property for the highway improvement project. During this process, the POC will begin to oversee various mitigation components.
 - 2027 – Construction will begin. There will be approximately four years of highway construction and upwards of eight years of construction, including mitigation components and highway improvements.

Project Manager:

- The schedule normally moves much faster (approximately three years), but due to the significant community impact, SCDOT wants to make a commitment to building affordable housing, designing and building community centers, and implementing mitigation before the impacts related to the highway project occur.

CAC Member:

- Are you replacing tenant-based housing or owner-occupied homes?

Project Manager:

- Both. Our affordable housing mitigation plan has two parts. SCDOT is partnering with SC Housing Authority to build a larger, rental based housing unit. This will primarily be for individuals that qualify for Section 8. This will not be located within the affected communities due to the limited availability of land for development. SCDOT is also actively buying undeveloped, vacant lots to replace single-family homes, and will work with owners to purchase parcels of land in the impacted communities.

CAC Member:

- What about totally disabled individuals that may be displaced?

Project Manager:

- There is a developer planning to redevelop the old hotel on Aviation and Rivers Avenue. This will be a senior-oriented, disabled-accessible, affordable housing facility. SCDOT can also retrofit market homes identified by residents in the impacted communities.

Facilitator:

- Participants were reminded to review the minutes from CAC Meeting 5 for a detailed overview and explanation of tax incentive programs and the approach that SCDOT will follow for replacement and relocation housing as it relates to rental and single-family units.

Project Manager:

- These are items that will evolve over the next five months. These details will be formalized in the final Mitigation Plan. Once we reach the final Mitigation Plan, we are required to have final agreements in place with organizations such as the Housing Authority and nonprofits that outline roles and responsibilities, and commit funding.
- If a resident is being displaced under the Right of Way (ROW) process, SCDOT has an obligation to provide them with comparable housing that is accessible and accommodates any special needs.

DEIS EJ Project Commitments:

- First Draft of Mitigation Plan
 - The legal goal of the Mitigation Plan is to address impacts of the project.
 - The CAC will continue to operate until December 2021 (tentative date), after which they transition into the POC.
 - As members train to serve on the POC, SCDOT will bring in subject matter experts to speak to and better equip, inform, and prepare POC members.
 - The Community Office will be available through the final design and ROW Acquisition phase (tentative date 2027). The Community Office will continue to be staffed by the Office Manager, Community Liaisons, and ROW Liaisons. A new community office will be established by the contractor once the project goes into construction.

CAC Member:

Can SCDOT work with N. Charleston to create greenways in the proposed project pathway areas since all of the highways will be elevated? Can we make those areas underneath the highways greenways?

Project Manager:

Greenways are proposed under every overpass. When we get to that part of the planning process, someone from the City will join the CAC meeting to discuss.

Project Team Member:

- As a part of the Mitigation Plan, SCDOT and Maximum Consulting are working together to identify local organizations that can provide financial literacy and first-time home buyer counseling to displaced residents. Assisting renters' transition to first-time home buyers is a first quarter 2021 goal. CAC member input regarding this plan is welcome.
- Feedback will be considered throughout the ROW process.
- We are targeting implementation of three new education and employment initiatives:
 - School-to-Work program - This will engage 10 high school or college students annually from the impacted communities with a focus of fields in construction, engineering, and transportation.
 - Pre-employment Training
 - College Aid Initiative – This will provide up to \$50,000 in scholarships for high school and college students in the impacted communities.

CAC Member:

How long is “each year” that a student can participate?

Project Team Leader:

It is generally a summer internship program.

CAC Member:

What does ‘attend the selected educational institutions’ mean?

Project Team Leader:

We will work with specific institutions to help develop the program. The scholarship will be made available for the students to use at an accredited institution (technical college or institution of higher learning) of their choice within the state of South Carolina.

CAC Member:

Can the CAC play a role in selecting which institutions may play a role in the initiative?

Project Team Leader:

Yes, CAC input will be valued.

- Recreational facilities
 - We are working with the City to implement the list of programs and activities that was created with CAC input. That will be part of an inter-governmental agreement between SCDOT and the City regarding the amenities required for the Filbin Community Center.
 - Qualified residents from these communities will be used to staff these centers.
 - Will post jobs within the community
 - Will encourage the CAC to submit and select qualified applicants
- Connectivity and bicycle & pedestrian and safety components
 - This involves ensuring safe travel for the bicyclists in the community as they travel back and forth between the community centers. Improvements include:

- New and improved sidewalks
 - Lighting
 - Crosswalks
 - Pedestrian signage
 - Traffic calming
 - Areas where these improvements should be made are being identified, including improvements at the CARTA bus station
- Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan
 - There was review of the Sidewalk Improvement Map to show what the Infrastructure Enhancement Plan does.
 - This plan looks beyond the connectivity of the community centers and looks more holistically at all four communities to evaluate needs from a sidewalk, lighting, project-related storm water, and pedestrian safety standpoint to develop a plan that SCDOT will ultimately implement to address these improvements.
- The Community History Preservation Study
 - Ms. Carolyn Lecque (Community Liaison) participated in the Liberty Hill history exhibit. She is sharing her experience and “lessons learned” as a resource while the Community History Preservation Study is implemented. A list of potential historians and photographers has been developed to help lead the study. CAC will play a key role in this upcoming study. The goal is to initiate the study this fall.
- The timeline blends the two requests made from the CAC:
 - (1) To understand where the commitments fall in the project timeline and to understand where commitments fall over the course of years, including beyond the project
 - (2) To understand where it fits in the development timeline and its construction
 - CAC has been given the project timelines and provided with estimations of when different commitments begin, are implemented, and end.
 - Key takeaway: The majority of the mitigation tasks end before the project goes to construction. The goal is to have the community centers up and running prior to construction of the project. This includes:
 - Connectivity
 - Affordable Housing
 - Financial literacy
 - School-to-Work program
 - Scholarships, etc.

ACTION ITEMS:

Project Team Leader: Provide an overview of the School-to-Work and Scholarship programs at the next meeting and what was done on the Port Access Road, as this will be used as the model.

FHWA: Coordinate with Pamela Foster for technical assistance developing the School-to-Work and Scholarship programs. She helped develop these programs for SCDOT.

Outreach Update:

- An infographic mailer that captures that commitments will be distributed to the residents of the impacted communities. This mailer will include options to provide feedback and advise that residents may receive more details from the Community Office.
 - This all leads up to the public comment period prior to the public hearing.

- Environmental Justice videos are being considered for website, as well as possible CAC experience testimonials.
- MetroQuest is a creative platform that has been previously used by the SCDOT. It is an online public involvement tool/survey that will also be used for people that are comfortable going online to access information and provide feedback.
- Links for all of the tools and the mailer will be housed on the Environmental Justice webpage on the I-526's website. The website will also include information about the Advisory Council formation and meeting notes.
- The Community Office has been open to anyone that has scheduled an appointment.
- The community and CAC members are welcome to invite the SCDOT project team to community/resident organized informational events to share and engage groups in a socially responsible manner.
- Hispanic/Latino Community Outreach Specialists has been contacted about the project. They are looking to engage the affected residents with grassroots canvassing and project advertising on their respective radio and online platforms.

How can we best reach your neighbors to gather feedback on potential mitigation ideas?

CAC Member:

This is a lot to digest, even as a CAC member. How do we “eat this elephant” one bite at a time especially considering current events, the pandemic, the election, etc. considering there is a timeline and a desire to get all the stakeholders onboard? Is it asking too much for this project to be shared on television or through another means of sharing information? A person of age looking at all these things that are going to happen may feel overwhelmed. We lose people because we throw so much at them at one time. Is there a way to get the information out quickly but in smaller bite sizes?

Project Team Leader:

This is an excellent comment. The project team loses sight of how complex this is and how much information there is. The project team will think about how this can be delivered in bite sized pieces. We welcome your input and encourage a future conversation to brainstorm about how to deliver in a manner that is easy to be consumed.

- ACTION ITEM: Maximum Consulting will reach out to the minority media anchors at the three TV stations, as well as, the radio DJs at station WJNI and Cumulus Media, and the Charleston Chronicle to provide a media bite.
- ACTION ITEM: LaTonya will follow up with CAC members to solicit feedback about to distribute information in bite sized pieces. Members are encouraged to contact her with ideas.
- Magnet outreach
 - Magnets will be mailed to residents in the four impacted neighborhoods and Joppa Way.
 - The final magnet will not contain the images as shown in the packet but will include the most important part, the branding at the bottom with contact information.
 - The magnet will be mailed along with a letter from Joy Riley encouraging the residents to call the Community Office and make an appointment to discuss questions or concerns.
- Yard signs
 - There are two versions that may be provided for residents to place in their yards. They were reviewed in the meeting packet.

- *“Which option would you prefer to see in your front yard?”*
- The magnet and yard signs are available in Spanish.
- Low Country Street Grocery is interested in identifying families that need fruits and vegetables. Residents may leave a message with the Community Office. They will receive a call back to determine their food needs.
- There is an upcoming special event that is not sponsored by the project but is sponsored by organizations in the community.
 - On Thursday, September 3, 2020, there will be a Back-to-School giveaway event sponsored by Origin South Carolina and Low Country Street Grocery.
 - 75 to 100 backpacks will be given to residents of the four impacted neighborhoods in this drive-by/walk-by event. Backpacks will be distributed at the following times and locations:
 - 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Ferndale Community Center
 - 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Biblical House of God
 - Carolyn Lecque is in the Community Office and has flyers. Interested parties may also call the office for information.

Meeting Summary and Next Steps

- Summary of CAC member feedback:
 - SCDOT should prioritize the pocket park location that is situated nearest to Filbin Creek Community Center. This is dependent on SCDOT’s ability to secure this parcel.
- Review of the results of the CAC Recreational Program Survey.
- Review of the project schedule timeline and milestones
- Review of the DEIS/EJ project commitments
- Update on the initial outreach using traditional mail and online options
- Review of the ability of the project team to attend meetings and assist the CAC information dissemination and community education along with ensuring that Hispanic residents receive information
- Review of magnet outreach efforts, including a visual example. Review yard sign options
- Review of Low Country Street Grocery Outreach
- A community event, the Back-to-School program will be held on September 3, 2020
- Request for closing comments:
 - CAC Member: Is there a facility available to hold socially distant CAC meetings?
 - Project Manager: SCDOT will return to their offices in a week. The feasibility of having in-person meetings will be evaluated at that time. This is expected to evolve over the next month.
 - LaTonya: Please review the request to provide a video testimonial. Anyone that has not responded to the initial request will receive a follow up. Testimonial recordings will tentatively take place on September 4 and will be scheduled prior to that date.

CAC Meeting #12 scheduled for September 19, 2020, 10 AM.

TALK TO US – YOUR INPUT MATTERS

We want to talk with you about:

- **The proposed project**
- **Review study area maps**
- **Traffic & safety issues on**
 - **Neighborhood streets**
 - **Glenn McConnell Parkway**
 - **Magwood Drive**
 - **Paul Cantrell Boulevard**
- **Other concerns**

Spanish translation services will be provided for the meeting. For additional information or questions, please contact:

Joy Riley (SCDOT)
Project Manager

PO Box 191
Columbia, SC 29202-0191
(803) 737-1346
526distribution@scdot.org

Project Website:

www.526lowcountrycorridor.com



SCHEDULED MEETING

West Ashley Middle School

1776 William Kennerty Drive
Charleston, SC 29407
October 25, 2016
5:30-7:30 p.m.

The meeting is informal and open to the public. You are welcome to drop-in during the stated time and enjoy a meal at a discussion table. Project Team Members will be available to listen to your concerns, answer your questions, and talk about the decision-making process.



**526 LOWCOUNTRY
COMMUNITY MEETING**

**TALK TO US
YOUR INPUT MATTERS**

We want to talk with you about:

- **The proposed project**
- **Review study area map**
- **Traffic & safety issues on**
 - **Neighborhood streets**
 - **Glenn McConnell Parkway**
 - **Magwood Drive**
 - **Paul Cantrell Boulevard**
 - **Other concerns**

The meeting is informal and open to the public. You are welcome to drop-in during the stated hours and enjoy a meal at a discussion table. Project Team Members will be available to listen to your concerns, answer your questions, and talk about the decision-making process.

SCHEDULED MEETING

West Ashley Middle School
1776 William Kennerty Drive
Charleston, SC 29407
October 25, 2016
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Spanish translation services will be provided for the meetings. For additional information or questions, please contact:

Joy Riley (SCDOT)
Project Manager
PO Box 191
Columbia, SC 29202-0191
(803) 737-1346
526distribution@scdot.org

Project Website:
www.526Lowcountrycorridor.com

Meals donated by Charleston Trident Urban League



**VENGA Y HABLE CON
NOSOTROS SU CUENTA**

Meals donated by Charleston Trident Urban League



Welcome to the 526 Lowcountry Corridor Community Meeting

Agenda

- To hear from you about traffic, congestion, and safety issues on your neighborhood streets around the intersections of Glenn McConnell Parkway, Magwood Drive, and Paul Cantrell Boulevard.
- To provide you with information about the proposed project.
- For you to review study area map, speak with the project team members, and offer your input.
- Get answers to your questions regarding the proposed project and hear your concerns and issues.

Project Overview

A vital link to the Lowcountry economy, the I-526 Lowcountry Corridor connects port terminals to distribution centers, enhances local and statewide commerce and industry, and provides community connections for residents, businesses and tourists. Additionally, I-526 also includes three major river crossings to facilitate hurricane evacuation throughout the region.

In order to address the existing and anticipated future traffic demands in this corridor, the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), in cooperation with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), intends to conduct an Environmental Assessment (EA) that will promote informed decision-making in the development of solutions to reduce congestion along I-526 and the intersecting roadways, improve traffic operations, increase safety and increase capacity.

Stay Involved

SCDOT will use your input in the decision-making process to determine what type of changes will be made to I-526. *Your input is important.* The Project Team has provided many avenues for the public to provide feedback:

- **Attend public meeting & complete a comment form**
- **Visit the project website** to obtain updated project information, view the project and neighborhood maps, and visit the other project related links: www.526lowcountrycorridor.com
- **Complete a comment form online via the project website**
- **Send us an email to** 526distribution@scdot.org

The results of your public involvement will be communicated to the project team so that their technical efforts can include your views and interests with respect to any planned improvements. When alternative designs are developed, you will be given an opportunity to review the proposed alternatives and provide your comments before a final design for the project is approved.

Sign up for our newsletter

Newsletters will be used to provide project status updates and information. They will be emailed/distributed to the residents and businesses in the outreach area and to people on the project contact list at critical milestones during the project. Visit the project website or submit your contact information using the attached comment sheet to be added to the project contact list.



Welcome to the 526 Lowcountry Corridor Community Meeting

Contact Us

Joy Riley (SCDOT)

Project Manager

PO Box 191

Columbia, South Carolina 29202-0191

(803) 737-1346

526distribution@scdot.org

Project Area



I-526 Lowcountry Corridor at a glance...

- I-526 from Rivers Avenue (US 52) to Paul Cantrell Blvd.
- Major Interchanges or Intersections within the study area
 - I-526 and Rivers Avenue
 - I-526 and I-26
 - I-526 and International Boulevard
 - I-526 and Montague Avenue
 - I-526 and Dorchester Road
 - I-526 and Leeds Avenue
 - I-526 and Paul Cantrell Boulevard



526 Lowcountry Corridor Community Meeting

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Neighborhood/Phone/Email Address: _____

1. Would you like to be added to our notification and/or mailing list? Yes No

2. Do you access I-526 for your daily travel? Yes No

3. If so, for what purpose? Work School Other (specify) _____

4. What form of transportation do you use in your daily travel?
 Vehicle Public transit Bike Walking Other (specify) _____

5. Have you previously heard about the 526 Lowcountry Corridor Project? Yes No

6. If yes, how did you hear about the 526 Lowcountry Corridor Project?
 Flyer/Poster/Doorhanger Project website Newspaper/TV Word of Mouth Email
 Church/Social Gathering Newsletter(s) Social Media Billboard
 Other (specify) _____

7. Do you have any concerns about the 526 Lowcountry Corridor Project? Yes No

8. What are your concerns? _____

9. Is congestion along I-526 a concern? Yes No

10. Are there any particular times that congestion is a concern?
 Mornings Afternoons Evenings Weekends Holidays

11. What do you think would be the best way of reducing congestion? _____

12. Is safety along I-526 a concern? Yes No

13. What type of improvements would you recommend to increase safety? _____

14. Do you primarily use I-526 to access neighborhoods or local businesses along the corridor? Yes No

15. Which roads and/or streets do you primarily use? _____

16. Are there any local routes along the corridor that you think could be improved to make businesses and neighborhoods more accessible? Yes No

17. Which routes? _____

18. Does traffic from I-526 lead to increased traffic in your neighborhood? Yes No

19. What would you recommend to reduce increased traffic in the neighborhoods along the corridor? _____

20. Are there any community resources or areas of interest that we need to know about? Yes No

21. What are they? _____

22. What other topics or concerns should we be considering? _____

Please mail or email comments by to:
526 Lowcountry Corridor Project Team
PO Box 191, Columbia, SC 29202-0191
526distribution@scdot.org

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION.
YOUR INPUT IS VERY IMPORTANT IN THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.**



Public Information Meeting Summary
Thursday, November 21, 2019 | 11 a.m – 7 p.m.
Charleston Area Convention Center

Prepared by CDM Smith, February 1, 2020

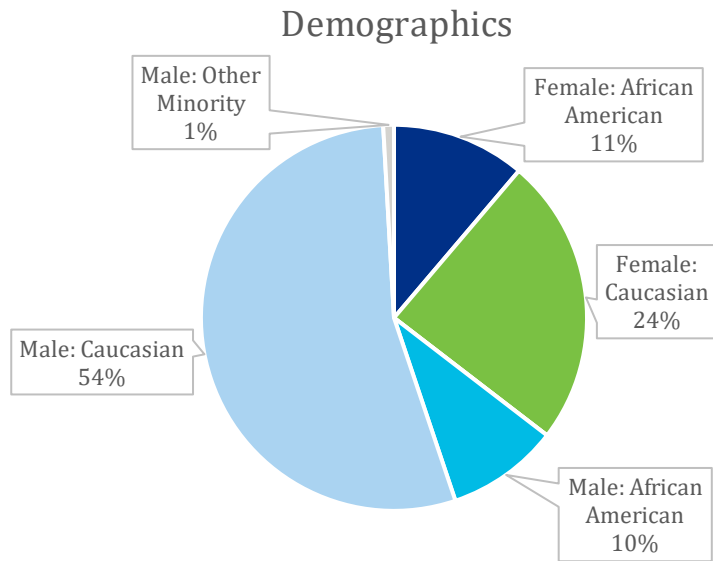
The first Public Information Meeting (PIM) for the I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST project was held on Thursday, November 21, 2019 from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. at the Charleston Area Convention Center in North Charleston. The public comment period closed on January 31, 2020. A Virtual Public Information Meeting (VPIM) was also available online throughout the official public comment period. Between November 1st and January 31th, the Virtual Public Information Meeting website had 5,982 visitors.

Demographics

The general public was invited and encouraged to attend. A total of 223 people attended the PIM. Overall, the attendees were fairly diverse in terms of age, gender and race/ethnicity. However, the Hispanic population was notably absent when comparing against the general demographics of the area.

Demographics were tracked by: female (African American, Caucasian, and other minority) and male (African American, Caucasian, and other minority). Below are the counts of these groups:

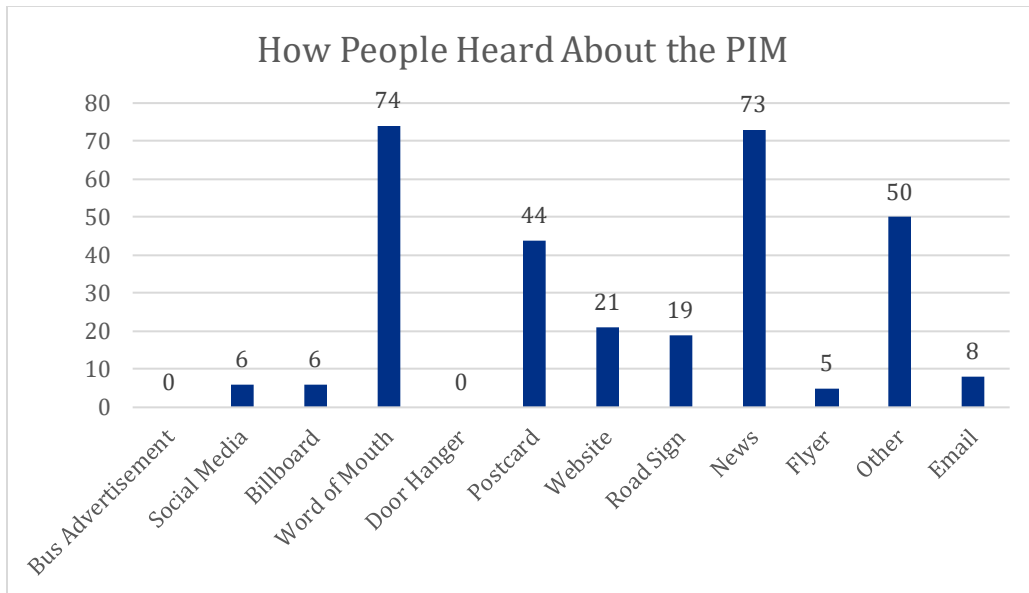
- Female: African American – 25
- Female: Caucasian – 54
- Female: Other minority – 0
- Male: African American – 21
- Male: Caucasian – 121
- Male: Other minority – 2



According to the [US Census Bureau Quick Facts](#), The Charleston-North Charleston SC Metro Area is 64.1% Caucasian (not including Hispanic), 5.4% Hispanic/Latino, and 27.6% African American.

Advertising

Numerous resources were put into advertising for this PIM. Both traditional and non-traditional forms of advertising were used. At the welcome station, each person was asked "How did you hear about this event?" The majority of responses included word of mouth, news (newspaper, TV or radio), postcards, website, and road signs. Those who said they found out about the meeting through other methods, mentioned emails from their neighborhood HOA, companies, and Meals on Wheels. The methods of advertisement that did not have any responses were the bus advertisement and door hangers.



It is also important to note that a true advertising campaign is designed to interact with the target audience in multiple forms. Therefore, a bus or billboard advertisement is more about general project awareness than a specific call to action. Word of mouth indicates that there was buzz about the project, however, we are unable to know how the person they heard it from found out. This could be any number of methods, but was most likely the news given the amount of coverage and the tendency to “create buzz.”

Traditional forms of advertising for the Public Information Meeting included:

- Newspaper Advertisements
 - Standard SCDOT public notices for the PIM were placed in the *Moultrie News*, *Daniel Island News*, the *Chronicle*, the *Berkeley Independent*, and *El Informador* 15 days prior to the PIM.
- Postcards
 - Project postcards specifically advertising the PIM were mailed to 28,204 addresses on 37 different USPS postal routes along the I-526 LCC WEST project area. Postcards arrived in mailboxes 15 days before the PIM.
 - Jumbo 6x11” postcards were also sent to 2,231 addresses within the identified Environmental Justice communities primarily highlighting the Community Drop-ins (October 18, 2019). However, they did have information about the PIM, as well.
- Flyers/Flyer boxes
 - 33 Flyer boxes (like those used for Real Estate Signs) were placed strategically within the project area so that residents and commuters can pick up information on the project and public information meeting. Flyers were checked and updated weekly. The flyers highlighted both the Community Drop-ins and the PIM.

- The PIM information was also featured in the handout distributed at each of the 5 Community Drop-ins leading up to the PIM.
- Physical SCDOT Road Signs
 - Standard SCDOT road signs were placed along the project corridor to inform the commuting public within the area about the PIM.
- Project Newsletter/e-Blasts
 - The PIM was advertised in the I-526 Lowcountry Corridor Newsletter, released Summer 2019 (August 20, 2019) and in the Fall 2019 edition (which was the handout, November 14, 2019).
 - The PIM was also featured along with the Community Drop-ins sent via Mail Chimp to stakeholders (September 12, 2019; October 29, 2019; November 12, 2019; November 18, 2019).
 - A reminder about the VPIM/comment period closing was also sent to all subscribers on January 2, 2020.
- Social Media
 - Social media was used to enhance overall project awareness and drive interest in the PIM and VPIM. Facebook Ads were utilized, and a Facebook Event was created to promote the event from September – December 2019.
- Website
 - The I-526 LCC website had advertisements for the PIM and VPIM, including a banner at the top of the page and a pop-up that appeared when you entered the site.

Non-traditional forms of advertising included:

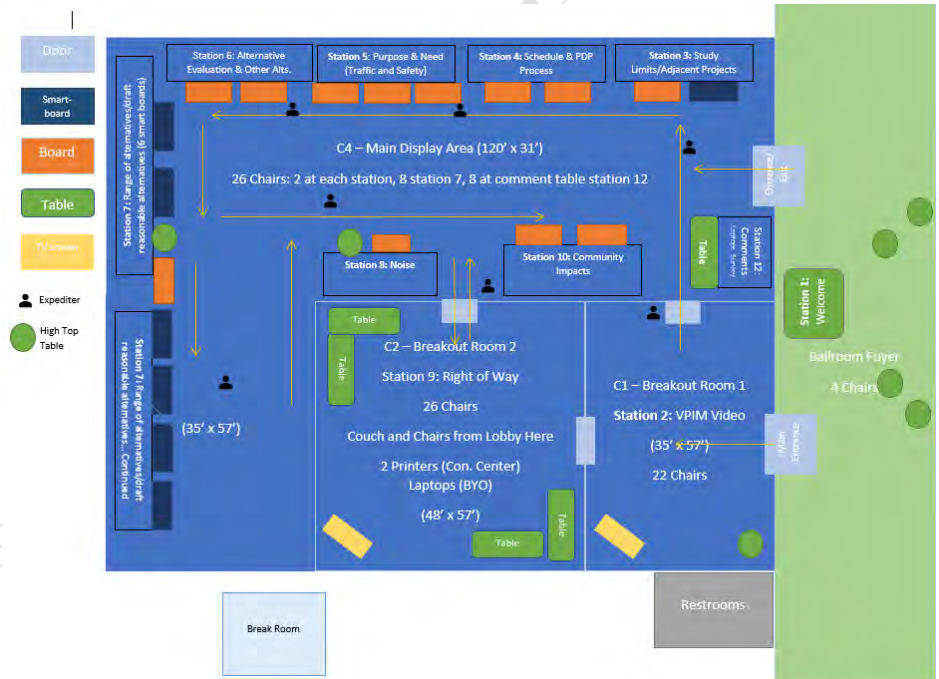
- Door Hangers
 - English and Spanish door hangers were placed on 1,100 resident's doors in the identified Environmental Justice communities primarily highlighting the Community Drop-ins (October 28-29, 2019). However, they did have information about the PIM, as well.
- Media Day Outreach
 - On November 7, 2019, an event was held for media at the community office. *Post & Courier*, *CRBJ*, *WCIV*, *WCSC*, *FOX 24*, *El Informador*, and *WBCD* sent reporters to cover the project.
- Elected Officials Open House
 - On November 7, 2019, elected officials were invited to attend an open house at the community office and encouraged to invite constituents to attend the upcoming public involvement opportunities, including the Community Drop-ins.
- Bus Advertisement
 - Two CARTA bus wraps were utilized to reach high-priority geographies and target residents and drivers along routes in West Ashley and North Charleston. Bus wraps were in use from October 21, 2019 – December 21, 2019.
- Billboards
 - A static billboard was used to target commuters on I-26 near I-526 to advertise the project. The billboard was in service October 27, 2019 – December 21, 2019.

- Digital Display Ads
 - Desktop, mobile, and tablet ads were created to target those in the Charleston Metro Area based on relevant content. Ads ran from November 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019.

Meeting Layout

Content and engagement activities were designed to educate the public about the project, the project development process and to receive comments from the public. The layout was setup with multiple sign-in tables in the lobby outside of Ballroom C in the Convention Center. Once the public signed in, they were encouraged to watch the VPIM video in a separate room. Then, they were guided into the main display area. The stations in order were:

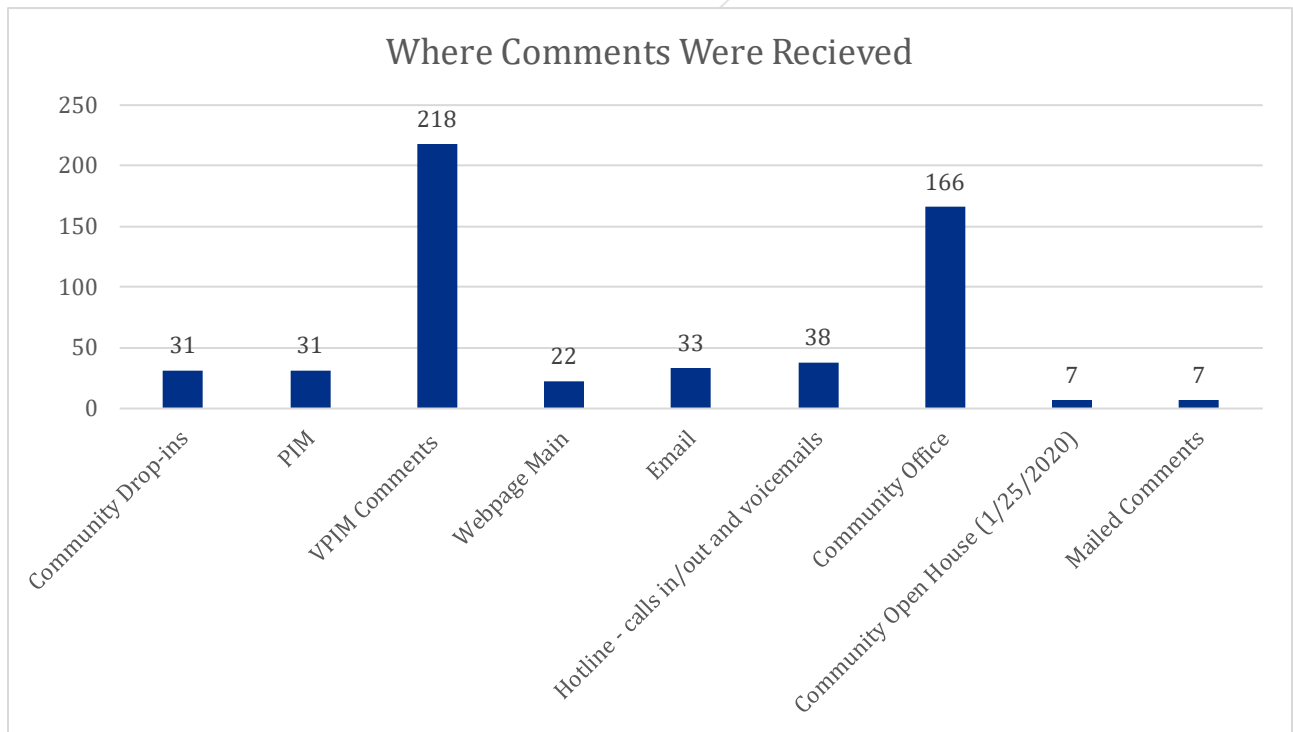
1. Sign-In
2. Virtual Public Information Meeting Video
3. Study Area and Adjacent Projects (Existing and Committed Map on Smartboard)
4. Project Development Process and Project Schedule
5. Purpose and Need (Traffic and Safety)
6. Other Alternatives Evaluated and Alternative Evaluation Process
7. Proposed Reasonable Alternatives (8 Smartboards)
8. Noise
9. Right-of-Way
10. Community Impacts
11. Comments



Comments

A total of 553 comments were received during the comment period which ended on January 31, 2020. These include:

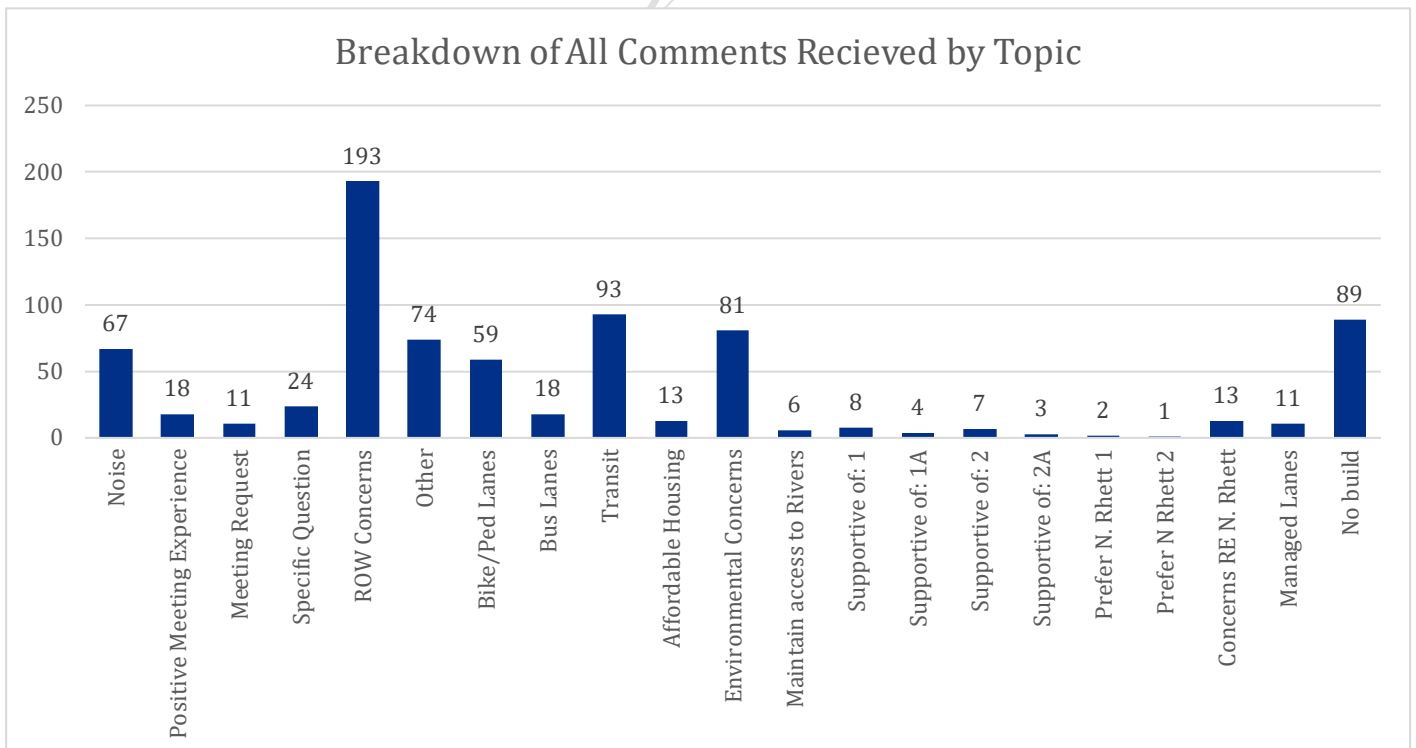
- Thirty-one (31) written responses at the PIM held on November 21, 2019
- Thirty-one (31) written responses at the Community Drop-ins
- Two-hundred and Forty (240) Website comments
- Seven (7) Mailed comment forms and mailed letters
- Thirty-three (33) Emails (to both Joy Riley and the project email address)
- One-hundred and Sixty-six (166) comments received at the Community Office
- Thirty-eight (38) comments received via the Project Hotline
- Seven (7) comments received at the Community Open House



General sentiments of the comments can be broken down as follow:

Note: Totals should not equal 553 as one response could contain multiple suggestions. Some comments had suggestions outside of these, but categories were based on recurring themes.

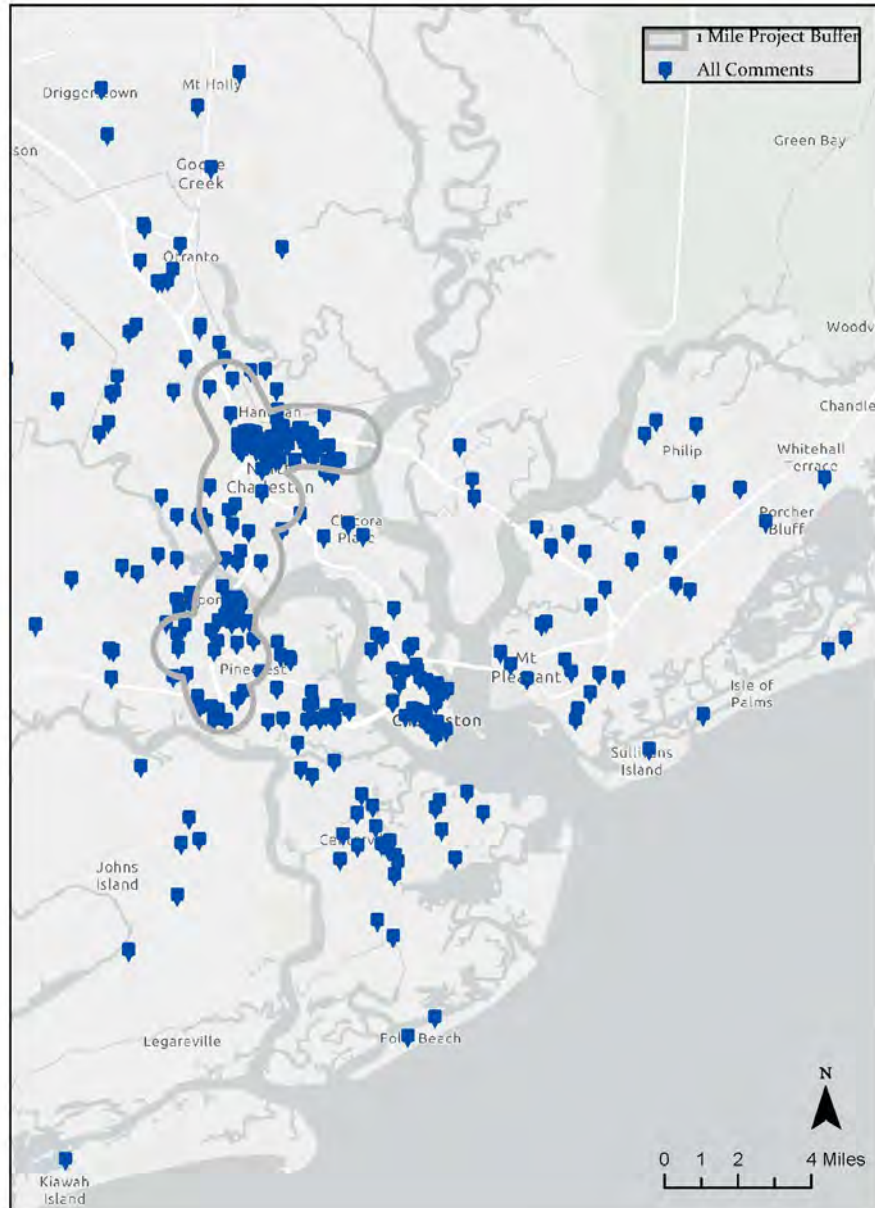
These tallies are to be considered general sentiments only. Counts were applied if the respondent specifically cited a particular suggestion.



The following map shows the locations of all comments received during the public comment period.

I-526 LCC WEST All Public Comments

November 7, 2019 – January 31, 2020



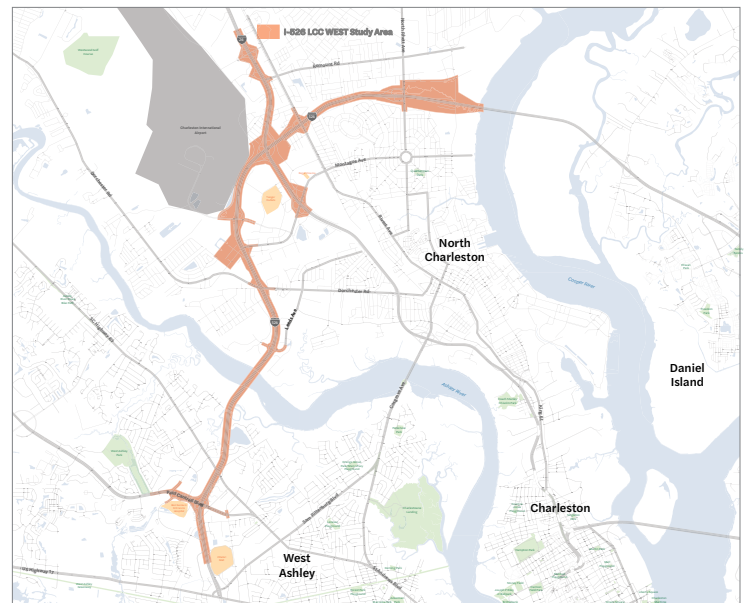
I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST Public Information Handout

Purpose of Public Involvement

Welcome to this public involvement opportunity. We appreciate your attendance! The purpose of these events is to provide you with an update and gather your comments on the I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST (I-526 LCC WEST) project.

Project Purpose and Need

The I-526 LCC WEST project spans approximately 9.7 miles between Paul Cantrell Boulevard in West Ashley and Virginia Avenue in North Charleston. SCDOT currently identifies the segment of I-526 between I-26 and Virginia Avenue as the most congested segment of interstate highway in the state. **The I-526 LCC WEST project's purpose is to increase capacity and improve operations at the I-26/I-526 interchange and along the I-526 mainline from Paul Cantrell Boulevard to Virginia Avenue.**



Traffic Analysis Highlights: *Measuring Congestion*

The traffic studies for the I-526 LCC WEST show that adding one lane in each direction (six lanes total) would not sufficiently reduce the traffic congestion to an acceptable level of service. Therefore, all proposed reasonable alternatives include adding two lanes in each direction for a total of eight lanes. The resulting levels of service are illustrated below.

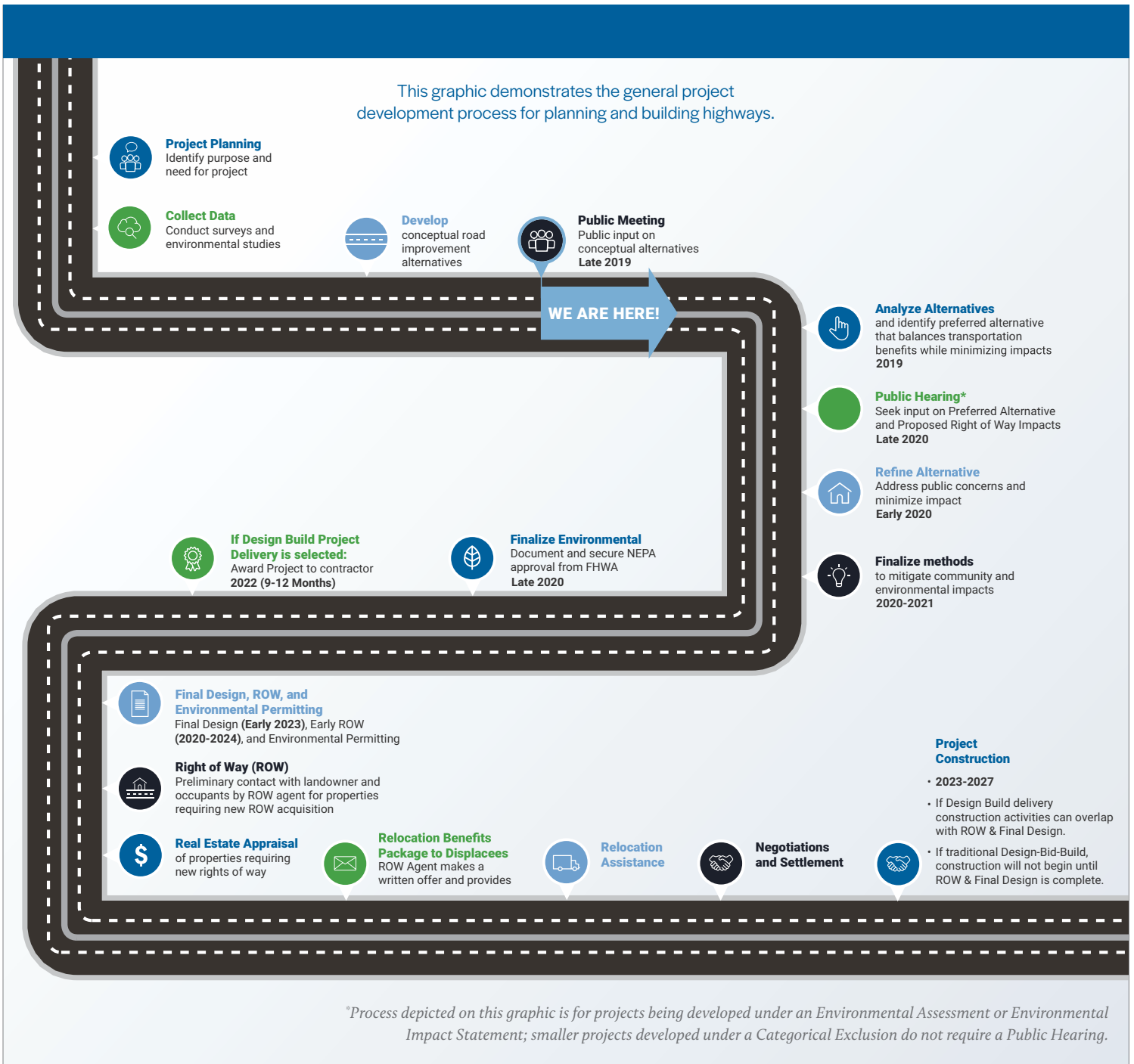
| Level of Service (LOS) | | Segment Description | No Build 2050 LOS | Build 2050 LOS | |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| | | | | 6-Lane | 8-Lane (Proposed) |
| LOS A Free Flow | LOS D Approaching Unstable Flow | North of SC 7 (Sam Rittenberg Blvd) to Paul Cantrell Blvd | C | B | B |
| LOS B Reasonably Free Flow | LOS E Unstable Flow | Paul Cantrell Blvd to Leeds Ave | F | F | D |
| | | Leeds Ave to Dorchester Rd | F | F | D |
| | | Dorchester Rd to Montague Ave | F | E | C |
| | | Montague Ave to International Blvd | F | D | C |
| | | International Blvd to I-26 | F | E | C |
| LOS C Stable Flow | LOS F Forced Flow | I-26 to Rivers Ave | F | D | C |
| | | Rivers Ave to North Rhett Ave | F | E | C |
| | | North Rhett Ave to Virginia Ave | F | F | D |
| | | East of Virginia Ave | F | F | D |

The Project Development Process

Over the last several years, the project team has been completing traffic studies and developing and analyzing alternatives that would provide the necessary improvements, while balancing the potential impacts to the natural and human environments. This fall's many public involvement activities represent a very important step in the process – providing opportunities for the community to review the proposed reasonable alternatives and provide meaningful input.

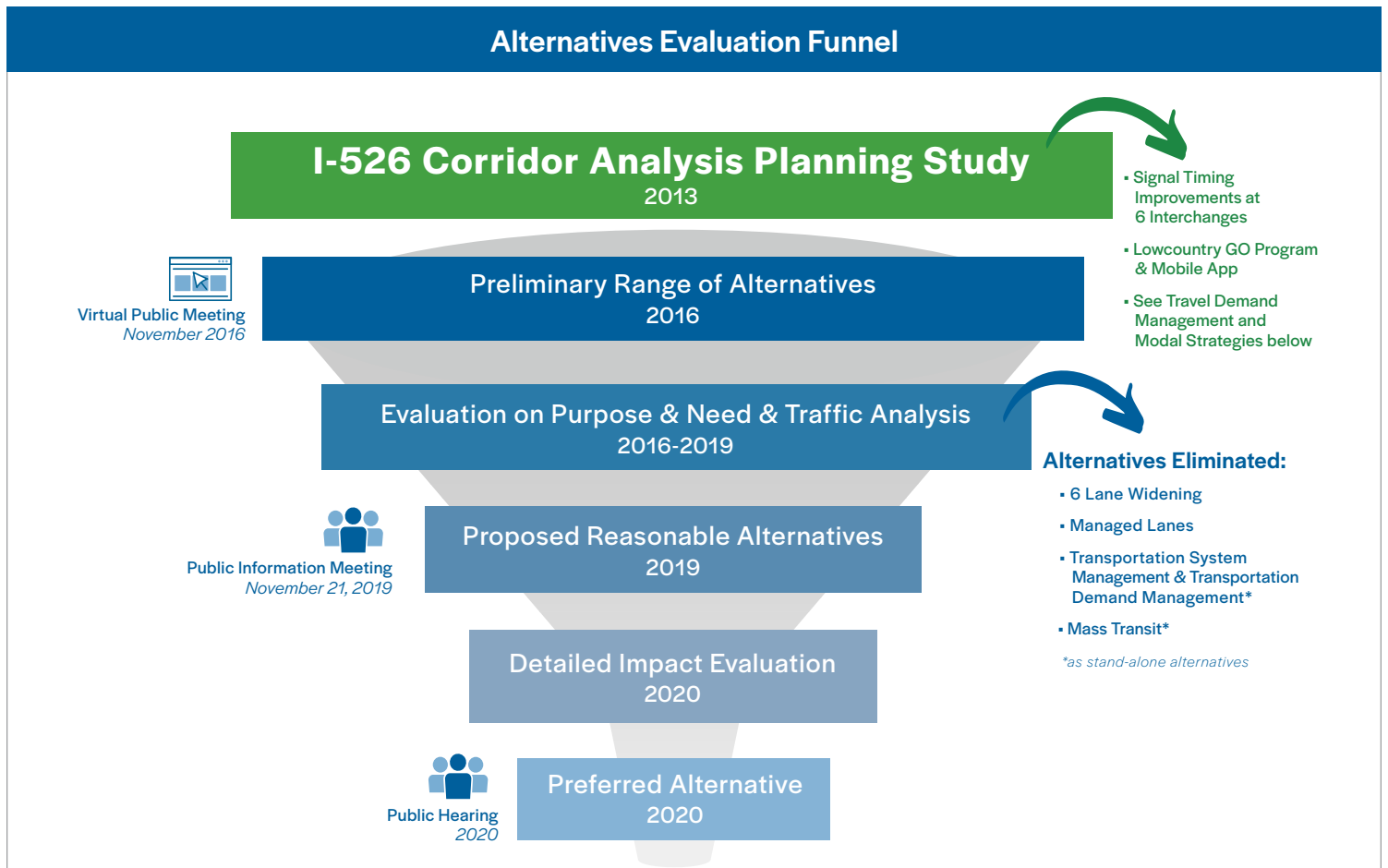
Moving forward, the project team will further analyze the alternatives with consideration of the public's comments and work towards selecting a preferred alternative. Fall of 2020, the project team will come back to the public to get your input on the preferred alternative.

From there, the project team will work towards obtaining final environmental approvals and begin selecting a contractor and design team to deliver the project to construction. The full project development process is illustrated below.











Alternatives Evaluation Criteria

SCDOT identified congestion and operational issues along I-526 LCC WEST through a Corridor Planning Study completed in 2013. Numerous projects were funded as a result of this study, including signal-timing improvements, LowcountryGo initiatives and this capacity improvement project. While these strategies are expected to reduce traffic (illustrated below), the Planning Study also identified the need for additional capacity and improved interchange design. The project team continued to study and develop the preliminary range of alternatives that was identified through the planning study. Extensive traffic and environmental studies were conducted to identify the reasonable alternatives that best met the purpose and need of the project, while balancing the potential impacts to the natural and human environments. The proposed reasonable alternatives have been identified in this booklet for your review and consideration. After careful consideration of public input, the project team will work over the next year to further analyze and refine the alternatives and select a preferred alternative for presentation to the public in the fall of 2020.



Travel Demand Management and Modal Strategies: Traffic Reduction Potential

As identified in the 2013 I-526 Corridor Planning Study listed above.

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
|  Carpools/Rideshare Matching Vanpools -2% |  Transit Pass/Financial Incentives -1.5% |  Telecommuting/Compressed Work Week -0.1% |  Work Flex Time/Staggered Work Hours -0.5% |
|  Bike/Walk Enhancements -0.1% |  Education/Promotion -1% |  Bus Rapid Transit -3.4% |  Shift to Rail Freight -3.5% |

Proposed Reasonable Alternatives: Focus on Interchange Improvements

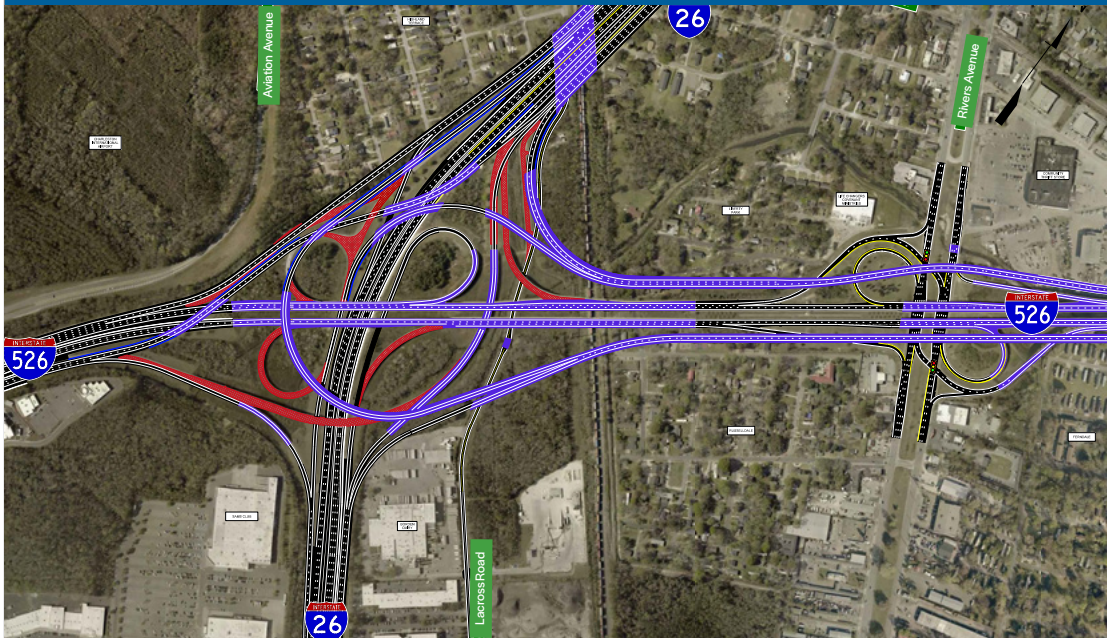
The alternatives evaluation process has resulted in the following proposed reasonable alternatives, designed to increase capacity and improve operations along I-526 between Paul Cantrell Boulevard in West Ashley and Virginia Avenue in North Charleston. The proposed reasonable alternatives are the options that best meet the purpose and need of the project, while minimizing impacts to the communities and natural environment. For a more detailed view of these maps, including the proposed new right of way, we encourage you to visit our project website or come to our community office.

 Removal of Roadway

 Existing & Proposed Roadways

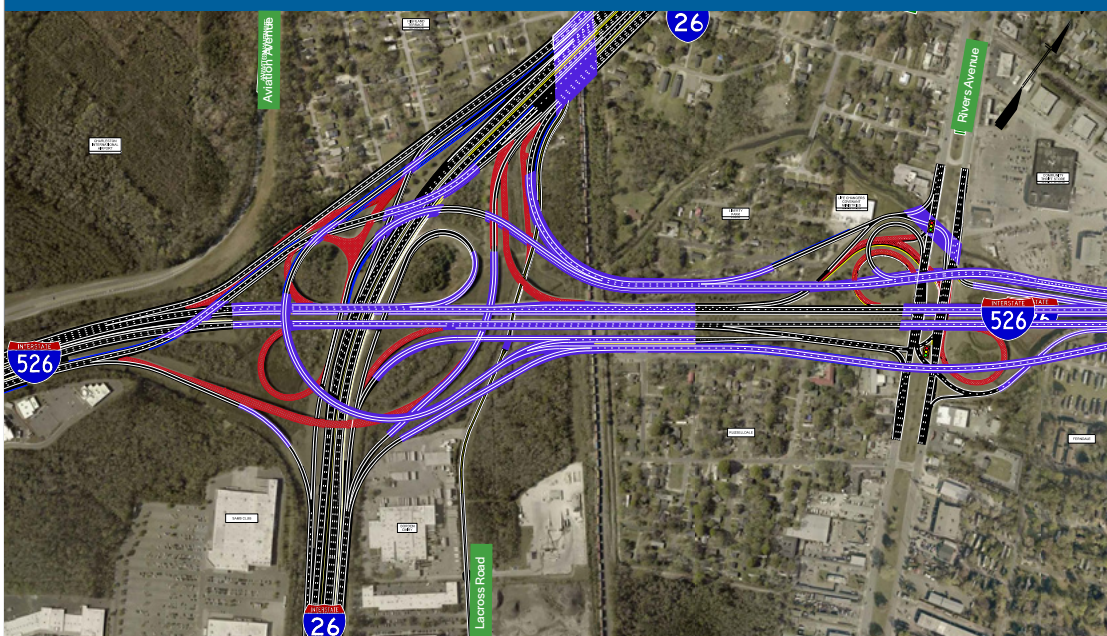
 Existing & Proposed Bridges

I-526/I-26 Alternative 1



- Replaces two of three cloverleaf ramps with higher capacity ramps to alleviate congestion
- Expands I-26 collector-distributor roads
- Increases I-26 through capacity
- Maintains access from Rivers Avenue to I-526
- Prevents access from Rivers Avenue to I-26

I-526/I-26 Alternative 1A



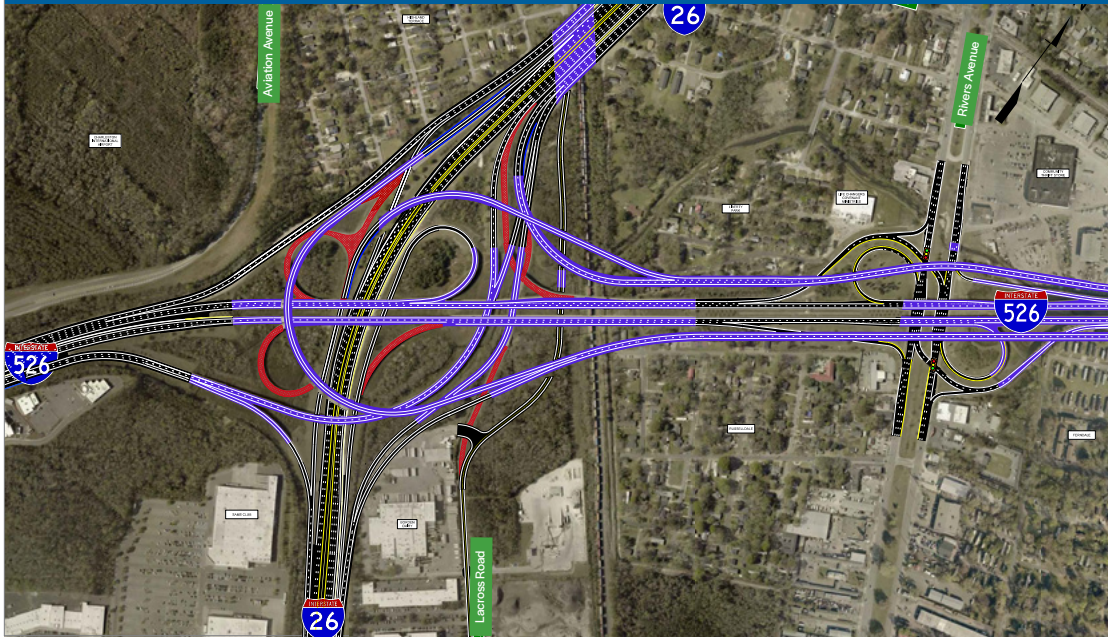
- Similar to Alternative 1, except Alternative 1A provides additional ramps resulting in direct access from Rivers Avenue to I-26

▣ Removal of Roadway

▬ Existing & Proposed Roadways

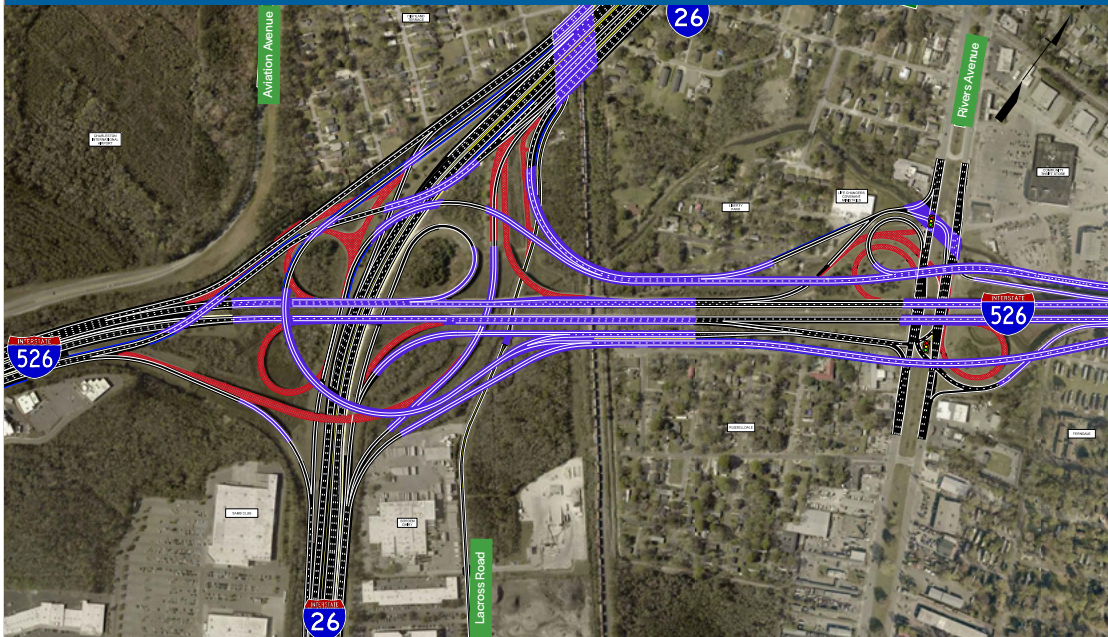
▬ Existing & Proposed Bridges

I-526/I-26 Alternative 2



- Similar to Alternative 1 except Alternative 2 utilizes existing directional ramp from Eastbound I-526 to Westbound I-26

I-526/I-26 Alternative 2A



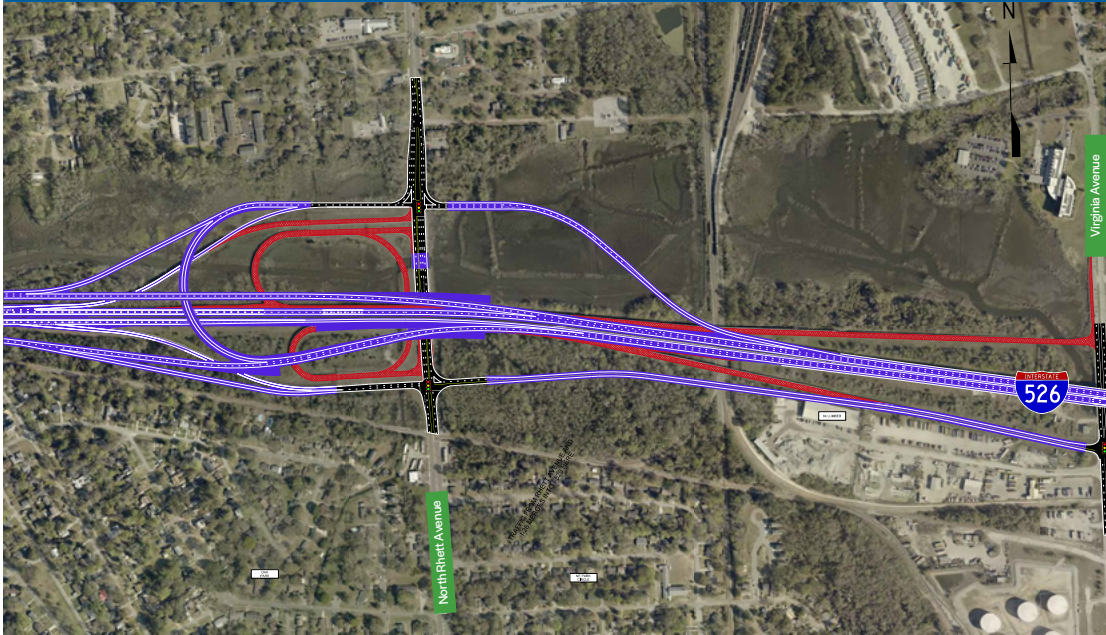
- Similar to Alternative 1 except Alternative 2 utilizes existing directional ramp from Eastbound I-526 to Westbound I-26

Removal of Roadway

Existing & Proposed Roadways

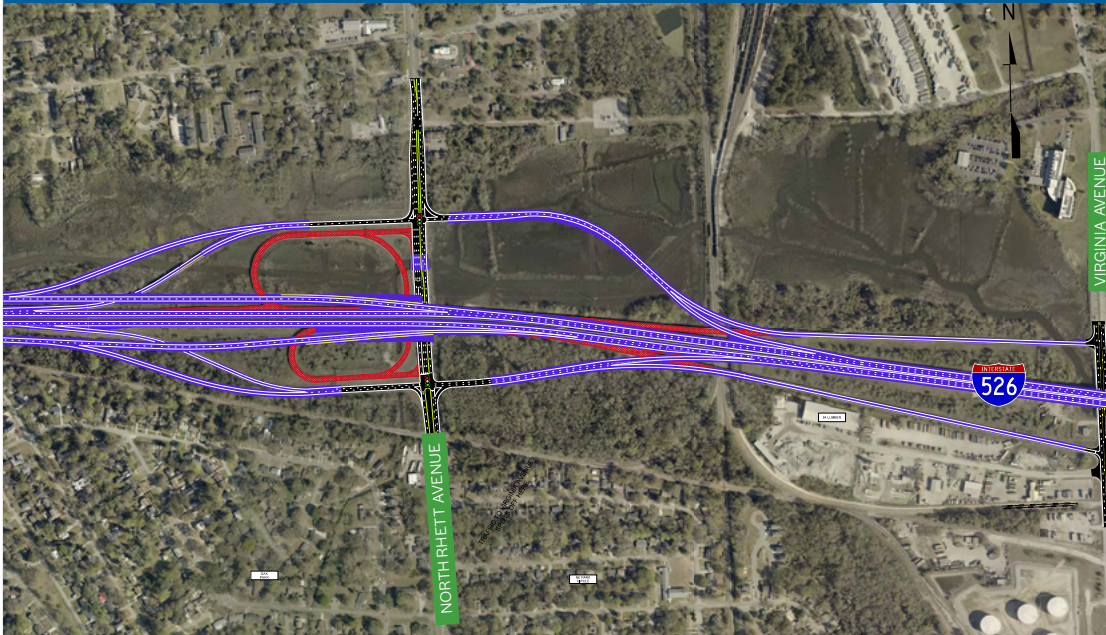
Existing & Proposed Bridges

I-526/N. Rhett Avenue Alternative 1



- Provides access from one intersection on N. Rhett Avenue to Eastbound and Westbound I-526
- Provides separate, two-way frontage road between N. Rhett Avenue and Virginia Avenue
- Provides separate connections from N. Rhett Avenue to mainline I-526 and to collector-distributor roads

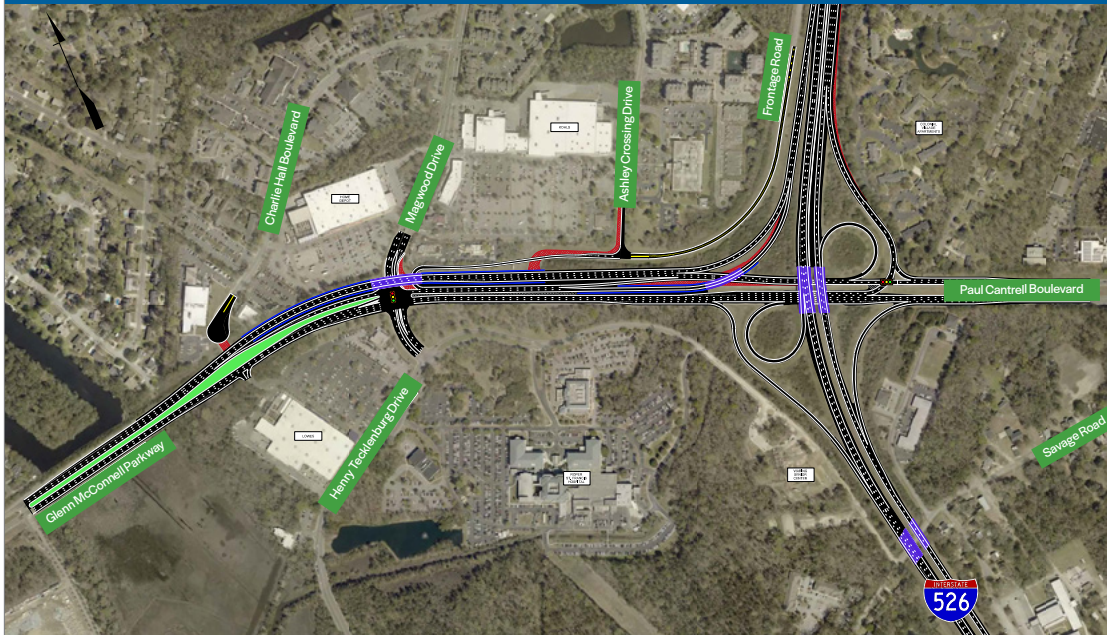
I-526/N. Rhett Avenue Alternative 2



- Entrance ramps begin at separate intersections for Eastbound and Westbound I-526
- Provides separate, one-way frontage roads on either side of I-526 connecting N. Rhett Avenue to Virginia Avenue
- Provides separate connections from N. Rhett Avenue to mainline I-526 and to collector-distributor roads

▨ Removal of Roadway
 ▬ Existing & Proposed Roadways
 ▬ Existing & Proposed Bridges
 ▬ Grassed Median

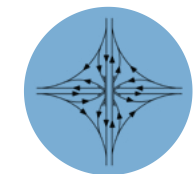
I-526/Paul Cantrell Boulevard Alternative 1



- A new bridge will carry the Westbound lanes of Paul Cantrell Boulevard over the intersection with Magwood Drive
- The Westbound exit ramp from I-526 to Westbound Paul Cantrell Boulevard will be widened and use this new bridge to bypass the Magwood intersection

Other Alternatives Evaluated

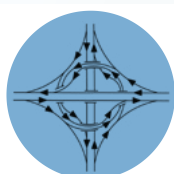
Interchange Types



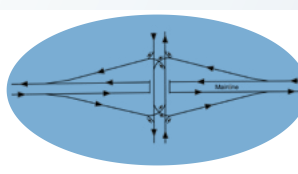
DIRECTIONAL INTERCHANGE WITH DIRECT CONNECTIONS



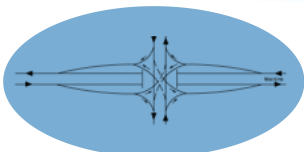
DIRECTIONAL INTERCHANGE WITH DIRECT AND SEMI-DIRECT CONNECTIONS AND LOOP RAMP



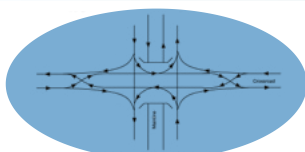
TURBINE



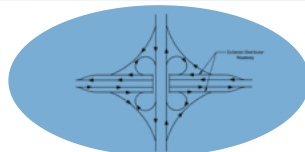
DIAMOND INTERCHANGE



SINGLE-POINT DIAMOND INTERCHANGE

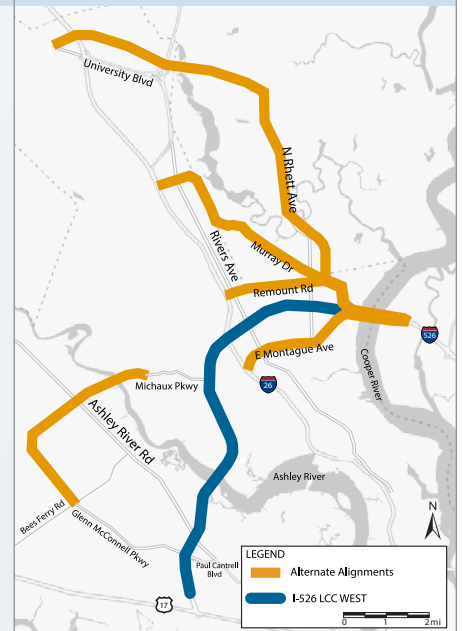


DIVERGING DIAMOND INTERCHANGE



CLOVERLEAF INTERCHANGE WITH COLLECTOR-DISTRIBUTOR ROADWAYS

Alignments



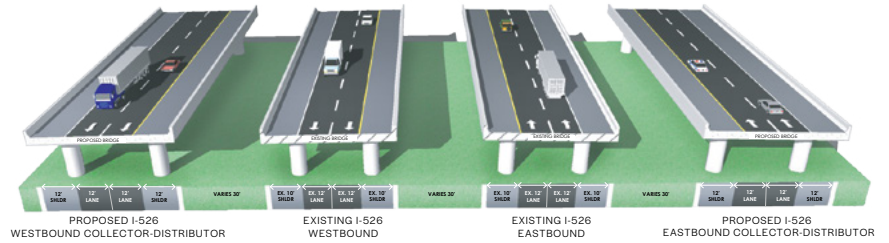
Typical Sections of Mainline Improvements

The below are representative of the typical sections of improvement. This includes the proposed lane configurations, median types or whether a section is elevated. The descriptions and graphics below correspond to the labeled letters on the map to the right.

A. Interstate I-526: Existing I-526 2-lane Viaducts Retained and Proposed 2-lane Structures to Outside

- The existing elevated structure section between I-26 and Virginia Avenue will remain
- An elevated two-lane collector-distributor road will be added in the Eastbound and Westbound direction with direction connections to Eastbound and Westbound I-26

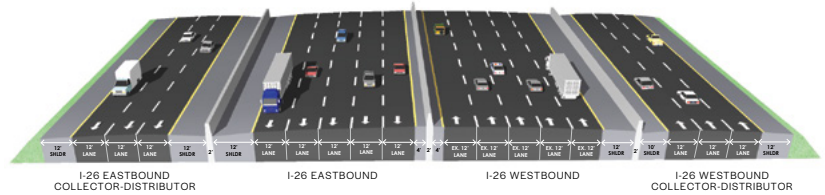
A



B. Interstate I-26: I-26 Typical Section from Remount Road to I-526/I-26 Interchange

- Existing 10-lane section of I-26 from Remount Road to the I-526 interchange
- Three lane collector-distributor roadways are proposed on either side of the 10-lane facility in order to reduce congestion

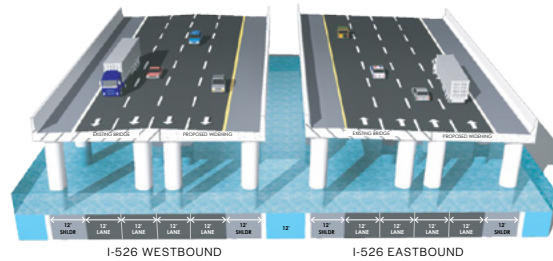
B



C. Interstate I-526: Typical Section of Improvement I-526 Mainline Ashley River Bridges

- Mainline widening of the Eastbound and Westbound bridges over the Ashley River

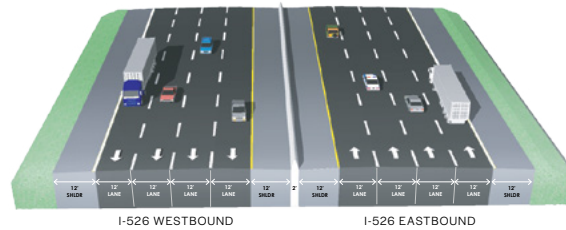
C



D. Interstate I-526: Typical Section of Improvement I-526 Mainline Eastbound and Westbound

- Widening from 2 lanes to 4 in each direction is proposed for I-526 with widening occurring to the center
- A barrier is proposed for the center of the 8-lane facility
- 12-foot shoulders to the inside and outside are planned as a safety measure

D

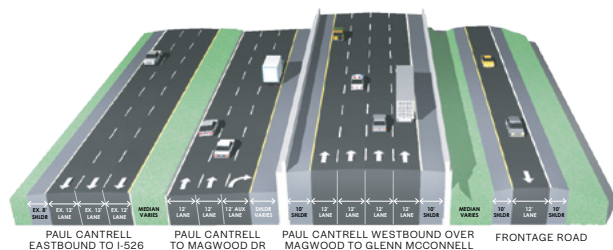


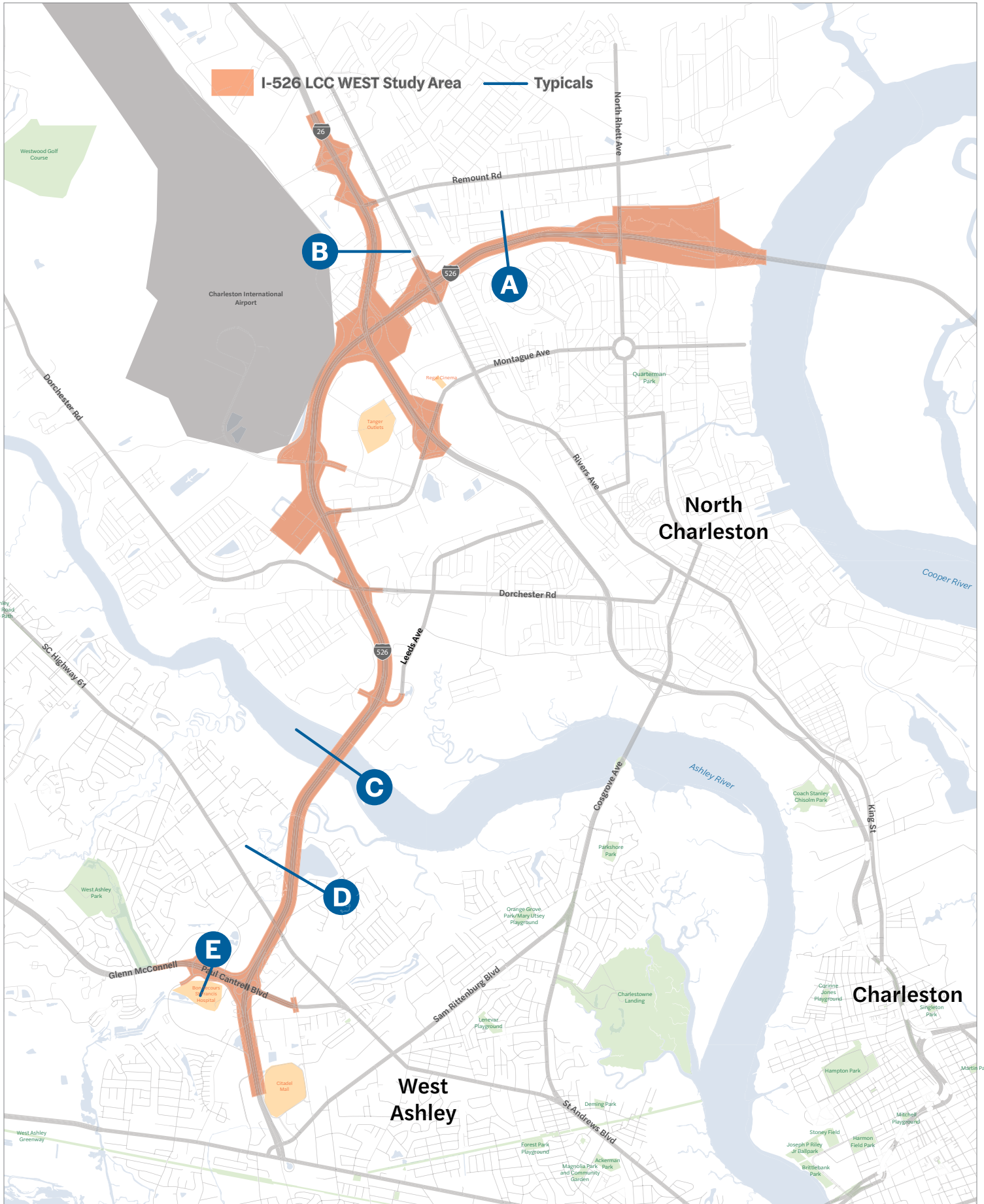
E. Paul Cantrell Blvd: Ashley Crossing Drive to Bridge Over Magwood Drive

Left to Right:

- Existing Eastbound & Westbound Paul Cantrell Boulevard
- The new bridge heading Westbound over Magwood Drive to Glenn McConnell Parkway
- The frontage road will remain for two-way local traffic from Ashley Crossing Drive to Ashley River Road
- The frontage road will be one-way from Magwood Drive to Ashley Crossing Drive

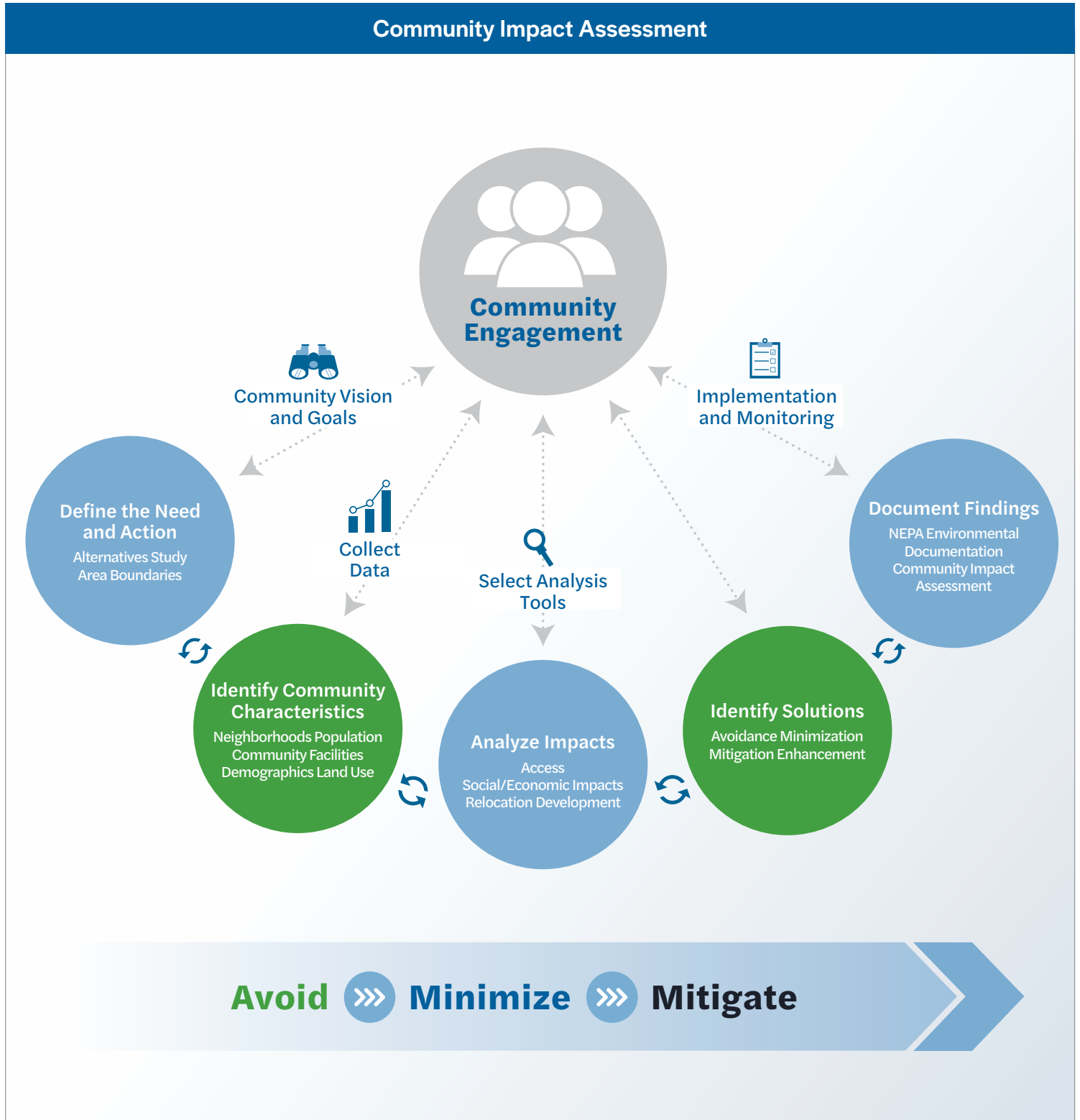
E





Community Impact Assessment

After the initial evaluation of the preliminary alternatives, it was determined an environmental impact statement, or EIS, should be prepared for the I-526 LCC WEST project. An EIS is a full disclosure document detailing the process through which a transportation project was developed, includes consideration of a range of reasonable alternatives, analyzes the potential impacts resulting from the alternatives, and demonstrates compliance with other applicable environmental laws and executive orders. The illustration below follows the Community Impact Assessment process with the EIS.



Environmental Justice

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Equity is our AIM in the Project Development Process

Environmental Justice, Public Involvement, NEPA and Title VI all work together in order to ensure equity to traditionally underserved populations

SCDOT is providing a variety of engagement opportunities to meet and discuss this project and its potential impacts and benefits to the public.

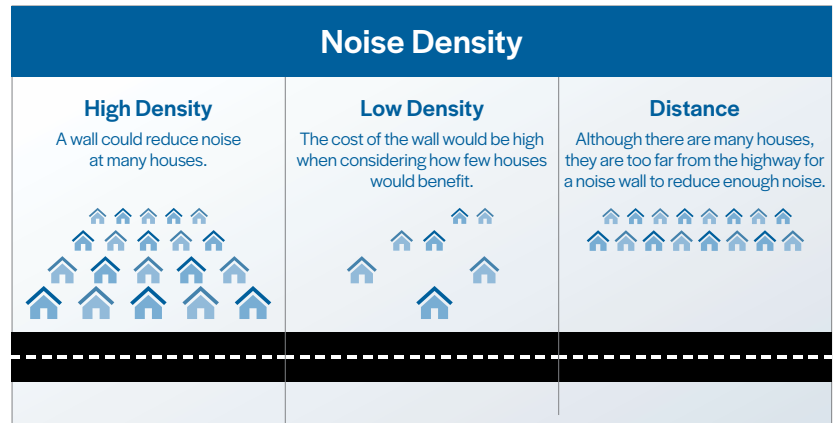


Environmental Justice Outreach Strategy

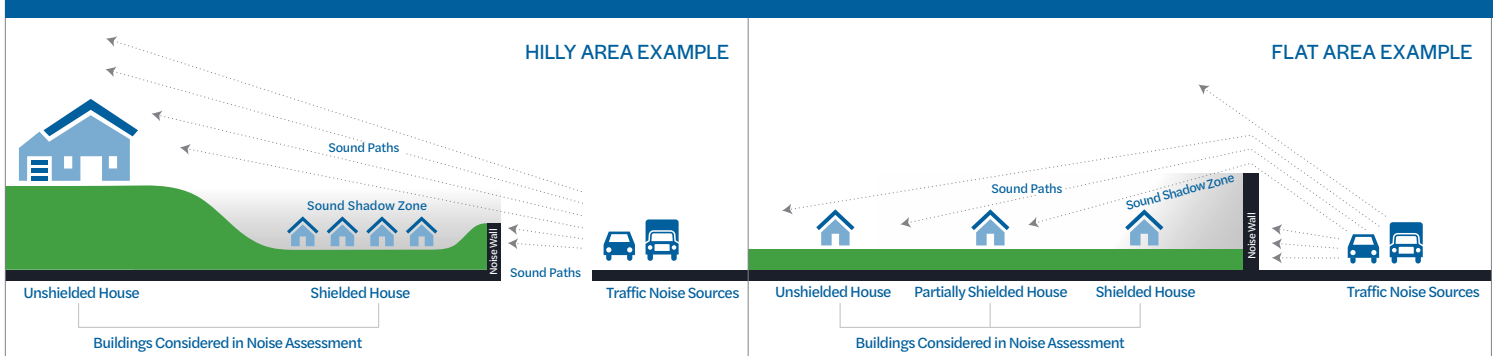
- 01 Small Group Meetings
- 02 Meet on Your Schedule
- 03 Walkable Office Location
- 04 Community Liaisons
- 05 Right-of-Way Specialists
- 06 Project Hotline
- 07 Community Council
- 08 Subject Matter Experts

Highway Traffic Noise

SCDOT recognizes the impacts that highway traffic noise may have on citizens and will do what is reasonable and feasible to lessen these effects. Our team conducted noise readings within the project study area to understand the current noise levels. As part of the project development process, we perform noise studies on each of the proposed reasonable alternatives presented today. These studies will allow the project team to demonstrate the potential change in traffic noise if the project is constructed and help identify design strategies to reduce the noise. The illustrations in this section show how SCDOT evaluates noise.



Noise Assessment



Right-of-Way Information

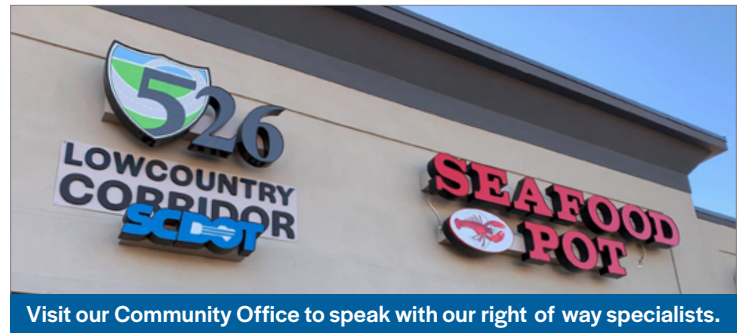
SCDOT roadway projects are planned and developed through an extensive environmental review process, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Community impacts such as right-of-way impacts and property owner relocations are considered as a part of the NEPA process. The public and potentially impacted communities will be engaged throughout the NEPA process to gather input on the proposed project alternatives. All right-of-way will be acquired in conformance with the Uniform Act.

Project Timeline – What Happens Next?

- PROJECT DESIGN: *Ongoing, 2016-2024*
- EARLY RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITIONS: *2020-2024*
- DESIGN-BUILD TEAM PROCUREMENT: *2022*
- FINAL DESIGN: *Early 2023*
- CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES: *2023 - 2027*

Stay Involved

Community feedback is an integral part of the alternatives analysis process. Comments can be provided at the meeting, submitted online, or mailed to SCDOT at the address below. **While we welcome your input at any time, the official public comment period for this public information meeting has been extended through January 31, 2020.** Submitting your comments by the end of the comment period ensures they make it to the full project team before the preferred alternative is developed. We value your input, so please take a few moments to share your thoughts, questions and concerns. We look forward to hearing from you!



We Value Your Input!



I-526 Lowcountry Corridor Project Manager
 Joy Riley, DBIA, PE, PMP, CPM, SCDOT
 E: info@526LowcountryCorridor.com



Phone
 843.258.1135



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 I-526 Lowcountry Corridor
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 North Charleston, SC 29406



facebook.com/526Corridor



twitter.com/526Corridor



526LowcountryCorridor.com

Community Drop Ins

SATURDAY

Nov. 9 • 2PM – 5 PM

Biblical House of God
 2205 Van Buren Ave.
 North Charleston, SC

CARTA ROUTE 10

WEDNESDAY

Nov. 13 • 5PM – 8 PM

Ferndale Community Center (Gym)
 1995 Bolton St.
 North Charleston, SC

CARTA ROUTE 104

THURSDAY

Nov. 14 • 5PM – 8 PM

Life Changers Covenant Ministries
 2140 Eleanor Dr.
 North Charleston, SC

CARTA ROUTE 10

MONDAY

Nov. 18 • 5PM – 8 PM

Danny Jones Community Center
 1455 Monitor St.
 North Charleston, SC

CARTA ROUTE 104

TUESDAY

Nov. 19 • 5 PM – 8 PM

Citadel Mall (Between Belk and Loft)
 2070 Sam Rittenberg Blvd.
 Charleston, SC

CARTA ROUTE 30

Public Information Meeting:

Thursday, November 21, 2019 • 11 AM – 7 PM • Charleston Area Convention Center in North Charleston

OFFICIAL PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD HAS BEEN EXTENDED, NOW OPEN THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2020



Title VI compliance: SCDOT complies with all requirements set forth by Federal regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation under the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. Any persons who believe that he or she has been discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or disability, or nation origin under a program receiving federal aid has the right to file a complaint with SCDOT. The complaint shall be filed with the Title VI Program Compliance Coordinator, at the Office of Business Development & Special programs, 955 Park Street, Suite 117, Columbia, SC 29202 or at 803.737.5095. The complaint should be submitted no later than 180 days after the date of the alleged act of discrimination. It should outline as completely as possible the facts and circumstances of the incident and should be signed by the person making the complaint.