



526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR

November 10, 2020 Stakeholder Meeting
Joy Riley, PE, PMP, DBIA SCDOT



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration





Project Background

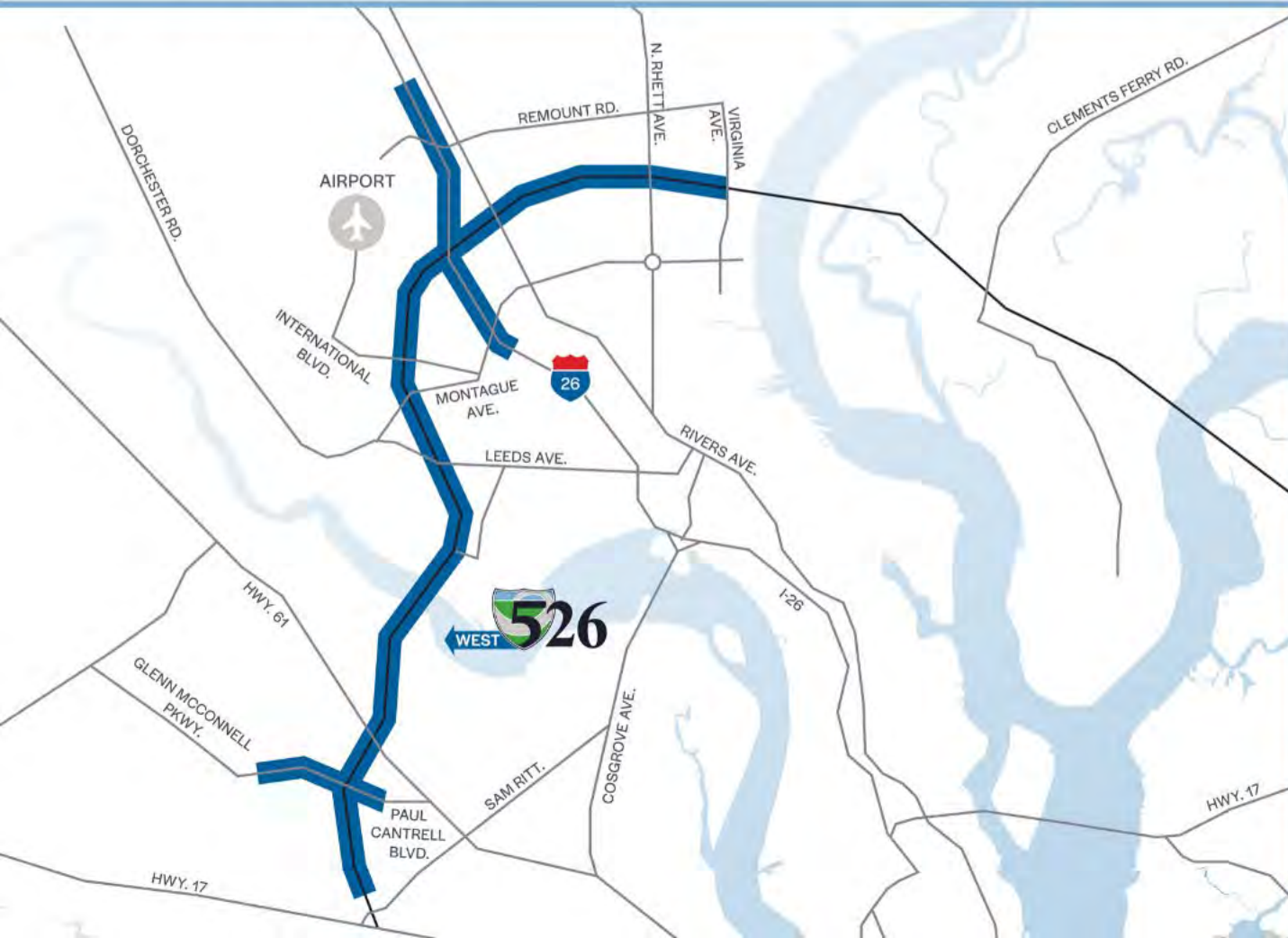
An Environmental Impact Statement



WEST 526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR



WEST PROJECT



I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Project Termini

**Virginia Avenue
North Charleston**



**Paul Cantrell Boulevard
West Ashley**

**526 LOWCOUNTRY
CORRIDOR**

SCDOT
South Carolina Department of Transportation

Project Purpose

What is the reason for this project?



Increase Capacity at the I-26/I-526 interchange
and along the I-526 mainline

— thereby —

Improving Operations at the I-26/I-526 interchange
and along the I-526 mainline from Virginia Avenue
to Paul Cantrell Boulevard

Project Need: Why?

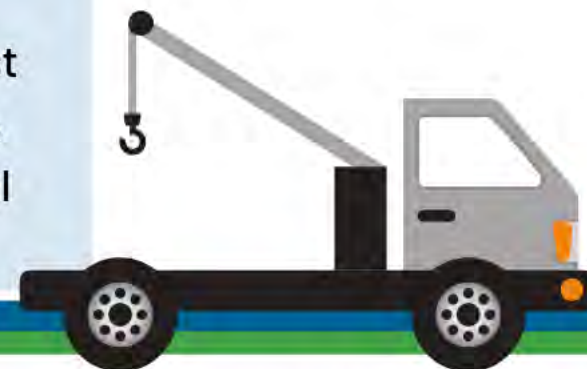


I-526 is one of South Carolina's most congested interstate segments

Congestion

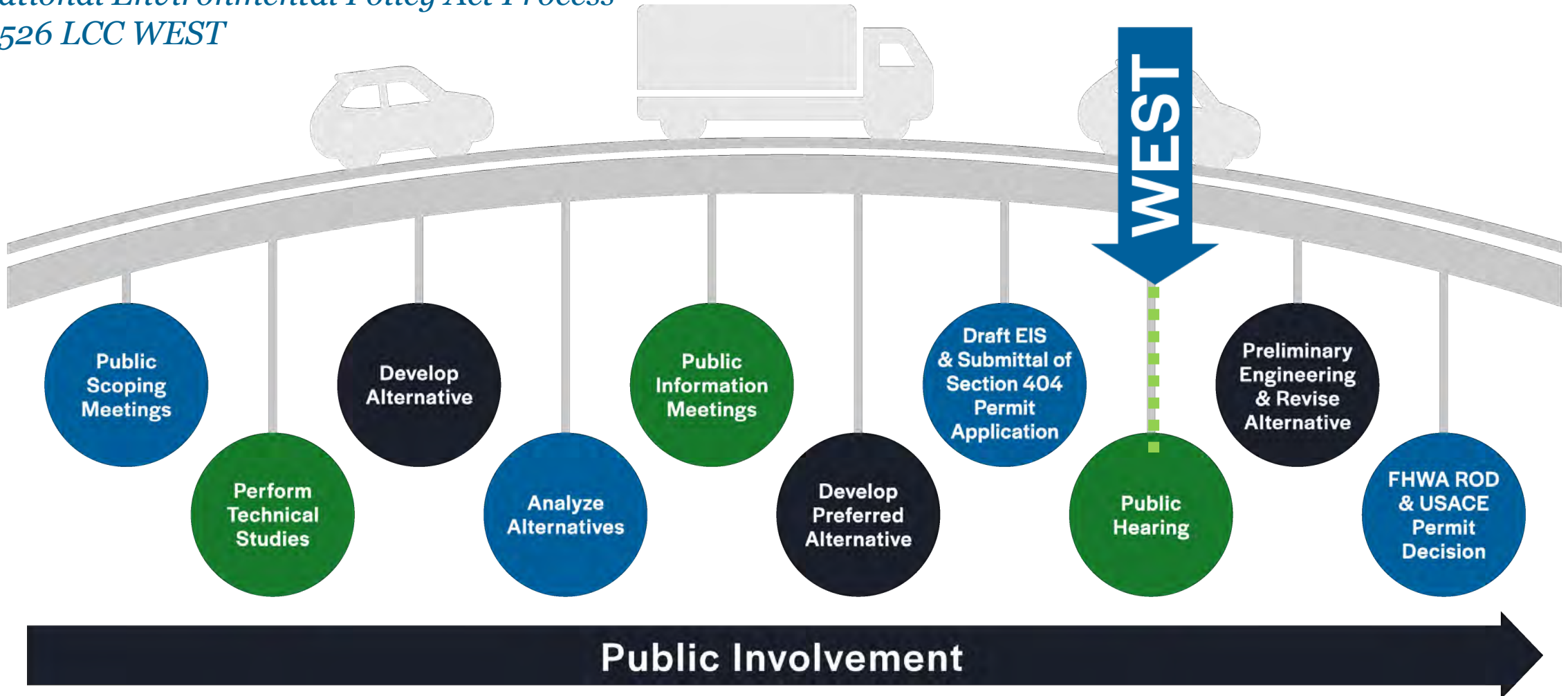
#2: 2035 CHATS LRTP

#6: SCDOT Interstate Capacity List
Top 20 most congested interstate
segments (SCDOT 2014 Multimodal
Transportation Plan)



NEPA Project Development Process

National Environmental Policy Act Process
I-526 LCC WEST





Public Hearing

Ways to Engage



Public Involvement Opportunities

Participate in the I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST Public Hearing

**Public Comment
Period runs through
January 15, 2021!**

In-Person
Appointments at
Community Office

On-Demand Verbal
Comments
on the Project Hotline

On-Demand Online
Public Hearing webpage
(You're here!)

Live Online
Verbal Comment Session

*Meaningful
Input*

On-Demand Questions
Answered
on the Project Hotline & Email

Live Chat
Here During Set Times

In the Mail
Information Packets
mailed by request

Text
the Project Hotline

How to View Public Hearing Information

Public Hearing 2020

Project Website

526LowcountryCorridor.com/WESTPH

LIVE THURSDAY! November 12th

Community Office

5627 Rivers Avenue, Gas Lite Square

Anytime on your schedule!



Schedule an appointment to visit the community office by visiting the website or calling/texting us!

Official Public Hearing appointments will take place on:

Thurs., November 19 | 10 am -7 pm

Sat., December 5 | 9 am - 4 pm

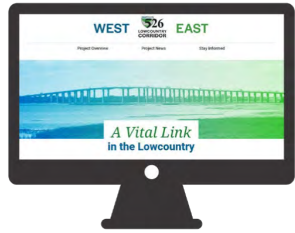
Tues., December 8 | 9 am - 6 pm

Wed., December 9 | 10 am - 7 pm



How to Comment

Public Hearing 2020



Official Comment Period:
November 4, 2020 – January 15, 2020

Project Website

526lowcountrycorridor.com

Fill out a comment form on the project website.

Project Hotline

843.258.1135 (Call Us)

Verbal Comments will be played at the Live Virtual Comment Session

Live Virtual Comment Session

526LowcountryCorridor.com/WESTPH

Tuesday, December 15, 2020 | 6:00 – 8:00 PM

There will be a short presentation followed by a listening session. To provide a 2-minute verbal comment, register in advance by visiting the webpage or by calling the Community Office. No registration is needed to listen.

Email

info@526LowcountryCorridor.com

Mail

Attention: Joy Riley

SC Department of Transportation

Post Office Box 191

955 Park Street, Room 401

Columbia, SC 29202-0191



Stop & Pause for Questions

*Type in the chat box or
“raise your hand”*





Public Hearing

Materials You Will See



View the 360-degree Public Hearing Room!



Project Website

526LowcountryCorridor.com/WESTPH

LIVE THURSDAY, November 12th

Alternatives Evaluation Process

- Signal Timing Improvements at 6 Interchanges
- Lowcountry GO Program & Mobile App



Virtual Public Meeting
November 2016

I-526 Corridor Analysis Planning Study

2013

- Telecommuting
- Flex Hours
- Compressed Work Week
- Stagger Start/End Time at Major Employers

Preliminary Range of Alternatives

2016

Evaluation on Purpose & Need and Traffic Analysis

2016 - 2019

Alternatives
Eliminated

Proposed Reasonable Alternatives

2019

Public Information Meeting
November 21, 2019



New Alternatives Developed
for N. Rhett/ Virginia Ave.
interchange: Alternative 2A,
Alternative 5, & Alternative 6

Detailed Impact Evaluation

2020

Alternatives
Eliminated

Recommended Preferred
Alternative

Public Hearing
2020



- Alternative 1 at Paul Cantrell Boulevard to International
- Alternative 2 from International Boulevard to Rivers Avenue
- Alternative 2A from Rivers Avenue to Virginia Avenue

Detailed Impact Evaluation

Recommended Preferred Alternative:
All Segments Combined



	NO BUILD	RECOMMENDED PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE*
What is the Weighted Volume/Capacity Ratio?	Greater than 1.0	Less than 1.0
What would be the Mainline Level of Service in 2050?	F	Paul Cantrell Blvd to Leeds Ave: D Leeds Ave to Dorchester Rd: D Dorchester Rd to Montague Ave: C Montague Ave to International Blvd: C International Blvd to I-26: C I-26 to Rivers Ave: C Rivers Ave to North Rhett Blvd: C North Rhett Ave to Virginia Ave: D East of Virginia Ave: C
Number of Freshwater Wetland Impacts	0 acres	97.7 acres
Number of Stream Impacts	0 feet	18,631.7 feet
Number of Critical Area Impacts	0 acres	22 acres
Number of Relocations Proposed	0	113
Number of Environmental Justice Relocations	0	92
Are Cultural Resources present?	No	Yes
Are Section 4f/6f Impacts present?	No	Yes
Cost of Utility Impacts	\$0	\$53.5 Million
Cost of Construction	\$0	\$1.428 Billion

*Recommended Preferred Alternative



The Recommended Preferred Alternative

Full Fly-Through Video

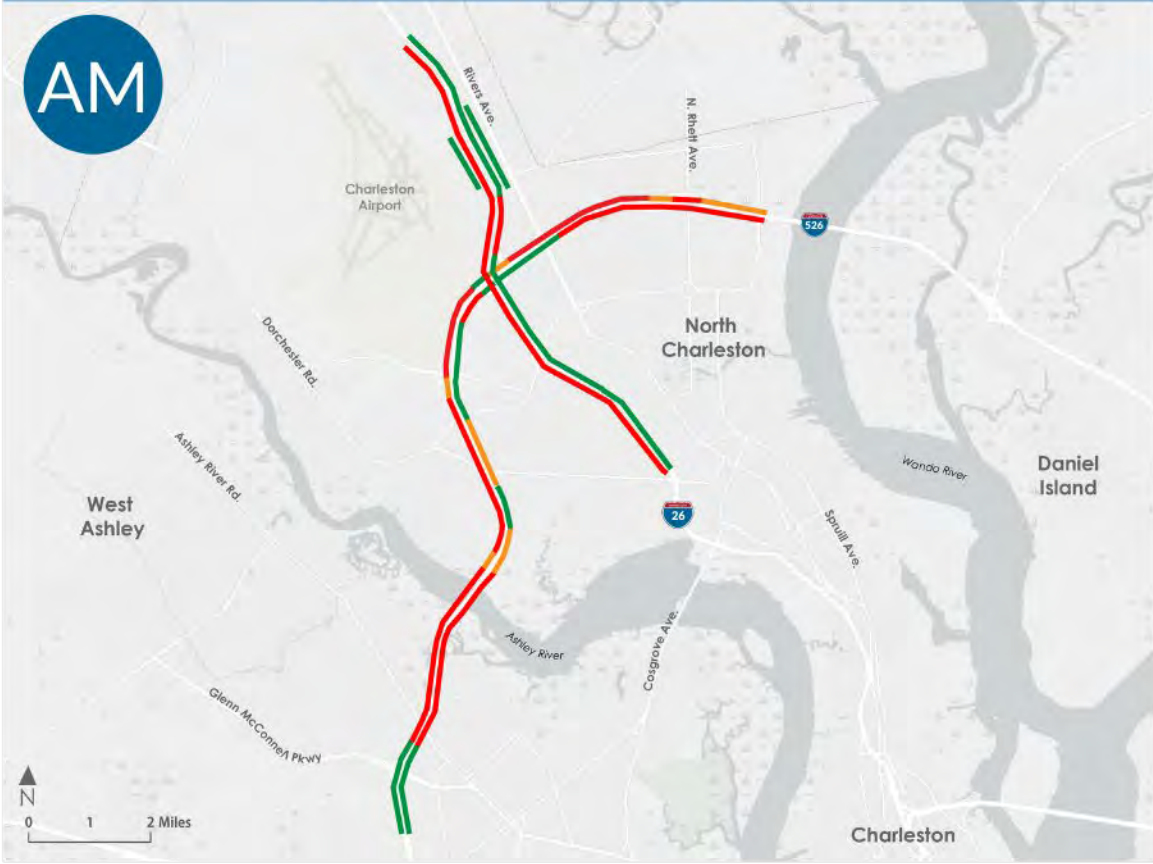


**View the
Recommended
Preferred Alternative
in Action!**

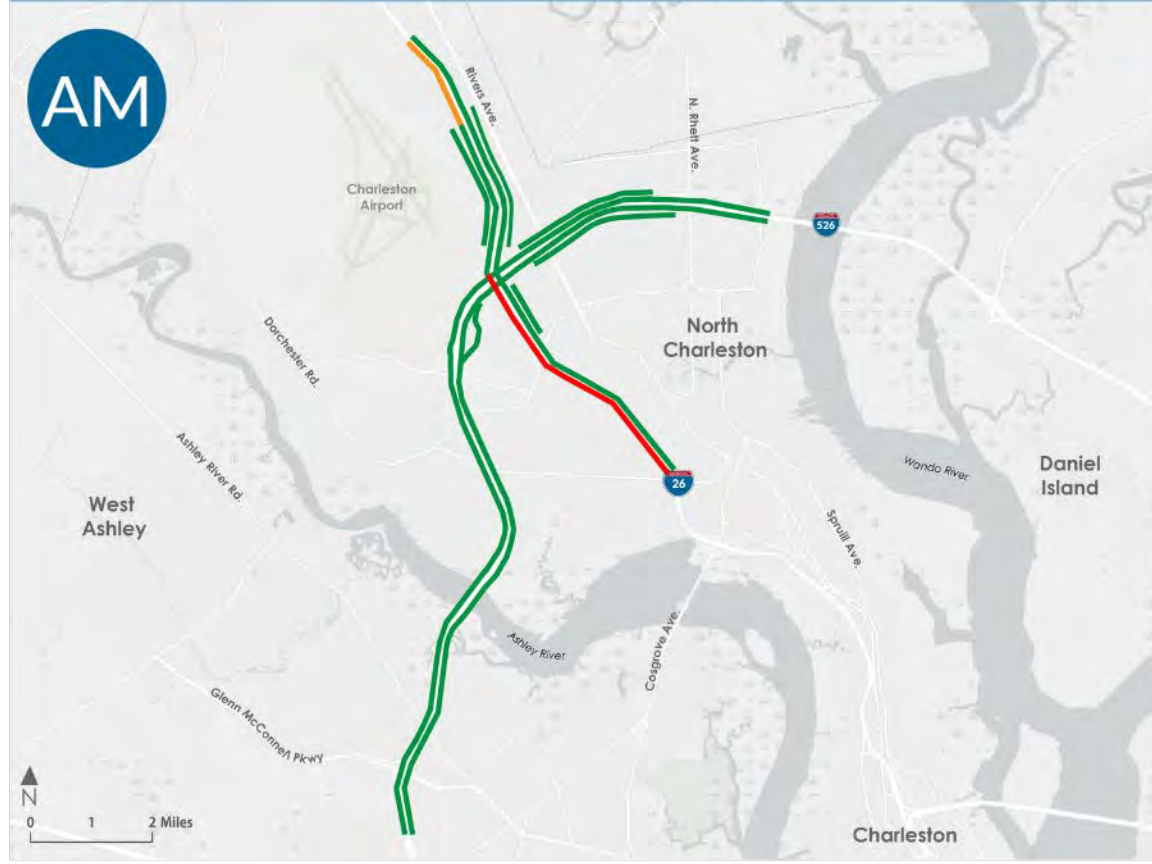
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z3CUxl-odgY

What Would AM Traffic Look Like in 2050?

2050 Level of Service (LOS) Projections with No Improvements Completed



2050 Level of Service (LOS) Projections with Improvements Completed



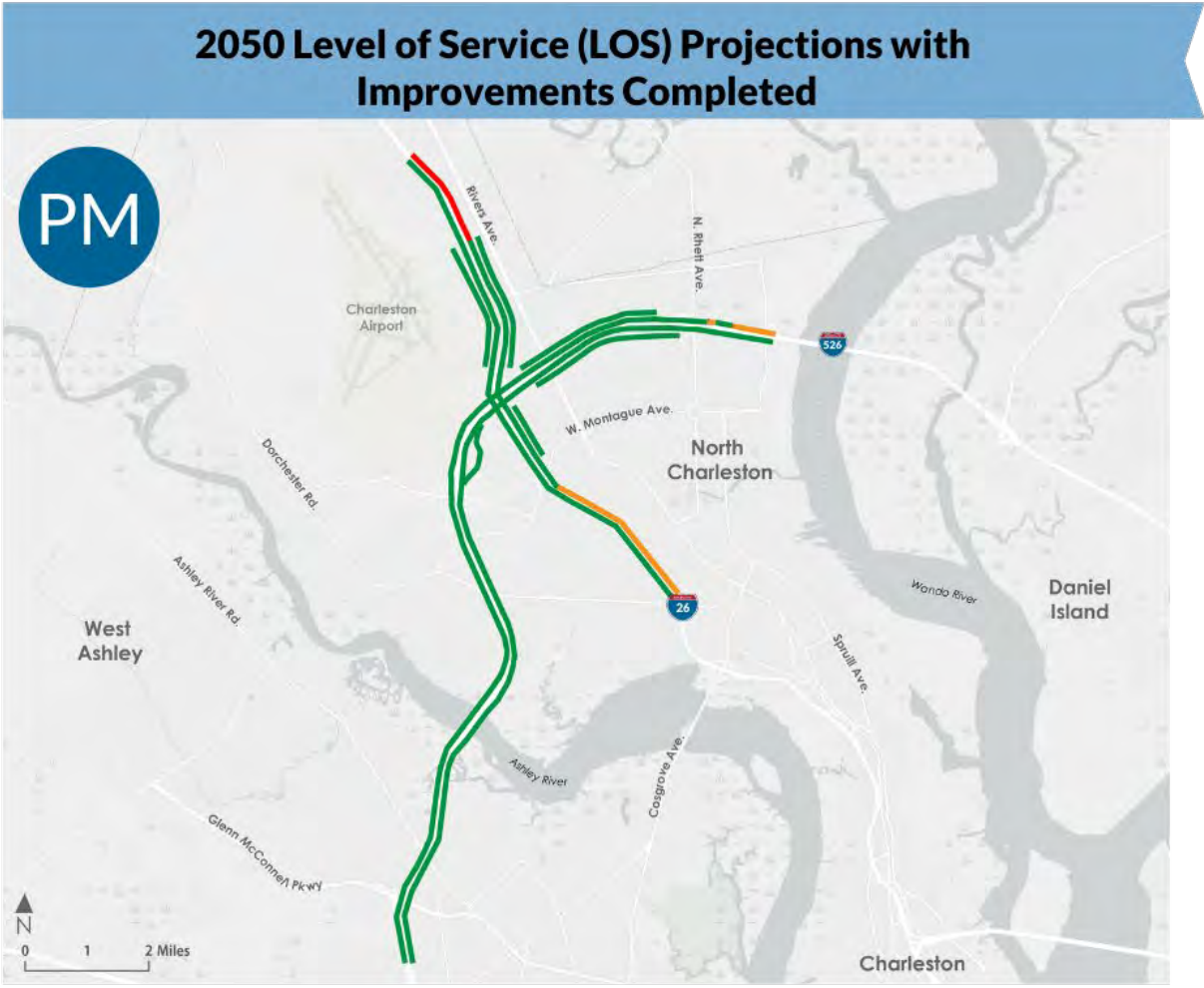
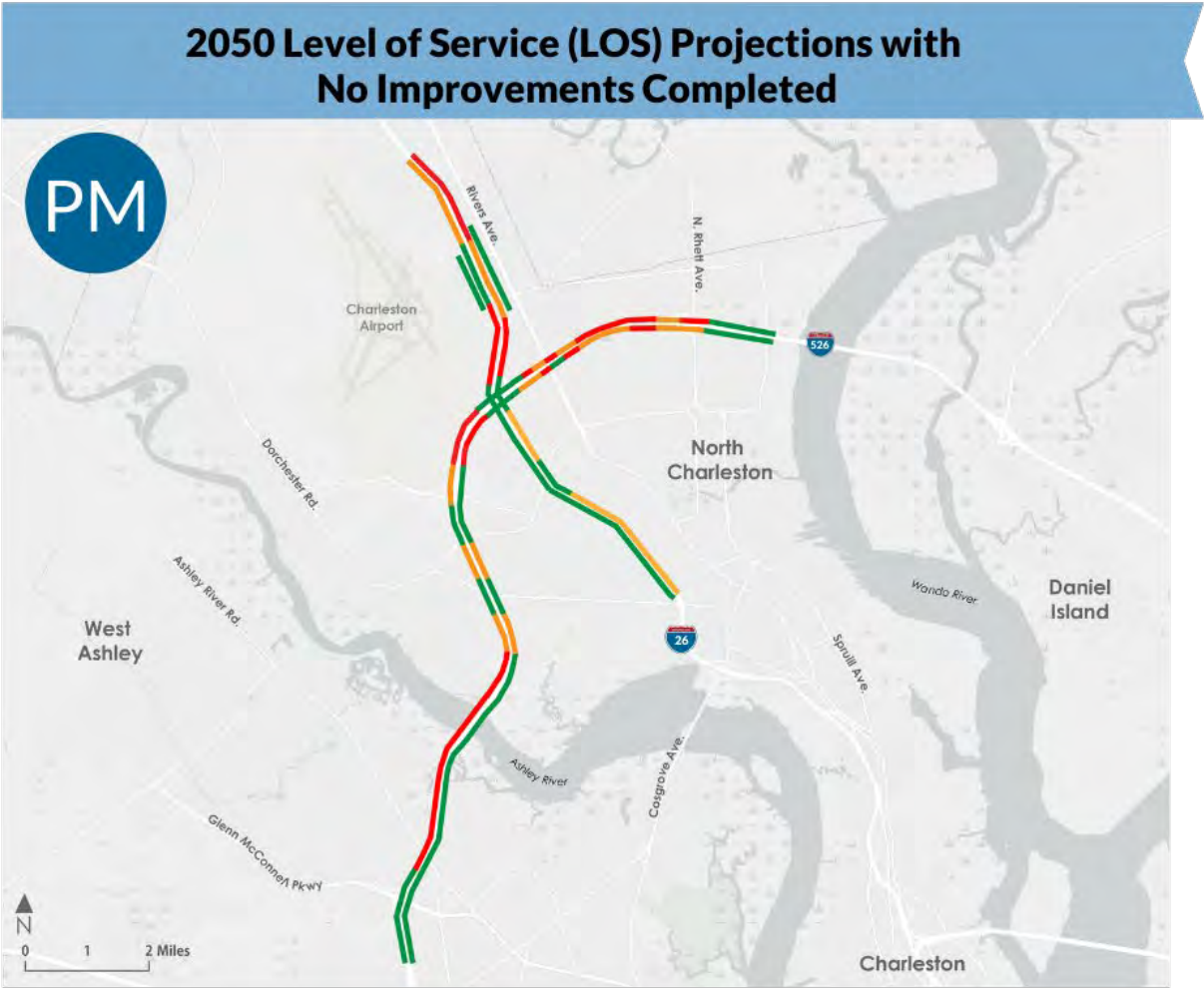
Free Flow

WHAT IS LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS)?

Flow Breakdown

LOS	Flow Breakdown
LOS A	Free Flow
LOS B	Free Flow
LOS C	Free Flow
LOS D	Free Flow
LOS E	Flow Breakdown
LOS F	Flow Breakdown

What Would PM Traffic Look Like in 2050?



Stop & Pause for Questions

*Type in the chat box or
“raise your hand”*

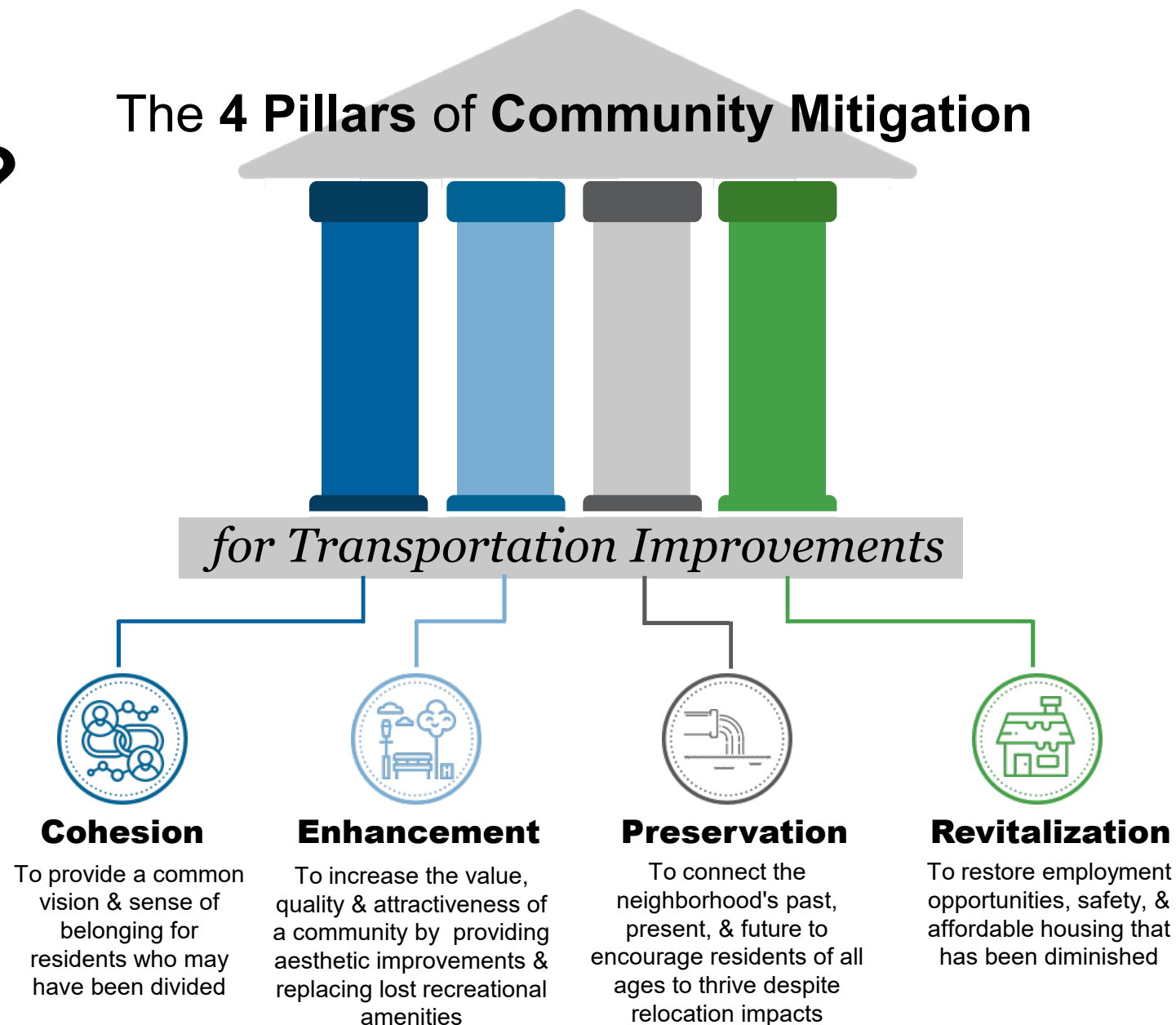




Community Mitigation



What is Mitigation?



What is a Community Mitigation Plan?

The overarching goal of the I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST Community Mitigation Plan is to effectively mitigate project impacts in partnership with residents of the Ferndale, Russelldale, Highland Terrace, Liberty Park neighborhoods.

How is the I-526 LCC WEST Community Mitigation Plan Developed?

By identifying & considering the social needs & priorities of neighborhood residents.

Community Office

In November 2019, a Community Office was opened in close proximity to the potentially impacted communities. Located in Gas Light Square at 5627 Rivers Avenue (CARTA Route 10), the Community Office is where you can meet one-on-one with the project team and connect with resource specialists such as right-of-way relocation experts.



Community Advisory Council (CAC)

A Community Advisory Council (CAC) was formed as a resident-led group to facilitate meaningful engagement between residents and SCDOT.



CAC's Role



Advise



Connect



Represent



Communicate

Social Needs Assessment

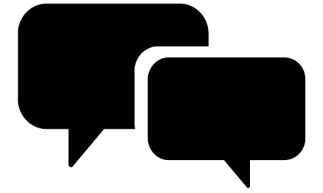
The CAC and residents of the potentially impacted neighborhoods completed a Social Needs Assessment survey to provide insight into the daily operations, needs, and desires of the community.



Input from the Community

Survey Highlights

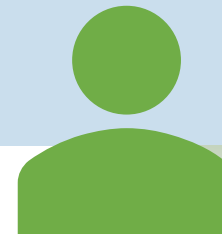
Information presented represents the online data received as of 11/5/20



What Are the Priorities?

Each of the following items were ranked in the top 5 priorities the most frequently:

- Affordable Housing (48/48)
- Recreational Facilities (45/48)
- Recreational Programs (44/48)
- Educational Counseling (33/48)
- Pedestrian Safety Plan (32/48)

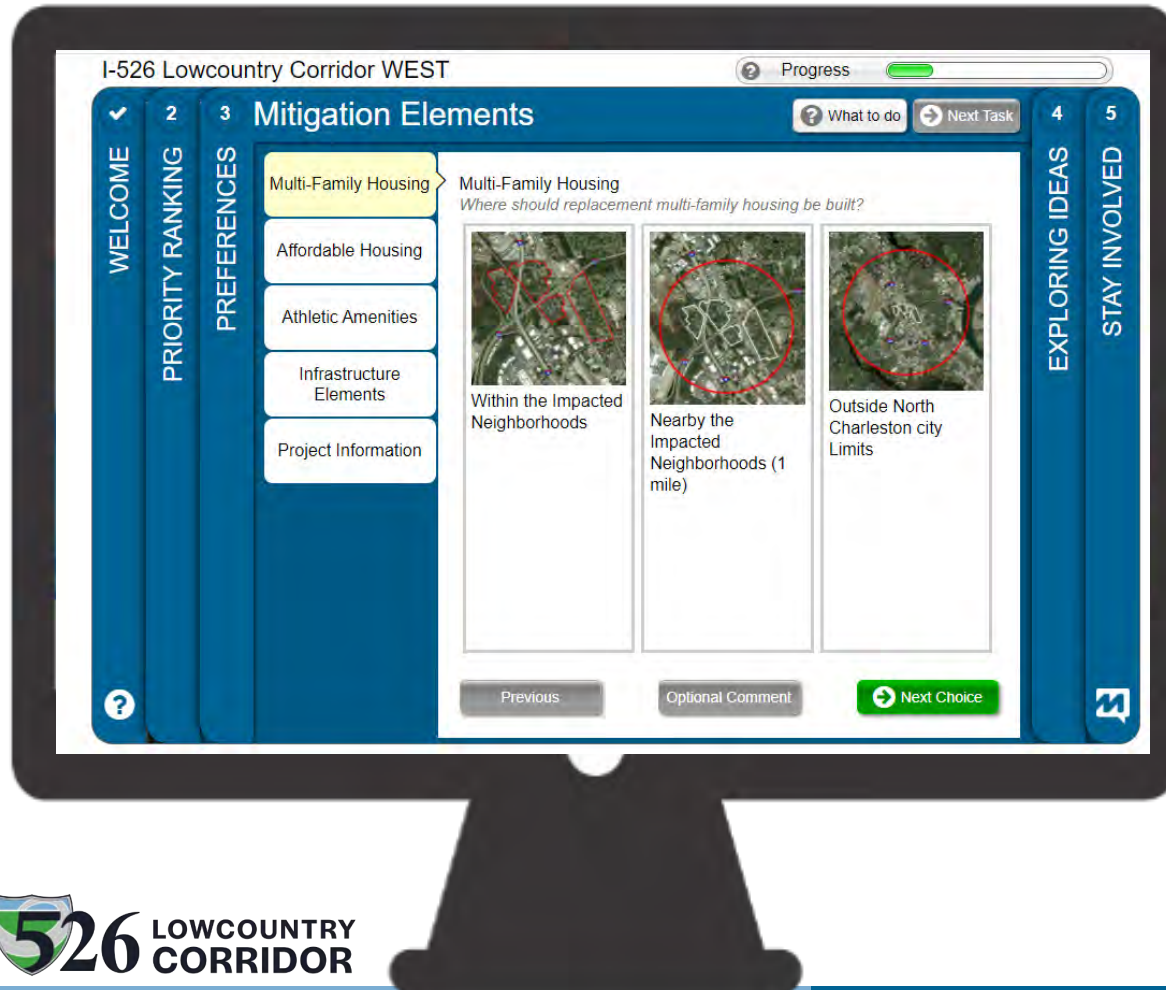
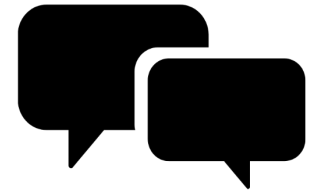


48 Respondents

Input from the Community

Survey Highlights

Information presented represents the online data received as of 11/5/20



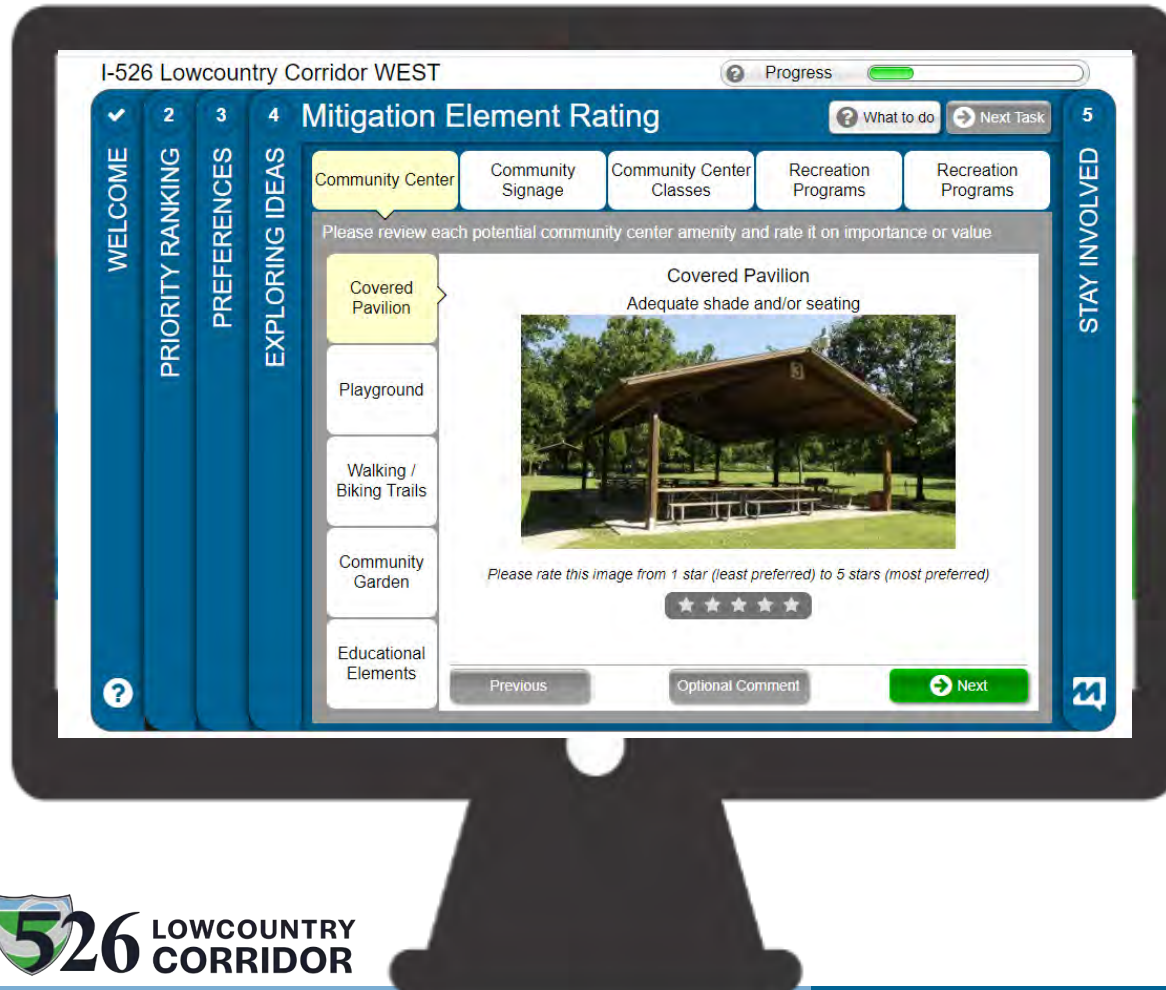
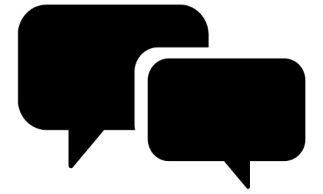
Preferences on Mitigation

- 83% prefer affordable housing to be nearby or within the impacted neighborhoods
- 52% prefer a single-family type of affordable housing
- 55% prefer a baseball field for recreation
- 33% prefer improvements to sidewalk curb and gutter
- 65% prefer to receive project updates via email

Input from the Community

Survey Highlights

Information presented represents the online data received as of 11/5/20



Mitigation Ideas with the Highest Rating in each Category

- **Community Center Amenity:**
Walking/Biking Trails
- **Community Center Class (tie):**
Financial Literacy Class
Health and Wellness Class
- **Community Signage:**
Path Finding Signs
- **Community Center Program:**
Afterschool Program

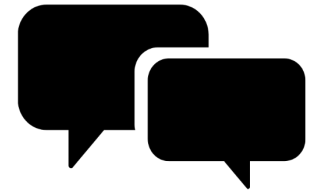


61-65 Respondents

Input from the Community

Survey Highlights

Information presented represents the online data received as of 11/5/20



Survey Demographics

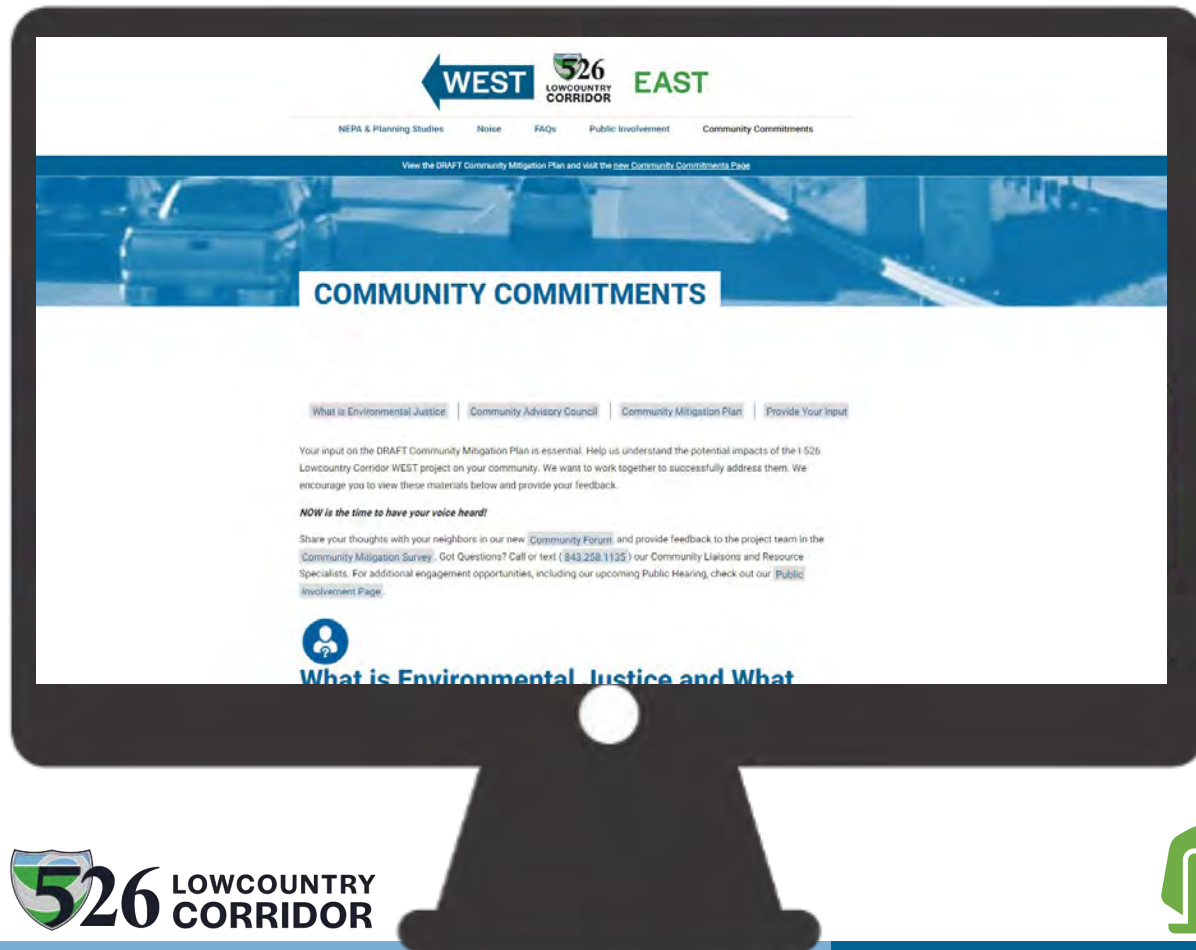
- 46% of respondents listed "Black or African American" as their ethnicity. 41% listed "White".
- 67% of respondents live within the impacted EJ communities.
- 51% of surveys were completed via the **mail-in paper option** and added to the online results by the project team.

Survey participation is anticipated to increase after the EJ Community Drop-In Meetings (Early November)

Input from the Community

Community Commitments

526LowcountryCorridor.com/Community-Commitments



Community Commitment Webpage & Community Forum

NOW LIVE! Learn more about:

- What is Environmental Justice
- Community Advisory Council (CAC)
- DRAFT Environmental Justice Community Mitigation Plan

Launched November 7, 2020

Community Drop-ins

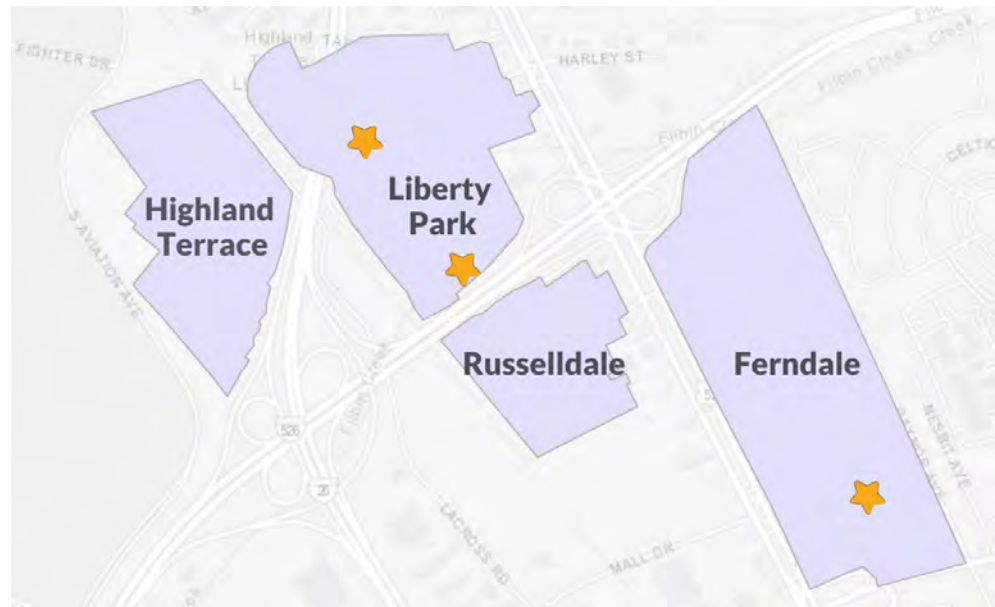
Meeting the community in the community

3 Days + Locations

Nov 6 | 3 - 6pm | Biblical House of God

Nov 7 | 2 - 5pm | Ferndale Community Center

Nov 14 | 2 - 5pm | Enoch Chapel UMC



Stop & Pause for Questions

*Type in the chat box or
“raise your hand”*





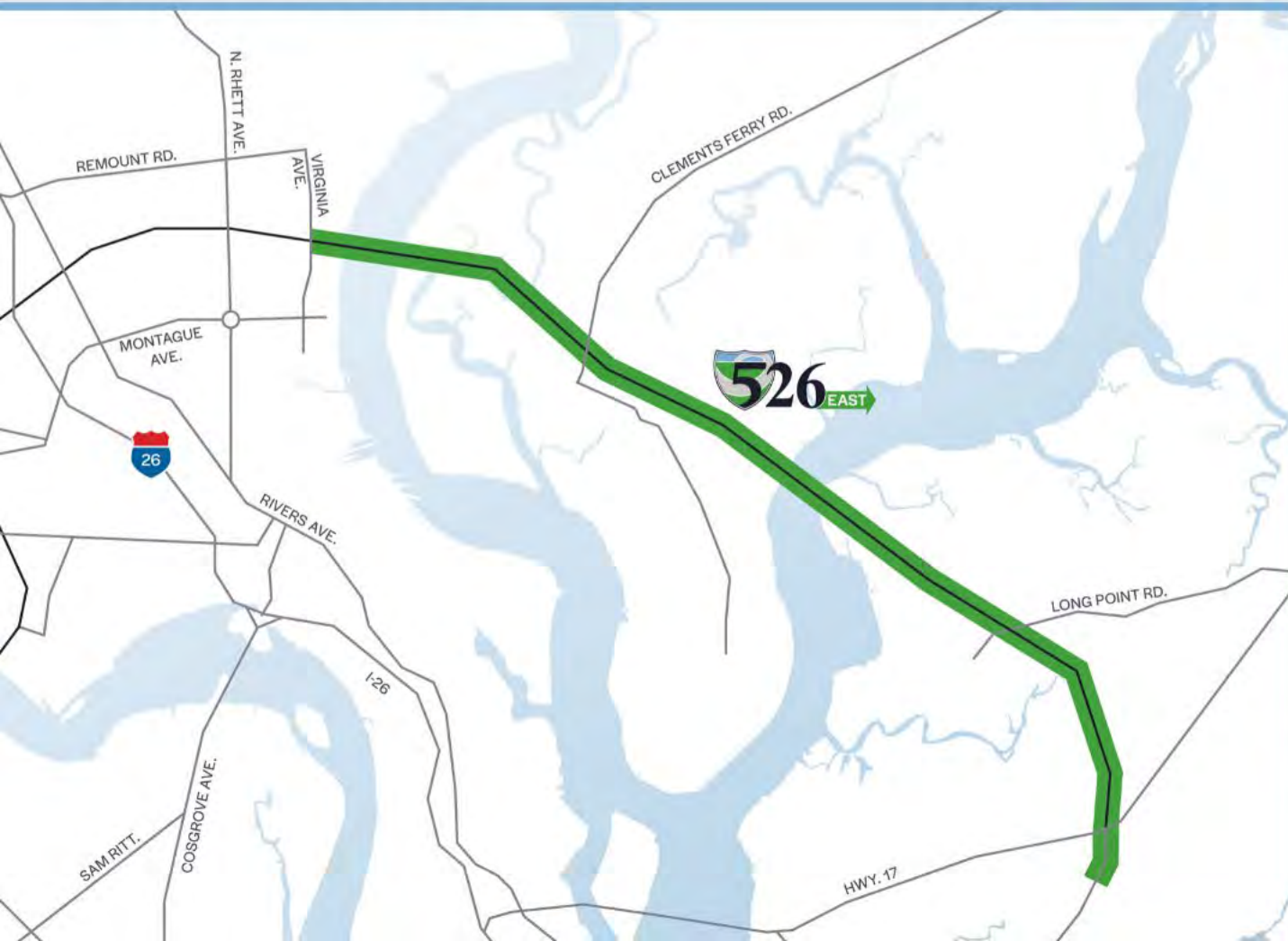
EAST Updates

Planning & Environmental Linkages Study

526 EAST LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR



EAST PROJECT



I-526 Lowcountry Corridor East

Project Termini

**Virginia Avenue
North Charleston**



**US 17
Mount Pleasant**

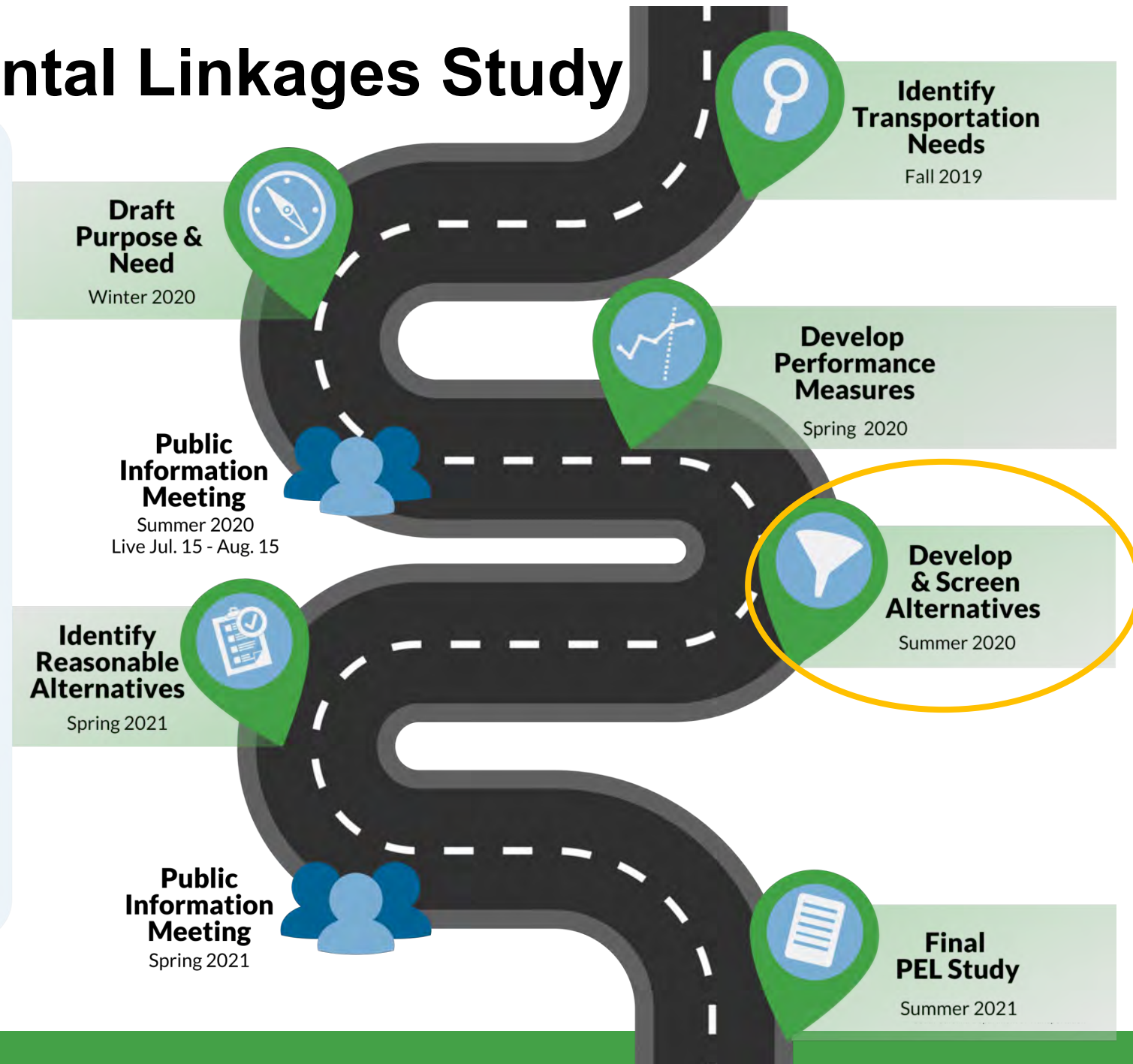
Planning & Environmental Linkages Study

- 1 Tool for **creating efficiency** in transportation development
- 2 Considers **environment, community & economy**
- 3 **Collaborative & integrated** approach to decision-making

What are the Benefits of including a PEL Study in the project development process?



Who Participates?



Planning & Environmental Linkages Study



Survey

Captured corridor usage, concerns
& priorities for the corridor

**May 14 –
August 15, 2020**

**Survey Live:
May 14 - August 15, 2020**

**3,103
Responses**

Top Comments & Concerns:

*Most people are using the
corridor daily for:*

work, shopping,
entertainment, & recreation



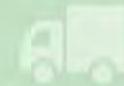
*Most people travel the corridor
using their personal vehicle*



*Travelers are experiencing these top
safety-related issues:*



Congestion



Truck Merging



Aggressive/
Distracted
Drivers

Speeding



*Travelers are experiencing
congestion during morning &
afternoon/evening commutes*



*Most people want to see these
improvements along the corridor:*



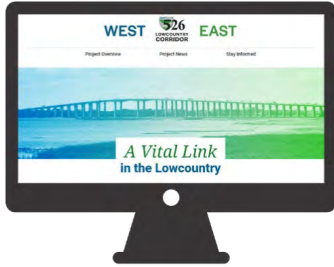
Truck-only Lanes

High Occupancy
Vehicle (HOV) Lanes
or Carpool Lanes



High
Occupancy
Toll (HOT)
Lanes

Planning & Environmental Linkages Study



Virtual Meeting

All materials available online

**July 15 –
August 15, 2020**

www.526lowcountrycorridor.com/vpim-east

**Meeting Live:
July 15 -
August 15, 2020**

526LowcountryCorridor.com

**84
Comments**

83 Online Comments
1 Emailed Comment

Top 5 Comments & Concerns:

21%

Concerned
with Noise
Impacts



13%

Concerned
with
Neighborhood
Impacts



10%

Wanted
Alternative
Truck/ Freight
Routes



6%

Wanted Trucks
in the Right
Lane/ Truck-
Only lanes

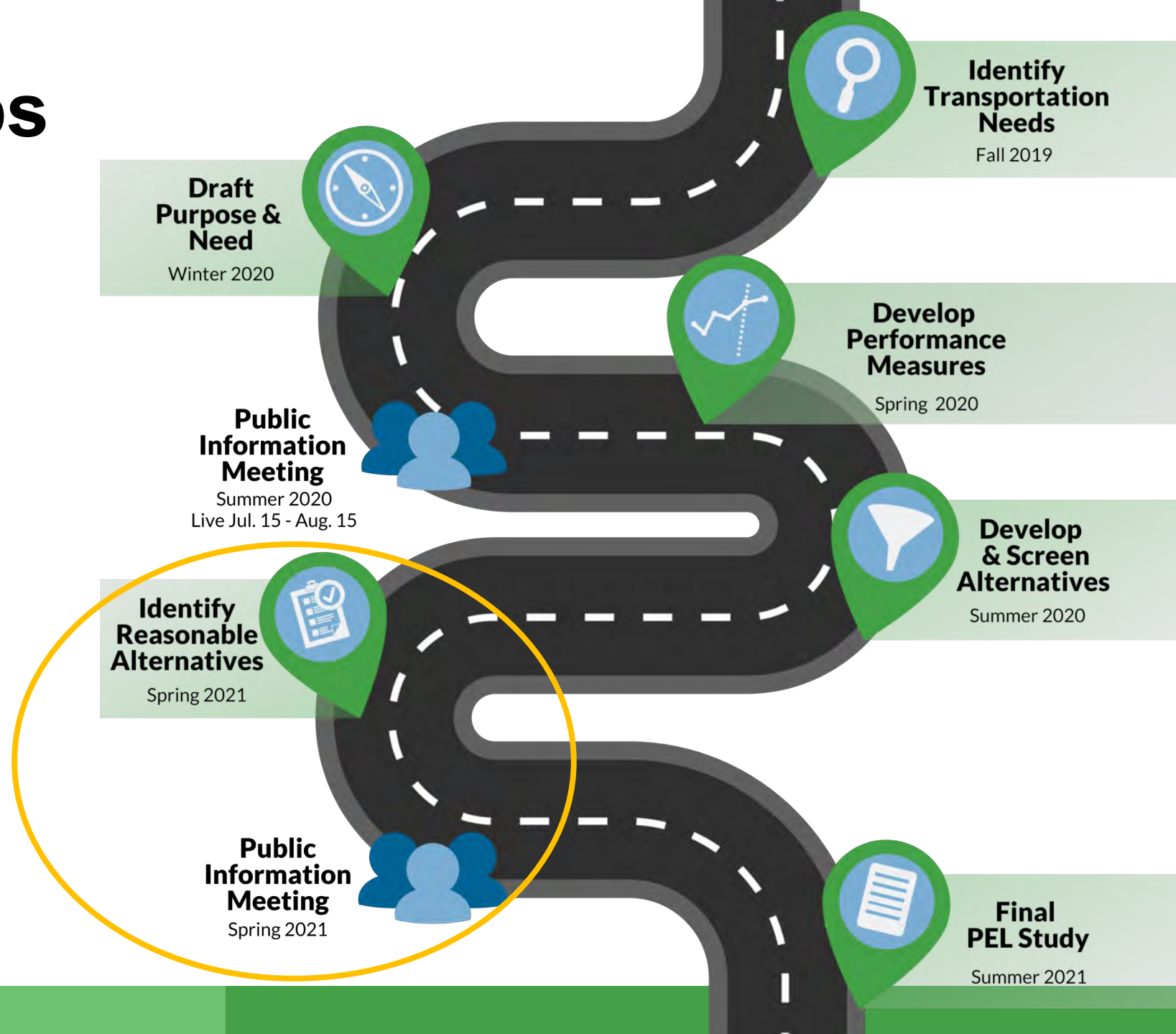


5%

Support
Widening



Next Steps



Stop & Pause for Questions

*Type in the chat box or
“raise your hand”*



Contact Information



www.526LowcountryCorridor.com



www.facebook.com/526Corridor



[@526Corridor](https://twitter.com/526Corridor)



info@526LowcountryCorridor.com



Community Office:
5627 Rivers Avenue | North Charleston, SC 29406



866.632.5262 (toll free)
843.258.1135



Joy Riley, PE, PMP, DBIA
SCDOT
Project Manager

