



MEETING MINUTES

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 12

Date: September 19, 2020

Time: 10:00 am – 12:35 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
Michael Halls, Sr., Ferndale
Gilbert Reeves, Ferndale
Earl Muhammad, Ferndale/Muhammad Mosque
Angela Anderson, Russelldale
Tony Grasso, Russelldale
Jeanaris Bannister, Liberty Park
Carolyn Varner, Liberty Park
Doris Twiggs, Liberty Park
Prayonda Cooper, Joppa Way
Chad Long, SCDOT
David Kelly, SCDOT
Angela Page-Smith, 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
Horace Tobin, Stantec (Community Office)

Participant Summary:

Total participants: 27

Ferndale: 5

Highland Terrace: 0

Liberty Park: 3

Russelldale: 2

Adjacent/affected communities/agencies: 1

SCDOT: 3

FHWA: 2

Community Liaisons: 4

Community Office: 1

Stantec: 5

Facilitator: 1

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 12.
- CAC Meeting 12 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 12 packets were distributed to meeting participants prior to the meeting date, including minutes for CAC Meeting 11.
- CAC Meeting 11 minutes require changes to include the omission of Highland Terrace and Liberty Park neighborhoods during the discussion of safety concerns at the Russelldale Pocket Park.

Summary of Meeting Topics from CAC Meeting #11:

- Prioritizing pocket park locations
- Results of the CAC Recreational Program Survey
- Reviewed Project Schedule Timeline and Milestones
- Reviewed the Draft EIS/EJ Project Commitments
- Updated outreach process using traditional mail and online options
- Reviewed additional outreach efforts
- Discussion about the importance of community engagement during the public comment period

Review of Agenda for CAC Meeting #12

- Neighborhood Update
- Russelldale Pocket Park Recap
- CAC Input/Draft Community Mitigation Plan
- Draft Community Mitigation Plan Update
- Draft Education and Employment Mitigation Initiatives
- Project Schedule/Milestone Review
- Draft Community Mitigation Timeline
- 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 #11.

CAC members provided no comments or questions.

Russelldale Pocket Park Recap:

Project Team Member 1:

- The Draft Mitigation Plan will be made available for public comment around October 1st.
- CAC member input is still needed to help refine the content.
- During CAC Meeting #11, a CAC member indicated their preference for the Margaret Drive parcel in lieu of a Pocket Park within the Russelldale neighborhood.
- The other parcels under consideration are located at the end of Rebecca Street near Twitty Street and at the corner of Rebecca and Rockingham Streets.
- The project team is seeking the CAC's consensus on a preferred location in order to move forward.

- The increased potential for crime at the Rebecca Street parcels was noted as a reason for placing the pocket park at the Margaret Drive location during CAC Meeting #11.
- In CAC Meeting #11, SCDOT noted they would coordinate with the City of North Charleston to include surveillance cameras at all of the recreation and community centers.
- The floor was opened for comments or questions from CAC members, in particular CAC members representing Russelldale community.

CAC Member 1 (resident of Russelldale) provided the following:

- Walked the parcel of land at the end Rebecca Street near Twitty Street this week and identified two potential problems with the parcel:
 - There is poor drainage so the parcel floods during rain events. It is a bigger parcel than the property at the corner of Rebecca and Rockingham Streets.
 - Regarding the fence that runs along the railroad track, a higher fence should be installed.
 - It's a perfect parcel to replace the Community Center for Russelldale. It needs to be filled in (backfilled), and have security cameras and proper lighting installed. The Rebecca and Rockingham Street location is a big parcel.
- The Van Buren Avenue and Margaret Drive parcel is not part of Russelldale. Placing the pocket park at this location would be taking the center out of the Russelldale community. In order to serve the people and the children of Russelldale, the pocket park should be placed at the corner of Rebecca and Twitty Streets.
- If residents have to travel to Twitty Street to get across to Margaret Drive, will there be a pedestrian bridge? Will there be accessibility for disabled residents to travel easily from Russelldale to Margaret Drive? What is the safety net for residents under this plan?
- Do not take out of the Russelldale community what the community is already losing. Put the pocket park back in the Russelldale community. Crime is in every neighborhood, but if cameras and better lighting is installed, some safety issues will be deterred. Right now, Rebecca and Twitty Street is a dark area. Moving the pocket park to the Van Buren Avenue and Margaret Drive location is not benefiting the Russelldale community. Russelldale is losing a community center and playground. Put it back where it belongs.

Project Team Member 1: Those are great points. The key takeaway is addressing the drainage issues by backfilling the parcel, if that location is selected, to address drainage issues. Another recommendation was replacing the existing fence or constructing a higher fence between the parcel and the railroad tracks. Installed cameras and improved lighting were also suggested to help deter crime.

- As the project team continues to develop the Draft Mitigation Plan and the Draft EIS public, other residents will have the opportunity to comment as well.
- Please continue to have conversations with your neighbors about specific neighborhood needs. Please encourage them to continue to reach out to the community office to provide their input. That is what helps drive decision making when it comes to items like where to locate replacement pocket parks.
- A part of the infrastructure and improvements related to community centers is adding sidewalks and multi-use paths to make sure, regardless of where the replacement parks and community centers are located, there is safe travel for pedestrians.

Project Team Member 2: Before we move to the next topic, is there a consensus on the preferred location for the proposed pocket park? Are we polling everyone for a comment or agreement since we have emphasized reaching a consensus in the packet?

Project Team Member 1: I do not know if you have enough representation.

Project Team Member 2: We only have two people from Russelldale. Were we looking for any further conversation or discussion from the rest of the CAC?

Project Team Member 1: The floor is open for anyone else to provide input as well.

Community Liaison 1: I have been driving through the Russelldale community and the parcel (Rebecca and Twitty) does look like an ideal parcel, but there are safety concerns, such as protecting kids from the railroad tracks, that would need to be addressed to ensure that nothing happens on that on that parcel as a result of the pocket park being placed there due to fencing, flooding, drainage, or overall safety.

Facilitator: Is her comment was that she ultimately agrees with the Rebecca and Twitty Street parcel?

Project Team Member 2: Yes.

Project Team Member 1: Are there any other comments?

Project Team Member 2: [To CAC members] This is really your opportunity to tell us if you agree. If it was in your neighborhood, would you agree? This would be a good time to share your comments.

CAC Member 2: I agree with both of them. I think the area is a little dark corner and if they are going to do that, the lighting has to be really good and the cameras are going to be a big, big plus for Margaret Drive.

Project Team Member 2: For Margaret Drive, going under the structure, or for the parcel that is at the very end of Rebecca near the intersection of Twitty and Rebecca?

CAC Member 2: Both are in a dark space, but I was specifically talking about the Margaret Drive location because it is currently beside the existing Interstate is in a somewhat isolated corner. From what I've seen in Ferndale, if you have a parcel that sits in the back of the neighborhood, it gives people a little more chance to get in there and cause trouble. So, I think that with cameras and fencing, if it's protected, that is the way to go.

Facilitator: [For clarification] Are you saying that you agree that the project team should look more at the Margaret Drive location because of safety issues or are you saying that the Twitty and Rebecca Street location is better as long as you install fencing and include the cameras?

CAC Member 2: I think that both of them have safety concerns. I think that it is larger and you've got a bigger concentrated area, Margaret Drive is probably the better choice. But it definitely needs cameras and protective measures.

Facilitator: So, Margaret Drive would be your preference?

CAC Member 2: Yes.

Facilitator: Thank you.

CAC Member 3: I agree with CAC Member 1 because she is from the community. I understand what she is saying. She would like for it to be located in the main part of Russelldale community. I would back her with that.

Project Team Member 2: Could you hear Ms. Varner?

Everyone: Yes.

CAC Member 4: I also agree with CAC Member 1 point, because this is her neighborhood and that is one reason why we came on the committee to make sure our community is being safeguarded. Wherever the pocket parks are located, wherever you build a center, we need to have total improvement. We need security for everything. Regardless of where facilities are placed, we need an upgrade on security and safety. I do not care where you put it, those are the core things that we definitely need to have. Thank you.

Facilitator: Thank you. To his point and based on feedback from the project team earlier, regardless of the location that is selected, the project team wants to ensure that there are safe sidewalks and multi-use paths included in the design. Safety will be a primary concern regardless of the location.

Project Team Member 1: That is correct. In addition to bike and pedestrian sidewalks, there is also a lighting component. We are not only focused on walkability, but we want to ensure people are safe during the evening hours as well. There are a wide range of improvements to support the all of the community center locations to make sure they are safe, not just at the locations but also during travel between the locations.

Project Team Member 2: Three quick comments:

- Ms. Twiggs has a comment.
- The SCOTD Team Lead has offered thanks to CAC Member 1 for her comments and for walking the parcel.
- CAC Member 5 from Ferndale agrees with CAC Member 1.

CAC Member 6: Isn't Margaret Drive closer to the Filbin Creek project? I do not think we need to get any closer to that. I think we need to leave the pocket park spread out, closer to the community so whoever is coming from the furthest end of Russelldale or the children would have access to an area for safe activities. Therefore, I agree with CAC Member 1 and the other CAC members since safety is a big issue. We need to implement any necessary measures to deter any type of crime. We need to stop getting second rate service because the City cannot meet those demands. I think those demands need to be met throughout every community and whatever it takes to get us there, that is why we're sitting here this morning.

CAC Member 1: I don't know how the Margaret Drive and Van Buren Avenue parcel became an option for the Russelldale pocket park location, but as I have stressed before, Russelldale is losing a whole community center and playground. I really do not want to see Russelldale get short changed or get the

short end of the stick. When my grandchildren visit, I would like to have some place to bring them in the neighborhood, and not have to go outside of my neighborhood to take them to the park. That is why I took the time to go back and look at the property at the end of Rebecca and Twitty and walk it myself. I will be fine as long as safety issues, such as lights and cameras are installed. I would have no issue with that location. And the parcel is bigger than the one on the corner of Rockingham.

Project Team Member 2: Community Liaison 1 commented that she reached out to a community member who lives in Russelldale to invite her to be a part of the advisory council after the open house. She was not able to participate due to some other constraints. But she reached out to her and another community member, both whom live in the area, to invite them to this meeting for comments but she was unable to reach them.

Community Liaison 1: I did not get a response. I visited another person as well, but she was unable to access them because they had a dog in the yard.

Project Team Member 1:

- To revisit the comment made by CAC Member 1 about the uncertainty of how the Margaret Drive parcel became an alternate location for the pocket park, when the project team began searching for a location, the Rebecca and Rockingham Street parcel was the initial location in consideration. But, when the parcel was purchased by another entity the project team had challenges finding another location within the Russelldale community.
- So, the project team began looking for parcels outside of Russelldale, but within close proximity to the community to ensure we were able to replace the amenities while maintaining access for Russelldale residents.
- We identified the parcel at Rebecca Street so that the parcel at Rockingham and Rebecca was once again an option.
- The goal was to make sure we were able to identify something in close proximity, even if it wasn't situated directly in the community.
- I'm hearing a lot of support for keeping the facilities within the Russelldale community.
- There will be opportunities for additional comments from residents when the Draft Mitigation and Environmental Impact Statements are open for public comment, but we need your help as CAC members to get your neighbors to give us feedback. Are there additional comments or questions regarding the Russelldale pocket park?

CAC Input/Draft Community Mitigation Plan:

Project Team Member 1:

- The project team is refining the content of the Draft Mitigation Plan.
- We want to show how the mitigation measures outlined in the draft plan align with the top 10 areas of concern that were identified through the Social Needs Assessment and comments from the CAC.
- I will highlight what we are addressing, how the Draft Mitigation Plan addresses some of the items identified, and what we heard from you and your neighbors.

I will start with concerns about quality and affordable housing and CAC member's preference for single-family rental units versus multi-family units, mobile homes, and modular homes. There is an affordable

housing component of this mitigation plan, as well as, financial literacy and first-time homeowner, homebuyer counseling.

SCDOT Team Lead: Regarding the affordable housing Initiative, we are in talks with the state housing authority about developing an agreement to provide affordable housing units. That effort would be focused more on multi-family units. Given what we have heard in the feedback from the CAC, those units would be placed outside the directly affected communities but still within the general vicinity of the project. Within the communities themselves, our efforts would focus on developing smaller scale, single-family affordable housing on parcels that we have already acquired and that we would be seeking to acquire throughout this process.

CAC Member 2: I a lot of the conversation has focused on the Russelldale community. They are losing their community center and that is a big part of them getting upgrades. For Ferndale, the only real concern for us is the trailer park in the back in the Lakewood Marson area. The Project Manager mentioned in past meetings that there is a chance the entire trailer park will go. Has there been any further development on what part of that really is going to go? As we have discussed before, one of the concerns with putting apartments in that area is the potential for increased trouble. What are the current plans for that area?

Project Team Member 1: There are some impacts to some of the mobile homes in that area because of the addition of the lanes along I-526. One of the things we will do at the next meeting is talk more specifically about individual property impacts. At that meeting, on the 3rd of October we will have mapping and talk in more detail regarding relocations per community. We will have a more detailed answer for you at that time regarding the overall number of mobile homes that will be impacted by the improvements. I do not believe that all of the mobile homes will be relocated. However, because of the widening and additional lanes that will be added on I-526, there will be some impact to the mobile homes on the last row and Marson.

Project Team Member2: Is that something that we would know based on the early design preparation? Is that something that has come up in conversation as a consideration or was the comment regarding elimination of parts of the trailer park made as a commitment?

Project Team Member 3: Those mobile home complexes will be impacted by the design. The extent of how they will be affected is still undetermined. I do not think I have an answer for the question about what could go back there, whether it be apartments or not.

SCDOT Team Lead: Based on the design that we are working with now, it looks like at least that first row of mobile homes would be impacted, but not the entire complex. We have already secured some parcels within Ferndale and our goal would be to develop smaller scale housing on those parcels, not a larger apartment complex on those parcels that we have acquired. Does that help answer your question?

CAC Member 2: Yes, I will wait for October 3rd and see what else we find out.

CAC Member 1: The same question will apply for Russelldale also. For the apartments that will be lost on upper Russelldale Drive, have you thought about where you are going to relocate those people within Russelldale? Or, will they be relocated outside of Russelldale?

SCDOT Team Lead:

- For displacees within Russelldale, we will be working through the Right-of-Way (ROW) process and they will be provided with relocation assistance.
- As we work through this agreement with the state housing authority, we are going to try to structure it so that housing would be made available with priority given to those being displaced. But it would not be required. They would have a choice. Through the relocation assistance program, they would have the ability to move elsewhere, if desired.
- Our goal is to provide housing within proximity to where they currently live so they can remain within the neighborhoods and the general area where they currently live.
- We are in early discussions with the state housing authority. Land within the City of North Charleston is hard to find. That is one of the constraints we are working within. Besides the parcels that we've already acquired, we do not know where the new replacement housing would be located.
- It will be dependent upon the availability of land, but our goal is to have housing replace within the general area of the project and within the proximity to existing schools. If people have children that are going to schools we can provide them with housing that would allow them to maintain access to those schools and other existing facilities.

Project Team Member 2: There is another hand raised.

CAC Member 7: I hear a lot of goals involved here, as I am hearing a lot of, "This is what we're trying to do." Is there a possibility that with the problem of attaining property that some people may end up with the 'sink or swim' possibility? Is everyone going to be covered as a guarantee or will some be left out to fend for themselves?

SCDOT Team Lead: Again, it is not clearly defined yet. Our goal is to work with the state housing authority to develop the number of units required to accommodate displacees, for residents who want to stay in the area. All displacees will receive relocation assistance.

Project Team Member 1: Any other questions about affordable housing before we continue? There were concerns about being able to self-advocate, as well as to receive financial and educational resources. As a part of our mitigation plan, we are working with Maximum Consulting to provide organizational training for the CAC.

- We have held two sessions and will continue to make that training available and continue to develop it as we move toward the transition to the Project Oversight Committee. There is also a College Aid Initiative, School-to-Work program and Pre-employment Training that is included in the mitigation plan.
- Adequate stormwater management, sidewalks, and well-lit street were items that were brought up as well as. There are two separate plans to address these issues:
 - There is connectivity and safety improvements specifically related to the connectivity to the recreation center.
 - There is the Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan that will cover a much broader range of improvements to address some of the project related flooding, the sidewalks, streets, and speeding.
- In a quick update regarding removing barriers to residents' ability to age in place, this is where the affordable housing helps to address some of those issues as well. One of the things that was noted was partnerships with local nursing programs to develop health and wellness.

- Maximum Consulting has developed a Community Resource Guide. That is a living and breathing document. As we continue to go through this process, they will continue to add more resources. The Maximum team will be available to assist the CAC in preparing the residents on how to navigate that Community Resource Guide. They are here to support the residents in learning the best means to reach out to the various organizations that have been identified in the Community Resource Guide. Some of these organizations would prefer to address issues/services collectively as neighborhoods, while some of these services are meant for individual residents to engage them. Maximum is here to help the CAC members as well as the residents. Learn and utilize the Community Resource Guide.

Community Liaison 2: For the CAC members, please keep in mind that the information is available for non-CAC members as well as, so as we engage with each of you through email and phone, please feel free or do not hesitate to reach back out. Whether you call or leave a message at the community office or call, email us individually. Thank you.

Project Team Member 1: I have seen the guide. It is very comprehensive. It helps to address a wide range of community needs. As it becomes available, I encourage you as CAC members to take a deep dive into it and really work with Maximum to take advantage of it, as well as helping the residents in your communities help get some of these needs addressed.

- We are addressing services for seniors and youth through the infrastructure enhancement plan, as well as some of the bicycle and pedestrian connectivity and safety programs.
- Based on your feedback, we will conduct organizational training, and address various programs that you want implemented at the primary replacement community center, as well as other amenities that will be added to the pocket parks in Russelldale and Highland Terrace.

In addition, we have the Community History Preservation Study that will include incorporating artistic and cultural enhancements into the parks and community centers.

CAC Member 7: The pocket parks that you are mentioning in Russelldale, is that still on the agenda?

Project Team Member 1: We talked about that previously, but we can revisit. Just to give a quick summary, there were residents who felt who strongly that we need to maintain some of the amenities that are being lost with the relocation of the community center in Russelldale. One of the things that we are doing as part of the mitigation is ensuring that there is a lighting program, not just for the community center and the park sites themselves, but also throughout the neighborhoods. That will help to address some of the safety concerns and security measures like improved fencing, as well as surveillance cameras to help address some of the concerns with potential for crime in the park locations. Several residents supported maintaining the amenities within Russelldale. There are some CAC members that mentioned they would prefer having the location at the Margaret Drive parcel, but I noted that as we move toward making the mitigation plan and the draft environmental impact assessment available to the public, there is an opportunity for a broader range of public comment as well.

CAC Member 7: Is the Rebecca Street pocket park still on the agenda?

Project Team Member 1: It's still on the table. It is still open for consideration. There are two parcels. There is the one at the end of Rebecca and the one at the intersection of Rebecca and Rockingham. Based on comments made earlier in the meeting, the parcel at the end of Rebecca, is a larger parcel which allows us to include more amenities to replace what is lost at the end of Rebecca Street. But again, there are

some concerns that we have got to address from a drainage standpoint, which will happen if that site is selected, in addition to the lighting and the security components.

CAC Member 7: Thank you.

Draft Community Mitigation Plan Update:

Project Team Member 1: Many of these topics are repeating, but we've received a lot of feedback from the CAC in regard to community cohesion and what we're doing with the Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan which addresses a much broader set of infrastructure needs in the community.

- Community appearance is a part of this plan. There is an aesthetic and landscaping component of the Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan to address beautification.
- Mitigation does not address increased law enforcement. Law enforcement is not under the SCDOT purview. Programs that address law enforcement or abandoned lots can be conducted at the community centers. The City mentioned that they would work with SCDOT to identify parcels that are either abandoned or overgrown that could potentially be used and acquired for housing relocation or for other locations for the pocket parks. Again, there are some items that the mitigation isn't going to address, specifically with the infrastructure enhancement plan, which we will talk about. The next slide will provide a much broader scale of improvements, including aesthetic improvements in the community.

Facilitator: I think SCDOT has made an additional comment in the chat box.

Project Team Member 2: Regarding a previous CAC Member comment on housing, SCDOT Team Lead said he “failed to mention that our agreement with the state housing authority would have a timeline for construction so that replacement housing would be made available prior to construction of the project.” That was one of the things we touched on before about the overall mitigation process, in terms of construction of the highway infrastructure. All or at least most of the mitigation would be accomplished before that time.

Project Team Member 1: Are there any other comments before we move on?

- In a previous meeting, we discussed implementing a Community Livability Plan. Representatives from the College of Charleston Riley Center joined the CAC meeting to outline possible elements of the plan. Since that meeting, the project team and SCDOT has decided to move forward with a Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan rather than a Community Livability Plan.
- The Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan identifies a set of improvements that will address bike and pedestrian safety, access to community centers, enhance street aesthetics, project related stormwater, and traffic calming measures that would be implemented as part of this project.
- The Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan will look at a broader range of improvement infrastructure improvements within the neighborhoods. For the community centers (under the Draft Mitigation Plan), the infrastructure improvements are focused strictly on walkability between community centers and connectivity between community centers.

- The infrastructure enhancement plan would look at a much broader range of improvements on streets that would not be addressed by the community center improvements (under the Draft Mitigation Plan).
- The similarities between the infrastructure improvements under the Draft Mitigation Plan and the broader improvements under the Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan is they both will have a community involvement component. They both identify infrastructure improvement needs and they both would have a written report that identifies the needs.
- The difference between the Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan and the Community Livability Plan, is that the Community Livability Plan has a much broader social needs component.
 - It would have included more intense public involvement.
 - The time frame for the study would have been longer, two or more years. It would have also identified partnerships to address some of the community needs.
 - One of the key differences is that the livability plan did not include a commitment for the City or SCDOT to fund all the additional needs.
- The Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan is focused solely on infrastructure improvements. There is a shorter timeframe, so all of the improvements would be identified, and the report would be completed by next summer. All the improvements that would be identified by the Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan would be made available to for review next year.
- There is also a commitment by SCDOT to construct and address all of the identified infrastructure needs prior to the construction of the I-526 improvement.
 - The key difference is that the Community Infrastructure Enhancing Plan will be a committed plan. Traffic calming studies will begin early spring. A lighting audit will identify all of the new lighting needs, and identify all needed sidewalk improvements. SCDOT is going to assess all drainage needs, stormwater issues, and landscaping within the communities. This report will be available next summer. Before any improvements to I-526 are initiated, these improvements would be conducted and completed as part of the neighborhood mitigation.
- The Community Livability Plan would have included identifying partnerships. Partnerships will be addressed through the Community Resource Guide as a resource for residents to:
 - Reference resources and benefits and connections to various organizations
 - Obtain a list of organizations that may assist with home improvements
 - Address other community needs through coordination with Maximum Consulting and the resource guide
- The Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan is a committed plan to have infrastructure improvements addressed at a much broader scale throughout the communities prior to the I-526 improvements.
- The floor is open for discussion.

CAC Member 6: If this is a draft that you're going through this morning, is this a time to find a way to connect with the communities, the residents, the homeowners, landowners, and others in the impacted communities? If we are at a draft stage now, we want to have the CAC, residents, every living breathing person in that neighborhood, to say as a stakeholder that they had input. I would not want us to go forward and accept a draft that is not inclusive. So, is this the time to get this information out to them? But somehow we've got to broker that conversation with people in spite of the pandemic and all the other things that's going on around us.

Project Team Member 1: Yes ma'am. You are absolutely on point. And this is a draft.

CAC Member 6: After looking at this, I will give up the time now and reserve my comment, and talk about this later. I'm just wondering as you were going through this because I saw some pieces that I thought could be pushed out.

Project Team Member 1: This is a draft. We are using the advisory council to help mold to draft. Since you are a direct connection, that is part of your role as a direct connection to the residents. October 1st is when this information is going to be open for public comment. This mitigation plan is not final until the final EIS is approved by FHWA. The final EIS and the ROD will be late next fall (2021). So, there is ample time to get input. We are currently developing our plan for the next series of advisory council meetings through next December. A large component of that is continuing to receive input from the CAC and the residents, and to refine the mitigation plan based on the input we are getting. This is a draft for the CAC and residents to take the time to go through it and make comments and help the project team determine the factors that should be included in the plan.

Facilitator: Her question is a great question. One of the things on this particular slide that you need to understand is that with the livability plan, there is no commitment from SCDOT or the City. You have identified several community needs throughout this process, but the enhancement plan addresses only the infrastructure improvements. So, to your question about the urgency with which the CAC members and community at-large needs to be engaged in this process, the project team has indicated there is ample time to provide comments. But, there is also some sense of urgency that now is the time to start having those conversations with the greater community, if you have not. You need to make sure that you're talking to each other and that the people that live with and around you understand the process. Whatever details are outlined in the document, that is what SCDOT is committed to. If you have not voiced your concerns or engaged in the public comment period, then you have lost the opportunity to do so. So, you have time, but you (the CAC and larger community) should have a sense of urgency. There should be a greater sense of urgency about engaging each other in the conversation so that you can make the comments the way you want - to make sure their stated properly, you've thought through them properly, you've communicated with each other, and that you're making decisions and comments that are representative of the impacted communities. I just want to make sure that that point is not lost. (Ellis, J.)

Community Liaison 2: The other part of that is the things that are not covered from the livability plan. It is very important that CAC members, when engaging with the City of North Charleston, be very clear. Because this is the only time that you all would have this kind of attention because of this billion dollar plus project. So, I would leverage this time to get some clear answers on things that have been ignored previously.

Project Team Member 1: Advocacy training will continue to be refined and offered as we move through this process. The livability plan would have provided for advocacy training. However, the project team is still trying to address the resources to advocate with our training, as well as making the Community Resource Guide available to address other needs. The key takeaway from this discussion is that there is still time to get feedback and to continue to develop the plan.

- Another status change is regarding weatherization. The project team evaluated including weatherization extensively as part of mitigation for this project, and to determine if it would have been applicable as mitigation for some of the project related impacts. We are currently unable to tie

the project impacts to weatherization in individual homes. Based on the current evaluation, weatherization is not currently included in the mitigation plan.

- Maximum Consulting has identified a number of resources for residents get weatherization and energy efficient improvements to their homes outside of the project mitigation. This is one of the resources provided in the Community Resource Guide being developed by Maximum Consulting.
- Although weatherization will not be included in the mitigation plan, the project team will continue to connect residents and communities to resources that can help them address those needs through the Community Resource Guide.
- Maximum Consulting is here to assist residents in communities to help navigate how best to engage various organizations to use resources and obtain home improvements throughout their communities.

SCDOT Team Lead: I want to revisit an earlier comment about the urgency related to providing comments on this draft plan and the need to engage the larger community. I think that comment is spot on and I think when we get to the outreach update, you will see the proposed methods for getting this mitigation plan distributed to the community. Your comment at the last meeting about providing it in bite size pieces really resonated with us, so we are working hard to develop an engagement approach to allow for the larger community to comment on the plan.

- This is where we need your feedback, advice, and counsel regarding our proposed methods, because if they are not working, then it's no good. As we start to implement some of these outreach activities, we welcome your feedback throughout that process so we can pivot or alter our strategies to make sure we're getting this information to the residents in a manner that they can understand and can provide feedback on the plan.
- My second comment is to follow up on the h comment regarding the window of opportunity that we have right here. It is very important to understand that there is a window of opportunity where we need all of the community's feedback while SCDOT is making the resources available. We have the opportunity through working with Maximum Consulting right now to provide resources to the community and to provide organizational training. If there are community needs, if there are concerns, with the City of North Charleston, we have an opportunity now to engage and to provide training and to provide resources through this EIS process. But, as the EIS process window closes, there will be less ability to address those concerns. So, there is a sense of urgency, and I think it is very important for the CAC and community members at-large to understand that.

Project Team Member 1: Thanks for the clarity.

Community Liaison 2: For this page in the meeting packet, Dominion Energy is probably the only resource listed that residents can contact for one-on-one service, compared to the others. There is Metanoia and others that have been provided back in May when we were discussing this topic. If the group really is interested in weatherization for their community or their block, a more strategic approach would be needed for the sustainability institute and Palmetto CAP. Although again, Palmetto CAP does provide financial assistance to those needing to pay their bills and provides a level of weatherization. But, my experience, especially based on the funding, is that it is best if a collective approach is taken.

Project Team Member 1: Thank you. Are there any questions from the CAC members?

CAC Member 6: I'm hearing that as it relates to weatherization, DOT is like an open resource that residents can tap into now. As a final assistance, are you saying that Palmetto CAP is available now and will be [continue to be] available? I think you mentioned another organization? I think it is down in the Cherokee

area. [Project Team Member 2: Metanoia?] Help me round out what I will be saying to people because this is very important, just like the overall environmental piece in the neighborhood, the 'now' of what they can do.

Community Liaison 2: Since weatherization is not a part of the mitigation, SCDOT is not funding any weatherization activities. So, for individuals within the impacted community, Dominion Energy can be contacted as it relates to their weatherization/energy efficient programs. This is also tied with the state energy efficiency office that receives grant funds from the Department of Energy. So that is one course of action that people could take. Palmetto CAP provides resources to people to help pay some of their bills, and they also provide weatherization services on individual homes. The sustainability institute does the same thing and they also have job training programs in place for those interested in this field of weatherization. Metanoia also has programs in place to address this topic. My recommendation is that approaching Palmetto CAP collectively, as a neighborhood, would be a better approach than individually, based on how they receive their funding, how they allocate their funding, etc. That would be my recommendation versus individuals calling and them running out of money or not being able to service those needs. But, if they know that community X has 20 homes that need weatherization services, they could better assist, in a more comprehensive manner.

SCDOT Team Lead: I will just add on to that. If I was hearing the question Ms. Twiggs posed regarding this window of opportunity properly, I think these different organizations, partnerships and groups, provide weatherization programs outside the context of our project. But, I think right now we have the opportunity through our engagement with the communities and the CAC as part of this project to explore what those weatherization programs are, invite them to a CAC meeting to explain what programs are available, and really just bring them to the table now as we're having this conversation. And SCDOT can talk to these organizations and to share with them the feedback community members provide and to work with them to determine what program they have in place to assist communities.

CAC Member 6: That's where I was going with that question. "What's the now?" I think people need to hear that. Sometimes, the approach to take is to explain the direct impacts, such as how the program can help them immediately or what can these programs do to assist them, in general. I think it's now that we need to creating links [in communication and information] so that people will feel as if they are on board. And I think weatherization would be a nice way to create this link so that we can move into other aspects of the project that we have been discussing this morning morning in terms of communication with people in our neighborhoods.

Project Team Member: We will make sure to add that to the CAC plan as we plan long-term CAC meetings. Any other questions regarding weatherization?

Draft Education and Employment Mitigation Initiatives:

Project Team Member:

- Education and Employment Mitigation Initiative is also included in the mitigation plan. W A School-to-Work Program and Pre-employment training that will be managed by the contractor during the construction phase, as well as, a College Aid Initiative.
- The focus career tracks for the School-to-Work Program include construction, engineering, and transportation. The project team is requesting input from the CAC on which institutions we should look to partner with, and whether we focus on regional or statewide institutions in South Carolina.

- From a time frame perspective, we can start the School-to-Work and the College Aid Initiative immediately following approval of the ROD in November 2021. That would extend into the ROW phase at the end of 2027. Once this mitigation is made available to the public, we need CAC members and residents to assist the project team in identifying candidates for the School-to-Work and College Aid programs.
- Regarding the College Aid program, there is currently \$50,000 allotted for scholarships. But we need help identifying candidates to receive the scholarship money. Additionally, we will need help advertising the School-to-Work Program so that we can get candidates and students engaged.
- The project team is asking for volunteers to serve on a subcommittee to evaluate and assist the project team in developing details of participation in the application process (students and institutions), identifying potential candidates, and implementing educational and mitigation initiatives.
- Again, we are in the draft phase, so there is still time to work out the details, but we help from the CAC.
- I want to open it up, one for immediate conversation and two if there are individuals who are open to taking a deeper dive into this offline and reporting back to the CAC to give us more guidance. The floor is open.

CAC Member 1: Are you looking for individuals from the four affected subdivisions or outside of the four main neighborhoods?

Project Team Member 1: The goal is to get candidates from the four impacted communities. If there are not enough applicants from the four communities, the project team may consider opening the application process to residents from other environmental justice communities adjacent to the project area. Ideally, we want to focus on the four impacted communities, but if there are not candidates, we want to make sure other individuals who are in need and that meet the criteria are able to apply. We do not want to have a program in which no one benefits. We are looking to you to help garner interest, identify candidates, and make sure the monies and programs are authorized and available, and are received by members of your community.

SCDOT Team Lead: That was a great question. I see these programs as being very impactful and very beneficial to members of the community and we really need your help and helping shape these programs so that they are successful and we're not leaving any of the money or the resources on the table.

- These programs were implemented on the Port Access Road Project and they limited participation specifically, College Aid Initiatives, to just those members in the impacted communities and they had a really hard time finding enough candidates. So, as we move forward with these programs, we need to do a really good job of marketing and shaping the programs so that we can fund all of the proposed internships and fully fund the scholarship program. On Port Access Road, the goal was to provide individual scholarships and to limit each applicant to one scholarship opportunity.
- FHWA brought up a great idea that if you only have one successful applicant or candidate, we could perhaps extend more scholarships to that person. Therefore, that student would be able to receive more scholarships and that may ultimately be able to fund a larger part of their degree. That would be highly impactful.
- This is where when we talk about developing a subcommittee, the CAC would have input on the educational institutions that would be targeted for the School-to-Work Program.

- We need your input and we want the CAC to help us identify those educational institutions that we target for the School-to-Work Program and help us shape the kind of requirements for who could be involved in the program through shaping, for example:
 - What does the application look like?
 - What are the program requirements? Is it just a one-page essay?
 - Do you have to have a certain grade point average?
- We are open to hearing from the CAC and really need your help in shaping the program to benefit as many of the community members as possible. We really do not want to develop these programs and only have one or two members of the community to go through it. We do not want to have any missed opportunities. If this is where the CAC feels like it needs to be broadened to a larger community, then I think we are open to that. But again, this is where we need your assistance in shaping the programs.

Community Liaison 2: CAC members do not need to feel that you must create something from scratch. For instance, the Coastal Community Foundation has been doing community-based scholarship grants with other organizations, both government and private sector, so there is a track record as it relates to engaging communities as it relates to the College Aid Initiative. Another model that is used, for instance, is if the oldest adolescent in these impacted communities is in the 9th grade, members within the CAC may have a grandchild that doesn't live in their community who may qualify for the program. Other models exist in which members in the impacted areas make recommendations.

Project Team Member 1: This program could start as early as the completion of the final EIS ROD, which would be November/December 2021, but the commitment is to make the School-to-Work Program and the College Aid Initiative available through the completion of the ROW phase, which would be 2027. There is an approximate 6-year window in which these resources will be available to residents of the impacted communities and members of the CAC. SCDOT wants to make sure that there is a wide enough window to make sure we could address some of the gaps in aid as it relates to availability of these programs.

Project Team Member 2: [For DOT and FHWA] How do we track young children of displaced families who may qualify for these programs? This applies to children who start in the impacted neighborhoods but are displaced by the project. That could be something that the subcommittee discusses, but certainly I would not want them to be omitted from consideration because of their displacement.

SCDOT Team Lead: Absolutely. We are open to those suggestions, and again I'll go back to my point that we want to make this program as successful as possible. We do not only want to see one student go through the program. I think we can provide the final report from the Port Access Road so the CAC can see how that program was structured, what the limitations were, why it was or was not successful, and how it can be shaped in a manner to ensure full benefits to the community. If it needs to be broadened in any way, or someone is displaced, I think they should be eligible for participating in the program, even if they move out of the area.

CAC Member 8: My other suggestion was about the School-to-Work Program. Is it possible to leave a slot for someone who might not make the requirements of a normal scholarship? For instance, you might have a student who has gotten in trouble so he won't qualify for a scholarship under a different program, but he may qualify to apply for this program. We might want to investigate things of that nature, like someone with a minor incident that may disqualify them.

SCDOT Team Lead: Great comment. We are open to those suggestions and we can shape this program so that it provides priority to someone who meets the first level of requirements. I think we should be open to providing for those residents and young individuals who may have made a mistake and gotten into a little bit of trouble. We want to provide them with opportunity as well. That is where we are looking to the CAC to help us shape it in a manner that we can help as many people as possible.

FHWA Team Member: The purpose of suggesting the subcommittees was to help design this program so that the discussion that we are having now could be handled outside of this type large community and because I figured there would be some of these types of items that require detailed discussion. In the past, when we had School-to-Work Programs, scholarship programs, professional development and other development type programs, we always discussed these issues and always developed criteria, ranking criteria, and priority criteria in order to determine who would receive the benefits first. In a case like this, if you're having recruiting problems, and recruiting problems will arise, you would be able to determine how to prioritize the recipients. It's hard to have a large group meeting like this to make those types of determinations and to cover all instances that may arise, so that's where the idea of having subcommittees came up. We definitely need the input of the CAC members to help us decide what would best fit your communities in order to best use the funding available so that the communities impacted can be the beneficiaries of these particular programs. Again, the offer from Federal Highway for me to serve and help to develop and design these programs still stands because I do have experience in it and from the perspective of how FHWA and SCDOT normally designs their program.

Project Team Member 1: Please contact Maximum Consulting if you would like to serve on the subcommittee for Education and Employment Mitigation Initiatives.

Community Liaison 2: A deadline needs to be established for contacting Maximum Consulting to sign up for subcommittees so that we have something to report before the next CAC meeting. What deadline do you want to set for CAC members to commit to participating on subcommittees?

Project Team Member 1: The deadline for signing up for the subcommittee is next Saturday, September 26th. We want to be able to identify who is on the subcommittee by the next CAC meeting on October 3rd.

Project Schedule/Milestone Review/Draft Community Mitigation Timeline:

Project Team Member 1: As CAC members should always be equipped and have a complete understanding of the project schedule and where we are. We are at the point where we are about to issue the Draft EIS and the Draft Mitigation Plan. The Draft Mitigation Plan will be made available to the public early October, ideally October 1st, with the Draft Mitigation Plan being released in mid-November at a public hearing at the end of November.

Facilitator: Will you provide clarification on the two dates you provided?

Project Team Member 1: The Draft Mitigation Plan will be made available to residents ideally October 1st. This is when we are planning to make the Draft Mitigation Plan available for public comment. The draft EIS will be made available in November. That is the more detailed document which evaluates all the alternatives and identifies all the impacts to the natural, cultural and the social-economic impacts of the alternatives.

- So, two documents will be released - the Draft Mitigation Plan on October 1st and the Draft EIS in November.

- The public hearing will be late November, so over the next few months there will be a big push for community engagement and outreach opportunities, for people to make appointments to come to the office, as well as a public hearing.
- The Final EIS, Record of Decision and a Final Mitigation Plan are scheduled to be approved in November and December of 2021. That will conclude the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.
- The final version of the mitigation plan will be approved at the end of 2021.
- Once we complete the final EIS and ROD, the mitigation phase will take place 2021 through 2027. That includes educational programs, like the ones just discussed, design and construction of the community centers, design and construction of various infrastructure improvements to sidewalks, the lighting plan, security cameras, and traffic calming.
- All of those will occur between 2021 and 2027, the actual ROW acquisition for the I-526 highway improvements will run from 2023 to 2027. Construction of the I-526 improvements will run tentatively from 2027 to 2032.

The key takeaway here is that mitigation will be constructed and implemented prior to actual construction of the highway project. Are there any questions?

Outreach Update:

Project Team Member 1: We will transition and talk a little bit more about the upcoming outreach efforts.

Project Team Member 2:

- A primary CAC discussion point has been getting information out to the public. An initial, significant effort towards getting the Community Mitigation Plan, to increase awareness of it and initiate feedback, is the document you have in your packet which will be included in the mailer. It is called Community Mitigation Plan Highlights.
- The project team provided a little background about how feedback from the community drop-ins, public information meeting, the Social Needs Assessment, and CAC meetings were used to develop the proposed mitigation plan.
- On the inside is a visual reference of a timeline with each element of community mitigation and each commitment.
- On the back are the color-coded pillars used throughout the process and how they were established.
- The commitments on the inside match the pillars that we have been discussing. This will go in the mail tentatively on October 1st and should arrive in mailboxes during the first full week of October along with a letter from the Project Manager, a survey that is designed to get input from the residents about different features related to the commitments, and a self-addressed stamped envelope for them to return the survey. The survey will also be available electronically, but we recognize that since not everybody will be able to go online, we are providing a paper copy. Included in the packet will be a 4 ½" by 6 ½" magnet with contact information. This is also included in the directory that Maximum Consulting has been developing. You saw an example of it in this month packet, but it will be the same magnet.
- You will see some duplication of what you have seen in previous months, all coming together at this point. Your work has not been in vain. It is now materializing to a point where it can be widely distributed for comment. This may help address some of the earlier comments about getting information out to the public. Certainly, we count on the advisory council to have as many conversations as you can and as safely as you can, but from a holistic perspective, this document will go out and we would love your feedback and your comments.

- We will also be distributing flyers. I have copies for everyone. There are some here in the office. If you do not get them delivered with your yard sign, then you can pick them up from the office.
- The survey again will be sent by mail to everyone in Ferndale, Russelldale, Liberty Park, Highland Terrace, Joppa Way, almost all the way up to Remount Road. The two mail routes that cover all the project study area and EJ communities that are being impacted will be included.
- Flyers that describe other opportunities to engage will be stationed inside select businesses, as well as, at the bus stops and at other stations where we can put the real estate boxes. At the bottom of the slide, we talk about EJ Community Town Hall meetings to help garner opportunities to give more feedback to the project team. There are two approaches to those for a Town Hall meeting. SCDOT will also be participating and we are looking to host those virtually. Not everyone is going online, not everyone feels as comfortable, so we would like for the community to invite us to their meetings. Or, invite us to meet so that we can talk about the content that you have been discussing over the past year for mitigation and really focus on those things that you may not have thought about but also vetting these elements.

CAC Member 4: As stated on numerous occasions, Liberty Park, Highland Terrace, and Joppa Way do not have a place to meet. We have a community center, but we do not have a committee as such. We need to get the information out to our residents so they can find an area to meet and discuss details of the project.

Project Team Member 2: Part of this solicitation is that if you invite us to meet, we can help you find a place. The Highland Terrace, Liberty Park, and Russelldale Community Centers are small, and they may seem size inhibited. If larger meeting space is required, Maximum Consulting and the rest of the project team can assist in identifying a location that is reasonable, sizable, and safe. We do not want to eliminate a conversation because of the lack of a location.

CAC Member 4 : What is a feasible way to get them (community members) out (to community meetings)? How do you give them notice?

Project Team Member 2: We love that kind of feedback from you all. We can speculate and come up with options, but we are here to support that happening, but we need to know what you find to be the best ways. We want to make sure we do it in a responsible way and a healthy way because it is for healthy discussion. As discussed earlier, we need to distribute information in digestible pieces and ensure that it is comprehensible. We need your help in that regard as well.

CAC Member 6: May I add something to the earlier discussion about getting the information out? I think this is great. This is what I have been talking about and asking about.

- But the other factor is that I have spoken to residents in the community that feel as if the project is not including them. Somehow that message needs to come across first. I have two statements.
- First, it needs to say somehow that this includes everyone in that neighborhood and that they are all a part of the whole. And, being a part of the whole, they are included in the total plan, whether their property will be impacted or not, whether they will be relocated or not. That is not the issue. They need to be a part of this because, down the road, there may be something that will impact their property or their living status. I think that needs to be said.
- Secondly, if someone has a question, I am sure the Project Manager would not want to receive calls or questions from multiple neighborhoods. There should be one contact phone number for answers. Usually, there is one contact. This may help get more surveys returned. That is my experience.

Project Team Member: Let us not forget the purpose of the Community Office and the phone number here, having a central and accessible location. You're right. If you start putting out too many numbers in too many places for people to call, then you lose track of the conversation. So that's part of the purpose for having the office here, a central location, a hub, so that people can come here and talk with the community liaisons and with the ROW specialists.

- The phone line here is open and they can call here. It rings 24-hours a day and accepts messages 24-hours a day. The Community Office Manager is faithful with his responses to anyone that calls, because this office, this space, these resources are for the community. The other opportunities to engage will be included in the Project Manager's letter. The other stack of flyers has a little more detail about how you engage, but the draft letter that will accompany what you have in your packet will also include the opportunities to engage and how to have a conversation.
- The Community Office number is (843) 258-1135. The number here can be called and can also receive text messages.

CAC Member 8: Our church is in Ferndale and we have a food drive every Thursday. Can we get those signs, one in Spanish and one in English to distribute at the weekly food drive?

Project Team Member 2: You can take 2 Spanish signs with you today. I will have 3 for the Hispanic and Latino Liaison to put out as well. One of the things I have spoken to Mr. Halls about is use of the church beyond the sanctuary space.

CAC Member 8: We aren't using the inside of the facility. We have church outside, right now. If you want to do small groups (about 30 people), we could set up the chairs in the parking lot for proper distancing. That is how we have church now. But nobody is in the building.

Project Team Member 2: That is a great resource that is central and accessible in the Ferndale area.

CAC Member 8: I could put the signs out during our food drives so community members can see it. Residents from Russelldale and Ferndale visit our food drives. I do not think we have any residents from Liberty Park or Highland Terrace, including a number of Hispanic residents.

Project Team Member 2: We can get more information about that to put in the information that we share with the CAC.

CAC Member 7: If I have it right, ground-breaking is seven years from this year before we start this highway. Is that correct?

Project Team Member 2: That is when highway construction takes place, but all the components that we have discussed have to be in place prior to that time.

CAC Member 7: That means seven years from now. Many changes will take place in seven years (relocations, evictions, death, etc.). There are a lot of people that do not care about this project because they may be tenants, or they are not going to be here very long. Is there a way to focus on residents who wants this information? Are we going to be forcing this information into mailboxes, beating on the doors of people who do not care? I do not know what you want to do about that.

CAC Member 1: I understand what you are saying about renters and people that may not be here seven years from now. I have been a long-time renter. I still plan to be here. I am the type of person that does not like to hop from home to home. Being a renter does not mean you don't care about the project.

CAC Member 7: Your words are important right now but there are some residents that may feel differently.

CAC Member 1: Give them the opportunity to say to decide how involved they want to be in the process. Don't just count them out.

CAC Member 7: I'm not counting them out. I am asking for their input now.

CAC Member 1: You may ask for their input and they indicate they aren't interested, but for people like me, they should be given a chance to participate. I have been here for eight years, going on nine. I care. My grandchildren and my great grandchildren visit. My grandkids tell me they love where I live and the the area where I am renting. I understand what you are saying, but at least let there be some solidarity. Everybody has their rights to their option. If they do not care, so be it. But for those that will be there, let's find out who wants to put their feet on the ground running to help make the neighborhood, especially the four neighborhoods, a success and upgraded. That is what I am also looking at. We have the chance to get some help with upgrading these neighborhoods. Let us go for it. We could not do it before this project came along and now you have the chance for upgrade. And some things in all the neighborhoods need to be upgraded.

Project Team Member 2: I want to read SCDOT's comment (in the chat box) quickly. "We must provide all residents, tenants, or owners with the opportunity to provide input. We cannot presume an individual's level of interest."

- One of the things that usually happens if you become selective in how you disseminate information, is someone is left out and that is the nail that will stick out. And, they will probably create more conflict than anyone else, because they feel like they were intentionally excluded. Now there are opt-in options for other communications if you want to receive electronic updates, we can add you to the sign-up list.

CAC Member 7: That is what I am asking about. Not who we leave out, but who wants more information. Can we identify those people?

Project Team Member 2: All the tools that we put in the mail or advertise have options to be part of the recipient list for information. You can go to the "Contact Us" link on the website and indicate your preferences for paper mail or email or opt into the texting service. But when all else fails, call the Community Office at (843) 258-1135. We want to drive traffic to this office because the Community Office Manager has been faithful since March 17th to be here every day except Saturday and Sunday. He answers the phone in response to the phone calls and voicemails. Those people that you are alluding to that do want to be informed and want to be engaged, please encourage them to make that call. These leaflets and this literature that we are putting out, the surveys, and the invitation invite us to conversation, are the part of the ways we need you all to help us push the content and drive the conversation.

Facilitator: I want revisit a comment that was made earlier. The comment was made about community members who feel that the project may not be inclusive of them and [the importance of disseminated

information] being more explicit throughout the process and that it is clear that feedback and comments from the public are expected, encouraged, and inclusive of the larger community, not just the CAC. I want to make sure that point is not missed. CAC members should take the opportunity throughout the process, to provide the project team with feedback on how any of the communication, whether it is on the website or at in-person meetings, town halls, mailers, etc. Is being received by community members. The project team and SCDOT see this information all of the time. They are working from their perspectives and it may look to them like it is worded in a way that is inclusive of all communities. But, if you are receiving feedback from the community and hearing that the project language (or messaging) is not reaching individual members of the community as a project that is personal to them, then your point is a great point. That is something CAC members always need to be cognizant of and willing to give feedback on how to word things so that community members feel like they are part of this process.

CAC Member 6: I have heard that comment communicated as I travel through the community.

CAC Member 4: The town hall meeting for my community is the best way to reach residents. We need to work on how to get our residents to attend the meetings. Town hall meetings will get more responses. If residents receive information from the project team and community office, they have more confidence in the information. They know we are not adding anything [to the project purpose or plans] or trying to gain anything from it.

Project Team Member 2: I have already talked about the yard signs. Those that are in the office now can see them. We have them in English and in Spanish. We will make sure everyone who indicated that they wanted one, gets one.

- We are converting the Metro Quest Online survey to a paper version. There is an online option to complete it, but because we do not want to eliminate anyone from the conversation (because of access to a computer or device or just their familiarity with those types of online surveys) a paper version will be included with the same flyer that you all got in your packet, the letter from Joy, the envelope so that it's conveniently returned with postage, and the magnet.

Project Team Member 2: Please keep in mind that we want you all to help us understand how to communicate. As it was already said, we look at this every day almost all day and into the late hours of the day. So, we appreciate you all telling us how to make sure we are effectively reaching the communities, as well as, giving them meaningful opportunities to engage.

Community Liaison 3: We are prepared to give highlights of the back-to-school giveaway and the new information boxes that have been identified.

Community Liaison 1: The back-to-school event was on Thursday, September 3rd.

- The event had significant participation due to the participation of our coordinators Origin South Carolina Lowcountry Street Grocery, Charleston County School District, the A. Phillip Randolph Institute, the Humanities Foundation, the Biblical House of God, and the North Charleston Police Department. All these people came together and made this a success. It really turned out well.
 - There were 83 adult and 17 Latino participants, plus 72 children at the Ferndale Center.
 - At the Russelldale site, the Biblical House of God, there were 42 adult and 12 Latino participants to sign up.
 - We gave away 320 book bags and 33,000 pounds of food at the Biblical House of God. We were pleased that A. Phillip Randolph and the Humanities Foundation were able to participate with us.

- It was a successful event. We thank everybody who came by. We really appreciate the help of the CAC members who gave out flyers. Some of our Ferndale CAC members and residents gave out flyers, so that was really helpful. We really appreciate all who distributed flyers.

Community Liaison 3: Can you give the list of new information box locations?

Community Liaison 1:

- We have a total of 18 confirmed community outreach boxes.
- Eight of them are exterior.
- Existing boxes at the transit stops include: Rivers and Remount, Rivers and Harley, Rivers and Rebecca, Rivers and Emden, Rivers and Mall Drive, Rivers and Summer, Dorchester-Leeds, and the Super Stop.
- The new interior acrylic community outreach boxes will be located at the Dorchester Senior Center, the Berkeley County Dorchester Charleston County organization (BCDCOG), and Penders Market that has two new retail stores in that area. CVS Drug Store on Montague and Mixon, Save A lot store on Durant Ave, Maxway Variety store on Rivers and Durant, and Cooper River Library at 3503 Rivers Avenue.

Thanks to our Liberty Park CAC member. Walter's Seafood and Gerald's Tires were more than happy to have the flyers placed inside their buildings.

Community Liaison 2: I want to emphasize what we have talked about throughout the meeting in terms of what is not covered in the mitigation and utilizing Community Resource Guide. Please remember the deadline is next Saturday to provide names and subcommittee assignments to the Maximum Consulting team for the education and employment mitigation initiatives.

Community Liaison 3: As a reminder, we encourage you to call the office and leave a message for us. By using that number, it enables us to keep a track of how many residents we are really reaching. The number is (843) 258-1135. Please be sure that you let the residents know that is the best way to reach us

Summary and Next Steps

Project Team Member 1:

- We had a great meeting today with a lot of great feedback. I really do appreciate all the input that we have gotten from our advisory council. Remember, these are your meetings and we want you to help drive and formulate the conversation and help us to develop this Mitigation Plan.
- We have been really focused on the mitigation. For next month's meeting, we want to start looking at what the actual impacts are from a community-by-community standpoint to help you better understand and better relay to your neighbors what the impacts are and really get people's attention, so we can start driving more people to the community office to get input as well as take advantage of some of the information that is available. We have ROW agents who are available to assist with providing information on the ROW process, so we want to take advantage of the resources that we have at the Community Office, as well as our Community Liaisons.

SCDOT Team Lead: Thank everyone for their participation today. There was a lot of great feedback, a lot of work to do, but I appreciate everyone's input today.

CAC Meeting #13 scheduled for October 3, 2020, 10 AM at the at Ferndale Community Center (across from Harvest Pointe Church, 4870 Piedmont Avenue, North Charleston, SC). Microsoft Teams will be available to join the meeting virtually.