



MEETING MINUTES

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 14

Date: November 7, 2020

Time: 10:00 am – 12:44 pm

Location: Ferndale Community Center (across from Harvest Pointe Church, 4870 Piedmont Avenue, North Charleston, SC), Microsoft Teams (Virtual)

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees

Larenda Baxley, Ferndale
Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale
Gilbert Reeves, Ferndale
Nathan Bryant, Highland Terrace
Angela Anderson, Russelldale
Jeanaris Bannister, Liberty Park
Doris Twiggs, Liberty Park
Prayonda Cooper, Joppa Way
Joy Riley, SCDOT
Chad Long, SCDOT
Pamela Foster, FHWA
Yolonda Jordan, FHWA

Maxine Smith, Maximum Consulting
Mattese Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Carolyn Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Gwen Boyd, 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: 23

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

Meeting Summary:

Welcome and Introductions

- Roll call (in-person, online, and phone participants)

Administrative Items

- CAC Meeting 14 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.
- Meeting etiquette for in-person and on-line participants was reviewed.
- CAC Meeting 14 packets were distributed to meeting participants prior to the meeting date, including minutes for CAC Meeting 13.
- CAC Meeting 13 required changes to names assigned to comments made by Tina and Larenda Baxley. Their names were transposed. Edits will be made accordingly.
- CAC Meeting 12 minutes were approved.

Safety briefing: In case of emergency, meeting participants should exit through the front entrance of the community center and congregate on Piedmont Avenue at the front of the Harvest Point Church across the street from the Ferndale Community Center. In the event the entrance is blocked, meeting participants should exit through the door in the gymnasium space and proceed to the front of Harvest Point Church. (Ellis, J.)

Review of Agenda

- Welcome and Administrative Items
- Neighborhood Update
- EIS and Mitigation Activity
- Review of CAC Member Feedback Received After Meeting #13
- Community Leader Panel Discussion Re-Cap
- Review of Virtual Public Hearing Materials
- Outreach Update
- Project Schedule and Milestone Review
- Summary and Next Steps

Neighborhood Update

Facilitator:

- The first agenda item is the neighborhood update. There have been ongoing concerns from CAC members and the larger community related to lighting and flooding, but with the public comment period having begun, I know that a lot of you are in your communities talking with neighbors.
- So, for the neighborhood update, we want to gauge what people might be saying or making comments about the information that's being shared online or anything else. Have you been able to have discussions with family members or neighbors about the website or any of the mailers they're receiving? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member:

- Some of the people that I've talked to are nonchalant. They don't feel like anything is affecting them. Especially the Latinos. I don't know if it doesn't phase them or if they don't quite understand what is going on. So, I'm getting mixed feelings, you know, the homeowners are like, yes. But, those that are there renting, they are not there for the long term. (Anderson, A.)

Facilitator:

- So, Ms. Anderson, are they actually saying that it doesn't affect them? Or are they just indifferent to it, just not really sure what's going on? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member:

- A couple of them, it doesn't bother them. They feel like I am not paying property taxes, so...(Anderson, A.)

CAC Member:

- Yes. When I talk to some of my neighbors one-on-one and I used to ask them did you receive the flyer? And they tell me, "yes." And they ask me "what are we going to get from this?" I said, "if you read what the package said, then you will see what is probably going to happen in your neighborhood or on your street."
- You have to bring those things together to make your own conclusion, but I'm not trying to put nothing in your mind. I'm just telling you what the basics are all about. I spoke with three individuals in the community that attended the community drop-in on yesterday. Some are serious. They have signs out. So, it's not that it's not being noticed. (Bannister, J.)

Facilitator: Is it an issue that they don't understand the significance of the impact associated with the project or that they just don't care? Not that they don't care, but they may be indifferent. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: I think the news media sometimes can give a more positive affect, when they see information about the project on a tv commercial. But flyers and mail, they don't pay attention. But, if I see them, I plead that they come to the office. I tell them this is something important and that we need their opinion. (Bannister, J.)

Project Team Member:

- One of the things we heard last night was people talking about the schedule. So, when they see that things are happening later, they're a little less likely to get as involved or have the appearance of interest because they think it's farther down the line.
- Do you think that is a factor because I was telling someone last night, "Guys, it seems like we were just talking about Easter and now we're talking about Christmas and Thanksgiving. So this year has gone by really quickly, but and time will fly by just as quickly to get the 2023, 2027."
- But there's a planning effort. Do you think that people are just not willing to get as involved or show interest because they think that it's so far down the road, when they'll finally either be impacted or see anything before they get involved? Do you think that's a factor? (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member:

- That could be a factor, maybe. But, we like to procrastinate. But, now is the time to get your ducks in a row. Whatever you need, who you need to consult with, put everything down and notice what is going on in your neighborhood or your yard.
- Now is the time to document these things, so that when you bring it forth, you have it. You don't wait till the last minute and try to rush it, but now you have time to take time and do it right. You won't be making mistakes and holding someone else accountable for it. All you can do is talk to them. (Bannister, J.)

CAC Member: And I kind of think that is the problem too. Even though we are in 2020, they probably look at the fact that the project won't end until 2032 and think "big deal." They can't see anything happening. When I was leaving my house in Russelldale yesterday, on the left side of Rebecca Avenue, they have a paving company paving, I don't know if it's all streets or one street at a time. I don't know who is doing the

work, but we just can't lay back and say, "oh, it's down the road" and let them fall behind the eight ball. (Anderson, A.)

Facilitator:

- Thank you both for your comments. I think one of the things that makes me think about is the comment that Ms. Twiggs has shared repeatedly is the thought of trying to break down this project into bite-size pieces so that people understand here's what's going on in 2020. Here's what we're going to do at the beginning of 2021.
- Is there anything that can be done either by the CAC members or by Maximum or by the project team that can help to better facilitate that communication on a smaller scale and smaller increments, so that people understand the impact right now and what needs to be done right now? Because I guess the material that I see, you can see where the effort is being made to do that, but it is that what needs to be done? Is that the proper way? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member:

- Hi, this is Cynthia. I think that's an issue. I've talked to some people and just like the other commenter said, some don't realize what the full extent of the project and how the project effects them or their community.
- I think that the timeline, it should be showing people these are the things that have been done, and these are things that are going to be done, and you can break it up into smaller chunks so they can understand. I think the biggest thing is communication.
- We almost have to go door by door and make sure people get the information because there's still some people in those neighborhoods who don't understand or know what's going on. I think the concern is they see the signs, the signs were an excellent idea, but they need the information behind the signs. (Anderson, C.)

Project Team Member: She said that it seems that they need the information behind the sign and we might need to implement efforts similar to the census, more door to door, more interaction, and in digestible pieces. (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member: I know we are dealing with COVID-19 and we have to be very careful, but if the contractors don't have the proper equipment, mask or whatever, and just make sure you go door to door and even if no one answers, you can put the information in their doors with a mask over the face. (Anderson, C.)

CAC Member:

- What I just heard is good. I'm not taking anything from that, but I remember about two years ago when Highland Terrace was told they were going to bring the Palmetto Commerce through their area. City Hall was packed. It was packed with Highland Terrace. I live in Liberty Park, but that place was packed. They had several meetings, at City Hall and Stall High School. There were lots of people there, but they thought their homes were going to be taken away from them. They came out in droves. And they didn't have literature going out about the Palmetto project. That was because of rumors.
- That was word of mouth. But, now we are on our third time passing flyers out. I haven't had a single person ring my doorbell to ask me what the sign in my yard is about. What can you do other than a commercial? (Bannister, J.)

Facilitator:

- Any other comments regarding the communication and really reaching the community. I was on a call yesterday, unrelated to this project, but one of the things that, one of the things that I've talked with them about is the fact that when you are trying to share an idea and get people to buy into an idea, and you want to get involved.
- And Maximum, you know this very well. You really have to appeal to people on a personal level. People even with like, if you're selling something, most people don't buy anything they don't have some kind of personal or emotional connection with. So one of the things that I was talking to them about is because they were trying to push an idea in the community and one of the things, and I'm not saying that this has not been done, but just to encourage all of the CAC members to keep thinking about when you are approaching community members, your family and friends, sometimes it's most difficult to reach family and friends.
- Sometimes they're the least likely to listen to you. You really have to figure out and I say you, we, we have to figure out how to package this in a way that really connects with people on a personal level, on an emotional level right now today. So yes, the construction, you know, we use the, and we'll talk about like the mitigation plan, community infrastructure enhancement plan, the CIE in just a moment, but for most of the people in the community, that's this big amorphous blob. And it doesn't really mean anything to them.
- You all are more educated and you understand what those documents are and their features right now, for people in the community, we have to figure out just how to get them to the table. So, and I think that's really the challenge that as the CAC, we have to continue thinking about how you, and you talk about this so much, Mr. Banister, but how do we get people just to come to the table to have a discussion? And that's a point I think it will continue to be until we figure something out.
- We'll continue to be a challenge that we'll all have to continue working on. But if you see something that works, if there's something in your conversations that you think connects with people more than others, if there's some other the communication strategies that you think reach people on a different level, one more than the other, those are the things that you all need to bring back to the meetings or contact Stantec, or let Maximum know.
- We need to continue thinking about those bite bite-size pieces of information and how to really appeal to people on a personal level. Ms. Anderson, I think you have a comment. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member:

- I agree. 100%. But some of the tactics that we probably can use, I don't know how much you have access to people's telephone numbers or emails, because if take the election, they email information constantly to you. So we could get people emails and telephone number. We can check information, or we can email information to give to the people.
- And one of the things we can do is a group of people who live in a neighborhood that sits on the CAC. We can work with Stantec to go door to door because they know us. So, for Liberty Park and Ferndale, the people who live there, they go to CAC, we can go door to door. We can ask, if you have an email address, we can send you the information. Or did you have a telephone that we can set you to keep you up to date? So that's probably one of the next steps we can do to get that information out. (Anderson, C.)

Facilitator: So a text campaign, or just canvassing? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member:

- Mail, text, and email. And most people will read their text. And most people will read their emails. They have smartphones now. So I think if we get a group of people like in Liberty Park. We can work with Stantec and we can go door to door. And because they know us, we live in those neighborhoods. And they can say, well like this, I'm Cynthia Anderson and I live in Liberty Park for so many years, you know, we want to make sure you get the information. Do you have a telephone number, we can text you information? Do you have email? Have you been seeing the mailing that we sent out.
- I think we have to be more aggressive now to go into Ferndale, Highland Terrace, Liberty Park, and Russelldale and we can use the CAC members as a member of the team to go with you guys to tag team to get the information distributed. (Anderson, C.)

Facilitator: Okay. Ms. Anderson, I think those are great comments and they certainly will be added to the record, but also probably continue figuring out...I guess that would come through...I'm not sure with Maximum or Stantec. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: But for the CAC, use us. We live in these neighborhoods. We know the people. We can work with the project team to try to go door to door and to make sure people get the information. (Anderson, C.)

Facilitator: Yes. Ma'am absolutely. Anybody else have any comments?

Community Liaison: I think somehow we've got to get the mayor and the city council involved. When the mayor comes to a fish fry, everybody shows up. So, we can do a fish fry. We can do a barbecue. (Lecque, C.)

Unknown speaker: Absolutely, if you feed them, they'll come.

Community Liaison: Right. But, we don't feed them until after we talk. [inaudible] (Lecque, C.)

Facilitator: I love that, and that's some of what they talked about at the last meeting as well, is bringing people out and feeding them. Food is very personal. People like to come out and fellowship over food. And at least in most of the community groups I've worked in, it certainly seems to get people out. I like the idea of getting them out and getting the message and then feeding them. (Ellis, J.)

Community Liaison: And we should also have the mayor and city council. [inaudible] (Lecque, C.)

CAC Member:

- Until you bring all of the stakeholders and landowners, all of the persons that live there presently, or the renters and tenants. I have yet to receive a packet and I hear everybody talking about it. And we do have email addresses. We have telephone numbers.
- We have divided Liberty Park into three areas. I'm on Deacon, and what else Jeanaris? Jeanaris directs me. And I follow directions well. So, I take care of that area so if a person is not living there, even if they're homeowners, I make sure to find out where they are. And I'm that person that on a regular basis, I communicate with owners who aren't even living in Charleston. But, they know that this is going on. And from time to time, I might send someone to the office to check out what's going on and get updates.

- So, it's a big challenge. And unless we get on it, and get started, it will start trailing with different pieces of information. And I don't like ill information going out. Let's give it to them exactly the way it is. (Twiggs, D.)

Project Team Member: Can you repeat the last thing she said? (Derrick, L.)

Facilitator: She said she does not like to have that information go out...(Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: Ill information! (Twiggs, D.)

Facilitator: She said ill information. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: Incorrect...(Twiggs, D.)

Facilitator: Incorrect information. Accurate. Yes sir, Mr. Bannister. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member:

- When passing out the flyers, I just try to cover the areas that I think are going to be effective. First, I try to catch the party living in the house, whether they are a homeowner or renter. And I always tell them, just because you're renting, you're still affected. But, I give them the flyer at the same time. And don't take for granted because this is not your house, that you're not going to be affected when the final analysis is said and done. So, they have different provisions for you. And I ask them, how would you like to see your residence taken care of after the fact?
- Anything you need done to your home, just don't sit there and say, it's not going to affect me, go out anyway and see what's in the process. I can't tell you everything, but here's the flyers. Here's the numbers and that's all I can do. And I'll probably keep doing the same thing over and over. Liberty Park did leg work in these areas. (Bannister, J.)

Community Liaison: To answer Carolyn's question about notifying city officials, I sent out an email messaging with the flyer and everything that's upcoming for the community drop-ins to the mayor's office. Please know that city council Dorothy Williams is still in the hospital from her accident. She said, she's not able to walk. She's going to have to learn how to walk again, but I did send the flyer to her by email and she is going to try to spread the word, the best she can. (Lecque, M.)

Facilitator: One of the things that you all have the authority to do is then reach back out to someone else on that team or on that staff to ask for a proxy. If she can't be here to represent her staff, who else can represent? And you've done that? Okay. So, that would be my only point, and that's been done. For Stantec, before we move on or from SCDOT are there any other comments? I think those are great comments, great update, good feedback from the community. But let's see if we have any comments from the project team before we move on. (Ellis, J.)

FHWA:

- This is Pam. I've had my hand up for a minute. I hope I'm not being redundant, because I cannot understand what everybody else is saying. However, I want to respond to the language I'm hearing about 'feed them and they will come,' and I hope I'm not repeating what everybody else has said, but I want to make a comment that I don't want our minutes...I know these are official meetings, and I don't want it to seem that you're saying, 'feed them and they will come' in that context because, culturally,

what happens is we believe and understand that we like the nature of fellowship and we respect the fact that we like breaking bread together.

- That is something that brings us together and puts us in a sense of unity. So that's why in our culture, when we eat and break bread together, we seem to be on one page and in a place of unity, not so much in the context of 'feed them and they will come.'
- I don't want us to have in our written documents, in our minutes that we can read in. If you feed them, they will come. And that is a marketing tool for our meetings and gatherings to get people to attend whatever we put together in these efforts, in our CAC activity. That's all I wanted to say. Thank you. (Foster, P.)

Facilitator: Thank you, Ms. Foster. That is duly noted. I think cultural competence is critical. So I definitely agree. I think that's important to make sure we capture in the record. So thank you. (Ellis, J.)

SCDOT Project Lead:

- First, thank you for all the time, this is exactly the type of feedback that we need from you as far as this neighborhood update. I think we're hearing the message that we need to expand our outreach numbers, do something a little bit different and really target these communities and target individual property owners and the renters, so I think that a challenge has now been set forth for our team.
- There is definitely a sense of urgency because we're in a critical period right now, and the public comment period is going to run till January 15th. So I wanted to say thank you for these comments, I assure you that project team is going to work hard to meet with everybody and really expand our outreach efforts to try to get the word out and get the feedback that we need. Thank you. (Long, C.)

Facilitator: Thank you Chad. Yes sir, Mr. Bryant? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: I know we have a lot of renters in the area and some Hispanics who have a language barrier. I just think if we can get the owners of the property and try to get a commitment from them, try to talk with them once a month or twice a month, and let them know that hey, this is what they are trying to do for you. Renters don't believe they can stay there and rent the property. So, if we can make it seem like it's beneficial for them and get the word out, then they may help you stay connected. (Bryant, N.)

Facilitator: I like that. I think you should add that to your strategy instead of focusing on a general sort of broad brush focus on the homeowners, that may be something you guys want to consider and then really enlist the homeowners to then go out and be more focused and intentional about speaking with renters, maybe in smaller groups. So that's definitely a good suggestion. Thank you. Any other comments? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member:

- I just thought about this and when I first came to be on the board at Charleston school district, I asked them if we could do an app to update the parents. And so what I'm thinking now is maybe they can put something on their telephones that can tell you the status, the dates, and give any pictures.
- When I worked for the federal government, the Office of Personnel Management had an app. Charleston County School District has an app to update parents. They can use it for this project or any other project that people can just download or we can show them how to download it and see what's going on because I think everybody now has a smart telephone. (Anderson, C.)

Facilitator: Did everyone in the room here what she was saying? Okay, essentially what you're saying is that when you worked on the Charleston school board you recommended that they use an app to stay in touch and update parents. And you're recommending that an app be developed to keep community members in the four impacted communities, in particular, informed. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: For future communities. That's a way for everybody to find out what's going on. (Anderson, C.)

Facilitator: And that's a way for everyone to know what's going on. Okay. We'll definitely add that to the record as well. Thank you. (Ellis, J.)

Community Liaison: We have a partnership with the Office of Community Engagement with the Charleston County School District and any time we have a meeting of any kind, they get the information out to the parents of the four schools that are in this footprint. We do have a partnership with the school district. It's not an app, but it's still a way of communicating with the parents. (Smith, M.)

Facilitator: And how, how do you communicate, how do you send that information? (Ellis, J.)

Community Liaison: So the information is sent to the Office of Community Engagement - Family and Community Engagement. And they actually provide the information to the school liaison for the four schools in their footprint, not necessarily through an app. But they email them essentially the same information. (Smith, M.)

Facilitator: Okay, so through emails. Do they do robocalls? (Ellis, J.)

Community Liaison: I don't know that they are able to do the robocalls, but they are able to send the information electronically to the parents. (Smith, M.)

EIS and Mitigation Activity

Facilitator:

- That's good information, too. I think this feedback in terms of the discussions that you're having regarding some concerns, and perhaps that you're continuing to think through some strategies that we might be able to implement a little bit of adjustment there. And so that's all very good and we'll make sure we capture everything and share it so we can figure out where we need to go from there.
- Let's move on to the EIS and mitigation activity. The project team began meeting formally with the CAC on September 30th of last year. So, we have been at this for a while. And one of the things that you all have been tasked to do is to familiarize yourself with terms and acronyms and documents, so that you understand the NEPA process. And you've heard a lot of talk about NEPA. NEPA is the National Environmental Policy Act.
- That's the reason why we're all in this space. The federal government requires that for federal agencies that are implementing projects that potentially impact the environment, including the human or human impacts, that they evaluate what those impacts might be before finalizing or formalizing the details of a project.
- We're here because we're engaging in the I-526 expansion process, but SCDOT and FHWA cannot proceed with this work until we go through this process. Right? So that's sort of the overarching issue. We've been talking about a number of documents. The project team has discussed resources, even some that Maximum has presented to you, for example the resource guide.

- We talked about a lot of documents over the past year, but the three primary documents that this group as the CAC, is most centrally focused on would be the draft environmental impact statement, the mitigation plan, and the community infrastructure enhancement plan. So those are three key documents that keep coming up. We keep talking about those documents. Right?
- And so, for the purpose of this, let me start by saying, this is not a test. I will ask that you all take out your notes if you're on Teams, you'll definitely be able to participate better if you have this in front of you. We've asked that everybody finish this sheet in your packet. Hopefully you have had an opportunity to go through that. The activity was to take these items at the bottom of the page and try to match them up with these three documents.
- If you have not done that, don't panic, we'll work through that this morning, but this is an opportunity basically for you guys and us together to just sort of go through all of the things, most of the things of the key things that we've discussed over the past year, and just get an understanding, make sure you feel comfortable and you know, where these different things belong in the process. The reason why that's important, for example, is Mr. Jeanaris is going out and talking to members of the community, as he stated before. All of you are. Ms. Doris is talking about the work that she's doing. We're talking about increasing going out and doing door-to-door visits. It's important that you understand these documents.
- So, when people start asking questions, you can at least answer the basic questions about what the draft mitigation plan covers, why it's important to you, and why do you need to participate in the public comment period. But that's what this activity is for.
- So the EIS is the big picture document, right? That's where SCDOT, Stantec, they're going out, they're doing this evaluation and assessment. We talked about this early on in the process in the first several meetings where we really spent some time focusing on direct impacts, indirect impacts, and cumulative impacts.
- The mitigation plan is really that part of the process where these four impacted communities come together and work with the project team to mitigate for the impact, whether it's cumulative, direct or indirect. Do you remember what the word mitigate means? The whole purpose of the mitigation plan is to minimize, reduce, offset, whatever word you want to use. It is to reduce those impacts, right? And so that's the purpose of that mitigation plan.
- Now the community infrastructure enhancement plan, that's really to address those topics that kind of fall outside of a mitigation plan, but that SCDOT is committed to supporting those four communities in addressing resolution, to the extent possible. Is that right, Ryan? Make sure that if I'm off a little bit, you correct me. (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member: So, they are part of community infrastructure enhancement management sub-component. But it is a separate effort that we are doing as a part of the overall mitigation plan. (White, R.)

Facilitator: Do you guys have any questions, first, before we start kind of going through these topics, these bullets at the bottom about the three documents? It's okay, if it's wrong, we just want to make sure that we can talk through it and answer any questions. But the first is purpose and need. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: That's probably the DEIS. (Anderson, C.)

Facilitator: That's correct. So the purpose and need, that is part of the environmental impact statement. You're defining what the purpose of this project is and the needs of the communities, right. Or that area that is being impacted. (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member: According to the NEPA process. So, why is SCDOT and FHWA actually moving forward? The congestion issues, the traffic issues...that is part of the need of the project. (White, R.)

Facilitator: Did you guys hear that on the phone and on Teams as well? (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member: So, again, with purpose and needs, and again, it is a component of the DEIS, but it's the reason why the project is doing that. And that's extremely important. As you explain to your neighbors why this project is being done and why are we getting these impacts. There is a much broader picture of the purpose of the project and all the traffic and safety needs for the region that is defined in the DEIS in regards to why the project is being addressed. (White, R.)

Facilitator: Thank you Ryan. Next is traffic calming. Which document would traffic calming, things like speedbumps fall under. Hold on.

CAC Member: Infrastructure. (Baxley, T.)

Facilitator: I hear, I hear infrastructure. What did you say Mr. Bannister? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: I see where... (Bannister, J.)

Facilitator: Anybody else brave enough? This is a discussion time. So it's okay. I heard the infrastructure enhancement plan. So that's right. So traffic calming belongs in the enhancement plan. Okay. Next is affordable housing.

CAC Member: Mitigation. (Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: I got one answer, anybody else? So that's right. Affordable housing belongs in the Mitigation plan. Okay. Next is the Community History Preservation Study.

CAC Member: Mitigation. (Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: That's right. All right. Next is, community advisory council? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: Mitigation. (Baxley, T.)

Facilitator: Okay, that's right. Next is storm water improvement, Flooding. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: That's infrastructure. (Baxley, T.)

Facilitator: Anybody on the phone? On Teams? Right. Okay. Good. Infrastructure. All right. Next is financial literacy. First time home buyer counseling. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Members: Mitigation. (Baxley, T. and Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: Mitigation. Good. Alright, next is community centers and pocket park. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: Mitigation. (Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: You guys should be experts on where that belongs. Okay, next is sidewalks. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: Infrastructure. (Baxley, T.)

Facilitator: Infrastructure. Okay. Next is Community office. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: Mitigation. (Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: Alright. Are you all good with that? All right. College Aid initiatives? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Members: Mitigation. (Baxley, T. and Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: Mitigation. Next is recreation programs and activities.

CAC Members: Mitigation. (Baxley, T. and Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: Mitigation. Let me slow down. You guys are taking notes. Let me give you a second to take notes. Does anybody have any questions so far about why these items might belong in any of these documents? Or do you feel pretty clear about it? Alright. Next is recreation programs and activities. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Members: Mitigation. (Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: Mitigation. What about environmental impact? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: EIS. (Anderson, C.)

Facilitator: DEIS. The environmental impact statement. What about alternative analysis? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: Impact Statement. (Baxley, T.)

Facilitator: So, the project team has to come up with a plan, but they also have to come up with alternatives, right, for what they're proposing. So...say it again, Ms. Prayonda. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: DEIS? (Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: DEIS. Good. Very good. What about the school to work program? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: Mitigation. (Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: Mitigation. Okay. Street lighting? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: That's infrastructure. (Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: Infrastructure. Okay. What about organizational training? We've been talking a bit about that too, in more recent meetings. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: I think mitigation. (Baxley, T.)

Facilitator: Okay. Let's see. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: [inaudible].

Facilitator: What did you say Ms. Cooper? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: In my mind, I was thinking it was the DEIS. Because in the project, you need the organizational training. (Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: So, Ms. Cooper is saying she would think that that's a part of the DEIS rather than the mitigation. (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member: So regarding organizational training, and we'll talk a little bit more about that later on today, but the organizational training is part of the next steps for what you all may want as far as mitigation and how to move forward beyond the life of the project. So, without getting ahead of ourselves, one of the things SCDOT is committed to is, similar to our panel discussion last month, if there's a desire for you all to organize as communities and advocate and so forth, that is part of the mitigation plan, that is something SCDOT is willing to assist you all in doing, as a parallel process to this project and life beyond the project. (White, R.)

Facilitator: And I appreciate that comment though [to Ms. Cooper], because I understand, I think, where you're coming from with that reasoning. But think about the organizational training piece of it as part of this. So, you have the advisory council and that organizational training is tied to the work that the CAC is doing. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: Once you explained it, I understand. (Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: So the good thing about, at least to me, this kind of discussion or format is...when I was in school, like in high school. I always learn things better when I was in a group and I thought I had something right. And talk with somebody else and start reading through it. What that does is then you get out and you start talking to people in the community, it helps you to just process that information in a way that you can better explain it. So the fact that you said organizational training is a part of the DEIS, it helps you on a deeper level (when the answer may not necessarily be correct), be better able to explain why it fits into the mitigation plan (to your community). So I think that's great. Not only did you say that it was in the DEIS but you gave an explanation, so that's good. I appreciate those comments. Okay, we are at bike and peds. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: I think that's mitigation and infrastructure. (Baxley, T.)

Facilitator: What did you say Mr. Bannister? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: No, no. I was talking to myself. (Bannister, J.)

Facilitator: That's not fair. Okay. So, Ms. Baxley said she thinks it should actually be in the mitigation and the infrastructure. (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member: She's actually correct. So again, one of the things that we're doing specific to the recreation center, is making sure there are improvements to make sure people get from point A to the recreation center. So, yes, its going to fall primarily under the CEIP because there are so many more improvements that are part of the infrastructure enhancement program but she is absolutely correct. There are greenways, multi-use paths, some additional side walks and so forth that are directly connected to the recreation center. (White, R.)

Facilitator: Okay. So next is preemployment training.

CAC Members: Mitigation. (Baxley, T. and Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: Mitigation. And then finally the recreation center, connectivity improvement.

CAC Members: Mitigation. (Baxley, T. and Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: Mitigation. And to your point, you're talking about connectivity improvements that kind of ties into the whole discussion about bike and pedestrian walkways. So that's good. That's very insightful. And so I do want to just make sure. All right. So don't panic if you have not had a chance to jot all of this down, the project team will send the completed document to you. But, I appreciate that you obviously did your homework and I appreciate that too. Ms. Prayonda, I appreciate your comments as well and others. But, take some time to sit down as you prepare to go out and work with community members, to make sure you understand all of the elements of these documents and reach back out to the project team if you have any questions about why this thing belongs in this document or not? So, okay. Any comments? SCDOT, any comments? (Ellis, J.)

SCDOT Team Lead: My only comment is that organizational training. Public outreach is at the core of NEPA and the environmental policy act. Organizational training is about keeping the public informed about the process. (Long, C.)

Review of CAC Member Feedback Received After Meeting #13

Facilitator:

- Thank you. I think we're ready if no one has questions about this activity to move on to the next agenda item. After our last meeting (#13), Maximum really spent a good amount of time talking with CAC members, just getting some feedback on projects impacts, the EJ efforts, and CAC meetings. You guys gave extensive feedback. They were able to collect information on the high points, so things that were recurring and continued to come up as discussion points or the most significant issues from those discussions.
- And so what we wanted to do this morning is to share those topics with the group and give you an opportunity to discuss them in a bit more detail and see how we might be able to address them, if we're not already.
- Maybe, as we talked about during the neighborhood update, we can discuss how we might be able to improve our approach. So we'll start with dissemination of project information and some of the bullets listed here is that information should be written at a fifth to eighth grade reading level. I know some

years ago, for most of the country, the literacy level was at a fifth grade reading level. And we want to make sure we're packaging our message in the most clear, concise way that we can. And I think that is some of the feedback that was coming from CAC members as well.

- So information about the projects should be sent to radio and TV stations. Those are things that we've talked about. And we've even kind of mentioned today as well. And information about the project should be sent to churches through e-blast. So let's talk a little bit more about dissemination of project information. I know we talked about contacting the mayor, for instance, and having a fish fry within the proper context. (Ellis, J.)

Community Liaison: Through fellowship. (Lecque, C.)

Facilitator: Yes, ma'am, absolutely, through fellowship. So what are some things that CAC members would like to see happen, how the project team can better support some of those efforts, and determining whether or not you think it's effective? Have you been working through churches? (Ellis, J.)

Community Liaison: Because most of the churches are still closed, we are gathering email addresses and phone numbers [Inaudible]. Although interestingly enough, we're finding that the churches that are located in the footprint, the residents don't necessarily attend church there. So that's been an interesting revelation to us. We're trying as many different ways as we can. For the minority media contacts, Joy is scheduled to talk on a gospel radio station, WJNI. We know the residents listen to that station. So, we are trying multi-faceted ways. (Smith, M.)

Facilitator: Did you hear that? You didn't capture that either? (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member: I got churches are not congregating, but the latter part I couldn't get? (Derrick, L.)

Facilitator: So, Dr. Smith, correct me if I'm wrong, but I think what I'm hearing is that they been reaching out to churches, but one of the things that they're facing is that the residents who live within the footprint... the churches that are situated within the footprint of the four impacted communities, the residents don't necessarily attend those churches. And so they're having to come up with creative ways outside of congregations, churches to reach those community members. So that's interesting. (Ellis, J.)

Community Liaison: We can use Harvest Point as an example. They have a food distribution drive every Thursday, and we attended that or got permission to be there. And I think it was Priscilla who took the flyers and was able to distribute flyers about the drop-in meetings. Those individuals that attended the food drive don't necessarily attend the church, Harvest Point, which is just right across the street. But they live in Ferndale. They live in Highland Terrace which is right across the street. (Smith, M.)

Facilitator: That's a good point, that's something that could possibly be missed if you're not making, you know, taking the time to understand your community. (Ellis, J.)

Community Liaison: I think we were able to identify that as a part of the strategy because Prayonda is a part of the CAC. (Smith, M.)

Facilitator:

- Yes, absolutely. And that goes back to some of the discussion that Mr. Muhammad was talking about in the last meeting about understanding your community. I think that's an excellent example of that,

that just making sure that you're giving that type of feedback and helping Maximum to help you to help the community. That's exactly the kind of information that will continue to help strengthen the efforts on moving forward. So that's great information. Okay. Any other comments on dissemination of information?

- Environmental issues was another that came up, and the specific questions, how will environmental issues such as dust pollution be addressed? I know we had a conversation during the last meeting about noise and Ms. Varner had some questions about some of the long term environmental impacts. And so I know that that's an ongoing conversation, not just necessarily related to noise, we had more of a general question about long-term environmental impacts.
- Does anyone have any comments, concerns, or questions that you want to ask? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: I think one of the issues with environmental impact is the flooding. There's a lot of flooding in these areas that needs to be addresses and also power lines above, not underground, like real neighborhoods. So tree trimming is a big deal, because if we have a storm, ice storm coming, Liberty Park don't have lights or electricity. So I think tree-trimming and flooding all also big environmental issues in these communities. (Anderson, C.)

Facilitator: Ms. Cynthia, you broke up at the beginning of your comment, but I think what Ms. Anderson was saying is that in a lot of these neighborhoods, they're still traditional telephone poles. And so that becomes of an issue with tree trimming. So I think everything else everyone was able to hear. Well, to make sure they've heard that part of the comment. Okay. Regarding project visuals, the comment was made that the CAC would like to see visuals of what will be done and when. So I'm not sure if Maximum wants to maybe expound bit more on that one. (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member: And I can speak to that. So, later on the in meeting you'll get to see the visualization for what the project itself would look like. We've all seen on the number of occasions, visuals for the community center and that's a continual work in progress. So as we transition beyond the final EIS into the design process, you'll get a better understanding, more clarity on what your parks will look like in the actual community, so those will all progress once we finalize acquisition of the property. For example, we'll go through the design process. But in regards to what I-526 will look like, and how everything fits in relation to that, we've got a visualization that's actually on the web. You'll get to see that toward the latter part of the meeting. (White, R.)

Facilitator: Ms. Baxley. (Ellis, J.)

Community Liaison: Did you skip the one above it because that's the one I had a comment on. (Baxley, T.)

Facilitator: Yes ma'am, I did. I'll come back to it. Ryan, is did you finish your thoughts? (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member: I'm good. (White, R.)

Facilitator: Okay. So, let's go back to project schedule vs. community needs. The comment was made that the project schedule seems to be more important than current community needs. So, Dr. Smith, if there is something Maximum can share with us (.Ellis, J.)

Community Liaison: I guess I can say something about that, I think they were looking at the timeline. The person who made the comment was looking at timeline versus what was happening with them. So, that seems like the timeline is more important than what's happening on the forefront. (Lecque, C.)

Facilitator: Thank you for clarification. Joy? (Ellis, J.)

Project Manager: I just want to point out that in the past, [inaudible]. (Riley, J.)

Community Liaison: Please be clear, I was giving the person's perspective, not mine. (Lecque, C.)

Project Team Member: For anybody that is on the phone, I put in the chat box that Joy was explaining that mitigation had to be implemented before the highway infrastructure. (Derrick, L.)

Facilitator: Ms. Carolyn, will you hold your comment for just a second? For those on Teams, did you hear Joy and Ms. Lecque's comments? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: Not too clearly. (Muhammad, E.)

Project Team Member: So just to repeat what Joy was saying, traditionally mitigation is done during construction of, in this case, the highway improvement project. And so when you look at the project schedule construction isn't starting to 2027. So the highway improvements have actually been pushed out to create an opportunity for SCDOT to actually do most of the mitigation before the project construction. So we're trying to, we're changing the order of things ultimately. And so once the final environmental documentation is done, mitigation happens, or most of it, and then construction. So we are trying to get the construction of the community centers and affordable housing. Some of the infrastructure enhancement to address the lightening and some of the storm water issues done before we even start constructing I-526. So the traditional process has been switched up to put emphasis on mitigation first. (White, R.)

Facilitator: Did you all hear that on Teams? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: Yes. I have a question though? This is going to be ongoing because wouldn't construction of the I-526 expansion affect some of the storm problems or enhance it even more? (Muhammad, E.)

Project Team Member: So the question was, will construction of I-526 impact storm water for the community? If I'm hearing that correctly. (White, R.)

CAC Member: Even though you're doing it now, or you would do it before the construction of I-526. (Muhammad, E.)

Project Team Member: Okay. And so there are storm water issues that are related specifically to some of the roads within the community that aren't tied to the I-526 at all. And so, those smaller improvements, we're trying to address. But, there are really two needs, one through regular maintenance. That's when Joy provided the 1-800 number for immediate improvements or small level corrections, but then also within that enhancement plan looking at some of the water spray, storm water that's related to the rest of the roadway. Then for I-526, there's a drainage plan specifically to ensure that the storm water from the

new improvements aren't impacting the existing storm water network with the community. Does that help? (White, R.)

CAC Member: Yes, thank you. (Muhammad, E.)

Community Liaison: In reference to project versus needs, we're talking about mitigation and helping to improve [inaudible] we ought to be doing something about this. Someone needs to put the pressure on the city, to make sure that the [inaudible] some improvement to quality of life regarding [inaudible]. I think if we could put a [inaudible] call this number, I don't think [inaudible], look for the cell phone number [inaudible]. (Lecque, M.)

Facilitator: Duly noted. It's on the record. I do have, hold just for a second, let me make sure that I just make a clarification. So when I see that bullet, "the project schedule seems to be more important than current community needs," I just want for clarification, because what Joy addressed was two things within this project that this team is placing more importance on the project schedule rather than the current community needs. But what I hear you saying is that these community needs here are more to do with things that are related to the city and some other significant issues. But they also need to be addressed maybe at the same time as this project. Is that correct? (Ellis, J.)

Community Liaison: That's correct. Just telling people, their community is going to be impacted [Inaudible]. 2023 or 2024, I'm talking about right now. (Lecque, M.)

Facilitator: And I guess one of the things I understand completely because people are prioritizing if you're talking to them about this project, they're prioritizing immediate needs. But I guess my question then is how do we equip the CAC members and even Maximum to go out and have those conversations where they can make a distinction between, this is what a lot of SCDOT and FHWA are doing, and Stantec to address this particular project. But we do understand that these are some other needs. These are very, you know, significant needs of the community and what can be done, or what is being done to address, abandoned homes and abandoned lots, and that sort of thing. That I think, and maybe I get some feedback from Ryan or, or LaTonya on this, or Maximum in terms of where you are. (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member: Understanding the difference between advocacy and activism for your community, is that where you're going in a separate veins, separate projects. (Derrick, L.)

Facilitator: You know, both things have to be done. We've had so many conversations about what things are really the responsibility of like the city as opposed to those things that SCDOT can do as a part of this project. And it's not that those other things don't need to be done or shouldn't be done or won't be done. It's just that, how do we use this process and pulling this group together and others that we can pull into this process to maybe work in tandem. So we have these actions that we're taking to address mitigation related to the LCC I-526 West project. And then we have all of these other community needs that need to be addressed at the same time, but as a CAC, and I won't go into the POC and all that now we'll talk about that later, but what is the strategy going back to Mr. Bryant's earlier conversation and the thought process of putting together a strategy, how do you put that together to make sure that all of those issues are being addressed effectively? I think that's a good point. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member (21:10): [inaudible] one person assigned to this project [inaudible]. (Bryant, N.)

Facilitator: So, Mr. Bryant's question is, do we have contacts that different government agencies that serve as a liaison between those agencies and the CAC or this project team, to ensure that they're not, you guys are not going all over the place, just kind of touching base randomly with people in these organizations. And to some degree, I think we'll hit on that today. We'll start having a bit of a conversation about our organizational structure, so that we can maybe start talking about long-term, how we start to set those types of structures up moving forward, with these organizations. (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member: But I think in the near term, that's where I think your council members come in and I understand the situation, but as far as a project liaison, that's something that we haven't addressed as far as someone from the project specific to coordinating with a particular department within the city. We do have our technical review committee, and you had an opportunity to have a conversation with them. And those issues were brought up. And so the city has been aware of a lot of those issues based off our initial meeting. The technical review committee is very specific to this project, but that's always an opportunity for us. But those are things you can address later. One of the things we're going to address is our organizational training and how you all as communities want to move forward to provide a unified structure, to help advocate for a lot of the community work. (White, R.)

Project Team Member:

- Okay. And I have a general comment just because of my experience at Richland County. And I know I've said this before, and I think the comment, I think I recall the comment and I'll integrate it in what I'm about to say. The City of North Charleston has an ombudsman. Now, whether the Ombudsman is the right person for the job, and has the capacity to do the work, I don't know? But that's that person's job. And the purpose is to coordinate, you know, if somebody calls in and says, I have this kind of challenge, they should be helping the citizens coordinate with the right entity to resolve their issues. Now, I know I brought it up before, and I don't know if it was with the CAC, but I know in a conversation before the response was, well, this person, we don't know if they're doing their job, but you don't know if they're doing their job. If you don't call them and make them do their job in part.
- So I know if you call generally, in Richland County, if you call them, buzz them and then they'll tell you whether it's under their purview to resolve your issue, or they'll help you find the right entity to help resolve your question, whether it's debris in the street. You know, I think Mr. Bannister talked about construction and demolition debris flying around through the neighborhood, if roll offs aren't there to containerize it, or people are just doing work on site and they just throw stuff in the yard, or if trash isn't being picked up. Then you call your Ombudsman, and that, I mean, that's really their job to help you understand who you call or they coordinate a call on your behalf to get your issue resolved. So, while I know there are issues that are integrated with the transportation project, and then just things that need to be addressed locally in a local problem, local solutions, I think making those calls to the person who's assigned to that type of task.
- They should be able to help facilitate, you know, things that aren't necessarily captured in this project or will be captured much later, but it's an immediate need that needs to be addressed now. So I mean, I can Google it really easily. I think it's, I think somebody might've said Teddie Pryor, that's the Ombudsman for the City of North Charleston. So, and he's also a County council person. So I mean, if anybody should know being in both sides of government, they should at least know a point of contact. (Derrick, L.)

Facilitator: I have a question. Mr. Bryant, are you speaking of issues that effect you individually or community level? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: Well, community-level. Maybe the government, we work together [inaudible]. (Bryant, N.)

Facilitator: Yes, ma'am. Ms. Lecque. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member:

- The fact of the matter is that we are listed as low-income communities, and nobody counts. If we were Park Circle or we were West Park, I guarantee the houses you're talking about on the corner on Piedmont that had been there for 20 years in total disrepair would not still be there.
- Maybe if we do get to the point where we take this CAC meeting and make it a community organization type of thing so that we have all of us together, we'll have better luck with that. I had someone tell me right after Hugo, "oh, that house was boarded up because of Hugo" and at that point I said, I'm sorry but that house was boarded when I was a child, that's a long time ago. So if we all get together, maybe we could have a better effect than us trying to do it alone. (Baxley, T.)

Facilitator:

- Okay. So Ms. Baxley is saying that in comparison, because these communities are considered low income communities and compared to other communities, on a tax-basis, some of the other communities in the area that would probably get different types of responses.
- And particularly, Ms. Baxley is talking about abandoned homes or shut up or shuttered homes that in some of the communities not considered low income, they would not have those issues, long-term.
- She's using an example of a particular home that's been boarded since she was a child and encouraging the group to consider working together as an organized group moving forward in order to more effectively come together and address some of those issues to resolve those types of long-term issues. Is that accurate Ms. Baxley? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: That's correct. (Baxley, T.)

Facilitator: Okay. Thank you. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: And I think I wanted to add, LaTonya is correct about calling the Ombudsman to address certain issues. I think of LAMC and the Port Authority, when that was going on, there was a person, Wanetta Mallet, that was assigned to the LAMC project as the City representative. And I don't know how that happened, or what made it happen, but that's the kind of person Mr. Bryant is talking about. They will be able to get the information from the community, go back to the City, the mayor, and everyone, let them know what the committee was thinking, and bring the information back. We need to find out how did they get that person assigned to LAMC to work with the Port Authority. (Lecque, C.)

Project Team Member: I'm typing it. But what she explained how, Wanetta Mallet was assigned to the city of North Charleston Office of Planning to LAMC to be a community liaison or direct connection between the organization that supported that project on the community level and with the City. (Derrick, L.)

Facilitator: Any questions or comments before we go to the next bullet point from Teams? The next topic is multi-family and rental units. I know Ms. Baxley talks about that quite a bit. So one of the comments is, being concerned about multi-family housing and rental units, that's one of the things that we continue to talk about and, and SCDOT has addressed their plans and some of the limitations that they have in addressing multi-family units. I don't know if you want to add something, Ryan? (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member: Within the mitigation plan, there is an affordable housing component. And so we're still continuing to work with the Housing Authority to develop that plan, but ideally the goal is to ensure that as residents that are relocated, for example, having a place to go within the vicinity of their communities. So, the affordable housing is there to ensure residents are relocated, aren't moved. Having an opportunity to stay close to where they are, be close to trains, to be close to the community resources that they already take advantage of. So, as the DOT continued to work that plan with the goal of ensuring that the affordable housing is put in place again, prior to construction of I-526 project. (White, R.)

Facilitator: I have a question about that in terms of the CAC, again, going back to the point of you guys being, you know, you are the front line at this point, going out and talking with community members, do you feel like you can go out and have that discussion and explain what the goals are and the limitations of SCDOT and just, and explain here's what the plan is. Do you feel equipped to be able to have that discussion? (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member: Equipped and willing. I think we have a comment on Teams. (Derrick, L.)

Facilitator: No? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: On that multi family housing, what is going to happen to Liberty Park and Highland Terrace? What style and type of home would be placed there? (Bannister, J.)

Project Manager:

- So for the affordable housing, you know, we originally were trying to buy land within the impacted community. And we did, they're really the only areas that are zoned for multi-family are Russelldale and Ferndale. We have bought some lots in Ferndale. I'm still looking for lots, and there's not a lot available in Russelldale, but in Liberty Park and Highland Terrace, I will buy a lot there too.
- Right now I'm trying to get the community center lots. As soon as we get those secure, we'll start reaching out to owners that have undeveloped single family lots to try to get some more lots. But given that we've got to do a hundred units on the rental, those are not going to go in the impacted communities. There's just not a piece of land big enough for that. So that will be a developer based program. And we're just going to give priority to developers that bring things close to the community.
- So we're hoping somewhere along that Rivers Avenue corridor is where that potential development could be potentially still in the same school district, still near your job, still near the community, but getting it in the community, unless one of those businesses goes for sale that's right on the edge of your community, that's probably not going to happen.
- The lots we are buying are probably going to be single family homes. We don't quite know yet. But again, you know, we can't, we don't want to own rentals. And so it kind of ties our hands. If we're not doing some kind of partnership with a developer, then we'll probably have to partner with somebody like Habitat or another nonprofit that helps transition people into homeownership or single family homes. Now, I did want to mention talking about the boarded up or abandoned homes.
- I do know that the City does use grant money sometimes to tear down homes that are professionally like that, but the owner's not going to take care of it, but there's a long lengthy process to make that happen. And you're competing with every, there's so many in this area that there's a lot of people wanting their house torn down and only so much grant money. So you probably will do better if you have somebody to advocate, especially with you get a council member involved.

- That is not something that DOT. The only thing that I can tell you that we can try to do is as we buy a lot, I certainly don't want to buy a lot with a house on it right now, just because I can't maintain it. I don't have anybody I can get to go out there and tear it down. But at some point in the project, we will have a demolition contract and buying lots is buying lots. So there could be some opportunities to try to get, get some of those lots, if the owner's willing to sell, when we're equipped to deal with that. Right now, it would continue to be a problem because I don't have resources to do anything with it. If we bought it with the intention of building a new house on it. So we'll explore those opportunities as we get in a better position to look at some of that, but you just got to take it step by step. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member: I'd like to ask Joy, we could start building these houses, do you know if these are crawl space houses or slab? Because we'd rather not have slab if we have a choice in the matter. (Baxley, L.)

Project Manager:

- So, DOT is not going to dictate anything as far as the houses go. I think that the goal would be, or in any agreement we enter into, especially for construction in the community would be that similar style homes to what is in the community are built.
- And it will be more market driven, meaning you're not going to build a house in there that's completely different than every single other house in the neighborhood. Otherwise, that house kind of an anomaly and it doesn't fit in. So, that's typically we'll have some stuff like that, that's not our area of expertise. So we're not going to start dictating certain things. We would let the building code and the local ordinance sort of dictate some of those things. (Riley, J.)

Facilitator:

- Any other questions or comments? So, we are going to move the Livability Plan to the next section and have a more detailed conversation then. Obviously, the Community Resource Guide that has been in discussion now for several months during our meeting. And I know that Maximum has been pulling together a comprehensive list to include in that guide.
- Many members want to know what can be done today, and I think that's a valid conversation. And so part of what we need to be able to do, is to answer those questions. Some of that will be through the project timeline. Some of that work will be through very specific conversations about you know, where we are, what needs to be done right now, we're in the public comment period. What does that mean?
- Talking about mitigation versus construction and that sort of thing, but helping people to understand the significance of involvement at every stage, is really going to be very important to the long-term success of the project. And then the last bullet point here is "would like to see mentoring programs, family services included in the resource information guide."
- Many months ago, we had at least one community advisory council member who had very good suggestions and comments about mentoring programs and family services. And so those are things that the CAC members need to continuously provide feedback and communicate with Maximum as they are developing that plan and not the CAC member. Again, you guys are representatives of your community.
- It's important that you're continuing to talk with the people that you live with and around so that, you're bringing that information back. We can only speak from our own perspective. And so you can share information from other people, but if I have a conversation with Ryan, I only have my perspective.
- So I think it's important to understand that it is really important that you guys are here for these CAC meetings because you bring value that the process would not have without you, clearly. But also,

when you go out into the community and you're bringing information back to this process from your larger community, it's not one dimensional. So, we're not just getting what Ms. Cooper thinks or what Ms. Anderson or Ms. Baxley thinks, it's multi-layered.

- So, we're getting a little bit deeper into what the community at large needs, because we're talking to other people and trying to figure out what it is that needs to be included, what types of resources need to be included in this guide. Any comments or questions about that? (Ellis, J.)

Community Leader Panel Discussion Re-Cap

Facilitator:

- We can go to the next slide. So, we'll go into our community panel leadership session, the recap from CAC Meeting #13. And if you remember on that panel, we had Mr. Omar Muhammad from LAMC, we had Ms. Nashonda Hunter from the Charity Foundation, and we had Mr. Scott from the NAACP. And they provided very good information in terms of some of their successes and limitations or challenges going through their process. Now, granted, they're much farther along than this group.
- But what we wanted to do was just kind of come back and talk about some of the takeaways from that meeting, and how we might be able to use that information to move forward. One of the things that we want to start with, and I'll just start with the takeaways, is, does the CAC and the community want to organize? And so, we probably need to just start there and understand what does that mean? What does organizing look like? (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member:

- And so again, in regards to the commitment, one of the things SCDOT has done is committed to organizational training and what that looks like really depends on what you all, and all the residents of four separate communities want to do beyond this project. And so there is opportunity. There is opportunity for you all via the commitments SCDOT is making to partner with an organization, or bring I in an organization to conduct training to help you organize to something similar to a LAMC, if that is desired.
- And so, we used that organizational training commitment as a place holder, but until you tell us what you want to become, it's really hard to dictate what that training needs to be. And so, again, the question was asked do we need to work it out because when you're organized, there's more power as four separate communities. But again, that's something that we need to hear from you all as an advisory council, but also from your residents. That is something that the resources are put behind you. That is something that's going to carry forward. And so one of the key things that we need from you all at the advisory council is a response to the mitigation plan.
- I mean, there are things that are in there that you all played a significant role in helping to put in. Is it enough? Does that organizational training commitment meet your needs? Does the affordable housing, all those different components, meet what you're asking for? And so if you all, and we can work with Dr. Ellis to set up a meeting where you all are in the room, talking through the mitigation plan and providing the final response to SCDOT about what this plan is or isn't and SCDOT has to respond to it. But what we are looking for and again, going back to organizational training and some of the other things that we're looking to help you all do to address some of the needs that aren't being addressed by the project.
- Some of the social needs, some of the things that are in the Community Resource Guide to help you be empowered in a response. So we talked quite a bit about comments, but now's the time for you all as an advisory council to provide an official response that we, as the I-526 LCC West Advisory Council, this is our group, our organized...We agree on these things and SCDOT will respond to it. So that's one of

the things that we definitely need from you all. And again, Dr. Ellis is able to facilitate that meeting, where he could put together, or I say, you all can put together a full response and in there, you can indicate that you want to organize. Say it. And then that helps us figure out how we need to create this training to help you all then become that separate organization and advocate for yourself now, during mitigation, and even beyond the project. So the resources are going to be available if that's something that you all want. (White, R.)

Facilitator: Will you please break it down into three specific phases, in the most elementary way, just so everybody's able to really process what the CAC does which is different from the POC, which will be different after the POC? So make sure people understand the difference between roles and responsibilities. Right now is the CAC, what that will look like in the next stage, and if you don't mind adding a timeline so they understand where that whole POC takes place and where the post-POC takes place. (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member:

- Okay. Absolutely. And so the advisory council, your role is to help develop, refine, and finalize this mitigation plan. So what you have is draft version. This can change. Things can be edited. Things can be taken away. But you've got to let us know if this meets the needs of the community. Now we do have to make sure that the things that go into it are related to project impact, that is a huge caveat to it. But, if it's not sufficient, make a note.
- And again, that's where having a formalized written response from you all as an advisory council to submit to DOT, for this draft plan. That means we go back to the drawing board and work with you to see what else we need to add to it. We hear from you all. We hear back from your neighbors about what else needs to be added. So the advisory council, once we finalize the plan, which will be when the final EIS is December of 2021. That is where the goal is to have finalized the official plan.
- So the draft is done and being worked on, that's what you have in front of you. There's the comment period. We can continue to tweak it and work it until the environmental document is ultimately signed in December of 2021. That's where the role of the advisory council ends because now, you developed a mitigation plan.
- Next phase is the project oversight committee. The role of the oversight committee is to oversee the implementation of the mitigation plan that the advisory council has developed. And what it will consist of is a potentially a smaller group. But SCDOT, the Housing Authority, the City of North Charleston, all the agencies that are responsible for implementing the mitigation plan will report back as part of the POC. So there'll be meetings with the City, again, with the department to ensure that those specific components that CAC developed, are being done. The sidewalks, the community center, all those things that you all are talking about now, making sure that they are done the way you all agreed to according to what is in that mitigation plan. Now, there is an opportunity beyond that. (White, R.)

Facilitator:

- I'm sorry. Just for clarification, that in that second stage. Even though you'll be working with SCDOT, and the City and other organizations as a POC, you will not be serving as a group like LAMC at that point, who is more autonomous at this point. They're on their own. They've probably got a structure where they have officers and that sort of thing in their organization.
- After the CAC, that's not when you start to become something like LAMC. So, it's not like the project team will then throw you out to handle it at the end of next year, you will be a part of a team that's still led by this project and informing the work that's taking place. So, I just want to make sure they

don't think that at the end of 2021, they'll be functioning like a full-fledged LAMC type of group. (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member: That is correct. And so it goes back to the comment about organization. If that is something you all want to do, then that is an opportunity to still do that. And that would be separate from the POC. The POC is a joint organization with SCDOT. If you all want to organize that for your community, that is something that DOT could help you set up and become. Yes, ma'am. (White, R.)

Project Team Member: Ms. Anderson. (Derrick, L.)

Project Team Member: Yes ma'am. (White, R.)

CAC Member: They need to understand that you can still have the CAC in perpetuity, because what we can do is do a memorandum of understanding or a memorandum of agreement of how the CAC will now function, such as they can elect members and officers. We can have a list of things that need to be done and the whole community could still maneuver like a CAC but have it formalized in how we give out information and who is responsible for what? (Anderson, C.)

Project Team Member: Yes. And so that's where the organizational training comes in, is where if there is a desire to organize, there can be training and support provided to assist in that development. So the CAC or whatever you all choose to become as an organized structure can still carry forward. But, then there's also a project oversight committee that is specific to the project. (White, R.)

CAC Member: They call is CAC, but we used to call it a CAB. In my past life, we called it the community advisory board, and they are as I said in perpetuity. You have members, you have a director, deputy director, treasurer. And that is one thing that could be helped with a Livability Study that we can, after the project is finished, that we can still track what needs to be done or what has been done. (Anderson, C.)

Project Team Member: And, again, there are resources, if that is your desire. And again, we've got to make sure we hear from all the residents, because as you mentioned the MOA that the current advisory council provides, and ultimately becomes the CAB. SCDOT has committed to provide support for training to assist you in that. (White, R.)

CAC Member: I have a question. A lady just spoke and said that we could track what's going on. Could we also initiate new projects? This organization that we are, I believe is necessary because this group has worked so long together. They have a lot of intelligent members here in the community. They know what's going on and they want to continue to perpetuate this here, for as long as possible. So will we be able to initiate new projects outside of what we are actually doing with the CAC? Is this something we need to discuss? (Muhammad, E.)

Project Team Member: And that's something that you need to discuss, but ultimately there would be opportunities to coordinate with the City. There are grants that organizations such as the CAC can apply for to where you can get funds as well, but ideally that's something that, and again, with the organizational training, if you decide to go that route, there are ways for us to support organizations to come and help you figure out what you can and can't do, or if there are limitations, how do you get around them? And so, if, again, if that's the desire of this CAC to transition to a community advisory board, SCDOT is willing to

help support that and that organization would have life and economy outside of and beyond the I-526 project. (White, R.)

CAC Member: And another thing with that, what we could do is and I think training would be necessary and helpful. But, we also can get other CACs. I know, like I used to work at the Savannah River Site, it's around Aiken and Augusta, where you have an advisory board in South Carolina, and I'm sure other areas, they can come and talk to the CAC members and tell them how to develop a CAC. And what's the benefit, some of the pros and cons dealing with a CAC. So, I mean, I think it would be beneficial to get training and get other CACs now to talk to the members of the CAC, so that they can understand what they can and can't do. (Anderson, C.)

Project Team Member: Absolutely. And that's something we can facilitate, whether it's within the CAC meetings or outside, we could still provide resources through the Community Office as a way for people to come in and coordinate with you all and share some of the opportunity for new rapport. (White, R.)

Facilitator:

- Can I add something to that? Before our listening session with the City of North Charleston, CAC members decided not to have a leader of the group. That was the discussion. I'm not sure what the meeting number, right off but it was just before we had that listening session. After listening to the panelists from LAMC, Charity Foundation, and the NAACP at last month's CAC meeting, they have clear leaders of those groups who are spearheading efforts and communications with government agencies.
- I do think it's important that when you're working with a government agency it's very helpful to have a single contact. But I also think that it's something that you all should consider that you have either a leader or some kind of leadership team that serves as the contact to come and bring back to the larger group to make sure that you don't have this web that thrown out where everyone is getting random information. There are opportunities for information to fall through the cracks before you come back together.
- So, I'm just curious about where you all stand and what your thinking was on their perspective. The NAACP is a little bit different because they're a national organization with some built-in structures, even locally. But, LAMC and the Charity Foundation, what do you guys think about that, about considering changing the leadership structure for the CAC? Or is that something that you would consider maybe for the next stage?
- And you don't have to answer today with a definitive response, but it's something that you guys certainly need to be thinking about, considering that, we're quickly approaching the end of 2021, considering how quickly we've seen 2020 pass. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: I've been thinking for a long time that a group should get together from the four neighborhoods and see how it goes, and let it go for a while. Maybe talking about the beyond part, then after a while, if it goes well, find out about all the other low income neighborhoods because I don't know which ones exactly they are. See if we want to come in. And see if we can come together like a low-income area group. Because we have a president's meeting, but I don't get to go to that and I hardly get any information about anything that comes back to me about the neighborhood. That's been my fault for awhile. (Baxley, L.)

CAC Member: Mine kind of goes to what Tina is saying as well. How do they determine who is on this? The reason I'm asking that is that we may decide we want to make a group, but who really determines who from the neighborhood participates. Because we're here because frankly nobody volunteered,

nobody. We have a neighborhood organization and we have a president. She basically just facilitates the meeting because we don't have an organizational group. We don't have enough people to have an organizational group. Frankly, most people don't care. So how do we even determine who gets to do it because we can say we're representing the neighborhood. But the fact of the matter is we're just two people that volunteer, so if you want to make sure we have the right representation, how do we get that? I know you probably don't have that answer, but it's just thrown out there for everybody. (Baxley, T.)

Facilitator: Well I have a response, I don't know if I have an answer but LaTonya, I'll let you take that. (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member:

- I'm probably am in the same boat. As I say at the end of every meeting, you have an opportunity to come together and really outline that. You are a beacon right now for your neighborhoods, because you've been involved in these meetings since last year. So that framework, you all can dictate yourself and then maybe extend an invitation to the larger neighborhood and communities to say, this is what we've worked on for a year. This is our success.
- We'd like for this to continue to go and grow. But to do that, we need everybody's participation. If they choose to not participate at that point, then you all move forward and develop a plan for your own success. You know, you, as you can see, we don't have an overwhelming crowd at most of our public meetings, community meetings, even with the attraction to be a participant in this group. So you all kind of, you can dictate that yourself and we can support that with tools, resources, training, whatever is going to help build your success.
- And then, it'll be the platform. It can catapult you into more opportunities, not just limited to this. Because your neighborhood meets, but the others don't. So I think that might galvanize people. Once they see organizations, then they may be a little less likely to have the street committee and phone committee meetings, and they can become active participants. But you all have been organized and structured here. You can take that as the platform, the good, the bad, the indifferent to make your own collective group to really do greater things and do more things for your neighborhood. (Derrick, L.)

Facilitator:

- I have nothing to add, or take away from that comment. I think that pretty much summarizes my thoughts on it. I will say here this bullet, you are the experts of your community. I think about the time that you all have spent to document the relationship with Stantec and with DOT and with FHWA. Nobody else in your community has had access to that kind of information, the way that this group in here and those of you on Teams, has had.
- And so you're already the experts in your community, And there are other experts in your community who know the history, they know what's gone on, what's happened with previous projects. They know a lot about the current needs of those communities, but you all also have this wealth of information in participating in this process and engaging in conversations about it. And so by default to some degrees, you guy are the ones who come together and make the decisions about how you proceed forward, and you open the doors and make sure that others from the community are welcome and engaged in the process. But I agree with that.
- In the interest of time. I just want to make sure that you all take some time, if you have not thought through the rest of these bullet points in terms of a recap from the last meeting, but I think we talked a little bit about the leadership structure in terms of deciding how you want to evolve to a POC. That's

something that right now, you just need to start thinking about what that looks like. How do you move from an advisory council to serving in the next stage, as the POC, the oversight committee, and helping to ensure that everything you decided you wanted done in the mitigation plan is actually done. And you'll do that with SCDOT and other government agencies. So not as an autonomous group. But I will, say, and some of this, in my mind anyway, goes back to Mr. Bryant's question and comment. That is thinking about now what a power map looks like. What people are going to be important to serve you when you start putting together that power grid or that power map, or looking at the community resource guide?

- Be thinking about that constantly in your conversations throughout the week, because really, you represent yourself better than any of us ever could. So you've got to make sure that that line of communication is open.
- Barriers. I think we talked a bit about overcoming barriers of how you can implement creative ideas. One of those, for instance, that was assessed in this meeting those back to Ms. Carolyn's comments about a fish bar with the mayor and proper communication within a cultural context. And those are some of the things that we can do. Mr. Muhammad talked about some of the challenges, and I think Ms. Nashonda did too, in terms of community challenges and getting to know the people in your community. You have people who have small children, but they want to participate, figure out how to meet them where they are, so that they can engage.
- If you have elderly community members who want to participate, you've got to be connected to understand who they are so that you can help them become a part of the process. You have to have a common message and that's not something that the project team can do for you. You guys have excellent ideas, having gone through this with other communities. You're starting off, I think very strong but be empowered and be confident and know one, you're the expert.
- You know what you need better than anybody else. How do you all have together as one group rather than four different communities to solidify your message? And that takes a little bit of time, but you have to start the process of thinking through and talking to each other so that you can start filtering all of these messages into one common message. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: I agree with you, I think we as a group, the full community, need to have a mission statement, a goal statement and a vision. And if we come together with those things then we can lay out the other groundwork that needs to be done. (Anderson, C.)

Facilitator:

- I agree. You guys heard that back there too. I agree. And that was Ms. Cynthia Anderson. So , very good point. I absolutely do not believe in doing things in an organizational space without having a mission statement. So I agree with that wholeheartedly.
- And then when you start to go out and do some of this community work, if you end up having a fish fry or some kind of gathering or fellowship, be strategic before you get there and have a survey. Make sure you have developed a survey to collect the information that you really want to get from the community in terms of what they need and what they think that you can do to help them. Because the more they can see that you're there to help them, the more they start showing up and engaging. If it looks like it's about the CAC and it's just this little group, but they don't see where they fit in or how you help them, they're not going to show up. We know that.
- So I think just the most significant takeaway from the leadership panel for today is just to be thinking about leadership and how you can begin implementing these things as an organized group, moving forward, if that's your intent. And I think we're hearing some of that from Ms. Anderson, Ms. Baxley,

and several of you. So I don't have further questions or comments there. Anyone have any comments, additional comments on the panel? Do you think that the panel was worthwhile? Okay, good. I think then we will move to the next topic and that is a review of the virtual public hearing materials. (Ellis, J.)

Review of Virtual Public Hearing Materials

Project Team Member:

- In the interest of time, I'll be super fast. Have you all had a chance to pull up the link that is in your packet? It's gather.cdmsmith.com/v/v8jkyRoO149. If not, that is what Hannah is pulling up now. It's an interactive website that simulates everything you would experience during a face-to-face live public information meeting or public hearing. What you see bulleted in your packet is all of the stations that you can click on or hover over and see the board that you would see during a public meeting.
- It's coming up for those who are online and here, but also the bullets in your packet describe essentially what you will have an opportunity to experience in a three dimensional platform. There's also a video, a flyover video, we'll pull that up separately. So that if anyone wants to see it here today, we can pull it up for you, but also it's available if you pull this link up for those who are on Teams.
- And I also have for you today, the public hearing handout that we're using for that this whole meeting session. I don't think it was in your packet, but we will send a link for those who are on Teams and get you a paper copy as well this week. This is comprehensive of the entire project, not just the community mitigation plan, which is what you all are focused on. But, the things we've talked about here, particularly last month with the noise analysis and, and features and components of related to noise, there is a video there.
- These things are also on the project website, but they're housed in one central location so that you can interact with it and get information. There is a mini Joy somewhere, and there she is with her red top on. So there's a video there of her speaking. So again, this is an opportunity to, if we can't be face-to-face for it, for the public to experience everything they would experience if they were able to come to a physical meeting. Now we recognize that not everybody's going to go online.
- So if you can encourage those who have access to the internet and to devices where they can pull this up as far as their participation and their interaction with this tool, because it is the next best thing to being there, but also you advocating it is an even greater tool because us saying that it's good, it's just words, but if you engage with it and have an opportunity to help us understand how it can be not necessarily improved at this point, but how we can encourage people to interact with it, then that would be super helpful. I don't think I was going to say anything else about the virtual public hearing materials. (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member: I think that was awesome. I thought that was one of the best virtual public hearings and information, but can we add somebody from the CAC to speak in this virtual platform on CAC participation information? (Anderson, C.)

Project Team Member: Let's talk about that offline. I don't know that there's much we can do to change the actual website or add to it. I don't know that, but I will ask, but also as we encourage everyone to participate, we can also push them to that link. It's in last month's packet, but it's the 526lowcountrycorridor.com/community-commitments page where the videos that both Ms. Cynthia Anderson and Mr. Bannister recorded, are there. And we can also pull with links to the videos and other media tools that are currently...and I don't know if all of the media day things that involve the CAC have happened yet, but there's links to the newspaper and the television station. Is it channel five? Whoever interviews, I think Ms. Anderson, Cynthia Anderson, we can send those out as well. Because that puts a

relevant face and a local face to the conversation. So I don't know that we can add it to that, but I will ask Ms. Anderson, thank you. That is all there. (Derrick, L.)

Facilitator: We'll move onto the next agenda item. (Ellis, J.)

Outreach Update

Project Team Member:

- The next thing in the packet is the community drop-in meetings. We did have one last night from 3:00 to 6:00 PM. Probably not the success we wanted, but we were able to, there was a visual right in the community we had about 31, 32 people to attend. And we did provide food at that event.
- We'll do it again today from 2:00 to 5:00 PM right here in the Ferndale Community Center parking lot. And then on next Saturday at Enoch Chapel United Methodist Church. We encourage you all to come out and encourage others to participate.
- We have the materials that you find in your packet from this month, the community mitigation plan and other resources that are on the project website, lots of boards, lots of visuals, and lots of good opportunities to converse with a right-of-way agent, Joy, Chad, others from the project team to get information about how to be involved. Horrace is very proactive with checking temperatures and providing PPE.
- So, and we're recognizing and utilizing all the social distancing and safety precautions that we are aware of and have been used as in March of this year. I think that's all for that page. We'll keep going forward. I'll go over quickly, the community info box update. Claudia continues to put information in those boxes. They are being retrieved, not tremendous numbers coming out of them, but people do recognize those stations and they are taking the flyers. We'll still be putting out the one that we gave you that advertises the community drop-ins and we'll be shifting the content after next Friday to more public hearing related materials on how to engage and how to be a part of the whole formal public comment period, which lasts through January 15th.
- Maximum Consulting is continuing to canvas the neighborhoods and distribute flyers. They, I think have been to all of the neighborhoods now, but listening to you today, we'll be looking at possibly developing some type of plan to canvas more and get more information out during the next month and a half or so, as we approach the end of the public comment period.
- The packet I gave you all last month, but it hit the mailboxes. A few people said they didn't receive them and they communicated that with the community office, but we are providing them packets from the office. And I spoke with Ms. Twiggs. We are working to make sure property owners who don't get the mail because we use what the postal service calls every door direct mail. So every mailbox on the routes that cover the neighborhoods received the packet, but we want to make sure the property owners received them as well.
- And hearing what Mr. Bryant said earlier, about making sure property owners, home owners are engaged as well. So we heard both of you and we'll be working on that. Horrace with Community Office stats. (Derrick, L.)

Project Team Member:

- As far as the office is concerned and people coming by and information being dropped off, everything is picking up pretty good right now. And I encourage you to encourage other folks to continue that and to increase that. If you have something to drop off at the office and you don't want to come into the office, we have a Dropbox available and it's marked as such. So you can just drop it into the Dropbox. And its by the door. Community Office Stats for October 2nd to October 23rd:

- Visitors: 24; A month or two ago, we had four or five. Before that it was zero.
- Incoming Calls: 19
- Outgoing Calls: 43
- Voicemails: 6
- As they come in, we take care of them. So we do encourage folks to continue that, any questions? (Tobin, W.)

Project Team Member:

- Included in last months packet as well as the mail-out, we included a paper version of the online survey, which is designed to get more information about everyone's interests in the community center and other community mitigation commitments.
- Hannah has updated with the exception of four new surveys received during this week. We've had a total of 83 participants. So that as of right now, as I'm looking at the data now, so 66 in your packet, but as of today, 83, and we'll add the four that Horace just got so 87. There were 65 people of the 83 that chose to provide demographics. And 22 of the 65 provided demographics did not live in the EJ Communities. Eleven (11) were from Russelldale, 10 were from Ferndale 10 were from Liberty Park, seven from Highland Terrace and five from Joppa Way.
- That's probably pretty good as far as demographics. Most people get to the end of a survey and they're tired of doing the survey. They just want to finish and submit. So we're glad to see those numbers, but we would really like to see more. 43 out of the 65 people lived in the impacted community. So that's pretty good. Initially our numbers were more skewed. Our first set of numbers were more people who did not live in the impacted community. So once we start putting up paper surveys in, that improved. Because obviously the mail-out went to the impact that your, your neighborhood, so that made the numbers look a whole lot better.
- But so that simply means we're not getting as much online engagement from the community, but we are seeing the numbers increase with receiving the mail at the office. And we're entering that data. Other than that, I think that is it for me.
- Maximum Consulting has provided some information about utility pay assistance, and there's a flyer that Ms. Gwen Boyd, who we'll let Maximum introduce in a second, has some more information about community resources and opportunities to either benefit from partnerships that Maximum has, or just relationships that are beneficial to the community. And Maxine, if you speak, you have to come up here because they won't hear you unless you come up here. (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member: Quick question, regarding the mailers, about how many have you sent out? (Twiggs, D.)

Project Team Member: 1,201. Ms. Twiggs asked, how many packets did we send out in the mail? There are 1,201 mailboxes on the route that cover the four neighborhoods, five neighborhoods including Joppa Way. And we've received 83 submissions and 43 were from the community that have been entered. Ms. Twiggs is saying she wanted that data so she could make sure to encourage those that she might interact with to submit their forms. (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member: My question is how many homeowners, property owners sent [inaudible]? Do you have a count on that? (Bannister, J.)

Project Team Member: I don't think that question is part of the data that we collected, yes it is because we said are you a homeowner or a renter. (Derrick, L.)

Project Team Member: No, we don't. We say, "are you in the neighborhood?" (Clements, H.)

Project Team Member: We don't have that data, but there will be potentially a separate mail out based on Charleston County records. Those who are property owners, because they may be a homeowner and live there, but we just touched the mailboxes. We didn't address it to individuals. We addressed it to the route. We can work on getting that. Ms. Maxine. (Derrick, L.)

Community Liaison:

- In your package today, you saw the information about the utility bill pay assistance. And this is something that you get in your phone bill or your water bill anyway, but we still wanted to provide it as an additional resource. Carolyn keeps in constant contact with Palmetto Cap, one of our resource agencies and Gwen Boyd is the newest member of our team. Would you just stand for now Gwen. She's a retired insurance agent. So as we did our canvassing in the four neighborhoods this week, she was able to recognize and also talk with a couple of people that she had sold insurance to years ago. But again, we are happy to have her with us.
- She will give you a copy of a flyer that we have brought and made available today. This is for a drive-up event that's happening on November 20th and it is in the footprint. It will be at the Joshua Baptist church on November 20th.
- Carolyn also keeps in contact with the Low Country Street Grocery. We want to remind you that if there are individuals or families in the four neighborhoods that need Thanksgiving baskets, please call and leave a message at the office. That's the best way for us to keep a tally of those that we're able to reach. Again, that number is 843-258-1135. Palmetto CAP is also going to have a drive by event on November 20th. I just said that, you will be able to attend and let others know about it.
- We're hoping to do an event on December 18th, which is a Friday, that will be held with the Biblical House of God Church. We're partnering with the Humanities Foundation. And in addition to food produce, that will be given. We also hope to have some Christmas gift bags for children in the neighborhood. Again, I try to send the messages to you electronically as embedded messages.
- So, you don't have to open attachments. And I have you saved as a group, so you don't see any emails when you open it, but I think a number of you have responded when I sent you messages in that way. So again, we just keep in touch. Again, if you think of a resource that you may need, or that your neighbors need, please leave a message at the office and we will get back with you. Any questions for me or any of the team members, we're here for the afternoon, and hopefully you get a chance to speak with Gwen. Thank you. (Smith, M.)

Project Schedule and Milestone Review

Project Team Member: The last page of the packet includes the project schedule. You have that in previous meeting packets and in the community mitigation plan packet that was included in a different format, but please know that we're going to keep this in every packet every month. So you will know where we are in the process, to keep some of those acronyms before you so that as we have conversations, we have a tendency to refer to things as CIEP (community infrastructure enhancement plan), DEIS, FEIS. All of these acronyms are familiar to us, but we want you to be able to speak as fluently as well and we don't want you to be lost. We also want you to know where we are with the schedule. (Derrick, L.)

Summary and Next Steps

Facilitator: So we are at the end of our meeting. I just want to make sure as always that we open the floor for any comments from SCDOT or FHWA? And certainly from Stantec as well? Did you have any comments before we close out the meeting this afternoon? Ms. Foster, do you have any comments? (Ellis, J.)

FHWA: It was a good meeting. Thank you very much. (Foster, P.)

Facilitator: Thank you for closing us out. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: [inaudible].

Project Team Member: That packet is the packet that we are giving out at the community drop in. You got a left corner staple version, but it's found as a booklet. So we wanted you to have in advance the same information that the public received last night, this afternoon, and on next Saturday. So as you continue to have conversations that will be refined during this comment period, but that is the culmination of all the things that you all have discussed in graphical form, in narrative form, it's available on the website. And it's what we're giving the community and the residents, anyone that shows up for these drop-ins or comes to the community office and asks for information. That's what they're given. (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member: Okay so I can share this at this time? (Twiggs, D.)

Project Team Member: You can share that and you can actually get copies. We can give you more if you would like to distribute them. But, you can share that. (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member: [Inaudible]. (Twiggs, D.)

Project Team Member: And it's on the website, in that form. (Derrick, L.)

Facilitator: Ms. Twiggs, thank you for your patience. Ms. Foster, thank you for closing the meeting this afternoon. Our next meeting will be held on December 5th at 10:00 AM. Please continue to encourage others in the community to participate in the public comment period. If there are no other questions, then we will adjourn at 12:44 PM. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Meeting #15 is scheduled for December 5, 2020 at 10:00 AM. Location TBD.