



Community Advisory Council
Meeting #14

November 7, 2020

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Neighborhood Update

- Ferndale
- Highland Terrace / Joppa Way
- Liberty Park
- Russelldale



Did you speak to any neighbors or residents who have questions or comments for the project team? Please note any specific items your neighbors would like to bring to the project team's attention.

EIS and Mitigation Activity

The purpose of this activity is to ensure your understanding of the relationship between the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), the Draft Environmental Justice Community Mitigation Plan (Mitigation Plan), and the Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan (CIEP).

- Using the items listed at the bottom of the page, write the name of the component or subject area on a line next to the correct document heading along the right side of the page.



DEIS

MITIGATION PLAN

CIEP

Purpose and Need (Why is the project necessary)	Traffic Calming (Speed Bumps)	Affordable Housing	Community History Preservation Study
Community Advisory Council	Stormwater Improvements (Drainage)	Financial Literacy / 1st Time Home Buyer Counseling	Community Centers & Pocket Parks
Sidewalk Improvements	Community Office	College Aid Initiative	Recreation Programs and Activities
Environmental Impacts	Alternative Analysis	School-to-Work Program	Street Aesthetics / Landscaping
Organizational Training	Bike & Ped	Pre-Employment Training	Recreation Center Connectivity Improvements

CAC Member Feedback Received After Meeting #13

After CAC Meeting #13, the 526 Community Liaisons contacted CAC Members to receive feedback regarding project impacts, community engagement, CAC meetings, the EJ Community Mitigation Plan, and other concerns. Below is a sample of the comments/questions received. A formal response to all the questions will be provided to the CAC.

➤ **Dissemination of Project Information**

- Information should be written at 5th-8th grade reading levels
- Information about the project should be sent to radio and TV stations
- Information about the project should be sent to churches (e-blasts)

➤ **Environmental Issues**

- How will environmental issues (dust pollution) be addressed?

➤ **Project Schedule v. Community Needs**

- The project schedule seems to be more important than current community needs

➤ **Project Visuals**

- Would like to see visuals of what will be done and when

➤ **Multi-family and rental units**

- Concerned about multi-family housing and rental units

➤ **Livability Plan**

- College of Charleston Livability Plan could address “aging in place” issues
- In favor of the CAC working with the College of Charleston on a Livability Plan

➤ **Community Resource Guide**

- Many neighbors want to know “what can you do for me now”
- Would like to see mentoring programs, family services, etc. included in the resource information guide

Community Leader Panel Discussion – Recap

The purpose of the Community Leader Panel Discussion held during CAC Meeting #13 was to:

- Provide an opportunity for community organizations to share their experiences
- Enable LAMC to talk about the Port Access Road mitigation process
- Emphasize the need for CAC members to stay engaged

Key Takeaways

- Organization – Does the CAC (and communities) want to organize? What options for organizing would best meet your needs?
- Did the panel discussion change your perspective on a leadership structure for the CAC and POC? If so, how?
- If the CAC’s current membership decides to evolve to a POC, how can you take steps now to begin laying the groundwork for partnership development and power mapping?
- The comment was made that LAMC “received resources to mitigate those impacts in our communities. The first thing we did was to recognize that we could not, as a grassroots organization, manage a multi-million dollar mitigation package. So, we immediately partnered with the City of North Charleston.”
- What does the phrase “you are the experts of your community” mean to you? How do you use your expertise collectively to move forward outside of the CAC meetings?
- What was your primary takeaway regarding overcoming barriers and how can you implement creative ideas for supporting and engaging different groups within your community to support community initiatives?
- What is your common message?
- What are some questions you would include in a survey of your communities to better understand their needs in order to increase community engagement?

What was your most significant takeaway from the leadership panel that you can begin implementing as a group today?

Review of Virtual Public Hearing Materials

The I-526 LCC WEST Virtual Public Hearing will have the latest information on:

- Project Background
- Alternatives Evaluation and the Proposed Preferred Alternative
- Traffic Analysis
- Noise Analysis
- Community Impacts and Mitigation
- The Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- How to get or stay engaged in the project planning process

We will be reviewing the Virtual Public Hearing webpage contents and viewing a 3D flyover video of the project during the CAC meeting. If you would like to visit the Virtual Public Hearing before or after the CAC meeting, it can be found at the following link:

<https://gather.cdmsmith.com/v/v8jkyRoO149>

I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST
Public Hearing

Official Comment Period
November 4, 2020 - January 15, 2021

Purpose of the Public Hearing

- Provide an update on the I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST (I-526 LCC WEST)
- Present the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), including the Recommended Preferred Alternative and the DRAFT Community Mitigation Plan. The DEIS is available for view on the project website or in hard copy at the Community Office.
- Ask for YOUR comments, feedback, and concerns!

Project Overview

The I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST Recommended Preferred Alternative consists of a widening from 4 lanes to 8 lanes between Paul Cantrell Boulevard in West Ashley and Virginia Avenue in North Charleston, as well as making improvements at the interchanges of I-26/I-526, Virginia/North Rhett Avenues and at Paul Cantrell Boulevard.

The need for this project was identified in several documents. The I-526/I-26 interchange was listed as the 2nd most important project in the 2035 Charleston Area Transportation Study (CHATS) Long Range Transportation Plan, the 6th most important project on SCDOT's ACT 114 Interstate Capacity List, and it is listed in SCDOT's State Transportation Improvement Plan 2017-2022. Other plans and studies have cited this congestion and need for improvement, as well

The purpose of the project is to increase capacity at the I-26/I-526 interchange and along the I-526 mainline, thereby relieving traffic congestion and improving operations at the I-26/I-526 interchange and along the I-526 mainline.

Project Study Area

www.526LowcountryCorridor.com

SCDOT South Carolina Department of Transportation

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration

You will also receive the Draft Virtual Public Meeting Handout as a separate printed document. Please review this handout and become familiar with its contents.

Outreach Update

COMMUNITY DROP-IN MEETINGS

Meeting #1

Date: November 6, 2020

Time: 3:00pm – 6:00pm

Location: Biblical House of God
2205 Van Buren Avenue, North Charleston, SC

Meeting #2

Date: November 7, 2020

Time: 2:00pm – 5:00pm (after the CAC Meeting and a break)

Location: Ferndale Community Center - Gymnasium
1995 Bolton Street, North Charleston, SC

Meeting #3

Date: November 14, 2020

Time: 3:00pm – 6:00pm

Location: Enoch Chapel United Methodist Church
2355 James Bell Drive, North Charleston, SC

PURPOSE

- Meet with the Project Team and CAC members to discuss the project impacts
- Provide feedback on the contents of the draft I-526 LCC WEST EJ Community Mitigation Plan prior to the Virtual Public Hearing in late November 2020

SAFETY/HEALTH

- Outside setting (under tents)
- Social distancing will be implemented
- Masks will be available
- Hand sanitizer will be available
- Forehead thermometer will be used to conduct temperature checks
- To eliminate the need to exchange pens, staff will use an iPad for sign-in purposes

Outreach Update

ONGOING OUTREACH UPDATE

- Community Info Box Update
- Community Canvassing/Flyer Distribution
- Mitigation Mailer Packet – Mailed on October 5, 2020
 - Letter from the Project Manager (Joy Riley, SCDOT)
 - Draft EJ Community Mitigation Plan Info-graphic
 - Community Resource Magnet
 - Mitigation Plan Survey and self-addressed envelope

COMMUNITY OFFICE STATS *(10/2/2020 – 10/23/2020)*

- Visitors: 20
- Incoming Calls: 19
- Outgoing Calls: 43
- Voicemails: 6

ONLINE AND PAPER MITIGATION PLAN SURVEY STATS *(as of 10/23/20)*

- Number of participants so far:
 - 37 mailed in surveys
 - 29 online surveys
 - 66 TOTAL

Outreach Update | Utility Bill Pay Assistance

Charleston Water System (CWS) included this information when mailing water bills to their customers. Please share it with others who may have just tossed the insert in the trash (as junk mail).

Ask for help when you need it!

Extensions and payment plans:

*Charleston Water System
843-727-6800*

Water bill assistance:

*Palmetto Community Action Partnership (CAP)
844-269-6448 / www.palmettocap.org*

While on Palmetto CAP's website:

- *Hover over "Programs & Services"*
- *Click "Outreach and Temporary Assistance"*
- *Click "Water Bill Assistance" for details and to schedule an appointment*

ADDITIONAL UTILITY BILL PAY ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS

Charleston Trident Urban League

843-769-8173

www.ctul.org

Humanities Foundation

843-284-5154

www.humanitiesfoundation.org

The Salvation Army of Charleston

843-747-5271

www.salvationarmycarolinas.org/charleston

Tricounty Family Ministries

843-747-1788

www.tricountyfamilyministries.org

Origin SC

843-628-2110, option 1 / 843-628-2301

www.originsc.org

homelessprevention@originsc.org

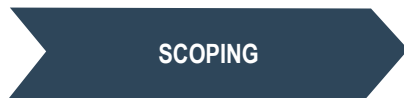
Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

843-794-7662

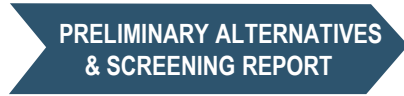
www.nmcrrs.org

Need active military ID or must be a retired Navy or Marine or surviving spouse.

Project Schedule / Milestone Review



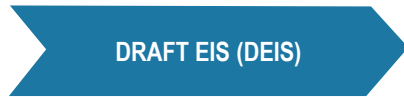
Gathers information that will be included in the EIS



Develops preliminary project alternatives and criteria used for evaluating alternatives



Develops detailed alternatives that are being carried forward



Evaluates and documents the natural, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts of the alternatives

DEIS was signed by FHWA and SCDOT on 10/22/2020

Dec 2021



Documents the final impacts and mitigation commitments and responds to comments received on the DEIS. NEPA is complete, allowing the project to proceed. CAC transitions to POC.

2021-2027



Begins mitigation implementation such as the construction of the community center, pocket parks, infrastructure improvements, construction of replacement housing, etc.

2023-2027



Acquisition of property for the I-526 LCC WEST improvements

2027-2032



Construction of the I-526 LCC WEST project begins

Summary and Next Steps

- Action Items
- CAC Meeting #15 – December 5th