



## Community Advisory Council Meeting #16

March 6, 2021

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## Welcome Special Guests

***Members of the Interdenominational Alliance (IMA) and other community ministers will be joining us for CAC Meeting #16 including:***

- Reverend Victoria Richardson: Enoch Chapel UM Church (Liberty Park)
- Bishop Middleton: Biblical House of God (Liberty Park)
- Bishop Footman: Bethel Pentecostal Holiness Church (Liberty Park)
- Reverend Simmons: Oak Grove Baptist Church (Liberty Park)
- Reverend McClain: Union Heights
- Reverend Brown: IMA
- Reverend Bratton: IMA

# 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.*

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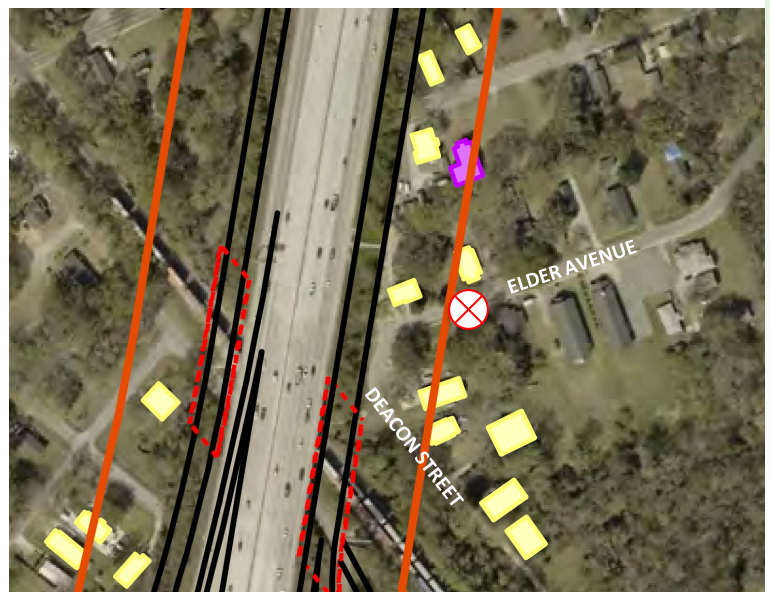
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## Deacon Street Update

- Current ROW plans show inability to access homes on Deacon Street after project completion
- Lack of access results in relocation of those living on Deacon Street.
- Potential plan to create a cul-de-sac on Elder Avenue.



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|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Cul-de-sac         | Proposed Bridge       |
| Single Family Home | Proposed Travel Way   |
| Church             | Proposed Right-of-Way |

# Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan Open House

## Purpose

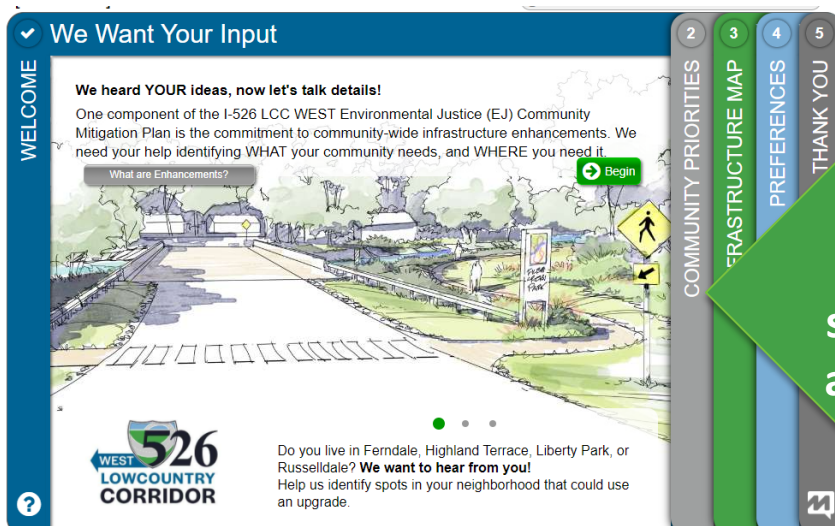
- Identify community infrastructure needs (not otherwise addressed) related to the new & reconstructed community & recreation centers.
- Address concerns identified in the Social Needs Assessment & by the CAC such as bicycle/pedestrian safety, landscaping, lighting, speeding concerns, and stormwater management.

## Logistics

- **Saturday, March 6, 2021 | Drop-in between 1:00PM – 4:00PM**
- Ferndale Community Center at 1995 Bolton Street
- Health and safety precautions will be in place

## Outreach

- 52 Yard Signs in the community and at schools
- Postcards will be sent to EJ residents
- Posting on the project website
- Distribute flyers at local churches and schools
- Minority radio station/newspaper ads and social media posting in Spanish and English
  - Including the Chronicle, Lowcountry El Informador, and Charleston Radio Group, among others.
- CIEP flyer in the outdoor and indoor informational handout boxes
- Letter will be sent to residents from the North Charleston Mayor and City Council Representatives to encourage participation.



Responses will be captured through an online and paper survey format. Surveys will be accepted until March 27, 2021

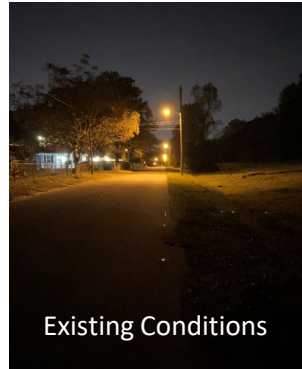


# Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan (CIEP)

## CIEP | *Potential Lighting Improvements*

### *Street Lighting*

- ✓ City of North Charleston plans to work with Dominion to replace all existing streetlights with LED fixtures starting as early as 2021



Existing Conditions



LED Upgrades

### *Pedestrian Path Lighting*

- ✓ 13-ft pole height and 75-foot spacing
- ✓ 75 total lights recommended along multi-use paths
- ✓ Dominion offers different styles of LED pedestrian scale lighting fixtures (shown to the right)

**Railroad Avenue in Ferndale between Graham Street and Harper Street**





# Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan (CIEP)

## CIEP | *Potential Stormwater Drainage Improvements*

- ✓ *Improve existing utilities.*
- ✓ *Add new catch basins, drop inlets, and extended ditches.*
- ✓ *Minimize new impervious surfaces.*
- ✓ *Include potential interpretive rain gardens near the community center.*



## CIEP | *Potential Aesthetics and Landscaping Improvements*



- ✓ *Add colorful plantings at each entrance to reinforce neighborhood identities*
- ✓ *Potential plantings could include evergreen trees/hedges, Spartina grass or Cypress trees*
- ✓ *Opportunities for public art at trails heads and in community center.*
- ✓ *Increase pedestrian connections to encourage walking.*



# Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan (CIEP)

## CIEP | Potential Traffic Calming Improvements



**Goal:** reduce the speed and volume of traffic to acceptable levels

- ✓ Recommendation to reduce speed limits to 25 mph
- ✓ **Passive treatments**
  - Example: raised street markings
- ✓ **Physical devices**
  - Example: speed humps

## CIEP | Potential Pedestrian Facility Improvements

**Goal:** Increase pedestrian safety and connectivity

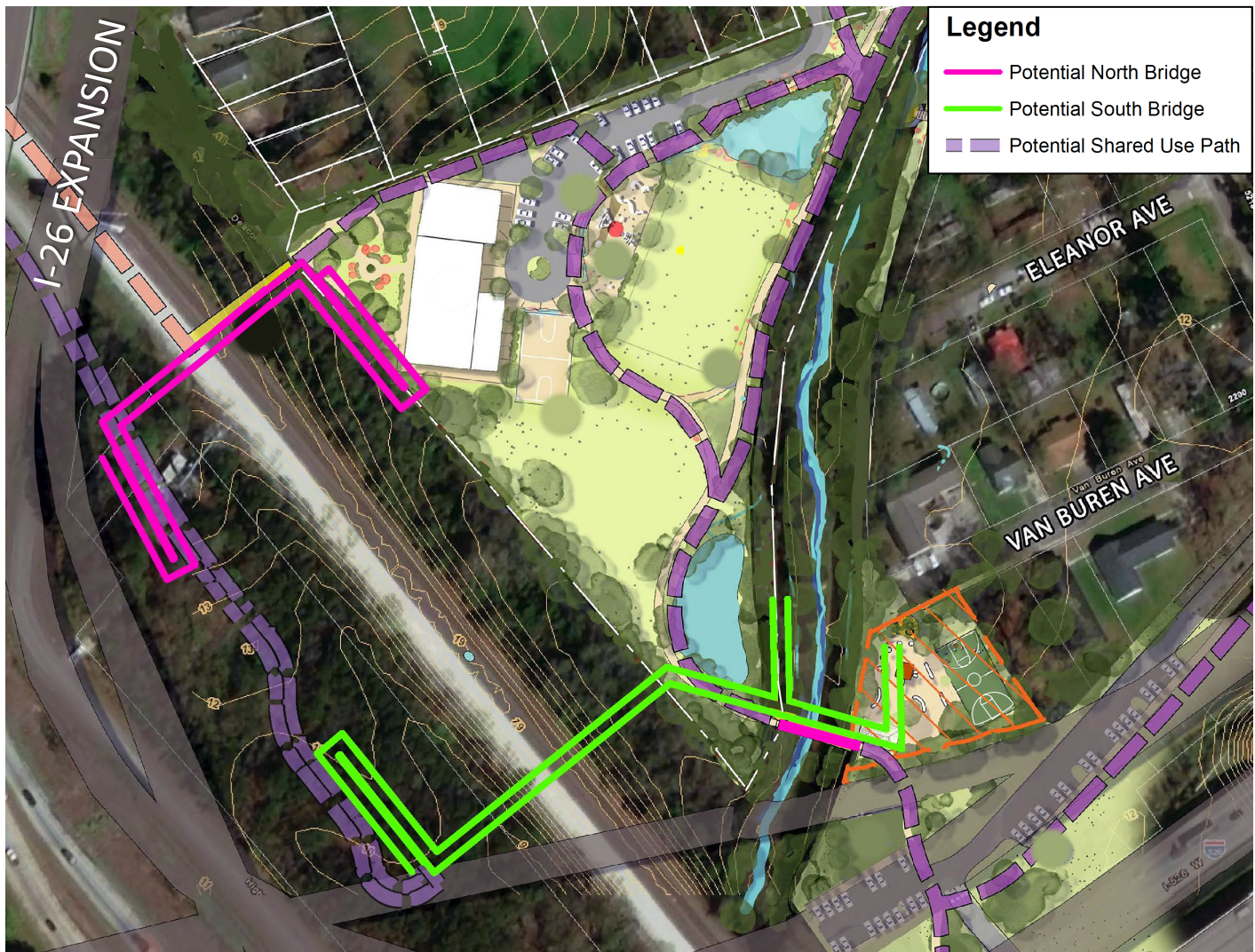
- ✓ New and improved pedestrian facilities such as sidewalks, shared-use paths, and/or pedestrian bridges
- ✓ ADA compliance
- ✓ Crossing signage
- ✓ High visibility crosswalks
- ✓ Trail heads and signage
- ✓ Pedestrian lighting





# Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan (CIEP)

## Pedestrian Bridge Options



### **North Bridge Option (pink)**

- Would also include a small bridge over Filbin Creek for connectivity to Russelldale
- Designed near existing footpaths across the railroad tracks

### **South Bridge Option (green)**

- Combines the rail and Filbin creek crossings
- 0.12-mile longer of a walk from Highland Terrace neighborhood
- Broader connectivity to North Charleston multiuse path network



# Replacement Affordable Housing Update

## *Multi-Family Housing*

- Working with SC State Housing Finance and Development Authority
- Multi-family housing under consideration includes townhomes and duplexes
- Developed a heat map (see below) to show areas of priority based on the following factors:
  - Location (Census Tract)
  - Parcel vacancy
  - Proximity to green space
  - Proximity to transit
  - Social vulnerability index (i.e., factors associated with climate change and sea level rise)



## *Single-Family Housing*

- Potential partnership with a local non-profit to achieve long-term affordability.
  - Ex: LAMC, Charleston Redevelopment Corporation, or Habitat for Humanity
- 12 lots have been secured to date

# Community History Preservation Program

As a component of the I-526 LCC WEST EJ Community Mitigation Plan, the History Preservation Program is scheduled to begin concurrently with the CIEP Open House in March 2021.

The study efforts will include collecting oral history, archival research, collection of historic photography, and the development of a report that will be available for viewing online and at the replacement community center.

## Damon L. Fordham - Historian

### ➤ Experience Highlights

- Adjunct Professor of History | The Citadel
- Adjunct Professor of History | Charleston Southern University
- Licensed Tour Guide, Tour Charleston, LLC

### ➤ Education Highlights

- MS Degree in History | University of Charleston/The Citadel
- BS Degree in Retailing with a minor in History | University of South Carolina



## Marquel R. Coaxum – Photographer

### ➤ Experience Highlights

- Public Affairs Officer & Public Affairs Specialist | Joint Base Charleston
- Public Relations & Social Media Supervisor
- Assistant Communications Manager & Multimedia Coordinator

### ➤ Education Highlights

- BA in Communications Studies | College of Charleston
- AA in Mass Communications | Community College of the Air Force





# Funding Opportunity: On-the-Job Training / Supportive Services

## Professional and Personal Development

- FHWA recently secured \$50,000 in federal funding to go towards additional employment or educational classes and training to benefit residents in the EJ communities.
- This is an opportunity to provide self-improvement resources before the project begin. Funds will go toward materials, supplies, and instructor fees, which will vary per class.
- All funds must be used by September 30, 2021
- Potential ideas:
  - Training for construction jobs (transportation)
  - Certifications in specific trades/specialty
  - CDL permit reimbursements
  - Financial planning
  - Resume writing / Interview skills / How to apply to a job
  - Computer Skills (how to use the internet, Zoom, etc.)
  - Business Management
  - CPR/First Aid Training

*Which ideas might interest your neighbors? Do you have any additional ideas you'd like the project team to consider?*

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# Funding Opportunity: Advocacy Organization

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced the availability of up to \$6 million in grant funding to supporting ***vulnerable and overburdened communities disproportionately affected by environmental health risks.***

The EPA will be giving special consideration to the following focus areas:

- Addressing COVID-19 concerns faced by low-income communities and communities of color
- Climate Change and Natural Disaster Resiliency outreach and planning
- New applicants to either opportunity
- Ports Initiative to assist people living and working near ports across the country
- Small non-profits

## EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program

Provides financial assistance to eligible organizations working on or planning to work on projects to ***address local environmental and/or public health issues in their communities.*** The program assists recipients in building collaborative partnerships with other stakeholders (e.g., local businesses and industry, local government, medical service providers, academia, etc.) to develop solutions that will significantly address environmental and/or public health issue(s) at the local level. EPA will select two cooperative agreements of \$160,000 each within each of the 10 EPA Regions.

## EJ Small Grants Program

Designed to help communities ***understand and address exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks.*** EJ Small Grants fund projects up to \$50,000, depending on the availability of funds in a given year.

*What do you think of applying for this type of funding for the CAC as you transition to an advocacy type organization?*

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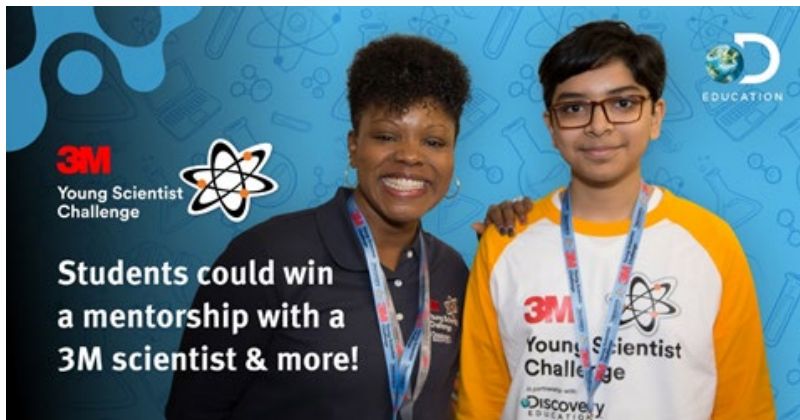
# Outreach Update

## COMMUNITY OFFICE STATS

(January 2 – February 12, 2021)

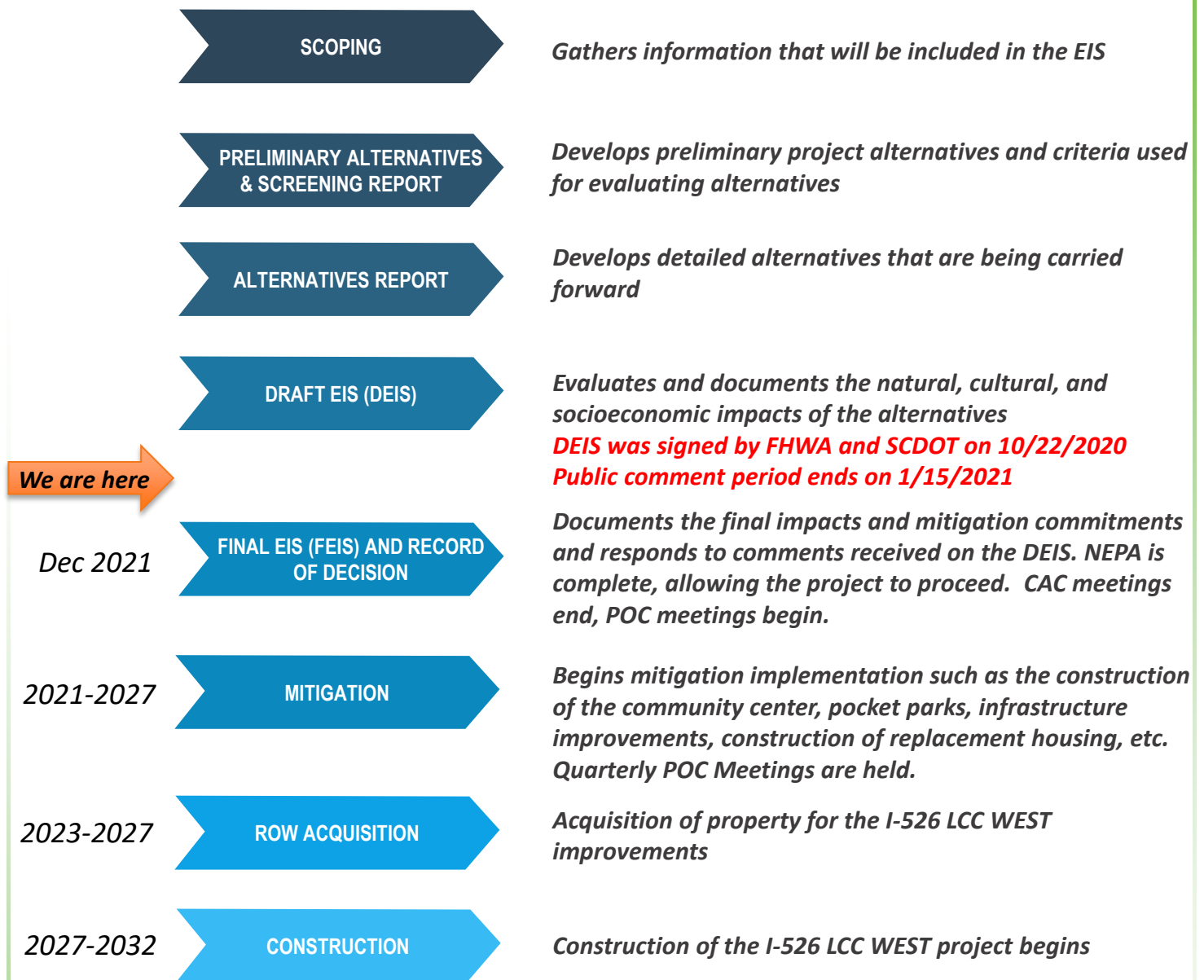
- Visitors: 19
- Incoming Calls: 41
- Outgoing Calls: 74
- Voicemails: 21

## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY



- Students in grades 5-8 are invited to compete for a mentorship with a 3M Scientist (10 winners) and a \$25,000 grand prize (1 winner)
- Students can enter by creating a video that explains the science behind solving an everyday problem in their community
- Competition entries are accepted at [YoungScientistLab.com](https://YoungScientistLab.com) until April 27, 2021

# Project Schedule / Milestone Review



## Summary and Next Steps

- Action Items
- CIEP Open House – March 6, 2021
- CAC Meeting #17 – April 3, 2021