



Community Advisory Council
Meeting #17

April 17, 2021

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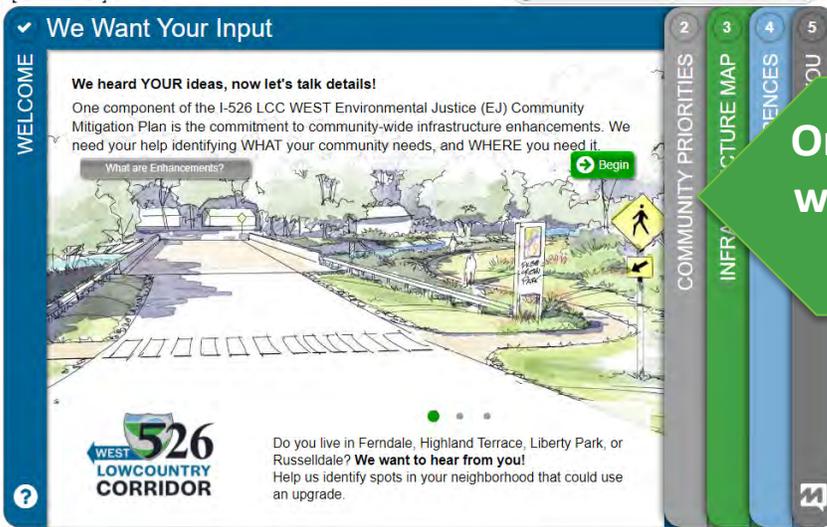
Neighborhood Update

- 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.

Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan (CIEP) Survey



Online and paper survey results were accepted from March 6 to March 27, 2021

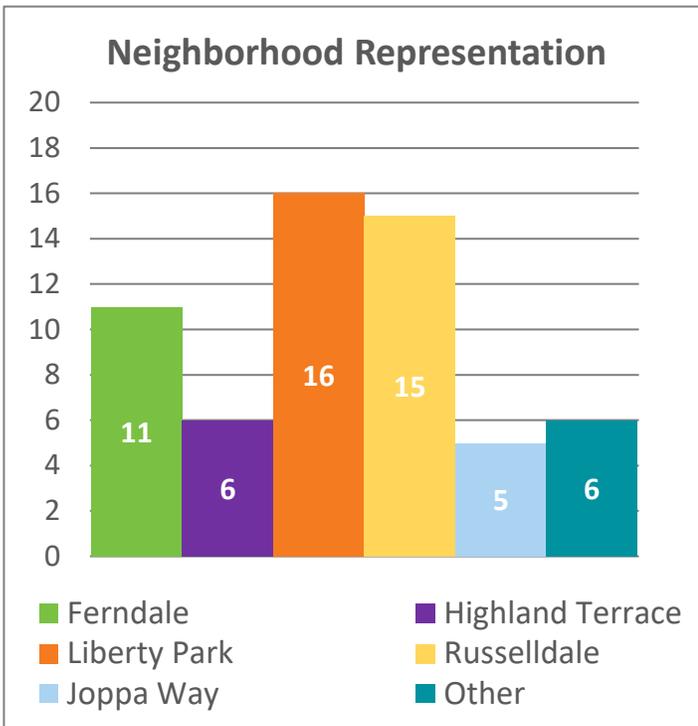


Outreach

- The CIEP survey was available to EJ residents at the CIEP Open House, mailed to EJ residents, and advertised on the project website and in the informational handout flyer boxes (see flyer to the right).

Results

- 77 people attended the CIEP Open House
- 85 people completed the survey either on paper or online.



89% of respondents live in EJ Neighborhoods

CIEP Results / Recommendations

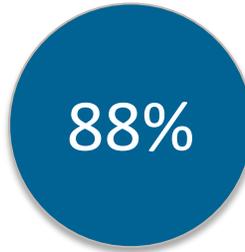
What We Heard | *Lighting*

Public comments

- Security devices need lighting for systems to operate
- Please cut back the trees that are blocking existing lights (noted 4 times)
- Streetlight at the end of Good Street is not on consistently
- Two (2) lighting comments were noted outside of the impacted EJ neighborhoods
 - Woodbine Avenue
 - Singing Pines neighborhood

Most requested locations for improvements:

1. Rebecca Street
2. Elder Avenue
3. Taylor Street
4. Piedmont Street



of survey participants want *improved lighting* in their neighborhood

Pedestrian Lighting Fixture Votes

15	8	19	12
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35% of survey participants preferred the circled pedestrian light fixture



CIEP Results / Recommendations

CIEP | Potential Lighting Improvements

Location	Recommended Improvement(s)
Russelldale Avenue to Dorothy Williams Boulevard	Pedestrian lighting along shared-use path
Elder Avenue to Lacross Road	Pedestrian lighting along shared-use path
Along Margaret Drive and Van Buren Avenue	Pedestrian lighting along shared-use path
End of Van Buren Avenue to Rivers Avenue	Pedestrian lighting along shared-use path
Pedestrian Bridges	Lighting over railroad bridge and Filbin Creek bridge
Rebecca Street*	Additional pole/light between Twitty Street and Rockingham Street
Elder Avenue*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional pole/light between James Bell Dr & existing pole Additional lights on four existing poles
Taylor Street*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Underpass lighting with the I-526 LCC WEST project Additional pole/light Additional lights on two existing poles – one near corner of pocket park
Piedmont Avenue*	Additional pole/light south end of Piedmont Avenue near the intersection with Montague Avenue.

**updated since Public Comment period*



Potential Lighting Improvements

Legend

- Existing Street Lights to be Upgraded to LED by the City
- Additional Streetlight Locations
- Shared Use Path Lighting
- Pocket Parks and Community Center Amenities

CIEP Results / Recommendations

What We Heard | *Traffic Calming*

Public comments

- Can a sign be placed on Rivers Avenue to alert drivers that a train is blocking the railroad crossing at Taylor Street?
- Questions about appearance of Rivers Interchange after removal
- Two (2) traffic calming points were noted outside of the impacted EJ neighborhoods
 - Woodbine Avenue
 - Craig Road (near Singing Pines neighborhood)
- Three (3) crosswalk points were noted outside of the EJ neighborhoods
 - Aviation Avenue
 - Core Road
 - Singing Pines neighborhood
- Overall positive response to the idea of traffic calming amenities

Most requested locations for improvements:

1. Taylor Street
2. Elder Avenue
3. Railroad Avenue
4. Piedmont Avenue
5. Rebecca Street



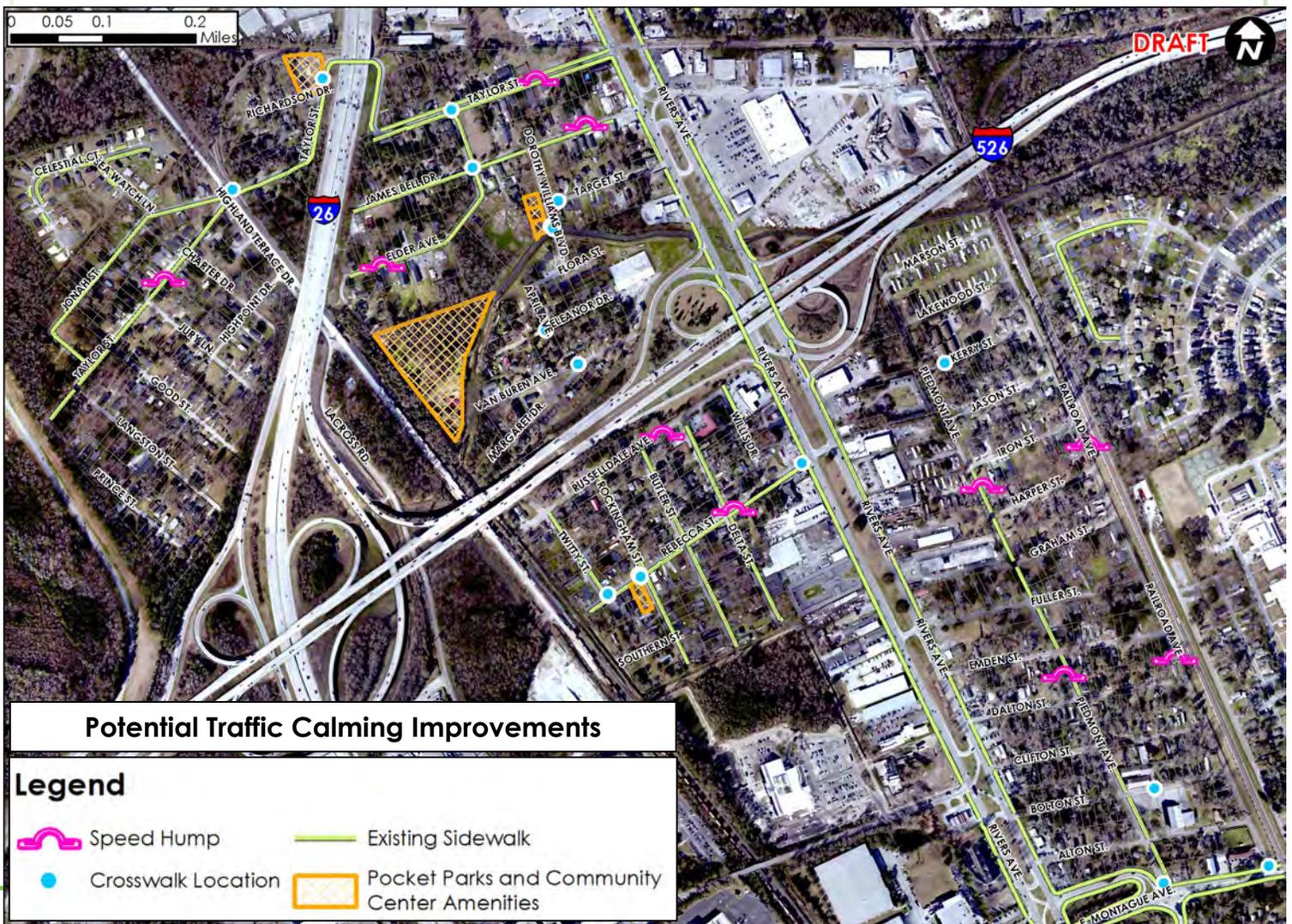
of survey participants prefer speed humps for traffic calming

CIEP Results / Recommendations

CIEP | Potential Traffic Calming Improvements

Location	Recommended Improvement(s)
Taylor Street*	Speed hump between Rivers Avenue and Elder Street Speed hump between Charter Drive and Jury Lane
James Bell Drive	Speed hump between Rivers Avenue and Dorothy Williams Boulevard
Dorothy Williams Boulevard	A raised pedestrian crosswalk aligned with the proposed multi-use trail to provide safer pedestrian connectivity to the replacement community center
Rebecca Street	Speed hump between Willis Street and Delta Street, pedestrian crosswalks at Rockingham Street and Twitty Street
Russelldale Avenue	Speed hump between Delta Street and Butler Street
Piedmont Avenue*	Speed humps between Harper Street and Iron Street, and between Emden Street and Dalton Street
Railroad Avenue*	Speed humps between Harper Street and Iron Street, and between Emden Street and Dalton Street
Elder Avenue*	Speed hump near replacement community center and church
Various crosswalk locations*	Implement crosswalk locations identified by the public (see mapping)

*updated since Public Comment period



CIEP Results / Recommendations

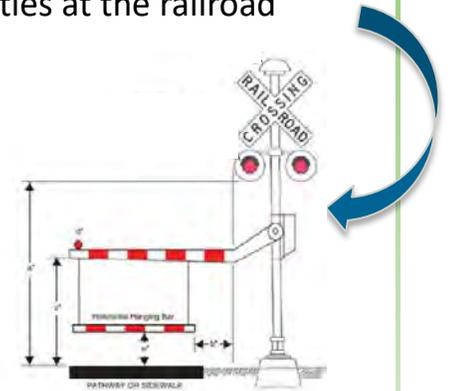
What We Heard | *Pedestrian Improvements*

Public comments

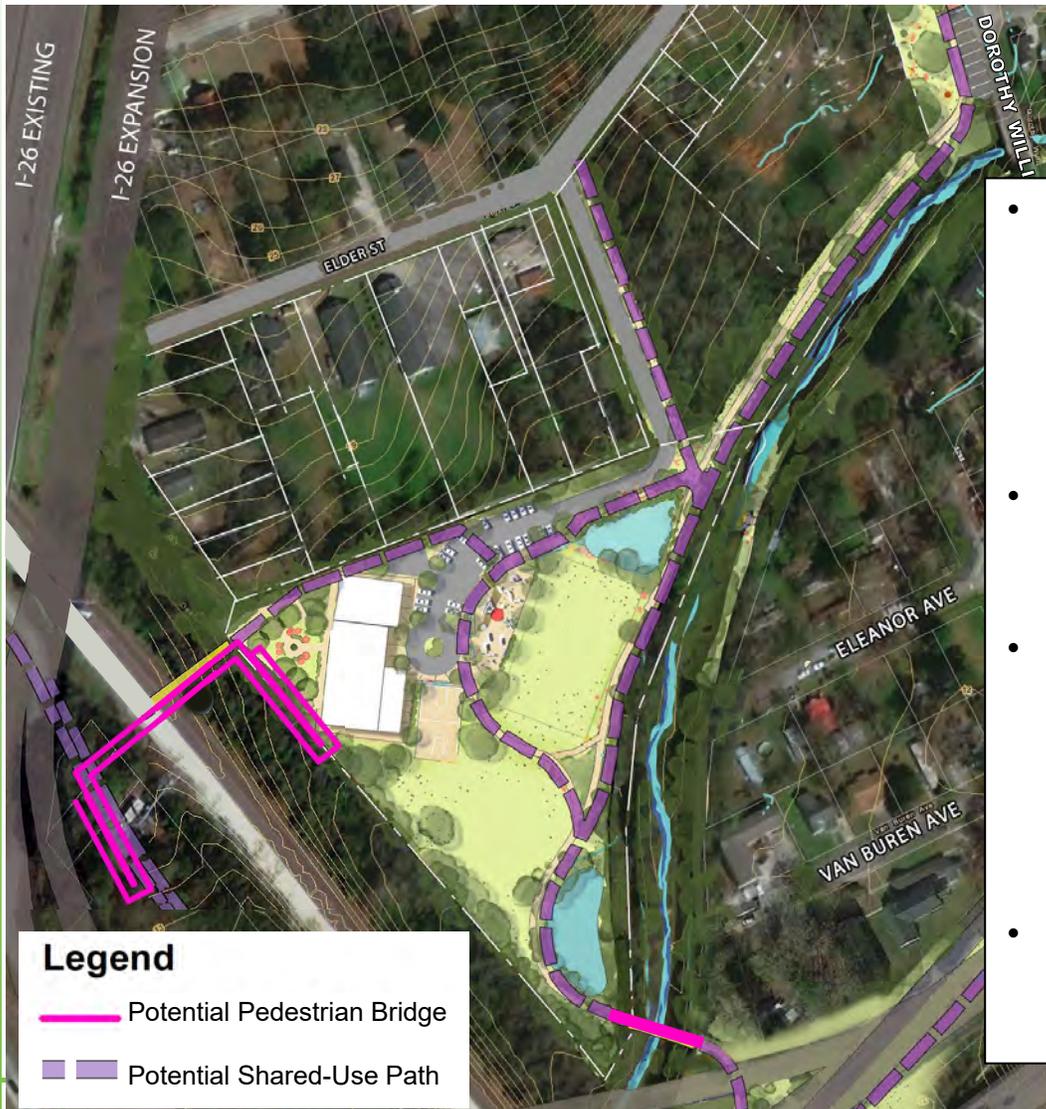
- Two comments that opposed a Shared-Use Path (SUP) adjacent to Life Changers because of potential for loitering and criminal activity
 - Instead of a SUP near Eleanor Drive, create a new point of entry into the community that connects to Eleanor
- One comment that prefers to have a fence vs open area near Life Changers and I-526 for control of access
- Three comments requesting improved pedestrian crossing amenities at the railroad crossing on Taylor Street

Most requested locations for improvements:

1. Rebecca Street
2. Railroad Avenue
3. Piedmont Avenue
4. Taylor Street



Pedestrian Bridge Update



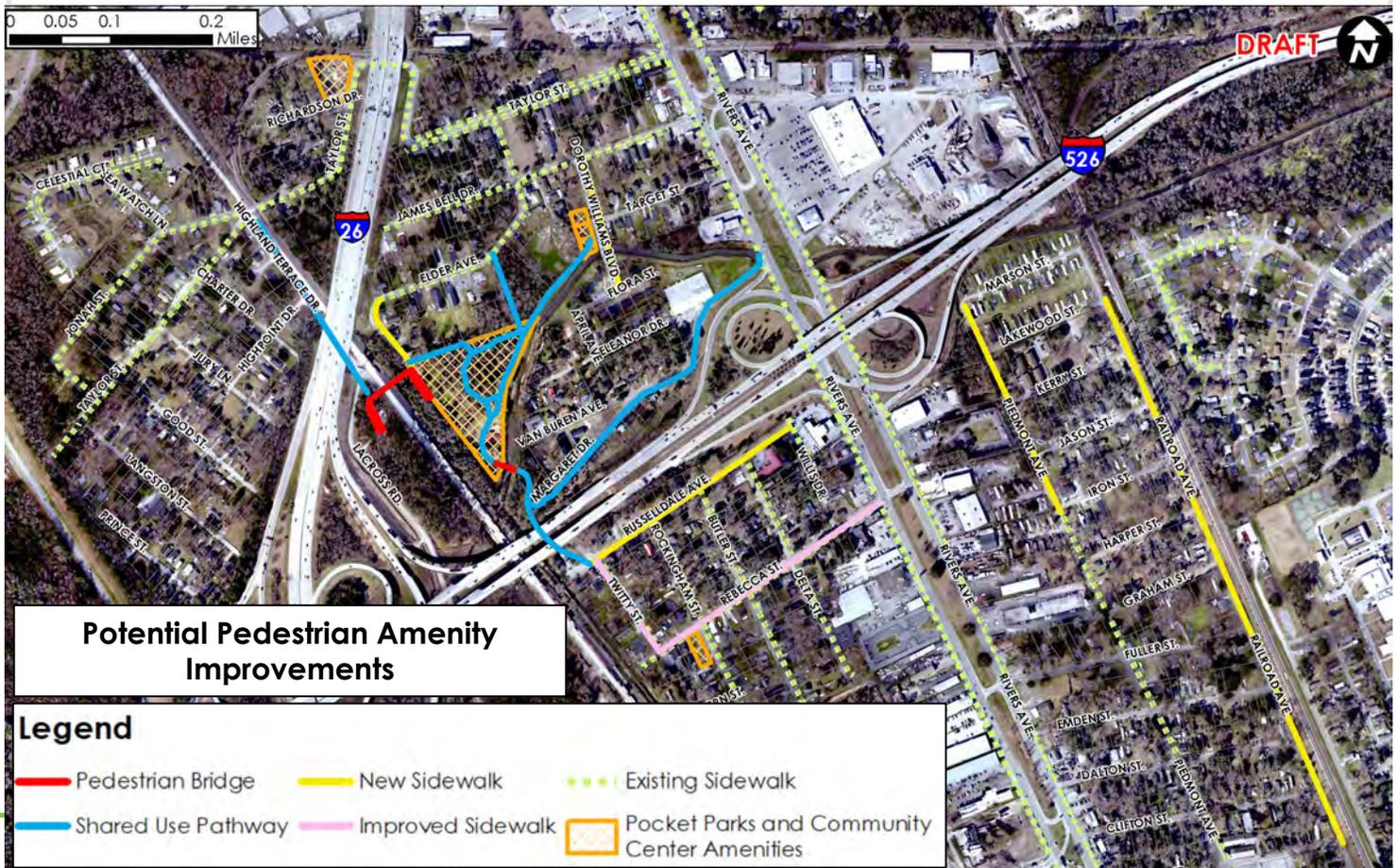
- Gives residents in Highland Terrace and Joppa Way more direct access to the replacement community center and recreational facilities
- Includes a small bridge over Filbin Creek for connectivity to Russelldale
- Located near existing footpaths across the railroad tracks to help prevent trespassing and provide a safe crossing over the tracks
- Additional fencing may be required near the railroad track

CIEP Results / Recommendations

CIEP | *Potential Pedestrian Amenity Improvements*

Location	Recommended Improvement(s)
Railroad Avenue	New 5ft sidewalk along east side of road
Rebecca Street	Repair and maintain existing sidewalk
Twitty Street	Repair and maintain existing sidewalk
Russelldale Avenue	New 5ft sidewalk along north side of road
Margaret Drive	Shared-use pathway along west side of road
Van Buren Avenue	Continue shared-use pathway from Margaret Drive along south side of road
Dorothy William Boulevard	New 5ft sidewalks along east side of road
Elder Avenue/Deacon Street	New 5 ft sidewalk along east side of road to extend existing sidewalk
Highland Terrace Drive	Shared-use pathway along west side of road
Highland Terrace Drive	Pedestrian bridge over RR tracks to connect shared-use pathway to Elder Avenue sidewalk and replacement community center
Piedmont Avenue*	Extend sidewalk from Iron Street to Marson Street
Taylor Street @ Railroad Crossing*	In coordination with the railroad company, install pedestrian protection measures such as a crossing gate and upgraded signing

**updated since Public Comment period*



Potential Pedestrian Amenity Improvements

Legend

- Pedestrian Bridge
- Shared Use Pathway
- New Sidewalk
- Improved Sidewalk
- - - Existing Sidewalk
- Pocket Parks and Community Center Amenities

CIEP Results / Recommendations

What We Heard | Stormwater Drainage

Public comments

- Filbin Creek drainage pipe [on Rivers Ave] needs to be enlarged and maintained
- One comment indicating a preference for a concrete versus an earthen ditch
- In favor of stormwater detention that allows water to flow and not remain stagnant
- Neighbors pay \$72 for stormwater fee and would like to know what projects are accomplished with this money
- Life Changers Church: water backs up between interstate and church - floods church parking lot
 - **SCDOT is looking into flooding issues in this area**

Location	Recommended Improvement(s)
Harper Street	New drop inlet, extend ditches
Railroad Avenue	Add flanking drop inlets
Rebecca Street	New Drop inlets (3)
Willis Drive	New drop inlet and pipe
James Bell Drive*	New catch basin, new drop inlet
Taylor Street*	New drop inlets with pipes on both sides of road
Elder Avenue*	New concrete curb with flume(s)

*Top requested locations for improvements



CIEP Results / Recommendations

What We Heard | Landscaping & Aesthetics

Additional Ideas

- Seating at entrances
- Lighted entrance signs
- Consider additional neighborhood entrance locations at James Bell at Rivers and Target at Rivers
- Entrance at Joppa Way needs fixing
- Beautification between Life Changers and I-526 WB ramp



of survey participants chose this rendering as their preferred neighborhood entrance

This includes landscaping options such as Saw Palmetto Trees, Crepe Myrtle, Muhly Grass and red mulch. All improved entrances must be maintained by the residents.



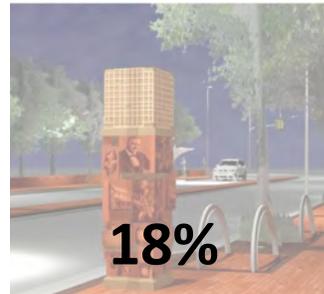
39%

Resident maintained mini-libraries



34%

Community center mural



18%

Community history art



9%

Mural on the interstate

Recommendations | Potential Landscaping & Aesthetics

- Add plantings and potential seating/lighting at existing neighborhood entrances to help reinforce neighborhood identities.
 - Piedmont Drive (Ferndale)
 - Fuller Street (Ferndale)
 - Taylor Street (Highland Terrace/Liberty Park)
 - Rebecca Street (Russelldale)
- Opportunities for public art
- Increase pedestrian connections
- Provide neighborhood with safety enhancements
- Beautification between Life Changers and I-526 WB ramp – potentially an upgraded interstate privacy fence
- Educational signs to warn community center users of potential alligator encounters
- Way finding signage
- Mural can be incorporated with Community History Preservation Program

CIEP Results / Recommendations

Personal & Professional Development

Votes for Potential Development Topics

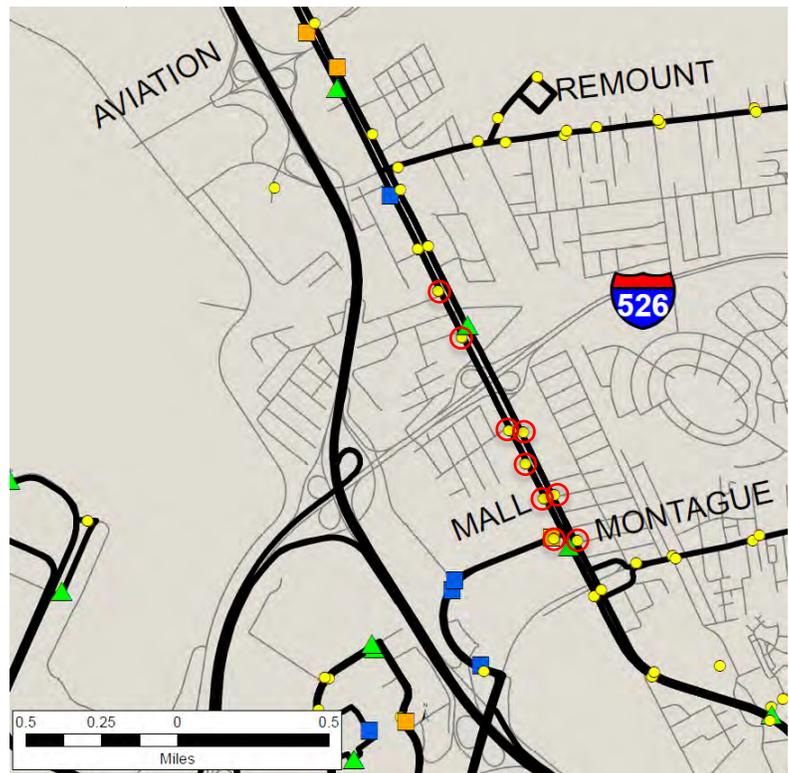
1. Computer Skills (29 votes)
2. CPR First Aid (21)
3. Business Management (12)
4. Financial Planning (12)
5. Trade Certifications (11)
6. Transportation Industry (11)
7. Resume Writing / Job Skills (11)
8. Construction Industry (9)

Additional classes suggested include:

- Senior exercise classes
- Activities for older adults
- Spanish language classes
- Restaurant/cooking skills

CIEP | Bus Stops

- SCDOT is proposing to partner with CARTA to install bus shelters at all stops along **Rivers Avenue between Taylor Street and Mall Drive** that border the Ferndale, Highland Terrace, Liberty Park, and Russelldale neighborhoods.



CARTA Stops in Vicinity of I-526

- Basic Stop
- ▲ Stop with Shelter
- Stop with Bench
- Stop with Advertising Bench
- Proposed Improvements
- CARTA Routes

SCDOT Response to EJ CMP Letter from the CAC



Facilities and Amenities

CAC Comments / Requests

- Equip replacement Community Center (CC) to be used as an emergency shelter
- Equip CC to be used to distribute emergency supplies
- Consider stormwater management in CC design
- Incorporate multiple vehicular and pedestrian access points to CC
- Incorporate features to protect children from alligator encounters near Filbin Creek
- Design CC as a multi-purpose, flexible space
- Include audio/visual equipment and technology at CC
- Incorporate Wi-Fi at CC

SCDOT Response

- The CC cannot be a designated emergency shelter because it is within a flood zone
- The CC will include amenities such as solar power and/or back-up generators, ADA compliant features, and regular refrigeration capabilities
- The CC will be designed to enable it to facilitate the delivery and distribution of emergency supplies
- The design will consider proper stormwater management
- Four pedestrian access points are planned at CC, including satellite parking near SUP trail heads on Dorothy Williams Blvd. and Margaret Dr.
- SCDOT will evaluate multiple vehicular access points to CC but cannot commit until after design is finalized
- CC will be multi-purpose with flexible space
- The City has agreed to include Wi-Fi capabilities at the CC
- SCDOT will add signage near Filbin Creek to warn of potential wildlife

SCDOT Response to EJ CMP Letter from the CAC

Updated EJ Community Mitigation Plan Language

Facilities and Amenities

SCDOT will fund the construction of replacement recreational facilities and associated infrastructure to mitigate project impacts and satisfy Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) requirements. SCDOT will acquire parcels located within the affected neighborhoods and provide funding to the City of North Charleston who will oversee construction of one large, centrally located community center complex and two pocket parks within the impacted EJ neighborhoods. Final details of the amenities to be included in the community center and the pocket parks will be included in the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of North Charleston. Construction of the new, centrally-located community center and the pocket parks will be completed prior to the start of construction of the I-526 LCC WEST improvements.

Potential infrastructure related to the replacement recreational facilities could include:

- Classrooms designed for flexibility, which may include moveable panel divider walls allowing room size to be modified to meet program needs,
- Basketball courts,
- Facility and pocket park approaches designed with pedestrian facilities, crosswalks, and traffic calming measures such as speed tables or speed bumps,
- Wi-Fi and internet access,
- Emergency generators and refrigerators to enable the center to be used as a supply distribution point during emergencies or inclement weather,
- Facility to include multiuse path to provide recreational opportunities for walking/biking and connectivity to proposed Filbin Creek Greenway,
- Facility approaches to be well-lit, above minimum requirements for streetlight spacing,
- Multiple pedestrian access points to community center
- Educational displays and signs to warn of potential alligator or wildlife encounters
- A community garden,
- An educational wetland,
- Covered shelters, grills,
- Walkways, common spaces to be user-friendly and defined by vegetation or other natural definitions; fencing should not be first choice
- Wayfarer/directional signs to help guide residents to new facilities,
- Audio/visual equipment
- Mural on community center (to be part of the Community History Preservation Program),
- Satellite parking for the community center near SUP trail heads on Dorothy Williams Blvd. and Margaret Dr. for increased pedestrian and vehicular access



SCDOT Response to EJ CMP Letter from the CAC

Updated EJ Community Mitigation Plan Language

Programs and Activities

Prior to the approval of the FEIS/ROD, SCDOT and the City of North Charleston will develop an intergovernmental agreement outlining the programs, services, structural components, and arrangements for long-term operation and maintenance of the replacement community centers and recreational facilities. The agreement will include language that gives residents of the communities served by the centers priority in areas such as program enrollment/participation, reserving facility space, and volunteer opportunities.

The City of North Charleston will continue to look for qualified candidates to fill Parks and Recreation positions at the community center who live in the impacted Environmental Justice neighborhoods. The City of North Charleston will post job openings for the community center recreation positions within the neighborhoods and encourage the CAC and neighborhood councils to submit qualified applicants.

Final details related to programs, amenities, and community member employment opportunities at the recreational facilities will be included in the FEIS/ROD.

Potential programs and activities could include, but are not be limited to:

- Senior and youth-focused programs and activities,
- A monthly programming/activity calendar that prioritizes programs for community seniors and youth such as meeting spaces, youth lunch programs, and tennis associations,
- A yearly calendar of community center events that focuses on events that foster community cohesion such as those that highlight/preserve local history, involve meeting with government representatives, and cross-cultural activities,
- Programming that provides access to educational and financial resources for community advocacy and self-advocacy,
- Volunteer opportunities with priority on neighborhood residents,
- Inclusion of a community garden at the recreational facility to serve as both an educational program and effort to mitigate neighborhoods' location in known food desert, and/or,
- Maintenance of stormwater detention as an educational wetland to be used for educational purposes during summer programs.



SCDOT Response to EJ CMP Letter from the CAC



Residential Displacements

CAC Comments / Requests

- Prefer single-family housing near or within the existing impacted neighborhoods

SCDOT Response

- Priority will be placed on acquiring parcels within or near the impacted EJ neighborhoods

Updated EJ Community Mitigation Plan Language

Affordable Housing

Due to the subsequent challenges residents may face resulting from relocations due to the transportation improvements related to the I-526 LCC WEST Project, SCDOT is taking a two-pronged approach to addressing the replacement housing needs of the displaced residents in the four EJ communities.

SCDOT is partnering with the South Carolina State Housing and Finance and Development Authority (SC Housing) to implement a ***Developer Incentive Affordable Multi-Family Housing Program*** which will be funded by \$1.5M in SCDOT grant funding, SC Housing low-income tax credits and bond financing. Program will include the following components:

- 100 new affordable housing units for the lowest income level category (1 – 3 bedrooms)
- Implementation of green space and recreational areas within the developments
- The development(s) must be located as close to the impacted communities as possible and must be located within the North Charleston city limits.

SCDOT will partner with a local non-profit organization who specializes in affordable housing to implement a ***Single-Family Affordable Replacement Housing Program***.

- SCDOT will purchase vacant lots, zoned for single-family homes, in each of the four impacted communities for the purpose of constructing housing for displaced residents who would like to remain in their community. Some of the lots will be preserved for market rate replacement homes for displaced residents who do not fall in the low-income category.
- Priority will be given to families displaced by the I-526 LCC WEST project. However, the program will be opened to non-relocated renters within the four communities if there are lots available once all displaced residents are relocated.
- SCDOT will issue a Notice of Interest for non-profits interested in partnering with the Department to implement the program. An interview and selection process will be utilized to identify the partnering non-profit
- SCDOT staff and Community Liaisons will partner with the selected non-profit organization to identify qualified families interested in participating in the program.

Financial Literacy and First Time Home Buyer Counseling

SCDOT will develop partnerships with local organizations to provide financial literacy and first-time home buyer counseling to residents, which could assist them in securing residential loans and transitioning from renters to homeowners. The counseling will occur in group and individual classes and will be initiated during summer of 2021.

SCDOT Response to EJ CMP Letter from the CAC



College Aid Initiative

CAC Comments / Requests

- Information on how amount for scholarship program was determined and student population demographics in the EJ neighborhoods to ensure the program is equitable and adequate
- Increase fund to \$100,000
- Ensure students from ALL grade levels have an opportunity to benefit from the scholarship program
- Relocated residents should still be eligible
- Define "neighboring EJ communities"
- Opportunity for CAC to provide input on selection process
- Clarify if scholarship will be needs based or merit based
- Can the scholarship be used for books/supplies in addition to tuition?
- Information on organizations that manage scholarship money - no government entity should oversee the scholarship funds

SCDOT Response

- Increased college aid to \$100,000
- Relocated residents will still be eligible to participate
- CAC will develop the criteria for scholarship eligibility
- SCDOT will oversee the distribution of funds
- Potentially extend the life of the program by capping the number of scholarships per year
- "Neighboring EJ communities and surrounding areas" has been deleted from the language – this needs to be considered during development of criteria

Updated EJ Community Mitigation Plan Language

College Aid Initiative

SCDOT will establish a college fund of up to \$100,000. The scholarship program will be for high school and college students from the impacted EJ communities that intend to or are currently attending higher educational institutions. EJ neighborhood residents relocated by the proposed project would remain eligible for the scholarship program.



SCDOT Response to EJ CMP Letter from the CAC



School-to-Work Program

CAC Comments / Requests

- Create internship-like opportunities for 9th grade students to inspire practical and sustainable career pursuits
- Information on structure, implementation, benefits, success stories, and lessons learned from past experiences
- Will this program be the same one SCDOT has always done or will the EJ communities receive initiative beyond the norm?
- Can the program be implemented earlier than ROW? Will the program last for all 5 years of ROW phase?
- How will # of students be chosen, and can this number be increased?
- Create an engineering or robotics program for younger students to expose them to STEM early

SCDOT Response

- Summer Transportation Institute Program is geared towards high school age. Internships can be opened to 16 and up but many places limit to 18 and up
- All of these initiatives are larger and more long term than any we have done before. Normally we do OJT, STIC & Scholarships only during the 2-3 year construction contract. We are committing to hold these programs for the next 10 years and maybe longer depending on how we structure the contractor's role in these programs.
- Program will last for all 5 years of ROW phase
- CAC Subcommittee will decide on program details such as # of students chosen

Updated EJ Community Mitigation Plan Language

School-to-Work Program

SCDOT will develop partnerships with educational institutions to develop school-to-work employment programs with the goal of enhancing employment opportunities within the fields of construction, engineering, and transportation. During the right-of-way acquisition phase, SCDOT will seek to hire up to ten (10) high school or college students from the impacted neighborhoods and neighboring EJ communities to work as summer interns. EJ neighborhood high school/college students relocated by the proposed project would remain eligible for participation in the School-to-Work Program.

SCDOT Response to EJ CMP Letter from the CAC



Organizational Training

CAC Comments / Requests

- Information regarding the structure and function of similar organizations, locally and regionally
- Additional seed funds to support development, implementation, and operations of advocacy group

SCDOT Response

- Stantec has provided case studies for the CAC's consideration
- Seed funding cannot be provided, but additional funding mechanisms can be explored

Updated EJ Community Mitigation Plan Language

Organizational Training

SCDOT will provide organizational training for the CAC and community members interested in creating a community advocacy organization.



Project Oversight Committee

CAC Comments / Requests

- More time to evaluate EJ neighborhood representation
- If Dr. Ellis is available, can she serve as a consultant?

SCDOT Response

- Additional clarification needed on point one
- SCDOT is agreeable to asking Dr. Ellis to facilitate POC meetings

Updated EJ Community Mitigation Plan Language

Project Oversight Committee (POC)

A POC will be established after the FEIS/ROD is approved. At that time, the POC will be tasked with overseeing implementation of the EJ Community Mitigation Plan commitments. Prior CAC members or EJ neighborhood residents interested in getting involved with the project will be encouraged to participate on the POC. SCDOT will provide support to the POC, consistent with the services provided to the CAC, as it assumes the following duties: 1) Coordinate with technical staff 2) Serve as a liaison between the communities and project staff during the final design and construction phases and 3) Participate in the implementation of the Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan.

SCDOT Response to EJ CMP Letter from the CAC



Noise and Air Quality

CAC Comments / Requests

- SCDOT and FHWA reconsider its decision to not install noise barriers along the perimeter of the impacted EJ neighborhoods
- Prioritize noise and air quality in the mitigation

SCDOT Response

- Mitigation Barriers will be built on either side of the I-26 corridor from just south of Remount Rd. to the southern end of Highland Terrace (see mapping on next page)
- SCDOT is continuing to explore options for mitigating noise impacts to EJ communities along the I-526 corridor who will be disproportionately impacted by the project. Mitigating noise impacts along this section of I-526 is complicated due to the height of the I-526 structures which span rail lines and existing roadways. Options for reducing noise include structure mounted barriers, improved pavement surfaces, and/or technology to reduce noise from bridge deck joints.

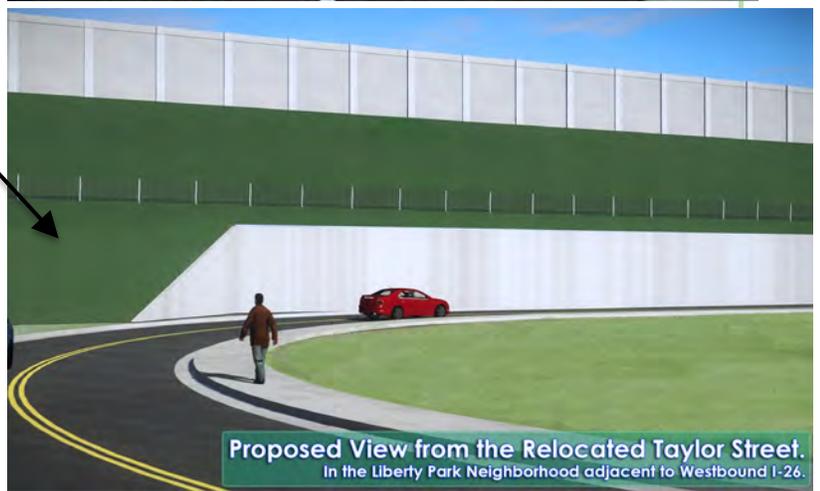
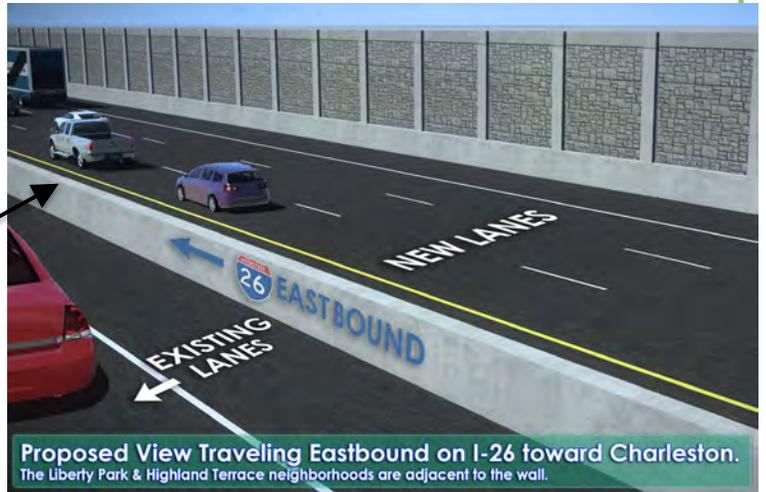
Updated EJ Community Mitigation Plan Language

Mitigation Barrier

Two (2) mitigation barriers are proposed on Interstate 26 to benefit residents of Highland Terrace and Liberty Park communities. These barriers have been designed to maximize the number of benefitted residents (*see next page for renderings*)

Updated EJ Community Mitigation Plan 2021

Proposed locations and renderings of Mitigation Barriers



SCDOT Response to EJ CMP Letter from the CAC

Increased Traffic and Congestion

CAC Comments / Requests

- A secondary plan to reconstruct an onramp from Rivers Ave to I-26 as a contingency plan if area proves to remain congested post-construction
- Information on future traffic/congestion demands considering the new 300-unit apartment complex on Mall Drive

SCDOT Response

- 2 alternatives were presented in 2019 that preserved the Rivers Ave./I-26 connection but resulted in the displacement of additional homes and 1 church (Life Changers)
- Traffic advantages were not substantial, so these alternatives were dropped (see details below)

300 New Apartments

- Daily trips to apartments: 77
- Daily trips from apartments: 50

Where do trips go?

- 75% towards I-26
- 25% towards Rivers

New apartments would not significantly increase traffic on nearby roads



SCDOT Response to EJ CMP Letter from the CAC

Increased Traffic and Congestion

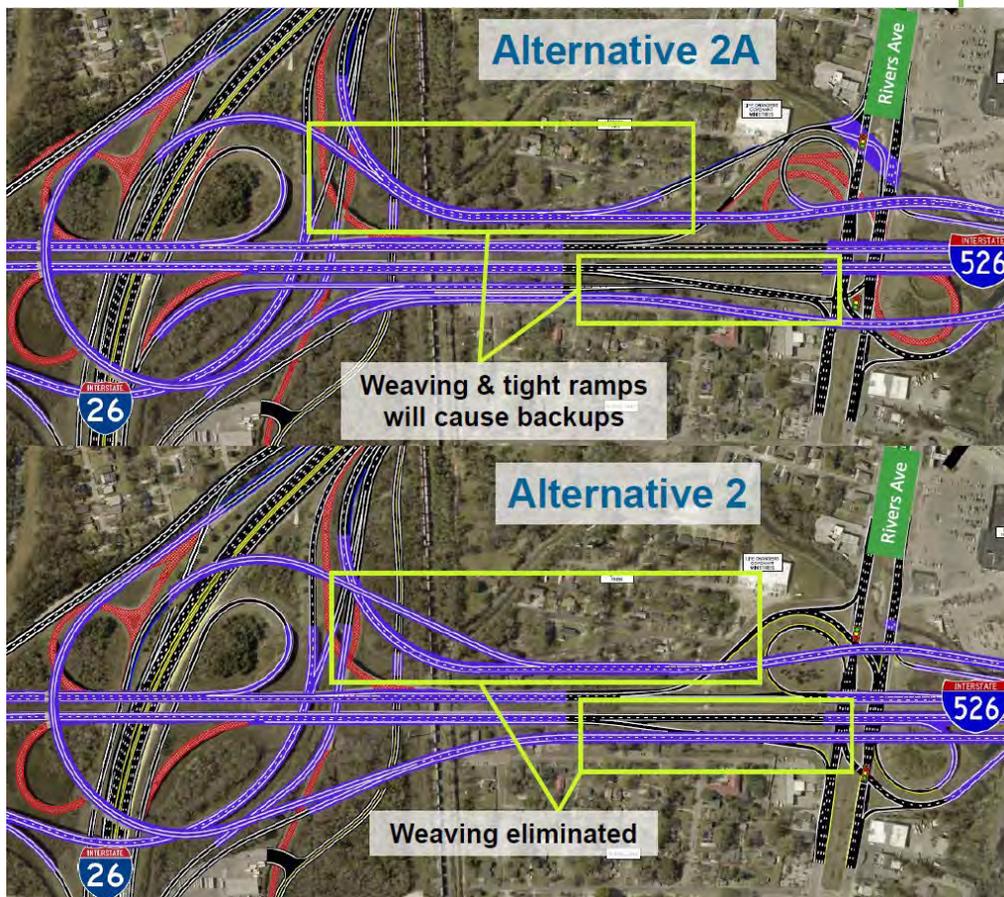
Why was Alt 2 Chosen?

1. Better performance

- Increased speed to 60 mph vs <15mph with Alt 2A
- Less Noise
- Better Air Quality

Alt 2A (where direct access would have been maintained) would have increased truck traffic by 35% or vehicle traffic by 65%.

You would also have had to make 1 more lane change than today with only 200 ft more space.



2. Fewer ROW Impacts at the I-526/I-26 Interchange

	Alternative 2	Alternative 2A
Single Family Homes	16	21
Mobile Homes	9	13
Residential Duplex	9	10
Apartment Buildings (not units)	3	3
Churches/Commercial	0	2
Community Centers	1	1

Note: Life Changers Church/ Roper St. Francis Building is located near the interchange.

We heard your concerns about impacts to your neighborhoods!

In response, we prioritized alternatives with fewer right-of-way impacts

Updated EJ Community Mitigation Plan 2021

Community Initiatives

Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan

The Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan (CIEP) identifies a set of SCDOT committed improvements to address bicycle and pedestrian safety, access to replacement community center, enhanced neighborhood entrance aesthetics, stormwater improvements, lack of bus shelter amenities, and traffic calming measures that would be implemented as part of the project. Locations for improvements were determined by CIEP survey participants, attendees at the CIEP Open House, and members of the CAC. The CIEP focuses on the following areas:

Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity and Safety Improvements

- SCDOT will fund shared-use pathways to provide connectivity to the community center, pedestrian bridges to cross the railroad and Filbin Creek, improved sidewalks along Rebecca Street and Twitty Street, and new sidewalks along Russelldale Avenue, Elder Avenue, extension on Piedmont Avenue, Dorothy William Boulevard (from the SUP to the existing sidewalk on James Bell Drive), and Railroad Avenue. Pedestrian safety measures will also be installed at the railroad crossing on Taylor Street.

Bus Shelter Amenities

- SCDOT will partner with CARTA to fund bus shelter facilities at all stops along Rivers Avenue between Taylor Street and Mall Drive that border the Ferndale, Highland Terrace, Liberty Park, and Russelldale neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Lighting Improvements

- SCDOT will fund the installation of at least seventy-five (75) pedestrian-scale lights along the proposed shared-use pathways that connect the proposed community center with the surrounding neighborhoods. Additionally, increased lighting may be considered near the Highland Terrace-Liberty Park pocket park., on Taylor Street, Elder Street, Rebecca Street, and/or Piedmont Avenue.

Traffic Calming Measures

- SCDOT will fund and install traffic calming measures on the following streets: Taylor Street, James Bell Drive, Dorothy Williams Boulevard, Elder Avenue, Rebecca Street, Russelldale Avenue, Piedmont Avenue, and Railroad Avenue. Crosswalks at identified locations will also be implemented.

Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements

- SCDOT will fund and stormwater improvement measures on sections of the following streets: Harper Street, Willis Drive, Elder Avenue, Taylor Street, James Bell Drive, Rebecca Street, Piedmont Avenue, and Railroad Avenue.

Aesthetics and Landscaping

- SCDOT will fund and implement plantings/seating/lighting at neighborhood entrances on Piedmont Drive (Ferndale), Fuller Street (Ferndale), Taylor Street (Highland Terrace/Liberty Park), and Rebecca Street (Russelldale) to help reinforce neighborhood identities. In addition, there will be an opportunity for public art at shared-use path trailheads, pocket parks, and the community center. Educational and way finding signs will also be implemented.

Additional EJ Community Mitigation Plan Language

Community Initiatives

Community History Preservation Program

SCDOT will fund a study to document the cultural history and character of the impacted EJ communities through the support of a qualified historian and photographer. 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.

The scope of the community history documentation is anticipated to consist of:

- Conducting oral history interviews with current and past residents,
- Archival research to collect old aerial photography and other historic photographs to create a visual archive of the communities prior to the construction of I-26, I-526 and other recent developments,
- Collecting photographs and recent images of the communities,
- Development of a report of the communities' history which will be made available for viewing online and at the replacement community center, or other venue if preferred by the residents, and,
- Development of history banners and recommendations for visual imagery that can be incorporated into the replacement community center.

Educational and Employment Initiatives

Summer Transportation Institute Program

SCDOT will provide a skill building program to create awareness and expose high school students to career opportunities in the transportation industry. This program will assist with addressing the need for a diverse workforce in the 21st century by preparing young people to become our future transportation workforce.



Pre-Employment Training

SCDOT will identify and provide financial support for preemployment training opportunities that encourage career placement in the transportation industry. The program will be established prior to construction to provide training and job readiness skills to individuals from the impacted EJ communities. Participants will be considered for the On-The-Job Training (OJT) Program implemented by the contractor selected to construct the project.

Additional EJ Community Mitigation Plan Language

Focused Outreach

Community Advisory Council (CAC)

SCDOT will continue to support the CAC throughout the remainder of the I-526 LCC WEST project development phase and publishing of the FEIS/ROD by facilitating their regularly scheduled monthly meetings and providing logistical and administrative support, as needed. Once the FEIS/ROD is approved, the CAC will officially cease to operate.



When the project transitions from the environmental analysis phase (which includes the development of Environmental Justice community mitigation), to the design phase, a Project Oversight Committee (POC), which will be tasked with overseeing the implementation of the various Environmental Justice mitigation commitments will begin operating. Members of the CAC will be asked to participate in the POC to represent the EJ communities.

Community Resource Guide

SCDOT will work with the CAC, Community Liaisons, and local nonprofits to develop a resource guide for EJ neighborhood residents. The purpose of the Community Resource Guide is to help sustain livability within affected EJ neighborhoods by increasing residents' access to local organizations, resources, and other information on the following topics: food insecurities; health and wellness; home repair; financial assistance; minority-owned businesses; and referral agencies.



Community Office

SCDOT will operate and maintain a Community Office throughout the project development, final design, and Right-of-Way Acquisition phases of the project. The Community Office is staffed with a full-time Office Manager, Community Liaisons/Outreach Specialists, and part-time Right-of-Way Specialists, who are available to provide community residents

with real-time project and property acquisition information. The Community Office will also be available to serve as meeting space for the CAC, the POC, and other stakeholders with an interest in the I-526 LCC WEST project.

Outreach Update

COMMUNITY OFFICE STATS

(February 15 – April 12, 2021)

- Visitors: 36
- Incoming Calls: 42
- Voicemails: 7
- ROW Appointments: 17
- Outgoing Calls: 157

Mental Health Tips and Resources: Taking Care of Yourself in Stressful Times

Maintain a Routine

- Keep some sense of normalcy by maintaining a consistent routine as much as you can.

Engage in Stress Reduction Activities

- Go for a walk, meditate, enjoy your favorite hobby. Do things that energize you.

Take time for yourself.

- Stop for a moment. Take a deep breath and find time for yourself.

Do Not Eat, Drink or Smoke Your Feelings

- Avoid using substances or food to numb your feelings.

Be Kind to Yourself and Others

- It is normal to feel anxious. These emotions will soon pass.

Seek Out Professional Help

- Talk with a mental health professional online or over the phone.

Connect with Your Community, Family and Friends

- Connect with your church (house of worship), neighborhood, family and/or friends. Draw strength from your connections.

Crisis Resources

Times are difficult for all of us. If you or someone you know is in crisis, help is available 24/7/365 from these resources:

Emergencies: 24/7: 843-414-2350

Deaf Services Hotline: VP [803-339-3339](tel:803-339-3339), **E-mail:** deafhotline@scdmh.org

TTY: 800-647-2066

Videophone: 803-807-2701

Language Assistance: 844-698-1960 (Asistencia lingüística) Code (Código): 2485

Business Office: 843-212-8980

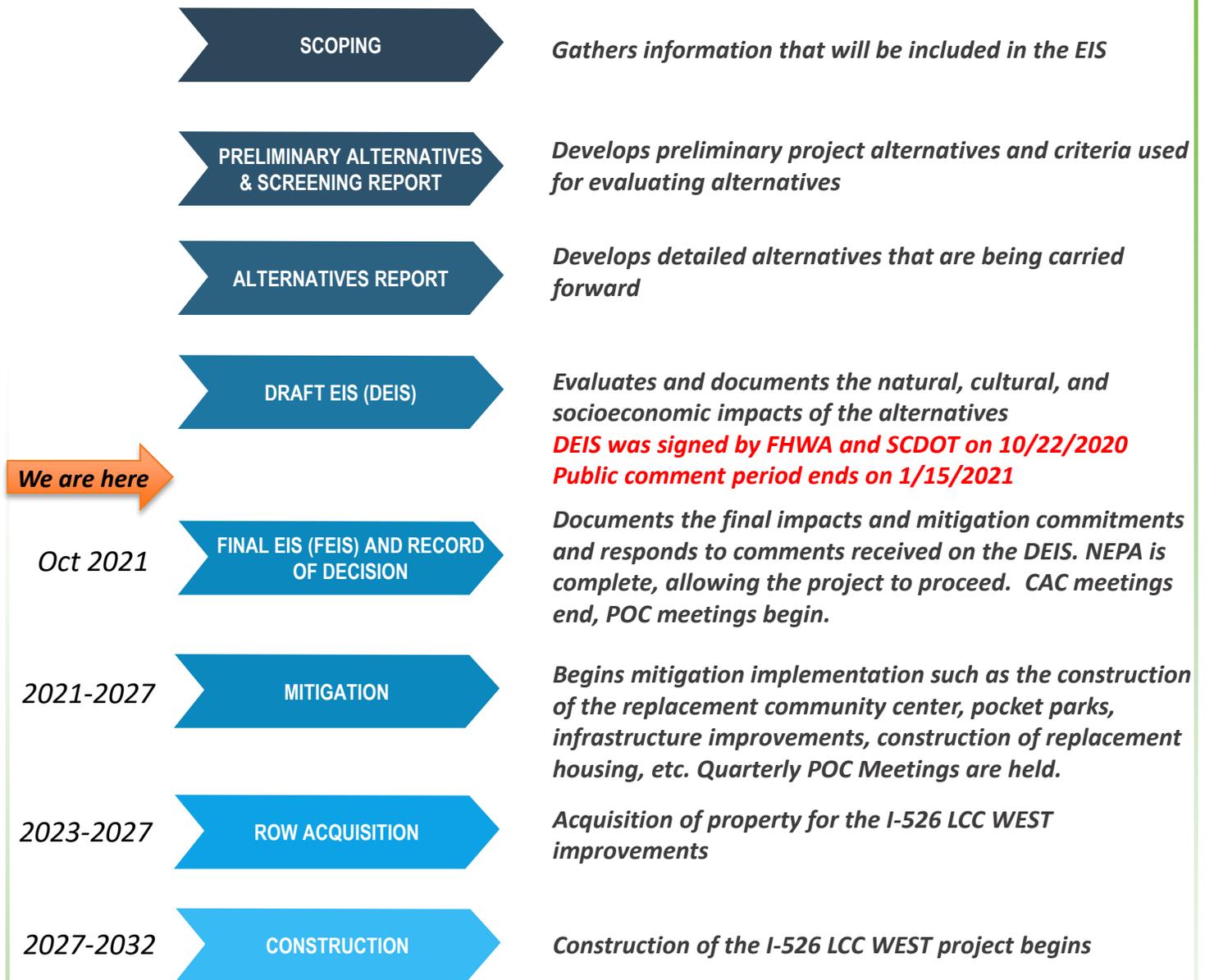
Office Locations

Charleston Clinic: 2100 Charlie Hall Blvd, Charleston, 843-852-4100

Dorchester Clinic: 106 Springview Lane, Summerville, 843-873-5063

www.charlestandorchestertermhc.org

Project Schedule / Milestone Review



Summary and Next Steps

- Action Items
 - CAC Meeting #18 – TBD
 - **Looking Ahead:** future meeting topics may include Affordable Housing. ***What other topics would you like more information on?***
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