



The overarching goal of the I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST EJ Community Mitigation Plan is to effectively mitigate project impacts in partnership with residents of the Ferndale, Russelldale, Highland Terrace, Liberty Park neighborhoods.

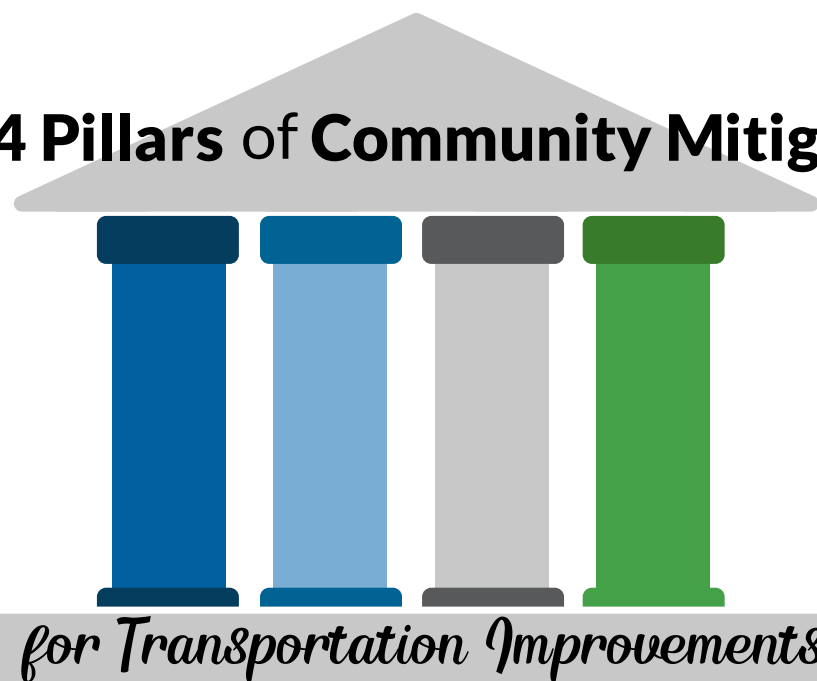


EJ Community Mitigation Plan Highlights

WHAT IS MITIGATION?

noun [mit-i-gey-shuhn]
the act of lessening the force or intensity of something unpleasant

The 4 Pillars of Community Mitigation



Cohesion

To provide a common vision and sense of belonging for residents who may have been divided



Enhancement

To increase the value, quality and attractiveness of a community by providing aesthetic improvements and replacing lost recreational amenities



Preservation

To connect the neighborhood's past, present, and future to encourage residents of all ages to thrive despite relocation impacts



Revitalization

To restore employment opportunities, safety, and affordable housing that has been diminished

Background

Every effort was made to avoid and minimize impacts to your community during the development of the project alternatives. However, because of the close proximity of many communities to the existing interstate, significant community impacts were unavoidable in all reasonable alternatives and would require community mitigation.



Community Mitigation Plan

Developed by identifying & considering the social needs & priorities of neighborhood residents

Community Office

In November 2019, a Community Office was opened within an accessible distance and close to the potentially impacted communities. Located in Gas Light Square at 5627 Rivers Avenue (CARTA Route 10), the Community Office is where you can meet one-on-one with the project team and connect with resource specialists such as right-of-way relocation experts.



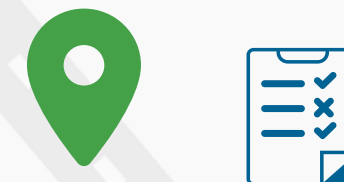
- Advise
- Connect
- Represent
- Communicate

Community Advisory Council (CAC)

A Community Advisory Council (CAC) was formed as a resident-led group to facilitate meaningful engagement between the residents and SCDOT.

Survey

The CAC and residents of the potentially impacted neighborhoods completed a Social Needs Assessment (SNA) survey to provide insight into the daily operations, needs, and desires of the community.



Project Oversight Committee (POC)

The POC is a group of Environmental Justice (EJ) neighborhood residents, agency representatives, & other stakeholders that will meet to oversee the implementation of the EJ Community Mitigation Plan.

Thank you for providing your input on the EJ Community Mitigation Plan. Your feedback has helped shape the final plan, which is part of the final environmental document and includes all agreements and plans for mitigation implementation. Please visit www.526LowcountryCorridor.com/west/ or drop by the Community Office for more information on all community commitments.



Make an appointment at our Community Office (5627 Rivers Avenue, Gas Lite Square) for assistance

✉ info@526LowcountryCorridor.com

☎ 843.258.1135
(Call or Text)

SCDOT Project Manager
Joy Riley, PE, DBIA, PMP, CPM

📘 526Corridor
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WHAT IS PROPOSED TO BENEFIT MY COMMUNITY? *And When?*

PROPOSED SCHEDULE



Mitigation Schedule is based on approval of environmental documentation without legal challenge; subject to change

PUBLIC HEARING

FINAL DESIGN 2021-2023

RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION 2023-2027

CONSTRUCTION 2027-2032



Community History Preservation Study

A study will document the cultural history and character of the impacted neighboring communities. This study will be available online and at the new, modern community center.



Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan

A Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan would identify a set of improvements to address bicycle and pedestrian safety, access to community centers, enhanced street aesthetics, community mitigation barriers, project-related stormwater improvements, pedestrian bridges, and traffic calming measures that would be implemented as part of the project.



Community Centers & Parks

A large, centrally located community center complex and 2 smaller parks will be constructed within the affected neighborhoods to replace lost, smaller centers and parks.



Community Programs & Activities

The new, modern community center will be equipped to provide enhanced programs and activities, including priority for community residents for programs and facilities.



Affordable Housing

Replacement affordable housing (multi- and single-family) will be constructed near the impacted communities. SCDOT is acquiring vacant lots within the communities early so displaced families will have affordable housing options within their communities.



Financial Literacy/First-time Home Buyer Counseling (2022-2027)

Financial literacy and first-time home buyer counseling will be made available to displaced residents to assist in securing residential loans and transitioning from renters to homeowners.



School-to-Work Program (2023 - 2032)

SCDOT will partner with organizations to implement school-to-work programs within the fields of construction, engineering, and transportation.



Pre-Employment Training (2023 - 2032)

A program to prepare participants for consideration for an On-the-Job Training Program to be implemented by the project contractor during construction.



College Aid Initiative (2023 - 2032)

Up to \$100,000 in scholarships will be awarded to students from the impacted communities (scholarship amounts to be determined). The funds will be available through construction or until all funds are awarded.



Organizational Training (2022-2024)

Training to support community advocacy, leadership development, and community planning.



Summer Transportation Institute (2023 - 2032)

Summer skill building programs that will expose high school students to careers in the transportation industry. 15 -20 students per program.

Please note: SCDOT will conduct community outreach throughout the implementation of the EJ Mitigation Plan.

Document current as of September 2021.