



Community Advisory Council Meeting #19

October 9, 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.

Commitment Revisions

The following additions or revisions were made to the EJ Community Mitigation Plan based off feedback received during CAC Meeting #18.



Project Oversight Committee

A Project Oversight Committee (POC) will be established after the FEIS/ROD is approved. At that time, the POC will be tasked with overseeing the implementation of the EJ Community Mitigation Plan commitments. Prior CAC members and/or EJ neighborhood residents interested in getting involved with the project will be encouraged to participate on the POC. In addition to residents, the POC will consist of agency representatives responsible for implementing the various components of the EJ Community Mitigation Plan including: SCDOT, FHWA, the City of North Charleston, North Charleston Housing Authority, and the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments (BCDCOG). SCDOT will provide administrative support to the POC, consistent with the services provided to the CAC, as it assumes the following duties:

- Coordinate with technical staff on issues related to implementation of the components in the Mitigation Plan,
- Serve as a liaison between the communities and project staff during the final design and construction phases, and
- Assist SCDOT in outreach efforts and meetings to get input from the greater community on detailed design concepts for those mitigation items that require physical construction.

Once established, it is anticipated that the POC would meet on a quarterly basis until the completion of all EJ Mitigation components.



Community Meetings

SCDOT will work with the POC to conduct community meetings and distribute flyers throughout the implementation of the EJ Community Mitigation Plan to keep residents informed of the project schedule and to seek input on any mitigation-related commitments.

Final EJ Community Mitigation Plan Components



Programs and Activities

SCDOT and the City of North Charleston will develop an inter-governmental 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 priority access to residents of the communities served by the community centers 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 who live in the impacted EJ neighborhoods to fill Parks and Recreation positions at the community center. The City of North Charleston will post job openings for these positions within the neighborhoods and encourage the CAC and neighborhood councils to refer qualified applicants.

Programs and activities that could be provided at the community center include, but are not 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 **and job** opportunities with priority given to 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 a known food desert, and/or,
- Maintenance of stormwater detention as an educational wetland to be used for educational purposes during summer programs.



Commitment Revisions



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 design and construction of one large, modern, centrally located community center complex with expanded programs and operating hours and two pocket parks, *one within the Liberty Park neighborhood and one within the Russelldale neighborhood. The Russelldale pocket park location is preliminary and SCDOT is committed to continuing to identify additional locations within Russelldale and reviewing the options with community members.* Additional details of the amenities to be included in the community center and the pocket parks will be included in an inter-governmental agreement between SCDOT and the City of North Charleston. Construction of the new community center and the pocket parks will be completed prior to the interstate construction impacting the existing community centers.

Amenities related to the replacement recreational facilities will include, but is not limited to:

- Classrooms designed for flexibility, which may include moveable panel divider walls allowing room size to be modified to meet program needs,
- Basketball courts,
- Facility access to be well-lit, and meet design requirements to provide safe lighting for center visitors,
- Covered shelters with grills,
- Walkways, common spaces to be user-friendly and defined by vegetation or other natural definitions; fencing should not be first choice,
- Wayfinder/directional signs to help guide residents to new facilities,
- Facility and pocket park approaches designed with pedestrian facilities, crosswalks, and traffic calming measures such as speed tables or speed humps,
- Emergency generators to enable the community center to be used as a food and supply distribution center during emergencies and/or inclement weather,
- Facility to include multiuse path to provide recreational opportunities for walking/biking and connectivity to North Charleston's proposed Greenway system,
- Multiple pedestrian access points to community center,
- Satellite parking on Dorothy Williams Boulevard and Margaret Drive, adjacent to the shared use paths, to provide additional access points for residents driving to the community center, and
- Audio/visual equipment.

****Section 4(f)** refers to the original section within the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 which provided for consideration of park and recreation lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites during federal transportation project development.*

*****Section 6(f)** refers to the original Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act that provides protection for federal investment in public outdoor recreation. The primary protection is a requirement to replace any LWCF outdoor recreation property with property of equal or greater economic and recreational value if the original property will be converted to another use that is not considered as an outdoor recreation use.*

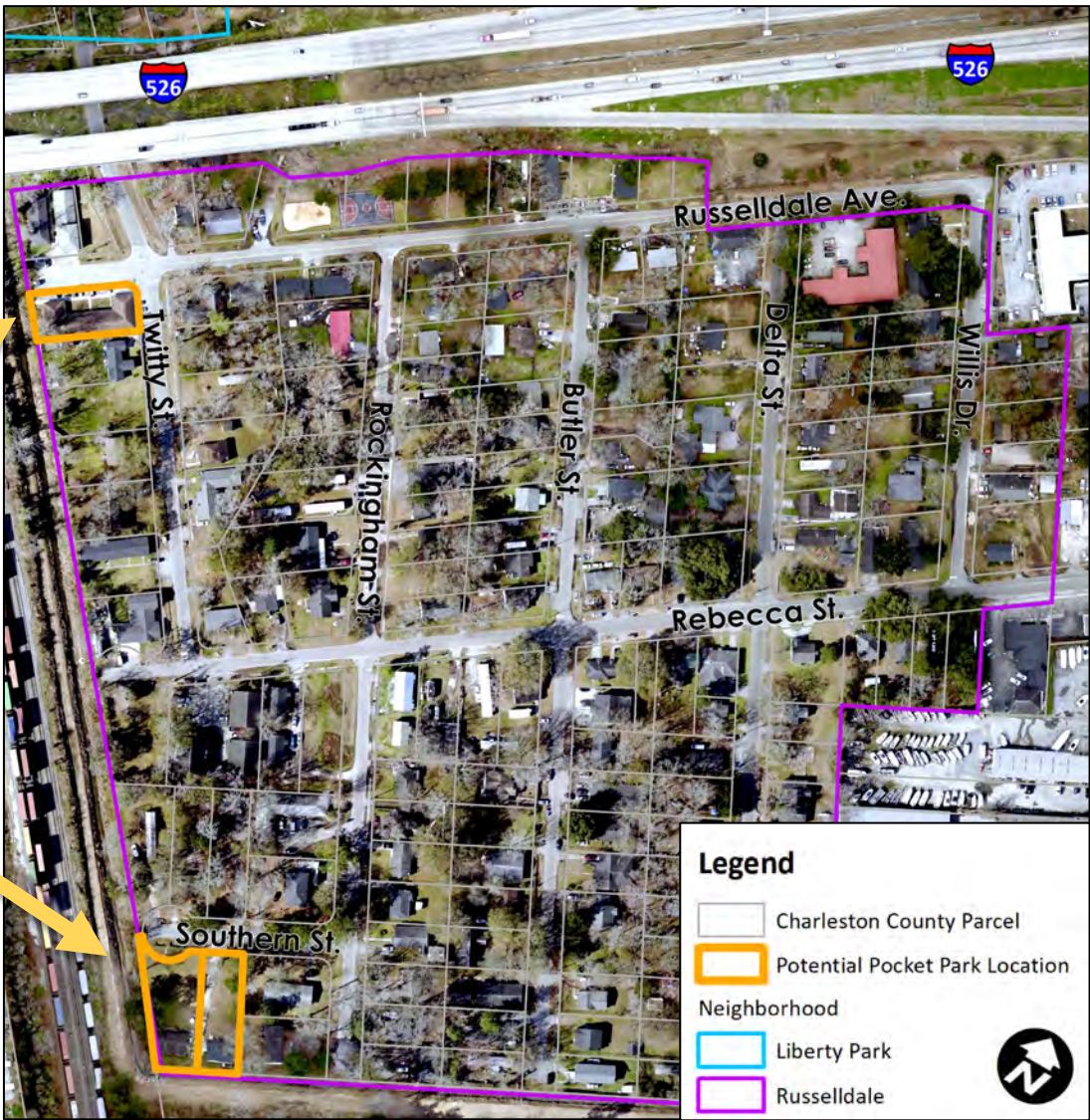
Commitment Revisions



Update on Russelldale Pocket Park

Russelldale Avenue @ Twitty Street (see rendering below)

Southern Street cul-de-sac



Rendering of the potential recreational amenities on the southwest corner of Twitty Street/Russelldale Avenue in Russelldale

-  NORTH
- 1 IMPROVED CROSSWALKS
 - 2 FLOWERING SHRUBS AND PARK SIGNAGE
 - 3 PRIVACY PLANTING
 - 4 BASKETBALL COURT
 - 5 TRICYCLE LOOP
 - 6 WOOD BENCHES
 - 7 15' X 30' OPEN AIR PAVILION
 - 8 3000 SF PLAYGROUND
 - 9 PUBLIC ART
 - 10 WOOD PRIVACY FENCE



I-526 LCC EAST Project Overview

Project Purpose

The purpose for transportation improvements along this corridor is to **improve travel time reliability & reduce congestion** along I-526 from Virginia Avenue in North Charleston to US 17 in Mount Pleasant.

Identified Needs


- **Mobility**
- **Roadway Deficiencies**

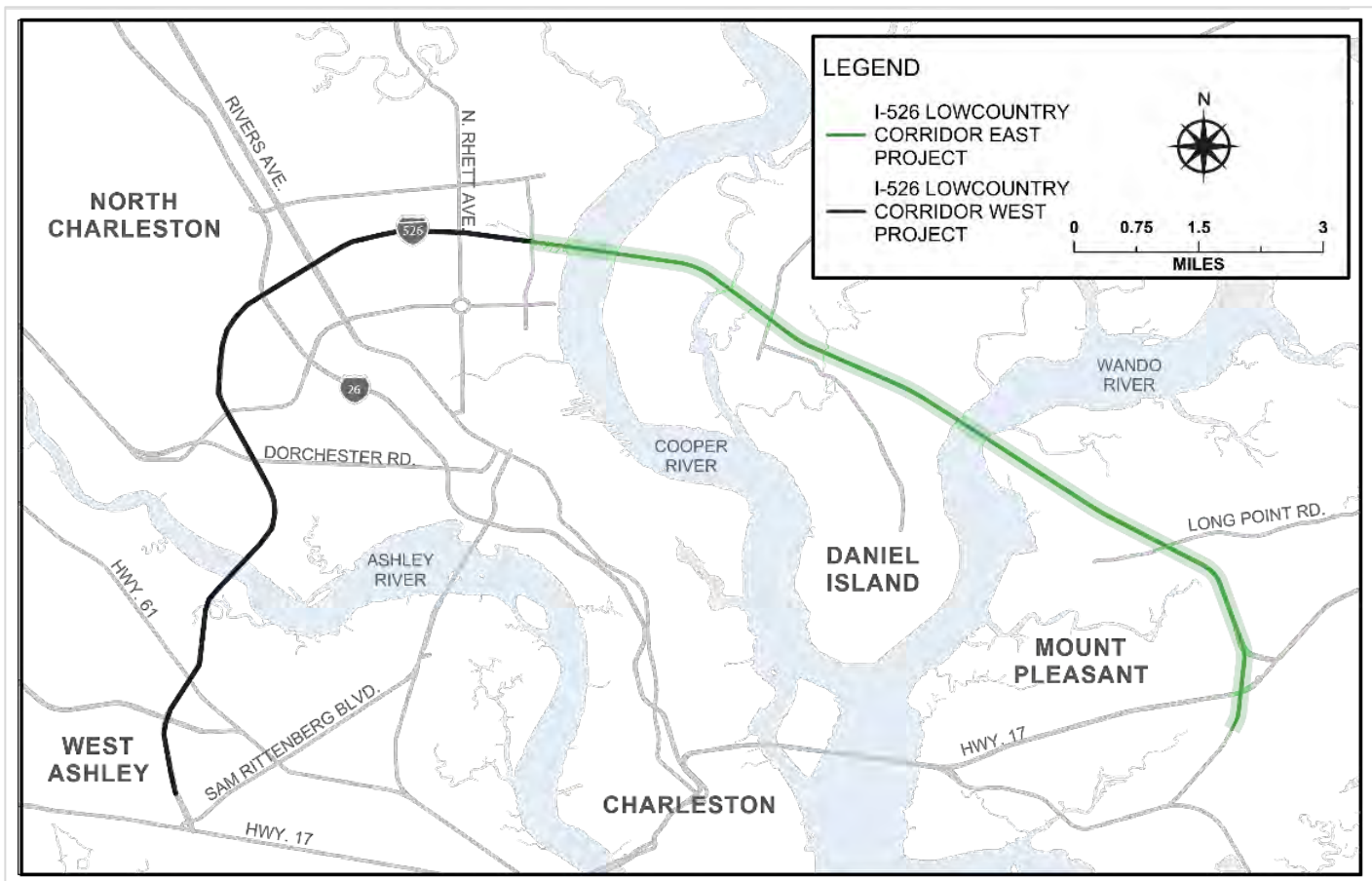
Virginia Avenue to US 17

10 
total miles

5 
miles elevated structure

5 
interchanges

2 
major bridges:
Don Holt Bridge &
Wando River Bridges



A comprehensive update will be given by SCDOT during the CAC #19 meeting

I-526 LCC EAST Project Overview

How to Participate



Project Website

526LowcountryCorridor.com/eastvpim2021
Live, October 11, 2021

The Public Information Meeting webpage contains all the materials you would see at an in-person meeting.

A mailed public information meeting packet may be requested by calling 843.258.1135 or emailing info@526LowcountryCorridor.com.

How to Comment



Project Website

526LowcountryCorridor.com

Fill out a comment form on the project website.



Project Hotline

843.258.1135 (Call Us)

Press "2" to leave a verbal comment. Comments will be limited to 2 minutes.



In-person Public Meetings

Tuesday, October 26, 2021 5-7 PM

R. L. Jones Center
391 Egypt Road, Mount Pleasant, SC

Wednesday, October 27, 2021 5-7 PM

Felix C. Davis Community Center
4800 Park Circle, North Charleston, SC
CARTA Routes 13 & 104

Spanish translation services available at all meetings.



Project Email

info@526LowcountryCorridor.com



Mail

Joy Riley, PE, PMP, CPM, DBIA
SC Department of Transportation
Post Office Box 191
955 Park Street, Room 401
Columbia, SC 29202-0191

CAC Best Practices Review Survey

As we approach the end of 2021, the Project Team would like your feedback on the CAC process to determine if our approach, procedures, materials, etc. should be **sustained** or if they need to be **improved**. You were recently sent a survey with these topics and an opportunity to provide input and recommendations. Each factor received an average rating noted below from 1 (needs significant improvement) to 5 (excellent).

Five CAC Members completed the survey. Each answer was averaged below.

1. CAC Selection Process

CAC Recruitment
4.4

Explanation of Roles
4.4

2. Communication with the Project Team

Availability
4.8

Surveys/SNA
4.4

Responsiveness
4.8

3. Community Office

Hours of Operation
4.8

Services Provided
4.6

Location
5.0

"I just wish more community connectivity was available but due to the COVID-19 there has been limited involvement."

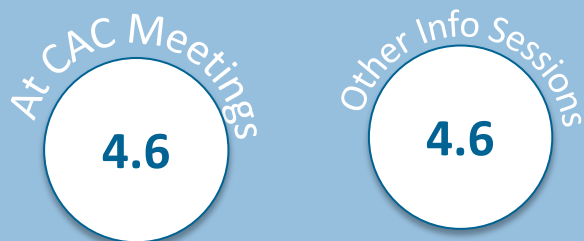
CAC Best Practices Review Survey

“This project generated a wealth of material; the content was massive. Yes, the presentation of all of the material was necessary to understand the project and to get valuable input from the CAC members. Nevertheless, many times it was just too much content to digest in the given time frame.”

4. CAC Meetings



5. Speakers & Subject Matter Experts



“For the most part, the regular (CAC Mtg) speakers/presenters for the project provided clear, concise information. Yet on other occasions, speakers/presenters lacked "owning the room" in their presentation. The information was new, critical, fragile; therefore it should have been handled differently so that all participants/the audience leave the session well equipped to share the information.”

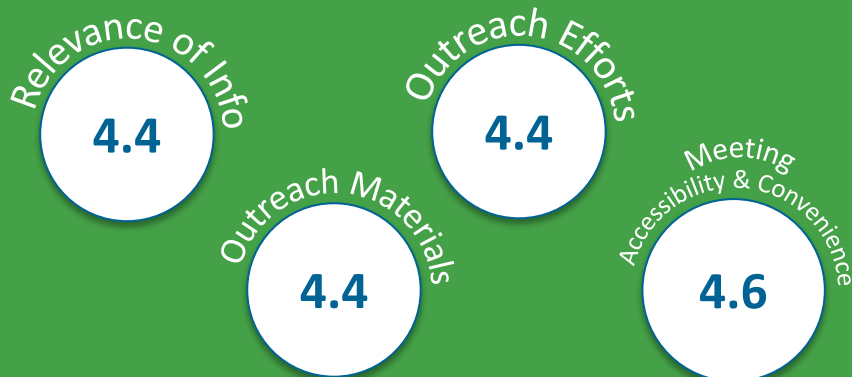
“Great job in this area...”

6. Adjustments Due to COVID-19 Pandemic



CAC Best Practices Review Survey

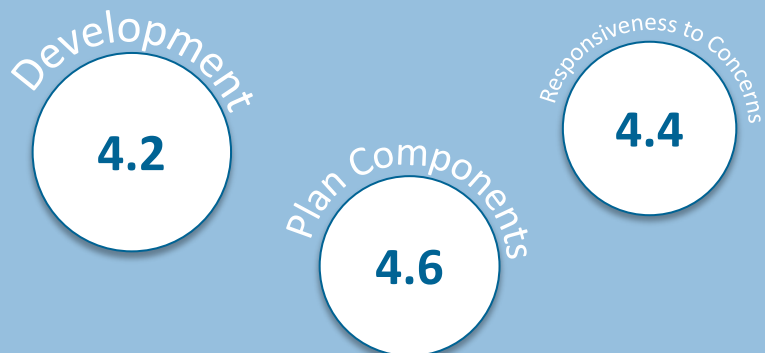
7. Community Outreach & Engagement



“Yes, outreach tools such as, surveys, signs, canvassing, etc. , etc. were used but the ‘return percentage’ was not as strong as I would like to have seen for the area being represented.”

“There were opportunities for CAC members' input and participation; still I say, there was a massive amount of content to digest.”

8. EJ Community Mitigation Plan



9. CAC Transition Process



10. Overall Comments

- The team members are very knowledgeable, respectful and professional. It is always a pleasure working with them.
- I think overall you have done an excellent job. These areas are hard to work.

Additional Thoughts:

Outreach Update

The I-526 LCC WEST project team's FREE information sessions will continue through December. CAC members and residents of the impacted EJ neighborhoods are invited to attend in-person or virtually. Attending the sessions should emphasize the role of the Community Office as a support tool for the impacted residents and increase the traffic (phone calls and visits) to the Community Office. Sessions are offered at 12pm and 6pm on each date listed.

Now with
a Virtual
Option!

The following sessions have occurred:

Let's Talk about Public Safety! on August 23rd with **13 attendees**

Let's Put Your Financial House in Order! on September 27th with **9 attendees**

Space at the Community Office is limited to six (6) persons per session.

To join a session **virtually**, visit: <https://zoom.us/join>; Enter the meeting ID: 424 982 0429 and click "Join." If prompted, enter the meeting passcode: **1234567**

3. White Coat Fright (Are you afraid to visit a doctor)? | *Dr. Thaddeus Bell, Closing the Gap in Healthcare*

Many people are reluctant to seek medical care, even when routine, out of the fear that they will be told something is wrong. Checkups help to reduce the risks associated with potential health ailments. Dr. Thaddeus J. Bell is a local primary care physician with an office in North Charleston. Scheduled to occur on **Monday, October 25, 2021.**

4. What's the Difference in Trusts Versus Wills? | *Attorney Arthur McFarland*

This information session was recommended by a CAC Member for residents of the impacted EJ neighborhoods. A living trust is a document to name beneficiaries for your property. The main feature of a living trust is that it appoints a trustee to manage and distribute trust property after your death, and this takes the place of the executor working with the probate court. A will is a relatively simple document in which you state what should happen to your property after you die. Arthur McFarland practices law in Charleston and attended the University of Virginia School of Law. He has been licensed for 47 years and handles cases in Probate, Business, Civil Rights, Personal Injury and Real Estate. Scheduled to occur on **Monday, November 8, 2021.**

5. What is PTSD (Personal Traumatic Stress Disorder)? | *Annette "Toni" Doyle, Charleston, Dorchester Mental Health Center (CDMHC)*

PTSD is a mental health condition that is triggered by experiencing a traumatic event. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unrest in our work and personal lives. CDMHC is a healthcare organization committed to providing mental health services to the residents of Charleston and Dorchester Counties. Annette "Toni" Doyle, community outreach specialist, will present tips on handling stress during difficult times. Scheduled to occur on **Monday, December 6, 2021.**

Help spread the word about these FREE sessions and share flyers with your neighbors.

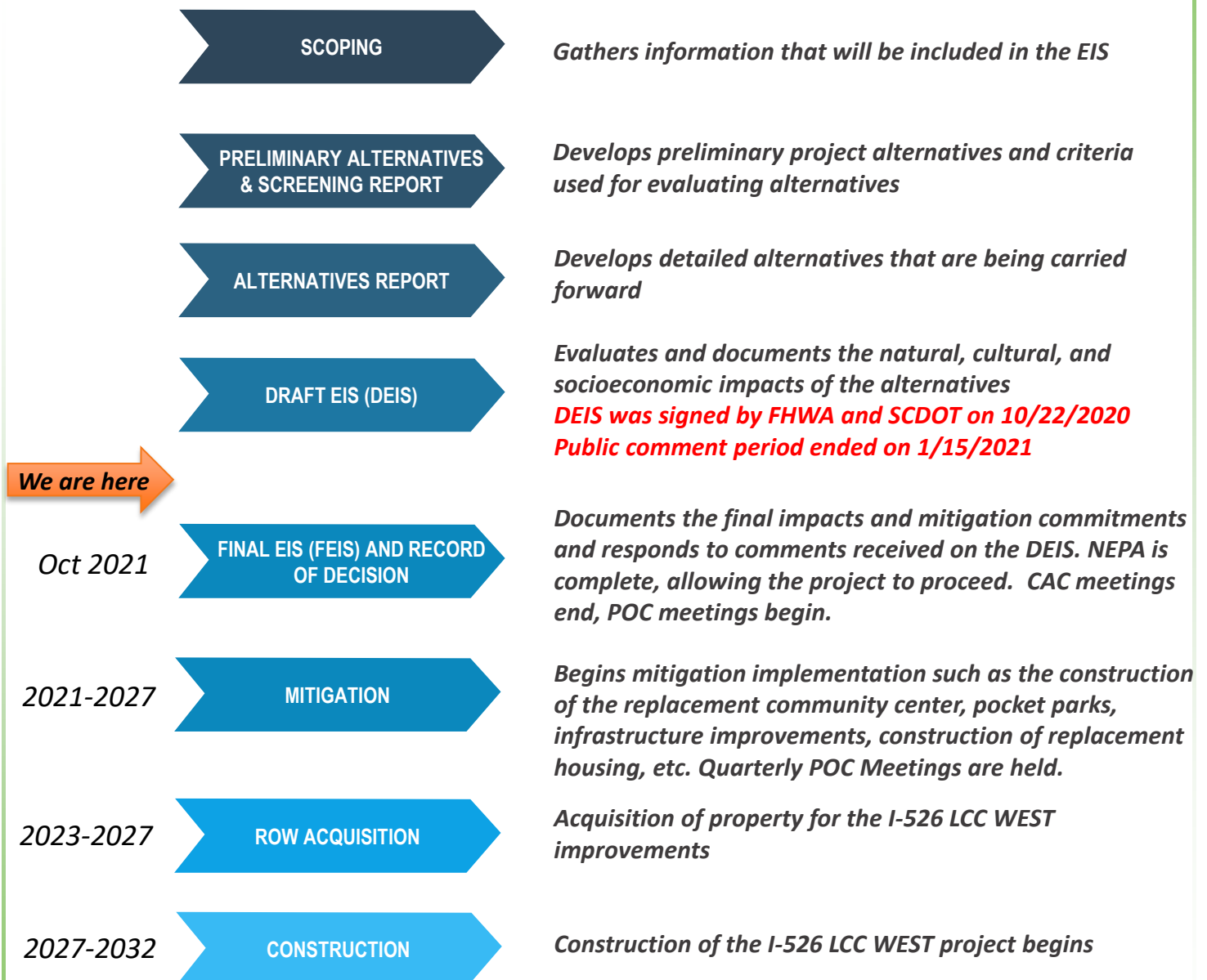
Call the office if you would like flyers or yard signs!

Project Schedule / Milestone Review

Community Office Stats

(August 14– October 1, 2021)

- Visitors: 74
- Incoming Calls: 45
- Voicemails: 5
- ROW Appointments: 4
- Outgoing Calls: 160



Summary and Next Steps

- Action Items
- CAC Meeting #20 – TBD