



Appendix U - Part 2

Public Involvement

U.2 Community Advisory Council Meetings

Appendix U.2

Community Advisory Council Meetings



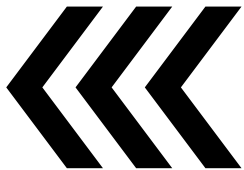
LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR

*Community Advisory Council
Meeting No. 1
9.30.2019*

Logistics



Food



Exits



Restrooms



Welcome and Introductions

- Advisory Council Members
- SC Department of Transportation
- Federal Highway Administration
- Stantec



Meeting Facilitator – Dr. Jamelle H. Ellis



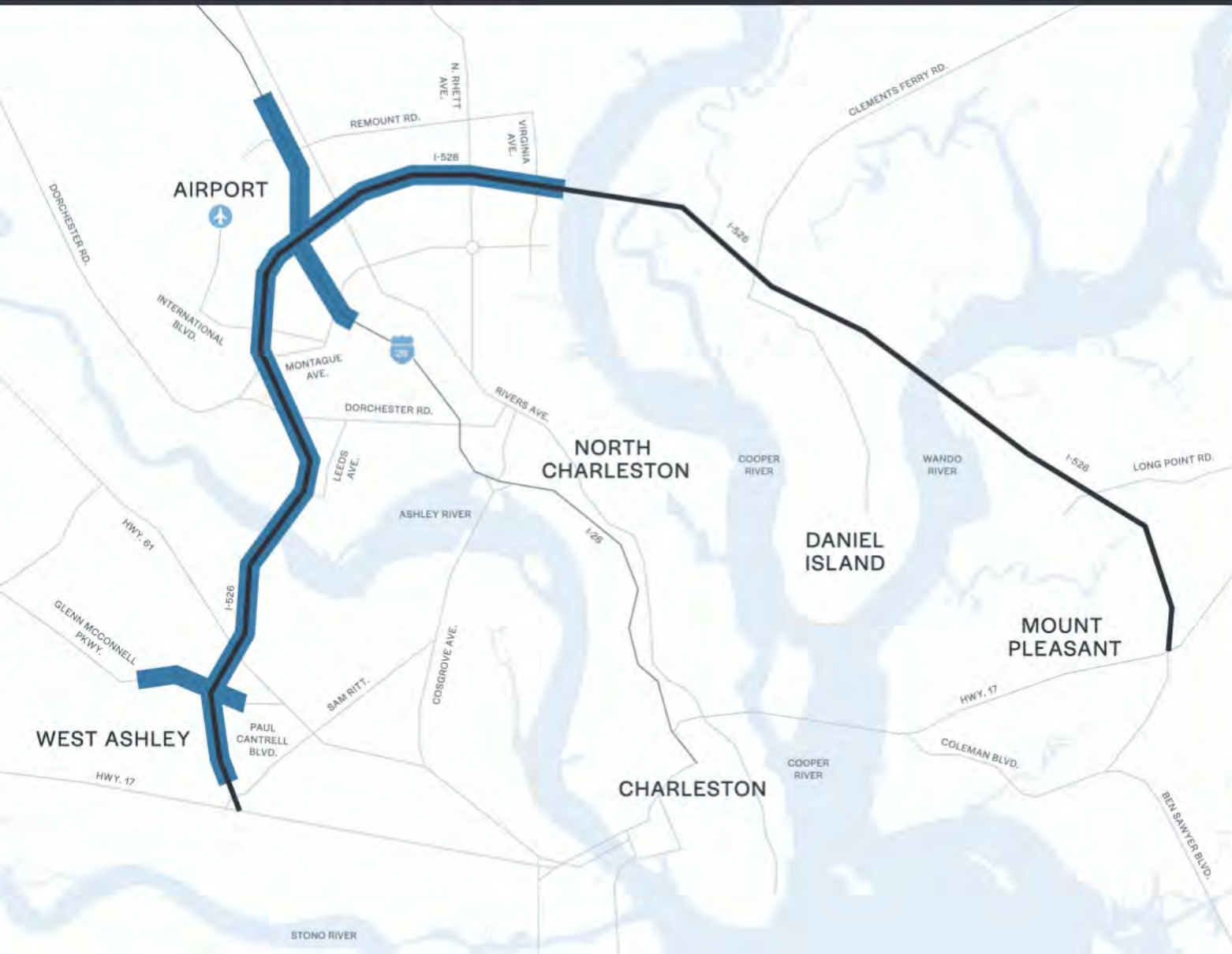
- President and Managing Director of Empowerment Strategies, LLC
- Master of Science in *Environmental Engineering* from Clemson University
- Ph.D. in *Environmental Health Sciences* from the University of South Carolina
- Teaches at the University of North Carolina
- Native of Charleston, SC
- Currently married with three children and living in Columbia, SC

Agenda

- Project overview and schedule
- What is Environmental Justice?
- Why create a Community Advisory Council?
- Group Activity: Developing the CAC Vision Statement
- Framework for Future Meetings
- Summary and Next Steps



Project Overview and Schedule



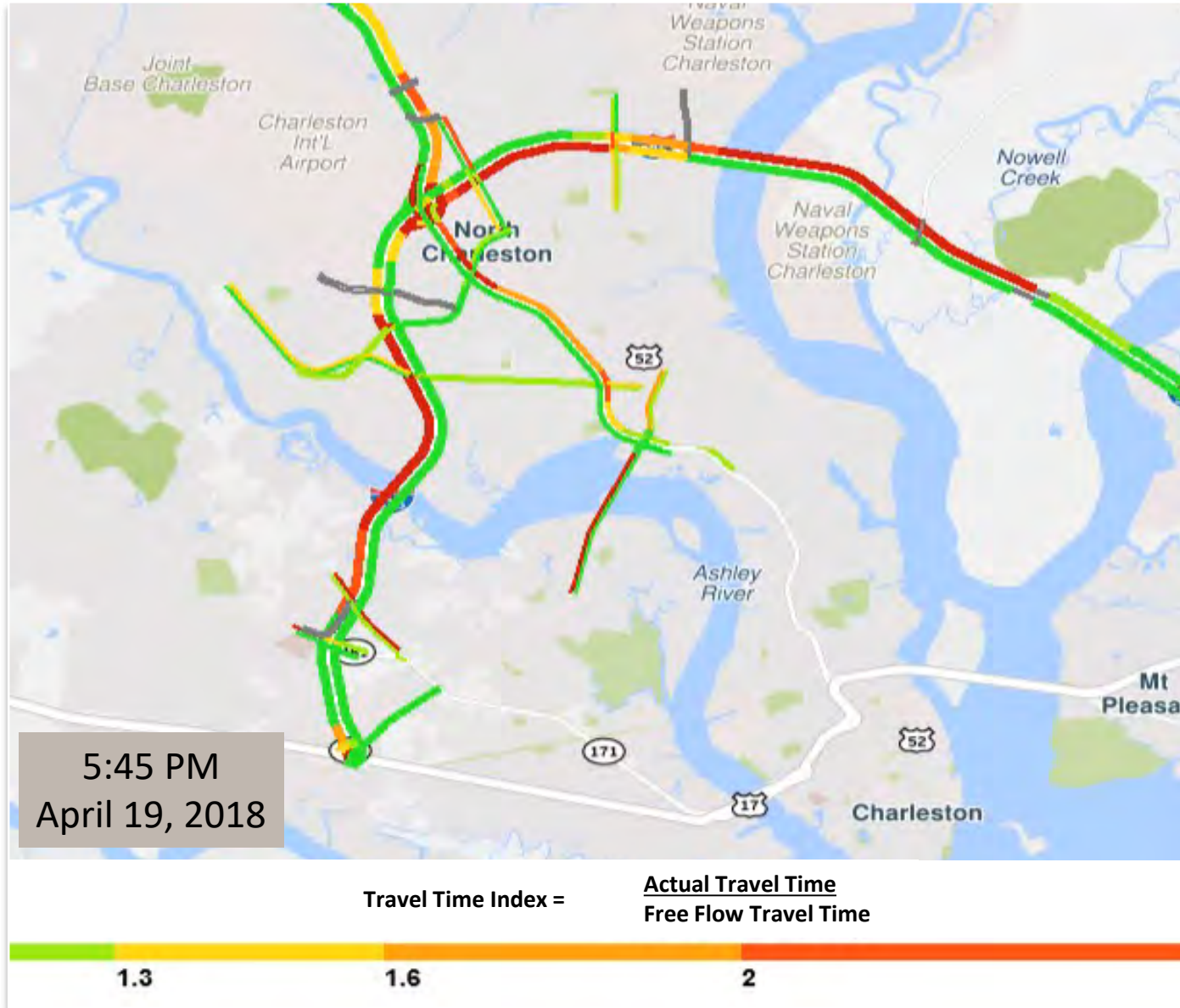
I-526 Lowcountry Corridor **WEST**

Project Termini

**Virginia Avenue
North Charleston**



**Paul Cantrell Boulevard
West Ashley**



Project Need

- I-526 is one of SC's most congested freeways

Project Purpose

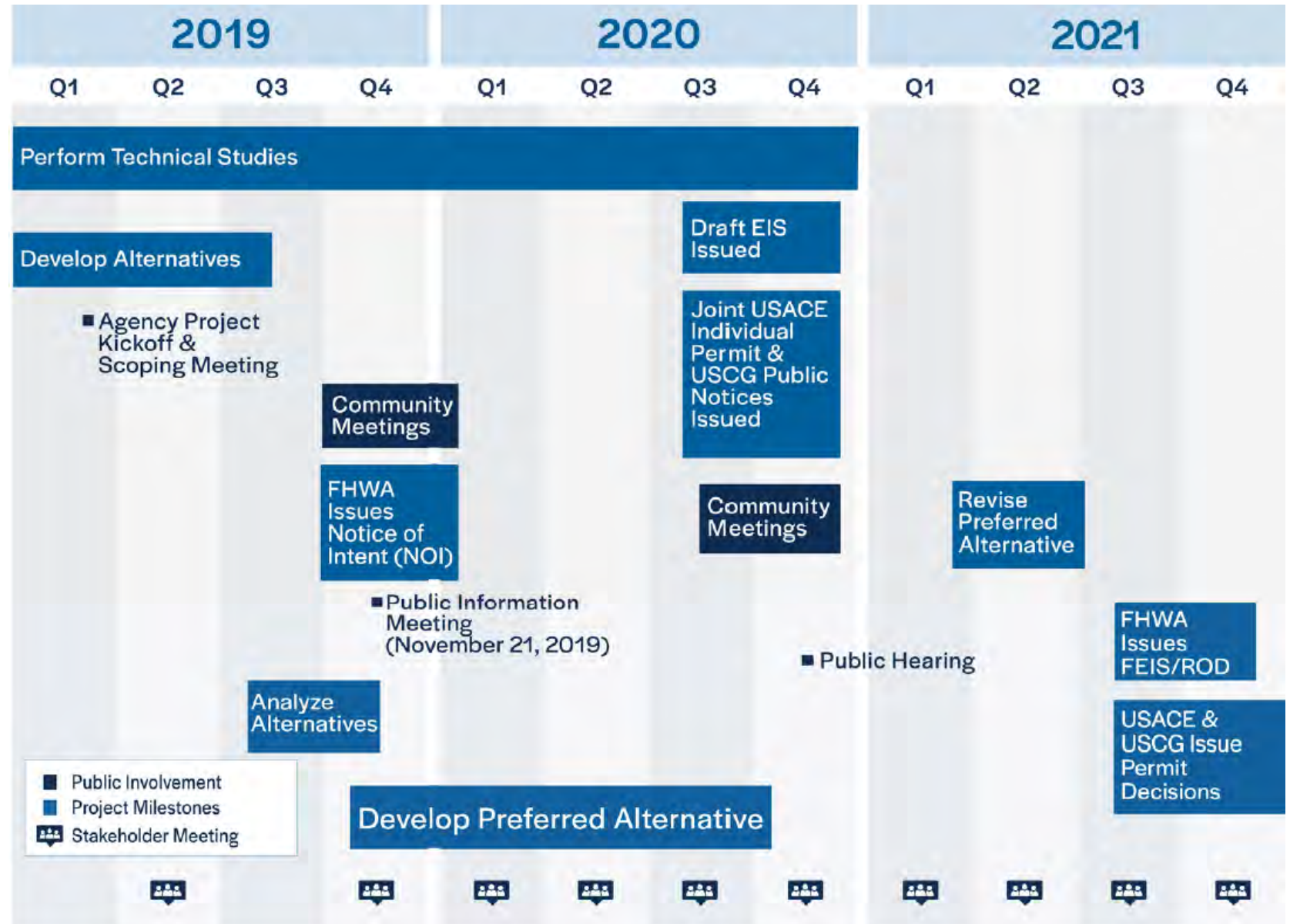
- Improve System-to-System Interchange Operations
- Improve I-526 Mainline Operations
- Improve System Capacity

Project schedule

Highlights

- Final environmental document: Fall 2021
- Right-of-way acquisition: 2020**
- Construction: 2023

** *Start of early acquisition*





What is Environmental Justice?

What is Environmental Justice?

Executive Order 12898:
Federal Actions to Address
Environmental Justice in
Minority Populations and
Low-Income Populations

- The **fair treatment** and **meaningful involvement** of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income

FHWA Order 6640.23A:
FHWA Actions to Address
Environmental Justice in
Minority Populations and
Low-Income Population

- Clarifies that disproportionately high and adverse effects **have a greater impact** on minority and low-income populations

Title VI of the
1964 Civil Rights Act

- Bars intentional discrimination as well as **inadvertent impact discrimination**

Environmental Justice Principles

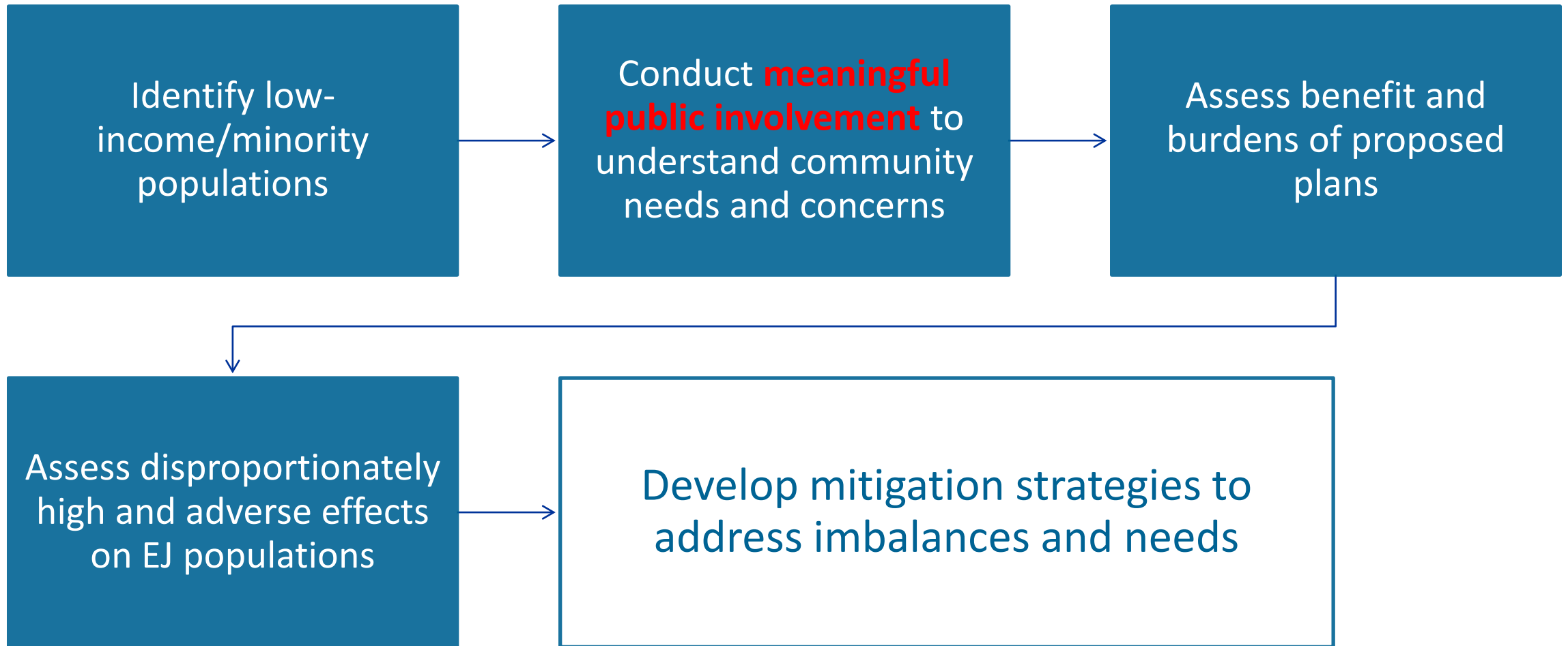


To **avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects**, including social and economic effects, on minority populations and low-income populations.

To **ensure the full and fair participation** by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process.

To **prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits** by minority populations and low-income populations.

USDOT Environmental Justice Process



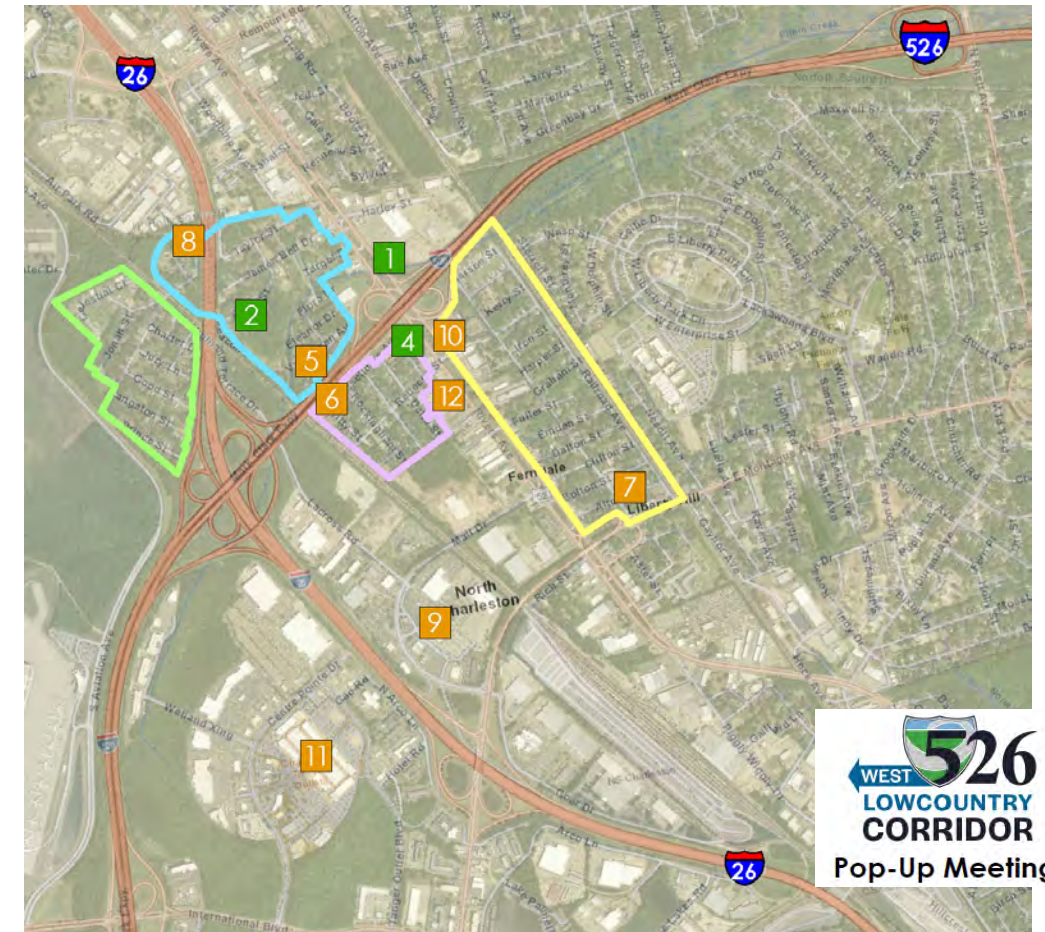
Outreach 2019-2020



- Community Drop-In's
- Pop-up informational booths
- Public Information Meeting
- Festivals
- Project information boxes
- Doorhangers
- Postcards
- Newsletters
- Website
- Community Advisory Council

Outreach 2019

- Community Drop-In's
 - Biblical House of God – 11/9
 - Ferndale Community Center – 11/13
 - Life Changers Covenant Ministries – 11/14
 - Danny Jones Recreation Center – 11/18
 - Citadel Mall – 11/19
- Public Information Meeting
 - Charleston Area Convention Center – 11/21
- Pop-up Meetings
 - Various locations throughout the fall



Outreach 2019: Community Advisory Council

“A collection of individuals who bring **unique knowledge** and **skills** which augment the knowledge and skills of the formal project team in order to more **effectively guide** the organization.”



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process

Wildlife

Endangered Species Act of 1973; Marine Mammal Protection Act; Anadromous Fish Conservation Act; Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act; Migratory Bird Treaty Act; Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976, as amended, with Essential Fish Habitat requirements at 16 U.S.C. § 1855(b)(2)

Historic and Cultural Resources

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; 23 U.S.C. § 138 and Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966; Preservation of Historical and Archaeological Data; Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979; Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)

Air Quality

Clean Air Act, with the exception of project level conformity determinations

Hazardous Material Management

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA); Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA); Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)

Parklands and Other Special Land Uses

Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966; Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act

Social and Economic Impacts

Environmental Justice, community impacts, indirect and cumulative effects

Water Resources and Wetlands

Clean Water Act; Coastal Barrier Resources Act; Coastal Zone Management Act; Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA); Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899; Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; Emergency Wetlands Resources Act; Wetlands Mitigation; Flood Disaster Protection Act; FHWA wetland and natural habitat mitigation regulations

Noise

Noise Control Act of 1972; FHWA noise regulations at 23 C.F.R. Part 772; Airport Noise and Capacity Act of 1990

Informational Materials

- Meeting Information
- Guiding Principles
- Project Background
- Project Development Process
- Educational Materials
- Glossary
- Contacts



BREAK TIME





Why create a Community Advisory Council?

Why develop a Community Advisory Council?

- Provide a way for you to voice **your opinions, feelings, and ideas**
- **Help shape this project** and create a positive, local impact
- Provide **input on actions to minimize and mitigate** impacts
- Build **relationships**
- Convey **ownership**
- **Meaningful** engagement

“Cities have the capability of providing something for everyone, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody.”

- Jane Jacobs

Desired Outcomes of the Community Advisory Council

- Provide forum for **open communication** between the project team and the community
- **Early collaboration** to frame expectations and identify solutions
- Help SCDOT understand the community **history, needs, concerns, and priorities**
- Help SCDOT gain a **better understanding of the project impacts** on the community
- Help **shape the community mitigation** package



Responsibility of the Community Advisory Council



I-526 LCC WEST EJ Mitigation Strategy: Overarching Goal

- *Effectively mitigate direct, indirect, and cumulative (/recurring) impacts on EJ communities by **establishing relationships, building trust, and gathering feedback that will inform decisions** on mitigative measures and other aspects of project development.*



Case Study: Newtown Pike Extension Project, Lexington KY





Group Activity: Developing the CAC Vision

Draft Vision Statement Activity

- Think about:
 - Your life experiences: How has the existing highway affected you? How will the proposed project affect you?
 - What brought you here today: What are your values and what motivated you to participate in the Advisory Council?
 - **What you would like to see from this process?**

Our Cause
Who? What? Where?

Our Actions
What we do

Our Impact
Changes for the better

- Write down your thoughts to share

Example Vision Statements *(word count in parenthesis)*

Human Rights Campaign: *Equality for everyone* (3)

The Nature Conservancy: *To leave a sustainable world for future generations.* (8)

Oceana: *seeks to make our oceans as rich, healthy and abundant as they once were.* (14)

Save the Children: *A world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development, and participation.* (15)

Clinton Foundation: *To implement sustainable programs that improve access worldwide to investment, opportunity, and lifesaving services now and for future generations.* (19)

Goodwill: *Every person has the opportunity to achieve his/her fullest potential and participate in and contribute to all aspects of life.* (21)

Kiva: *We envision a world where all people – even in the most remote areas of the globe – hold the power to create opportunity for themselves and others.* (26)

Amnesty International: *A world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments.* (26)

Special Olympics: *To transform communities by inspiring people throughout the world to open their minds, accept and include people with intellectual disabilities and thereby anyone who is perceived as different.* (28)

VFW: *Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.* (32)

Draft Vision Statement Activity cont.

- Some possible themes:



Other themes to consider:

- Focus on informed and involved community
- Safe and accessible neighborhoods
- Cultural diversity and inclusiveness
- Social responsibility
- Change, innovation and new ideas
- Respect for heritage
- Effective communication



Framework for Future Meetings

Framework for Meetings Nos. 3-6

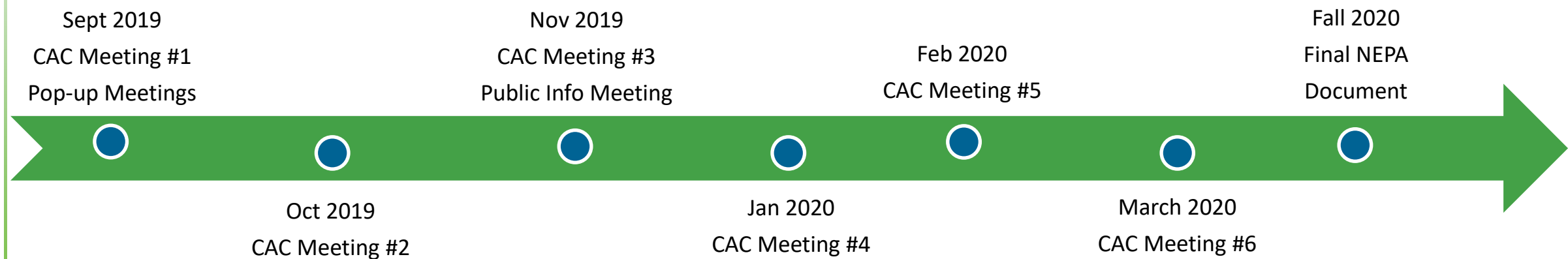
#3 (Early November 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public meeting maps and materials• Enlist CAC member support in advertising community drop-in's and PIM• Confirm project team understanding of community issues and priorities• Gather CAC member thoughts/suggestions for mitigation measures• Discuss CAC transition into a 'project oversight committee' after planning
#4 (January 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present high-level draft mitigation concepts developed in consideration of community issues/priorities• Educational piece on community land trusts• Gather input on high-level mitigation concepts
#5 (February 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide update on mitigation concept development• Additional items to be developed in consideration of previous meetings
#6 (March 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present draft Mitigation Plan framework and other draft technical information for CAC review• Initiate discussion on how CAC can transition into a 'project oversight committee' to oversee implantation of EJ Mitigation Plan• Revisit the CAC Vision Statement for implementation oversight phase• Additional items to be developed in consideration of previous meetings



Next Steps

Next Steps: Topics for Next Month

- Finalize Vision Statement
- Community issues and priorities
- Community Drop-In's
- Public Information Meeting
- Set definitive schedule for next 4 meetings
- Start conversation on community oversight during implementation phase



Contact Information



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Ryan White | NEPA/Public Engagement Specialist
Ryan.White@Stantec.com



LaTonya Derrick | NEPA/Public Engagement Specialist
LaTonya.Derrick@Stantec.com



Thank you for your involvement!

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 1

Date: September 30, 2019

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:35 pm

Location: Harvest Pointe Church, 4870 Piedmont Avenue, North Charleston, SC

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees

Henry Jones, SCDOT
Barbara Beagles, SCDOT
Yolonda Jordan, FHWA
Joy Riley, SCDOT
Chad Long, SCDOT
Ryan White, Stantec
Jamelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies, LLC
Amy Sackaroff, Stantec
DeAndre Muhammad, Muhammad Mosque
Carolyn Varner, Liberty Park
Charlyne Smith, Ferndale
Amy Gregory, Ferndale

Earl Muhammad, Muhammad Mosque
Prayonda Cooper, Joppa Way
Gilbert Reeves, Ferndale
Tony Grasso, Russelldale
Larenda Baxley, Ferndale
David Johnson, Ferndale
Saint Julian Corey VanHannegeyn IV
Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale
Ruthie Mae Whitney, Highland Terrace
Michael S. Halls, Sr., Ferndale
LaTonya Derrick, Stantec
Pamela Foster, FHWA

Meeting Summary:

Jamelle Ellis (Facilitator) began the meeting by having meeting participants introduce themselves. There was a total of 24 participants, 14 of which were Community Advisory Council (CAC) members representing affected residential communities. The importance of transparency and active engagement were emphasized to meeting participants in order to optimize the experience and outcomes of the CAC and mitigation process.

Joy Riley (SCDOT Program Manager) provided a project overview and schedule for the I-526 Lowcountry Corridor West project, providing a map of the geographical footprint of the project, its purpose (increase capacity and improve operations), schedule (thru construction in 2025), outreach components (2019-2020), and the regulatory impetus for project development.

Amy Sackaroff (NEPA/Public Engagement Specialist) explained Environmental Justice, discussed the purpose of the CAC and the roles and responsibilities of its members, and reviewed the CAC handbook which was provided to each CAC member during the meeting. The Newtown Pike Extension (Lexington, KY) video was shown in order to demonstrate a similar project to the I-526 West project with successful outcomes.

Joy encouraged the CAC to share their thoughts, feelings, and experiences throughout the process. She stated that the project team is relying on the CAC to help advise them and better inform the process. The

CAC will help the project team answer questions of efficiency and effectiveness such as whether we are disseminating information in a way that is helpful to the community and whether messaging is constructed in a way that is relevant and practical to the community (do they understand/receive information being communicated?). She also stated that the CAC handbook is a living document and the project team's approach will be fluid in order to best meet the needs of the community. The approach will include some level of trial and error, so adjustments will be made if something is not currently working.

CAC Discussions/Comments:

CAC Member Suggestion: There was a concern about holding CAC meetings in the evenings for people with school-age children. The point was made that more people were not in attendance because it was a school night. Joy reassured the CAC member (and council) that the project team would take her feedback into consideration in scheduling future meetings. *[Update: the second CAC meeting is scheduled for a week night due to constraints related to staff and facility availability; however, this suggestion will remain in mind as future CAC meetings are scheduled.]*

CAC Member Concern: There are other community groups that are meeting regarding the I-526 West project. There is a lot of misinformation being distributed as a result of those meetings. For instance, the CAC member referenced rumors about planned efforts in their communities and the existence of physical plans of proposed changes to their communities. Contrary to rumors circulated in his community, he learned during the first CAC meeting that no definitive plans have been prepared. He asked how the CAC should manage rumors. Joy responded that she cannot control rumors, but she has an open-door policy for anyone who has questions. Her phone number is on most of the project flyers. She recommends people call and get their information from the source. She stressed that she takes an upfront, full-disclosure approach, so if someone calls and asks her a question, she is going to tell the truth. She encourages people to have an open mind and come out to listen to what SCDOT says – to hear and gather information and stressed working together to develop solutions.

CAC Member Question: Do you have door hangers with printed facts that we can take back to the community? Stantec responded that they could be produced before the next CAC meeting. The CAC Member indicated door hangers with Q&As would help with questions they have, so that after meetings they could take them back to the community to help answer questions and possibly offset the spread of misinformation. Joy: Door hangers will also be distributed 3 weeks in advance of the November 13th community meeting. *[Update: FAQs related to relocation/right-of-way acquisition will be distributed at CAC Meeting No. 3 in conjunction with an information session on the subject.]*

CAC Member Question: Will you also hold meetings in the areas that will be affected as well? That will allow the residents who are actually going to be affected to come out to hear what we're hearing and give their input based on how they feel regarding how the improvements project is affecting them. Joy indicated that if community members want the project team to present at homeowners association meetings, they will accommodate those requests. Currently, there are meetings scheduled at Biblical House of God (Russelldale). The meeting schedule is outlined in the CAC handbook. The primary, all-day Public Information Meeting is scheduled for November 21st at the Convention Center. If there are additional meetings that need to be scheduled, the project team welcomes those opportunities. The team looked at having a meeting at the Highland Terrace Liberty Park Community Center, but it wasn't

large enough to accommodate the anticipated number of participants. It is important to note that these are advertised meetings so people who live in other communities may also attend.

Jamelle facilitated a brainstorming session to develop a list of rules of engagement to help govern the CAC process for the life of the project. The CAC developed the following list.

Rules of Engagement:

1. Respect others' opinions
2. Address one community at a time
3. Determine how much of each community will be affected
4. Consistent attendance and participation
5. Respect meeting time and agenda
6. Ask questions/active participation
7. Listen with an open mind
8. Silence cell phones
9. Remain solution-oriented and stay on topic
10. Agree to disagree
11. Agree to table topics that need additional research
12. Respect privileged information and maintain confidentiality
13. Give time for community leaders to discuss concerns shared by community members
14. Attack the issues, not the person
15. Engage with the SCDOT team in an honest way to best facilitate the process
16. Be mindful of meeting times (children, work, etc.)

Recommendation that #3 be removed from this list, and noted accordingly, but addressed as a part of strategic project discussions. A printed copy of the Rules of Engagement will be provided to all CAC members to include in their handbooks upon their approval.

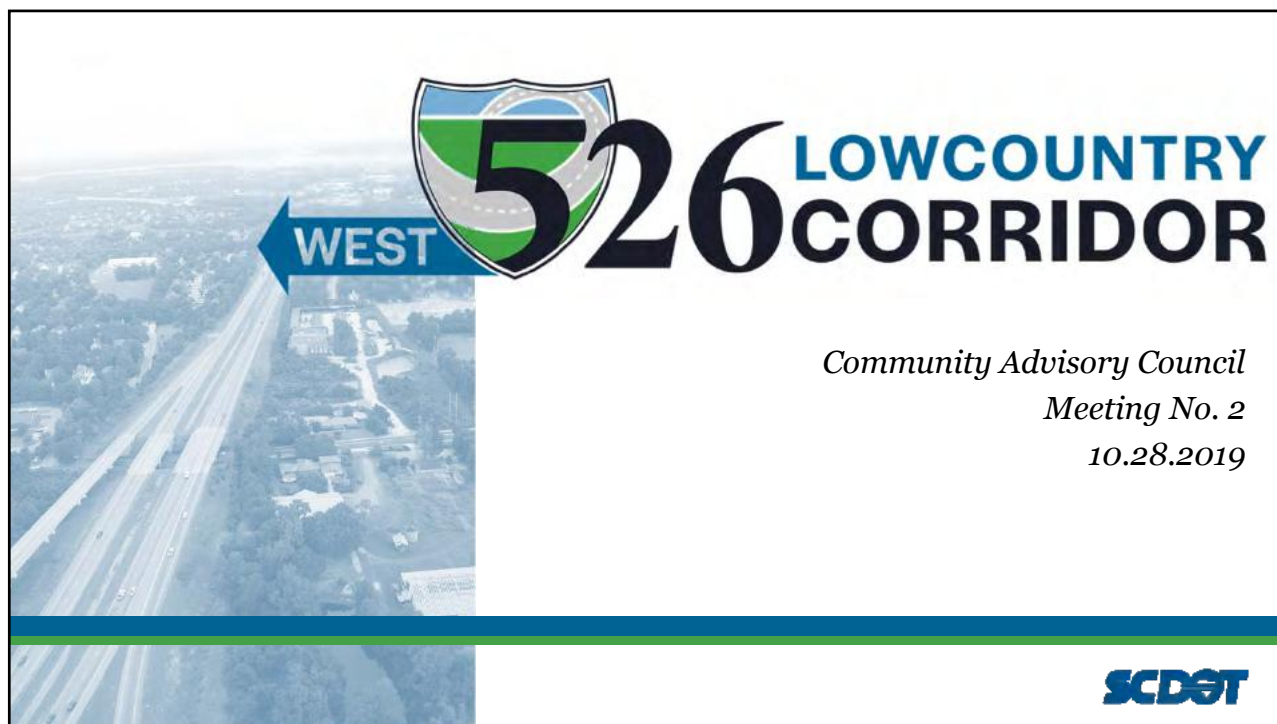
Upcoming meeting topics

- The CAC decided that weekday evenings are going to be a challenge for people who work, but if meetings are held on weekdays, we should maintain the 6-8 PM meeting time. Need to determine if Fridays are the most preferable weekday? Saturday mornings 10 AM-12 PM? Thursdays? Should an anonymous vote (ballot) be taken to determine the best day/time?
- Amy: There is an understanding that everyone will not be able to make every meeting, so for any meeting a CAC member misses there will be updates. CAC members will be kept informed. The project team will ensure that meeting times remain flexible in order to accommodate the majority of the CAC.
- Reviewing the Rules of Engagement. Once the CAC finalizes and approves, they will go into CAC binders.
- Next meeting will be the end of October or the beginning of November ahead of the community drop-in on November 21.
- The project team and CAC will review maps and public meeting materials.
- The CAC should familiarize themselves with meeting places and times.

- The project team should bring to the next meeting flyers and door hangers for CAC members to distribute
- The CAC should work to confirm community issues, needs, and priorities
- The CAC and project team will start the conversation about mitigation measures
- When necessary, the project team will bring subject matter experts who are able to answer technical questions regarding specific elements of the project
- Open mic segments of the meetings will allow CAC members to share what they are hearing from their neighbors. A specific amount of time (eg. 30 minutes) should be allotted during each meeting for open mic.
- Brief recap by Amy: The project team does a series of meetings ahead of the drop-in on November 21, 2019. The project team will come back and talk about what they learned. That will involve a few high-level mitigation concepts, reporting back to the CAC, the project team compiling and learning about complex housing regulations and guidelines, and getting the CAC feedback on those topics
- Anticipated that the February 2020 meeting will be spent fine-tuning mitigation concepts
- The March 2020 meeting will be spent reviewing a draft framework with detailed input from the CAC on potential modifications
- Vision statement activity will be conducted during the next meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Jamelle H. Ellis, Ph.D.
President/Managing Director
Empowerment Strategies, LLC



Welcome and Logistics



Food



Exits



Restrooms



Agenda

- Administrative Items
- Rules of Engagement
- Social Needs Survey
- Break/Dinner Served
- Community Drop-In Meeting Materials Preview/Discussion
- Looking Ahead
- Summary and Next Steps



Administrative Items

Administrative Items

■ For Distribution:

- CAC Meeting No. 2 Agenda
- Minutes from CAC Meeting No. 1
- Door hangers/project information flyers

■ Notes:

- Relocation/right-of-way acquisition information session and FAQ sheet
- Meeting scheduling

Administrative Items cont.

■ For Input:

- Best way to keep members informed if a meeting must be missed?
- Best hours for Community Office?
 - *Three days during the week from 10am to 6pm?*
 - *Two days during the week until 8pm?*
 - *One day on the weekend from 10am to 2pm?*

HOURS		
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TUES	<input type="text"/>	to <input type="text"/>
WED	<input type="text"/>	to <input type="text"/>
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Rules of Engagement

I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST

Rules of Engagement

- 1 Respect others' opinions.
- 2 Address one community at a time.
- 3 Determine how much of each community will be affected.
- 4 Consistent attendance and participation.
- 5 Respect meeting time and agenda.
- 6 Ask questions/active participation.
- 7 Listen with an open mind.
- 8 Silence cell phones.

I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST

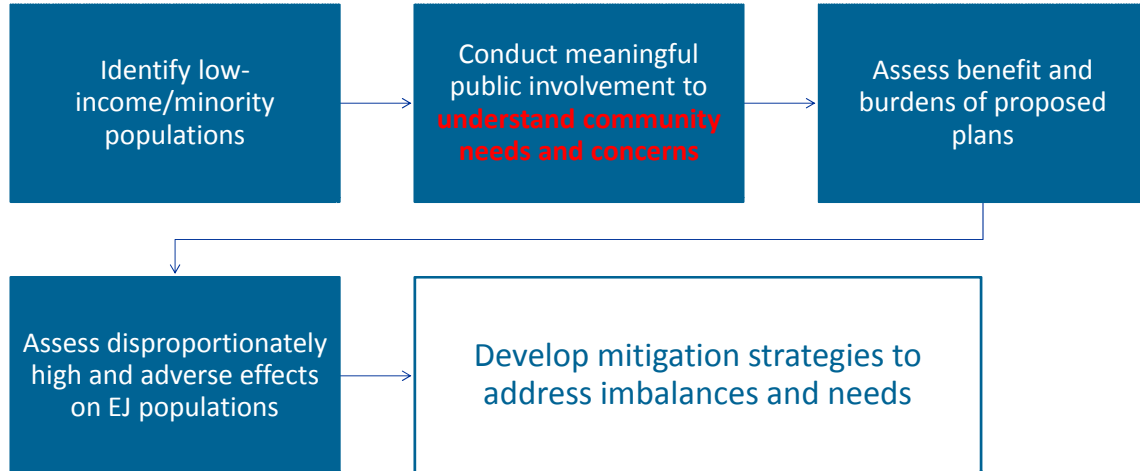
Rules of Engagement cont.

- **9** Remain solution-oriented and stay on topic.
- **10** Agree to disagree.
- **11** Agree to table topics that need additional research.
- **12** Respect privileged information and maintain confidentiality.
- **13** Give time for community leaders to discuss concerns shared by community members.
- **14** Attack the issues, not the person.
- **15** Engage with the SCDOT team in an honest way to best facilitate the process.
- **16** Be mindful of meeting times (children, work, etc.)



Social Needs Assessment

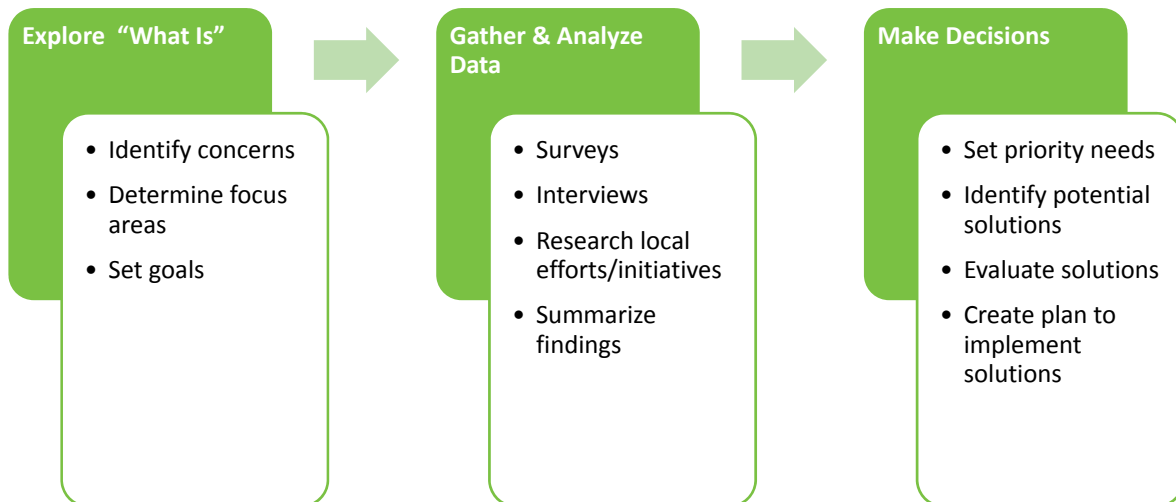
Review: Environmental Justice Process



Understanding Community Needs and Concerns

- Need: the gap between what is and what should be
- Social Needs Assessments help:
 - Identify health and wellness needs
 - Examine their nature and causes
 - Set priorities for future actions

Social Needs Assessment Process



Assessment Factors



We want your input!

- For each question, choose the number on your clicker that best represents your opinion
- Your answer is anonymous
- Two-part questions:
 - How important is the issue to you
 - How satisfied you are with current services



10 Minute Break



Virtual Public Meeting

I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST



Public Meeting Materials Preview

I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST

Community Drop-In's

Purpose

- Present project update
- Inform the communities about the Public Information Meeting
- Get community-specific feedback on impacts and concerns
- Provide opportunities to stay involved in the project

Topics

- Project schedule
- Updates on Public Involvement outreach efforts
- Project development process
- Project alternatives
- Maps with potential community impacts

Drop-In Dates to Note



Map Preview

- Overview
- Privileged information at this point
- Questions and feedback are welcomed!



Looking Ahead

Schedule

- Final environmental document: Fall 2021
- Right-of-way acquisition: 2020**
- Construction: 2023
- CAC transition to Oversight Implementation Committee

** Start of early acquisition



Summary and Next Steps

Summary and Next Steps

- CAC Meeting No. 2 Recap
- Date for CAC Meeting No. 3

November

2019

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
28 October	29	30	31	1 November	2/3
4	5	6	7	8	9/10 Community Drop-In Biblical House of God 2:00-4:00 pm
11	12	13 Community Drop-In Ferndale Community Center 5:00 – 8:00 pm	14 Community Drop-In Life Changers Covenant Ministries 5:00 – 8:00 pm	15	16/17
18 Community Drop-In Danny Jones Community Center 5:00 – 8:00 pm	19 Community Drop-In Citadel Mall 5:00 – 8:00 pm	20 CAC Meeting No. 3? 6:00 – 8:00 pm	21 Public Information Meeting 8:00 am – 4:00 pm	22	23/24
25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving	29	30 / 1 December
2	3	4	5	6	7/8

Contact Information



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Ryan White | NEPA/Public Engagement Specialist
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LaTonya.Derrick@Stantec.com



Thank you for your time!



MEETING MINUTES

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 2

Date: November 1, 2019

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:05 pm

Location: Harvest Pointe Church, 4870 Piedmont Avenue, North Charleston, SC

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees

Michael S. Halls, Sr., Ferndale
Gilbert Reeves, Ferndale
Larenda Baxley, Ferndale
David L. Johnson, Ferndale
Beverly “Amy” Gregory, Ferndale
Cameletia Robertson, Ferndale
Charlynn Smith, Ferndale
Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale
St. Julian Corey Van Hannegeyn IV, Deacon Hill
Ruthie Mae Whitney, Highland Terrace
Prayonda Cooper, Joppa Way
Juanita Porter, Joppa Way
Carolyn Varner, Liberty Park
Jeanaris Bannister, Liberty Park
Tony Grasso, Russelldale
Earl Muhammad, Muhammad Mosque
Annette McCrory, THC

Willie Johnson, THC
Jesse Williams
Joy Riley, SCDOT
David Kelly, SCDOT
Mark Westbury, SCDOT
Fran Bickley, SCDOT
Angela Page-Smith, SCDOT
Henry Jones, SCDOT
Pamela Foster, FHWA
Yolonda Jordan, FHWA
Jessica Hekler, FHWA
Rick Day, Stantec
Ryan White, Stantec
Amy Sackaroff, Stantec
LaTonya Derrick, Stantec
Jamelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies

Participant Summary

Total participants: 33

Ferndale: 9

Highland Terrace: 1

Liberty Park: 2

Joppa Way: 2

Russelldale participants: 1

Undesignated: 1 (Jesse Williams)

Deacon Hill: 1 (St. Julian Corey Van Hannegeyn IV)

Non-returning CAC participant(s) from Meeting 1: DeAndre Muhammad, Muhammad Mosque

First-time CAC participants: 2 (from THC)

SCDOT: 6

FHWA: 3

Stantec: 4

Facilitator: 1

Meeting Summary:

The meeting was started with participant introductions. Exits and emergency meeting locations were reviewed. Administrative issues were addressed (distribution of CAC Meeting 1 minutes, CAC Meeting 2 agenda and notebook materials, including door hangers and relocation/right-of-way acquisition flyers). The importance of transparency and active engagement was emphasized in order to optimize solutions and outcomes of the CAC and mitigation process.

Rules of Engagement

Rules of Engagement (Rules) developed in CAC Meeting 1 were reviewed. The CAC was reminded that the Rules will serve as ideals and guiding principles that the group will use to work together in a collaborative and productive manner. Bullet 3 (“Determine how much of each community will be affected”) from the original list was removed since it is considered tactical rather than a guiding in nature. There were no objections by the CAC to this modification. The remaining 15 Rules of Engagement were reviewed and approved by the CAC.

Final Rules of Engagement:

1. Respect others’ opinions
2. Address one community at a time
3. Consistent attendance and participation
4. Respect meeting time and agenda
5. Ask questions/active participation
6. Listen with an open mind
7. Silence cell phones
8. Remain solution-oriented and stay on topic
9. Agree to disagree
10. Agree to table topics that need additional research
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12. Give time for community leaders to discuss concerns shared by community members
13. Attack the issues, not the person
14. Engage with the SCDOT team in an honest way to best facilitate the process
15. Be mindful of meeting times (children, work, etc.)

There was a point of emphasis on Bullet 11, stressing that no photos should be taken of the maps scheduled to be reviewed later in the meeting.

The meeting resumed after a brief time to plate meals with a discussion of proper communication for missed meetings. The CAC decided that email is the preferred method of communication. For participants unable to attend a meeting, the project team will send an email with materials distributed during the meeting upon request. The project team will also contact CAC member(s) who are absent from meetings.

Community Office hours of operation were established by the CAC as follows:

Two weeknights (9 AM - 8PM)

Two weekends a month (10 AM – 2PM)

The project team will schedule meetings by appointment in addition to the set times. Community Office hours of operation may be modified at any time, with the approval of the CAC.

Social Needs Assessment

The Social Needs Assessment was explained and administered. The assessment is a survey to identify and prioritize community members' current needs and to understand how to best address them. For future discussions, the CAC was asked to consider their reasons for their responses and reminded that responses to questions will help inform local planning efforts. The survey included 25 two-part questions that focused on "how important is the issue to you?" and "how satisfied are you with the service?" During survey administration, no participants requested clarification or asked questions about the meaning of questions.

Comments/notes during the Social Needs Assessment administration:

- ☐ CAC members should keep in mind that they are representing not only themselves, but members of their communities.
- ☐ Social Needs Assessment questions should make the CAC think about the broader range of community issues and will serve as a springboard for discussions as the team develops the mitigation plan.
- ☐ The project team will review results of the Social Needs Assessment at CAC Meeting 3 to provide a platform for discussing current CAC views and perspectives on services and amenities available in target communities and the Council's vision for these communities through the mitigation process.
- ☐ When asked if there were any areas of concern omitted from the survey, CAC members provided the following feedback as concerns that should be included in future social needs discussions:
 - Limited through-way access
 - Neighborhood used as cut-throughs
 - Area/neighborhood crime
 - Lack of ample and consistent police presence

Virtual Public Information Meeting

The project team showed Virtual Public Information meeting video.

Comments/notes during the Virtual Public Information discussion:

- ☐ On back of the distributed Community Drop-In flyer, there is a list of 5 community drop-in dates and the public information meeting date and location.
- ☐ The video will be presented at each community drop-in and at the Public Information Meeting on November 21, 2019; However, it will also be available online in order to maximize the number of viewers.
- ☐ The video is still in the editing stage.

Community Drop-in meeting materials/discussion

Review of maps that will be presented at the community drop-ins and at the Public Information Meeting:

- ☐ The project team reiterated that no pictures or videos should be taken during map review. This is critical because the maps shown during Meeting 2 are still being developed and have not been finalized. It is important that incomplete and/or unauthorized documents not be released for public consumption to avoid confusion or transfer of incorrect information to the general public.
- ☐ Roll plots, various maps that depict the entire I-526 corridor and the proposed improvements as well as smaller neighborhood were reviewed by the CAC.
- ☐ SCDOT expert staff members were present to answer right-of-way and acquisition questions.
- ☐ More maps will be available in future meetings.

- ☐ CAC members were encouraged to ask questions regarding the presented maps.
- ☐ CAC Comments/Suggested revision to maps:
 - Sign by each station/map identifying the location
 - Label more streets
 - Explained to CAC Member that the smaller maps will highlight the local streets better
 - Minimizes busyness of the larger maps
 - Identify on the impacted parcel what is being “lost”
 - Mobile home
 - Vacant parcel
 - Single-family or multi-family dwelling
 - Business/Commercial Lot
 - Include if the parcel is in a flood zone
 - CAC Member asked if something could be added to identify the travel direction on roadway.
 - Like a caret (^) or less-than/greater-than symbol (< >) on top of the new roadway, particularly at the system-to-system interchange

The project team reviewed Community drop-in dates and locations (November 9, 13, 14, 18, 19) and stressed the significance of these meetings as valuable opportunities for community input and feedback. Each community drop-in will be held for a three-hour period.

CAC members were encouraged to visit the Community Project Office and to invite neighbors to visit to view the maps and video.

Planning to Implementation

The project team discussed the duration of the CAC and mitigation process and the importance of CAC commitment. In addition to community and public meetings, there are a number of studies and technical reports (community impacts, environmental impacts, etc.) the project team will develop and release for public comments. These documents are public records and legal documents that must receive approval at various levels. The CAC will partner with the project team throughout the mitigation process as follows (overview):

- ☐ The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS summarizes all of the impacts.
- ☐ The final environmental document is a Record of Decision that will be developed once alternatives have been agreed upon.
- ☐ Right of way acquisition in 2020. Early acquisition in 2020 will be key. The CAC and project team will discuss early acquisition during relocation meeting discussions.
- ☐ The target for completion of document review and public comment periods is through Fall of 2021.
- ☐ Construction in 2023.

In order maintain the anticipated timeline, the project team and CAC must make significant progress early in the process. It will be critical to transition the CAC team to an oversight committee to ensure decisions made are actually implemented.

There will be a hiatus after completion of environmental documents and during the right of way acquisition, so meetings will be less frequent once construction begins. The intense work will be in the short term (early in the process), then meetings will become less frequent as the team transitions into the implementation phase (under the oversight committee formally the CAC).

The project team strives to ensure the CAC is representative of every community. This group will be comprised of homeowners and tenants of Russelldale, Liberty Park, Ferndale, and Highland Terrace. CAC members were encouraged to identify other residents, particularly from Russelldale to join and participate in the CAC.

Summary and Next Steps

Next steps:

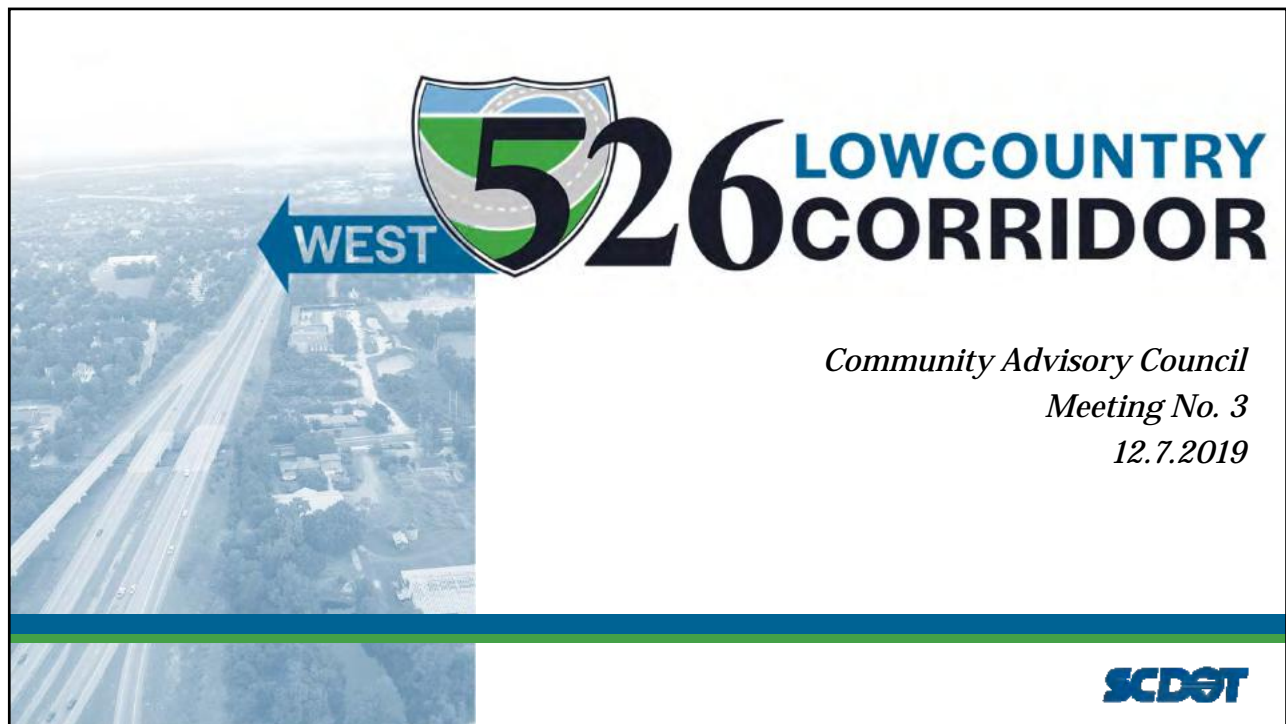
- Public Comment period last until January 4, 2020
- Next meeting scheduled for Saturday, December 7, 2019, 10 AM-12 PM (following the November community drop-ins and the Public Information Meeting on November 21)
- At the Public Information Meeting comments may be submitted as written comments or audio-recordings. Comments may also be submitted online or mailed-in.

Upcoming meeting topics (CAC Meeting 3, December 7):

- Social Needs Assessment summary and discussion at the next meeting
- Vision Statement Activity
- Discussion about the appropriate size of the CAC
- Information and FAQ session on Right of Way and Relocation

Respectfully submitted,

Jamelle H. Ellis, Ph.D.
President/Managing Director
Empowerment Strategies, LLC



Welcome and Introductions

- Advisory Council Members
- SC Department of Transportation
- Federal Highway Administration
- Stantec



Logistics



Food

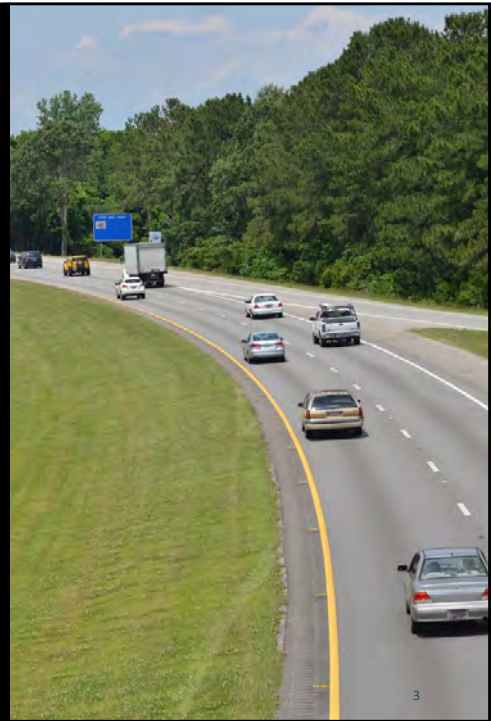


Exits



Restrooms

I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST



Agenda

- Administrative Items
- Revisit/Finalize Rules of Engagement
- Recap of November Public Outreach Efforts
- Social Needs Assessment Survey – Results/Discussion
- Break
- Right-of-Way/Relocation Information Session
- ‘Open Mic’ Session
- Summary and Next Steps

I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST

4



Administrative Items

I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST

Administrative Items

- For Distribution:
 - CAC Meeting No. 3 Agenda
 - Minutes from CAC Meeting No. 2
 - Comment cards for Open Mic/other
 - Community Office Flyers
 - Relocation/right-of-way acquisition information session and FAQ sheet

I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST



Rules of Engagement

I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST

Rules of Engagement

- 1 Respect others' opinions.
- 2 Address one community at a time.
- 3 Determine how much of each community will be affected.
- 4 Consistent attendance and participation.
- 5 Respect meeting time and agenda.
- 6 Ask questions/active participation.
- 7 Listen with an open mind.
- 8 Silence cell phones.

I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST

Rules of Engagement cont.

- 9 Remain solution-oriented and stay on topic.
- 10 Agree to disagree.
- 11 Agree to table topics that need additional research.
- 12 Respect privileged information and maintain confidentiality.
- 13 Give time for community leaders to discuss concerns shared by community members.
- 14 Attack the issues, not the person.
- 15 Engage with the SCDOT team in an honest way to best facilitate the process.
- 16 Be mindful of meeting times (children, work, etc.)

How to address
requests to
join the CAC
or attend
meetings?



Recap of November Public Outreach Efforts

November 2019: Public Outreach Results

- 11/9/19 Biblical House of God (45, 7)
- 11/13/19 Ferndale Community Center (36, 5)
- 11/14/19 Life Changers (30, 8)
- 11/18/19 Danny Jones (53, 11)
- 11/19/19 Citadel Mall (24, 0)
- 11/21/19 Public Information Meeting (223, 29)

(Total attendance, # written comments)



Social Needs Assessment

Understanding Community Needs and Concerns

- Need: the gap between what is and what should be
- Social Needs Assessments help:
 - Identify health and wellness needs
 - Examine their nature and causes
 - Set priorities for future actions

Preliminary Results

- CAC (16)
- Drop-In's (25)
- Combined (31)
- Surveys still being collected from Community Office visitors

	CAC	Drop-Ins	Combined
Grocery Stores (13)	16	10	13
Affordable Day Care (24)	24	24	24
Quality of Day Care (21)	21	16	21
Quality of Teaching (7)	13	2	7
Safety of Schools (10)	10	6	10
Available Medical Services (16)	19	13	17
Well-Lit Streets (6)	8	3	8
Emergency Services Response Time (23)	20	23	23
Garbage Collection (25)	25	25	25
Parks & Rec Facilities (18)	18	21	18
Employment Opportunities (19)	17	22	19
Adequate Public Transportation Facilities (14)	9	18	14
Available Supervised After-School Activities (12)	7	20	12
Available Youth Employment Opportunities (11)	14	11	11
Stormwater Management (1)	1	5	1
City Response to Public Service Requests (15)	11	17	15
Available Affordable Housing (4)	2	8	4
Available Quality Housing (3)	3	7	3
Adequate Sidewalks/Bicycle Facilities (2)	6	1	2
Appearance of Neighbors' Homes (9)	12	4	9
Opportunities for Small Businesses (20)	22	15	20
Ability to Open Small Business (22)	23	14	22
Available Agencies for Senior Services (5)	4	9	5
Available Agencies for Youth Services (8)	5	12	6
Available Employment-Assistance Services (17)	15	19	16



10 Minute Break

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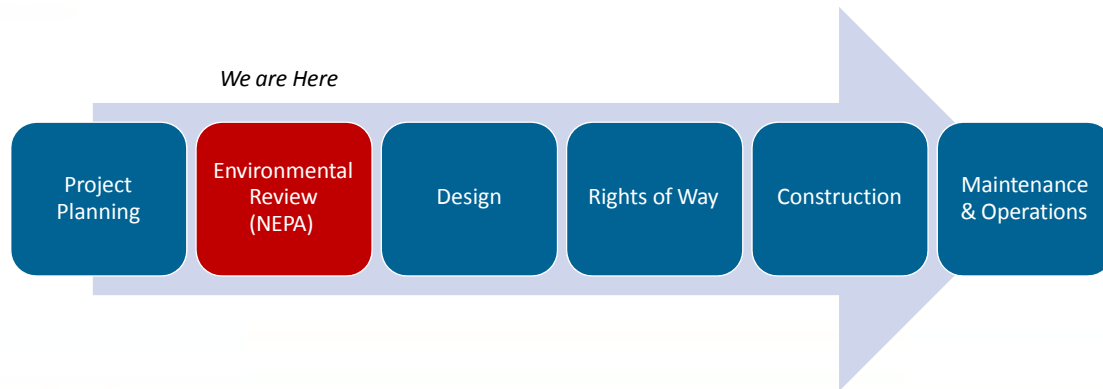


Right-of-Way/Relocation Information Session

I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST



Major Stages/Phases of Project Development



Preliminary ROW Impact Analysis Identification of Project ROW Challenges

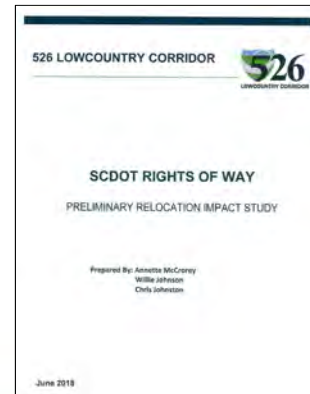
Replacement Housing Inventory
Affordable Housing for Tenants
Vacant Lots in Communities
Relocation Options in Community
Community Impacts





Preliminary ROW Relocation Impact Study

- ✓ Identified scale of potential ROW impacts
- ✓ Types of housing impacted
- ✓ Investigated availability of replacement housing in the community
- ✓ Recommended strategies to mitigate for challenges & potential opportunities



Significant Right of Way Impacts



Right of Way RELOCATION IMPACTS	I-526 WEST Project TOTAL
Apartment Units (16 Buildings/Duplexes)	68-90
Single Family Homes / Mobile Homes	48-67
Parks / Community Centers	2
TOTALS	159





How do we approach right of way impacts?

AVOID

MINIMIZE

MITIGATE



Rights of Way





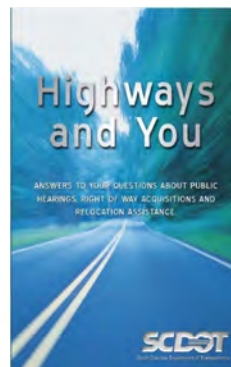
Rights of Way Laws & Regulations

- ✓ Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act of 1970 (Codified in Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations- Transportation)
- ✓ Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations- Highways
- ✓ South Carolina Code of Laws Title 57- Highways, Bridges, Ferries
- ✓ South Carolina Code of Laws Title 28- Eminent Domain



Uniform Relocation Assistance & Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970

Ensures property owners and tenants are treated **fairly, equitably** and **receive relocation assistance** when property is acquired for public use.





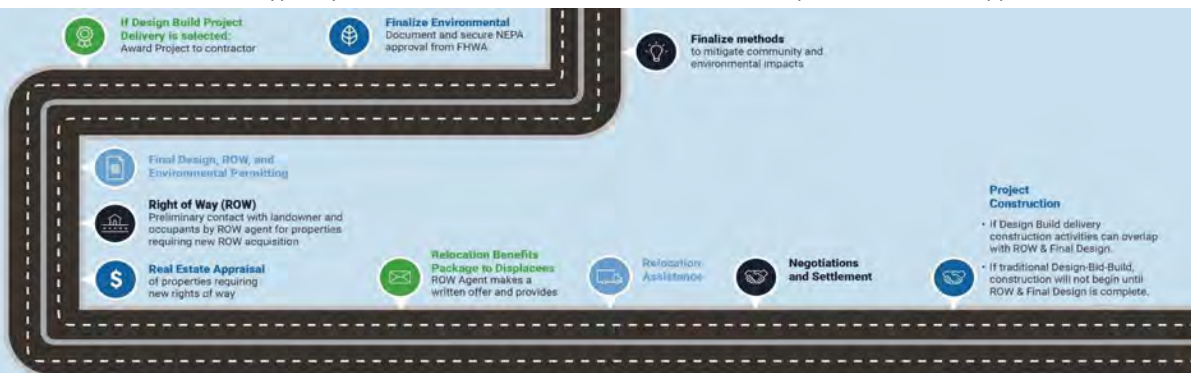
SCDOT's Commitment to You

- Be transparent and provide information available
- Public involvement opportunities to give the public a voice in the decision making process
- Explain the procedures for acquiring ROW
- Explain the Relocation Assistance available
- Work with each individual to find the best solution in making them whole through the process



When does ROW start?

ROW activities typically do not initiate until after the Environmental Impact Statement is Approved.



Rights of Way Key Terms

- **Eminent Domain** - The government's right or power to acquire private property or property rights for public use without the landowner's consent for fair or just compensation.
 - "For the public good"
- **Just Compensation** - Payment required by law for the loss sustained by the landowner as a result of taking or damaging of property for public use.
- **Condemnation** - Process by which property or property rights are acquired for public purposes through legal proceedings under the laws of eminent domain (Can only argue the value of the taking, not the right)

Rights of Way Key Terms

- **Appraisal** - a written statement independently and impartially prepared by a qualified appraiser setting forth an opinion of defined value of an adequately described property as of a specific date, supported by the presentation and analysis of relevant market information.
 - Sets just compensation
- **Appraisal Waiver Valuation** - a determination of value based on a prepared cost estimate. (also called "cost estimate offer")
 - For values of \$20,000 or less, when there are no damages to the remainder.
- **Administrative Settlement** - an amount above just compensation agreed to as a result of negotiations between the landowner and the government.

ROW Acquisition & Relocation Process



New Video: Understanding the Right-of-Way Process



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISDHJxjUqSw>

Relocation Assistance Program Categories

- Owner Occupant of residential property
- Tenant Occupant of residential property
- Sleeping Room tenant
- Business, Farm or Non-Profit Organization

SCDOT



ROW Relocation Assistance Services



Survey of Available
Replacement
Housing in the
Community



Initial interview to
discuss relocations
needs and
preferences



SCDOT presents
benefits package
with Replacement
Housing Payment
entitlements



Replacement
housing inspection
to ensure Safe,
Decent & Sanitary



Available Housing
Review and
Selection by
Displacee



Final entitlement
package & Moving



SCDOT

Example of Replacement Housing Payments

Tenant Rent Supplement Example:

Present rent (\$300) plus utilities (\$224) =	\$524.00
<u>Comparable rent (\$590) plus utilities (\$133) =</u>	<u>\$723.00</u>
Difference of actual versus market rate =	\$199.00
Basic Rent Supplement Calculation = \$199 X 42 =	\$8,358.00

LOW INCOME - USE 30% Area Median Income CALCULATION

Comparable rent (\$590) plus utilities (\$133) =	\$723.00
<u>Monthly Income = \$1,500 X 30% =</u>	<u>\$450.00</u>
Difference of market rate to Affordable Rate =	\$273.00
Adjusted Rent Supplement \$273 X 42 months =	\$11,466.00
<u>Moving Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 725.00</u>
Total Entitlements	\$12,191.00

No Before Photo
Available in File



Example of Replacement Housing Payment

Displacement Dwelling Appraised value	\$ 65,000
<u>Replacement Dwelling Market Price</u>	<u>\$139,000</u>
Replacement Housing Payment Eligibility	\$ 74,000

Appraised Value of Displaced Home	\$ 65,000.00
Moving Expenses	\$ 1,225.00
Mortgage Interest Differential Payment	\$ 1,803.50
Closing costs	\$ 2,774.40
<u>Replacement Housing Payments</u>	<u>\$ 74,000.00</u>
Total Entitlements	\$143,802.90

*Mortgage taken out in the amount of \$34,000.00

No Before Photo
Available in File



Example of Replacement Housing Payments

Appraised Property Payment	\$ 22,880
Replacement Housing Payment	\$ 92,120
Closing Costs	\$ 1,700
Moving Costs	\$ 2,075
Total Entitlements	\$118,775

*New Construction home example on property remainder; construction low bid was \$115,000



Example of Replacement Housing Payment

Displacement Dwelling Appraised value	\$ 87,000 <i>*owner only had 75% ownership interest</i>
Replacement Dwelling Market Price	\$150,000 <i>(purchase price of selected home \$119,000)</i>
Replacement Housing Payment Eligibility	\$ 63,000

Owner was unable to qualify for a mortgage so needed to find home for cash payment w/ **NO MORTGAGE*

Payment for Displaced Home	\$ 65,250.00
Moving Expenses	\$ 3,745.12
Replacement Shed/Room Built on Site	\$ 4,774.30
Repairs to Home to meet DSS	\$ 6,144.08
Legal Fees to Clear Title / Closing costs	\$ 3,780.00
Replacement Housing Payments	\$ 59,650.00
Total Entitlements	\$143,343.50





Right of Way FAQs



My house or apartment is shown as being impacted, should I go ahead and move now?

Do not move from the property you now occupy without contacting a ROW agent to determine your eligibility. Moving early may jeopardize or void your rights under the relocation assistance program.



Right of Way FAQs



What if my home does not appraise for enough to buy a new home?

The right-of-way agent will inform you in writing of the specific comparable replacement housing and the sales prices or rent used as the basis for establishing the upper limit of the replacement housing payment and the basis for that determination. So you will be aware of the amount of the replacement housing payment to which you may be entitled. If the comparable replacement housing available on the market are priced higher (property appraised value or rent), the homeowner may be eligible for supplemental benefits for a period of time to cover this price differential, including increased mortgage interests costs and all eligible incidental expenses (such as closing costs).





Right of Way FAQs



What about the increased property tax associated with a new home?

The comparable replacement housing offered to the property owner should be within the property owner's financial means, meaning the monthly payments and estimated average utility costs at the replacement housing does not significantly exceed their current payments. The benefits payment does not address the increased property taxes on the property. SCDOT's agent will inform the property owner of the estimated property taxes of any comparable replacement housing offered and ensure that the property owner is aware of this difference prior to any decisions regarding the replacement property.



Right of Way FAQs



What if I am a renter and do not own?

All displaced persons, whether a property owner or a tenant, may be eligible for relocation assistance. The assistance available to tenants may include agent assistance in finding comparable rental replacement housing, transportation to view housing options if needed, advisory services, actual moving expenses, and supplemental rent payments. If a renter wishes to consider property ownership as part of the relocation assistance program, then the benefits payment could be used by a displaced person for a down payment and closing costs on a replacement house if desired.



Right of Way FAQs

Do we have a choice of whether we have to move, or is SCDOT going to use eminent domain?

SCDOT works with each property owner or tenant to ensure they understand the impacts to their property/home and the benefits they are eligible to receive. SCDOT works with individuals to negotiate a reasonable settlement in most cases. However eminent domain is a tool which will ultimately allow the courts to decide the settlement if SCDOT and the property owner cannot reach agreement.

Early Right of Way Strategies

Under Development



Securing properties that could be utilized for construction of replacement housing



Community Office with ROW Specialists



Early Right of Way phase to identify or create Affordable Replacement Housing



Develop Construction Program for Replacement Homes in Community



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Affordable Housing / Replacement Housing

SCDOT



Questions & Suggestions

Joy Riley
SCDOT Project Manager
(803) 737-1346
rileyj@scdot.org



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Open Mic

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Open Mic Session

- Goal: Open Mic session as part of every CAC meeting
- Opportunity to express opinions, voice concerns, ask questions
- Can be directed to Advisory Council and/or Project Team
- Can speak or use comment card
- Time limit: will vary depending on how many people wish to speak and time left in meeting; may have to set 3-5 minute limits if necessary
- Speak from your own experiences without broad generalizations
- Recall Rules of Engagement related to listening and limiting speakers to one at a time

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Open Mic Session

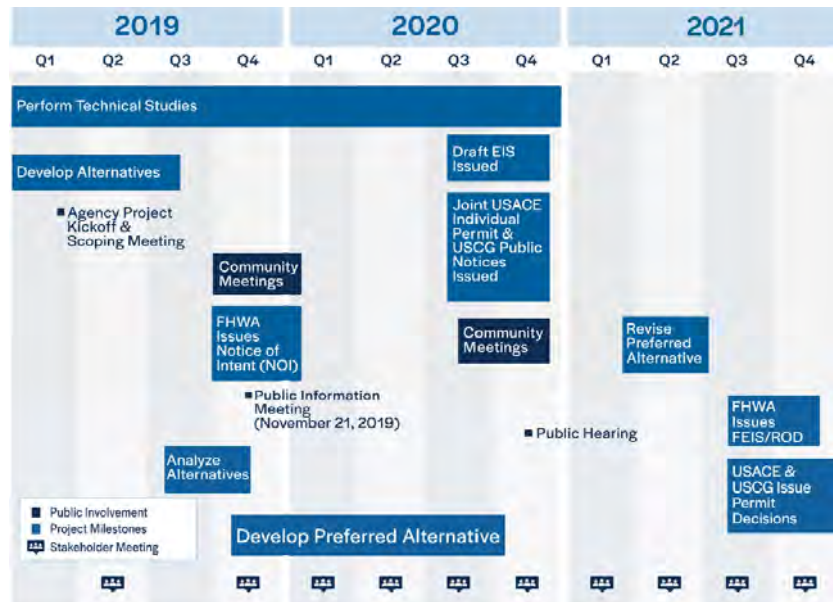


Summary and Next Steps

Schedule

- Final environmental document: Fall 2021
- Right-of-way acquisition: 2020**
- Construction: 2023
- CAC transition to Oversight Implementation Committee

** Start of early acquisition



Summary and Next Steps

- CAC Meeting No. 3 Recap
- Dates for CAC Meeting Nos. 4 (Jan) and 5 (Feb)
- Community Office Open House (Jan – *exact date to be determined*)
- Informational Workshops at Community Office (Winter/Spring 2020)
- Potential topics for upcoming CAC meetings
 - Confirm project team understanding of community issues and priorities
 - Gather CAC member thoughts/suggestions for mitigation measures
 - Discuss mitigation concepts based on input from CAC and other stakeholders
- *Are there specific topics you would like to see on future agendas?*

Contact Information



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Ryan White | NEPA/Public Engagement Specialist
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LaTonya Derrick | NEPA/Public Engagement Specialist
LaTonya.Derrick@Stantec.com



Thank you for your time!

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 3

Date: December 7, 2019

Time: 10:00 am – 12:17 pm

Location: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor Community Office, 5627 Rivers Avenue, N. Charleston, SC

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees

Gilbert Reeves, Ferndale
Larenda Baxley, Ferndale
David L. Johnson, Ferndale
Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale
Geneva Swett, Ferndale
Ruth Mae Whitney, Highland Terrace
Nathan Bryant, Highland Terrace
Carolyn Varner, Liberty Park
Doris Twiggs, Liberty Park
Tony Grasso, Russelldale
Saint Julian Corey Van Hannegeyn IV, Deas Hill
Earl Muhammad, Muhammad Mosque
Rick Day, Stantec
Ryan White, Stantec

Amy Sackaroff, Stantec
LaTonya Derrick, Stantec
Fran Bickley, SCDOT ROW
Joy Riley, SCDOT
Chad Long, SCDOT ESO
Yolonda Jordan, FHWA
Maxine Smith, Maximum Consulting (Community Liaison)
Mattese Lecque, Maximum Consulting (Community Liaison)
Frank Scott, N. Charleston Housing Authority
Horace Tobin, Community Office
Janelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies

Participant Summary:

Total participants: 25

Ferndale: 5

Highland Terrace: 2

Liberty Park: 2

Russelldale: 1

Adjacent/affected communities/agencies: 3

SCDOT: 3

FHWA: 1

Community Liaisons: 2

Community Office: 1

Stantec: 4

Facilitator: 1

Meeting Summary:

Welcome and Introductions

All meeting participants provided introductions. Restroom location, exit, and external emergency meeting location were reviewed. Administrative issues were addressed:

- Reminder to all participants to provide signatures for attendance and initials for consent to record meeting
- Review and approval of Meeting 1 minutes
- Distribution of CAC Meeting 2 minutes for review
- Confirmation of Community Office hours of operation
- Distribution and review of Meeting 3 agenda
- Outlined the intent and guidelines for open-mic session, including distribution of comment cards during the break for anyone wishing not to ask questions of the project team directly

- Vision Statement exercise will be conducted if there is time. Otherwise, the exercise will be conducted during CAC Meeting 4 in January 2020.
- Community Office flyers available to the CAC to take and distribute to community members and neighbors. CAC Members were also encouraged to take pictures for convenience in sharing with other community members

Rules of Engagement

Reviewed and approved the final Rules of Engagement. A poster board of Rules of Engagement will be printed and displayed in the Community Office during CAC meetings.

The group discussed how to manage interest of residents in areas outside of the potentially impacted neighborhoods of Ferndale, Highland Terrace, Liberty Park, and Russelldale. There will be two Open House meetings scheduled in 2020 during which non-CAC members may present project-related questions and concerns to the project team and CAC members. The project team is still seeking subject matter experts to serve as presenters for informational and educational purposes. The project team also continues to seek CAC members to represent the Russelldale community, but general CAC membership and participation will be finalized and capped in January 2020. In order to preserve the integrity of the CAC meetings and in order to clearly define community representatives serving on the CAC, no new members will be invited to the CAC after that time.

- One CAC member expressed concerns about capping membership in January, stating they would like to leave an opportunity open for people who may express interest later in the process (particularly from one of the lesser represented communities), and citing relatively significant representation of the Ferndale community on the CAC but much lower representation of other communities within the project scope.
- The project team agreed that more representation is needed from underrepresented communities such as Russelldale, as well as tenants. A few people that stopped by the Community Office and attended the community drop-ins were extended invitations to attend CAC meeting 3. It was reiterated that the CAC should be comprised of residents of one of the four affected communities: Ferndale, Highland Terrace, Liberty Park, or Russelldale. However, if CAC members are interested in revisiting or revising criteria for membership, the group should make those changes as desired. Membership criteria (considered by the project team during discussions with potential new members) include: being a resident, a property owner, or a tenant. However, if there are additional criteria the CAC would like the project team to consider for new CAC members, current members are encouraged to provide guidance and feedback to the project team.
- A CAC member requested the names of any contacts made during Community Office visits or community drop-ins so that they could follow up and encourage increased participation and CAC membership.
- A Community Liaison inquired about and encouraged participation by CAC members in civic groups and meetings and indicated these meetings as the best opportunities for identifying new CAC members.
 - In response, a CAC member shared that the challenge in their community is that most people are tenants rather than homeowners. According to this member, attendance at neighborhood association meetings have been a challenge, historically.
- The project team stressed that if there are any resources or support they can provide to improve the process, CAC members should let project team members know. CAC members are not expected to go through the process of identifying new CAC members without the support of the project team.
- Interested candidates should also be directed to the Community Office to talk with community liaisons, Dr. Smith and Ms. Lecque.

- Another CAC member expressed concerns about not capping new CAC memberships.

Recap of November Public Outreach Efforts

Community Office Director provided an update on participant activity (# attendees and # written comments):

- The number of people attending and the number of comment cards completed were reported during the recap. All slides and corresponding data were included in the handout packet for CAC Meeting 3.
- Public Information Meeting had 223 attendees and 29 completed comment cards.
- The number of visits since the Community Office opened on November 1st is 64. There has been a progressive increase in traffic since the office opened.
- Over the past week, there had been an increase of out-of-town visitors stopping by the office with aging relatives who live in one of the four focus communities.
- Visitors are encouraged to invite others in the community to visit the office to learn more about the project.
- A CAC member asked if the CAC will have access to all comments to which the project team responded affirmatively.
 - The project team will compile all comments provide during November meetings as well as throughout the comment period.
 - A summary with major themes from the comments will be made available to the CAC by mid-January 2020.
- Informational workshops will be held at the Community Office in the first quarter of 2020 to address educational needs of the community.

Social Needs Assessment Survey – Results/Discussion

The Social Needs Assessment Survey results represent the survey administered during CAC Meeting 2 (in October 2019) and all additional surveys completed to date (thru early December 2020). The push-button survey was comprised of 25 questions. CAC members were reminded that each topic/service included a 2-part question: “How important the issue is to you?” and “How satisfied you are with the current services?” From the information provided, the project team was able to obtain an aggregate (combined) score. Aggregated data helped the project team to prioritize survey topics. The results of the Social Needs Assessment are important as the group moves towards the mitigation plan because it helps the project team better understand community needs and priorities.

- Some categories are outside of SCDOT’s control and some within. The responsibility of the project team is to inform other relevant agencies of specific needs identified by the community that are outside the scope of the SCDOT project to increase visibility and potential resolution by appropriate groups. This is referred to as Integrated Planning.
- Results were categorized by CAC surveys and Community Meeting surveys. Hard copies of results were made available to all meeting attendees. Surveys will continue to be administered through the next month.
- Results from the Social Needs Assessment will inform the upcoming Community Impact Assessment and Environmental Justice Mitigation Plan.
- Project team provided a detailed review of survey results. The top issues of concern included: Quality of teaching, safety of schools, well-lit streets, stormwater management, available affordable housing, available quality housing, adequate sidewalks/bicycle facilities, appearance of neighbors’ homes, available agencies for senior services, and available agencies for youth services.
- A CAC member expressed concern about a potential lack of understanding of survey takers regarding grocery stores receiving generally satisfactory results. He expressed significant problems associated

with the lack of quality grocery stores in the target communities. He felt the lack of quality grocery stores should be in the top five or six. The project team took note of CAC concerns regarding grocery stores and emphasized it as a key example of a project (building grocery stores) that falls outside the scope of the current project, but that they could work with other key entities such as Fresh Future Farm to identify practical, sustainable solutions for better quality grocery stores.

- Any questions regarding the Social Needs Assessment after CAC Meeting 3 should be directed to the project team.
- A CAC Member asked if the CAC has a “voice” when addressing issues identified during the CAC process, that fall outside of the scope of the project plan, to other entities engaged in the Integrated Planning process.
 - SCDOT’s Project Manager spoke about mitigation plans. SCDOT has done a lot of work with community mitigation. This project is allowing SCDOT to try something different and more proactive because the impacts are so great. In the past, funding has been allocated to issues identified in needs assessments, but spending has been left to local entities to implement mitigation initiatives. Sometimes, those initiatives were unsuccessful if those entities were not fast enough in getting projects implemented, and by the time communities try to spend the funds 10 years later, the funding may no longer be adequate to complete the initial goals. With this project, things like building affordable housing, installing sidewalks, putting in street lights, SCDOT is experienced in accomplishing within the scope of the project. But there may be other things that SCDOT partners with other entities like Trident Technical College for job training so that people who live in the communities can work on part of the project or find employment. SCDOT may be able to partner with the City on initiatives like grocery stores, or to incentivize development. The CAC will be critical in determining what the mitigation plan looks like. As Project Manager, SCDOT is a little less inclined to leave funds for outside/local entities to apply to projects. Results of the Social Needs Assessment have been shared with the City, but the project team will continue to keep the CAC in the loop on other initiatives.
- A Community Liaison emphasized that the CAC can go to any one of these groups (agencies) to advocate for represented communities. The project team further stressed the point that the CAC should advocate for themselves, but that they do not have to do it alone. The Community Office staff and project team will assist with detailed resources and research to support these efforts. The project team also encouraged CAC members to contact each other directly whenever there are meetings of interest to the community that fall outside of the scheduled I-526 LCC meetings.
- The CAC is in the process of collecting data. As the CAC moves into role of oversight when mitigation is determined, the expectation is that the group will take collected information and drive change while working with the project team.

ROW/Relocation Info Session

The Project Manager provided an overview of the Right-of-Way process. The project team is very early in the process, but this is one of the most important steps. ROW was identified as one of the biggest challenges for the project. There was a review of current structures built near the bridge. SCDOT would never design communities that way today. The interstate cannot be shut down and the current configuration makes it difficult to repair damage. SCDOT commissioned a study to understand the level of ROW impacts, what types of housing and businesses we would potentially impacted, the ability of the Charleston real estate market to absorb those types of impacts (was there readily available replacement housing, are there developments within the community that SCDOT could partner with to take advantage of some of the new housing). This study was the first step in identifying issues, challenges, and potential solutions.

- The study identified the four communities within the project scope as those receiving the greatest adverse impact.
- Approximately 75% of the ROW/Relocation impacts are in these communities.
- There are also commercial property impacts further north of these communities on the corridor.
- The potentially impacted communities are losing the first row of homes whereas the homes along some areas of I-526 are primarily losing areas of vegetative buffer.
- SCDOT started with seven alternatives, then narrowed it to the 2-4 alternatives displayed on the walls at the meeting.
- The purpose is to fix the traffic problems on the Interstate. After analyzing alternatives to determine which alternatives actually address the problem, SCDOT began considering the footprint that is going to have the least significant impact on the both the human and natural environment. Throughout the process, SCDOT will work to minimize the impacted footprint.
- Residents who are adamant they want to stay will live next to the interstate without a buffer. SCDOT will respect homeowner's right to stay in their current homes.
- Mitigation of unavoidable impacts was discussed.
- The ROW process focuses on making people "whole."
- Community mitigation – Even if a homeowner isn't directly impacted, the work taking place around them may impact them.
- Laws have changed since the original construction of I-26 and I-526 that are more protective of homeowners.
- The *Highways and You* document is the first material SCDOT provides to impacted homeowners to explain their rights as a homeowner in plain language. There are also a number of additional resources available to residents to help them better understand the ROW process. This information is available to the public at the Community Office. SCDOT is very people-oriented and is transparent throughout the process, including: information on the funds invested in this project, how the money is spent, how the new housing is built, what proposed housing will look like, and how communities are going to look in the future. The goal is to make sure residents who live in the community are the ones who benefit from the process.
- The ROW benefits package is very specific to individuals. The Project Manager encouraged attendees to visit the Community Office to have a ROW Specialist determine the best package for individuals or families. ROW Specialists will also work with renters to facilitate homeownership.
- The ROW process has been expedited compared to the traditional ROW timeline because of the limited Charleston housing market. There is an opportunity in the area on a lot of undeveloped land. SCDOT may have to build some replacement housing for people to move into.
- SCDOT is starting early ROW activity geared toward single family developments, to partner with developers and non-profits, so that when they do start "knocking on doors," there are already homes built or almost completed. For renters to consider home ownership, there is some preliminary work that needs to be done to connect first time homeowners with credit counselors. The Project Manager requested the CAC assist the project team in understanding the needs of the community by asking community members to visit the community office.
- Review of terms such as *eminent domain*, *just compensation*, *condemnation*, *appraisal*, *appraisal waiver valuation*, and *administrative settlement*. Definition of all terms were provided in the handout packet.
 - Most acquisitions on this project will require an appraisal, but SCDOT will make their own estimates on property values below \$20,000. However, the property owner has a right to request an appraisal on any property. Appraisals are required for property values above \$20,000.

- The property owner is allowed to be present during appraisals and can offer any additional information to the appraiser during the process. Once an appraisal is complete and the report has been issued, a homeowner can accept it or negotiate to settle at a higher price. SCDOT prefers administrative settlements rather than going to court.
- A CAC member asked if a jury trial is possible under terms of condemnation. The Project Manager confirmed.
- ROW Acquisition and Relocation Process:
 - Title Research
 - Who owns the property (Clear title, heirs property, multiple owners, estate, etc.)
 - Mortgages or liens on property
 - Initial contact with property owner
 - Usually done by ROW agent
 - Opportunity for homeowner to ask questions
 - Property appraisal completed
 - Must be coordinated with property owner
 - SCDOT provides to property owner:
 - Written report
 - Written offer
 - Benefits package (property purchase and/or relocation)
 - Tenants (renters) are entitled to relocation benefits
 - Property owners are entitled to appraised value to purchase home and property
 - Residence who are also home/property owners will receive appraisal and relocation benefits
 - Negotiations and Settlement with property owner
 - Condemnation
 - Only executed if a settlement agreement cannot be reached with the property owner
- *Understanding the Right-of-Way Process* video; Online @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISDHJxjUqSw>
- Informational Workshops
 - Staffing of the Community Office
 - Workshops will be held during the first quarter of 2020
 - Resources and assistance provided by the Community Office in coordination with the Center for Heirs Property Preservation, Charity Foundation, and SC Community Loan Fund:
 - Heirs property
 - Wills
 - Financial literacy
 - Resume development/interviewing skills
 - Mentoring
 - Available to all community members
 - Suggestions from CAC members for continued improvement of resources offered during the informational workshops are welcome
- Project Manager reviewed examples of ROW transactions
 - Addressed property owner concerns of appraisal values not being sufficient to cover the costs of a new home in the Charleston housing market
 - The Uniform Act accounts for making people “whole” and providing comparable homes and amenities through relocation.
 - Reviewed Tenant Rent Supplement Example (included in CAC PowerPoint packet)

- Homes classified in the low-income bracket will receive an additional 30% (of area median income) supplement for 42 months
- Allows tenant time to determine long-term housing plans
- Not intended to be a long-term solution, particularly for tenants on fixed incomes
- Designed to encourage building affordable housing which is deemed a more sustainable solution
- Supplement payments may be used as a down payment for affordable permanent housing
- **Question from CAC member:** Will SCDOT use current HUD data to determine the 30% supplemental rates
 - **Response:** Yes, based on SC HUD tables. Information such as proof of income (pay stubs, tax returns, etc.) would be required to determine whether tenants meet the low-income designation to qualify for the 30% supplement.
 - For clarification, 30% is the percent of the tenant's gross monthly income.
- **Question from CAC member:** For clarification, is the intent of SCDOT to entice current renters to own their own property?
 - **Response:** That is something SCDOT has always tried to do. SCDOT is also looking for vacant lots to build on, but SCDOT is not looking to be property managers.
- *Time check: 11:45 AM*
- Reviewed Replacement Housing Example #1
 - Homeowners are eligible to receive Displacement Dwelling Appraised value plus the Replacement Housing Payment towards the purchase of a new home
 - If a homeowner has a current mortgage, they will likely still have a mortgage in the new home. The new mortgage should be the same as the mortgage for the home from which the homeowner was displaced.
 - SCDOT will pay the increased interest expense, if applicable, should the homeowner's new mortgage interest rate be higher than that of the previous mortgage.
- Reviewed Replacement Housing Example #2
 - There are some cases where SCDOT widens the highway and the highway is now encroaching on the front of the home. SCDOT will demolish the existing home and build a new one near the back of the property.
 - SCDOT will obtain a floor plan similar to the current plan and secure a builder that can replicate the structure, set further back on the property.
- Reviewed Replacement Housing Example #3
 - Homeowner was on a fixed income and could not qualify for a mortgage.
 - Owner did not have clear title. Another party held 25% ownership of the property.
 - The homeowner/resident had rights to only 75% of the Displacement Dwelling Appraisal value.
 - SCDOT was able to locate a home that needed repairs and renovated the home for him. After all entitlements were implemented, the homeowner was able to move into a renovated home with no mortgage (before and after displacement).
- Right of Way FAQs
 - Posted on the website
 - Included in the handouts
- Project team is not knocking on doors, talking to property owners yet
 - Currently focused on identifying replacement housing
 - Details of findings will be shared with the CAC as concrete opportunities begin to unfold
 - The Project Manager encouraged the Community Office with ROW Specialists to tell people about opportunities as details become available, especially if they live in impacted

- areas. This will be important so that the project team can begin working with homeowners, individually.
- SCDOT will begin developing a construction plan for replacement housing to build new homes on vacant lots
 - The project team is interested in talking with people who own land in impacted communities that may be interested in selling their property. SCDOT would like to place new construction on existing vacant lots.
 - Review of Affordable Housing/Replacement Housing slide
 - Orange – properties for which SCDOT has current options to purchase; zoned for multi-family development
 - Pink – City-owned properties that SCDOT can partner with to develop
 - Blue – SCDOT-identified properties without current dwellings; Ownership of these properties has not been established
 - SCDOT will begin conducting research and contacting property owners with purchase offers
 - SCDOT will keep the CAC in the loop at every step in order to minimize rumors and confusion in the affected communities
 - ROW Q&A
 - **CAC Member:** What will the project team do to inform and educate renters that affordable home ownership is a better choice than long-term renting?
 - **Response:** The project team will provide comprehensive education on ROW and Relocation, but cannot mandate home ownership on anyone. The project team wants to ensure that they make the information, resources (such as credit counseling), and options available to them.
 - **CAC Member:** Where are the lots located that SCDOT has the option to buy?
 - **Response:** Behind the mobile home park, adjacent to existing apartments
 - **CAC Member:** During the video, you showed apartments along the highway which happens to be on Russelldale Avenue. Do the current maps include the buffer or will the impacted area extend beyond the current footprint (represented in orange)?
 - **Response:** The current maps should be encompassing of everything.
 - **CAC Member:** I haven't heard the word "beautification" in any of the discussions so far. Under the current highway, there have been people living in tents, people with port-o-potties (defecating and urinating under the highways), SCDOT-installed chain-linked fences, trash dumped, lighting is poor, etc. In comparison to Mount Pleasant which is "set up nicely, will we have the same thing when this is finished or will we just have a wider overpass?"
 - **Response:** Addressing those types of issues is part of this process. There are multiple components in the mitigation process:
 - ROW
 - How the project is implemented/how the project is built
 - What the project looks like (eg. Noise walls, lighting, etc.)
 - Community mitigation (putting funds back into communities that are most impacted)
 - This addresses making the community "whole" as opposed to ROW which focuses on working with individual tenants and homeowners to make individuals and families "whole"
 - **CAC Member:** Will the lack of adequate lighting on I-526 be addressed as a part of this project?

- **Response:** Yes. The lighting has been repaired, but there are still some lights that are broken and needing to be replaced. There still exists some patchiness in repairs. Part of the issue in that area is that there was a temporary electrical connection to SCE&G for power because the transformer kept blowing out. That is an issue that will be addressed and upgraded as a part of this project.
- **Follow-up question:** How soon do you anticipate the lights that are currently damaged will be repaired?
 - **Response:** The lights are on and the electrical is on, but there are still damaged lights. There is a team currently working on repairs. The Project Manager will get a status update and follow up with the CAC.
- **CAC Member:** Are the maps displayed on the walls at the Community Office the same as the maps distributed at the Public Information and November community meetings?
 - **Response:** Yes.
- **CAC Member:** Are solar lights an option for the Interstate?
 - **Response:** Uncertain. That is outside of the scope of this project. The Project Manager is aware of the use of solar lighting in some smaller applications, but is unaware of solar lighting on the Interstates. Project Manager will look into it and follow up.
- **CAC Member:** There were rumors years ago that when I-526 was built between I-26 and the river, it crossed over areas where there was asbestos. Do you know anything about that? A part of the story is that because of the asbestos that was buried there, the EPA mandated that the area would remain untouched.
 - **Response:** Project team is unaware of buried asbestos related to the original I-526 construction project (would have been discovered in the HAZMAT assessment), but emphasized that SCDOT conducts extensive studies as an ongoing part of the process, none of which has indicated concerns with buried asbestos in the project area.
- **CAC Member:** Will local builders be used to help build parts of the project?
 - **Response:** A big component of the project is ensuring the community has an opportunity to participate in the project. This could include job training, partnering with larger contractors, etc. Larger companies are normally hired to serve as prime contractors because they are able to large enough bonds. But, SCDOT can arrange meetings between prime contractors and local contractors. The CAC's role is to provide thoughts and suggestions such as these, on how local businesses should be included as a part of the mitigation plan. Including local businesses in mitigation projects is standard practice for SCDOT. The project team is always open to suggestions.
- **CAC Member:** Will bike trails still be included under the Interstate as a part of this project?
 - **Response:** Yes, evaluation of foot traffic and alternate means of people traveling from one community to another is always included in the project. SCDOT evaluates how they can restore some of those connections.
- Time check: 12:00 PM
 - **CAC Member:** Other than me going and knocking on doors (in Ferndale), what is the best way to ensure that all community members know what is going on (regarding the I-526 project)? I've already heard from two people living on the "back row" near the Interstate that they don't know anything about the project.
 - **Response:** The project team is open to suggestions regarding communication and awareness efforts. Community liaisons requested to talk further with the CAC member following the meeting. Maximum Consultants and community liaisons can report back to the counsel on a strategy moving forward.

- Open House dates
 - Will be held at the Community Office to generate publicity and to ensure the public knows and understands what services are being offered
 - Open House date: Saturday, January 25, 2020, 1:00-4:00 PM
 - Advertisement strategies will include:
 - Neighborhood door hangers
 - Notices placed in Charleston Chronicle
 - Partnering with Cumulus Media, Inc.
 - Local radio station broadcast during
 - Suggest “A Taste of Gas Light Square” to incentivize attendance
 - Music
 - Social Media/Facebook page
 - Post the event on Community Boards
 - Community Transportation for the Open House
 - Perhaps providing bus passes for community members to attend
 - Primary focus of this event will be on the impacted communities, but should be open to the larger community because lots of people travel on I-526
 - Recommendation from CAC Member to reach out to other restaurants in the community (eg. My Three Sons from the Ferndale community) to provide refreshments also. That would be a benefit to the restaurant and to the community.
 - CAC Member: What about going into other communities to hold Open House sessions throughout the year?
 - Response: Purpose of the Open House is to have people come to the Community Office to meet staff and understand the function of the office. Community liaisons offered to remain after CAC Meeting 3 to discuss further.
- Project team will continue to work on the meeting agenda to more effectively balance CAC engagement and time management
 - Open Mic will be scheduled for the next meeting
- Project team briefly reviewed the project schedule

Summary and Next Steps

- Next meeting scheduled for Saturday, January 4, 2020, 10 AM-12 PM at the Community Office
- Begin developing priorities based on the Social Needs Assessment; Mitigation conceptualization
- Vision Statement development

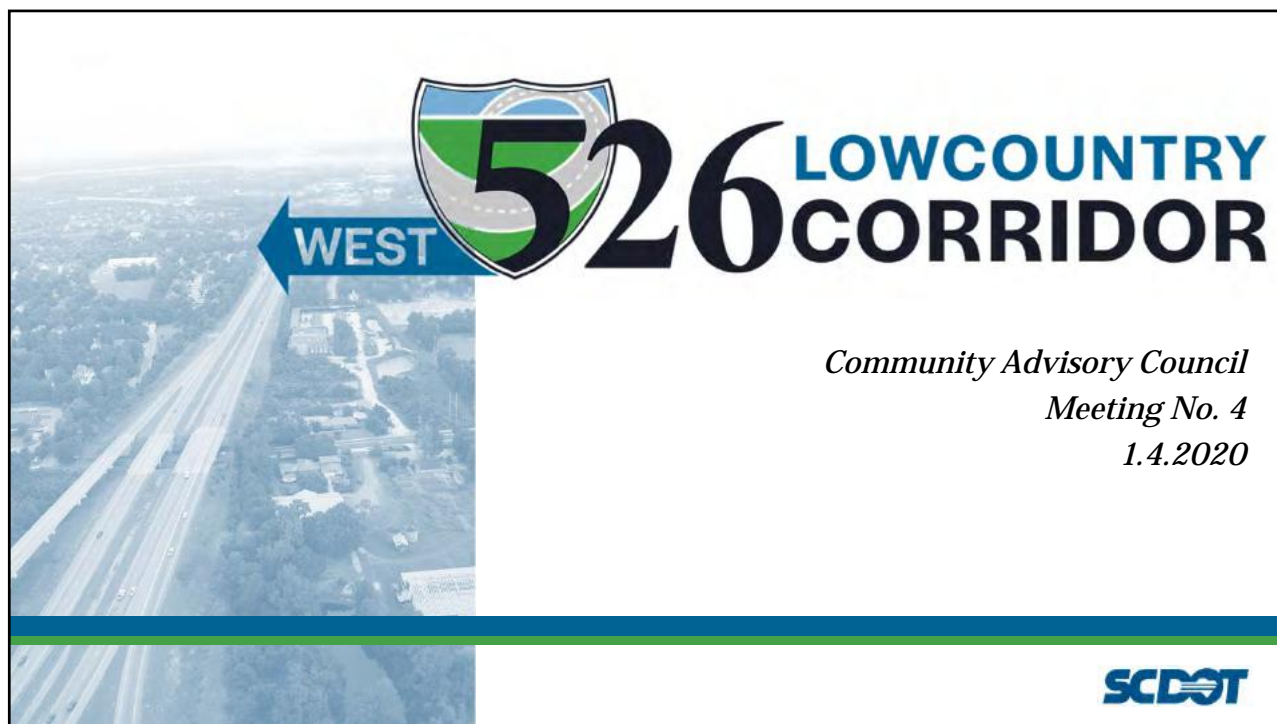
Post Wrap-up Discussion

- **CAC Member:** Discussion on beautification should be included in future meetings
- **CAC Member:** When you increase the number of members in this type of group (CAC), you increase the amount of feedback. There should be more time and respect given to the people who are here serving on the CAC. CAC members who are able to stay longer should be allowed to make comments. When the project team is rigid in adhering to the two-hour time frame, CAC members may feel more guarded in their feedback. This may increase the likelihood of participants leaving with misunderstandings or not enough information to share with other people in the community.
- **CAC Member:** At the last meeting, the project team talked about downsizing the CAC. Is there any update?

- For logistical purposes, the project team asked the best way to communicate with the CAC. CAC members responded that email is the best form of communication. Project team asked CAC members to accept email invitations (or not) when they are sent, for proper planning of CAC meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamelle H. Ellis, Ph.D.
President/Managing Director
Empowerment Strategies, LLC



1

Welcome and Introductions

- Advisory Council Members
- SC Department of Transportation (SCDOT)
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Consultant Team



2

Logistics



Food

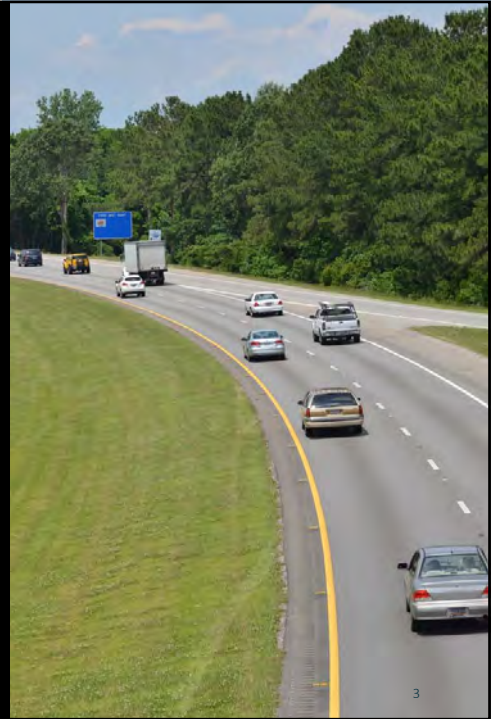


Exits



Restrooms

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3

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Agenda

- Administrative Items
- 'Open Mic' Session
- CAC Roles and Responsibilities
- Vision Statement Activity
- Break
- Meeting Logistics survey
- Outreach Update
- Brainstorming Session: Potential Mitigation Ideas for Recreational Facilities
- Summary and Next Steps

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Administrative Items

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Administrative Items

■ For Distribution:

- CAC Meeting No. 4 Agenda
- Minutes from CAC Meeting No. 3
- Comment cards for Open Mic/other
- Flyers for January 25, 2020 Community Office Open House
- CAC member demographic survey
- CAC Roles and Responsibilities document

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Open Mic

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Open Mic Session

- Goal: Open Mic session as part of every CAC meeting
- Opportunity to express opinions, voice concerns, ask questions
- Can be directed to Advisory Council and/or Project Team
- Can speak or use comment card
- Time limit: will vary depending on how many people wish to speak and time left in meeting; may have to set 3-5 minute limits if necessary
- Speak from your own experiences without broad generalizations
- Recall *CAC Rules of Engagement* related to listening and limiting speakers to one at a time

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Open Mic Session



CAC Roles and Responsibilities

CAC Roles and Responsibilities

- Housekeeping:
 - Finalize CAC roster and reach consensus on maximum number of CAC members
 - Leave seats open for underrepresented neighborhoods/demographics
 - File CAC Roles and Responsibilities in binder under “Guiding Principles”
- Items of note:
 - Freedom of Information Act requirements
 - CAC meetings are not open for general public participation
 - Encourage neighbors to attend a “Meet Your Advisory Council” Open House *(dates to be determined)*
 - You are the community connection (council@526lowcountrycorridor.com)
 - Public can always contact SCDOT project team to relay questions, concerns, and information they would specifically like shared with the CAC
- If votes are taken at any point, only formal CAC members may participate in a vote

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Group Activity: Developing the CAC Vision

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Example Vision Statements *(word count in parenthesis)*

Human Rights Campaign: *Equality for everyone* (3)

The Nature Conservancy: *To leave a sustainable world for future generations.* (8)

Oceana: *seeks to make our oceans as rich, healthy and abundant as they once were.* (14)

Save the Children: *A world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development, and participation.* (15)

Clinton Foundation: *To implement sustainable programs that improve access worldwide to investment, opportunity, and lifesaving services now and for future generations.* (19)

Goodwill: *Every person has the opportunity to achieve his/her fullest potential and participate in and contribute to all aspects of life.* (21)

Kiva: *We envision a world where all people – even in the most remote areas of the globe – hold the power to create opportunity for themselves and others.* (26)

Amnesty International: *A world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments.* (26)

Special Olympics: *To transform communities by inspiring people throughout the world to open their minds, accept and include people with intellectual disabilities and thereby anyone who is perceived as different.* (28)

VFW: *Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.* (32)

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Draft Vision Statement Activity

- Think about:
 - Your life experiences: How has the existing highway affected you? How will the proposed project affect you?
 - What brought you here today? What are your values and what motivated you to participate in the Advisory Council?
 - What you would like to see from this process?



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Draft Vision Statement Activity cont.

Our Cause
Who? What? Where?

Our Actions
What we do

Our Impact
Changes for the better

Example responses:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cultural diversity and inclusiveness ▪ Social responsibility ▪ Informed and involved community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Effective communication ▪ Embrace change, innovation, and new ideas ▪ Sustainable, equitable, and inclusive approaches | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Equitable and inclusive housing ▪ Educated, healthy, and safe community ▪ Job opportunities for all socio-economic groups ▪ High degree of civic involvement |
|--|--|---|

Example vision statement:

A diverse and engaged group of residents

working together, embracing new ideas to develop a sustainable, equitable, and inclusive approach to address project related impacts and contribute to

building a healthy and safe community

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Our Cause
Who? What? Where?

Our Actions
What we do

Our Impact
Changes for the better

future
history
community
integrity
diversity
trust
support
new-working-together
critical-thinking
collaboration
values
sustainable
education
equity
commitment
justice
ownership
healthy
unity
possibilities
safety

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10 Minute Break

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Poll: CAC Meeting Logistics

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Public Outreach Update

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December 2019: Public Outreach Updates

- Public Information Meeting comment period extended through January 31st
- Community Office activity
 - Visitor traffic
 - Telephone land line being installed
- New actions resulting from comments
 - Air quality analysis
 - Community office visitor survey

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Brainstorming Session: Potential Mitigation Ideas for Recreational Facilities

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Direct Impacts to Recreational Facilities



* Community center would be impacted by all alternatives under evaluation (Alts 1, 1A, 2, and 2A)

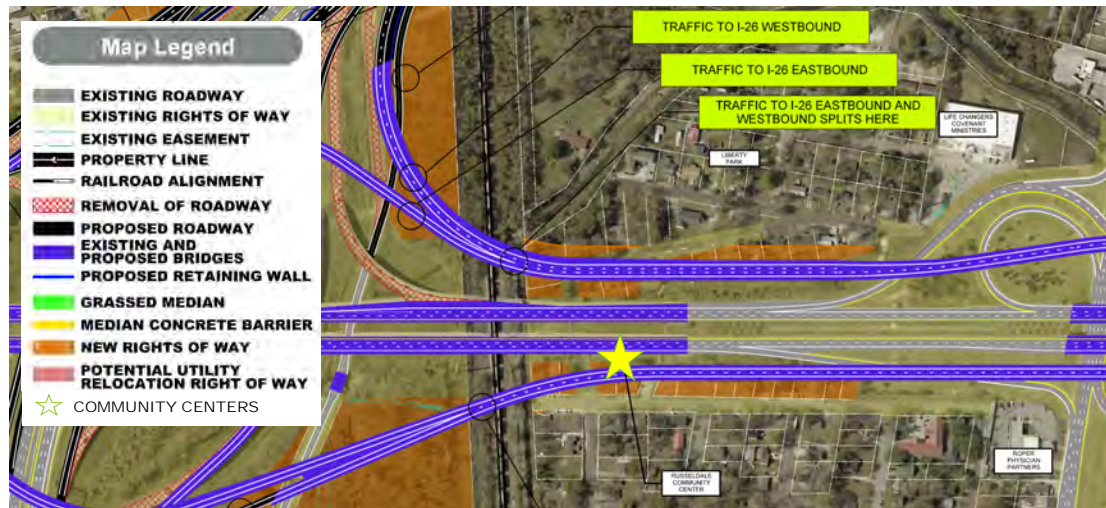
https://storage.googleapis.com/stateless-www-526lowcountryrcor/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/526_26_alternatives.pdf

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Direct Impacts to Recreational Facilities cont.



* Community center would be impacted by all alternatives under evaluation (Alts 1, 1A, 2, and 2A)

https://storage.googleapis.com/stateless-www-526lowcountrycor/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/526_26_alternatives.pdf

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Mitigation Requirements

- Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act
 - Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Community Center
- Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act
 - Russelldale Community Center
- Early public involvement and public review are part of regulatory process
 - CAC input on potential replacement locations / facility amenities, etc.
 - Focus group with community center staff, City staff, school transportation officials, and others
 - Proposed relocation

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Mitigation Requirements cont.

- Connection to Environmental Justice (EJ) /Cumulative Effects Mitigation:

Can the replacement facilities address direct impacts from the project but also include elements that address community issues and priorities as identified in the Social Needs Assessment and in conversations with the CAC?

GOAL: Work with CAC, focus group(s), the public and local entities to develop replacement recreational facilities as part of comprehensive EJ mitigation plan

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Brainstorming Session: Recreational Facilities



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Brainstorming Session: Recreational Facilities cont.

- High-level questions *(see activity sheet)*
- What we've heard:
 - Children in Russelldale also use Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Community Center *(reason for question on number/size of facilities)*
 - Children in Joppa Way walk home across railroad from Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Community Center *(reason preliminary mapping shows parcels in Joppa Way)*
- All ideas are on the board

RELEVANT NEEDS FROM THE SOCIAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

Availability of:

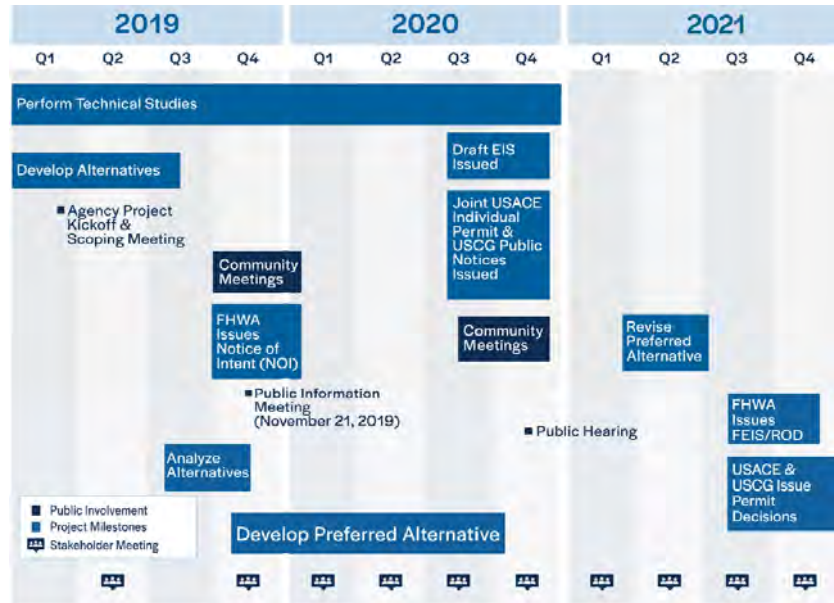
- Services for seniors
- Services for youth
- Youth employment opportunities
- Supervised after-school youth activities



Summary and Next Steps

Schedule

- Final environmental document: Fall 2021
- Right-of-way acquisition: 2022
- Construction: 2023
- CAC transition to Oversight Implementation Committee



Summary and Next Steps

- CAC Meeting No. 4 Recap
- Dates for CAC Meeting Nos. 5-7
- Community Office Open House (Jan 25)
- Informational Workshops at Community Office (Winter/Spring 2020)
- Potential topics for upcoming CAC meetings
 - Mitigation development workshop
 - *Are there specific topics you would like to see on future agendas?*

Contact Information



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Thank you for your time!

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 4

Date: January 4, 2020

Time: 10:08 am – 12:15 pm

Location: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor Community Office, 5627 Rivers Avenue, N. Charleston, SC

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees

Gilbert Reeves, Ferndale
Larenda Baxley, Ferndale
David L. Johnson, Ferndale
Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale
Charlynn Smith, Ferndale
Ruth Mae Whitney, Highland Terrace
Nathan Bryant, Highland Terrace
Jeavaris Bannister, Liberty Park
Doris Twiggs, Liberty Park
Prayonda Cooper, Joppa Way
Tony Grasso, Russelldale
Rick Day, Stantec
Ryan White, Stantec

LaTonya Derrick, Stantec
Joy Riley, SCDOT (Project Manager)
David Kelly, SCDOT
Pamela Foster, FHWA
Yolonda Jordan, FHWA
Maxine Smith, Maximum Consulting (Community Liaison)
Carolyn Lecque, Maximum Consulting (Community Liaison)
Horrace Tobin, Community Office (Coordinator)
Jamelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies (Facilitator)

Participant Summary:

Total participants: 22

Ferndale: 5

Highland Terrace: 2

Liberty Park: 2

Russelldale: 1

Adjacent/affected communities/agencies: 1

SCDOT: 2

FHWA: 2

Community Liaisons: 2

Community Office: 1

Stantec: 3

Facilitator: 1

Meeting Summary:

Welcome and Introductions

All meeting participants provided introductions. Restroom, exit, and external emergency meeting locations were reviewed. Administrative issues were addressed:

- Reminder to all participants to provide signatures for attendance and initials for consent to record meeting
- Approval of Meeting 2 minutes
- Distribution of CAC Meeting 3 minutes for review
- Distribution and review of Meeting 4 agenda
- Overview of agenda items
 - 'Open Mic' Session - Distribution of comment cards to CAC members for open-mic session for written questions or comments. The purpose of comment cards is to allow CAC members to ask questions or make comments via the facilitator. The project team adjusted the agenda for

Meeting 4 in order to conduct the open mic session at the beginning of the CAC meeting, and in an effort to allow adequate time to address all questions, comments, and concerns of CAC members. CAC members were encouraged to continue to present questions or comments that arise after meetings to the project team.

- Demographic Survey was distributed in CAC Meeting 4 packet. CAC members were asked to complete the survey and submit it to the project team by the end of the meeting.
- A draft of the Roles and Responsibilities guiding document was included in the packet.
- Brainstorming Worksheet for potential mitigation ideas for recreational facilities included in CAC Meeting 4 packet

Open Mic

Facilitator: CAC members were asked if there were any outstanding questions or comments from CAC Meeting 3, community drop-ins, or the Public Information meeting that were not previously addressed.

The printed Rules of Engagement poster was displayed in front of the room for CAC members. CAC members were asked to remember the Rules of Engagement as the group navigated through discussions.

The floor was opened for discussion.

Project team member reminded the CAC that the Community Office was established to serve as the source of factual information about the I-526 Lowcountry Corridor project within the community, so if there are things that CAC members are hearing that seem confusing or in conflict with information discussed with or by the project team, the open mic session is a perfect opportunity for the project team to provide clarification. It was reiterated that the project team wants to ensure accurate information on issues, such as the project schedule, is being disseminated to the community from the Community Office directly rather than from outside entities that may not have a clear understanding of the mitigation process.

CAC member emphasized that he did not want additional auto access in the back of the Ferndale neighborhood because that area serves as a pedestrian access.

CAC Member revisited the issue of beautification. Stressed that community members in Russelldale are currently dealing with wooded areas where there are rats and mice, and people living under the bridges. He asked if these issues would be addressed when the bridge is widened.

- Project Manager: Responded that once the right of way is finished, SCDOT will demolish and remove everything in that area.

CAC Member asked who cuts the brush or the sides of highways where there is an accumulation of trash and overgrowth on the swales and in the streets. CAC Member asked if it was possible to erect a façade to block visibility of the trash.

Project Manager: SCDOT has played a much bigger role in addressing trash removal on the interstate than we have in past years, but trash removal is a much larger issue that SCDOT doesn't typically manage. If it's within our right of way, citizens can submit a maintenance request. SCDOT has agreements with some municipalities to do some of the maintenance in this county.

CAC Member stated this is the entry way to North Charleston and that more should be done to beautify this section of the Interstate in a way that would make the community proud to welcome dignitaries.

- **Project Manager:** Project Manager validated the CAC Members concerns., and shared that she thought the City of North Charleston was proposing to do a gateway entrance and landscaping at the Remount exit but the project was postponed due to the current project (I-526 West). Stakeholder did not want to damage or remove new structures because of the requirements of the current project. She encouraged the CAC Member to present those concerns to the City if they wanted to get more information, but stated that a gateway sign project would not be done until after this project has been completed or it could be a part of the project. At some point, SCDOT will hold a charrette to get into the fine details of what the community mitigation project looks like. [Through this process], SCDOT can actually “put lines on paper” to define areas of concern and visually mark what should happen in those areas as a part of the mitigation process.

CAC Member expressed concern was about more than beautification. Near the sliver of Deacon Street that was left after the first I-526 expansion, there is a ditch that is in front Deacon Street, between the railroad tracks and the street itself. Because of the water movement, the ditch is widening. As a result, the street is starting to wash away. It is now a safety issue. Trees are being uprooted. One tree has fallen.

- **Project Team:** One of the issues that came up in previous meetings was stormwater management as an issue, even beyond this project, in terms of areas being low and flat. In looking at the proximity of Deacon Street to the widening of I-26 as part of the interchange process, new ditches will have to be cut along the outside of I-26. Project team member was not certain the new ditches will address all of the issues, but stated there will be some changes based on the project that will impact current stormwater flow along that section of I-26.

CAC Member asked if ditches could be replaced entirely by underground pipes.

CAC Member expressed that ditches were supposed to be replaced by pipes in the last expansion, and that after the last expansion, water started to run off of the interstate and there was no access point for maintenance. The dirt eventually washed down in the backyards of residents who were right up against the fence because there wasn't enough right-of-way purchased to maintain it.

CAC Member stated there is an unkept, clay cut-through path under the bridge in their area. It goes under the bridge and it isn't safe to walk through. The weeds removed so that residents can see “unsafe people.”

- **Project team member:** Stated that point was related to the previous discussion regarding pedestrian connectivity and how the project team can improve walkways and sidewalks within the larger scope of the mitigation project. Project team member asked about the location of the clay path.

CAC Member referenced the Piedmont (clay/dirt foot path) that goes under the bridge to get to the stores on Rivers Avenue.

CAC Member indicated there are a few foot paths in Russelldale. People cut the chain-link fence. Residents do not want to walk to Delta Street or Rebecca Street when there are closer gas stations. He stated that he would like to see the project include installing sidewalks that provide better, safer access to Rivers Avenue.

Another CAC Member added that she would like to see flowering trees planted rather than trees like Elms.

- Project team member referenced the Project Manager's earlier comments about the project team eventually holding charrettes and that charrettes are where beautification can be discussed. The project discussions will also include pedestrian walkways as a part of a much bigger plan, but vegetation makes a huge difference in the appearance and the required maintenance.

CAC Member expressed concerns that the current overpass (I-526 and Rivers Avenue) has a sloping edge and that there are people with mattresses sleeping underneath. He asked if it is possible to construct a deterrent to vagrancy as a part of the project, and referenced the vertical walls at the overpasses in Mount Pleasant that deter the homeless population.

- Project Manager: Stated that this is an issue in all urban areas. From a geotechnical standpoint, vertical walls at underpasses are not our first choice, but the project team can look at what other cities have done. It is being policed more now because of the fire that happened in Atlanta that damaged the interstate bridge. That was the result of homeless people living under the bridge. There is currently a more robust program to sweep those areas, but it requires regular enforcement to keep people out of those areas. We can look at some methods for deterring vagrancy.

Open Mic session was closed, but CAC members were encouraged to complete comment cards. Any outstanding questions or concerns would be addressed at the end of the meeting.

Roles and Responsibilities

Project team member: One of the objectives of CAC 4 meeting was to cap the size of the advisory council. The advisory council currently has 20 people. That was the original goal as outlined in the Rules and Responsibilities. The goal was to balance participation on the CAC among the four impacted neighborhoods.

- A current breakdown of participation on the CAC by neighborhood is: 7 members from Ferndale, 3 from Highland Terrace, 2 from Liberty Park, 2 from Russelldale, and 2 from Joppa Way.
- Pastor Johnson represents Harvest Point Church.
- Mr. Muhammad representing Muhammad Mosque.
- The current number of council members is acceptable, but the numbers are a somewhat skewed toward the Ferndale community. Because the CAC has more Ferndale members, the project team gauged if any CAC Members were interested in serving in other roles during outreach sessions in order to bring balance to the team. The project team would continue to leave open seats on the CAC to invite future members from some of the more underrepresented communities like Russelldale. Feedback on the structure of the council was requested in order to finalize membership and document how the team determines who serves on the CAC.

CAC Member stated that some of these (residential) areas are just hard to get commitments from the community and that the project team is going to have to work with the representatives who have already committed. [Seconded by another CAC member.]

- Project team member: Asked the CAC if there other approaches the CAC or project team can take to more effectively solicit community members to serve on the CAC.

CAC Member responded no.

CAC Member indicated they have begged people to come to community association meetings. They may show up one time if they have a big or special project that is particularly interesting and that affects them directly, or food. Attendance is typically inconsistent after a special project or program.

- Project team member: The goal for the next meeting (Meeting 5) is to present the final Roles and Responsibilities document for the CAC.

CAC Member sCAC Member suggested using gimmicks to get community members' input and having CAC members collect information and apply it appropriately.

- The project team is proposing open houses at the Community Office. There will be other opportunities to get people from the community in the Community Office to meet the CAC and the Community Office staff. There are resources available to ensure that people are prepared for the project moving forward. The project team wants to ensure that we leave space on the CAC for underrepresented neighborhoods to be better represented if there is future interest from the community.

CAC Member emphasized that community members are meeting, but they are meeting in settings where misinformation is being disseminated. There are other people outside of the SCDOT process who have established side committees. That is the reason for low participation and engagement in the CAC process. People don't know what to believe or who to trust. There are trust issues in a lot of these areas. People are operating in fear because there are other "officials" sending [mixed or incorrect] messages into the community.

Community Office Coordinator has planned for the Maximum Consulting Group to go into the communities, door-to-door, passing out flyers, talking with people and inviting people to come to the Community Office for more information. Open House is planned for January 25th, but the Community Office is always open to suggestions from the CAC team on how to get people to visit the Community Office. Recommended CAC members brainstorm amongst themselves or communicate with the Community Office staff to figure out what they can do to get more people into the office.

CAC Member stated that a part of the problem is that in areas like Ferndale, the majority of people are renters and they may not want to invest the energy into a place where they may not live in the next couple months or the next year. That may apply to Russelldale or Liberty Park as well.

CAC Member indicated he heard about agendas [meetings] in which they were using elected officials in the area to spread incorrect messages about property seizures for political gain.

CAC Member stated that he has gone door-to-door, passing out flyers and has spoken with a lot of residents. Some had mixed feelings, but he gave them the schedule of community meetings and invited them to attend. About a third of those people attended the meetings he attended. He agreed with the CAC Member's statement earlier, that the project team should use the CAC members who have currently committed and stated the people currently representing the CAC are the ones who are serious about their communities.

Facilitator: What do you see as the CAC in countering the messaging that is coming out of some of the [unofficial] meetings mentioned earlier? Do you think there is a role for the CAC to counter some of that messaging?

CAC Member replied that the basis of counter-messages is finance [personal financial impacts]. He stated people are hearing 'they're going to take your property and you're not going to get the value [of] your property.' [Agreement from other CAC members.] Those are the scare tactics keeping community members away. Some people don't feel this [CAC meeting/mitigation process] is a necessity. He indicated there are always pros and cons. He felt addressing the congestion problems on I-526 is a necessity for people traveling it daily, but unimportant to those who don't travel it every day.

Facilitator: Do you think there is an opportunity for the CAC to develop a strategy together to come up with something this group can do to work against incorrect messaging that's coming out of some of these off-shoot groups?

One CAC Member stated having a commercial on tv is the solution. He had seen some commercials, but suggested doing more. Another member suggested social media.

- Project team member: How can we drive more traffic to social media when the Facebook page has been in existence since months after the project kicked off? And there's been a lot of push and sponsored advertising targeted to the markets.
- Project Manager: You can target markets. And we have done that. For instance for the Open House, all of the social media advertising will be targeted toward the communities that are tied to the project.

CAC Member asked if the project team was referencing Facebook and Twitter.

Community Coordinator asked if the communities being impacted would be on social media.

CAC Member stated that most of senior-citizen residents are retirees and go to church on Sundays. He suggested using churches as an avenue to get the word out. Residents have to trust the system in order to make it better. If we can't gain their trust, they are not going to participate. Ultimately, the CAC should direct individuals in those meetings to come and talk with Community Office staff because they are best equipped to share accurate information with the project.

- Project Manager stated that is why SCDOT hired Maximum Consulting into the Community Office. They are a local business who is here to serve as the liaison between community members and SCDOT. They don't work for SCDOT, are not SCDOT employees, and have no special interests in this project. They are here to help community members to get information. When the CAC thinks something is not fair or is not right, Maximum takes those concerns to SCDOT to try to reach some resolution.
- The project team stated the biggest resource is the credibility of the CAC and Maximum Consulting. The project team, within the confines of this project, is trying to fix wrongs that were done. There is also legislation that requires the project team to fix some issues based on cumulative impacts.

CAC Member asked about the actual count or approximate number of people who will be misplaced.

- The Project Manager responded with 115, but stated the number may be a little higher based on a recent count that included liens.

CAC Member inquired about why residents are not contacted directly regarding displacement.

- The Project Manager explained that the CAC and Community Liaisons are allowed to communicate with the public through outreach efforts. SCDOT follows the Uniform Act which has rules about when SCDOT can discuss specifics with communities. Residents can come to SCDOT and SCDOT can give them information. SCDOT is also allowed to use outreach to try to encourage community members to attend meetings or to contact SCDOT directly; but, SCDOT cannot contact residents directly at this point to inform them of displacement. CAC Members are free to disseminate information now.

Community liaison suggested that displacement numbers not be used in discussions with residents. The next event that Maximum will help to promote is the Open House on January 25th. They will be meeting with and going to the neighborhoods to meet with the residents. They will meet one-on-one with seniors, who are not on social media, and who may not have email addresses to receive an eblast. They will meet with them face-to-face.

- The Project Manager stated the project implementation design is being developed and is evolving as the project team moves forward. The team always wants to show worst case scenario at the beginning of the process. Then, we are going to try to minimize the impacts when possible, within reason. SCDOT wants to minimize leaving a resident in an undesirable situation.
- Project team member cautioned against discussing numbers [associated with displacement] as well due to its sensitive and emotional nature.

Community Consultant emphasized that discussing numbers also makes people fearful of the process.

CAC Member stated that he is not familiar with what happened years ago, but has heard from people in neighborhoods like Liberty Park and things that happened during the I-26 expansion and believes people still think about past offenses. He asked what SCDOT has done regarding public relations to let people know that this process is going to be different. He felt the public relations approach of inviting people to meetings sounds like it sounded to community members 20-30 years ago and stated SCDOT should take accountability for its mistakes and present impacted neighborhoods with how they are doing it differently this time, and let that come directly from SCDOT and not from people who are in the community. There are significant discrepancies between the conversations taking place in the community (expressing a lack of trust) and the discussions taking place in the CAC meetings. He suggested SCDOT get on media outlets and explain how the process is different now than when interstate expansions took place years ago.

Community Liaison explained that one of the ways that Maximum will help with messaging is to schedule radio interviews for the Project Manager. One of the meetings Maxim will schedule next week is with Cynthia Bell who coordinates all of the advertising. Community liaison would like for the Project Manager to be interviewed in person or by phone and let those interviews run continuously over the next few weeks so she can tell SCDOT's story. By taking this approach, not only is SCDOT inviting people to come to the open house but they are saying that 'in the past, this was done...but, this is now and this is what we

are going to do.’ Maximum did not write the press releases or public service announcements. Maximum’s responsibility to get the message on the radio waves that our people [affected communities] listen to.

- Project Manager suggested the project team can host another right-of-way workshop if CAC Members believe community members would attend to get that information. She encouraged CAC members to continue inviting community members to visit the community office and just talk to the staff and give them an opportunity to get authentic, direct answers from the office.

Community Liaison stated she would like to see the project pay for the advertisement in the Black newspaper, The Chronicle. The churches subscribe to the Chronicle and on Sundays, a lot of churches will distribute them to their members.

- Project team member stated, “a lot of what is being said that ‘people need to hear,’ has already been said. If you review media content from when this project started, there is an article where Joy [Project Manager] is quoted. She has stated early in the project that ‘this is a new day, ’ but the key is making sure we’re using the right tool to convey that message. Because while its being said here, [only] you hear it. So, it needs to be marketed to the right audience using the tools your target audience uses to obtain information. Not everyone subscribes to the Post and Courier. So, the CAC telling the project team the right tools the community uses would be very helpful in implementing the most effective means of communication.”
 - To revisit Roles and Responsibilities as it relates to higher representation on the CAC by Ferndale residents, because there is only one CAC member representing Russelldale and the two communities are close in proximity, the project team encourages collaborative efforts in supporting grass roots efforts between communities represented by the CAC. Project team member expressed that the project team knows everyone will have flyers for events, but not everyone can go out and walk the street and distribute them. She asked if the 5 CAC Members from Ferndale would support the efforts the Russelldale member.

SCDOT Team member observed that there seems to be huge issues with trust based on what happened in the past and asked if there is a way to create a list of grievances from the previous project, itemizing offenses of the previous project and providing specific steps SCDOT is taking to avoid recurrence of those offenses in the current project.

- Project Manager agreed that approach is something SCDOT would like to include in the impact analysis, in the historical and cumulative impacts.

SCDOT team member agreed with the Project Manager, but emphasized the importance of making it available to the community in order to increase credibility. Admitting the specific ‘wrongs’ rather than trying to manage vague, high level concerns.

- Project Manager reminded everyone the same laws were not in place during previous expansions and they were not as protective of communities as current laws.

CAC Member indicated that was the reason she called the Project Manager about the project initially, to let her know she would only remain committed to the project if the process was transparent. It comes back to trust.

CAC Member asked for specific examples from the past expansion of what caused the current distrust.

CAC Member 6: My dad had property on Drury Lane when I-26 was expanded. They clipped the front of the property and took acreage that took away his front yard. My dad trusted them. He let it go. When I-526 came through, they took the remainder of his property. With the check he received from the deal, he couldn't buy another piece of property. The years he owned the property, paid taxes on the property and maintained the property – it was a giveaway to the state. In an effort to embrace the future, I wouldn't like to see that happen to anyone. Take away their property and when they leave they don't have money to purchase other property. After two interstates came through he had no profit.

CAC Member3: Deacon Street and Elder Street about the water running off and running under the house. The wood under the house decays and the water continues to run under the house.

CAC Member asked how SCDOT would handle those issues today.

- Project Manager stated SCDOT would purchase entire lots today. In the past, there may have been situations to avoid relocating someone, SCDOT would opt just to purchase just a front yard, but property owners can dispute that and asked to be relocated. We don't want to do that. Residents will probably be better off allowing SCDOT to purchase their entire property so they can receive the full purchase price and apply it to relocating.

CAC Member asked if those options available in the 1960s.

- Project Manager responded no,, not in the 60's. The current rules were not in place in the 60's. Anytime SCDOT cuts off the front of a property, in some cases we take off too much so you're now eligible for proximity damages so you should receive a payment to compensate for that. There are different things in the law to account for those situations. Because these communities have been affected in the past and now they are being affected again, people need to know their rights. You have basic rights but because these are low income communities that have cumulative impacts, if you feel like something is unfair then bring it to our attention and we will see what we can do to make it right.

CAC Member stated in response to area being considered "low income," that his home is fully equipped with everything but an elevator and a dishwasher (by choice). He expressed concerns about his home being classified as low income when he has kept his home updated.

- Project Manager stated the value of property is based on your appraisal and you can provide information that the appraiser will take into consideration - including investments and improvements that you have made.

CAC Member expressed concerns about his property being considered low-income.

- Project Manager stated that although she is not an expert on appraisals, she is aware appraisers use recent sales to determine costs, but they also use comparable homes. Anything you dispute in the appraisal, you can ask for your own independent appraisal.

CAC Member stated that is the type of information residents need to know. Inform residents of their options.

- Project Manager: The Community Office is here for that reason, so that people can come here and get the information they need. There are two Right-of-Way specialists that are here one day a week for residents to come in and talk about their specific situations and potential impacts. These lines [on the maps displayed] may change a little. We start the process with a big footprint because there's a big impact in being "front row" on the interstate. Sometimes, people who live on the front line want to be able to make that choice.

CAC Member expressed concern that the Liberty Park and Highland Terrace communities are so tight that somebody is going to be affected [regardless of how the lines are drawn]. Another asked if there is a definite route (footprint) of the houses that will be affected?

- Project Manager: There is always a "No Build" alternative. Based on the public comments to date, there is a large contingent that doesn't want this project to proceed.

CAC Member asked if people who oppose the project they live in this area or drive through.

- Project Manager: The data hasn't been analyzed on that level yet, but she expressed that interstates are a critical route. Leaving an interstate where it is currently is a lot less impactful than building a new road in another location. No matter what area we consider in Charleston, we will still face the same issues of relocation (displacement) and many of those communities would also be African American, minority, or low-income communities. The current plan is less impactful than building a road somewhere else.

CAC Member stated she did not think it would be fair to her tenants to not inform them of the potential for their rental units to be taken from them by the project, while she is still collecting monthly rent. Although she wants to give them time to look for another place, she does not want to alarm them too early.

- Project Manager: That may be an issue for long term renters, but keep in mind that displacement for tenants is not anticipated for another 3-4 years. SCDOT is trying to create housing that offer them options. They can choose to move where they'd like. But we want to ensure that we have provide options. As a landlord, you should know that as we get closer, if you feel uncomfortable or are having trouble securing tenants because of the pending project, we can start paying protective rent or buy you out early once we get a little closer to the 5 year target. That is included under protective rights in the laws. Similarly, with hardship rules. If you own a house and you need to relocate, but you put your house on the market and no one wants to purchase because the house falls within the project footprint. Contact us so that we can do a hardship early purchase. There are several scenarios like these that are covered in the rules, but we need residents to come into the Community Office and ask questions. Those are also things we can explore when we get closer to construction, but we don't want to alarm everyone to make a mass exodus right now.

CAC Member asked what protections are in place or will there be protections to keep it housing affordable long-term.

- Project Manager: We haven't determined the mechanism to ensure long term affordability, but we are working on that. We will have protections in place.

CAC Member asked if long-term residents with criminal backgrounds would be able to obtain housing in the relocation process since they will be required to have a background check.

- Project Manager: We work with a variety of issues and we will work with that tenant to find a solution on that matter. We have to ensure that people are relocated into affordable housing in which we can place them.

CAC Member asked about the chance of this project not going through.

- Project Manager: The project is definitely needed. If we don't do this we would have to do something else. Most of the comments we received for the "No Build" option have a misunderstanding about how transportation works because they want SCDOT to invest instead in transit. So, if we don't build the project here, it will be used for an interstate project in another area. The funds are allocated specifically for interstate projects. It will not go to transit projects because its earmarked for interstate projects. A number of comments, for example, direct us to construct a bus lane. Under the current legislation cannot close a lane and make it a bus lane only. However, the new construction project improvements are being developed in a way that will allow for future operational options. That's why we're doing 12-foot shoulders. A lot of the things that people are asking for in this project (but are not included in the scope of the project) cannot happen without this project. This infrastructure improvement will allow many of those projects to happen.

CAC Member asked for clarification on "traffic management"

- Project Manager: Traffic Management is actually related to the infrastructure to help manage traffic. Its an actively managed system, so every half mile there are overhead message boards with digital notifications to help move traffic during peak hours. But, it takes the infrastructure, having a traffic management center with staff to operate the cameras and controls...it's a huge investment to get to the point where you can implement project like that. People who express a desire for "no build" typically fall into one of two groups: (1) "no build" because it's not worth the community impact. Those people probably don't drive on the interstate. (1) "no build" that drive on the interstate but believe SCDOT can provide public transit, and put busses in one of the lanes on the interstate, which is not possible. And, there are some people who know that its needed and just want to make sure that SCDOT is doing the right thing.
- Project team member: Before we move on, I want to revisit what [SCDOT team member] mentioned regarding development of a list of offenses ('historical wrongs') against community members in previous interstate expansion projects. Scheduling a session to address those issues should be an action item. We will discuss that in our follow up internal project team call.

Vision Statement Activity

Facilitator tabled the vision statement activity due to time constraints. , but provided a brief discussion for clarification between the mission statement (statement of purpose) and vision statement. Members were asked to think about their vision for the group as they transition from the CAC to the oversight committee.

Project team member distributed survey clickers to survey the CAC on issues such as resource allocation and to ensure proper utilization of the Community Office space (CAC meeting access). The office is open

five days a week and every other Saturday. CAC Members were guided through a Community Office use logistical survey.

Survey results:

- CAC members prefer to meet on a recurring date & time, 1st Saturdays
- CAC members prefer to extend the meeting to 3 hours, from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- CAC members would like the option to meet together outside of the regularly scheduled CAC meetings

As information, the public comment period has been extended to the end of January. CAC members were encouraged to have friends, relatives, and neighbors to visit the website or come to the community office to engage with project team and community office staff.

Outreach Update:

Community Office Coordinator: Since the community office opened, there have been approximately 107 visitors, approximately half of which represent the impacted communities. The office is averaging about 14 people per week. The holidays presented a bit of a slowdown during the holidays.

Brainstorming Session: Potential Mitigation Ideas for Recreational Facilities

Project team members: There have been 291 comments (comment cards) submitted. We are categorizing them by general themes such as noise, meeting experiences, meeting requests, etc. Questions were asked about various project dynamics, right of way, bus lanes, bike and pedestrian lanes, transit, affordable housing, environmental concerns, maintaining access to rivers, alternatives for smaller maps displaying system-to-system interchange (N. Rhett Avenue and manage lanes), etc. One of the more specific (commonly asked) questions was feedback from community drop ins. There were 61 comments in support of “no improvements,” people who are advocates for alternative methods of travel. The 31 comments made at drop-ins are public information, but printed copies can be provided to CAC members upon request. CAC member requested the be sent by email.

Air quality related to existing traffic and air quality in the neighborhoods immediately adjacent to I-526 corridor. The project team will be conducting an air quality analysis project.

Review of Community Office form for visitors to complete in order to assist the project team in collecting information on needs for housing replacement needs throughout the community. This is the next stage of the social needs assessment (which will run through the end of the comment period).

In upcoming meetings, the project team will address a path forward for mitigation based on the impacts gathered and prioritized from the social needs assessment and community office forms. Some parcels have already been provided and are included in your packet. CAC was asked to be mindful that the project team has not begin talking with property owners. The project team emphasized the critical need for confidentiality in the current stage of the project. The project manager reminded everyone that when the notification process begins, residents must be a willing seller. SCDOT cannot force to sell. CAC members were asked to continue thinking about the value the community center will add to neighborhoods and to consider uses or services that may not yet be included in the plan. This will be revisited at the next meeting.

Summary and Next Steps

- Reminder to complete the Demographic Survey and return it to the project team before the end of the meeting
- Reminder to CAC members to request missed materials from Meeting 3, if they were absent
- CAC Members requested an email meeting reminder one week prior to the meeting
- Open House flyers will be distributed to CAC Members at the Community Office on Monday, January 6, 2020
- CAC Members were encouraged to email questions, concerns, or ideas for meeting topics to Council@526Lowcountrycorridor.com or stop by the Community Office
- Next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 8, 2020, 10 AM-1 PM at the Community Office

Respectfully submitted,

Jamelle H. Ellis, Ph.D.
President/Managing Director
Empowerment Strategies, LLC



LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR

*Community Advisory Council
Meeting No. 5
2.8.2020*

Welcome and Introductions

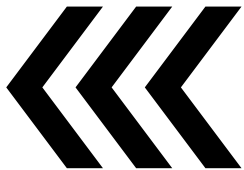
- Advisory Council Members
- SC Department of Transportation
- Federal Highway Administration
- Consultant Team



Logistics



Food



Exits



Restrooms



Agenda

- Administrative Items
- Approve CAC Roles & Responsibilities
- Items Currently in the Parking Lot
- ‘Open Mic’ Session
- Highway Project Impacts
- Break / Lunch
- Vision Statement Activity
- Brainstorming Session: Potential Mitigation Ideas for Recreational Facilities
- Outreach Update
- Summary and Next Steps



Administrative Items

Administrative Items

- For Distribution:
 - CAC Meeting No. 5 Agenda
 - Minutes from CAC Meeting No. 4
 - Comment cards for Open Mic/general use
 - Approve Final CAC Roles & Responsibilities
 - Worksheet for mitigation brainstorming activity



Approve Roles and Responsibilities

Roles and Responsibilities

- File in binder under “Guiding Principles”
- Highlights:
 - Freedom of Information Act requirements
 - CAC meetings are not open for general public participation
 - Encourage neighbors to attend a “Meet Your Advisory Council” Open House
 - You are the community connection
 - Public can always contact SCDOT project team to relay questions, concerns, and information they would specifically like shared with the CAC
- If votes are taken at any point, only formal CAC members may participate in a vote



Open Mic

Open Mic Session

- Goal: Open Mic at every CAC meeting
- Express opinions, voice concerns, ask questions
- Can address Advisory Council and/or Project Team
- Can speak or use comment card
- Time limit: will vary; may have to set limits if necessary, based on agenda
- Speak from your own experiences; avoid generalizations
- Recall Rules of Engagement related to listening and speaking one at a time



Parking Lot

Currently in the Parking Lot

■ Aesthetics

- I-526 bridge over Rivers Avenue and bridge over Bryant Street
- City gateway at Rivers Avenue and I-526
- Flowering trees
- Maintenance of brush/weeds to help prevent crime by improving line of sight
- Trash pick-up
- Vagrancy deterrents at Rivers Avenue overpass

■ Bike/pedestrian facilities

- Better facilities
- Better connectivity to Rivers Avenue

■ Stormwater runoff

- Stormwater on Deacon Street: widening ditch and uprooting trees
- Stormwater management for project? Storm drains? Dirt washing down fill slopes into backyards



Highway Project Impacts



Direct Impacts from I-526 WEST Project

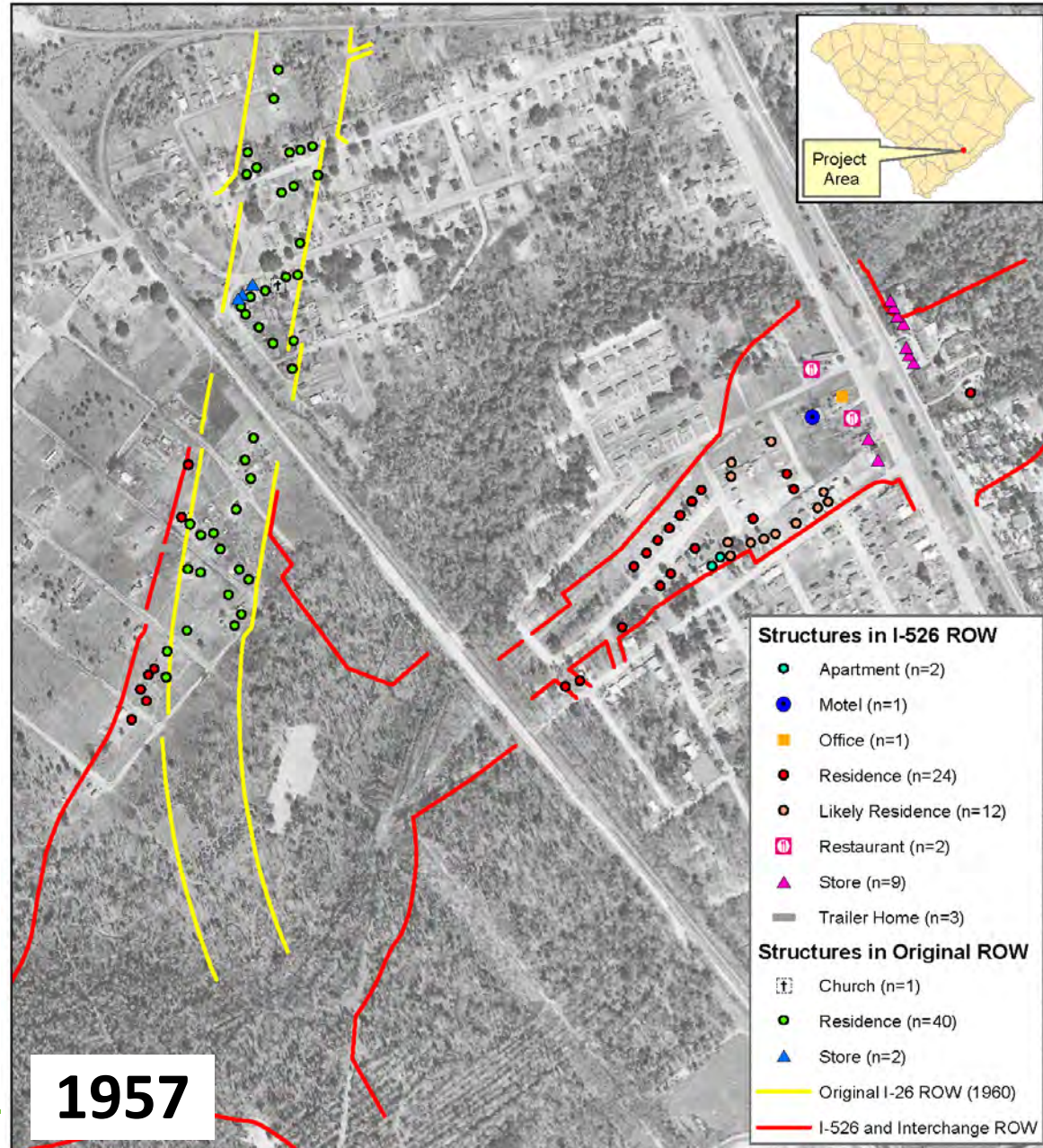


- Residential displacements
- Affordable housing takes
- Recreational facilities displacement

RELOCATION TYPE	TOTALS
Apartment Units (16 buildings/duplexes)	68-90
Single family homes/mobile homes	48-67
Parks/community centers	2
TOTALS	159

** Preliminary estimates based on approximate additional right-of-way for Alternatives 1 and 2*

Past Impacts from Highway Projects (cont.)



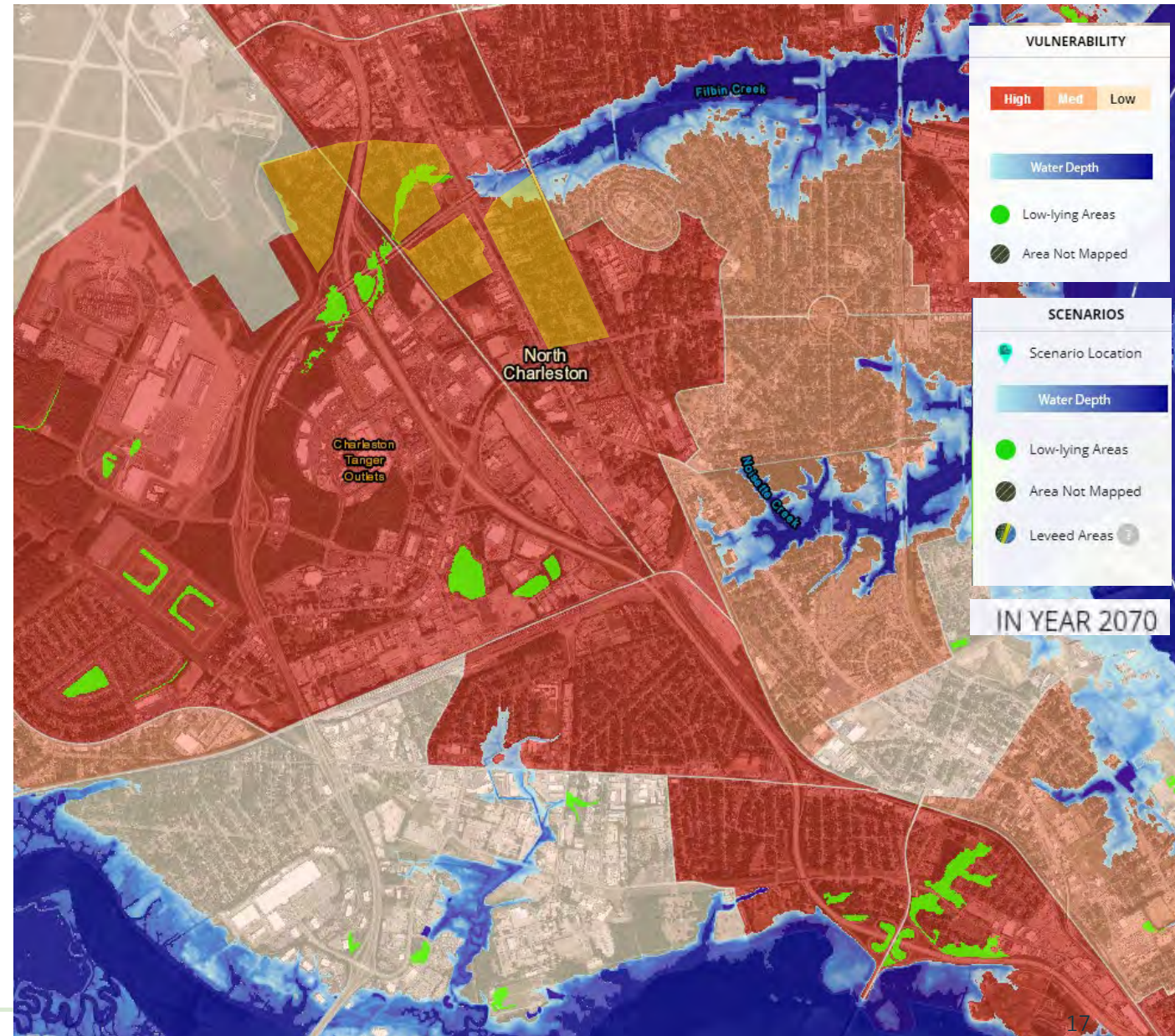
Past Impacts from Highway Projects (cont.)

- Direct impacts from construction of I-26 and I-526
 - Residential relocations/encroachment
 - Business relocations
- Indirect/cumulative impacts from I-26 and I-526 construction
 - Community cohesion
 - Effects on neighborhood property values
 - Increased imperviousness/water quality effects
 - Increased noise
 - **Unaddressed project effects/mitigation:** stormwater management; sidewalk/bicycle facilities; replacement housing; well-lit streets/sidewalks (** also identified in Social Needs Assessment*)



Community-wide cumulative/recurring EJ Impacts

- Intergenerational poverty
- Segregation and isolation
- Surface transportation projects
- Changing job market
- Lack of affordable housing
- Environmental pollutants
- Flooding
- Limited access to transit
- Lack of sidewalks, bike facilities
- Language barriers



I-526 West EJ Mitigation Strategy: Overarching Goal

- *Effectively mitigate direct, indirect, and cumulative (/recurring) impacts on EJ communities by **establishing relationships, building trust, and gathering feedback that will inform decisions** on mitigative measures and other aspects of project development.*

I-526 West EJ Mitigation Strategy: Looking Ahead

Questions to think about for upcoming mitigation work session:

*What do you feel where the **impacts not addressed**
from past transportation projects?*

*What do you see as **effective mitigation** for:*

Direct impacts (relocations/encroachment)

Indirect effects (air/noise)

Cumulative effects (decreased community cohesion; blight)



Lunch / Break (15 Minutes)



Developing the CAC Vision



Developing the Community Advisory Council Vision

Our Cause Who? What? Where?	Our Actions What we do	Our Impact Changes for the better
Motivators		
<p>How has the existing highway affected you?</p> <p>How will the proposed project affect you?</p>	<p>What brought you here today?</p> <p>What are your values?</p> <p>What motivated you to participate in the Advisory Council?</p>	<p>What you would like to see from this process?</p>
Themes		
<p>Cultural diversity and inclusiveness</p> <p>Social responsibility</p> <p>Informed and involved community</p>	<p>Effective communication</p> <p>Embrace innovation and new ideas</p> <p>Equitable and inclusive approaches</p>	<p>Educated, civically-involved, healthy, and safe community</p>

Community Advisory Council Vision Statement - DRAFT

Our Cause
Who? What? Where?

Our Actions
What we do

Our Impact
Changes for the better

*“A **diverse and engaged group** of residents **working together**, embracing new ideas to develop an **equitable and inclusive approach** to address project-related impacts and contribute **to building a sustainable, healthy, and safe community.**”*



Public Outreach Update

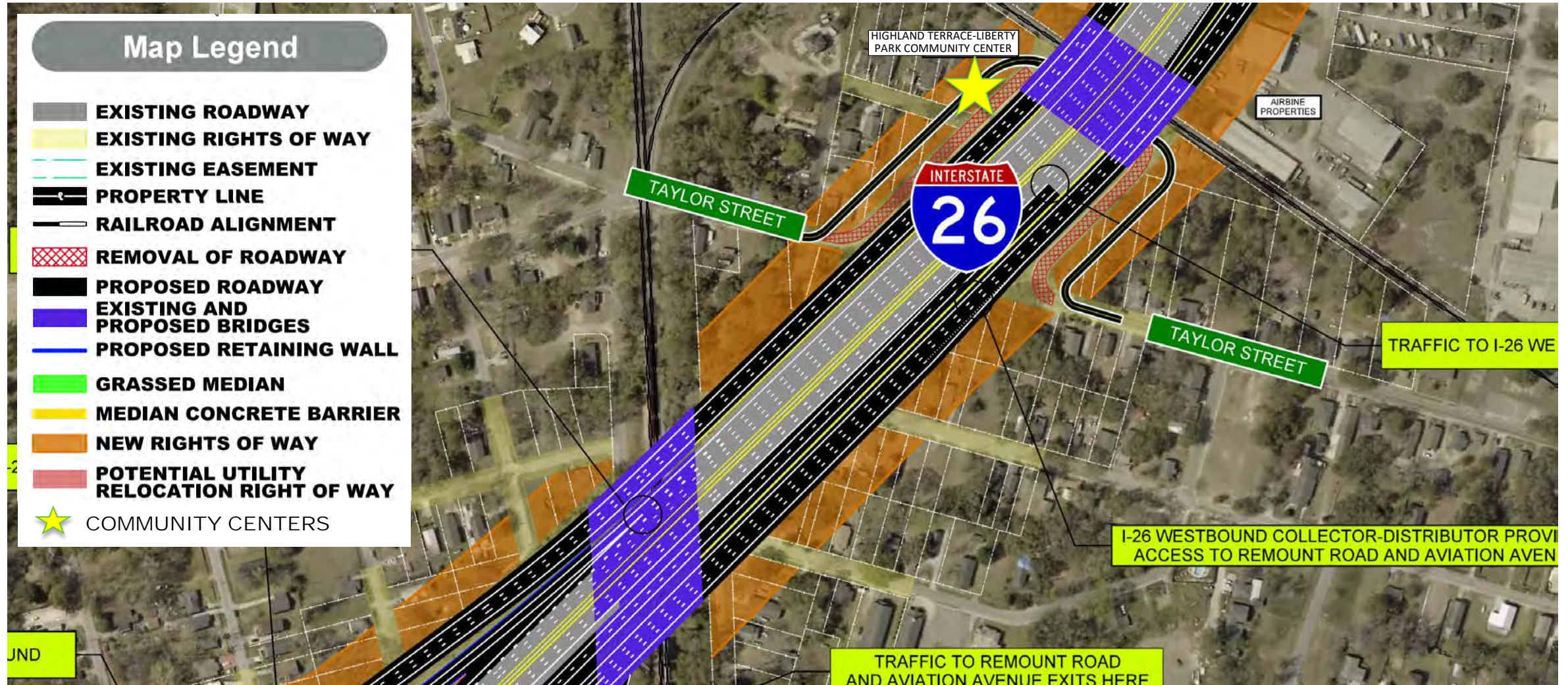
December 2019: Public Outreach Updates

- Comments from PIM
- Community Office activity
- Open House – January 25th, 2020
- Informational Workshops
- *Meet Your Community Advisory Council* Open Houses



Brainstorming Session: Potential Mitigation Ideas

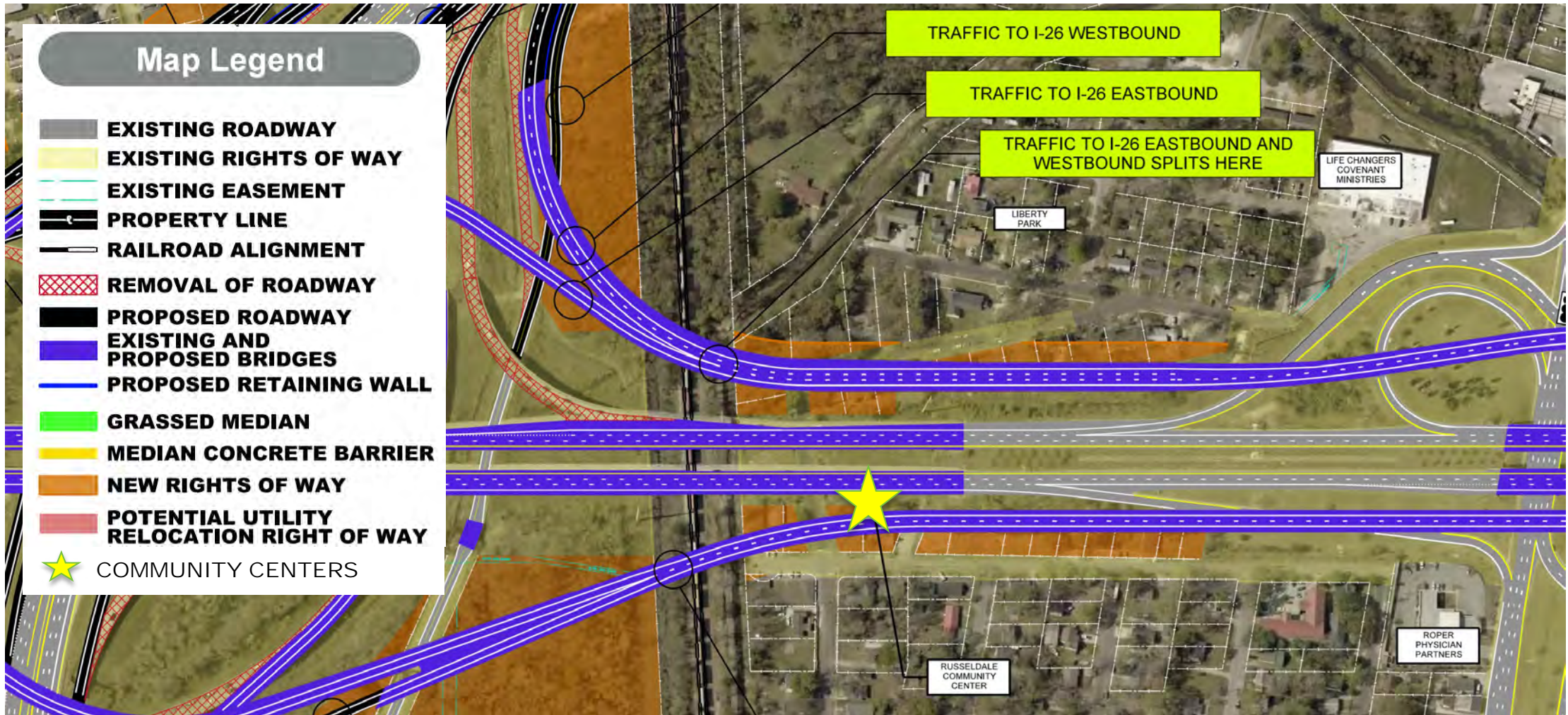
Direct Impacts to Recreational Facilities



** Community center would be impacted by all alternatives under evaluation (Alts 1, 1A, 2, and 2A)*

https://storage.googleapis.com/stateless-www-526lowcountrycor/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/526_26_alternatives.pdf

Direct Impacts to Recreational Facilities cont.



** Community center would be impacted by all alternatives under evaluation (Alts 1, 1A, 2, and 2A)*

https://storage.googleapis.com/stateless-www-526lowcountrycor/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/526_26_alternatives.pdf

Mitigation Requirements

- Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act
 - Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Community Center
- Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act
 - Russelldale Community Center
- Early public involvement and public review are part of regulatory process
 - CAC input on potential replacement locations / facility amenities, etc.
 - Focus group with community center staff, City staff, school transportation officials, and others
 - Proposed relocation

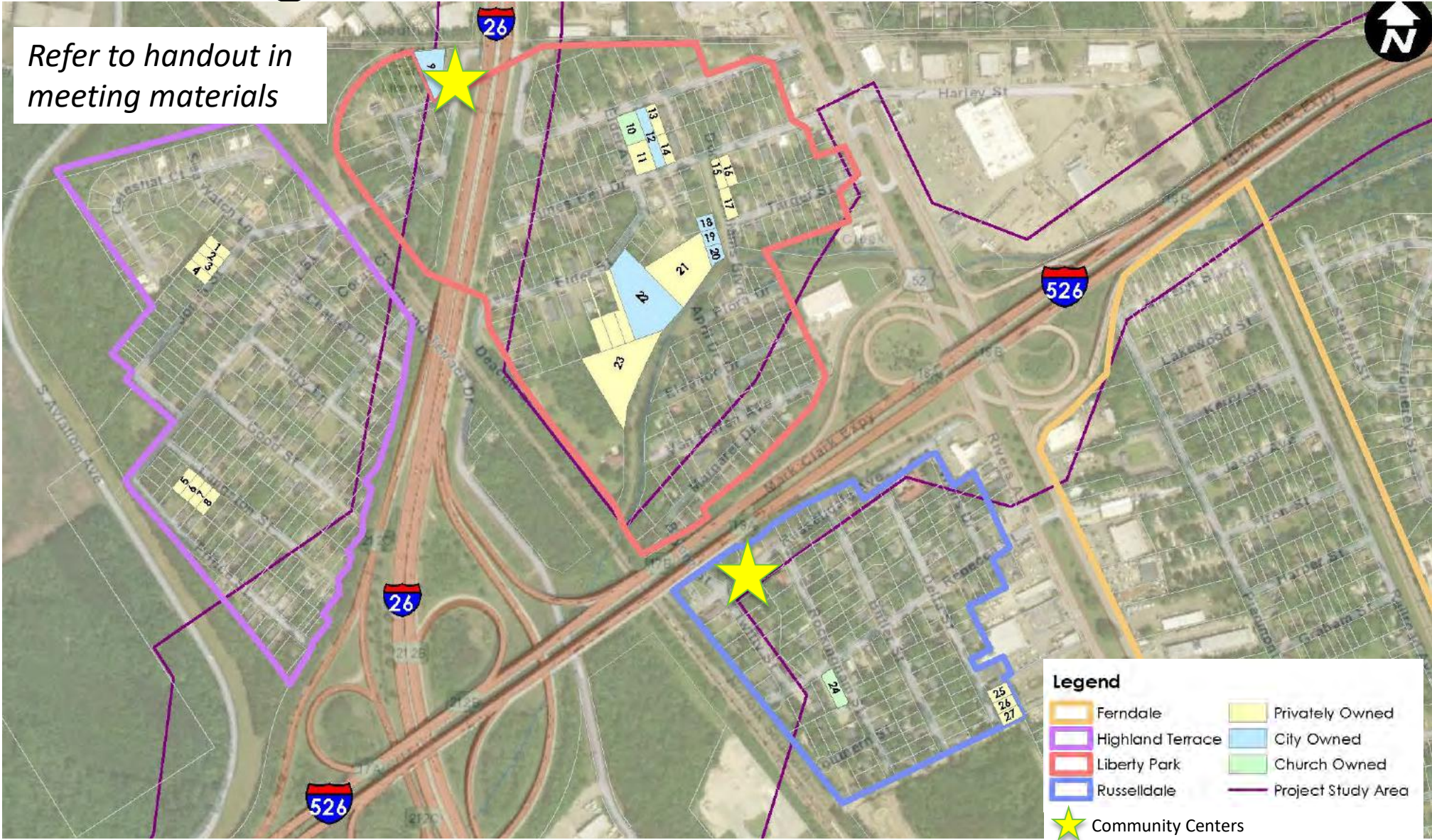
Mitigation Requirements cont.

- Connection to Environmental Justice (EJ) /Cumulative Effects Mitigation:

Can the replacement facilities address direct impacts from the project but also include elements that address community issues and priorities as identified in the Social Needs Assessment and in conversations with the CAC?

GOAL: Work with CAC, focus group(s), the public and local entities to develop replacement recreational facilities as part of comprehensive EJ mitigation plan

Brainstorming Session: Recreational Facilities



Brainstorming Session: Recreational Facilities cont.

- High-level questions *(see activity sheet)*
- What we've heard:
 - Children in Russelldale also use Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Community Center *(reason for question on number/size of facilities)*
 - Children in Joppa Way walk home across railroad from Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Community Center *(reason preliminary mapping shows parcels in Joppa Way)*
- All ideas are on the board

RELEVANT NEEDS FROM THE SOCIAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

Availability of:

- Services for seniors
- Services for youth
- Youth employment opportunities
- Supervised after-school youth activities

Brainstorming Session: Recreational Facilities

- Will be conducting focus group with community center staff, City staff, school transportation officials, and others
- Early public involvement and public review are part of regulatory process*
- Leads into Mitigation Development Work Session
- Connection to Social Needs Survey
 - Confirm team understands community issues and priorities
 - Team will examine direct impacts and proposed relocation as part of cumulative effects assessment
 - Helps set priorities for future actions

** Section 4(f) of the USDOT Act and Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act*

Brainstorming Session: Other Mitigation Ideas

- High-level ideas
 - What resources are lacking?
 - Thoughts on preferable location(s)?
 - Other?
- All ideas are on the board



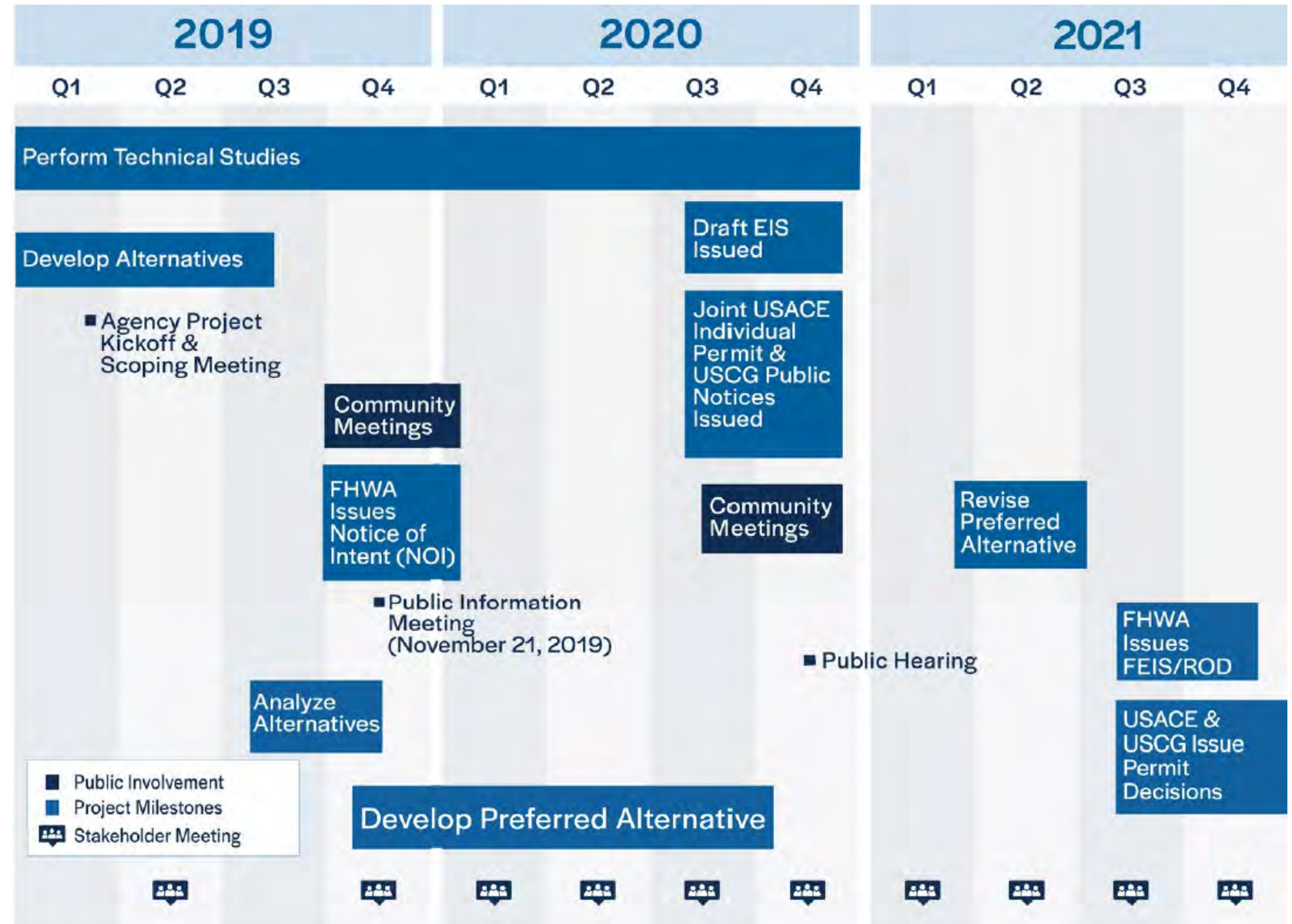
Petersburg Park in Louisville, KY



Summary and Next Steps

Schedule

- Final environmental document: Fall 2021
- Right-of-way acquisition: 2022
- Construction: 2023
- CAC transition to Oversight Implementation Committee



Summary and Next Steps

- CAC Meeting No. 5 Recap
- Mitigation development work session:
 - Need to hold work session soon
 - Extend next meeting to four hours? OR have another three-hour meeting in February plus regular meeting in March?
- Poll group for *Meet Your Advisory Council* Open House date(s)
- Confirm schedule for upcoming CAC Meetings

Contact Information



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Thank you for your time!



BRT Links

- <https://lowcountryrapidtransit.com/>
- <https://lowcountryrapidtransit.com/transit-oriented-development.html>
- [https://lowcountryrapidtransit.com/docs/LCRT Online Meeting Press Release.pdf](https://lowcountryrapidtransit.com/docs/LCRT_Online_Meeting_Press_Release.pdf)



MEETING MINUTES

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 5

Date: February 8, 2020

Time: 10:00 am – 1:05 pm

Location: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor Community Office, 5627 Rivers Avenue, N. Charleston, SC

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees

Larenda Baxley, Ferndale
Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale
Charlynn Smith, Ferndale
Geneva Swett, Ferndale
Ruth Mae Whitney, Highland Terrace
Jeanaris Bannister, Liberty Park
Carolyn Varner, Liberty Park
Prayonda Cooper, Joppa Way
Tony Grasso, Russelldale
Angela Anderson, Russelldale
Venus Silva, Russelldale

Earl Muhammad, Muhammad Mosque
Rick Day, Stantec
Amy Sackaroff, Stantec
LaTonya Derrick, Stantec
Joy Riley, SCDOT (Project Manager)
David Kelly, SCDOT
Pamela Foster, FHWA
Yolonda Jordan, FHWA
Maxine Smith, Maximum Consulting (Community Liaison)
Janelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies (Facilitator)

Participant Summary:

Total participants: 21

Ferndale: 4

Highland Terrace: 1

Liberty Park: 2

Russelldale: 3

Adjacent/affected communities/agencies: 2

SCDOT: 2

FHWA: 2

Community Liaisons: 1

Community Office: 0

Stantec: 3

Facilitator: 1

Meeting Summary:

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting began with self-introductions of everyone in attendance. Restroom, exit, and external emergency meeting locations were reviewed. Administrative issues were addressed:

- Meeting participants were reminded to sign in and that the meeting was being recorded to ensure an accurate record of discussions
- Request for approval of Meeting 3 minutes
 - A request was made to correct the spelling of “Jeavaris” to “Jeanaris”
 - Meeting 3 minutes were approved
- CAC Meeting 4 minutes were distributed
- Meeting 5 agenda was distributed
- Overview of agenda items

- 'Open Mic' Session - CAC members were offered an opportunity to complete comment cards for the open-mic session for written questions or comments. The purpose of comment cards is to allow CAC members to ask questions or make comments via the facilitator if they do not wish to speak. Otherwise, CAC members are encouraged to ask candid questions regarding the mitigation process.
- Reminder to CAC members to complete the Demographic Survey that was distributed in CAC Meeting 4. Demographic Surveys were provided to members who were unable to attend Meeting 4. CAC members were asked to complete the survey and submit it to the project team by the end of the meeting.
- Approval of final Roles and Responsibilities guiding document. The document was provided to CAC members who were unable to attend Meeting 4. Roles and Responsibilities should be placed under the Guiding Principles tab in CAC binders. The primary purpose of this document is to:
 - Outline the expectations for the Community Advisory Council and the project team
 - Establish the CAC as a non-voting body
 - Limit the CAC's membership to 20, with flexibility to accept additional members from the Russelldale community to ensure proper representation
 - Establish that no single chair will be selected to represent the CAC. Members will represent their respective communities.
 - Change the timeframe for meetings from a 2- to 3-hour format
- All discussions in CAC meetings are subject to the Freedom of Information Act
- CAC Members are encouraged to use the Open Mic session to bring to the full Council and project team any questions and concerns that they have discussed with stakeholders (primarily community members outside of CAC meetings). The CAC is also encouraged to direct community members to visit the Community Office (CO) to discuss questions directly with CO staff and liaisons.
- CAC members who were unable to attend Meeting 4 were provided the Brainstorming Worksheet for potential mitigation ideas for recreational facilities
- A CAC member requested for meeting minutes to be distributed for approval prior to CAC meetings, rather than receiving them during CAC meetings.

Open Mic

Facilitator: CAC members were asked if there were any outstanding questions or comments from CAC Meeting 4 or from discussions with residents in respective communities.

The floor was opened for discussion.

A CAC member expressed concern about rezoning causing unforeseen problems. There is a meeting scheduled on February 10th at City Hall regarding rezoning (R1, single-family to R2, two-residential dwelling units) on Cary Street/Piedmont Street in the Ferndale community with the idea of multifamily units, specifically apartments. Ferndale residents are opposed to more apartments because of the associated problems (e.g. crime, particularly drug-related). They expressed concerns that higher density means higher crime. They prefer duplexes or single-family housing.

Project Manager: SCDOT is considering purchasing five lots in that area. Three of them are adjacent to the existing apartments. Two are at the corner of Piedmont and Cary. The two smaller lots are designated as R1, so SCDOT is not certain the property is large enough to accommodate an apartment complex.

However, there is a significant number of renters who will be displaced as a result of the project. While SCDOT is working to get as many residents to enter into homeownership, there will be a percentage that cannot or will not choose to do so. For those residents, SCDOT must be able to provide replacement rental units. Ferndale and Russelldale are the only two communities that have parcels zoned for multifamily units.

CAC Member: Expressed desire to see multifamily units, such as duplexes like the units on Jason Street, as opposed to apartment complexes.

Project Manager: [Although the project team is still working on the details], the mobile home park will likely be moved and the land will be used for a multi-faceted development that includes new affordable housing and some type of recreational facility. Multi-use facilities can sometimes discourage certain activities (i.e. crime).

CAC Member: Each time rezoning has resurfaced as a possibility, residents have fought it. They plan to fight this one as well. Although they understand the rationale behind considering apartment complexes, apartments have created problems in the past. Once it is rezoned, the community is stuck with it.

Program Manager: SCDOT is required to collaborate with the Housing Authority under the tax incentive program. The property in question is not Housing Authority property. The property falls under the Tax Incentive Program in which developers must qualify by meeting certain criteria for the housing to remain affordable for a certain number of decades. Under the program, developers own the property. They have a rigorous inspection program. SCDOT wants to ensure that new apartments will be nice units and that they will be maintained for the duration. These are anticipated to be different from the current apartments which are owned by developers, but under the current program, are not required to be maintained. So, it isn't just the criteria of rent levels, but also standard of living that is being considered.

CAC Member: Re-emphasized the tax credit programs she is aware of have much more rigorous background checks and management takes better care of their units.

Program Manager: Agreed with the CAC Member and stressed that they are required to be more stringent in order to receive tax incentives annually. The developer cannot build the unit and walk away and never deal with it again. They are also vetting potential tenants to make sure they don't have someone making \$100,000. These units are for people who qualify as low-income, and need an apartment at a lower rate. These will be market-rate apartments (with amenities) at a lower rent rate.

CAC Member: Not everyone will meet the criteria. What happens to low-income tenants who engage in drugs and drinking who will be displaced?

Project Manager: From SCDOT's perspective, any housing they create (SCDOT) will be built to house people who are displaced. As long as the current tenants meet the requirements and can pay the rent, if they are displaced by this project, they will be placed in a new unit. SCDOT is required to offer replacement housing that is safe, decent, sanitary, and at the same rent rate that they are currently paying. They are guaranteed to be qualified if they meet the criteria during the relocation period. If someone begins to make a higher income or doesn't pay rent, there may be a time when they no longer qualify. Once a person is in a unit, as long as that person complies with the criteria of their lease, it is not anticipated they can be removed because of subsequent background checks [absent a crime committed

post-lease]. These are the types of questions we need. Community members are concerned about sustainability, so all of the questions you are presenting are things we need to know and consider as we begin the relocation process.

CAC Member: Stated he understood the concerns expressed by the previous CAC member regarding large, highly populated units leading to more problems, and asked if it would be possible to distribute money to current residents and allow them to find housing on their own rather than placing them all in one unit.

Project Manager: There isn't enough housing available for everyone, and SCDOT cannot cut checks and wish residents good luck. However, people have choices of the type housing in which they would like to relocate. SCDOT's responsibility is provide choices and comparable pricing. SCDOT has to give people choices. There's always going to be the choice to go into a single family home ownership situation. We would encourage people to use their benefits package to make that step for long term stability in affordable housing. But, we have to provide choices. Not everybody wants affordable housing. SCDOT cannot force people to make housing decisions.

CAC Member: Have you done a survey to understand where SCDOT will be taking people from (current residence) and where you plan to move them? In other words, are they leaving homes (houses)? Are the majority of residents currently in apartments, and your goal is to move them into more apartments?

Project Manager: We have already done a relocation study. The results of the study provided us with confirmation that we will have a lot of displacements with this project, specifically in the four communities that center around the I-26/I-526 system to system interchange. In the relocation study the team looked at all of the different types of housing that will be impacted, whether single family homes, apartment duplexes, etc. Then they look at the market and determine the availability of housing that would be comparable to the housing in this region. The study also told us that there are not a lot of affordable housing options available in the Charleston or in the Tri-County region, and certainly not enough to absorb the number of displacements we're going to have. Having that information made it clear that SCDOT has to figure out a solution to this problem because we can't move everybody. We can't disrupt people's lives. They have jobs. They have families that are here. We have broken up communities numerous times with past interstate construction projects. With this project, we don't want to disrupt communities anymore that we have to. We don't want to make people move out of communities they have lived in their whole entire lives, but everyone has a choice. If you want to move to Monks Corner, then we're going to help you find housing. And if you want to move to New York state, we're going to help you find housing in New York. But, we cannot relocate 150 people, which is probably the number of units we're looking at in North Charleston. A large percentage of residents are going to have good jobs here, and they're going to want to stay here. So we have to create options. Apartments are only one component of that. There are many lots in these communities that are single family lots that don't currently have homes on them. One of the other things we're working on is identifying whether or not the owners of some of those vacant lots would be interested in selling. Once we have lots, it is fairly easy to bring in home builders, get home plans, and build homes. We have to have a variety of things. We're also looking at other developments that are actively going on. There's a town home development that is currently being constructed. But, they will be owner-occupied town homes. We have to give people options because if you're in a single family home and you own it, you're probably going to want another single family home. We usually relocate people in the same type of housing they are being displaced from or better, but the choice will be left to individual residents.

CAC Member: I see this as putting the cart before the horse. I'd like to see you go to everybody that's going to be displaced and ask them where they want to live. Somebody in Ferndale might not want to live in Ferndale if they have someplace else they prefer. Somebody in Russelldale might not want to live in Russelldale. Somebody in Russelldale might not want to come to Ferndale. And then in the meantime, you've built an apartment that people don't want in the neighborhood, but somebody will have to be put in it. [The current residents might not need to be relocated] and we'll be stuck with something in our neighborhood, especially apartments, that the police has told us many times they hate because of the trouble associated with them.

CAC Member: Same in Russelldale, absolutely. Awful. Awful idea.

Project Manager: Is there a difference between apartments versus the duplexes?

CAC Member: The apartments have denser occupancy so you have maybe 10 families in a building where duplexes house only two families. So there's lower chances that you will have crime. Less crime, less police calls.

CAC Member: First of all, I'm concerned about all areas, but Liberty Park and Highland Terrace are supposed to be single family dwelling only. What about modular homes? We have had issues with modular homes before. But we have been to City Hall in the past trying protest modular homes in the area because they reduce your appraisal value for a stick-built house. Are modular homes included in this project or just stick-built houses?

Project Manager: We generally like to upgrade residents. So, I guess it depends. And I don't know what perception is. What is the perception of modular homes?

CAC Member: Are you talking modular homes or mobile homes? Modular homes are more expensive. Yeah, they're basically stick-built homes. They're just built in a factory and they're brought to the location in parts.

CAC Member: We had an incident in Liberty Park two years ago where there was a double wide trailer. But they said at City Hall that it was a modular home.

CAC Member: If it's a mobile home it can be moved. If it's a modular home, it is there permanently.

CAC Member: If they take the wheels off, it's there permanently.

Continued discussion about modular vs. mobile homes

CAC Member: [Recommended CAC members read an article in The Chronicle newspaper by Bonnie Blakely in which he was asked for his opinion about the I-26 corridor.] My main concern is whether new homes will be slab-built houses. And most houses I see now are slab-built homes vs. homes with a crawl space. Another issue is that in Liberty Park and Highland Terrace it seems as if there are going to be a lot of vacant lots that will be taken. I don't see a whole lot of families in Liberty Park.

Project Manager: There are some. I think we're finding a lot. Even single family homes have renters in them. We're trying to collect that information as people come into the Community Office to discuss right-

of way. We can't go knock on people's doors, telling them they are going to be displaced. There are rules we must follow.

CAC Member: In that area, the literature is out because we put the literature out.

Program Manager: I would encourage them to come into the Community Office so we can talk with them and find out if they are going to be displaced. Then we can find out what they are interested in doing as far as relocation.

CAC Member: I can speak for Liberty Park and Highland Terrace, we have a lot of renters in houses that don't stay here [in the community].

Project Manager: This is why you are here. Generally, we want to start off single-family homes. We would build homes that are similar to all the other homes [in the community]. We're not going to build three-story houses that look completely different than other homes in the neighborhood. But the CAC is here to help shape some of that because as we move forward, we're going to start actually putting some lines on paper to begin conceptualizing what this mitigation package looks like. That would include apartments with recreational areas and other amenities. We're going to draw something up so that when we have a CAC Open House, we can present you with some of the ideas we've come up with, and give you an opportunity to give feedback so that you have a voice. We want to know your opinions, which things you like and which you don't. I can already see that there are going to be a lot of opinions about the housing component.

CAC Member: Take for instance Joppa Way. Joppa Way is a new neighborhood and is still growing. They have a selection of different style homes, but they [the style of homes] fit in the community.

CAC Member: Is there the opportunity along with those recreational areas to upgrade street lighting to help the overall community?

Project Manager: Yes. Housing is only one piece, and it's twofold. Not only were we trying to create replacement housing, but we have to mitigate for our impact to affordable housing in North Charleston, meaning if no one chooses to move into the housing that we build, we still have to build it because we're removing so many apartment complexes. We can't come in and wipe out all the affordable apartment units in North Charleston in this region and not put something back, regardless of who decides to live there. So, it's multifaceted in that we have to mitigate the impact to your communities, even if you're not displaced. Some of that is beautification.

CAC Member: I know that this is a hard pill to swallow, but when the project is completed, the neighborhood is going to be so much better as long as we can all come together and create this opportunity.

Project Manager: Right. That's why it is important that we not focus on an isolated piece of property. When all those pieces come together, it will actually change the look and feel of the neighborhood. I'm not a crime expert, but we could probably get some people to come in here and help us figure out ways that we can also make it less desirable for crime.

CAC Member: I hear you saying 'affordable housing,' but there's a difference between low-income housing and affordable housing. Affordable housing means you have to meet a median (income). So I think sometimes there is confusion between low-income and affordable housing. It's income-based when you say low income. So that means if someone has no income, they still qualify. Affordable housing means they have to have some income, and usually it's the median of the surrounding area. So I think sometimes it gets confused. But you may have some low-income people that's going to get displaced.

CAC Member: We don't want to make it a worse situation for everybody concerned. It's one thing to have a mobile home park and you've got the area in the back. You've got 15 mobile homes that have been your replaced, 15 families. It's another thing to take all of those 15 families and place them in one apartment complex. You know there is going to be a problem because we've seen it in the past. We know what came in when those apartments were built. I was very little when they came in, but I remember the difference in having a family versus a ton of families move in.

Project Manager: North Charleston is also redoing their zoning plan, and we have repeatedly asked the city tell us what you want. Tell us what you want for these communities. Of course, we want to know what the community members want for their communities in the hopes that we can all come together. SCDOT does not want to dictate that we're in the business of planning a neighborhood development. That is up to you guys. The community members themselves are going to carry more weight through this process than the City. But the City does control zoning. We have to agree at some point on how to proceed.

CAC Member: How many people did you say you're being relocated?

Project Manager: It fluctuates with the alternatives. We will have more precise numbers this fall.

CAC Member: What was the approximate number?

Project Manager: It's It fluctuates between anywhere for 129 to 175

CAC Member: So, let's say it's a 150. Are there not 150 individual lots?

Program Manager: No. They're not 150 individual lots. But we've talked to some people who were not interested in staying in the community. Some of the owners are older and they're at a time in their lives when they want to make a change anyway, so they're going to represent a percentage of people who want to move somewhere else. We still have to provide options. Even if half of them want to stay that's still a lot of housing to create.

CAC Member: You mentioned you're looking at some vacant lots. Are you also looking at lots that are vacant, but have homes that are boarded up?

Project Manager: Yes, absolutely. And if you know the owners and they are willing to sell please send them up here.

CAC Member: We can get you a list of the owners.

Project Manager: We have pulled all that information. Right now, we're kind of focusing on the multi-family because that's the most complex part of the project. The single family, we're just going have to get

the money and start going out trying to purchase land. We monitor the MLS listings, to try to take advantage of things. I'm still working through some funding issues right now to make sure that I have the money to purchase, but we're working towards that. We [the project team and the CAC] have some long meetings in the coming months. But we've got to get this mitigation piece done because once I start buying land, I need to know it is within the vision of this mitigation plan and that it is something the community feels good about.

CAC Member: All I can say is good luck getting the City to open up about what they want to do. [We] cannot obtain information on their 5- or 10-year plan.

Project Team Member: You have access to that information.

Project Manager: That's why I say community members drive this process. We are bound by the same zoning laws that everybody else is. I can't come in and override anything so whatever we come up with in this process, the CAC (and community members) have some power. And the City is going to want these infrastructure improvements. It helps them as an entity. And part of getting this project done is going through this process of mitigating and going through, minimizing impacts is mitigating for them. Which is why you guys are here, to help us figure out how to do that. So it's a powerful thing that we do have leverage and that whatever we come up with is going to have the strength. All state representatives are going to stand behind you because this is what the community has spoken and this is what they said they want to see for mitigation of your community. It will be hard for North Charleston to not support you. You have a powerful voice through this process. So I encourage you to really think about the big picture.

Project Team Member: And just a side note, we're putting together what we can to support your decision making process. So we have some mapping that we're putting together that shows a lot of the vacant underdeveloped parcels, proximity to transit school district's lines, voting district boundaries, things like that. So that when we're looking at maps and trying to think what might be some good locations for these things for the you know, the replacement properties that we have that information, you all have that information on hands to be able to make those decisions. Because I do think personally, I'm very curious about the renter aspect and what the demographics are. If it's mostly young people of working age, they want to be closer to employment centers, things like that. So we'll have to get into that a little bit further. North Charleston has also updated their comprehensive plan and, I believe, it is going to council this month. As soon as that is released, we're going to bring that all to you so you could have their future zoning maps. We will be the data collectors and bring that information to you. Mr. Muhammad, I know you asked about the bus rapid transit and I tried to go through the website and synthesize some of the information, and I think we might just need to get some material from them directly.

Project Manager: We are actively coordinating on the design side of things.

Project Team Member: There are already prepared materials. But if you have questions like how does the bus rapid transit fit into this area? What is transit-oriented development going to look like on Rivers Avenue? Because those questions dovetail with what we're trying to do here.

Project Manager: That's part of why North Charleston is doing the comprehensive plan, because they know the bus rapid transit is coming. If you want to use that bus lines and trains, they're going to have to have employment centers and housing on that line. You have to decide where everything should go. If North Charleston met with the community and decided we want to transition the neighborhood

completely to single family homes, we would be looking at doing apartments probably somewhere along Rivers Avenue. We can help leverage what the community wants with the City.

CAC Member: We need affordable housing for low income people. What sets the dollar value of what a low income family is considered? Where is the dollar value? You need to be able to provide that affordable housing. I own property. There's no such thing as low income taxes, low income city fees, low income material to build a house. There's no such thing as low income anything for me. So what level do I have to be at to provide that home for a low income person? Is it the difference between working a Taco Bell or Boeing? What's that dollar value that you need to be at to provide that?

Project Manager: We're trying to make sure that we create something comparable to what we're displacing. When I say comparable, I'm talking about if there is a three bedroom, two bath units and the rent is \$700 a month. [CAC Member states that isn't possible.] Okay, but I'm going to create it. That's the thing. That's where the betterment comes in...if you're living in one of those three apartments and they're old, they are not maintained, we're going to create the same size and type of apartment. It's going to be a market rate apartment. It's going to be a brand new apartment, but the rent is going to be the same as what you were paying in that previous apartment.

CAC Member: I could not rent one of my three bedrooms for \$700. And its old. How are you going to do that with a new unit?

Project Manager: The tax credit program is there to make the math work because you can't build brand new apartments and then charge that low rent because it costs more to build and operate the maintain. That's where the tax credit program in the Senate's come in. They get the tax credits. They get the seed money. That helps off-set that difference and we get first rights on those units. So the residents who are being displaced under this project can get in those units. But, they still have to pay their rent and meet the requirements of their lease.

CAC Member: There's already a shortage of apartments. That's without the highway. How long is that going to be applied on that tax credit to each of those people that move in and is it going to go up three years later?

Project Manager: Those are things we're working through right now? We're still collecting information for people who come in here to see whether they are Section 8 voucher holders. Are they receiving any kind of housing assistance at this time? Some of those programs will be transferrable, right? So that's when we need to create a sort of a variety of housing so that you can accommodate anybody. There might be people in those apartments that wouldn't qualify. If we use tax credits for a sum of money, the housing will be affordable housing for the duration. We don't have to decide what duration, be it 30-50 years, whatever it is and so they do have income criteria. We wouldn't be able to put people in there that wouldn't meet that criteria. We have to have some other options of housing for people that make too much money to be in that affordable housing. That's why we have to create single family homes, different levels of housing, and it helps us to know who we're displacing so that we can make sure we have options for everybody

Facilitator: That is why it is important that people come into the Community Office so that the project team has a better understanding of the needs of the community.

CAC Member: I'm listening to everything that's being said and I hope the same thing doesn't happen that happened with the John C. Calhoun project when people were displaced and promised they would be able to move back into the community, but that did not happen. People were made the promise they would be able to come back and that did not happen. They got displaced and told they would be able to come back once the project was rebuilt. I'm sitting here listening to both sides are saying, and I'm just praying and hoping that's not going to be the same thing. A lot of people with that project [John C. Calhoun] fell through the cracks.

Project Manager: And that's why we're trying to get in people in now so that we're actively moving people directly into the housing, not moving them somewhere else with a promise of when we get housing you come back because that is a risky situation all the way around. We've learned our lesson. We've done affordable housing and incentives on other big projects. But on a lot of those projects we have given the money to the City and said 'You guys are responsible for implementation' and it didn't happen within the required timeline. Now, the money is not enough to do what you were originally supposed to do because it's 10 years later. So, SCDOT is trying to avoid that and instead, take control and responsibility and do it as a part of project.

CAC Member: There's a lot of people, especially in Ferndale. We've had a lot of influx investors who've come in and renovated a lot of the houses. I mean, it's made a huge improvement. There's no doubt about it. What about seeing if you could work with some of them, through a tax incentive or something – the trick there being that they build a house, it doesn't necessarily have to be built and sold. It could be rented. That's fine. But make sure that they do have certain criteria that they have to follow. Because one of the things we have had trouble with in Ferndale is you've got people who are renting properties that don't have a working bathroom or they don't have a sink in the kitchen or there's holes in the floor and they're afraid to say anything because they get kicked out and have no place to go. But the landlords get away with that. If we take that route, we want to make sure that they are held accountable.

Project Manager: That's why we are encouraging affordable housing. SCDOT is not in the business of apartments or property management. We don't do that. We meet with the Housing Authority regularly. They have a vigorous program. They were moving away from building their own housing, using incentives to partner with developers and holding them to the wire. That is key. They have the resources to get in there and do enforcement and inspection every year because SCDOT can't do that. We have to partner with another agency to do that because the last thing we wanted to build apartments or put money towards apartments with a developer and then we walk away. He could choose not to maintain home. He can kick people out, raise the rent. We've got to have controls in there. Otherwise, we're not helping the situation from a timeline standpoint.

Project Team Member: That is why we are starting to look at titles on some of the potential properties. That's another lesson learned that sometimes acquiring the property titles can take a long time and that can put us behind, too. So that's another lesson learned to get a jump start on that effort now so that people can be moved from the houses that they're in right into the replacement housing. So we're trying to learn other lessons from other projects across the country and not make the same mistakes here.

CAC Member: Housing is not the best now. I started working with the Housing Authority in 1987. They were great back then. I have my own housing. I have had homes on housing and off. But I would not rent if not on housing, because you do get some sort of cushion. They would check more, but now you have to do your own walk-throughs (inspections). Now, I write that into my contracts.

Project Manager: The inspection program is a lot more rigorous on apartments under the tax credit program. At least that's what we've seen so far.

CAC Member: Warned against slum landlords that just want the money and do not maintain the property.

CAC Member: Revisited the John C. Calhoun project where people did not meet the requirements to move back in, and asked if there is a mitigation plan for displaced residents who spent time in prison and have a felony record, but are required to have a background check. Is there a mitigation plan to ensure people who fall into this category will qualify for the tax credit?

Project Manager: That's why this is good discussion, because I don't know about all of these nuances. So those were things that we're talking with them about because we have to make sure that we can provide safe, decent, and sanitary housing to everyone we displace - to everyone, no matter what. We're meeting on a regular basis with the Housing Authority trying to come up with the best way to move forward because we know we have some Section 8 voucher holders that we will be displacing. We want to make sure that we mitigate for the affordable housing impact we're having. Regardless of whether they move into a unit that we create or they move into a market-rate apartment or house, SCDOT is required to provide housing for everyone displaced.

CAC Member: Can they just decide to take the money and then go where they want?

Project Manager: No.

FHWA: You have to spend the money to receive the money, then provide SCDOT with assurances the money was spent appropriately.

CAC Member: So, it's like reimbursement?

CAC Member: I believe we have a lot of members here who own or manage property. Are they a part of that meeting that you're having to determine what needs to be done or do you have people who are doing the negotiations and are already familiar with how to manage properties?

Project Manager: No. The meetings taking place are between two state agencies to determine if they can partner with each other to mitigate for affordable housing under their existing programs and with funding SCDOT is required to spend towards those efforts.

CAC Member: Can the property owners take part in those meetings to serve in an advisory capacity.

Project Manager: No. Developers who develop their own property are going to compete to get that contract. So they can't be in the room helping to develop the details of what the procurement is going to look like, because they would have an advantage to come in and get that contract. So it's the Housing Authority and SCDOT talking together to see if we can partner through their regular tax credit program to at least build some of the housing that falls within the mitigation plan of this project in North Charleston.

CAC Member: I think what he's asking is whether you're partnering with a private individual like me.

Project Manager: No. We talked about doing that. But we're not set up to manage that. The Housing Authority is set up to do that. We are talking to developments, and we have other tools through the right-of-way process that we can use. For example, let's say, there's a townhome complex that's about to be built across the river. When that development comes to fruition, goes to construction, and we're getting close to starting to displace people, I may go in and say there is an option to buy 10 units within this complex so that if I have a displaced resident that wants to go over there, I have 10 units that they can choose from. There are tools like that that we will use as well to make sure that we're not losing opportunities for housing because housing here sells quickly, at least the ones that we want to buy. So we need to make sure that we can come to the table with each property owner and say here are the options that we have for you.

CAC Member: The only reason I'm asking, and I'm just trying to get clear. You have members of this council who are property owners and who have a better understanding of what needs to be done and what should be done. Can they be a part of the advisory for [property] management?

Project Manager: That's part of your role here [as a CAC member], to help come up with mitigation. I think in our next meeting we will actually start coming up with real concepts that we could go back and draw. We will move into different phases. Once we figure out what that mitigation plan is, the mitigation plan will focus on 15 things. Then, we move into the implementation phase and making sure those things happen. That's the role the CAC plays. Coming up with an idea is one thing. But then you have to determine how is this going to work, logistically? How is SCDOT going to do that? Who is going to be responsible? When is the work going to happen? What's the mechanism? We'll continue to work together through those things. The Project Manager will then come back to the CAC with options that she has developed, for questions and recommended changes. Then, the Project Manager and project team will go back and work on the plan again. So, part of the CAC's role is to advise us through the entire process.

CAC Member: So, you've never been a landlord.

Project Manager: I have been a landlord in my past life. I didn't like it very much. That's why I don't do it anymore.

CAC Member: But, you would understand if I made this statement to you. I did not go into business to support low-income housing. When I bought property, I bought property to gain as much money as I can as a businessman. That's what I've done. So this is something you are going to be fighting against, especially with landowners like myself. I don't want to be under the government of somebody telling me how much I've got to take, which I went through this in my last Section 8 tenant. I told Section 8 to get that tenant out of my house, because they came out, they told me they were going to stop paying me for things that tenant damaged. And I said, 'That's it. I'm not doing it.' I won't do it again. I don't want somebody tell me how to run my business.

Project Team Member: These are good things to keep in mind once we get those maps in front of us and we start thinking about the kind of themes that we have talked about regarding revitalization versus redevelopment and how to make sure that some of the integrity of the neighborhoods is being preserved and enhanced and that we're not doing things with this project that are creating other kinds of ripple effects such as gentrification. So next time be prepared to come with your sleeves rolled up to see what we can come up with.

An email invitation will be sent to CAC email addresses for the next meeting which will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2020. CAC meetings will continue to be held the first Saturday of every month. A summary of the parking lot issues from CAC Meeting #4 was reviewed and is included in the meeting presentation packet for CAC Meeting #5. CAC Members were asked to provide any parking lot items from Meeting #4 that were not included on the summary sheet. No additional comments or concerns were presented.

Highway Project Impacts

Direct impacts to recreational facilities were discussed. Because of the proximity to the project, the Russelldale Community Center and Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Community Center will have to be relocated. The project team reviewed preliminary displacement totals and maps displaying the proposed new locations for each recreation facility-based alternatives 1 and 2. CAC Members were invited to look at maps in greater detail during the break.

- Cumulative Impacts from past highway projects (review of aerial maps of pre-and post I-26 and I-526 construction, in 1957 and 2018 respectively)
 - Historically, there were a significant number of homes on Taylor Street and in Highland Terrace; I-526 construction split the Russelldale community
 - **CAC Member:** Revisited concerns about SCDOT taking portions of property in the past and residents not having enough acreage to build or profit from sale of the parcel of land
 - **Project Manager:** With the current project, everyone has the right to express concerns about property damage associated with taking partial parcels of land, and make a decision to relocate. The difference in the relocation process today is that local governments have requirements on how far back houses must be from the road
 - If SCDOT violates those requirements, they must pay damages. Because most of the neighborhoods have smaller lots, it is likely many of them will have setback violations.
 - If a resident stays in a home that violates setback requirements and their home is destroyed by hurricane or fire, they cannot rebuild, and they still end up having to move. Some people take that because they rather receive \$30,000 in damages and the fair market price of the land and stay there or make a decision to relocate because they don't meet the requirements.
 - CAC Member also asked how SCDOT handles renters who decide not to stay, but want to use the money for relocation, if they have identified a place of residency outside of the project area
 - **Project Manager:** A Right-of-Way workshop was held and these questions were reviewed. She offered to talk with the CAC member one-on-one to address remaining questions.
 - Right-of-Way experts are also at the Community Office to answer any related questions on Wednesdays.
 - **CAC Member:** If a renter has to move, would they be eligible for moving expenses?
 - **Project Manager:** Renters are eligible to receive benefits of moving expenses, real estate services, and supplemental rent for up to 42 months.
 - SCDOT must ensure that new units are comparable, but, safe, decent, and sanitary

- A formula is used to determine the minimum number of bedrooms a replacement unit can have based on the number of individuals that currently live in the home
- Because supplemental rent is limited to 42 months, SCDOT encourages residents to consider the affordable home option which will have longer term benefits of 30-50 years. SCDOT does not want to create for residents a situation that is unsustainable if they are unable to maintain rental payments beyond the 42-month window. Even if they have an income increase, they will still have to find another place to live.
- **CAC Member:** North Charleston is building up, but when you refer to “affordable housing,” it is affordable for those who are working. So, if someone has a criminal background, they can’t afford to go to Trident Tech to advance into jobs that allow them to obtain affordable housing.
 - **Project Manager:** Job training should be a part of the Community Mitigation Plan
- **CAC Member:** That's why the people being displaced should visit the Community Office
 - **Project Manager:** Would like to see the Community Office be one of the more successful based in part on the workshops offered (that will be offered) such as contractor job training, financial planning, and resume writing.
- **Project Team Member:** Completed review of Past Impacts from Highway Projects and Community-wide cumulative and recurring EJ Impact

Developing the CAC Vision Statement

The CAC decided to adopt the draft vision statement provided by the project team which states, “A diverse and engaged group of residents working together, embracing new ideas to develop an equitable and inclusive approach to address project-related impacts and contribute to building a sustainable, healthy, and safe community.”

Brainstorming Session: Potential Mitigation Ideas

Project Manager/Project Team provided clarification for the term mitigation and the difference between right-of-way and mitigation within the context of this project.

- Mitigation means to offset negative/cumulative impacts (for example, if you mitigate an impact, you’re going to do something else to tip the scale back a bit)
- Right-of-way is the part of the project in which you have to spend the money to get the process. Mitigation is the big picture

CAC Member: Can I add something to your mitigation meaning? I hear a bit of micromanaging here. In other words, I hear you have to spend the money in order to get the money.

Project Team member: That is due to the mitigation process.

Project Manager: Project Manager provided clarification on the difference between mitigation and right-of-way. Right -of-way requires that you spend the money to get the money. Mitigation is an overarching approach to offsetting impacts to the community. In the right-of-way process, we will interact with every renter. In the case of the I-526 construction, how were the apartments that were there before construction impacted? What was the community like? Was there crime before I-526 was constructed? Did the construction of I-526 being so close to those apartments devalue them and make it less desirable

to live there? All of these things are considered impacts and those are things that we are trying to mitigate for. So how do we replace those apartments in a way that makes it better or returns it to the same quality as it was before I-526 was constructed? We have to do mitigation regardless of whether anybody who's displaced chooses to live there. We are still required to mitigate for affordable housing.

CAC Member: Rather than you going out and determining that the carpet is not good enough, walls are not painted, there is an outlet hanging out of the wall, so you can't have this [rental unit], have you looked into surveying how many would settle for just a payment for moving and that's it?

Project Manager: We have federal laws that dictate that process. I don't have options. I have to comply with federal laws. People will make their own decisions about where they're going. We are required to move them into a new residence that is safe, decent, and sanitary.

CAC Members: Expressed concerns about some residents taking relocation funds and spending them on items unrelated to housing and relocation. The Program Manager emphasized that as the reason controls are in place to reduce mishandling of allocated funds.

- **CAC Member:** Giving people money to spend it on housing as they wished is a quicker, easier approach than building a 200-unit apartment complex.

Program Manager: But that would not mitigate for the impacts to the community because of construction. Our focus is on whether the quality of those apartments was diminished because they were 20 feet from the interstate. Moving relocated residents into subpar housing would not be mitigating, but rather perpetuating a problem.

Project Team member: Good clarification. These were some of the questions that we will be asking and that we'd like you to be thinking about. Going back to the open mic session from the last meeting, some of the impacts that were not addressed from past transportation projects were discussed. Today, we're just going to talk about the recreational facilities and the fact that they are being impacted and that we will be looking at replacement locations for those properties.

Maps of proposed new recreational facility locations were reviewed. Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Community Center is a 6(f) property. That means the property or a portion of the property was purchased with Land and Water Conservation Act funding. When you impact that type of property, you need to find a replacement location of comparable appraisal value. We're essentially trying to recreate something of the same value or better under the 6(f) requirements. And then something else called Section 4(f), that's of the U. S. Department of Transportation Act, which is related to the Russelldale Community Center. Under federal law, we are required to mitigate the impact. Early public involvement is part of both processes. And so, in addition to working with you all to identify potential locations, we will also be working with City staff and other local entities, school transportation officials, etc., on being able to finally hone in on where the mitigation plan would propose to have the recreational facilities relocated.

CAC Member: Asked if the plan was to place both recreation facilities back in their respective communities. [Project team member responded yes]. CAC member did not think that would happen.

CAC Member: The new location will present a little longer walk, but that's where the sidewalks could come in under the highways. They have to give us some access that

Project Manager: We did meet with the people that run those recreational sites and, you know, cities expressed a desire to have a more centralized community center that's more of a betterment, like a gymnasium with indoor classrooms. They have a lot of after school activities there, a lot of events there and then maybe have some pocket parks, you know, because land is an issue buying lots to build houses is one thing. One thing buying a lot big enough to build a community center and have playgrounds and all that is a much bigger piece of property.

Project Team member: But that's one of the ideas that we need you all the way.

CAC Member: Liberty Park and Highland Terrace are already compact communities. So, where will a new recreational facility be placed?

Program Manager: The City already owns some pretty big lots in Liberty Park. So our initial goal would be to look and see if some of the other landowners surrounding that would be interested in selling some of their property to make one big lot. The city owns the lots next to Filbin Creek.

CAC Member: Is that off of Dorothy Williams, where the drainage ditch is located? [Another CAC Member confirms.] That is a lowland area.

Project Team member: Right. That's one of the things that could actually work in our favor because you can put picnic shelters, playgrounds - things like that - in those low areas.

Project Manager: That area has some flooding, but we are required to do a full hydraulic study as a part of this project. That will address some of the issues with drainage.

CAC Member: When it rains, that water floods that area/Taylor Street.

Project Manager: It's the bridge on Rivers Avenue that's holding everything back. There is a culvert and a bridge that is not allowing the water to flow through. We're studying that now to see what happens when we replace that bridge - how it affects flooding upstream and downstream. The current proposed location for the recreational facilities is the ideal area to get a big enough piece of property combined with the city property to potentially build. The facility would have a nice indoor facility with computer classrooms and indoor gymnasiums and some outdoor amenities. We are also hopeful we can secure smaller parcels for playgrounds close to the communities. You will also have the after school events center that's upgraded and a much nicer facility.

CAC Member: Recommended not using the small wooded lots in the back corner due to safety reasons. The Project Manager acknowledged the feedback.

CAC Member: Shared information she felt was a lesson learned from one of the other project communities that would not have a new recreational center built as a part of this project. There was an opportunity for the church on Bolton Street to sell their community center to the City. There were a couple of problems. (1) The community doesn't get to use it because the City rents it out to other groups, so our kids don't get to use it. (2) Because it is no longer centrally located, children on one end of the community don't get to use it.

- CAC Member advised that two things are made clear before entering into an agreement: (1) how the facility will be used and what types of limitations will be placed on the residents to use it. (2) Determine whether people will allow their children to go to the facility if it isn't going to be centrally located

Project Manager: Our understanding is that the Russelldale and Highland Terrace/Liberty Park facilities are very well used, both for afterschool and for community events.

CAC Member: Ours was, too, until they moved it. (Ferndale Community Center)

Project Manager: SCDOT will not own these facilities. Although SCDOT is building the facilities, we are giving them to the City as an asset. Ownership will belong to the City, but we can place stipulations on how the facility is used to better ensure community members are able to use them.

Project Team member: Hopeful the new athletic center would work in our favor in terms of making the recreational facilities a community focus. There may be parking limitations that would require more land for facilities and make it less enticing. The goal is to make it more walkable.

- The relevant needs identified as primary concerns from the social needs assessment were service for seniors, service for youth employment opportunities, and supervised after school youth activities. The project team can ensure those elements are being addressed in the relocation of facilities from staff with the city. We've heard that children in the Russelldale community also use in the Highland Terrace- Liberty Park Community Center. So that would be from a walkability standpoint. We want to make sure that we were connecting everybody. Children in Joppa Way walk home across the railroad tracks from the Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Community Center. Rail safety is important.
- Brainstorming should include high level ideas. CAC Members may consider writing down thoughts to bring to the next meeting. Potential areas to discuss:
 - What resources are lacking?
 - What are your thoughts on preferable locations?
 - Based on the maps provided, what do you think about the potential locations? What do you think would be some of the more optimal locations for residents going back to that idea of having multiple facilities?
 - What are some of the resources you would like to see?
 - We've heard it would be really nice to have some computers and fax machines at the community center.
 - Recreational facilities amenities such as walking trail, shaded play areas, picnic tables, grills, benches, pickleball, bike racks, lockers, outdoor drinking water fountains and space for a community garden.

CAC Member: Would like have books at the recreational facilities.

Project Team member: Noted that libraries are South and North, but none in close proximity to the impacted communities.

CAC Member: Will recreational facilities have monitoring (for crime)? Expressed concerns about local police being unfamiliar with streets in their communities and the lack of police presence less than three

blocks from City Hall. Residents need to have casual (non-emergency) patrols through the neighborhood occasionally.

CAC Members: Installation of cameras for security

Project team member: Encouraged CAC members to complete the brainstorming worksheet home. Additionally, two hard copy resources were distributed during the meeting: Planning for Equity and Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED). We will discuss these documents at the next meeting.

Project team member: Provided Public Outreach Updates

- During the month of February, the Community Office has had 14 visits
- Managed 5 calls (February 2020); Made calls to residents who provided comments after the Public Information Meeting public comment period
- No calls received on the toll free line this month; To-date, we have answered 11
- An additional Social Needs Assessment participant
- The January 25th Open House was successful. There were approximately 58 people, including about 10 CAC members, one elected official and one city official maybe a couple of spouses of CAC members.
- At the beginning of March, office hours will change to Monday thru Friday, 10 AM – 6 PM. Staff will accept appointments for meetings outside regular office hours. Right-of-way experts are in the office on Wednesdays from 10 AM – 4 PM, both walk-ins and appointment.
- “Asked and Answered” flyers are being distributed in venues such as churches. CAC members were asked to review them and provide any suggestions for additional content so that information provide remains relevant to the community.

Community Outreach Liaisons

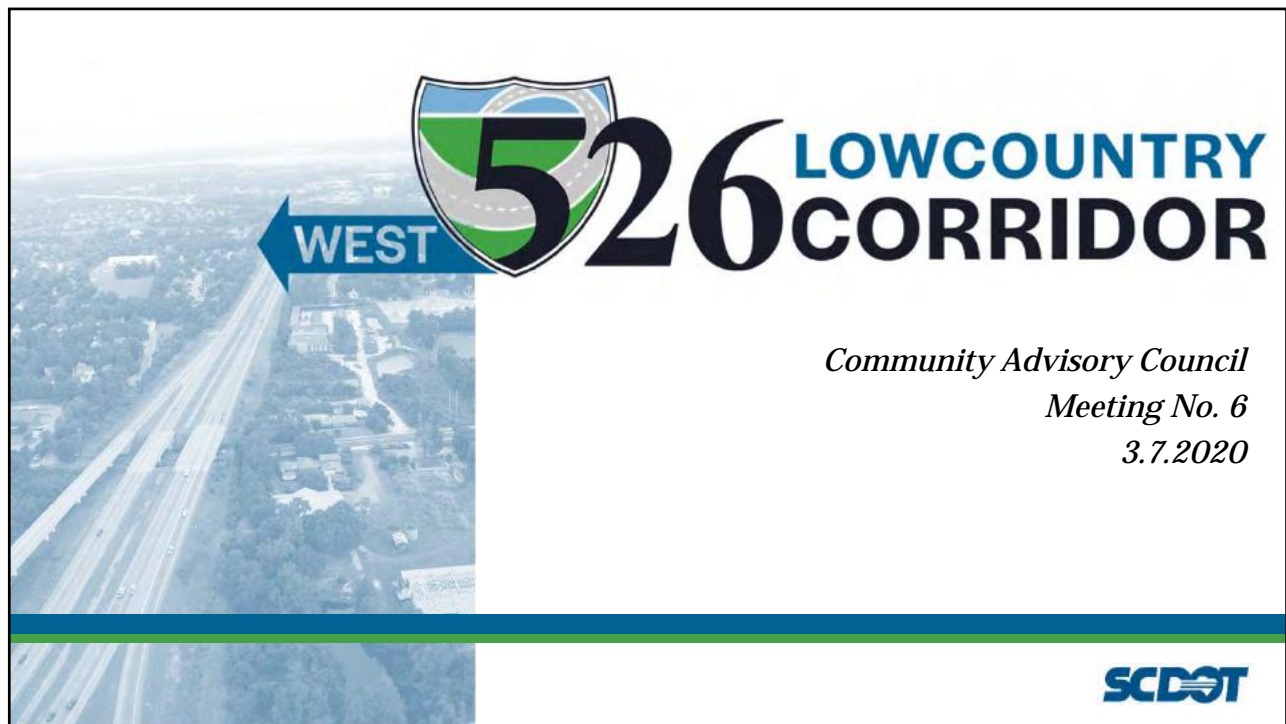
- Conducted two ride-along canvassing efforts were conducted on January 15th and 17th, 2020. Leaflets placed in doors or mail slots.
- The January 25th Open House was intended to focus on Russelldale. As stated previously, there were 58 participants. Recommend hosting more open house events.
- Canvassing will be held leading up to any event
- The Community Office will have a booth for the EJ Mitigation Project at the Black Expo on March 14th at the Charleston Area Convention Center from 10 AM - 5 PM
- March 19th MUSC Senior Expo, 9AM – 1 PM, Charleston Area Convention Center
- First in the series of Informational Workshops will be held on March 21st. Capacity is approximately the session is 20. Consultants will rotate different topics each quarter. Topics will be selected from a list of 8-9 topics selected by Maxim Consulting. Three sessions will be held during each Informational Workshop:
 - 9 – 10:15 AM
 - 11 AM - 12:15 PM
 - 1 – 2:15 PM
- Subsequent Informational Workshops will be held on June 20, September 19, and January 2021, for which a specific date has not yet been identified.
- CAC Members encouraged to use the meeting space as a resource and to notify the Community Office of events that are held throughout the area that may be beneficial to the community such

as the Black Expo or MUSC Senior Expo. This includes events at local churches, including health fairs.

- Community Liaisons attended the Ferndale Community meeting recently
- **Project Team Member:** Proposed “Meet Your Community Advisory Council” Open Houses where the draft mitigation plan would be available as a resource when residents stop the Office to ask CAC members questions. Renderings can be made available. Target timeframe is April 2020.
- Outreach will be conducted before the CAC Open House is held.

Summary and Next Steps

- Review of project schedule
- Next meeting scheduled for March 7, 2020, 10 AM – 2 PM
- CAC Member: Asked that the Mitigation Process also addresses the effects on Senior Citizens.
- Facilitator: How is the senior population, particularly those who may be disabled and unable to visit the Community Office, informed and included in the mitigation process
 - Community Liaison – Home visits will provide better information on senior and disabled populations. This will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
 - Transportation can be provided
 - Contact the Senior Center on Dorchester Road



1

Welcome and Introductions

- Advisory Council Members
- SC Department of Transportation
- Federal Highway Administration
- Consultant Team



2

Logistics



Food

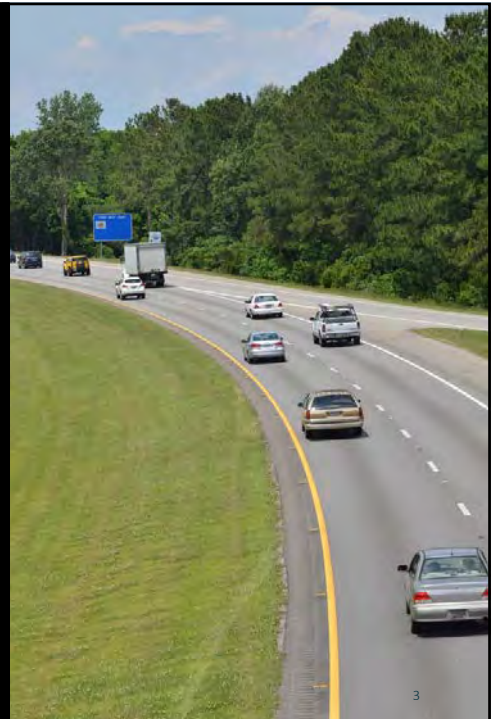


Exits



Restrooms

I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST



3

3

Agenda

- Administrative Items
- Approach for Mitigation Work Session
- Group Work Sessions 1 and 2
- Break / Lunch
- Group Work Sessions 3 and 4
- Break
- Input Review and Group Discussion
- Summary and Next Steps

I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST

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Administrative Items

I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST

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Administrative Items

- For Distribution:
 - Flyers for Informational Workshop on March 21, 2020
 - CAC Meeting No. 6 Agenda
 - Minutes from CAC Meeting No. 5
 - Mitigation Workbook (*If you don't already have a copy!*)
 - Stand-alone sets of Mitigation Worksheets

I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST

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6



Approach for Mitigation Work Session

I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST

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Approach for Mitigation Work Session

- Group will work through materials and worksheets together
- Project team will record your comments using online GIS viewer in order to document specific locations within the project area
- Four 30-minute work sessions
- Group discussion and consolidation of duplicate comments
- Summary and next steps

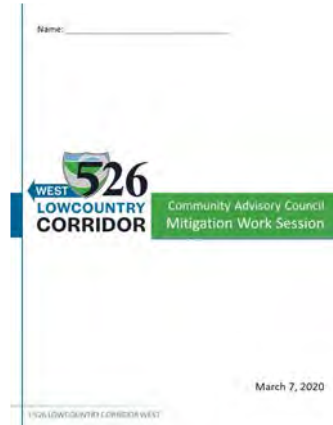


I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST

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Mitigation Workbook: Contents

- Project Impact Overview
- Community Impact Mitigation Pillars
- Social Needs Assessment Results
- Parking Lot
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED): Overview of Specific Design Elements
- Case Study Mitigation Examples
- Sessions 1-4 Information and Worksheets
- Reference Maps



Input Review and Group Discussion



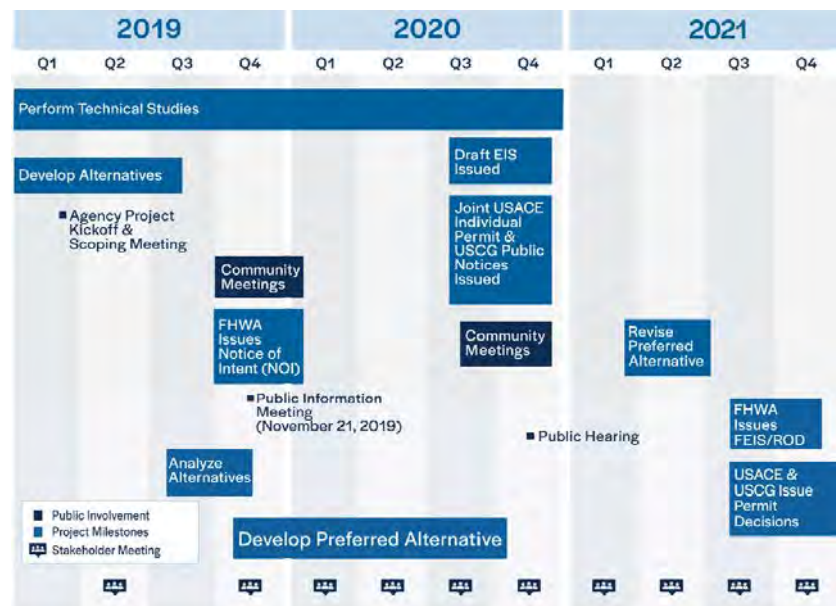
Summary and Next Steps

I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST

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Schedule

- Final environmental document: Fall 2021
- Right-of-way acquisition: 2022
- Construction: 2023
- CAC transition to Oversight Implementation Committee



I-526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WEST

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Summary and Next Steps

- CAC Meeting No. 6 Recap
- Date for CAC Meeting No. 7: April 4, 2020 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
- Informational Workshops at Community Office: March 21, 2020
- Main topic for next CAC meeting
 - Project team to provide update on mitigation plan development, providing available details and gathering additional feedback
 - *Are there specific topics you would like to see on future agendas?*

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Contact Information



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Thank you for your time!



MEETING MINUTES

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 6

Date: March 7, 2020

Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Location: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor Community Office, 5627 Rivers Avenue, N. Charleston, SC

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees:

Larenda Baxley, Ferndale
Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale
Charlynn Smith, Ferndale
Geneva Swett, Ferndale
Gilbert Reeves, Ferndale
David L. Johnson, Ferndale
Michael S. Halls, Sr., Ferndale
Ruth Mae Whitney, Highland Terrace
Jeanaris Bannister, Liberty Park
Carolyn Varner, Liberty Park
Doris Twiggs, Liberty Park
Prayonda Cooper, Joppa Way
Angela Anderson, Russelldale
Earl Muhammad, Muhammad Mosque
Rick Day, Stantec

Amy Sackaroff, Stantec
LaTonya Derrick, Stantec
Ryan White, Stantec
Hannah Clements, Stantec
Joy Riley, SCDOT (Project Manager)
Chad Long, SCDOT
David Kelly, SCDOT
Pamela Foster, FHWA
Annette McCrorey, THC
Willie Johnson, THC
Horrace Tobin, Community Office (Coordinator)
Maxine Smith, Maximum Consulting (Community Liaison)
Mattese Lecque, Maximum Consulting (Community Liaison)
Carolyn Lecque, Maximum Consulting (Community Liaison)
Janelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies (Facilitator)

Participant Summary:

Total participants: 30

Ferndale: 7

Highland Terrace: 1

Liberty Park: 3

Russelldale: 1

Adjacent/affected communities/agencies: 4

SCDOT: 3

FHWA: 1

Community Liaisons: 3

Community Office: 1

Stantec: 5

Facilitator: 1

Meeting Summary:

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting began with self-introductions of everyone in attendance. Restroom, exit, and external emergency meeting locations were reviewed.

- CAC Meeting 4 minutes approved
- CAC Meeting 5 minutes distributed

Approach for Mitigation Work Session

Amy explained the logistics of the work session to CAC members and provided an overview of the CAC Mitigation Work Session packet. Every CAC Member received a copy of the CAC Mitigation Work Session packet to review and complete prior to CAC Meeting #6. The worksheets accompanied a detailed work session guide which was also provided prior to the meeting. Both documents were used to guide the meeting discussion.

Group Work Session

The Mitigation Work Session was based on the four pillars of Community Impact Mitigation: Community Cohesion, Community Enhancement, Community Preservation, and Community Revitalization.

Immediately following is a detailed account of the work session discussion. A summary of key topics presented by the CAC during the work session is presented at the end of the meeting minutes.

Community Cohesion

Facilitator provided context for community cohesion as direct and cumulative impacts from past and planned highway projects and other factors such as crime, high cost of living and home ownership trends that have reduced the amount of community locations in the affected environmental justice neighborhoods. The purpose of this activity was to gather the CAC's input on potential measures that can be evaluated to improve community cohesion.

What do you see as resources that are currently lacking that would improve community cohesion?

CAC Member Feedback:

- Residents are not allowed to use the Ferndale Community Center gym. Tournament schedules get priority over general use by neighborhood children.
- The city dictates the community center schedule.
- The Ferndale Community Center should have designated hours for general residents to have access to the gym and other activities. Currently, residents are not allowed access until after basketball season and tournaments end in March. Residents cannot use the gym during the summer months because of summer programs, so general residential use is limited to March (after basketball season ends), April, and May.
- Residents can submit a request to use the gym, but available slots are limited. CAC members feel time slots are intentionally blocked for use primarily related to tournament events.
- CAC member emphasized that the point wasn't scheduling the gym, it is that on a broad scale, their children are not allowed to go into the community center to play. The kids have no place to play during the summer months.
- One recommendation is to build another smaller facility near the back of the neighborhood. There was one on Iron Street in the past. Many of the neighborhood children don't have close parental supervision. Parents don't want children walking to the other side of the neighborhood to be able to play.
- Russelldale experiences similar challenges to Ferndale with the exception of restrictions on use due to basketball tournaments. The children have to be off the courts by 9:00 PM. During the day, the community center isn't open to neighborhood children because of afterschool programs. There are limitations on the community center in the summer months due to summer camps. The only thing

available to neighborhood children is an outside basketball court, but there is nothing available for younger children.

- CAC members feel the Ferndale Community Center is used more as a “City” center than a community center for the children who live in Ferndale.
- When asked if there was a time when they were able to use the current facility, CAC member responded by saying that residents could use the old facility with the exception of afterschool programs or summer camps they were not registered for. In the new facility, the “big gym” is the focal point. If there is a program taking place inside the gym, neighborhood children are not allowed to play on the outside equipment, even though it isn’t being used. They don’t offer an explanation. They are in charge, so they just say “no.”
- CAC member shared the reason given for not wanting the community children to play outside on the equipment is due to liabilities associated with community kids “mixing” with scheduled tournaments and practices taking place on the inside of the facility. Another CAC member felt that rationale was not logical, but rather an excuse.
- CAC member emphasized that even though they (tournament personnel) are on the inside, they have liability during tournament-related activities for the entire facility (inside and outside).
- When asked if the construction of the new large facility changed anything. CAC members responded by saying it became worse because the larger facility attracted more people. Now, they use the large facility for the games, and the other facilities for practice.
- CAC emphasized that Ferndale needs a community center. What it has is a city athletic/activities center.
- CAC member shared that when her boys were younger, police would stop and complain, but they don’t stop kids now because they figure it is giving them something to do, whether they’re blocking the road or not.
- When asked if there are other factors that will contribute to bringing community members together, CAC members stated, “yes, because where you have kids, you have parents.”
- CAC member shared that neighbors have expressed when there is a nice community center, it provides a place to host drives, meeting your representatives on City Council, the mayor, etc. because oftentimes people in the community do not know the people representing them. The member also suggested that meeting police officers that patrol or have a presence in their neighborhoods at the community center would help them better understand situations such as them driving at 50 miles per hour through residential communities.
- CAC members also shared the following thoughts regarding the community center:
 - It could provide employment opportunities to residents, especially adult residents. Counselors could be hired for upkeep of the center as well as supervision of the children. Young people seeing adults from the community employed at the center will increase their respect for community adults.
 - It could be operated like the senior center. There is a fee for seniors to participate at the senior center, approximately \$10 a month or \$100 a year.
 - It is a place for people to congregate and learn about each other. People from different backgrounds can use the center as a common meeting place. The current community center is not for the community at this time. It is for the City. It is for those that are coming in that need a space. But it is not for the community. CAC member indicated that while

growing up in the Chicora/Cherokee area, they had a community center where during the summer they could visit and play with the other kids. They offered a lunch program. That's something they don't have now. Another CAC member added that now parents have to pay for summer programs for the kids.

- Current community center programs seem to be geared to younger children that need childcare during the day, mostly afterschool. Perhaps consider expanding facilities where there are commitments for programs for all members - not just young children, but teenagers, young adults trying to get into the work force, seniors, parents.
- Community centers should focus on children first.
- Probably 90% of people that use the Ferndale community center don't live anywhere near Ferndale. The facility is rented out for basketball practice, rented out for middle school drum practice, dance practice.

What about after the power is out after a storm? Do you see any use for a community center to serve as a hub for the distribution of water or related activities?

- Yes, that will be the perfect thing to bring the community together. When there is a hurricane or threat of a hurricane, everyone has to evacuate. But if you have a community-based center, residents can congregate there for water, blankets, and shelter, for those in the community that cannot leave. There are also some seniors and disabled people who cannot evacuate during hurricanes, that the center would benefit as shelter.
- Employing residents at the center will increase accountability in children. They will see familiar adult faces from the community and respect them as someone they know from the community, and know that if they are misbehaving, community members will tell their parents. They are much more likely to experience that type of community cohesion with employees who are from the community than with someone who is hired from outside the community.
- Community liaison summarized that community centers are (1) not staffed by a local residents or not staffed at all, (2) the planned activities are not geared toward the community, (3) there is no place in the community for the children to participate (not child-centered). The point was made that the Liberty Hill community center is actually staffed by residents.
- Residents don't want to see another "four walls" built because they feel it is a waste of taxpayers' money. But when you have an area that is conducive to a variety of activities as well as diverse in inviting people in the neighborhood to come, then they will come and they will also stand up for it so that the city of North Charleston or anyone else will not come and take over the schedule for the activity that's going on there.
- CAC member addressed Liberty Park/Highland Terrace. The community center needs to be a staffed, "working center" with scheduled activities (day and evening programs) that engage the community. That may include day programs for seniors that transition into joint (youth and senior) programs in the afternoon/evening. In order for this type of program to be successful, the center must be staffed with someone who will be responsible for maintaining a program or schedule that may even extend to events such as weddings, services such as physical therapy, or activities such as embroidery and other crafts.

- The model that is being used at the senior center needs to be used as a model for the community center. The bulk of the time should be allocated for community use and the other 25% for other (non-residential) events.
- Another example of a successful model is the Danny Jones swimming pool where they host a variety of activities. It is rare that the entire pool is blocked out for one activity. They have swim team practice, swim lessons or water aerobics. They almost always have lanes that a person can use. They follow an equitable schedule.
- CAC member was concerned about Russelldale losing its community center for a more centralized facility.
- Project Manager: SCDOT is actively looking for property for affordable housing and community centers, and finding the property is the first step. If we build a facility like the one the CAC is describing, that is staffed all day, that has indoor classrooms, gymnasiums and those types of facilities, likely, we would only get one of those, and that's why we're looking for a bigger piece of property in the middle of all the communities to do that bigger facility. However, if we do that, SCDOT will probably look for smaller areas for pocket parks with things like basketball courts that would still be within the actual smaller communities. Russelldale is one of the tightest areas. There's one property that SCDOT is trying to purchase, but it is probably half an acre and the biggest piece of property in the center of the community that doesn't have anything on it. The work session packet probably includes some pictures where common areas are placed under the bridges, but that would be a last resort. We would rather have something that's not underneath an interstate bridge. However, as we work to get property, that's always an option we can look at as well. It's probably a last resort.
- Project Manager: If you know people that have property and are interested in selling it, for a specific purpose, let us know because that's a big hurdle for us to overcome. Residents might be willing to sell their property if they know what's going to happen on it, but they may wonder if they can trust SCDOT to do what they say they are going to do. Land is key to every issue that the CAC has discussed to this point. To build these types of larger community centers is probably the biggest logistic challenge that we're going to have going forward. The money is there to do enhancements in the community, but getting the land to do it is probably first and biggest hurdle.

What measures can be taken to increase the number of “eyes” on the street to help minimize crime in these areas?

- Well-lit streets – All common areas free of “dark spots”; Going above code for minimum requirements
- Private/public areas that are well-defined
- Areas that welcome people who are supposed to be there and deter people who are not supposed to be there
- Use of signage
- Boundaries don’t always need to be established with fences, but rather with more user-friendly landscaping
- Establishing proper physical and law-enforcement boundaries with police officers; Officers should approach residents differently within neighborhoods as compared with on main thoroughfares, such as Rivers Avenue
- Eliminating abandoned properties and overgrown lots

- Transparency of agreements with the community as they are being developed
- Identifying a courtesy officer that lives in apartment complexes or neighborhoods (perhaps incentivized with compensation or tax credits)
- Street cameras would deter crime
- CAC member made comment that North Charleston owns a significant number of lots and asked if those lots were being considered by SCDOT. Project Manager stated that SCDOT has to partner with local municipalities on community centers because management of those centers is outside of their scope. SCDOT can secure property, build infrastructure (roads, bridges, buildings, etc.), but the county or city will ultimately be required to take ownership of community center, including long-term maintenance.
- SCDOT will work with municipalities to develop an intergovernmental agreement that will outline many of the programs, services, and structural components the CAC wants to see in the community centers. SCDOT will provide seed money for municipalities to start the programs agreed upon in the agreement, but in order for them to receive the money they have to agree to both start and maintain programs. Those agreements can be written to include language that gives residents priority on the issues identified by the CAC. Ultimately, SCDOT must partner with municipalities for maintenance, operation, and long-term implementation.
- CAC member asked about transparency during the process of developing the agreement between SCDOT and municipalities so that community members are kept informed of the initial terms of the agreement as well as any subsequent changes that may take place.
- The project manager emphasized that in order to ensure transparency, it is going to take a lot of participation by the community and community organizations. The more organized communities and community associations are, the more leverage and power communities have in ensuring terms of intergovernmental agreements are enforced. Some of the expectations addressed by the CAC will be addressed as part of the environmental document, which serves as an additional enforcement tool. But, the effectiveness of community groups is based on that groups' ability to come together and hold government representatives accountable
- CAC member asked about Tim Scott's proposal for opportunity zones, potential federal grant money associated with that proposal, and whether the grant money has been considered by SCDOT for this project. The project manager indicated she didn't think the four communities in this program are currently in the opportunity zone, but SCDOT researched opportunity zones early in the process.
- CAC member spoke about apartment complexes that have courtesy officers who live in affected neighborhoods or apartment complexes and are compensated or incentivized by free or discounted housing. Courtesy officers would be responsible for the safety of designated areas and would deter people from hanging out in neighborhoods. An apartment will be given to the courtesy officer and he will be there to maintain order in neighborhoods.
- Street cameras in Downtown Charleston were referenced as an effective crime deterrent and were suggested as a possible resource for reducing crime in the affected communities. Placing cameras at corner lots was suggested.
- Community members have requested more street lights, but have been told that the current lights meet code. CAC member suggested that in some cases, the number of street lights installed should go beyond code. Another CAC member agreed and indicated that insufficient lighting on Russelldale

behind the car lot is also a problem. There is a light at the car lot, but further down the street, closer to her residence, there is no light.

- CAC member discussed how dark it is at the corner of Railroad and Harper. She called SCE&G to increase/improve lighting around her home, and she currently pays for two additional street lights. Another CAC member felt she should not have to pay more for proper lighting around her home.
- Project team member worked with CAC member to identify poorly lit areas on the map. CAC member indicated that high speed chases would often take place in the same area (identified on the map with the project team member) and end on the dark section of Russelldale Avenue because of poor lighting.
- CAC members suggested speed humps as a possible solution to speeding through neighborhoods. Project team member indicated there were different design options on speed humps that may be acceptable to residents but deter unwanted speeding in communities. Another CAC member indicated that no one should be against speed bumps when it relates to the safety of young people and seniors in a community.
- A CAC member mentioned that in addition to speeding being an issue and having a lack of speed bumps, there are also no sidewalks on Rebecca Street. A speeding study was conducted, but the final report indicated there wasn't enough evidence of speeding to have speed bumps installed.
- Stop signs at Railroad Avenue and Piedmont Avenue were requested and denied as well.
- CAC member referred back to the lighting issue and recommended "common sense" (no dead-heading) tree trimming to improve lighting. He also recommended "common sense," strategic placement of street lights so that lights are not blocked by trees.
- CAC member mentioned that the power company offers packages for additional lighting at \$3 per month. As it relates to installation of security cameras, not everyone can afford cameras, but perhaps community members can identify a company that would offer a discount, but anything would help in reducing crime.
- There is a large, dark, empty lot at the end of Good Street in Highland Terrace where people meet for undesirable and potentially criminal activities. A light should be installed in that area. CAC member indicated she has called police officers when she sees those activities, but they never respond. CAC member and Project Team member identified and marked location on the map.
- In Liberty Park and Highland Terrace, the problem is that most lots are 50 feet wide with lighting placed every 300 feet, so their area is essentially "black." The entire area needs to be revamped regarding the placement of lights.
- The Project Manager clarified the difference between pedestrian-scale lighting versus street lighting. Standard placement of street lights placed much farther apart because it is based on visibility. Pedestrian-scale lighting is lower-level lighting that will light everything. CAC member stated that as a lifelong resident and a senior citizen, the issue of lighting is a matter of personal and community protection.

What activities would you like to see in your neighborhood?

- Cross-cultural activities and educational workshops
- Health and wellness screening
- Historical programs, activities, and festivals that highlight and preserve history

- Impacts on children, leaving a legacy; “We want [to leave] a legacy that we were here,” and archive the things we were able to accomplish in our communities
- Harvest Church could be designated as a historical marker to capture the history, personal contributions, and changes in the landscape that have occurred; Resident at 2019 church yard sale brought year book that gave historical context, information on streets, A-Z, in the community; Project team member recommended collecting pictures from community members (“documentation beats conversation”)
 - Jazz mobile played music in the community during summer months
 - Various neighborhood associations (such as block or tennis associations) were in place during youth; Should be put in place again for neighborhood children to see how things used to be and how they should be (“this is how I am supposed to act,” “this is how I’m supposed to think about things that need to be done”); Dealing with the present, shaping the future
- Cross-cultural cohesion
- National Night Out
 - Was once held in Ferndale, but has been moved to Park Circle
 - Resource officers no longer provided for National Night Out if residents choose to host in Ferndale community
- Community Yard Sale (in vacant lot at front of neighborhood)

What measures can be taken to show a sense of ownership (public or private)?

- Signage (Designating property as private or public; directional)
- Dead end, “No drive-thru” signs
- Shrubs/landscaping (Wire fences are not necessary)
- Common areas in neighborhoods (to meet, walk dogs, etc.) with attractive aesthetics
- Community gardens
- Hold monthly neighborhood clean-up days (Neighborhood Sweeps)
- Adopt-a-street (engage neighbors)
- CAC member recommended all CAC members form a monthly Clean Sweep/Neighborhood Cleanup, engage other community members, and rotate efforts through the four affected communities
- Request the City pick up debris (for example sheetrock, shingles, etc.) quarterly; CAC member identified for project team member on the map where sheetrock has been left for an extended time on James Bell. James Bell, Jonah, and Dorothy Williams Streets were cited as common dumping locations for all types of debris that normal trash collection won’t pick up.
- CAC member indicated there was a similar problem at the end of Elder Street about 10 years ago, but she called and had a “No Dumping At Any Time” sign installed. The area looks much better. Project team member marked the area on the map.
- Request the County commit to one or two days per year for pick up of special materials/items being discarded.
- Project team member shared that in Richland County, some of the elected officials will routinely have district-wide clean up days where construction, demolition debris, hazardous paint (such as paint) and white goods (such as appliances) on the corner by a certain time on Friday and it will be picked up on

Saturday. Residents are given a 30-day notice. This pickup is for things that should not go into the municipal solid waste (landfill). So, it is recommended that the CAC and community members contact elected officials to leverage coordinated neighborhood cleanup activities.

Community Enhancement

What are your thoughts on having a single, larger, centrally-located replacement facility versus two smaller facilities?

- CAC member referenced conversation from CAC Meeting 5 in which the Project Team discussed a single replacement center and asked where the new facility would be relative to Russelldale and Highland Terrace residents.
- The Project Manager stated that SCDOT is considering a site that leverages several properties near Filbin Creek that are owned by the City of North Charleston. She is currently working to contact the owner of a piece of property in the middle of the area in consideration to determine their interest in selling the property to SCDOT. The property is located at Dorothy Williams and Elder Streets on property that extends back to the creek.
- CAC member asked, in terms of safety, if the expectation is for kids from Russelldale to walk from their home community to the proposed location for the new community center.
- Project Manager: If SCDOT builds a larger facility, similar to the senior center or the North Charleston gymnasium, a large piece of property will be required to build the facility. If the main building was built in the highland area and other features such as picnic tables, walking trails, etc. were placed on some of the other parcels, such as the one on Rebecca Street to do outdoor parks, playgrounds, etc., we'd have to build several of those features in the smaller communities. The Project Manager stressed that having a facility that is big enough to do everything in one location is not possible. And with a single facility, you won't be able to bring elements of the park (such as basketball) into each of the smaller communities. Currently, the Dorothy Williams and Elder Street property is the largest piece of land SCDOT has been able to locate. The benefit of leveraging the property owned by the City is it would reduce the impact on other property owners.
- CAC member asked if there were existing sidewalks in the areas being considered. Project Manager stated they would have to incorporate sidewalks and safe pedestrian access from other communities into the project plan. SCDOT cannot design sidewalks without addressing drainage.
- A Project Team member highlighted that the large piece of property on Elder Street doesn't provide network connectivity from Russelldale Avenue to Elder. So, an option is some type of pedestrian bridge at the end of April Avenue over Filbin Creek.
- Another CAC member asked why it is that residents don't see many sidewalks. Is that because of codes? Project Manager responded that it's likely because the affected communities are simply older neighborhoods. There are challenges associated with sidewalks because then I don't have enough room to maintain the lane widths. Drainage adds another layer of challenges. Accessing people's yards and determining setbacks presents another set of challenges, such as whether or not so much of their yards will be taken away that they will not be able to park. The units are small, don't have garages, and sidewalks may require parking in driveways. Funding, logistics (setbacks), and physical impacts and limitations (installing pipes) of installing sidewalks present significant challenges.

- SCDOT will figure it out. It may involve limiting staying on the current street and increasing access at the front of Filbin Creek.
- CAC member stated that sidewalks are important to safety and health benefit because it allows people to be more mobile.
- CAC member asked about “spacing,” placing pocket parks or amenities throughout smaller communities. The Project Manager stated that implementation will be determined by the land SCDOT is able to acquire. That is one of reasons why the CAC is so important to the process. SCDOT has mapped undeveloped properties that don’t have homes on them. What SCDOT doesn’t know is what land has homes that are abandoned. Those are harder to identify, so please let SCDOT know because we can add them to our mapping and try to reach out to property owners to see if they are willing to build. Ultimately, SCDOT will not displace residents to build a park.
- Project Team member directed the CAC to the overhead screen to show a map with green lines representing existing sidewalks and yellow lines representing proposed sidewalks. She also emphasized the timing on this CAC discussion being a good time because the City is working on their comprehensive plan, and they are taking comments from residents on where sidewalks should be placed.
- CAC member asked about sidewalks on James Bell with elevated curbs vs. Taylor street which has flat sidewalks. Many people park their cars on the flat sidewalks as if they are parking pads. Also, there are no bike trails. He uses curbed sidewalks in the community to ride his bike because it is safer. None of the streets, April Avenue, Russelldale, and Dorothy Williams, have sidewalks and they are dangerous areas. CAC member mentioned the need for safety or guard posts in those areas.
- Project Manager: SCDOT does not include sidewalks on a resurfacing job, but if there is a full reconstruction or reconfiguration, which is the case with some of the streets in this project, we would look at doing sidewalks as long as it makes sense. In this area, it would make sense because you have so many other sidewalks. If we’re doing a project in an area where there are no sidewalks, SCDOT will not build a half mile of sidewalk. The bus rapid transit project is going to add numerous pedestrian accommodations, so some of the issues being discussed here will overlap and be addressed through that project. Realistically, SCDOT will not be able to put sidewalks on every street in all four neighborhoods. But, we want to look at safe connections to the community centers and to transit stops on Rivers Avenue, and making sure we are selecting the best locations to make those connections.
- There are currently no proposed sidewalks in Russelldale.
- Project Team member summarized the high points with land limitations, larger facilities with smaller amenities (pocket parks) throughout communities, potentially building two larger, similar facilities on either side of I-526, and providing connectivity from the four communities to the community center.
- Project Manager asked the CAC to consider that staffing the facility or facilities is going to be another limitation (in addition to land acquisition). She urged the CAC to keep in mind the operating costs of the type of enhanced facility being discussed and the challenges that may be associated with building two of them. Two large facilities may be more difficult for the City to support. If you want it to be successful, it must be manageable long term.

- Based on CAC concerns expressed regarding lack of access to the current community center parks and playgrounds, pocket parks would be an option that would be open to the community all of the time.
- CAC member asked for clarification: If the CAC prefers a larger, centrally located center, would it be a community center or a City center?
 - Project Manager: Those types of stipulations would be included in an intergovernmental agreement to include issues like residents getting first priority to use the facility, even for paid programs such as childcare. At some point, she anticipates that SCDOT will bring the CAC together with the City to talk through the logistics of the agreement so that the CAC has an opportunity to voice their concerns directly to the City.
 - CAC member asked whether the terms of the intergovernmental agreement would go through the community council (CAC) long term. The Project Manager stressed that the decision for the CAC to stay together long term will be entirely up to CAC members. She stated that she would like to see the group stay together because it would be powerful and that SCDOT is going to stay with the group through the process. At some point, we will have a plan, and we would hope the CAC would stay together with SCDOT through the implementation phase of the plan to ensure the plan is carried out the way it is supposed to be carried out.
 - Project Manager also stressed that at some point, when SCDOT finishes the project (which could be 10 years from now), the County or the City will be required to implement a long term continuation of operation of these facilities and programs, and the CAC may choose to stay together to maintain oversight and feedback on how the facility is managed.
 - CAC member asked in order to ensure that residents remain a part of the decisions, how would you ensure that the representatives from the neighborhood are heard from? Who will ensure, for instance, that center staff will be hired from the community?
 - Project Manager stated that there will be an intergovernmental agreement, most likely with the City of North Charleston because this is their jurisdiction. The intergovernmental agreement will lay out the terms of how things will happen at the facility. SCDOT will build a specified list of structures, and at the end of the project, turn over ownership to the City. She suggested the CAC or some kind of community organization be maintained that will hold the County accountable. At that point, SCDOT will have no mechanism to monitor how the City manages the community center after the intergovernmental agreement is final.
- CAC member asked if the community can come together and voice their opinions. Project manager responded affirmatively.
- Project Manager: That is what the CAC is designed for. We will have open houses where we will bring in the rest of the community members to see what you come up with. When we bring the City of North Charleston to the table, your request can be presented to them and SCDOT will verify its part of the agreement in supporting the CAC. I think it's very important that they hear from the CAC and the community. We may be able to do an open house if the City is agreeable.
- CAC member asked if all of the communities would meet with the City in a joint meeting or as individual neighborhoods. After some discussion, the CAC agreed that it may be better to have a joint meeting because it would better support community cohesion and consistent feedback across communities with the City.

- Facilitator: It is important to understand the timeline, the process, and being involved in that process up front, because if you let certain milestones pass, then it's too late to come back after the fact to modify the agreement. That is the purpose of the CAC coming together. And that's one of the benefits of this type of meeting today because you're getting all these ideas on paper and in an organized way. While there are things that SCDOT will be able to manage, there are some things that the CAC will have to take the lead on, so timing is important.
- CAC member: On the subject of staffing, one person can staff each community center, but volunteers are needed from the neighborhood (which is what we want anyway) because you want all of the key stakeholders involved.
- CAC member prefers the term 'neighborhood center' as opposed to 'community center' because what may be common or accepted for one community may not be for another. She advocated for one large center with smaller common areas, that are close to the neighbors and that particular neighborhoods can work for. If the larger facility is spacious and easily accessible, let people with the expertise design a building that is for now and in the future. Let's not put ourselves in a small box and have a little community center like the one that we have presently. Let's go for neighborhood areas with bike paths, wheelchairs, and accessible sidewalks. All of these things are very critical to how we operate in the now and in the future. The CAC should consider diverse uses for the community center - broader-scale, forward-thinking, multifaceted. Make sure a qualified person (organization) is designing the building. It doesn't matter whether it's one large area or some smaller areas, as long as it's not a box. Everyone in the neighborhood should see a use for the center. That's most important. The staff hired for the center, along with volunteers, will manage scheduling with the City of North Charleston and community sports groups, because they will be the watchdogs.
- Project Team member directed CAC members to the mitigation packet (under community enhancement) to example pictures of requested community center enhancements (such as computers and Internet access) based on CAC feedback. Feedback was requested specifically regarding outdoor athletic equipment and pocket parks.
 - CAC member indicated that the Ferndale community has tried to get a picnic table and covered area (shelters) for cookouts, birthday parties, family reunions, etc.
 - Project team member suggested additional amenities such as shaded playgrounds, special needs playground equipment, benches, bike racks, lockers, outdoor drinking water fountains.
- CAC member stated that there is a need for advocacy training ("Advocacy 101 Workshop") because people don't know how to advocate for themselves. They need to know how to do that, and there is a process.

Session break for lunch

Community Preservation

Do you walk as a means of transportation or to access public transit? If not, why? What reasons are related to infrastructure needs?

- CAC member stated that her tenants walk to work, shopping, to the bank, etc. and that she fears for them because of the lack of streetlights and because there are areas that are wooded that they walk through such as Elder Avenue. This area belongs to the City and is not cleaned up, so there is trash and heavy debris.
- Project Team member asked what are some of the paths people are taking?
- CAC members identified the area on the map near Elder Avenue, James Bell, and Deacon Streets as having inadequate lighting and frequent issues with debris. This is particularly an issue at 6:30 or 7:00 in the morning when it is dark. There is a bus stop in the area, but the CAC member has picked tenants up due to safety concerns.
- Other streets identified as having lighting issues are Target, April, and Russelldale.
- CAC member stated that all lighting in Highland Terrace and Liberty Park is 300 feet apart.
- There is also a path that leads to World Overcomer's Church (*confirmed as Life Changers Covenant Ministries*). There was a gate installed, but the gate is broken. Some residents use that pathway to get to Rivers Avenue, to go to the store, or to the bus stop as a common path.
- CAC member suggested potentially having CARTA or a shuttlebus (with seats/not standing only) to transport neighborhood residents at least during the early morning and evening hours; CARTA covered bus shelters needed at stops such as Russelldale and Target Avenues/Ferndale. Accessibility for disabled people should be included in the considerations for providing covered shelters.
- The main streets to exit the Ferndale community are Piedmont and Railroad Avenues. There are currently no sidewalks on Railroad Avenue, it is dark at night, and it is very dangerous for pedestrians. Would love to see statistics on who has been injured on Railroad Avenue because it is dark. There is a drainage ditch on one side. Lights don't overlap at all. Piedmont has sidewalks.
- Railroad Avenue is a "drag strip."
- Covered areas are needed for children waiting for school buses. Children don't have individual stops so they congregate in large groups. They stand in the rain and cold.
- Project Manager: A number of enhancements related to shelters will be addressed under the Bus Rapid Transit project, but SCDOT will try to connect to or enhance the work done on that project.
- Pedestrian accommodations across Rivers Avenue are also an issue. The main foot traffic across Rivers Avenue: Railroad track at Highland Terrace, Taylor Street, James Bell, Target Street, Fuller, Rebecca Street, residents (veterans) crossing at Patriots Villa
 - Many Patriots Villa residents cannot walk well and have difficulty crossing Rivers Avenue
 - There was a pedestrian fatality last year; Another wheelchair-bound resident has been hit twice (once by a train)
- The back end of Ferndale beyond Jason does not have sidewalks
- Footpaths underneath I-526 – The City is planning a multi-use path along Filbin Creek. The information collected from the CAC about those areas will be provided to the City.
- From Fuller to the back of the neighborhood, there is no access to Rivers Avenue, so residents have to walk through unimproved and unsafe areas to get food and general shopping.

- Because of the way Ferndale is designed, would there be an access street in the back or would construction have to go through the neighborhood when the project starts? Concern about construction equipment in the neighborhood during the construction phase. Project Team member noted that the City will need to address concerns regarding the logistics of construction equipment in neighborhoods.
- Project Manager: Most of the time on interstate projects, construction crews access through the ramps. Oftentimes, they will fence off a lot of the construction zone and to access the surface street, they will come off a ramp. SCDOT would never go through a neighborhood street unless it was absolutely necessary because construction equipment can tear up roads and they have to be repaired. So SCDOT crews will likely access the site from Rivers Avenue or a ramp.
- Project Team member addressed another pedestrian location at east and west Deacon Street, under I-26. There is a footpath connecting the two streets that goes over the train tracks that goes to Highland Terrace. It is the property of the railroad, is overgrown, is and presents a safety concern. There have been serious issues with that area, including someone losing their life there. There is currently a path leading to Elder Street. CAC member asked if it is possible to create a barrier to stop people from taking Deacon to Rivers Avenue. People take chances jumping the tracks. The footpath should not be continuous. A fence runs from Taylor to James Bell and stops at the corner of Elder Street where there is a house. If someone continues on the path, it leads to a ditch with a 6-foot drop. Placing a barrier would eliminate access. Project Team member and CAC member identified the area on the map.

Where is stormwater runoff or standing water a problem in your neighborhood?

- Russelldale at the corner of Rebecca and Rivers Avenue (flooding after rain events)
- Liberty Park at the corner of James Bell and Taylor to Rivers Avenue; Yard flooding at first house on Taylor Street because they (the City) changed the drainage system so that it runs alongside the fence so the drain is constantly overflowing whenever there is an extended period of rain. CAC member says she has reported it, but nothing has been done to address it.
- The Woodbine Avenue area (with warehouses – *identified as Palmetto Heights*) has built up the property higher near the train tracks which has changed the flow of water, increased water flow and flooding on Taylor Street; from Taylor up to Elder Avenue. Project Team member marked this location on map. Drains are not being cleaned. CAC member speculates that water runs from Taylor Street properties onto James Bell which creates a drainage issue for them.
- Project Manager: Some streets are SCDOT streets, some are city streets. There is a maintenance request form on the SCDOT website (scdot.org) or you can call 855-GO-SCDOT. Don't call the local DOT office. The Department of Transportation does not know drains need cleaning unless residents tell them. Formal requests submitted online or through the telephone number provided are monitored by the Secretary and they have a designated turnaround time. Maintenance crews are graded on response times. Drainage issues get higher priority than signage issues.
- In Ferndale, between Graham and Emden Streets, there is a two-story brick house; large lot flanked by large ditch with poor drainage (marked on map).
- Harper and Railroad; On Harper Street, there is a lot of open space in front of the yards that is always muddy because of standing water.
- CAC member identified a parcel next to the L-shaped parcel that has been open for 20 years.

What do you see as barrier(s) to “aging in place” in your neighborhood?

- A lot of landlords are taking their properties off Section 8 designation, so a lot of people have had to move out of the neighborhood.
- CAC member listed the following as challenges: Home repairs, transportation (access to transit), meals, home health, expenses, lawn maintenance, and ramps. If the aging population is low-income, they cannot afford most of these items.
 - Sidewalk access
 - Inadequate services for seniors
 - Neighborhood centers
 - Meals on wheels (limited service)
 - Residents may not know the requirements to qualify for the program
 - More access to resources (Community/Senior Center)
 - Free health screenings
 - CAC member cited home maintenance and repair as the biggest challenge for seniors
 - There were programs in place at one time several years ago to assist with upkeep of homes. When you visit the homes of elderly people, sometimes you see that something needs to be fixed, but they can't afford to have it fixed. Homes begin to decline, and people do not even realize it unless they are visiting elderly neighbors.
 - Block grants are available to assist with home repairs. CAC member indicated she knows people who have applied for but did not receive the grants and are living with other people because they cannot afford repairs; asked for the guidelines.
 - Another CAC member suggested contacting the City Council representative.
- CAC member revisited an earlier comment, stating that seniors don't know how to advocate for themselves. He indicated he'd visited seniors that haven't had electricity for months or are without water or don't have a bathtub because they don't know how to get it fixed. They may not have the financial means for home repairs. Many people are disconnected from family. They don't have resources nor the educational level, so having a “third space” for them to get a break from their house and their living conditions and to understand what financial resources are available to them would be beneficial.
- CAC member has spoken to the City on behalf of several people, because they do have block grants, but all of the funding goes to the south side of North Charleston. There is supposed to be funding available to repair roofs, but Metanoia receives a lot of the money which stays in the south side of North Charleston. The north end residents may receive funds, but it is like going through a “round robin” to receive the funds.
- There is someone at the senior center who comes in to talk with seniors about Medicare and additional resources available to them. For example, some people need in-home care, but they don't know those resources exist. Providing seminars and workshops would be beneficial. There are grants available to seniors. She has worked with people who have received grants. There are plenty of resources, we just have to know where they are and how to access them.
- CAC member referred back to the role of the community center staff. The staff at the community center should serve as a resource who can interpret the needs of the senior community; volunteers should also be enlisted. Staff person should live in the community, inform the senior community about grants and senior citizen resources, and provide caregiver relief at no cost to the senior citizen. Hired community

center staff have to be able to envision what is needed for that community and point the neighborhood in the direction to access resources, and to follow-up consistently. Follow up is very important.

- Community Liaison: The window of opportunity for grants is narrow; you have to get in, qualify for the grant, and have all of your documentation. If you don't do that, you're not going to get the grant. There are grants out there, but they are so small and the window to apply is so tight, and the requirements are very strict.
- Community Liaison: There are several local colleges: The Citadel, Charleston Southern, Trident Tech, and MUSC. They all have nursing schools. Why not get some kind of an agreement with them in which some of the nursing students can come out and visit seniors to do blood pressure checks and see what's going on in the house? They also have students who study nutrition and social studies. We should partner with local colleges to develop a program that will allow students to earn class credits to do senior health checks quarterly. As a part of their visit, they can also include in-home inspections to document things like bathroom floors that are falling in or seniors who may not have running water. This type program for senior/graduate students would benefit both students and seniors (elderly).
- CAC Member: Grants are often community grants or community partnerships that have resources that can support many of the issues being discussed without having to totally rely on grants. During the 2015 Thousand-Year flood, I developed relationships with several companies. Georgia Pacific and two other companies agreed to bring tractor trailer loads of sheet rock and roofing supplies to repair damaged roofs, but I had nowhere to store the materials. I couldn't store the materials outside of the church building, and the City would not assist in finding a location to store the materials. And we had people lined up to provide labor for repairs. So, there are a lot of resources out there, but we have to find a way to collaborate and work together.
- CAC Member: Regarding the senior population, many of them don't have transportation. They spend a lot of money on Uber and cabs because they can't walk to the bus stop. Sometimes they make a decision not to take their medicine or not paying a bill because they need to get to the grocery store. There is an increased expense for locations like Ferndale and Russelldale in the back, because they do not have easy access to buses. They don't feel safe walking to the bus stop by themselves.
- CAC Member: Even if you applied for Teleride, you are charged for each trip. They pick you up and drop you off, but seniors cannot afford the service. If a person goes to the doctor on Monday, the grocery store on Tuesday, and to do laundry on Friday, that's \$15 per week which is outside of their budget.
- Facilitator revisited the Thousand-Year flood discussion, curious about the efforts and outcomes associated with a CAC member coordinating efforts to obtain materials, secure laborers, and provide temporary lodging to volunteers willing to assist the community in recovery after a natural disaster. CAC member was asked: *What would have been a solution outside of relying on the city [to store donated items]?* His response was, "Well, mine was just finding places like a warehouse that would allow me to hold use a space for a brief period because what would happen is I formed relationships with organizations outside of South Carolina. There were people...college groups, church groups that... would be willing to come here as a mission trip to help work on houses. And I got all the supplies...They lived in our building...We asked [the community center] could we use the gym, because the gym had showers. They wouldn't allow us to use it because they had basketball... So...we brought a shower trailer outside our church building, and we have people living in our building a week after we come in...electricians, roofers and we replaced most of the houses in Pepper Hill. I think we got 27 houses, gutting them out...insulation, everything and all the supplies were donated. Almost \$700,000 worth of stuff was

donated and services, and they kept telling us... 'we'll try to get this building. We'll try to get this.' And so we had, you know, we had everything we needed. We just can't get in your report. Then I find out later we were messing up the FEMA numbers because we're doing all this stuff for free and they couldn't get the money for it because we were doing it for free."

- Community Liaison asked "Have you ever thought about getting a media partner where you have someone who has access to the airwaves that will say, 'we've got this donated, we've got this donated, but we need a warehouse?'" She suggested the church think about doing something like that and extended an offer of support their efforts.
- Facilitator clarified the reason for the question being the fact they live in Charleston, that will not be the last time the community will face inclement weather that sets the community back.
- CAC member revisited the word *advocacy* and noted that CAC members seem to be knowledgeable about a lot of different things. He reiterated that this group has the potential to advocate for whole area (all four communities) in terms of speaking to government representatives. Another CAC member agreed and added that the CAC could also promote networking. Using the example of the flood and the fact that the Charleston area experiences annual storms starting in June, she emphasized that people from different neighborhoods may have common needs, as well as personal issues, but if communities continue and grow the current (CAC) brokerage from various neighborhoods they know who has different levels of expertise, knowledge, and skills from each neighborhood to best support each other. This will support community cohesion.

Community Revitalization

What do you see as the top priority for revitalization in your neighborhood and why?

- CAC Member: Removing and renovating boarded homes and to limit the amount of time boarded homes can be there. Currently, boarded homes can remain intact indefinitely as long as they meet criteria which is an issue, particularly if you live next door to a boarded home.
- CAC Member: I have housing in this area: Charleston, North Charleston and now it's moving on towards Dorchester County, Berkeley County. We're in desperate need of adequate housing for families moving in to take on jobs with the different industries coming into the area. Based on available vacancies, I recommend providing single rental units as opposed to multi-family dwellings like apartments or condos at this time, unless it's very tastefully done...mobile and manufactured homes, like-wise. Another concern was regarding small businesses in which the CAC member expressed a desire to see neighborhoods with a small, dedicated businesses. She would like to see small businesses that do not raise prices unnecessarily (price gauge) community members, but rather are vested in that particular neighborhood to provide for groups like the elderly who cannot always get to big grocery stores to buy fresh foods and other items. She would also love to see businesses like barbershops and beauty shops, and all types of services.
- In some parts of Columbia, SC there are developments in some communities where small business owners have a storefront on the bottom and their residence upstairs. Usually the owner may have a barber shop.
- CAC member expressed a specific concern with a particular business located at James Bell and Rivers. The owner is not suspected of living in the area, but they have a huge business. Their business traffic

spills over into the streets and people have to allow them to finish their business before you can pass through. If there is fire truck or some emergency vehicle, they don't have to go back out and go around to Taylor Street or Target Street, to get into the neighborhood. That's not fair to the residents in that neighborhood. And I think if one elderly person is sick, there should be an entrance for an emergency vehicle to come through and not have to go around.

What types of barriers need to be overcome to achieve revitalization without inducing gentrification?

- CAC member asked how Russelldale become light industrial
 - The City proposed a plan to rezone the area. It's part of the 10-year plan. Another CAC member mentioned that the public has until March 31st to call about rezoning, so there's still time for people from the Russelldale community to protest.
- Community Liaison stressed that they have held five hearings and emphasized that is why the community office is here, so that people can ask questions. We know two years from now people will say 'I didn't even know you were doing this.' It was publicized on television, radio, in papers - that they were having these five hearings. The last one was last week. We don't want anybody to come up with 2022 say that I don't know anything about this.
- Project Team member stated that a lot of times, if you couple things like improved community centers, sidewalks, and well-lit streets with the pressure that property owners are getting from developers, "let me come in and purchase your land." A developer first purchases a street, then a block, and then a corner before you know it that area is gentrifying. It is transitioning. When government agencies start putting in additional facilities, the concern is that it is going to "tip the needle" towards the gentrification process. So, how do we make sure that we developed this mitigation plan that isn't going to create some other issues afterwards? I think some of the things that we've identified, as far as making sure that the community centers are for the neighborhoods they served, that's a big one - keeping the residence as the main recipients of the amenities.
- Community Liaison stated that if you don't go to the City Hall meetings, you don't go to the planning meetings, you don't go to the zoning meetings, you're not going to hear anything. So, you can't wait for someone to bring you the message. They meet every third Thursday in the month and you've got to be vigilant and you need to go to see democracy at work. Neighborhoods that care about their neighborhoods, they come in droves and they're telling the city 'No, we're not going for it.' And they get heard because they come in numbers, and we're going to have to invest in that system in order to know what's happening to your neighborhoods. There's just no way around it. And you can't wait for me to tell you. There's a schedule out there and you need to look at that schedule and be at those meetings.
- Project Team member stated that you may also just want to be aware of what's happening in other neighborhoods and provide support because those people may come back and support you when you need advocates.
- Community Liaison stated that all communities can work together.
- Facilitator stressed how important it is to have cross generational engagement. The CAC is all here, fighting the good fight every meeting, but although this group may be able to give a little more time than people with young families, the CAC has to figure out which people in the community have time to commit, at every generational stage, because that's the only to achieve sustainable advocacy. The CAC needs to have a succession plan in place with young people. You will be the group to educate them. Like

it or not, you're here. You're getting all of the information. It's up to you to carry that information back and educate other people about some of these issues. You've got to get people across generations onboard with you, because some of the issues that you guys were talking about extend far beyond the SCDOT project.

- CAC member spoke about the importance of the history of all of the communities. It is important to research the history for each community and place it in the planned community center.
- CAC member addressed a question that was skipped in Section 7c (Community Preservation): **Is speeding a persistent issue anywhere in your neighborhood?**
- Railroad & Piedmont
- Rebecca Street/Russelldale
- Taylor Street & Elder (4-way stop sign; CAC recommends speed humps)
- Willis Drive/Rebecca (children's bus stop)

Summary and Next Steps

- The Project Team will compile all of the feedback and present a summary at CAC Meeting #7.
- CAC Meeting # 7 will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2020 and the agenda will include an update on the mitigation plan development and providing available details, gathering additional information at that time on potential housing.
- Informational workshops scheduled will be held on Saturday, March 21st. Please let the community office know if you would like more flyers.
 - We're also working at some of the locations where we have either internal or external information boxes where these flyers or any project-related flyers are being housed or distributed or can be collected. If you have places that you would like to see them added, please let us know because we track it to make sure we're meeting the needs of the community. We recognize that not everybody that lives in the area commutes in the area all the time. So if there are other places that you know residents are going or even within the community, let us know. If there are times when you feel that the office can be a space for you to convene a moderately sized group, if you need a space to have a conversation, particularly with your neighbors, and you want to get more feedback from them in a place where they're comfortable, the office is available for you to use the space and have conversations that are going to be beneficial to you and the group.
- **Informational Workshops, Saturday, March 21, 2020**
- **CAC Meeting #7 scheduled for April 18, 2020, 10 AM – 1 PM**

Recommendations:

The Facilitator asked a follow-up question to Reverend Johnson's experience during the Thousand-year flood out of curiosity for how their communities dealt with resiliency during the floods. Within the context of social vulnerability and the social vulnerability index, it may be beneficial to all stakeholders (the four communities, SCDOT, the City of North Charleston, etc.) to build those considerations into the mitigation plan via the design of the facility and the capability of the center to convert into an emergency shelter in the event of natural disasters. This would strengthen the supporting narrative of community cohesion and

community preservation through tangible community center systems and features that proactively address social vulnerability.

COMMUNITY COHESION
<p><i>Limited Use of Community Center for community children</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ferndale – residents not allowed to use the community center gym • Current Ferndale Community Center used as “City” center • Community children should have access to the community center/limited use based on basketball/tournament season • Smaller facility in the back of neighborhood should be considered • Russelldale faces similar challenges to Ferndale with the exception of basketball tournaments • Community center staff concerned about liability associated with “community kids,” “mixing with scheduled tournament events and practices • Center should keep kids off the streets • Focus should be on children first • 90% of current center use by outside people and activities • Senior center operations should be used as model for the current/proposed community center(s) • Development of an “equitable schedule”
<p><i>General Limitations of Current Community Center</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ferndale Community Center – not staffed, not staffed by community, not geared toward community, not child centered • Liberty Park/Highland Terrace – Need a staffed, “working” center with scheduled activities that engages the community
<p><i>Potential/Desired Use of Community Center</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To hold meetings with government and community representatives • To congregate with other community members • Evacuation shelter, particularly for seniors and the disabled • Cross-cultural activities • National Night Out • Historical programs/archives that highlight/preserve history
<p><i>Benefits of the Community Center to the Affected Communities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide employment opportunities specifically for residents; Increased respect of adult center staff by community youth • A place to learn more about neighbors • Cross-cultural cohesion – impacts on children; leaving a legacy
<p><i>Historical (past) uses for community centers/meeting spaces in the affected communities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch programs for youth • Jazz mobile • Block association • Tennis association

COMMUNITY COHESION	
<i>Neighborhood activities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Community yard sale (in vacant lot in front of neighborhood)</i>
<i>Crime</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-lit streets; going above code for minimum requirements for spacing of street lights • Private/public areas are well-defined <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Signage ○ Fencing should not be first choice; geographic boundaries should be user-friendly ○ Proper law enforcement/ police understanding enforcement boundaries ○ Eliminating abandoned properties/overgrown lots • Designated courtesy officer who lives in the community or apartment complex (provide compensation, tax credits) • Street cameras • Practical tree-trimming (to unblock existing street lights) • Additional street lights (nominal cost; discount/reduced price package) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Install light at the end of Dark Street (Good St) ○ Pedestrian-scale (lower-level) lighting vs. Street lights (spaced every 300 feet)
<i>Speeding and General Safety</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of speed humps • Installing stop sign at Piedmont
<i>Sense of Ownership</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage (Directional) • Shrubs/landscaping • Common areas/informal designations • Community garden • Monthly neighborhood sleeps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CAC members lead rotating neighborhood sweep (between 4 communities) ○ Adopt-a-highway (engage neighbors) • Quarterly debris cleaning (City of Charleston) • County pick-up once or twice a year for special waste (appliances, paint, etc.)
COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian bridge to help children avoid traffic • Lot spacing will depend on specific land acquisition • Need for advocacy (Advocacy Workshop 101 suggested)
<i>Sidewalks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about walkability for children to the proposed community center • Benefits of sidewalk installation: increased drainage and safety • Challenges associated with sidewalk installation: achieving proper drainage and infrastructure challenges • Russelldale – uneven, non-existent sidewalks; discrepancies noted between sidewalks on maps and actual sidewalk locations
<i>Community Center</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single, centrally-located facility vs. two smaller facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Limitations related to two facilities: staffing and land acquisition

COMMUNITY COHESION

- Consider pocket parks, covered areas, grills
- Residents' first choice options (amenities) should be included in the intergovernmental agreement; CAC input in the intergovernmental agreement with the City of North Charleston
- Providing connectivity to the community center
- Staffing and volunteers (community buy-in)
- "Neighborhood" center vs. community center (CAC does not want a box design)
 - Broad-scale, diverse use, forward-thinking, multi-faceted
- Staffing should be qualified to run the center

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION

- Tenants as pedestrians – safety issues related to poor lighting, walking to bus stop, trash, debris (Elder/James Bell)
- CARTA/shuttle bus (with seats) to transport residents, morning and evening; bus shelters
- Piedmont and Railroad Avenues (no sidewalk currently)
 - Poor lighting drainage issues
- Railroad Avenue used as drag strip
- Covered areas for school bus stops
- Bus shelter needed at Russelldale Avenue; no covered bus stops currently
- Pedestrian accommodations over/across Rivers Avenue; safety issues for veterans crossing at Patriots Villa across Rivers Avenue
- Importance of safe, practical footpaths
- Safety for bike riders
- Construction traffic in neighborhoods during the construction stage
- Standing water
 - Russelldale – Rebecca and Rivers
 - Liberty Park – James Bell and Taylor
 - Harper and Railroad
 - Submit maintenance request to scdot.org or call 855-GO-SCDOT
- Aging in place
 - Landlords taking homes off Section 8
 - Home repairs
 - Community block grants; narrow window of opportunity
 - Lack of ramps/inaccessibility
 - Meals/food security
 - Inadequate services (Community center, health screening)
 - Community center staff should serve as a resource and follow-up
 - Advocacy and self-advocacy – educational and financial resources
 - Limited access to affordable transportation
 - Potential partnerships with local college nursing programs to develop health and wellness program for senior residents (win-win scenario)
- CAC as advocates for community residents; networking
- Speeding
 - Railroad/Piedmont
 - Russelldale
 - Taylor Street (4-way stop)
 - Willis/Rebecca

COMMUNITY COHESION
REVITALIZATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove or renovated boarded homes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prefer single-family rental units to multi-family units/mobile homes/modular
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prefer small businesses vested in the community
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Avoiding gentrification
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Including history in community center

Name: _____



Community Advisory Council
CAC Meeting #7

April 18, 2020

How to Join the Meeting!

- *Reference your Adobe Connect Quick Start Guide on the following page*
- Call: **1-800-753-1965**
- Enter Access Number: **7236718**

Agenda

- Welcome
- Administrative Items
- 'Open Mic' Session
- Results from Mitigation Work Session: Review & Discussion
- Replacement Recreational Facilities Discussion
- Replacement Housing Discussion
- Outreach Update
- Summary & Next Steps

Administrative Items

- Technology check
- Review virtual meeting etiquette
- Confirm CAC members have all meeting materials
 - Meeting packet
 - Minutes from CAC Meeting No. 6
- Approve minutes for CAC Meeting Nos. 5 and 6



LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR

ADOBE CONNECT Quick Start Guide

1

RUN CONNECTION TEST PRIOR TO MEETING

We recommend that you test your computer prior to attending the meeting. You can do so by visiting:

http://admin.adobeconnect.com/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm

2

JOIN THE MEETING

You should have received an email invitation with meeting access information. When the meeting time arrives, click on the link or enter the URL into your browser. The meeting login screen will appear. Choose *Enter as a Guest*, type in your first and last name, and click *Enter Room*. The meeting room interface will appear once the meeting begins.

3

MEETING AUDIO

When the *Connect My Audio* window pops up after joining the meeting, select *Dial-in to the meeting via phone*. The dial-in information is as follows:

Phone Number: 1-800-753-1965

Access Number: 7236718

Note: Please keep your phone muted at all times unless speaking.

4

CHANGE STATUS

Within the meeting, you can change your status to provide feedback. To change your status, click the arrow on the *Status Options* dropdown list on the *Application Bar*. Here you can select from *Raise Hand*, *Agree*, *Disagree*, *Step Away*, *Applause*, etc.

5

CHAT

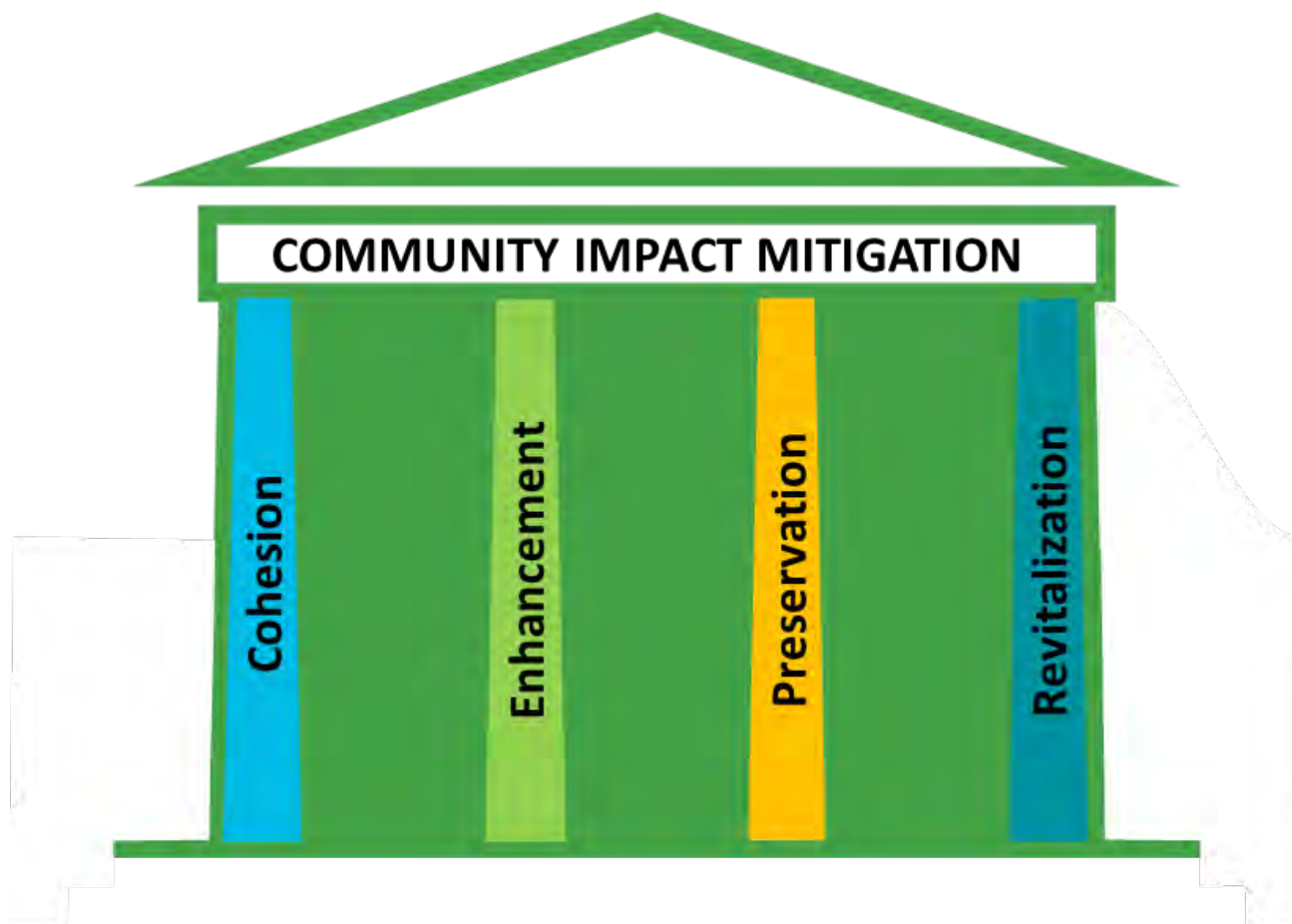
To send a message to everyone, simply type your message in the chat pod and hit enter or click the send icon.



Outside of mitigation measures (which we'll be discussing later in the meeting), are there other items you would like to bring up with the CAC or project team?

Did you speak to any neighbors or residents who had additional comments for the project team?

CAC Community Impact Mitigation: Overview



Community Cohesion

- FOCUS AREAS: Actions that strengthen neighborhood connections



Community Enhancement

- FOCUS AREAS: Community center and recreational facility replacement



Community Preservation

- FOCUS AREAS: Infrastructure needs



Community Revitalization

- FOCUS AREAS: Replacement housing and employment/economic opportunities

Mitigation Workshop Results



Community Cohesion

- FOCUS AREAS: Actions that strengthen neighborhood connections

MITIGATION WORK SESSION QUESTIONS AND PROMPTS

“What do you see as resources that are currently lacking that would improve community cohesion?”

“What do you see as resources that are currently lacking that would improve community cohesion?”

Do you see use for a community center to serve as a hub for the distribution of water or related disaster-relief activities?

What measures can be taken to increase the number of “eyes” on the street to help minimize crime in these areas?

What activities would you like to see in your neighborhood?

What measures can be taken to show a sense of ownership (public or private)?

Mitigation Workshop Results



Community Cohesion

- FOCUS AREAS: Actions that strengthen neighborhood connections

More access to community center for community children

- ☐ As example, Ferndale residents not allowed to use the community center gym
- ☐ Current Ferndale Community Center used as “City” center
- ☐ Community children should have access to the community center/limited use based on basketball/tournament season
- ☐ Smaller facility at the opposite end of the neighborhood should be considered
- ☐ Russelldale faces similar challenges to Ferndale with the exception of basketball tournaments
- ☐ Community center staff concerned about liability associated with “community kids,” “mixing with scheduled tournament events and practices
- ☐ Center should be focused on keeping kids off the streets
- ☐ Focus should be on children first
- ☐ 90% of the Ferndale center’s use by outside people and activities
- ☐ Senior center operations should be used as model for the current/proposed community center(s)
- ☐ Development of an “equitable schedule”

Address general limitations of current community center

- ☐ Ferndale Community Center – not staffed, not staffed by community, not geared toward community, not child centered
- ☐ Liberty Park/Highland Terrace – Need a staffed, “working” center with scheduled activities that engage the community

Desired benefits of the community center to the community it serves

- ☐ Provide employment opportunities specifically for residents; Increased respect of adult center staff by community youth
- ☐ A place to learn more about neighbors
- ☐ Cross-cultural cohesion – impacts on children; leaving a legacy

Mitigation Workshop Results



Community Cohesion

- FOCUS AREAS: Actions that strengthen neighborhood connections

Potential/Desired Use of Community Center

- ☐ To hold meetings with government and community representatives
- ☐ To congregate with other community members
- ☐ Evacuation shelter, particularly for seniors and the disabled
- ☐ Cross-cultural activities
- ☐ National Night Out
- ☐ Historical programs/archives that highlight/preserve history

Historical (past) uses for community centers/meeting spaces

- ☐ Lunch programs for youth (USDA Summer Feeding Program)
- ☐ Jazz mobile
- ☐ Block association
- ☐ Tennis association

Neighborhood activities

- ☐ Community yard sale (in vacant lot in front of neighborhood)

Crime Prevention

- ☐ Well-lit streets; going above code for minimum requirements for spacing of streetlights
- ☐ Private/public areas are well-defined
 - Fencing should not be first choice; geographic boundaries should be user-friendly, possibly nativescape-based; signage installed
 - Proper law enforcement/ police understanding enforcement boundaries
- ☐ Eliminating abandoned properties/overgrown lots
- ☐ Designated courtesy officer who lives in the community or apartment complex (provide compensation, tax credits)
- ☐ Street cameras installed
- ☐ Practical tree-trimming (to unblock existing streetlights)
- ☐ Additional streetlights (nominal cost; discount/reduced price package)
 - Install light at the end of Dark Street (Good St)
 - Pedestrian-scale (lower-level) lighting vs. Street lights (spaced every 300 feet)

Mitigation Workshop Results



Community Cohesion

- FOCUS AREAS: Actions that strengthen neighborhood connections

Sense of Ownership

- ☐ Signage (Directional)
- ☐ Shrubs/landscaping
- ☐ Common areas/informal designations
- ☐ Community garden
- ☐ Monthly Clean Sweep/Neighborhood Cleanup
 - CAC members lead rotating neighborhood sweep (between 4 communities)
 - Adopt-a-highway (engage neighbors)
- ☐ Quarterly debris cleaning (City of North Charleston)
- ☐ Elected City or County Officials to sponsor pick-up once or twice a year for special waste (appliances, paint, etc.)

*Do you have any other ideas or suggestions for
community cohesion that are not listed here?*

Mitigation Workshop Results

Community Enhancement

- FOCUS AREAS: Community center and recreational facility replacement

MITIGATION WORK SESSION QUESTIONS AND PROMPTS

Based on the preliminary mapping of potential locations for replacement facilities, what are your thoughts on locations that would be most optimal for neighborhood residents?

What are your thoughts on having a single, larger, centrally-located replacement facility versus two smaller facilities? How would the location of the replacement facility, or facilities, affect your thoughts on this idea?

What do you see as outdoor resources that are currently lacking or could be improved at local community centers?

What do you see as resources for after-school programs, youth/young adults, and seniors that are currently lacking or could be improved at local community centers?

What are your thoughts on having a single, larger, centrally-located replacement facility versus two smaller facilities?

Mitigation Workshop Results

Community Enhancement

- FOCUS AREAS: Community center and recreational facility replacement

Sidewalks

- ☐ Concerns about walkability for children to the proposed community center
- ☐ Pedestrian bridge across Filbin Creek to help children avoid traffic
- ☐ Benefits of sidewalk installation: increased drainage and safety
- ☐ Challenges associated with sidewalk installation: achieving proper drainage and infrastructure challenges
- ☐ Russelldale – uneven, non-existent sidewalks; discrepancies noted between sidewalks on maps and actual sidewalk locations

Community Center *(also reference feedback under “community cohesion”)*

- ☐ Single, centrally-located facility vs. two smaller facilities
- ☐ Limitations related to two facilities: staffing and land acquisition
- ☐ Consider pocket parks, covered areas, grills
- ☐ Residents’ first choice options (amenities) should be included in the intergovernmental agreement; CAC request for input in the intergovernmental agreement with the City of North Charleston
- ☐ Provide bike/pedestrian connectivity to the community center
- ☐ Staffing and volunteers (community buy-in)
- ☐ “Neighborhood” center vs. community center (CAC does not want a box design)
- ☐ Broad-scale, diverse use, forward-thinking, multi-faceted
- ☐ Staffing should be qualified to run the center
- ☐ Staff should focus on providing activities and resources that meet the needs of the communities

Mitigation Workshop Results



Community Enhancement

- FOCUS AREAS: Community center and recreational facility replacement

Do you have any other ideas or suggestions for community enhancement that are not listed here?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Mitigation Workshop Results

Community Preservation

- FOCUS AREAS: Infrastructure needs

MITIGATION WORK SESSION QUESTIONS AND PROMPTS

*Do you walk as a means of transportation or to access public transit?
If not, why? What reasons are related to infrastructure needs?*

*If you do walk for transportation means, where do you walk?
What infrastructure needs like sidewalks, sidewalk improvements,
streetlights, bus stops, and bus stop locations do you see?*

*Where do you frequently see people walking?
Do you see seniors and/or children walking? Where?*

Is speeding a persistent issue anywhere in your neighborhood?

*Where is stormwater runoff or standing water
a problem in your neighborhood?*

*Are there areas that frequently flood during large storms
or days of heavy rainfall?*

*Do you see other stormwater/floodplain or open space-related needs
that would help residents prepare for and recover from severe weather?*

Are there specific locations you would suggest for improvement?

*What do you see as barrier(s) to “aging in place” in your neighborhood?
Of these barriers, which ones can be addressed by infrastructure
improvements like sidewalks and access to transit?*

Mitigation Workshop Results

Community Preservation

- FOCUS AREAS: Infrastructure needs

Barriers and recommendations related to walking and biking

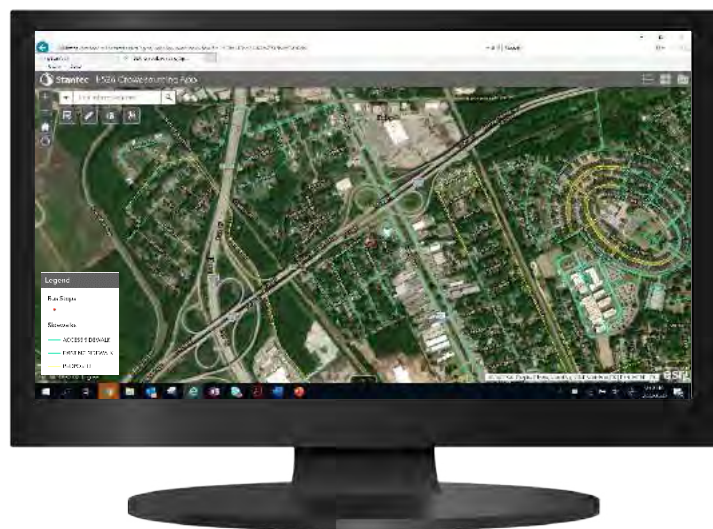
- ☐ Facilities that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- ☐ Safety issues related to poor lighting, walking to bus stop, trash, debris (Elder/James Bell)
- ☐ Piedmont and Railroad Avenues (no sidewalk currently)
 - Poor lighting; drainage issues
- ☐ Railroad Avenue used as drag strip
- ☐ Pedestrian accommodations over/across Rivers Avenue; safety issues for veterans crossing at Patriots Villa across Rivers Avenue
- ☐ Importance of safe, practical footpaths
- ☐ Safety for bike riders

Flooding/Stormwater Management

- ☐ Standing water
 - Russelldale – Rebecca and Rivers
 - Liberty Park – James Bell and Taylor
 - Harper and Railroad

Speeding

- Railroad/Piedmont
- Russelldale
- Taylor Street (4-way stop)
- Willis/Rebecca



Your feedback from the mapping activity during the Mitigation Work Session was digitized in an online viewer.

See Page 17 for instructions on how to access and leave new comments.

Mitigation Workshop Results



Community Preservation

- FOCUS AREAS: Infrastructure needs

Barriers and recommendations related to transit and school buses

- ☐ CARTA/shuttle bus with enough frequency to transport residents, morning and evening
- ☐ No covered bus shelters
- ☐ Covered bus shelters with seats recommended along Rivers Avenue
- ☐ Covered areas for school bus stops

Traffic Calming and General Safety

- ☐ Installation of speed humps
- ☐ Installing stop sign at Piedmont
- ☐ School bus stop safety

Aging in place

- ☐ Landlords taking homes off Section 8
- ☐ Home repairs
 - Community block grants; narrow window of opportunity
- ☐ Lack of ramps/inaccessibility
- ☐ Meals/food security
- ☐ Inadequate services (Community center, health screening)
 - Community center staff should serve as a resource and follow-up
- ☐ Advocacy and self-advocacy – educational and financial resources
- ☐ Limited access to affordable transportation
- ☐ Potential partnerships with local college nursing programs to implement periodic health screenings

Mitigation Workshop Results



Community Preservation

- FOCUS AREAS: Infrastructure needs

Do you have any other ideas or suggestions for community preservation that are not listed here?

[illegible]

Online GIS Viewer

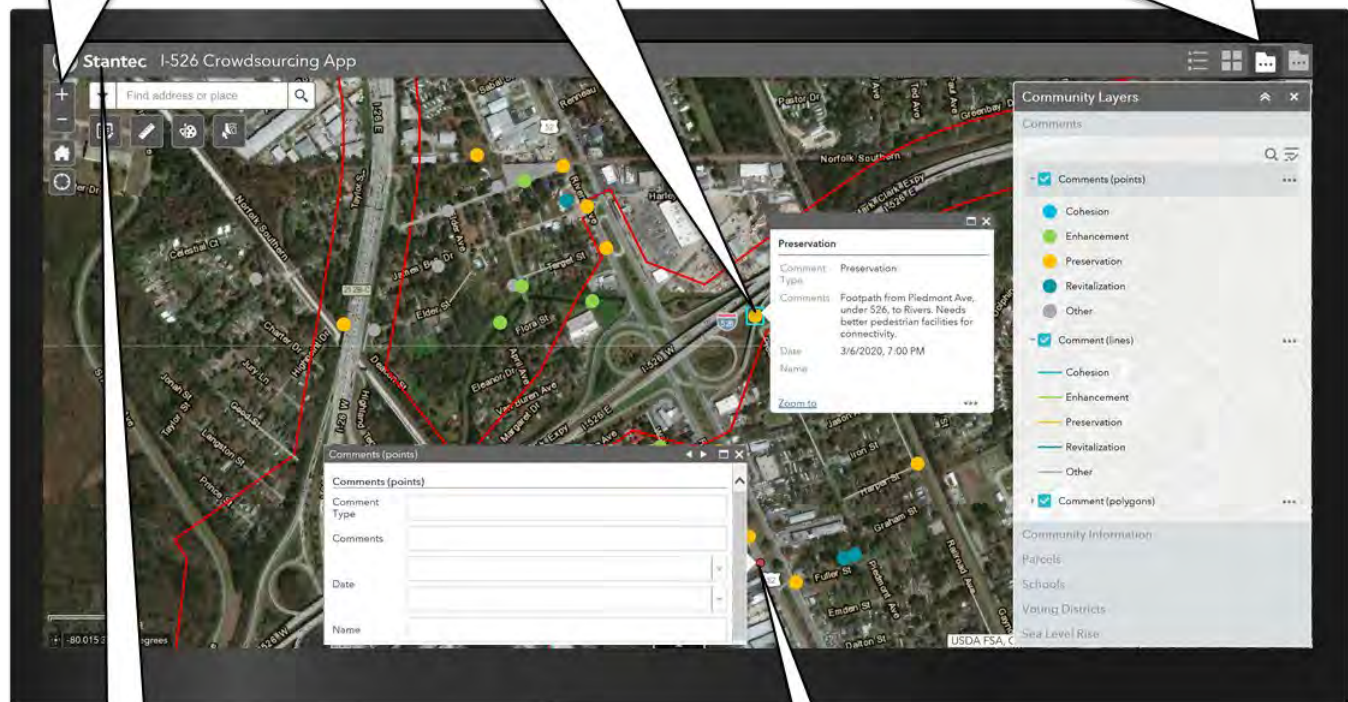
You can use the project online viewer to review CAC input on specific infrastructure needs.

1) Click [here](#) and enter username: **1784_stantec** and password: **Stantec!784**

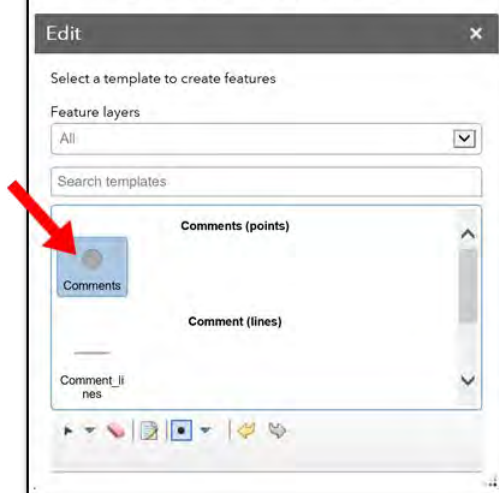
3) Zoom in and out with + and - buttons

4) Click any icon to see associated comments

2) Click "Community Layers" to see CAC comments color-coded by mitigation pillar



5) To leave new comments, click on "Edit" then "Comments"



6) Click on the map where you want to add your comment and fill out the pop-up menu (see below) then click "Close" to save your comment.

Comments (points)

Comments (points)

Comment Type **ADD MITIGATION PILLAR**

Comments **TYPE YOUR COMMENT HERE**

Date **ADD DATE**

ADD TIME

Name **ADD NAME**

Delete Close

Mitigation Workshop Results

Community Revitalization

- FOCUS AREAS: Replacement housing and employment/economic opportunities

MITIGATION WORK SESSION QUESTIONS AND PROMPTS

What do you see as the top priority for revitalization in your neighborhood and why?

What types of barriers need to be overcome to achieve revitalization without inducing gentrification?

Are there details that could be added to make these needs more specific to your neighborhood?

Improved neighborhood aesthetics

- ☐ Remove or renovated boarded homes
- ☐ Eliminate barriers related to obtaining permits/approvals for repairs to homes occupied by residents with Heirs issues (new roofs, etc.) *(via public input Nov. 2019)*

Type of replacement housing

- ☐ Prefer single-family rental units, not multi-family units/mobile homes/modular
- ☐ Lot spacing will depend on specific land acquisition

Economic revitalization

- ☐ Prefer small businesses vested in the community values

Social/cultural preservation

- ☐ Avoid gentrification
- ☐ Incorporate references to local history in community center
- ☐ Need for advocacy (Advocacy Workshop 101 suggested)

Mitigation Workshop Results



Community Revitalization

- **FOCUS AREAS:** Replacement housing and employment/economic opportunities

Do you have any other ideas or suggestions for community revitalization that are not listed here?

[illegible]

Potential Locations for Replacement Community Facilities

Community Enhancement

- FOCUS AREAS: Community center and recreational facility replacement

The project team is searching for potential locations for replacement recreational facilities. The map on Page 22 and table on Page 23 show properties that have been identified as vacant or underdeveloped (meaning they may have building(s) onsite but no one lives on the property). During the April 18th CAC meeting, we will discuss the map and table to gather your feedback on the feasibility of the properties shown in the mapping as well as your input on any other properties that should be investigated. We will revisit the following questions from the Mitigation Work Session:

Based on the preliminary mapping of potential locations for replacement facilities, what are your thoughts on locations that would be most optimal for neighborhood residents?

What are your thoughts on having a single, larger, centrally-located replacement facility versus two smaller facilities?

How would the location of the replacement facility, or facilities, affect your thoughts on this idea?

Are there other locations, not identified on the mapping, that would be suitable location(s) for replacement facilities?

Potential Locations for Replacement Community Facilities



Potential Locations for Replacement Community Facilities

Map ID #	Acres	Owner	Street #	Street Name	Letter Sent 3/19/20
1	0.15	AMEZQUITA INVESTMENT LLC	0	JONAH ST	
2	0.15	LEE VERNON JAILOR	0	JONAH ST	
3	0.15	LEE VERNON JAILOR	2548	JONAH ST	
4	0.15	JEROME MARTIN MYERS	0	JONAH ST	
5	0.15	PATRICIA ANN CROKER	5329	LANGSTON ST	
6	0.15	ERNEST MOSS	0	LANGSTON ST	
7	0.15	ERNEST MOSS	0	LANGSTON ST	
8	0.15	ERNEST MOSS	0	LANGSTON ST	
9	0.87	CITY OF NORTH CHARLESTON	2410	RICHARDSON DR	
10	0.34	FAITH TABERNACLE OF JESUS CHRIST MINISTRY	2233	TAYLOR ST	Yes
11	0.34	CALEB HARPER	0	ELDER AVE	Yes
12	0.34	CITY OF NORTH CHARLESTON	2229	TAYLOR ST	
13	0.17	PCAAAN REAL ESTATE INC	2227	TAYLOR ST	
14	0.17	HENRY THOMPSON	2222	JAMES BELL DR	
15	0.15	SAMMIE L SMALLS	126	JAMES BELL DR	
16	0.17	SHERALD D MOSES	113	CHIME ST	
17	0.19	SHELIA M SIMMONS	0	TARGET ST	
18	0.17	LOLA MAE MYERS	2135	TARGET ST	
19	0.17	ERNEST GREEN	2125	TARGET ST	
20	0.17	ERNEST GREEN	111	TARGET ST	
21	0.65*	RLB INC	5255	RIVERS AVE	
22	0.14	CITY OF NORTH CHARLESTON	0	DOROTHY WILLIAMS BLVD	
23	0.14	CITY OF NORTH CHARLESTON	0	DOROTHY WILLIAMS BLVD	
24	0.14	CITY OF NORTH CHARLESTON	0	DOROTHY WILLIAMS BLVD	
25	2.04*	KEITH GREGORY	0	JAMES BELL DR	Yes
26	1.85	CITY OF NORTH CHARLESTON	0	ELDER AVE	
27	0.29	CORINE GOODLEY	0	ELDER AVE	Yes
28	0.22	EVELYN M FRASIER	0	ELDER AVE	Yes
29	0.27	LEAH AND NATHAN HEINECK	0	ELDER AVE	Yes
30	1.73*	HATTIE RUTH LEVY ANDERSON	5260	DEACON ST	Yes
31	0.10*	WILLIAM J GOFF	2206	ELEANOR DR	
32	0.30	WILLIAM J GOFF SR	5228	APRIL AVE	Yes
33	0.56	CITY OF NORTH CHARLESTON			
34	0.25	GOD'S TRUE DELIVERANCE CHURCH INC	2255	REBECCA ST	Yes
35	0.14	GRASSO ANTONIO A	0	DELTA ST	
36	0.14	SPE PROPERTIES LLC	0	DELTA ST	
37	0.15	SPE PROPERTIES LLC	0	DELTA ST	

*Designates a portions of a parcel where development could occur without displacing residents

This table corresponds to the map on Page 20 and is color-coded by type of owner:

	Privately Owned Vacant/Underdeveloped
	City Owned
	Church Owned Vacant
	Business Owned Vacant

UPDATE: SCDOT sent letters of interest on March 19, 2020 to nine property owners (as shown in the table to the left) to gauge potential interest in the sale of vacant or under-developed properties for use as locations for replacement community center(s), recreational facilities, and/or pocket parks.

SCDOT's next step is to contact these property owners to discuss potential opportunities. If the project team is not successful in acquiring any of these 'first round' properties, additional letters will be sent out to other property owners on this list.

If you have any information about the potential availability of any of these, or other, potential properties, please let a project team member know.



 843.258.1135
 info@526LowcountryCorridor.com
 Community Office
5627 Rivers Avenue
North Charleston, SC 29406
www.526LowcountryCorridor.com

RE: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor West Project– Charleston County

Dear _____:

The South Carolina Department of Transportation is developing an interstate improvement project on the existing interstate 526 corridor between Virginia Avenue and Paul Cantrell Boulevard. This project will impact community centers currently located adjacent to the interstate in North Charleston near the interchange between I-526 and I-26. We would like to inquire about the possibility of purchasing properties that could be utilized for construction of new community centers as part of the I-526 Lowcountry Corridor West project. Our records indicate that you own property that may be of interest to the Department. In order to discuss the potential acquisition, it will be necessary for us to meet with you at your earliest convenience.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the sketch showing your property and a “Highways and You” brochure describing the acquisition process. The brochure will assist in answering questions however; it is imperative that we meet with you to discuss the possibility in person.

SCDOT has opened an I-526 community office at 5627 Rivers Avenue in North Charleston where you can learn more about the project and meet with members of our project team. Due to our current emergency pandemic, the office is only open by appointment only during this event. We would like to schedule a time to meet with you at your convenience and discuss this matter further. To schedule a time to meet, please call 843-258-1135.

Sincerely,

Willie Johnson

Willie Johnson
Right of Way Outreach Specialist

Enclosures

Ec: Joy Riley, SCDOT Project Manager
Horrace Tobin, I-526 Community Office Manager



Potential Locations for Replacement Housing

Community Revitalization

- FOCUS AREAS: Replacement housing and employment/economic opportunities

The SCDOT project team would like to gather feedback from the CAC on the suitability of different areas for different types of housing.

The project team is searching for potential locations for replacement housing. The map on Page 24 shows the geographical area that SCDOT is monitoring for potential replacement housing locations. It includes the neighborhoods of Russelldale, Liberty Park, Highland Terrace, and Ferndale as well as other neighborhoods within the immediate vicinity. The boundary was set based with the intent to find locations that could provide a similar proximity to public transit and other public services in the area, as such, the northern boundary runs along Remount Road and the southern boundary runs generally along Dorchester Road.

SCDOT is monitoring residential real estate (MLS) listings within this area and have mapped parcels owned by the City of North Charleston and privately-owned vacant/underdeveloped properties that could be investigated as potential locations for replacement housing.

As you review the maps, think about the pro's and con's of the different areas shown in the mapping.

Are there areas nearby that would be attractive to renters that would provide same or better access to transit, public facilities, employment centers, planned development, and other services?


Are there other areas that you would recommend monitoring for potential replacement housing?

Potential Locations for Replacement Housing


This map shows the geographical area that SCDOT is monitoring for residential real estate (MLS) listings. Within this area, SCDOT also mapped parcels owned by the City of North Charleston and privately-owned vacant/underdeveloped properties that could be investigated as potential locations for replacement housing. The maps on Pages 26 through 29 are close-up views of the areas shown as “Insets” in the map below.




Legend




Ferndale




Highland Terrace




Liberty Park




Russelldale




Parcel for Sale (3/27)




Search Boundary for Replacement Housing Opportunities




Parcel ID'd by the City of North Charleston as Underdeveloped



Vacant/Underdeveloped Private Parcel



Vacant Church Owned Parcel



Vacant/Underdeveloped - Owned by the City of North Charleston

Part of SCDOT’s studies include gathering feedback from you on what areas you think are suitable for different types of replacement housing.

Potential Locations for Replacement Housing



Legend

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Ferndale | Search Boundary for Replacement Housing Opportunities |
| Highland Terrace | Parcel ID'd by the City of North Charleston as Underdeveloped |
| Liberty Park | Vacant/Underdeveloped Private Parcel |
| Russelldale | Vacant Church Owned Parcel |
| Parcel for Sale (3/27) | Vacant/Underdeveloped - Owned by the City of North Charleston |
| Charleston County Parcels | |



Potential Replacement Housing Opportunities

I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST












Inset 1.1

Last Updated by HC on 3/27/20

Potential Locations for Replacement Housing



Legend

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Ferndale |  Search Boundary for Replacement Housing Opportunities |
|  Highland Terrace |  Parcel ID'd by the City of North Charleston as Underdeveloped |
|  Liberty Park |  Vacant/Underdeveloped Private Parcel |
|  Russelldale |  Vacant Church Owned Parcel |
|  Parcel for Sale (3/27) |  Vacant/Underdeveloped - Owned by the City of North Charleston |
|  Charleston County Parcels | |



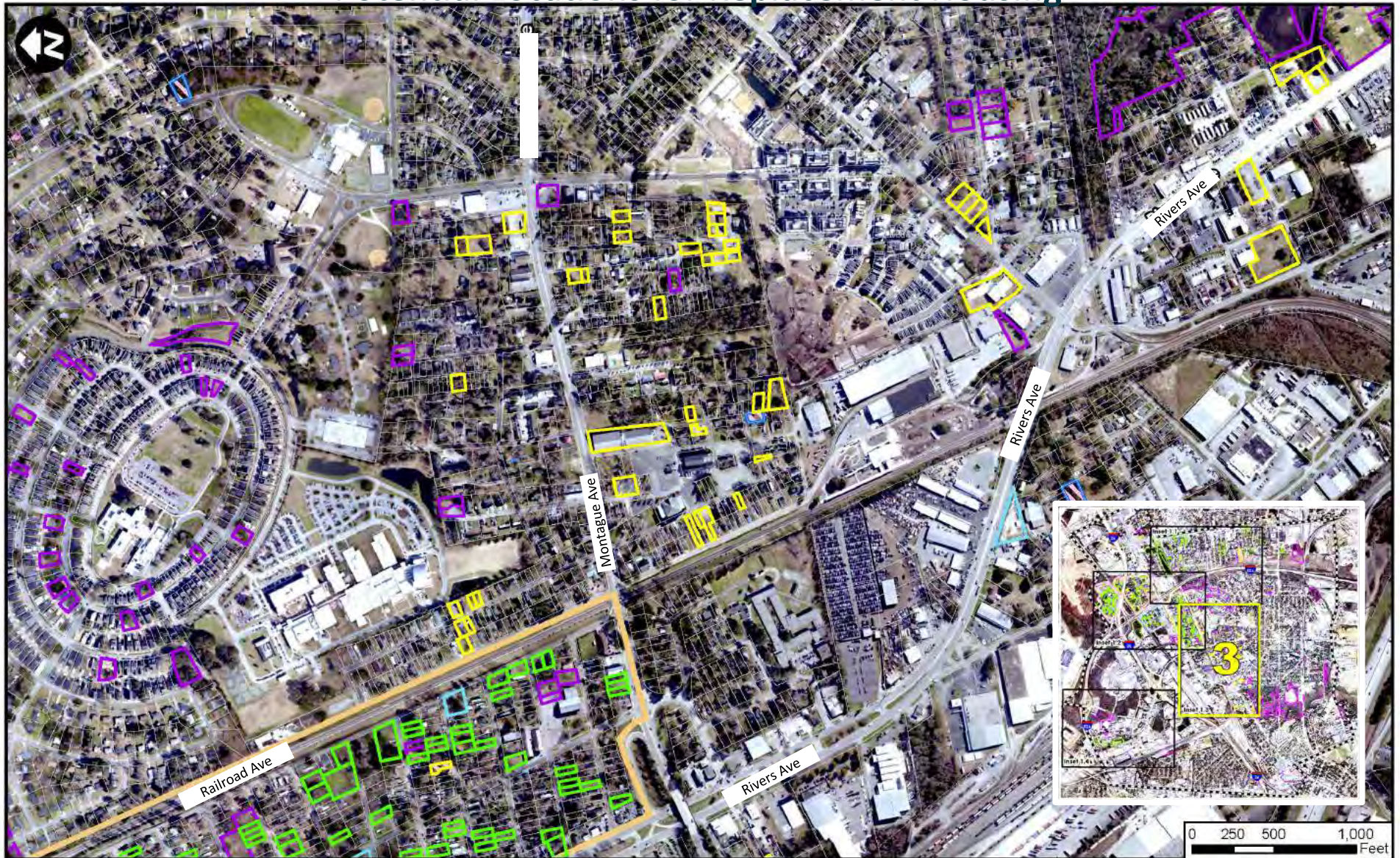
Potential Replacement Housing Opportunities

I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST












Inset 1.2

Last Updated by HC on 3/27/20

Potential Locations for Replacement Housing



Legend

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Ferndale |  Search Boundary for Replacement Housing Opportunities |
|  Highland Terrace |  Parcel ID'd by the City of North Charleston as Underdeveloped |
|  Liberty Park |  Vacant/Underdeveloped Private Parcel |
|  Russelldale |  Vacant Church Owned Parcel |
|  Parcel for Sale (3/27) |  Vacant/Underdeveloped - Owned by the City of North Charleston |
|  Charleston County Parcels | |



Potential Replacement Housing Opportunities

I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Inset 1.3

Last Updated by HC on 3/27/20

Potential Locations for Replacement Housing



Legend

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--|---|
| | Ferndale | | Search Boundary for Replacement Housing Opportunities |
| | Highland Terrace | | Parcel ID'd by the City of North Charleston as Underdeveloped |
| | Liberty Park | | Vacant/Underdeveloped Private Parcel |
| | Russelldale | | Vacant Church Owned Parcel |
| | Parcel for Sale (3/27) | | Vacant/Underdeveloped - Owned by the City of North Charleston |
| Charleston County Parcels | | | |



Potential Replacement Housing Opportunities

I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Inset 1.4

Last Updated by HC on 3/27/20

Community Office

- Office Data
 - Days open in March: 22 days
 - Call-ins: 13 calls
 - Outreach Calls: 10 calls
 - Voicemail Follow-ups: 2 calls
 - Walk-ins/Appointments: 11 visits
 - Calls to CAC (postponed Informational Workshop): 11 calls
- COVID:
 - The Community Office is closed to visitors, but Office Manager Horrace Tobin is onsite daily to address concerns and requests received by email, postal mail, and phone.
 - Right-of-Way Liaisons are not currently scheduling face-to-face appointments but are handling related requested received in the Community Office by phone.
- Community Liaisons:
 - Clay Middleton, a new employee to Maximum Consulting, is also an addition to the Community Liaison staff.
- Informational Workshop:
 - The sessions planned for Saturday, March 21st will be rescheduled.

Summary and Next Steps

- Confirm schedule for upcoming CAC Meetings
- 5/2/20 agenda to include update on mitigation plan development, providing available details and gathering additional feedback on potential housing mitigation
- Poll group for CAC open house date: post-COVID

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 7

Date: April 18, 2020

Time: 10:00 – 11:45 am

Location: Adobe Connect Virtual Meeting

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees

Larenda Baxley, Ferndale
Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale
Gilbert Reeves, Ferndale
Rev. David L. Johnson, Ferndale
Michael S. Halls, Sr., Ferndale
Nathaniel Bryant, Highland Terrace
Jeanaris Bannister, Liberty Park
Carolyn Varner, Liberty Park
Doris Twiggs, Liberty Park
Prayonda Cooper, Joppa Way
Earl Muhammad, Muhammad Mosque
Rick Day, Stantec
Amy Sackaroff, Stantec
LaTonya Derrick, Stantec

Ryan White, Stantec
Hannah Clements, Stantec
Mollie Rhett, Stantec
Joy Riley, SCDOT (Project Manager)
Chad Long, SCDOT
David Kelly, SCDOT
Pamela Foster, FHWA
Yolonda Jordan, FHWA
Horace Tobin, Community Office
Maxine Smith, Maximum Consulting
Mattese Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Carolyn Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Clay Middleton, Maximum Consulting
Janelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies

Participant Summary:

Total participants: 28

Ferndale: 5

Highland Terrace: 1

Liberty Park: 3

Russelldale: 0

Joppa Way: 1

Adjacent/affected communities/agencies: 1

SCDOT: 3

FHWA: 2

Stantec: 6

Community Office: 1

Community Liaisons: 4

Facilitator: 1

Meeting Summary:

Welcome and Introductions

- Joy (Program Manager) welcomed and thanked the CAC members and participants for adapting to the circumstances and joining the meeting via Adobe Connect
- LaTonya Derrick served as the technical contact throughout the meeting
- Janelle provided overview of Adobe Connect features and logistics
 - Chat room (general and private discussions); chat dialogue will be saved
 - Raise hands

- All participants had access to Adobe Connect, paper copy of CAC Meeting #7 meeting packet, and phone connection
- Review of virtual meeting etiquette
- CAC Meeting #5 minutes approved
- CAC Meeting #6 minutes approved
- An overview of the agenda was provided
 - Results from Mitigation Work Session: Review & Discussion
 - Replacement Recreational Facilities Discussion
 - Replacement Housing
 - Outreach Update
 - Summary and Next Steps

Adobe Connect Quick Start Guide

An Adobe Connect information page was provided in the CAC #7 meeting packet and in the Adobe Connect slide as information only on how to join and participate in the meeting. Participants were advised to contact LaTonya with any technical questions throughout the meeting.

Role call was conducted.

Open Mic

Rather than having a separate Open Mic session, Open Mic comments and questions were addressed within the results discussions related to the four pillars of the Mitigation Work Session (CAC Meeting #6) including: Community Cohesion, Community Enhancement, Community Preservation, and Community Revitalization. Amy led the summary of the results discussion from the mitigation work session, including open mic topics within each pillar is as follows:

Results from Mitigation Work Session: Review and Discussion

Community Cohesion

Focus Areas: Actions that strengthen neighborhood connections

What role could the community center play in fostering community cohesion?

Amy provided a short list of the overarching topics of importance to CAC members (expressed during Meeting #6) regarding community cohesion, which included:

- Community centers should focus on community children to keep them “off the streets”
- Development of an equitable schedule for the community center; the center should be used primarily by the community that it was intended to serve
- Center should be staffed by community residents
- Community residents should play a significant role in determining the uses of the community center (for example, meetings, programs, and activities that are unique to the community residents)
- Crime prevention through environmental design
- Landscaping and establishing common areas for community members to safely congregate and socialize

CAC Member Feedback:

- CAC members provided no comments or questions

Community Enhancement

Focus Areas: Community center and recreational facility replacement

What type of amenities could be incorporated into the design of the community center?

Amy provided a short list of the overarching topics of importance to CAC members (expressed during Meeting #6) regarding community enhancement, which included:

- Ensuring walkability to the community center
- Access to the community center for bike riders and pedestrians, particularly with regards to the safety of community children
- Repairing uneven sidewalks or installing sidewalks where they do not currently exist, but are needed
- Limitations associated with having one versus two community centers; Challenges associated with having two facilities include limited available land and potentially limited staffing
- CAC members do not want the center to have a “box design,” but rather a broad-scale, multi-use facility that will meet the needs of a diverse community; forward-thinking

CAC Member Feedback:

- CAC members provided no comments or questions

Community Preservation

Focus Areas: Infrastructure needs

What are the barriers related to biking and walking, sidewalk needs, street lights, stormwater management, and speeding deterrents on streets with a high frequency of speeding?

Amy provided a short list of the overarching topics of importance to CAC members (expressed during Meeting #6) regarding community preservation, which included:

- All feedback from the mitigation workshop community preservation discussion (CAC Meeting #6) was captured and put into the online GIS Viewer by topic and by location
 - All information uploaded in the GIS Viewer will be used in communications with local governments
 - CAC members were encouraged to access the GIS Viewer to add comments related to infrastructure needs, directly; instructions to add comments can be found on page 17 of CAC Meeting #7 packet; Please be certain to add your name to the comments so the project team can follow up as items are being addressed, appropriately
 - Ryan White sent an email on April 15th titled “I-526 Low Country Corridor (LCC) - West: Community Advisory Council Meeting #7 - Material Distribution” in which he provided the link, username, and password for access to the online GIS Viewer
- Concerns about speeding; possible installation of speeding deterrents (such as speed humps)
- Need for covered bus shelters
- Resources that may make aging in place more feasible, including (but, not limited to):
 - Home repairs
 - Food security
 - Access to affordable transportation

CAC Member Feedback:

- CAC members provided no comments or questions

Community Revitalization

Focus Areas: Replacement housing and employment/economic opportunities

What are the top priorities for revitalization in your neighborhoods? What types of barriers need to be overcome to achieve revitalization without causing gentrification?

Amy provided a short list of the overarching topics of importance to CAC members (expressed during Meeting #6) regarding community revitalization, which included:

- Improving neighborhood aesthetics (appearance/beautification)
- Preference for single-family rental units; Opposed to multi-family, mobile homes, and modular units
- Encouraging small businesses that reflect community values
- Ensuring that mitigation does not foster gentrification
- Incorporating local history in the community center
- CAC serving as the advisory entity that will advocate on behalf of the whole community (including issues that affect individual neighborhoods)

CAC Member Feedback:

- Clarification: Under “type of replacement housing,” modular homes are acceptable in any neighborhood; manufactured homes are not preferred. For the record, “modular,” should be replaced with “manufactured” as a type of replacement housing that is not preferred by the CAC (T. Baxley)

Replacement Recreational Facilities Discussion

- SCDOT is diligently looking for potential replacement locations; seeking vacant or underdeveloped properties; mapped identified locations
- CAC members were asked to keep in mind the question of having a single larger community center versus two smaller centers as the group proceeded through the discussion
- The project team has initiated contact with some property owners (Phase 1)
- SCDOT sent letters to nine (9) property owners on March 19, 2020 inquiring about the possibility of purchasing properties for construction of the new community center as a part of the I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST project.
 - If the project team is not successful in acquiring properties in the “first round,” a second round of letters will be sent to other property owners on the list
 - The project team is attempting to identify multiple parcels that would provide enough land to accommodate the community center project [Currently focused on the Liberty Park community]
 - Russelldale does not currently appear to have enough land available to support the projected size of the community center
- The project team is focusing on properties along Filbin Creek because the City of North Charleston is proposing construction of a greenway along Filbin Creek; the project team thinks that locating the

community center near the proposed greenway may enhance community connectivity (easier/safer access)

- A smaller parcel in Russelldale (#34 on “Potential 6(f) Replacement Properties” map in the CAC Meeting #7 packet, pg. 21) is being considered for a pocket park, playground, or combined playground/open space area
- Multiple, conjoined parcels (#10-14) between Taylor Street and James Bell Drive are both publicly and privately owned, and are also being considered by SCDOT for a combined playground/open space recreational area

CAC Member Feedback

- What is the potential challenge associated with parcel #26 (1.85 acres, owned by the City of North Charleston)? Is there an access entrance to the property from Elder Avenue or would you have to go through another property to access it? Is there enough acreage to accommodate the project? (J. Bannister)
- Amy: Yes, the property can be accessed from Elder Avenue. In terms of the usability of the parcel, the project team is currently evaluating the parcel (for example, for flood plains and wetlands) to see if there is enough “upland” (usable land above the flood plains) to place the main structure of the community center. The parcel’s low-lying areas are also being evaluated for compatibility with features such as playgrounds, basketball courts, and picnic tables that, if impacted by flooding, would not present direct damage to the structural integrity of the main structure of the community center. Site visits are being scheduled to evaluate high and low-lying areas.
 - The project team is also considering the balance of land purchases for both replacement housing and for the new community center. If the nine parcels considered in Phase 1 are all used for the community center, less land will be available for replacement housing.
- Amy: Does the CAC approve of focusing on development of a single, larger facility as opposed to two smaller facilities given the limitations of available land?

CAC Member Feedback:

- CAC members provided no comments or questions

Replacement Recreational Facilities Discussion

- Amy provided a brief overview of the sample letter to property owners (immediately following page 22 of the Meeting #7 packet)
- The project footprint is generally bordered by Remount Road on the north boundary and Dorchester Road at the south boundary. This was done to keep the focus on the Ferndale, Highland Terrace, Liberty Park, and Russelldale communities while also considering Charleston Farms (a little north of these communities), as well as further south to the east side of Park Circle, and the area north of Dorchester Road
- The project team is also monitoring real estate listings to make inquiries as properties are placed on the market
- In the CAC #7 meeting packet, maps of Inset 1.1 and 1.2 are representative of areas that include or are closer to the current Ferndale, Highland Terrace, Liberty Park, and Russelldale residences. Insets 1.3

and 1.4 present alternatives that are still within the area, but a little farther away from the original communities

CAC Member Feedback:

- Since the project team is potentially considering areas closer to Dorchester Road for replacement housing, there is a property located just off the Dorchester Road exit. There is currently an old, boarded hotel that could possibly be the site of a new apartment complex since it is already zoned for multi-use. (T. Baxley)
- Amy: Amy acknowledged Ms. Baxley's suggestion and ensured her the project team would add this parcel to the list of considerations. Some of the parcels outlined on Inset 1.4 represent high density usage like apartments, and were selected for consideration based on proximity to public transportation and to potential employment centers
- Review of vacant parcels shown in Inset 1.1. CAC members were asked for feedback on or insights into any of the parcels highlighted that they may be familiar with or whose owners they may know
- Joy: If there are areas that SCDOT has identified as potential locations for replacement housing that the CAC does not feel the community at-large would want to move to for various reasons, please let us know. We don't want to present options to the community for replacement housing they feel is not comparable to their existing neighborhoods.
- Amy: Any feedback that can help shape or direct where SCDOT is putting their efforts in terms of replacement housing is welcome.

CAC Member Feedback:

- Liberty Park and Highland Terrace have more single-family homes versus multi-use parcels. There are several available lots in the Liberty Park and Highland Terrace communities. Will each resident be relocated based on the characteristics of the community they are being relocated from? (Will efforts be made to relocate residents to comparable zoning areas?) And will the area maintain a predominately single-family home profile? (J. Bannister)
- Joy: We haven't started trying to buy single family home lots, but that is the plan. We're taking a stepped approach. Right now, our critical path (top priority) is finding land to build the new community center. That's why we are pursuing some of the bigger lots now for the community center, but we still have to secure a willing seller. I have to go through that process and then we'll see what's left. We will then try to secure lots that could either have townhomes for multi-family rentals or single family homes for homeowners, but we do need to provide a variety of options. The reason we're looking for bigger, more dense developments outside of this neighborhood is because we know we have so many renters. While we will work with individuals that want to go into homeownership, there will be a large number of people that just need to get into a rental unit and are only comfortable with going into another rental unit. We want to make sure we have enough options for them.
- Chad: [To the project team] I think it's important to contextualize what the impact is going to be on an individual basis. Impacts may vary by homeowner. (Based on previous comments made by CAC

members) Some people may want to sell their property and take the money. So, we may need to contextualize in order to understand the true impact on the community.

- Amy: Are there any other comments or anything that you would like to see at our next meeting related to housing?

CAC Member Feedback:

- Regarding access of on- and off-ramps from I-526 at Rivers Avenue: Will the existing ramps remain in place or will SCDOT close access to Rivers Avenue? (E. Muhammad)
- Joy: We are currently refining the selection of preferred alternatives. Based on the comments and initial assessment of the impact studies, it looks like the preferred path forward would be for the ramp to remain as is. The new bridge will be built parallel to what is there now and fly over the existing Rivers interchange. People will still be able to get access onto and off I-526 to Rivers Avenue, but they will not be able to access I-26 West directly from Rivers Avenue. So, if you want to access I-26, you'll have to go to Remount Road at I-26 or down to Montague Road at I-26.

CAC Member Feedback:

- Expressed concerns about this contributing to traffic congestion in all directions (E. Muhammad)
- Joy: We have laid out improvements at the Remount Road and Rivers Avenue intersection. That intersection does currently back up traffic onto the ramp and onto the main line of I-26. The improvements that we would be proposing are the same types of improvements that the Bus Rapid Transit project is making at that intersection, so it may happen with that project or with our project. But we will be coordinating improvements in that area to help mitigate traffic flow.

CAC Member Feedback:

- Regarding the Bus Rapid Transit plans, will we (the CAC) be able to review those plans or are they confidential? (E. Muhammad)

Joy: We will actually provide that. The plan is being developed by the BCDCOG (Council of Governments). They are managing that project. Since we overlap, SCDOT will display an information board in our Community Office about the project. They are in the very early stages of the environmental phase, so it will probably be the end of this year or early next year before they have a visual that they can share with us that we can then share through our office. But, we will bring that information to the CAC.

CAC Member Feedback:

- Will CAC members be able to participate in any of the conversations with the BCDCOG, or should we wait? (E. Muhammad)
- Joy: The Bus Rapid Transit project will be doing public involvement and reaching out to the community, so the project team will make sure the CAC is made aware of that. And we will share any

communication we have as far as our coordination with that team. But, there will be opportunity for the CAC to have a voice in that project as well.

- Amy: The project team is trying to make sure we are tracking opportunities for public input on any local plans and keeping the CAC informed.

Outreach Update

- Office Data
 - The Community Office was open for 22 days during the month of March
 - Received 13 in-coming calls
 - Placed 10 out-going calls
 - Responded to 2 voice messages
 - Had 11 walk-in visits
 - Notification calls to 11 calls to CAC members to postpone the scheduled Informational Workshop
 - COVID
 - The Community Office has been closed to visitors since March 17, 2020; Office Manager Horrace Tobin is onsite daily to address concerns and requests received by email, postal mail, and phone.
 - Mr. Tobin has received calls from upset residents regarding misinformation that the I-526 LCC WEST project has been terminated. He assured them the project was still active and validated the appropriate steps they had taken in calling the Community Office to inquire about the misinformation. He also re-emphasized that only SCDOT, Right-of-Way officers, and the Community Office are authorized to provide feedback on logistical or technical questions to the public.
 - Community Liaisons
 - Clay Middleton is a new employee of Maximum Consulting, and an addition to the Community Liaison staff. Mr. Middleton has worked with the US Department of Energy, was the Associate Director of the Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships with the Office of the Corporation for National Community Service. He is a graduate of the Citadel where he earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees.
 - Mr. Middleton is a native of Charleston. He worked for Congressman Jim Clyburn for 10 years and continues to do work for him. He expressed his enthusiasm in working on this project for the duration.
 - Informational Workshop
 - The sessions planned for Saturday, March 21st will be rescheduled. The project team and CAC members will be notified when a new date has been set.
 - New Business
- CAC Member Feedback:*
- Due to the Community Office being closed, will the telephone lines remain open to anyone who has questions? There have been communications from various entities to residents in the

Liberty Park/Highland Terrace communities. Residents need to be able to reach someone at the Community Office if they need to have important questions answered. (D. Twiggs)

- Received a call from a resident who received misinformation and had questions and concerns about it. Mattese told her (the resident) she would deliver maps that would provide clarification and a better visual of the placement of her property within the footprint of this project.
 - Horrace confirmed that both office numbers remain active and will be answered or available to leave a message (to be answered as soon as possible)
 - Amy suggested the project team mail the requested maps to the concerned resident in order to avoid person-to-person contact
- Carolyn (Lecque): The Maximum Consulting team is planning to schedule community meetings. Maximum will coordinate with members of the CAC and SCDOT (Joy) to determine when the staff can schedule respective community meetings in order to dispel some of the misinformation CAC members and residents have encountered.

Summary and Next Steps

- Amy asked if Adobe Connect is an appropriate alternative format to continue meeting while we are in the midst of the pandemic
- LaTonya conducted a poll to determine if CAC members are available and willing to meet on May 2, 2020 at 10:00 AM for CAC Meeting #8
 - LaTonya will email separate links for feedback on preferences for the duration of Adobe Connect meetings, post-COVID activities, etc. She noted that CAC members seem comfortable with the Google platform for polling as opposed to a more limited platform, like Survey Monkey
 - Polling will also be sent to the CAC regarding potential dates for upcoming open house events
- Chad thanked the CAC again for their continued participation and flexibility in the midst of the pandemic
- Amy reiterated the project team's commitment to assisting the CAC and Maximum Consulting with administrative tasks (phone calls, mailers) that will facilitate avoiding of person-to-person contact during the pandemic
- Michael asked if it is possible to use both the audio and visual features on Adobe Connect rather than also calling into the meeting on the phone
 - LaTonya shared that Adobe Connect provides protections that other platforms such as Zoom cannot currently offer; She solicited feedback on any suggestions that would offer similar protections, remain as user-friendly as possible, and consolidate methods of communication.

CAC Meeting #8 is scheduled for May 2, 2020, 10:00 – 11:30 AM. We will use the same Adobe Connect link and phone number to access the meeting.

Name: _____



Community Advisory Council
CAC Meeting #8

May 2, 2020

How to Join the Meeting!

- *Reference your Adobe Connect Quick Start Guide from Meeting No. 7 packet*
- Call: **1-800-753-1965**
- Enter Access Number: **7236718**

Agenda

- Welcome
- Administrative Items
- ‘Open Mic’ Session
- Potential Site Layout for Replacement Community Facilities
- Replacement Community Facilities: Potential Functions and Services
- Community Mitigation Plan Development: Coordination with Local Organizations
- Outreach Plans for 2020
- Outreach Update
- Summary & Next Steps

Administrative Items

- Technology check
- Review virtual meeting etiquette
- Confirm CAC members have all meeting materials
 - Meeting packet
 - Minutes from CAC Meeting No. 7
- Approve minutes for CAC Meeting No. 7

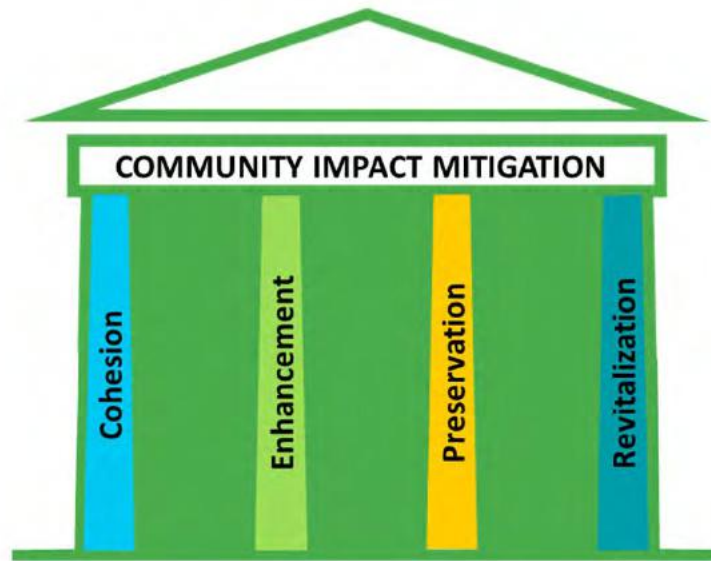
Open Mic



*Are there unanswered questions from last meeting?
Are there other items you would like to
bring up with the CAC or project team?*

*Did you speak to any neighbors or residents who have
comments for the project team?*

CAC Community Impact Mitigation: Overview



Today's conversations are going to focus on CAC mitigation recommendations related to community preservation (*recreational facility replacement*), community cohesion (*CAC priority recommendations on community center functions and services*), and community preservation and revitalization (*actions the team can take now to explore ways to implement CAC recommendations*).



Community Cohesion

- FOCUS AREAS: Actions that strengthen neighborhood connections



Community Enhancement

- FOCUS AREAS: Community center and recreational facility replacement



Community Preservation

- FOCUS AREAS: Infrastructure needs



Community Revitalization

- FOCUS AREAS: Replacement housing and employment/economic opportunities

Potential Site Layouts for Replacement Community Facilities

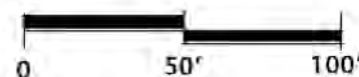


Potential Site Layouts for Replacement Community Facilities

HIGHLAND TERRACE COMMUNITY POCKET PARK

- 1 OPEN AIR PAVILION AND BENCHES
- 2 MULTIPURPOSE COURT
- 3 HALF COURT BASKETBALL
- 4 FULL COURT BASKETBALL
- 5 PICNIC TABLES
- 6 3000 SF PLAYGROUND
- 7 SIDEWALK CONNECTION
- 8 IMPROVE CROSS WALKS

THIS PLAN IS CONCEPTUAL IN NATURE
AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE



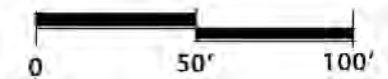
Potential Site Layouts for Replacement Community Facilities



RUSSELDALE COMMUNITY POCKET PARK

- 1 IMPROVED CROSSWALKS
- 2 FLOWERING SHRUBS AND
PARK SIGNAGE
- 3 PRIVACY PLANTING
- 4 FLOWERING ACCENT TREES
- 5 TRICYCLE LOOP
- 6 PARK BENCH
- 7 15' X 30' OPEN AIR PAVILION
- 8 2500 SF PLAYGROUND
- 9 PUBLIC ART

THIS PLAN IS CONCEPTUAL IN NATURE
AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE



Replacement Community Facilities: Potential Functions and Services

How would you prioritize the CAC recommendations on potential community center functions and services? Please number the recommendations 1 through 7 in order of priority.

- ___ A weekly programming/activity calendar that prioritizes programs for community seniors and youth such as meeting spaces, youth lunch programs, and tennis associations
- ___ A hiring structure that provides priority employment opportunities for neighborhood residents
- ___ 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
- ___ Health and wellness program for senior residents that utilize replacement community center for program activities
- ___ Volunteer opportunities with priority on neighborhood residents
- ___ Service as location for neighborhood events such as a Saturday Farmers Market or Craft Festival

What are your most important priorities? Why?

Community Mitigation Plan Development: Coordination with Local Organizations

There are potential actions the team can take now to explore ways to coordinate with local organizations to implement CAC recommendations:

CAC Recommendation: Remove barriers to residents' ability to 'age in place'

- Identify local organizations to work with to address needs, including assistance with home repairs, ramp installation, and food security
- Coordinate with local organizations on programs that facilitate ability to age in place such as periodic health screenings and health/wellness educational materials
- Research community block grants and other opportunities for financial assistance

CAC Recommendation: Prefer small businesses vested in the community

- Look for existing programs such as a Saturday Farmers Market or Craft Festival

CAC Recommendation: Potential partnerships with local college nursing programs to develop health and wellness program for senior residents

- Research existing programs to see if there is an opportunity to work with local college nursing program to develop health/wellness programs for senior residents and utilize replacement community center for program activities

What are your thoughts on these proposed next steps?

Outreach Plans for 2020

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ENGAGEMENT TOOLS



Which community events would you prioritize for EJ outreach?

EVENT	DESCRIPTION
Summer Block Party	Build trust and engage residents in the EJ neighborhoods with a block party; possibly combine with other events (Hunger-Free Summer, Back-to-School Supply Fair, health screenings, etc.)
Hunger-free Summer	Partner with neighborhood organizations to access those impacted by food shortages
Summer Learning Loss Activities	Partner with Charleston County School District and community centers to identify learning activities available for children
Back to School Supply Fair	Coordinate with the City of North Charleston to host a back-to-school supply pick-up event (and other organizations) prior to the start of the school year
Fall/Halloween Giveaway	Provide a candy and toothbrush giveaway on Halloween at the community centers in the EJ neighborhoods
Care Packages for Seniors	Partner with organizations (AARP, Trident United Way, etc.) to give care packages to senior citizens (i.e., socks, masks, bottles of hand sanitizer, etc.)
Thanksgiving Raffle/Secret Santa Raffle	Provide a turkey or \$25 gift card to Walmart as a drawing for those attending. This event could be held at the Community Office, but publicized in the EJ neighborhoods

Outreach Update

- Community Office Data: April 1-24, 2020
 - Call-ins: 2 calls
 - Outreach Calls: 8 calls
 - Voicemails: 4 calls
- COVID:
 - The Community Office is closed to visitors, but Office Manager Horrace Tobin is onsite daily to address concerns and requests received by email, postal mail, and phone.
 - Right-of-Way Liaisons are not currently scheduling face-to-face appointments but are handling related requested received in the Community Office by phone.
- Status update on events postponed due to COVID

Summary and Next Steps

- Confirm schedule for upcoming CAC Meetings: June 6, 2020
- 6/6/20 agenda to include update on mitigation plan development, providing available details and gathering additional feedback on potential housing mitigation

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 8

Date: May 2, 2020

Time: 10:00 am – 12:07 pm

Location: Adobe Connect Virtual Meeting

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees

Larenda Baxley, Ferndale
Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale
Gilbert Reeves, Ferndale
Rev. David L. Johnson, Ferndale
Angela Anderson, Russelldale
Ruth Mae Whitney, Highland Terrace
Jeanaris Bannister, Liberty Park
Carolyn Varner, Liberty Park
Doris Twiggs, Liberty Park
Prayonda Cooper, Joppa Way
Earl Muhammad, Muhammad Mosque
Rick Day, Stantec
Amy Sackaroff, Stantec

LaTonya Derrick, Stantec
Ryan White, Stantec
Horrace Tobin, Stantec Community Office
Joy Riley, SCDOT (Project Manager)
Chad Long, SCDOT
David Kelly, SCDOT
Pamela Foster, FHWA
Yolonda Jordan, FHWA
Maxine Smith, Maximum Consulting
Mattese Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Carolyn Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Clay Middleton, Maximum Consulting
Janelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies

Participant Summary:

Total participants: 26

Ferndale: 4

Highland Terrace: 1

Liberty Park: 3

Russelldale: 1

Adjacent/affected communities/agencies: 2

SCDOT: 3

FHWA: 2

Community Liaisons: 4

Community Office: 1

Stantec: 4

Facilitator: 1

Meeting Summary:

Welcome and Introductions

- LaTonya conducted a roll call, verifying participants connecting by phone only
- Janelle welcomed and thanked the CAC members and participants for joining the meeting via Adobe Connect and reminded everyone the meeting would be recorded for accuracy of meeting minutes
- An overview of the agenda was provided
 - Review of administrative items
 - Open Mic session
 - Potential Site Layout for Replacement Community Facilities
 - Replacement Community Facilities: Potential Functions and Services

- Community Mitigation Plan Development: Coordination with Local Organizations
- Outreach Plans for 2020
- Outreach Update
- Summary & Next Steps

Administrative Items

- LaTonya served as the host and contact for technical issues throughout the meeting.
- Jamelle provided overview of Adobe Connect features and logistics
 - Chat room (general and private discussions); chat dialogue will be saved
 - Raise hands
 - All participants had access to Adobe Connect, paper copy of CAC Meeting #8 meeting packet, and phone connection
- Review of virtual meeting etiquette
- CAC Meeting #7 minutes approved

Open Mic

Prior to addressing formal project issues, CAC members were acknowledged for their continued participation in the I-526 West LCC project in the midst of the pandemic. Time was taken to allow CAC members and other participants to share insights regarding impacts related to the pandemic.

CAC members provided no comments or questions.

A general overview of the steps the CAC has taken to date was provided, in which meetings one through five included brainstorming sessions while meetings six and seven allowed CAC members to focus more on specific community needs. Although the project team and CAC have not developed a draft mitigation plan, discussions and resulting documents are beginning to lay the groundwork for potential mitigation plans related to the four pillars identified in the Mitigation Work Session (CAC Meeting #6) including: Community Cohesion, Community Enhancement, Community Preservation, and Community Revitalization. The CAC will begin to move from meetings that are solely devoted to brainstorming into discussions about the potential actions required to put plans into place. CAC members were asked to share any observations or to ask any questions arising since CAC Meeting 7 (April 18, 2020).

CAC members provided no comments or questions.

Potential Site Layout for Replacement Community Facilities

Ryan reviewed potential site layouts for the replacement community center. He emphasized that the layouts were conceptual drawings to give the CAC an opportunity to provide feedback on improving the plans.

Project design team considerations:

- Focus potentially on a single, larger community center
- The project team will need to identify multiple adjacent parcels that can accommodate a larger facility based in Liberty Park
 - Designed to meet the CAC's request for a facility that would provide meeting spaces for various programs

- Focus on children in the community to ensure they have a safe place to congregate and play, and that would provide constructive activities
- Landscaping and common areas for neighbors to safely congregate and host a variety of community events; Open space is important because they will provide opportunities for community cohesion
- Small parcel, pocket park proposed for the Russelldale community

Filbin Creek Community Center

- City of North Charleston is proposing a greenway along Filbin Creek which will provide a direct connection to various areas of Liberty Park. Other features include:
 - Parking along Dorothy Williams Boulevard
 - Parking at the main facility with access from Elder Avenue
 - There is a separate parcel (#9 on layout) south of Filbin Creek with the potential for additional parking on the creek side edge of the property
 - Parking and accessibility from various parts of the community were considered in the design
 - Walkability between various greenways and amenities within the facility
 - The main facility includes a gym, classrooms, and office space in an effort to provide residents with a multipurpose facility that will also accommodate the elderly and children
 - Pollinator loop and birdboxes to enhance the wildlife element of the park
 - Space for a community garden, educational wetlands
 - Playgrounds, pavilions, picnic areas
 - A multi-use sports field
 - A pedestrian bridge over Filbin bridge to provide connectivity to the north and south sides of the park and community
 - A turf amphitheater
- Joy stressed that this is the first round of conceptual drawings. SCDOT is talking to property owners. Several of the proposed lots are owned by the City of North Charleston. Several are not. Conceptual models were developed for two purposes: (1) To start the conversation with the CAC about what they want in the space and (2) for use when talking with property owners to give them an idea of what SCDOT would do with the property. Joy stated that the layout presented represents a conservative model of what the layout may look like and that SCDOT would like to purchase more land than what is displayed on the layout. SCDOT could spread out the design if more land can be acquired.

CAC Member Feedback:

- Will Filbin Creek Community Center serve all represented communities (Liberty Park, Highland Terrace, Russelldale, Joppa Way, and Ferndale)? (Bannister, J.)
 - The proposed facility will provide a much larger facility for the broader community. (White, R.)
 - One of the reasons it makes sense to have one larger community center is because SCDOT is asking North Charleston to enhance services (activities and programs) and to provide staff and an operations budget for daily operations. If three facilities are built, the City is much less likely to provide the same level or quality of services than with a single facility. (Riley, J.)
- How do we prevent repeating past practices in which community center activities are not tailored to community members/residents? How do we ensure the community center remains for the community so that we maintain access and don't lose the community "feel?" (Johnson, D.)
 - An Intergovernmental Agreement will be developed between SCDOT and the City of North Charleston to specify what the community center will have to include. Because of way the City

develops programming, they will have to have some flexibility because they have to engineer and build the facility and be able to make it work, from a permitting and programming perspective. SCDOT will give the City the funds to do that, as well as initial funds to start specific programs the CAC is asking the City to set up in the agreement. The City will be committing to setting all this up then operating and maintaining it throughout the life of the community center. The CAC can stipulate some requirements, but those are things that will have to be negotiated with the City. The first step is for the CAC to come up with what they want. The CAC will need to develop their “asks,” after which SCDOT will negotiate with the City. We will have meetings with CAC members and with the City to prepare to have those conversations as constituents of the City of North Charleston. The CAC has a powerful voice in making decisions in the communities that affect them (Riley, J.)

- CAC members were encouraged to provide feedback from both a personal perspective but also from the standpoint of the broader needs of respective communities (White, R.)

Highland Terrace Community Pocket Park

- The Highland Terrace pocket park layout was designed taking into consideration the proposed improvements to I-26. Based on interchange modifications, additional lanes will be added to I-26 which will require Taylor Street to be realigned. As a result, the project team has a smaller footprint (a smaller amount of land) to design the pocket park, while trying to maintain as many of the original intended features as possible:
 - On-street parking and sidewalks on Taylor Street. The project team will continue to evaluate the sidewalks and mid-block crossing based on the location of the current crossing near Taylor Street.
 - Basketball courts
 - Open air pavilion and benches, picnic tables and playground
 - The primary original feature discussed by the CAC team (not included in the conceptual drawing) was a multipurpose building. However, the need in this area for a multipurpose building is intended to be filled by a larger Filbin Creek Community Center.
 - It was reiterated that this design was based on the available property that will remain after the I-26 widening.

CAC Member Feedback:

- CAC member enthusiastically supported the idea of having activities, such as basketball courts, on the back end of the property as opposed to its current location on the front end, where traffic is higher. (Twiggs, D.)
- Is it possible to use meeting spaces at the Russelldale Community Center since the Highland Terrace pocket park will not have a meeting space? (Bannister, J.)
 - CAC members were reminded that the existing community center (at Russelldale) will be impacted by the I-26 improvements. That facility will no longer exist, but that is why the design of the larger, Filbin Creek Community Center is so important. The project team has an opportunity to redesign the current layout to include more open space. The conceptual layout presented to the CAC had the same number of basketball courts as the current Russelldale facility, but more open space can be incorporated into the design if there is a need. (White, R.)
 - Both pocket parks have open air pavilions with benches or picnic tables for outdoor type events. We could also look at doing covered spaces with picnic tables for instance near the bird park. The project team is asking for the CAC’s preferences for these locations. (Riley, J.)

- The question was asked about CAC members' concern for the lack of enclosed space or open space. If there is a concern with open space the design team can review the plan to identify more open space for activities. If there is a concern at this particular location because you're looking for an enclosed building, that is something that will need to be revisited as well. (White, R.)
- CAC Member had two concerns: (1) to have a recreational space for the children and (2) for an enclosed space for the entire community to use, specifically seniors. If Filbin Creek Community Center will fill those requests and needs then the CAC member accepts closed spaces only at the Filbin Creek Community Center. (Bannister, J.)
- CAC members were asked which proposed amenities designed to enhance the pocket park would they remove from the design if they had to sacrifice a feature or what tradeoffs is the CAC willing to make? In order to provide a closed-space facility, what amenities would the CAC be willing to give up in the current proposal? (White, R.)
 - It was reiterated that the design team would be informed that having the park near the back of the neighborhood is a plus. They will continue to work on designs with open-air, covered, and enclosed facilities. (White, R.)
- CAC member asked, as the project team looks at the size of the facility, please consider that because there are times when it is very warm outside, it is especially challenging for seniors who would not be as comfortable outside as the children. If the team can bring back to the CAC sizes and scales of the proposed facility, it would provide a better frame of reference when considering the pocket park. CAC member indicated they don't want to shortchange activities and facilities they've asked for by having pocket parks that don't provide ample space. They do not want to go through this process feeling as if they did not do a good job researching this for the community. CAC member asked that the project team bring options back to the CAC to review. (Twiggs, D.)
- One of the concerns discussed in previous meetings was ease of travel for seniors. It would be more convenient for seniors to have a path to community centers when they don't have to go over railroad tracks or highways. Seniors should have priority in being able to access the Filbin Creek Community Center, particularly if they demonstrate they are members of the community. Regarding the Highland Terrace Pocket Park, CAC member suggests thinking about indoor enclosed facility. If there is no way to construct an indoor site at Highland Terrace, then the community should have full access to the Filbin Creek Community Center. (Muhammad, E.)
 - Community liaison inquired about the distance between the Filbin Creek, Russelldale, and Highland Terrace sites. Stated that knowing the distance between sites would determine the feasibility of enclosed buildings in the pocket parks. If the Filbin Creek site is within walking distance of the pocket parks, there may be no need for enclosed structures at the pocket parks. During the day it may be difficult to find personnel that can keep the building open and staffed based on the City of North Charleston's typical allocation of funds. CAC members may want to think about Filbin Creek Community Center as the center for all of their activities and pocket parks used for outdoor activities as opposed to having a building that will be closed most of the time. (Lecque, M.)
 - It is less than one-half mile between the proposed Highland Park and Filbin Creek locations. From one parcel to the next is less than one-third mile. Access is important because of how the interstate intersects the neighborhood and there is a considerable population on both sides. Noting the short distance and accessibility issues, we will ask the design team to consider other

options available to provide an enclosed structure for indoor activities at the Highland Terrace Pocket Park. (Derrick, L.)

- In response to concerns about access, once North Charleston assumes operations at the new community center, the project team and CAC should consider putting in place a mitigation monitoring plan. As the CAC transitions more into an oversight committee, post construction, the project team can build in meeting times and some type of monitoring to ensure the goals of the CAC in having the community center open and accessible to all members of the community and that their needs are being met. (Long, C.)

Russelldale Community Pocket Park

Features include:

- Located at the corner of Rockingham Street and Rebecca Street
- There is limited space at this location which both limits amenities, but also helps determine which amenities may be included at a site. The design team has a goal to incorporate as much open space as possible
- Park benches, pavilion, 2,500 square foot playground, shrubs, public art
- There is an L-shaped drive that wraps around the park which connects Rebecca Street and Rockingham Street
 - Current layout has more open space; but if CAC members think there should be another basketball court at this location, the design team will include it. As with the Highland Terrace Pocket Park, if a feature like basketball courts is included in the design, there will be a tradeoff. CAC member will have to decide what is more important for this location. Is it open space? Basketball courts? Combined open space and basketball courts? CAC members were asked to keep in mind the community is losing the existing basketball courts at the Russelldale Community Center (White, R.)
- CAC member expressed that it appears Russelldale is getting the short end of the deal because they are losing a whole community center, and the basketball courts, and currently they are not getting the basketball courts back as a part of the proposed plan. While she understands not having an enclosed meeting space on the small parcel, she feels that the neighborhood children will have to walk to Highland Terrace Pocket Park if they want to play basketball. Russelldale should at least get a half court for the children who live in that community. Requiring children to walk from Russelldale to Highland Terrace Pocket Park or Filbin Creek Community Center creates a safety issue. (Anderson, A.)
 - That is something we can incorporate and still try to find the balance between basketball courts and open spaces and provide an updated concept. We may be able to reduce the size of the driveway to get more space for the pocket park. (White, R.)
- What is the distance between Russelldale and Filbin Creek? This is important because Russelldale has many residents who don't have cars and primarily walk most places. (Anderson, A.)
 - The walking/driving distance between the existing Highland Terrace Community Center and the Elder Avenue entrance to the Filbin Creek Community Center is 0.4-mile. The walking/driving distance between the existing Russelldale Community Center and the April Avenue/Flora Street entrance to the Filbin Creek Community Center (at #8 on the site plan) is 0.4-mile. The walking/driving distance from the existing Russelldale Community Center to the

- Elder Avenue entrance of the Filbin Creek Community Center via Dorothy Williams Boulevard and James Bell Drive would be 0.7-mile. (Sackaroff, A., via chat window)
- LaTonya shared Google Earth in the Adobe Connect display with pins on the locations of the proposed Filbin Creek Community Center and the existing parcel on which the Highland Terrace Pocket Park would be developed (reduced footprint of existing HT-LP CC). She presented a measured distance of less than 0.4 miles (lines) from pin to pin.
- The design team will focus on adding a basketball court, maximizing open space so that it is a multi-use park, while maintaining the playground (White, R.)

Replacement Community Facilities: Potential Functions and Services

- Brief discussion about the importance of prioritizing functions and services at the various community centers for residents based on CAC recommendations from previous meetings. This will help prioritize the CAC's "asks" when they meet with the city of North Charleston (White, R.)
- No CAC response to this question at this time, but Ryan stressed the importance of CAC feedback on developing priorities list prior to plan discussions with the city

Community Mitigation Plan Development: Coordination with Local Organizers

- Clay Middleton was introduced as a new member of the Maximum Consulting team who was charged with leading the discussion on coordination with local organizations (Smith, M.)
- Maximum Consulting has been charged with identifying potential courses of action to move forward as the CAC transitions into the oversight committee (Middleton, C.)
- These topics were discussed as potential actions the team can take now to explore ways to coordinate with local organizations in order to implement CAC recommendations including:
 - Removing barriers to residents ability to 'age in place'
 - Home repairs and food insecurity, health and wellness, and community development block grants in financial assistance
 - Preference for small businesses vested in the community
 - Discussion about support from minority owned businesses in North Charleston
 - Potential partnerships with local college nursing programs to develop health and wellness programs for senior residents
 - Discussion about entities and organizations with related resources
- Would need to identify specific homes in which residents are homebound and have food insecurity. This information would allow Maximum Consulting to develop a plan for how these organizations may meet individual level needs
- Pointed out that the USDA has food programs that are available throughout the year
- Noted that there are additional organizations like the Tri-County Black Nurses Association (not listed under health and wellness on the slide)
- Recommended scheduling a meeting with the City of North Charleston's CDBG programs
- If you have relationships with anyone who serves in an official or volunteer capacity with any local organizations, we welcome your engagement with them so that we can foster relationships more quickly (Derrick, L.)

- Maximum Consulting is prepared to move forward immediately with helping CAC members make connections with any of the organizations listed. For instance, there is a way to enlist the help of youth with Palmetto CAP in conducting some of the assessments that will be needed for those with food insecurities or in need of home repairs (Middleton, C.)
- In response to the lists, CAC member stated he has spoken to a couple of the organizations on the list on behalf of Ferndale and they indicated that their funding is limited to certain areas, which often did not include Ferndale communities or Liberty Park, especially as it relates to community block grants. Would the CAC be speaking with the City of North Charleston CDBG group about including these areas moving forward? (Johnson, D.)
 - Block grants would include these areas. In reference to how these areas 'age in place,' the organizations listed are those that can assist with that. As it relates to CDBG funds, it is typically a year-long process for a group to be included in future programming. (Middleton, C.)
- My concern is still that although we are reviewing nice conceptual plans once the pandemic is over, the City remains responsible for making sure everything is still in place fiscally. How do we ensure that funds are not diverted from community needs (related to the use of the community center) and that the City will not start renting out the new community center to outside parties to adjust for current economic losses? CAC Member does not want the community needs to be put on the backburner but wants to ensure that the CAC actually becomes a project oversight group. CAC Member is also concerned the communities will experience a repeat of what is happening now with a lot of the communities' residents being pushed out. (Johnson, D.)
 - I would suggest as we move forward especially as the CAC transitions to project oversight that an assessment be done to say here is how we move forward despite living in a COVID-19 environment. But because of COVID-19, there will be resources available at the federal level provided to the City of North Charleston to help because people will have a longer recovery period. Federal resources will be available to remove that barrier. (Middleton, C.)
- We have to ensure that we have the power to enforce and monitor what is happening in our communities because everything sounds good now but if we don't put plans in place to ensure the community benefits this will be a waste of time. (Muhammad, E.)
- If we want to add organizations to the list, will we have the ability to do so? We have veterans who are homeless and who have medical problems. Do we have a relationship with the veterans administration downtown Charleston? (Muhammad, E.)
 - Trident Technical College has a veterans upward bound, one of the few in the country, that services veterans from the educational standpoint and also for other resources. We also have the VA center in North Charleston that will visit your office or conduct events to review the services such as getting access to health care or helping people with their claims. Through the VA, there is an annual event that focuses on homelessness and getting veterans who are not a part of the VA into the VA system so they can receive the wrap-around services. There will be opportunities to specify veterans issues and concerns throughout this process. Some of these activities can happen parallel to the mitigation. We can have a focus workshop to provide a veteran focused workshop. (Middleton, C.)
- Do we contact you or the office with any recommendations of other organizations? Also, we have a mixed community of different ethnicities. Will we be able to accommodate diverse groups? we need

to have organizations that can work with people from all different ethnicities on health issues.

(Muhammad, E.)

- All service providers will provide printed materials in Spanish and will be able to speak Spanish as well as to make sure you can mitigate effectively (Middleton, C.)
- As Mr. Middleton indicated, there are several organizations that can be contacted now in order to initiate services for the community. The key, when we made some of these recommendations that are on the list, is that some of them served as barriers. You have to jump through hurdles to get their services. The other thing is having knowledge of how quickly you can get their services. And it is a turn off when someone tries to get services and they are put on a list. If they are even contacted is a long time before their issues are addressed (Twiggs, D.)
- [To Mr. Middleton] Would you be able to come back to us from time to time and keep us abreast of what's out there? How active can we be with getting these services so that when we talk to people in the community, we will have a connection and there will not be a long wait or barriers they will have to go through? (Twiggs, D.)
- For example, ramp installations can be done on a local level despite national and global issues (Twiggs, D.)
 - The only thing I would emphasize is knowing what the assessment is. Who are the individuals in your communities that need a ramp or a roof repaired or their homes weatherized? By having an itemized list of needs we can approach planning holistically. (Middleton, C.)
 - Maximum Consulting will begin assisting families in the Liberty Park community when Ms. Twiggs is able to provide them with a list. (Smith, M.)
 - Maximum Consulting's purpose is to get in touch with 'the powers to be' and give you that point of contact. You are the voice for the community. You have a lot of power. There are services that can help identify underlying reasons for homelessness in the veteran population. (Lecque, M.)
 - Joy clarified that the two primary goals of this project include focus on developing the mitigation plan and on doing outreach in the community. Part of that is identifying resources for the community that they may not be aware of. We have an opportunity to bring those types of meetings or discussions to the community through the community office for the next decade. We can facilitate partnerships with some of those organizations through the mitigation plan that will last beyond the life of this project. (Riley, J.)

Minority owned businesses in North Charleston

- There are a number of locally owned businesses that we can go to that would provide sponsorship and lend their expertise through workshops or services that support the needs of the community.
- We can also have mobile festivals or culturally based festivals in your communities (Middleton, C.)

Potential partnerships with local college nursing programs

- These programs can come to the community or to the community office to provide health programs. It is our task to figure out when they can come to the community office or to individual homes once assessments have been made (Middleton, C.)
- May consider establishing a relationship with MUSC to do mobile health care units throughout the neighborhood (Ellis, J.)

- Charleston County and MUSC have recently partnered to provide mobile health care services. This is a service that may be available to the represented communities but we have to ensure there are enough people to support the program. They may be willing to provide a mobile unit at the community office as well. (Middleton, C.)

Outreach plans for 2020

- CAC provided guidance and feedback on how they would like to see the community office used those responses will be shared with the CAC before meeting #9. (Derrick, L.)
- CAC was asked to prioritize community events for EJ outreach in 2020
- Once we get an all clear from SCDHEC and the CDC regarding when we can have group events, we will know how to best proceed with planning for how many events we can have between now and the end of 2020. Carolyn will discuss how we can combine events if we are unable to have all 7 events. (Smith, M.)
- Everything will depend on the pandemic. We will need residents from communities to help with those events because people want to see familiar faces so volunteers will come from the neighborhoods (Lecque, C.)
- Carolyn provide an overview of the Seven proposed events the CAC identified as the top three EJ outreach events:
 - Care packages for seniors
 - Summer learning activities
 - Back to school supply fair

The CAC will be contacted to determine how they would like to proceed with planning these events.

CAC Member feedback:

- Supports moving forward with EJ outreach events. Committed to being engaged when the project begins. (Bannister, J.)
- Support rotating outreach EJ events throughout the represented communities on some frequency. (Muhammad, E.)
- Expressed concerns about identifying a realistic way of getting neighbors to participate in neighborhood council meetings. They have had challenges with consistent participation for years. Any help with getting community members consistently engaged would be appreciated. (Baxley, T.)
 - It may take a few of us getting started, then others will join in. It is important that neighborhoods work together to effect the change that we want to see. It is her experience that neighborhood councils are not easy, but she encouraged CAC members not to give up. Suggested inviting kids and seniors to attract more people. (Lecque, C.)
 - Please access the link which includes additional events for the CAC to vote. Not only can the CAC vote on the top three preferences, you can also provide additional suggestions in the recommendation section of the poll. Please share as much as you can. Suggestions may also be provided to LaTonya anonymously. (Derrick, L.)
- Round Robins are a great idea. CAC member committed to engaging in events (Baxley, T.)

Outreach Update

Provided by Horrace Tobin

Community Office update for April 1-24, 2020

- Received two incoming calls
- Placed eight outgoing calls
- Responded to four voice messages

COVID

- The community office is closed to visitors, but the Office Manager is on site daily to address concerns and request received by email, postal Mail and phone.
- Right-of-way Liaisons are not currently scheduling face to face appointments but are handling related requests received in the community office by phone.

Status update on events postponed due to COVID

- Black Expo has been rescheduled for June 20th at the North Charleston Coliseum from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM. Confirmation of this event will be shared with LaTonya for distribution to the team. (Smith, M.)

Summary and Next Steps

- Topics for CAC Meeting #9 will include a discussion of outcomes from an upcoming meeting scheduled with the City of North Charleston where we will be providing them with feedback received from the CAC during the mitigation workshop. The project team will relay outcomes from that meeting back to the CAC on June 6th. During our next meeting we will focus on transition from CAC to the project oversight committee. We will be discussing how to include advocacy training to ensure everyone is on the same page in terms of roles and responsibilities in the project oversight committee. We will also discuss the potential housing mitigation update.
- Supplemental information from today's meeting will be provided with the invitation and materials for meeting #9. If maps or other information is requested by community members, please have them call the Community Office and Mr. Tobin will coordinate delivery of requested materials.
- Joy and Chad thanked everyone for their time, input, and participation at this meeting
- Pam thanked everyone for their time and active participation. She thanked the team and the CAC for their time wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day, and sent congratulations to everyone with 2020 graduates

CAC meeting #9 is scheduled for June 6, 2020 beginning at 10:00 AM until 11:30 AM. Look for updates from LaTonya on the format that will be used for this meeting.

Name: _____



Community Advisory Council CAC Meeting #9

June 6, 2020

How to Join the Meeting!

- *Reference your Adobe Connect Quick Start Guide from Meeting No. 7 packet*
- Call: **1-800-753-1965**
- Enter Access Number: **7236718**

Agenda

- Welcome
- Administrative Items
- ‘Open Mic’ Session
- Report on FHWA EJ Peer Exchange
- Report on Meeting with the City of North Charleston
- Replacement Community Facilities Conceptual Plans Update
- Review Draft Community Mitigation Plan Framework
- Engaging with Elected and Appointed Officials Work Session
- Community Livability Plan
- Update on Coordination with Local Organizations
- Outreach Update
- Summary & Next Steps

Administrative Items

- Technology check
- Review virtual meeting etiquette
- Confirm CAC members have all meeting materials
 - Meeting packet
 - Minutes from CAC Meeting No. 8
- Approve minutes for CAC Meeting No. 8

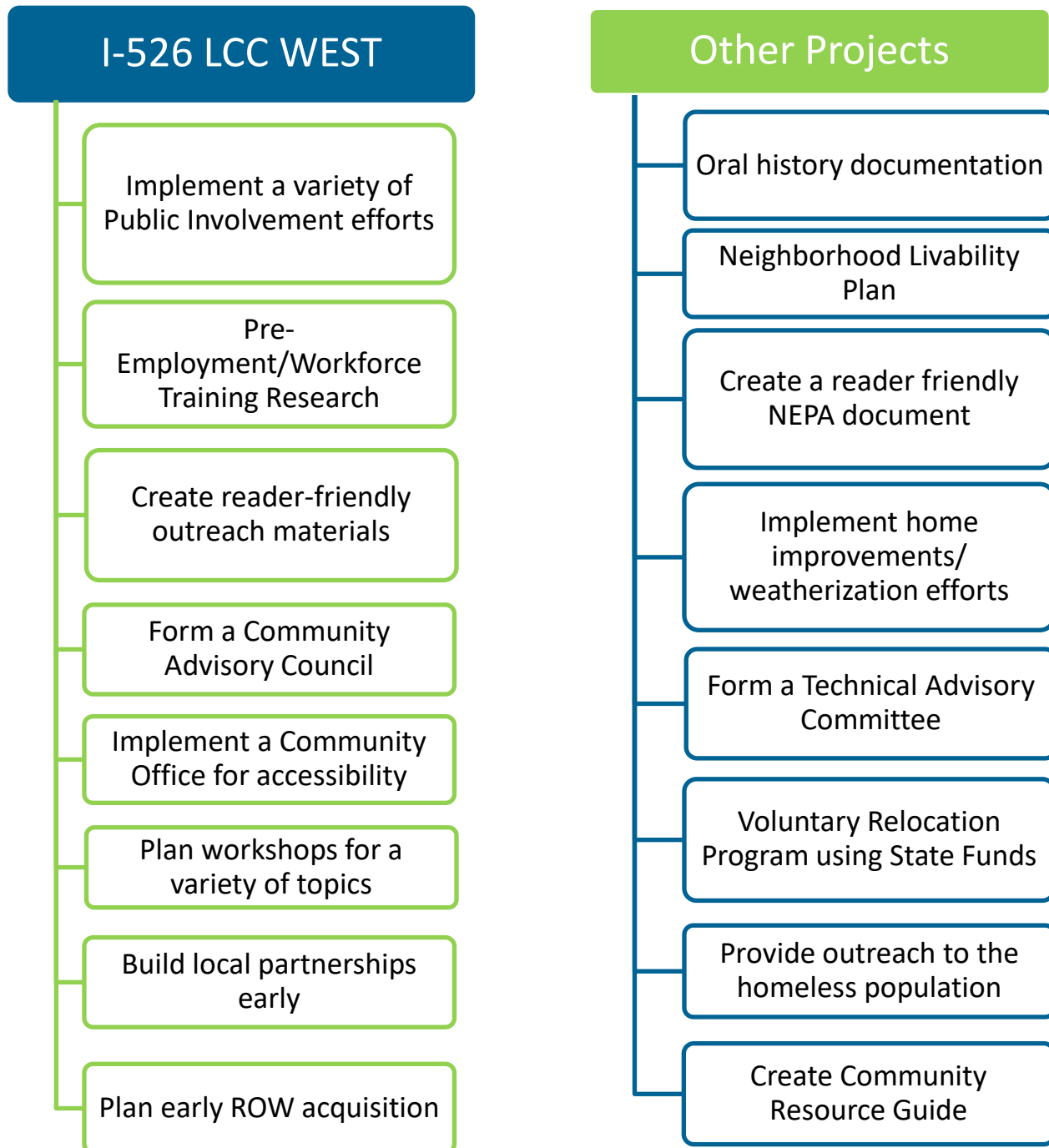


*Are there unanswered questions from the last meeting?
Are there other items you would like to
bring up with the CAC or project team?*

*Did you speak to any neighbors or residents who have
comments for the project team?*

FHWA Environmental Justice Peer Exchange

The purpose of the FHWA EJ Peer Exchange was to assist SCDOT in developing EJ mitigation strategies for the I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST project. Four mentor projects from Ohio, Texas, and Colorado were identified as having similar urban settings and impacts to EJ communities. The following chart shows I-526 mitigation/outreach efforts and ideas that were shared by SCDOT along with examples of effective mitigation concepts and practices presented by the other state DOTs.



Meeting with the City of North Charleston

The I-526 LCC WEST project team met with the City of North Charleston on May 19, 2020 to provide a project status update and facilitate future coordination.

CAC Listening Session

Purpose: Coordinate meetings between the CAC and the City of N. Charleston to voice concerns, address expectations, and verify a spirit of cooperation with implementing relevant portions of the mitigation plan.

- City of N. Charleston staff/SCDOT/CAC listening session
 - Date: June 16, 2020
 - Time: 6 – 8 pm
 - Location: Montague Terrace at North Charleston Coliseum & Performing Arts Center

Monthly Coordination Meetings

- Technical Coordination Meeting: Meeting between the City of N. Charleston and SCDOT to evaluate technical aspects of the mitigation requests. Meetings start June 24, 2020. Items to discuss include, but are not limited to:
 - Sidewalk connectivity improvements
 - Replacement recreational facilities, staffing, and programs
 - Transit stops and coordination with Rivers Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
 - Neighborhood street improvements
- CAC/City of N. Charleston Coordination Meetings:
 - After listening session, SCDOT/N. Charleston to develop schedule for coordination meetings

Other Items of Interest

- Mitigation Grant – N. Charleston received a \$250,000 planning grant to evaluate Filbin Creek watershed.
 - Provides opportunity for SCDOT to coordinate I-526 LCC WEST Filbin Creek mitigation efforts with City of N. Charleston

Meeting with the City of North Charleston, continued

Conceptual Recreational Facility Renderings

Determine how the City of N. Charleston will be involved in the long-term sustainability of the replacement recreation facilities. SCDOT would provide funding for resources, land, and facilities; however, agreements with the City would need to be developed related to mitigation implementation/operations and maintenance/or other City commitments to ensure **long-term success**.

- Filbin Creek Community Center
 - Need to weigh importance of spectator space in the gymnasium?
- Highland Terrace/Russelldale Community Parks
 - Recommend larger indoor facilities – Need to be larger than 800 square feet to meet Recreation Department program requirements. City of N. Charleston Parks and Recreation Department will provide a recommendation for appropriate building size.
 - Due to limited space at the Highland Terrace park site, the proposed half-basketball court may need to be removed to accommodate a larger building

Replacement Community Facilities Conceptual Plans: Update



Replacement Community Facilities Conceptual Plans: Update



Replacement Community Facilities Conceptual Plans: Update



Replacement Community Facilities Conceptual Plans: Update



Draft Community Mitigation Framework

Potential Mitigation Actions to discuss with City of N. Charleston

- Community center functions, staffing, and services
- Improved access/connectivity to community centers
- Address current and potential safety issues
- Maintain public spaces – consistent garbage pick up
- Transit stop improvements and connectivity
- Maintain community fabric

Are there other potential mitigation actions that should be added to the conversation with the City of N. Charleston?

On-going efforts

- Quantifying project impacts to better define mitigation measures
“Project impacts drive the mitigation”
- Bi-weekly work sessions to refine the mitigation measures
- Investigating the development of a Community Livability Study
- Assessing programs identified during EJ Peer Exchange to improve implementation of mitigation measures

Engaging with Elected and Appointed Officials



Understanding the Scope and Limitations of Primary Stakeholders

- SCDOT
- FHWA
- City of North Charleston
- Community Advisory Council



Goals and Expectations

- What is the goal of the meeting?
- What does the list of “asks” include?
- What does the CAC consider realistic expectations regarding feedback?



Meeting Preparation, Engagement, and Interactions

- Ask questions comfortably
- Meeting behavior
- Information exchange: receiving and delivering information effectively when in dialogue
- Offensive vs non-offensive interactions



Next Steps

- Need for additional resources or training? Format?
- North Charleston Meeting logistics

Community Livability Plan

What is a “Livable Community?”

“Livable community” – equitable access for all residents to education, jobs, healthcare, food, housing, as well as diverse opportunities in arts, culture, and recreation

What is a Community Livability Plan and why is it being developed?

A Community Livability Plan should, at a minimum, serve as a tool that:

- Establishes a vision for the future of the community
- Identifies needs and coordinates resources and partnerships beyond the scope of the I-526 project mitigation efforts
- Promotes collaboration while restoring a spirit of community that unifies a neighborhood

Potential Livability Plan Components	Mitigation Action
Public Safety	Crime / Surveillance
	Speeding
Community Appearance	Abandoned/Overgrown lots
	Improve Sense of Neighborhood Pride/Common Area/Landscaping/signs
	Maintain Public Spaces
Long-term Community Cohesion	Implement Cohesion Activities
	Advocacy Training
	Prioritize Small Businesses
	Maintain Community Fabric
Public Health	Stormwater / flooding

Partnership with the College of Charleston Riley Center for Livable Communities

- SCDOT is evaluating partnering with the Riley Center as a local resource to assist the project team, working in conjunction with the CAC, to develop a Community Livability Plan for the EJ neighborhoods

Update on Coordination with Local Organizations

The **Community Resource Guide** has been developed as a supplemental resource for the CAC to use before, during and after the I-526 LCC WEST project. This guide helps identify local organizations and contacts that may be able to assist the neighborhood residents with the following categories:

- 1. Food Insecurities
- 2. Health & Wellness
- 3. Home Repairs
- 4. Financial Assistance
- 5. Minority-Owned Businesses
- 6. Referral Agencies

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, many listed entities are still closed. The project team will confirm contact information and other details once local organization begin to open back up. Once finalized, the project team will use this guide to start forming relationships with local organizations to initiate potential mitigation opportunities.

The project team will continue to update a **Community Resource Guide** that has been developed for the Community Advisory Council. Please include this list in your notebooks for future reference.

Please take a moment to review the list of community resources provided. Are you aware of additional entities that should be included on this list?

Outreach Update

- Community Office Data: April 27 – May 22, 2020
 - Call-ins: 5
 - Outreach Calls: 3
 - Voicemails: 3
- COVID:
 - The Community Office is closed to visitors, but Office Manager Horrace Tobin is onsite daily to address concerns and requests received by email, postal mail, and phone.
 - Right-of-Way Liaisons are not currently scheduling face-to-face appointments but are continuing to communicate by phone with the property owners identified in your Meeting #7 packet.

***How can we best reach your neighbors to gather
feedback on potential mitigation ideas?***

Summary and Next Steps

- Confirm schedule for upcoming CAC Meetings: First Saturday in July falls on July 4th – propose meeting on July 11th as an alternative
- 7/2020 CAC Meeting # 10 agenda to include possible follow-up training session, further discussion on refined mitigation actions, and follow-up on action items from the City of North Charleston Listening Session
- Update on COVID-19/SCDOT Public Engagement Policy

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 9

Date: June 6, 2020

Time: 10:00 am – 12:24 pm

Location: Adobe Connect Virtual Meeting

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees

Larenda Baxley, Ferndale
Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale
Rev. David L. Johnson, Religious Leader
Angela Anderson, Russelldale
Jeanaris Bannister, Liberty Park
Carolyn Varner, Liberty Park
Doris Twiggs, Liberty Park
Cynthia Anderson, Liberty Park
Prayonda Cooper, Joppa Way
Earl Muhammad, Muhammad Mosque
Rick Day, Stantec
Amy Sackaroff, Stantec

LaTonya Derrick, Stantec
Ryan White, Stantec
Horrace Tobin, Stantec - Community Office
Joy Riley, SCDOT (Project Manager)
Chad Long, SCDOT
David Kelly, SCDOT
Pamela Foster, FHWA
Yolonda Jordan, FHWA
Maxine Smith, Maximum Consulting
Mattese Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Carolyn Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Jamelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies

Participant Summary:

Total participants: 24

Ferndale: 2

Highland Terrace: 0

Liberty Park: 4

Russelldale: 1

Adjacent/affected communities/agencies: 3

SCDOT: 3

FHWA: 2

Community Liaisons: 3

Community Office: 1

Stantec: 4

Facilitator: 1

Meeting Summary:

Welcome and Introductions

- LaTonya conducted roll call, verifying participants connecting by phone only. She also served as host and technical contact to address any issues with Adobe Connect or phone connections during the meeting.
- Jamelle welcomed and thanked CAC members and participants for joining the meeting via Adobe Connect and reminded everyone the meeting would be recorded for accuracy of meeting minutes. She also provided a few words of encouragement to the team as our country navigates through a national pandemic and civil unrest.
- An overview of the agenda was provided:
 - Review of Administrative Items

- Open Mic session
- Report on FHWA EJ Peer Exchange
- Report on Meeting with the City of North Charleston
- Replacement Community Facilities Conceptual Plans Update
- Review Draft Community Mitigation Plan Framework
- Engaging with Elected and Appointed Officials Work Session
- Community Livability Plan
- Update on Coordination with Local Organizations
- Outreach Update
- Summary & Next Steps

Administrative Items

- Jamelle provided a brief review of Adobe Connect features and logistics
 - Chat room (general and private discussions); chat dialogue will be saved
 - Raise hands feature
 - All participants had access to Adobe Connect, paper copy of CAC Meeting #9 packet, and phone connection
- Review of virtual meeting etiquette
- CAC Meeting #8 minutes required an edit whereby a comment made by Ms. Carolyn Lecque was attributed to Ms. Mattese Lecque. Modifications will be made accordingly and distributed to the CAC for approval at Meeting #10.

Open Mic

Prior to addressing formal project issues, CAC members were acknowledged for their continued participation in the I-526 West LCC project in the midst of the pandemic and the current civil unrest. Time was taken to allow CAC members and other participants to share their insights on the current state of our nation and any associated personal impacts.

CAC members provided no comments or questions.

CAC Members were asked if there were any unanswered questions from the last meeting, if they shared comments from neighbors or residents, or if there were other items they would like to discuss with the CAC or the project team.

CAC Member feedback:

- The I-526 project bus that was provided across from Liberty Park and Russelldale in the shopping center parking lot was effective, but it would be good to send the bus into the Liberty Park and Russelldale communities to inform residents more directly about details of the project. (Anderson, C.)
- The bus referenced was the tent used at the pop-up events for EJ outreach efforts. Continued and ongoing efforts are planned throughout the affected communities as the project team works through post-pandemic planning associated with re-opening strategies. (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member feedback:

Will security cameras be placed throughout the community, independent of security features placed in and around the recreation facilities? There are ongoing problems with theft (personal and experiences

shared by neighbors). Additionally, incidents of speeding on Taylor Street seem to have worsened. Neighbors have requested help in slowing down speeding traffic on Taylor Street. (Varner, C.)

- Surveillance and speeding throughout neighborhoods will be addressed during this meeting in preparation for our meeting with the City of North Charleston. (White, R.)

Report on FHWA EJ Peer Exchange

Coordination with FHWA to look at projects across the country that have experienced similar impacts to EJ communities. The goal of the peer exchange was to help the project team identify mitigation action items that were implemented in other projects that the I-526 LCC West project team may not have considered. A two-day workshop was conducted on May 13-14, 2020 to examine similar EJ mitigation projects in Colorado, Ohio, and Texas. Outcomes of the peer exchange included: (White, R.)

- Maximum Consulting is leading the efforts to document the oral and photographic history of impacted communities. They are currently working to identify local historians and photographers who will best support these efforts. Input from CAC members on local experts and knowledge of community resources was solicited by the project team. It was noted that CAC member contributions will be critical to integrating community history into the community center and pocket park/playground designs. These efforts will also be important in developing a historical document, with community-based stories and photographs, that can be placed in the community center and checked out by residents.
- The Neighborhood Livability Plan will support the I-526 LCC West EJ mitigation efforts, including concerns identified in CAC meetings and discussions.
- Implementing home improvements and weatherization efforts will include (but will not be limited to) sound proofing and noise walls in an effort to evaluate a wider range of potential impacts.
- A Technical Advisory Committee will involve various departments from the City of North Charleston, SCDOT, and other technical staff to determine the most effective approaches to implementing action items. This will include an ongoing exchange of ideas and recommendations between the Technical Review Committee and the CAC.
- Voluntary Relocation Program and other homeowner programs were discussed for the purpose of educating homeowners and implementing programs that can help interested renters become homeowners.
- Providing outreach to the homeless population
- Development of a Community Resource Guide. These efforts will be led by Maximum Consulting. The guide will serve as a living document and will include a wide range of community resources such as non-profits and government agencies that residents can tap into. Resources will range from healthcare to home improvements and will help communities manage direct and cumulative impacts.

CAC Member feedback:

Recommendation to contact Gerald Freeman [Program Manager of Dominion Energy SC Neighborhood Energy Efficiency Program] to learn more about how Dominion Energy could potentially support weatherization efforts by the project team. (Anderson, C.)

Report on Meeting with the City of North Charleston

On May 19, 2020, SCDOT met with the City of North Charleston. The goal of the meeting was to provide an update regarding ongoing EJ mitigation discussions and to set the stage for the CAC listening session

scheduled for June 16, 2020. Chad indicated that the meeting was productive and felt the City was open to collaborating on the mitigation process.

The June meeting will be a virtual meeting. LaTonya will contact everyone to ensure proper software or plug-ins in order to participate virtually. She is working to offer an option for participants to join by video. Video participation will not be required, but it is encouraged so that people can associate faces with names and voices. The project team is still evaluating the software platform that will be used for this meeting.

Monthly Coordination Meetings

Technical meetings will be held, beginning June 24, 2020, between SCDOT, the City, and other technical agencies related to mitigation actions the City will not oversee. This group will comprise the Technical Advisory Council (TAC).

- The TAC will provide feedback/updates to the CAC including screening of mitigation requests and developing ideas for how to implement requested mitigation items/actions.
- Part of the role of the TAC is to refine mitigation requests.
- Another goal of the coordination meetings is to develop a series of agreements with the City regarding which mitigation requests will be implemented.
- Refining the “asks” will help the project team better understand which items will be included in the Community Mitigation Plan
- Monthly or bi-weekly coordination meetings will include topics discussed during CAC meetings such as:
 - Sidewalk improvements
 - Public safety
 - Replacement recreation facilities
 - Transit (Bus Rapid Transit public participation and plans)
 - Additional neighborhood street improvements
- The City received a \$250,000 planning grant to evaluate Filbin Creek and Noisette Creek watersheds
- The project team had a discussion with the City to discuss opportunities to partner on long-term improvements regarding flooding issues and potential connectivity along Filbin Creek to the community center and as well as other areas in North Charleston. These actions will be included in the community livability process and plan.
- The project team shared the recreational facility renderings presented to the CAC in Meeting #8 with the City during the meeting. The renderings included Filbin Creek Community Center (FCCC), Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Pocket Park, and Russelldale locations. The City provided significant input and seemed open to partnering with SCDOT to proceed with the proposed facilities.
- Feedback provided by the City that was of particular importance was regarding the Filbin Creek Community Center. They suggested that the project team weigh the importance of spectator space in the gymnasium. Considering the balance between optimizing floor space for larger basketball courts (geared towards more space for leisure play) versus the inclusion of bleacher-space for spectators (geared towards scheduled spectator events)
 - The project team will be seeking guidance from the CAC on the preferred use and design of the Filbin Creek Community Center.
- Regarding the Highland Terrace and Russelldale locations, the City expressed some concern about the size of the enclosed facilities.
 - The project team revisited comments and feedback provided by the CAC in Meeting #8, and updated renderings to include enclosed spaces based on discussions.

- The City is concerned that at the FCCC location, based on the programs they offer, the size of the facility may not be large enough. The project team will need to discuss potentially increasing the size of the enclosed buildings with the CAC. Trade-offs will be required for Highland Terrace and Russelldale locations if the size of the Filbin Creek location is increased.

Replacement Community Facilities Conceptual Plans: Update

Filbin Creek Community Center

CAC Member feedback:

Will there be an opportunity to get input from other residents in the communities to see what they would like to see in the new community center or will we just implement the plan? Also, do we have the property at the Filbin Creek location to build the plan presented in the rendering? (Bannister, J.)

From the outreach perspective, part of the process (once we have presented our draft environmental document and mitigation plan) is to get input from the public on our proposed plans. The approach is to develop a concept (conceptual drawings) and to get input from the CAC and from the City that provides a framework for the project team to work from. The challenge with the recreational facilities project is space limitations, but the project team is working to include as many features as possible in the conceptual drawings before presenting it to the public for comments. (White, R.)

The project team is working with the City of North Charleston to secure the large parcel of land (parcel 3 on page 7) on which the Filbin Creek building structure would be built. The project team is still working on how to acquire the parcel, as well as parcel 1 on Dorothy Williams Boulevard). Both parcels of land are owned by the City. Some of the other parcels are privately owned. The project team is talking with those landowners, as well as those who own the property identified in the Russelldale renderings. Some of the land has been secured. But, some of the acquisitions are still in the process of being secured (Sackaroff, A.)

CAC Member feedback:

The City of North Charleston just built a brand new athletic facility. How much is the City “tapping” (using) the centers in each of the communities? Perhaps we need to talk with the City to better understand their plan. I'm concerned about the City “threading” all over the place. What will be the extent of their access to all of the recreational and community centers in the city? (Varner, C.)

The project team has not yet discussed programming at recreational facilities with the City, but this is an agenda item for the listening session planned for June 16th. The CAC has identified outside entities receiving priority over residential use at community centers. The concern has been with tournaments using resources and space while residents are unable to use the facilities. One goal during the June 16th listening session is to gain clarity from the City on the topic of residential access and programming at recreational facilities. If this question is not fully addressed at the listening session, it will also be discussed during the TAC on June 24th. (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

So, we can't make a final decision about Filbin Creek until we understand the logistics of the programming and planning for recreational centers throughout the City of Charleston? (Varner, C.)

[Point of clarification] Because there is a limit to the size of the gymnasium that can be built, if we add bleachers or spectator seating to the design, we take away from the size of the court in the gymnasium.

The project team's take away from the May 19th meeting was that the City was leaving it up to the CAC to determine which feature is most important (floor space or seating). From previous conversations with the CAC, the impression of the project team is that the primary concern of the CAC for the community center is for children and residents to have access to the facilities – more usable space, not having outside entities hosting tournaments. This is an item we can discuss with the city to gain a better idea of the role they think the Filbin Creek facility will play in the citywide programming plan. (White, R.)

The size of the parking lot at the Filbin Creek Community Center will likely change. The project team is working through additional regulatory requirements. The Highland Terrace/Liberty Park Community Center is something called a success property, meaning some of the money that went towards the facility came from a federal act called the Land and Water Conservation Fund. In order to be in compliance with that act, we have to make sure we build the right facilities on site so that we are meeting or exceeding what was at the impacted facilities. The parking lot in the current rendering is fairly large. That will likely change as the project team continues to meet with the city. (Sackaroff, A.)

It is important that CAC and community members prioritize their desired outcomes from the project. They should make sure the Filbin Creek Community Center is something that will accommodate everyone's needs. The City of North Charleston just put an athletic center on Remount Road within walking distance from the Liberty Park/Highland Terrace neighborhoods. The athletic center is a bus ride for the Ferndale and Russelldale communities. Regarding a previous question about input from residents on their desires for the recreational centers, the use of pop-up activities will help community liaisons talk with community members using storyboards as a resource to generate discussions about proposed plans. They recommend "across the fence" and "front porch" informal conversations with 2-3 people in the neighborhood at a time to discuss the proposed changes and to receive feedback from community members. CAC members are encouraged to initiate conversations with community members. (Lecque, C.)

CAC Member feedback:

[Point of clarification] The reason for the question regarding community input is that the senior center was built less than two years ago, and it is too small. In the current pandemic state, the facility is too small to accommodate people safely. The gym holds less than eight people at a time, and residents are only allowed to use the space for 30-minute increments. (Bannister, J.)

If the senior center is too small, that means the project team may want to prioritize more class space over a full court gymnasium. But, those are the types of concerns the CAC should provide to the project team to be included in technical coordination discussions. We are operating with a limited amount of space, but there are some tradeoffs that we could make if classroom space is more valuable. We will continue to refine the list of priorities throughout the process, but we will take direction from the CAC regarding decision making on recreational space versus classroom space. (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

Could you walk me through accessibility to the Filbin Creek Community Center if there are multiple activities being held on site in a given day? (Twiggs, D.)

As a reminder, this is a high-level concept, but what the project team is trying to do is to ensure there are various points of access as well as ample parking. The current renderings contain satellite parking in order to increase accessibility to all aspects of the community center. (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

My primary concern is about getting in and out of the property if several activities are held in a given time frame. (Twiggs, D.)

That is part of the refining process – not just focusing on the building features, but the parking and accessibility. That type of discussion will help the project team transition from a conceptual stage to development of the design. Another part of the process is the property acquisition component. It is important to remember that the project team has not yet acquired all of the parcels presented in the renderings. The City does not own all of the desired parcels. Therefore, the current conceptual drawings may change depending on how successful the project team is in acquiring the additional properties. (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

In reference to using the building, occasionally, the seniors would like to have socials. Is it possible to design the classrooms in such a way as to have a larger meeting venue for community meetings or socials with partitions that can create smaller classroom spaces? (Muhammad, E.)

Russelldale Community Pocket Park

The project team added an 800 square-foot enclosed building. The City expressed concerns that the building would be too small based on the programs and activities they current host. This is an issue the project team will continue to work on as they gain more understanding about the amount of enclosed space they should include in the design. (White, R.)

The driveway/side access that was presented in the previous rendering has been removed in the current drawing. This allowed the park space to be extended further south on the parcel, making room for a full-sized basketball court and 800 square-foot building. The City echoes the concerns expressed by the CAC regarding the small size of the enclosed building. Based on the City's concerns, the project team is awaiting size recommendations for the enclosed buildings at the pocket park. A review will have to be conducted to determine what space(s) can be sacrificed to accommodate larger buildings. Community engagement through pop-ups will help with the process of including feedback and input from residents. (White, R.)

Highland Terrace Pocket Park (HTPP)

(Version 2) The project team modified the space to add a 900 square-foot building. A full- and half-sized basketball court were added to the design. As with the enclosed building at the Russelldale location, the size of the enclosed building will be evaluated based on the City's concerns. (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

The current size of the Highland Terrace rendering is small enough. There would be no advantage in further reducing the size of that location. The current design seems to only be appropriate for smaller children, with a covered unit in the event of inclement weather. (Bannister, J.)

The HTPP has been reduced because of the I-26 widening project, but the project team is trying to optimize the space available at the location. The ultimate goal is to maintain usability of the facility. (White, R.)

(Version 3) The rendering has the same amenities with a different layout. The CAC indicated in the previous meeting they preferred the play area away from the street. Version 3 uses buildings as a screen for the playground area from traffic. (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

Being a lifelong resident of Liberty Park, I have used these facilities for many events, primarily family reunions. The building is currently too small. It can only hold approximately 50 people comfortably. The parcel is too small to take additional space away. The center was too small when it was built initially. (Bannister, J.)

The primary responsibility of SCDOT is to do our best to mitigate for impacts caused by the project. Our goal is retain pre-existing amenities, but supplement this facility as well as the loss of Russelldale. The project team is trying to balance all of the different needs for a recreational center site, but supplement with a much larger site at the Filbin Creek location. It is some trade-off, but ultimately the project team is trying to supplement the loss of space at Highland Terrace with what is being proposed at Filbin Creek. The project team does understand your concerns. We are working with the City to see how we can increase the size of the enclosed space to, at a minimum, match whatever the program requirements are for the programs that are currently being held at the Highland Terrace Community Center. (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

Why can't this program be transferred to Filbin Creek? Instead of trying to build a small building in this location, why not transfer the Highland Terrace programs? I would rather them be in a large, nice building where children have more space for their afterschool programs. (Varner, C.)

The addition of enclosed buildings was a response to comments we received during last month's CAC Meeting 8, where initially we did not include enclosed buildings in the design. Only playgrounds, picnic tables, and basketball courts were included in the initial rendering. There was concern about the heat for residents and seniors using the space, so enclosed buildings were added. If the CAC thinks it may be more beneficial to move programs to Filbin Creek and not add enclosed buildings at the park pocket parks, that is something the project team will consider. The project team is looking for the CAC to let us know what they want so that those requests can be included in discussions with the City. (White, R.)

Filbin Creek should be designed in such a way that it will accommodate family reunions. The meeting space should be large enough to use partitions to create age-level activities in different rooms. We have to be realistic about our priorities and what can be done. (Lecque, C.)

This is why it is also important to get feedback from residents during pop-ups. The project team can use that feedback to work on a more detailed design. Priorities must be determined by the neighborhoods, so input from the CAC and respective communities is critical. (White, R.)

Draft Community Mitigation Framework

The project team has taken direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts from a series of projects and other transportation-related improvement projects, as well as from CAC input through the Social Needs Assessment. Based on all of this information, the project team is developing a mitigation plan for impacts. (White, R.)

The framework is a way for the project team to present all of this information in an organized fashion that will ultimately translate to commitments and agreements between SCDOT, the City, and other agencies. (White, R.)

Potential Mitigation issues that will be discussed with the City of North Charleston on June 16th include:

- Community center functions, staffing, and services
- Improved access and connectivity to community centers
- Address current and potential safety issues (Speeding, traffic combing, surveillance, break-ins)
- Maintain public spaces - consistent garbage pick up
- Transit stop improvements and connectivity (safe connections between communities and bus stops)
- Maintain community fabric (Community Livability Plan)

CAC Member feedback:

Drivers do not acknowledge the stop sign at the three-way stop at the intersection of Elder and Taylor Streets. The situation seems to be getting worse. We need to install cameras, speed breaks, etc. (Bannister, J.)

Speed bumps, traffic combs that force speeders to slow down, speed tables, etc., will all be included in technical discussions with the City. Beautification will also be combined with some of the measures to address speeding in neighborhoods. Many of these items were compiled from the Social Needs Assessment and have been identified in the online GIS Viewer, but there are also issues that will be discussed during the meeting with the City on June 16th. (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

Agreement on speeding as an issue on Taylor Street. Communities also need a proactive program for cutting tree limbs so that when the City experiences a hurricane, snowstorm, or ice storm, residents in Liberty Park and Ferndale are not without power for extended periods of time. This is particularly an issue for older residents who may use oxygen tanks. (Anderson, C.)

CAC Member feedback:

There is also a problem with speeding in Russelldale. Speed bumps are needed at the entrance of the neighborhood where speeding seems to be a significant problem. (Anderson, A.)

Is surveillance or additional policing still an issue that CAC members would like to address within the context of the current social climate? Does the CAC want to revisit how they would like to “package” this request regarding crime, policing, and surveillance? How would you like to address some of the issues you

have with crime? This is something to think about in preparation for the meeting with the City. We can discuss your thoughts on this now or in a follow up meeting that we can schedule with the CAC to discuss before our listening session with the City (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

Regarding drainage problems, there are serious issues from Rivers Avenue onto Taylor Street and James Bell. (Bannister, J.)

Significant runoff issues related to I-26 were mentioned earlier in the meeting. Some of the issues will be addressed by the project design, but there are larger scale drainage issues that the project team can address as part of the livability plan process which will include partnering with the City on the Filbin Creek Flood Plains Study (Filbin Creek and Noisette Creek). These issues will be addressed by the technical committee as well as through the livability plan program. (White, R.)

SCDOT is currently working on the details of how to address the concerns expressed by the CAC. It will take some patience as SCDOT and the City develops coordination efforts on tangible efforts such as pedestrian improvements, drainage improvements, and street calming. SCDOT is also exploring items such as law enforcement and neighborhood patrolling, which are concerns SCDOT cannot directly impact, but may be able to facilitate cooperation with the City to increase/improve those programs. (Riley, J.)

Other on-going mitigation efforts include (White, R.):

- Quantifying direct and indirect project impacts to better define the list of “asks.” It is important that the project team is clear in defining the impacts.
- Bi-weekly work sessions to refine the list of “asks” developed by the CAC. This will help the project team to better understand the commitments and agreements that need to be made with the City and with other agencies.
- Investigating the development of a Community Livability Study
- Assessing other programs identified during the EJ Peer Exchange to improve implementation of mitigation measures based on the list of “asks” developed by the CAC

Engaging with Elected and Appointed Officials

Understanding the Scope of Limitations of Primary Stakeholders (Ellis, J.)

As the CAC prepares to meet with elected and appointed officials, it is helpful to have a clear understanding of the scope and limitations of the primary stakeholders involved in the mitigation process.

- SCDOT and FHWA is conducting the mitigation study as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. They are working in collaboration with the City of North Charleston to facilitate more rapid recovery of displacement associated with the I-526 LCC WEST project. That includes some of the items the project team has focused on including replacement recreation facilities (programs and staffing), public safety, transit and connectivity, stormwater, and community appearance.
- The CAC serves as the “boots on the ground” to help facilitate changes and improvements through ongoing communication and collaborations with SCDOT, FHWA, and the City, as well as with residents of the four impacted neighborhoods and communities. The CAC serves as the liaisons for facilitating success of the programs that will be implemented.

Goals and Expectations (Ellis, J.)

- The project team wants to introduce the CAC to the City of North Charleston leadership and staff to discuss mitigation opportunities that the CAC has identified over the course of the project.
- The meeting with the City will also include a discussion about the Community Livability Plan.
- The goal is to begin developing a plan for consistent engagement between the CAC and the City to address the Community Advisory Council's list of "asks" based on the primary areas of concern (replacement recreation facilities, programs and staffing, public safety, transit and connectivity, stormwater, and community appearance)
- One of the things the CAC must decide upon before engaging with the City on June 16th is what are the expectations from the City and from the meeting. What do you consider realistic expectations during the meeting as well as action items to be taken from the meeting? What would make the CAC feel as if the meeting on June 16th was a success?
- It is important to understand that coordination efforts with the City will be a process and that every concern will not be resolved during the first meeting.

Meeting Preparation, Engagement, and Interactions (Ellis, J.)

- It will be important to set the meeting tone at the onset of the meeting.
- CAC Members were encouraged to address the following questions ahead of the June 16th meeting: Will the full CAC attend and engage in the meeting with the City? Will the CAC delegate a spokesperson or will there be some combined efforts by the CAC to share your concerns with the City?
- Whomever serves as spokesperson(s) should be able to do so comfortably. The dynamics have changed since our initial plans to meet with the City in person. Due to concerns over the pandemic, we will meet with the City virtually.
- The significance of a few factors will be much greater meeting virtually. In virtual meetings, people are unable to read body language. Even though people can hear voice inflection, it is much more important that we are aware of the tone we use when we are speaking, by phone or virtually. Keep in mind that members of the project team and the CAC have become familiar with each other's style of communication. However, CAC members are not familiar with the City of North Charleston leadership team and staff, nor do they know the CAC members.
- One of the actions CAC members can do to best prepare for the meeting is to have a comprehensive list of concerns to discuss with the City, a list of questions you would like to ask.
- Individual preparation is important, but it is just as important that CAC members coordinate with each other prior to the meeting with the City so that the group can present their concerns in an organized manner.
- The ideal situation would be to meet with the City in person, particularly for the first meeting. Under the current circumstances, that is not practical, but use of the video feature during the virtual meeting is strongly encouraged because body language is important. Physical, face-to-face interactions are important in relationship-building. We will not have the opportunity to establish those interactions in the June 16th meeting, so the project team strongly encourages CAC members to join by video if you are comfortable with doing so.
- The CAC has always been both direct and respectful in expressing concerns about individual neighborhoods as well as the entire community. The same authenticity in which CAC members discuss

concerns during the monthly meetings should be shared with members of the City of Charleston so that the discussion is organic (natural). This should encourage transparency during discussions.

- CAC members should expect a two-way dialogue. Although the meeting is planned as a listening session, and it will be an opportunity for CAC members to systematically lay out their concerns, members should condition themselves for an information exchange.
- This is why is important for CAC members to coordinate questions, prioritize concerns, and define a set of realistic expectations and outcomes from the project before meeting with the City for the first time.
- Regarding “offensive vs. non-offensive” interactions, that is a perceived non-issue with the CAC. The CAC always expresses themselves in an articulate and thoughtful manner. The project team encourages the CAC to maintain that practice as they enter into discussions with the City. The June 16th meeting will be a meeting of first impressions for both the CAC members as well as the City.

Rather than using the terms “offensive vs. non-offensive,” perhaps better phrasing is “conflict vs. conflict-resolution” and “tonality.” The goal of the first impression is to leave a good, lasting impression. There is some residual anger because some people feel they have not been treated fairly in the past, but there is a way to present your concerns without tarnishing your message. First impressions are important. Your issues are important. But, keep in mind that your issues may be in conflict with how someone else feels what should be done. There is a way you can express yourself without anger. (Lecque, M.)

This is absolutely correct. The goal in preparing for the meeting is not to refrain from sharing information, it is to lay out all of your concerns, but in an organized way. Prepare ahead of time for the discussion. Don’t wait until the day of the meeting to begin thinking about how to present your concerns. Even if you want to address issues from the past (that may be contentious), CAC members are encouraged to address their issues. The key is to prepare your statements ahead of time so that you present your issues in a thoughtful, objective manner. Share your thoughts with other CAC members, the Stantec team, or with Maximum Consulting before the meeting to better organize your thoughts. Preparation and coordinated messaging amongst CAC members will be key to a successful first meeting with the City. (Ellis, J.)

Next Steps

Would it be beneficial for the project team to provide the CAC with a list of concerns that have been expressed to-date to use as a starting point for developing their thoughts and ideas for the meeting with the City? (Long, C.)

An abbreviated summary has been prepared based on previous CAC meeting discussions, the mitigation workshop, the Social Needs Assessment, the community office comment log, and community drop-ins. The project team is tailoring the summary to be used as a tool during the meeting with the City of North Charleston. That document will be forwarded to the CAC when SCDOT and FHWA have had an opportunity to review it. (Derrick, L.)

Whatever the project team can do to assist the CAC would be helpful. (Long, C.)

The CAC may add or remove any items from the summary LaTonya provides as they see fit. The CAC should also consider how information will be presented to the City (individual CAC member comments, CAC spokesperson(s), or some combination of CAC spokesperson(s)/CAC member comments. The more organized the more effective your message. (Ellis, J.)

Can you provide an administrative person to consolidate the concerns of the CAC? (Anderson, C.)

During our face-to-face meetings, we provide comment cards for people who are not comfortable with asking questions publicly. That is a tool we can implement in the virtual meetings as well. LaTonya will serve as the point person to make sure all information is collected. (Derrick, L.)

Two things to consider: (1) Preparation of compiled and condensed comments collected during the past nine months. (2) Identification of a spokesperson or spokespersons who feel comfortable talking with the City. Long term, it is important that the CAC thinks about who will serve in the role of spokesperson(s) on behalf of the CAC, and ultimately, on behalf of the impacted communities. CAC members will take ownership of discussions with the City at some point, so it may be helpful to begin the process early. (Ellis, J.)

[Point of clarification] The CAC would like someone who can collect multiple concerns from multiple people across the represented communities because CAC members may not have the resources (equipment), facilities, or time to collect and compile concerns discussed during the previous nine months. (Anderson, C.)

The project team will provide any administrative support necessary. Does the CAC have any additional requests for support in preparation for the meeting on June 16th with the City? (Ellis, J.)

CAC members provided no comments or questions.

LaTonya will provide the summary document to CAC members. CAC members are asked to provide feedback on the summary document, as well as guidance on how the project team can best support the CAC in preparing for the meeting with the City on June 16th. (Derrick, L.)

Community Livability Plan

- Defines a “livable community” as equitable access for all residents to education, jobs, health care, food, housing, as well as diverse opportunities in arts, culture, and recreation.
- The plan is being developed based on the Social Needs Assessment and public input, pop-ups, public meetings, as well as through continuing engagement with the CAC.
- The Community Livability Plan serves as a tool that:
 - Establishes a vision for the future of the community based not only on input from the CAC, but also from a wide range of community members
 - Identifies needs and coordinates resources and partnerships beyond the scope of the I-526 project mitigation efforts, for example the Community Resource Guide being developed by Maximum Consulting and the meetings being held with the City of North Charleston

- Promotes collaboration while restoring a spirit of community that unifies a neighborhood
- SCDOT is evaluating the Riley Center as a local resource to assist the project team, working in conjunction with the CAC to develop a Community Livability Plan for EJ neighborhoods
- The final version of the community livability plan will be developed before the final environmental document for the project, Fall 2021
- This is an opportunity to charter a long-term vision for impacted communities (White, R.)

CAC members provided no comments or questions.

Update on Coordination with Local Organizations

The Community Resource Guide is an ongoing guide. Maximum Consulting is currently adding information regarding points of contact, physical addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers for listed resources. The document currently includes over 41 resources, categorized by:

- Food Insecurities
- Health and Wellness
- Home Repairs
- Financial Assistance
- Minority-Owned Businesses
- Referral Agencies

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the organizations listed in the guide remain closed. Maximum will continue development of the guide as organizations begin to re-open. (Smith, M.)

The project team will update the CAC on development of the Community Resource Guide.

Outreach Update

Provided by Horrace Tobin

Community Office update for April 27-May 22, 2020

- Received 5 incoming calls
- Placed 3 outgoing calls
- Responded to 3 voice messages
- The number of calls has increased during the week of June 1, 2020.

COVID

- The community office is closed to visitors, but the Office Manager is on site daily to address concerns and request received by email, postal mail and phone.
- Right-of-way Liaisons are not currently scheduling face-to-face appointments but are continuing to communicate by phone with the property owners identified in the Meeting #7 packet.
- Request that CAC members please continue to share with community members that Mr. Tobin is available in the office to take calls, and address project-related requests and concerns appropriately.

CAC members provided no comments or questions.

Update on Coordination with Local Organizations (Continued)

Pop-up events will resume when COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted. (Lecque, C.)

- Care Packages for Seniors (food boxes) are still being planned. The event was originally planned for June 27, 2020, but has been postponed indefinitely.
- Summer Learning Loss activities will be held on July 27th from 9:00-11:00 AM at the Ferndale Community Center, and from 12:00-2:00 PM at the Bible House of God in the Russelldale Community. This program will help students who need assistance completing school assignments.
- Maximum Consulting has invited the South Carolina Forestry Commission, the Clemson University Youth Learning Institute, and the Department of Natural Resources. Invited agencies are expected to bring new resources, ideas, and opportunities to students in the affected communities. One goal of this program is to expand the scope of education beyond math, science, and reading to also build skills in advocacy and vocations that may provide direction in choosing a career path.
- Tri-County Ministries is able to provide senior food boxes (produce and various staples), distributed monthly, and minor home repairs
 - Maximum is requesting from CAC members a list of senior residents who need minor home repairs and tree-trimming so they can begin locating and scheduling services; Please provide a list of names, addresses, and specific needs of senior residents who need assistance.
 - The ministry provides weekly produce
- Healing Hands Ministry provides assistance with prescriptions on Wednesdays, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM.
 - Provide assistance with mortgage, rent, and utility payments.
 - Provide personal products for seniors; Eligibility requirements: (1) Must have an income of less than \$1,307 for an individual or (2) Must have an income of less than \$1,832 for two people.
 - House people who are temporarily displaced (homeless) in former fire station.
- Maximum currently has a list of volunteers comprised of people who live outside the affected communities. They are in need of community volunteers who live in the affected communities, including CAC members and other residents, to volunteer for all planned pop-up activities.
- All information regarding coordinated community events and activities will be shared with LaTonya for distribution to CAC members.
- Lowcountry Street Grocery provided food bundles. Has anyone received feedback on the packages received?

CAC Member feedback:

Received feedback from several residents has been positive. Recipients were appreciative (Twiggs, D.)

Received similar feedback from another resident. (Bannister, J.)

Lowcountry Street Grocery will provide weekly food bundles. They are currently seeking more residents who are in need of food deliveries. The produce is donated by local farmers.

Summary and Next Steps

- Poll was conducted to get feedback from meeting participants on preferred meeting date for CAC Meeting #10. July 4th is the first Saturday of the month, our normal meeting day. Alternate dates

proposed were June 27th and July 11th. The project team suggested July 11th. CAC members voted to change the meeting date to July 11th.

- CAC members were asked to let LaTonya know of their availability for a follow-up conversation on June 27th after the meeting with the City of North Charleston on June 16th.
- CAC Meeting #10 agenda will include a possible follow-up training session, further discussion on refined mitigation actions, and follow-up on action items from the June 16th City of North Charleston Listening Session.
- Update on COVID-19/SCDOT Public Engagement Policy
- Lowcountry Rapid Transit virtual public meeting is accessible at lowcountryrapidtransit.com from June 10, 2020 until July 10, 2020. This information will also be sent to CAC members via email. This is an ongoing public involvement process. The project team encourages the CAC to use this as an opportunity to provide your input/concerns through the process regarding improved stations and public transit. (White, R.)
- Final roll call was conducted for meeting participants joining by phone only. (Derrick, L.)
- Thanks to everyone for your time and patience as we continue to work through COVID-19 restrictions. (Long, C.)
- Thanks to everyone for your flexibility as we work through a different environment. Thanks to Stantec and SCDOT for providing seamless meetings. Thank you for your efforts. (Jordan, Y.)

CAC Meeting #10 is scheduled for July 11th 2020, 10:00 - 11:30 AM. Look for updates from LaTonya on the format that will be used for this meeting.

Name: _____



Community Advisory Council
CAC Meeting #10

July 11, 2020

How to Join the Meeting!

This will be the first CAC meeting using the Microsoft Teams platform. Please use the link in the meeting invitation email, or call-in using the information below:

- Call: **(833) 436-6264**
- Enter Access Number: **606 243 692#**

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Administrative Items
- ‘Open Mic’ Session
- Debrief Technical Review Committee Meeting #1
- Replacement Community Facility Concepts
- Review Draft Community Mitigation Plan
- CAC Environmental Justice Advocacy Training Overview
- Livability Plan Scope Development Session
- Conducting Outreach in a Public Health Crisis
- Update on Coordination with Local Organizations
- Outreach Update
- Summary & Next Steps

Administrative Items

- Technology check
- Review virtual meeting etiquette
- Confirm CAC members have all meeting materials
 - Meeting packet
- Approve minutes for CAC Meeting No. 9



*Are there unanswered questions from the last meeting?
Are there other items you would like to
bring up with the CAC or project team?*

*Did you speak to any neighbors or residents who have
comments for the project team?*

Debrief: Technical Review Committee Meeting #1

The I-526 LCC WEST project team met with the City of North Charleston on June 24, 2020 to discuss recreational facility amenities and facilitate future coordination.

Key Takeaways

- The City has requested specific details regarding the desired programs as they evaluate square footage and amenity requirements as well as to determine long-term funding commitments.
- The City has hired residents of the neighborhoods in which the Community Centers are located as staff for those sites. If it is not possible to *require* residency status per the Human Resources Department, an option may be to include it as a *preference* on the job listing.
- Because the City wants to continue hosting after-school programs at as many facilities as possible, keeping an indoor facility in Highland Terrace-Liberty Park and Russelldale would be a benefit.
 - Consider removing the half court at Highland Terrace-Liberty Park to increase the size of the indoor facility.
- To assist with identifying options for a pocket park in Russelldale, the City will coordinate with its Code Enforcement Division to determine if there are any abandoned or condemned properties that could be considered.
- Connectivity and traffic calming will be discussed at Technical Review Committee Meeting #2.

Replacement Community Facility Concepts: Filbin Creek



Replacement Community Facility Concepts: Russelldale



WEST 526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR

RUSSELDALE COMMUNITY POCKET PARK

- 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 2500 SF PLAYGROUND
- 9 PUBLIC ART

THIS PLAN IS CONCEPTUAL IN NATURE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Replacement Community Facility Concepts: Highland Terrace – Liberty Park



Review Draft Community Mitigation Plan

COHESION

Actions that Strengthen Neighborhood Connections

- Organizational Training for the CAC/POC

ENHANCEMENT

Community Center and Recreational Facilities

- Recreational Facility Improvements such as ball courts, covered shelters, directional signage, user friendly pedestrian facilities
- Recreational Programs and Amenities in Coordination with the City of North Charleston
- Connectivity and Bike/Pedestrian Safety

PRESERVATION

Infrastructure Needs

- Weatherization
- Community History Preservation
- Construction Impact Mitigation with a focus on air quality, noise, stormwater, hazardous materials

REVITALIZATION

Replacement Housing & Employment/Economic Opportunities

- Residential Relocation Assistance
- Affordable Housing
- Financial and First-Time Home Buyer Counseling
- Business Relocation Assistance
- Career Development Training and Job Search Resources
- School to Work Scholarship Program

COMMUNITY LIVABILITY PLAN

Revitalizing the Communities

- Public safety
- Community Appearance
- Long-term Community Cohesion

CAC Environmental Justice Advocacy Training Overview



PURPOSE

- Provide additional background on Environmental Justice (EJ) engagement
- Explore supplemental tools to support the CAC and the Project Oversight Committee (POC)



GOALS

- Understand EJ engagement strategies
- Empower the CAC and POC members to advocate for measured results
- Provide a framework to advance community issues and hold elected and appointed officials accountable



OBJECTIVES

- Determine what CAC and POC can control
- Be able to maximize the groups collective efforts
- Conduct a SWOT analysis (to illustrate Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)
- Create individual vision boards

Livability Plan Scope Development Session

“The Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities is an interdisciplinary initiative of the College of Charleston whose mission is to leverage the intellectual resources of the College to support the economic and cultural vibrancy of the City of Charleston and other communities throughout South Carolina, the United States, and around the world.”

– The Riley Center Mission Statement

Dr. Kendra B. Stewart, the Director of the Riley Center for Livable Communities, and Marla Robertson will be hosting a discussion during the CAC meeting to address the following topics:

- ***What is the Riley Center and what do they do?***
- ***What is a livability plan & how does it differ from mitigation?***
- ***Why is a livability plan important?***
- ***How do we develop a tool to track progress & measure success?***
- ***How can a livability plan support CAC and/or POC in providing oversight?***

*Do you have any additional questions for Dr. Stewart?
Feel free to use the space below to take notes or write
out your questions or comments.*

Livability Plan Scope Development Session

Master of Public Administration Community Assistance Program (CAP)

The MPA Community Assistance Program is a clinic staffed by graduate students that provides high-level support to nonprofit and municipal organizations to build capacity and maximize the effectiveness and community impact of the client organizations.

Sample Projects:

- Illumination Project
- Community Plans
 - Eastside neighborhood
 - Ashleyville/Maryville West Ashley
 - West Oak Forest, Eat Oak Forest, Washington Park, Magnolia West Ashley
- Economic Score Cards
- Strategic Plans



Livability Plan Scope Development Session

Livability - Equitable access for all residents to education, jobs, healthcare, food, housing, transportation as well as diverse opportunities in arts, culture, and recreation.

What is a Livability Plan?

- Collaborative process
- Building on previous efforts
- History of community
- Capture vision of future of community
- Identify solutions to move community forward
- Ensure neighborhoods have tools to sustain vision and plan
- Living document
- Based on mitigation plan pillars: Cohesion, Enhancement, Preservation and Revitalization

Importance of a Livability Plan

- Empowers community
- Provides tool for tracking progress
- Articulates success
- Provides transparency & accountability
- Provides support to CAC and POC

Conducting Outreach in a Public Health Crisis

As the I-526 LCC WEST project progresses forward during this unprecedented time, the project team must create and implement safe, meaningful, and inclusive public outreach methods to effectively engage with residents likely to be impacted by the project. Please consider the following ideas and provide feedback during the CAC #10 meeting.

- Virtual meetings to include at least 3 videos explaining the project and anticipated impacts
- Pop-up meetings in each neighborhood with proper social distancing and limited contact
- Drive through meetings to hand each participant a packet of information
 - Perhaps include an audio portion on a radio frequency?
 - Partner with a local organization hosting food drives?
- Packets of project information mailed to residents

Please provide any ideas or recommendations on how the project team can provide meaningful, safe, and effective engagement in your neighborhood

Update on Coordination with Local Organizations

SCDOT and the project team continue to evaluate the appropriate timing and safety precautions needed to pursue meaningful outreach and engagement activities. The Community Mitigation concepts will be a key component of the next phase of information sharing.

Over the past month, Maximum Consulting has either conducted or scheduled conference calls with an extensive and diverse group of non-profit organizations, educational resource providers, and outreach agencies to support both the current needs of the impacted communities’ residents as well as the mitigation needs of the 526 LCC WEST project. A log of those interactions is being maintained and can be provided upon request.

The local organizations that have been contacted can be categorized under the following topics:

- Food Insecurities**
- Health & Wellness**
- Home Repairs**
- Financial Assistance**
- Minority-Owned Businesses**
- Arts**
- Education**
- Local Government**

Are there any other topics of concern that our team should consider including in our outreach efforts?

Outreach Update

- Community Office Data: May 20 – June 24, 2020
 - Call-ins: 5
 - Outreach Calls: 3
 - Voicemails: 6
- COVID:
 - The Community Office has been closed since March 17, 2020 but accepting visitors by appointment only. Office Manager Horrace Tobin is onsite daily to address concerns and requests received by email, postal mail, and phone.
 - Right-of-Way Liaisons are not currently scheduling face-to-face appointments but are continuing to communicate by phone with the property owners identified in your Meeting #7 packet.

***How can we best reach your neighbors to gather
feedback on potential mitigation ideas?***

Summary and Next Steps

- Next CAC Meeting: August 1, 2020
- **Outreach Opportunities**

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 10

Date: July 11, 2020

Time: 10:00 am – 11:55 pm

Location: Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees

Larenda Baxley, Ferndale
Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale
Gilbert Reeves, Ferndale
Earl Muhammad, Ferndale/Muhammad Mosque
Ruth Mae Whitney, Highland Terrace
Jeanaris Bannister, Liberty Park
Carolyn Varner, Liberty Park
Cynthia Anderson, Liberty Park
Doris Twiggs, Liberty Park
Angela Anderson, Russelldale
Prayonda Cooper, Joppa Way
Rick Day, Stantec
Amy Sackaroff, Stantec
LaTonya Derrick, Stantec
Ryan White, Stantec

Horrace Tobin, Stantec (Community Office)
Joy Riley, SCDOT (Project Manager)
Chad Long, SCDOT
David Kelly, SCDOT
Pamela Foster, FHWA
Yolonda Jordan, FHWA
Shane Belcher, FHWA
Kendra Stewart, The Riley Center
Marla Robertson, The Riley Center
Maxine Smith, Maximum Consulting
Mattese Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Carolyn Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Clay Middleton, Maximum Consulting
Jamelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies

Participant Summary:

Total participants: 29

Ferndale: 3

Highland Terrace: 1

Liberty Park: 4

Russelldale: 1

Adjacent/affected communities/agencies: 2

SCDOT: 3

FHWA: 3

Community Liaisons: 4

Community Office: 1

Stantec: 4

Facilitator: 1

Guests: 2

Meeting Summary:

Welcome and Introductions

- LaTonya conducted roll call, verifying participants connecting by phone only. She also served as host and technical contact to address any issues with Microsoft Teams or phone connections during the meeting.
- Jamelle welcomed meeting participants and reminded everyone the meeting would be recorded for accuracy of meeting minutes.
- An overview of the agenda was provided:
 - Review of Administrative Items

- Open Mic session
- Debrief Technical Review Committee Meeting #1
- Replacement Community Facility Concepts
- Review Draft Community Mitigation Plan
- CAC Environmental Justice Advocacy Training Overview
- Livability Plan Scope Development Session
- Conducting Outreach in a Public Health Crisis
- Update on Coordination with Local Organizations
- Outreach Update
- Summary & Next Steps

Administrative Items

- Jamelle provided a brief review of Microsoft Teams logistics and features (general and private chat, raise hand icon)
 - Chat dialogue will be saved
 - All participants had access to Microsoft Teams, paper copy of CAC Meeting #10 packet, and phone connection
- Review of virtual meeting etiquette
- CAC Meeting #9 minutes were approved

Open Mic

Prior to addressing formal agenda topics, CAC Members and other participants were asked for insights or takeaways from CAC Meeting #9 (June 6, 2020) and the CAC Listening Session with the City of North Charleston (June 16, 2020).

CAC Members provided no comments or questions regarding previous meetings.

CAC Members were asked if there were any comments or ideas shared by neighbors or residents they would like to discuss with the CAC or the project team.

CAC Member feedback:

It would be helpful to have a timeline of all project activities. (Anderson, C.)

Does the CAC prefer high-level or near-term milestones? The project team can provide as much detail as needed in developing a timeline. (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

A timeline with all details is preferable, because people in the community don't have the full picture of what is going and what will happen in the future. (Anderson, C.)

I will defer to SCDOT regarding the long-term project construction. What I am hearing, what we will include for the proposed timeline, and what we will present for public involvement is inclusion of the mitigation plan schedule, the environmental document schedule, the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the final EIS, and transition from a Community Advisory Council to a project oversight committee and right-of-way acquisition. What you will see as we move through this process are higher level schedule items. This is the process of refining that timeline, with each meeting, with newer and clearer milestones as a way to keep the CAC engaged. (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

The CAC would appreciate that because a lot of people in the community are receiving information, and providing the CAC with a timeline would assist the CAC in answering the questions they are presented. (Anderson, C.)

CAC Member feedback:

I have a technical question. Are you guys preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or an Environmental Assessment (EA)? (Anderson, C.)

The project team is preparing an EIS. (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

That generally takes years. Have you started? (Anderson, C.)

Yes, we are deep into the process. (White, R.)

[LaTonya and C. Anderson will talk offline to discuss project team EIS progress and status.]

That is a great suggestion for a timeline. Allow the project team to draft a timeline to present at our next CAC meeting. If it doesn't have enough detail or include information you need, the project team will make sure it gets incorporated. (Long, C.)

CAC Members were asked to provide additional open mic questions or comments.

CAC Members provided no comments or questions.

Debrief Technical Review Committee Meeting #1

The CAC held their first listening session with the City of North Charleston on June 16, 2020. The session was the opportunity for the CAC to share ideas, concepts, and mitigation plans that have been discussed with the project team. As a part of this process, we held the first Technical Review Committee (TRC) meeting on June 24, 2020. These will be a series of ongoing meetings with the purpose of evaluating the requests and recommendations made by the CAC from a technical and policy standpoint, and providing guidance and direction on how we implement programs and projects. These meetings will parallel the advisory council meeting process. The second meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 13th. This is an opportunity for the technical and design staff to meet with the City of North Charleston staff to begin taking a more detailed look at all of the requests that are made by the CAC. The project team is taking a targeted approach. Because of that, the first meeting focused strictly on the community centers, so feedback from the initial meeting is related solely to design, review, construction, and programming related to community centers. As the TRC continues to meet on different aspects of the project, we will report back to the CAC on expanded topics related to the project such as community improvements and mitigation plans. The first take away is they need specific details regarding any desired programs, what needs to be incorporated in the community center (such as locker rooms or other amenities) that will support specific programs that the CAC wants to see in the community centers. There are also funding and potential staffing requirements that may need to be considered as we review specific programs requested by the CAC. What programs does the CAC want to see at community centers? If there are specific

programming ideas that we can take to the next TRC, that would definitely be a lot more helpful in guiding how the facilities are laid out and designed. (White, R.)

Some of the things the CAC discussed in previous meetings, for instance, were cultural programming or programs geared towards senior-level activities. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member feedback:

One of the things the CAC has discussed is community block parties. (Cooper, P.)

I recommend the CAC look at what the other two senior centers are offering as far as programs. SCDOT is not as familiar with the programs that other existing centers offer. The City of North Charleston wants to have more information to be prepared for the expectations the CAC will have of them. I suggest CAC Members think about their programming preferences and bring ideas to the next meeting to discuss. Look at what the senior center is offering and pull out what you feel is important for this community center, and perhaps look at what some of the other local youth centers are offering to bring back some more specific ideas, so they (the City) can understand the commitment for staff and program costs. (Riley, J.)

It may be beneficial for the project team to develop a survey for the CAC, so we can assist them by listing different programming options. This may allow them to identify various program options while also allowing them to select the programs that they are interested in that are not captured as part of the survey. (Long, C.)

We can do that. The project team developed an inventory of existing City of North Charleston programs. We can attach that to the survey as well. I will add that to my list. (White, R.)

The next key takeaway is related to the CAC's request that the new community centers provide employment opportunities for community residents. The City of North Charleston cannot make hiring community/neighborhood residents for staffing community centers a requirement, but they can make it a preference in job postings. The project team views this as a positive outcome because the City of North Charleston has committed to community-based staffing considerations and preferences at the community centers. (White, R.)

Another key item that came out at the conversations regarding inclusion of enclosed space at the Highland Terrace – Liberty Park Community Center was the City noted that they want to continue to host afterschool programs at as many community centers as possible. So, the City was in favor of constructing an indoor facility at Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Community Center and, if secured, at the Russelldale site as well. The project team would like to give the CAC an opportunity to provide their feedback on this topic. The City of North Charleston recommended removing the half-basketball court (from the proposed design) at the Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Community Center as a way to increase the size of an indoor facility. The project team needs feedback from the CAC on the issue of having a larger facility at the Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Community Center. (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

I think you need to also look at summer programs for young people, including partnership with Danny Jones for swimming lessons. African American children experience some of the highest rates of drowning because they don't get swimming lessons. Community centers should also provide access to voting. You have a lot of elderly people who use the community center at Liberty Park to vote. (Anderson, C.)

So, to summarize, you would like to see swimming lessons offered at the Filbin Creek Community Center. But, regarding voting and enclosed space at Highland Terrace-Liberty Park, it is important to maintain that space because it is currently a voting precinct and the desire is to continue to allow for making voting as accessible as possible, and making sure that space is large enough to accommodate voters. (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

It may be possible to work with the board of registration office to register young people to vote at that location as well. (Anderson, A.)

Building on your idea for swimming lessons, bike safety could potentially be another youth program, with bike safety sessions, teaching the kids how to ride safely, as well as teaching them to take care of their bikes, and how to fit helmets properly. (Sackaroff, A.)

CAC Member feedback:

Another program idea is installing child safety seats. (Anderson, C.)

I want to offer synergy between the programs that you want at these facilities and employing the people who live in the community. If there are individuals that you know already have a trade or a passion about a specific program, that might be a great way to funnel neighborhood labor into the community centers. (Robertson, M.)

CAC Member feedback:

In reference to hiring practices for the community centers, will residents of the community have input into who is going to be hired to staff the community centers or will hiring decisions be solely the responsibility of the City? I know the human resources department has requirements that a candidate must meet for hiring, but how involved will this advisory council be in the hiring process to ensure fairness in the selection process? (Muhammad, E.)

That is a question we will have to follow up on with the City because community center staff will be official City of North Charleston employees. The project team will inquire about current hiring practices and whether community members can be engaged in the hiring process. We will add that to our list of questions to revisit with the City when we meet with them on Monday. (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

This should be a strong recommendation because the City/government tends to block out community or citizens and make the determinations (exclusive of the residents), even though they say that they are for the residents. Also, as far as programs, our communities have some young ladies who are single parents, who might need some (classes on) parenting skills or some help as far as raising two children, nutritional guidelines, and how to help with homework, and just doing things that are too overwhelming for a parent or parents. We can bring in people to provide sessions on parenting skills, budgeting skills, and all that it takes to actually have a viable family. (Muhammad, E.)

CAC Member feedback:

I also suggest implementing a summer youth hiring program. Providing jobs to youth is one of the primary ways to keep youth out of trouble. (Anderson, C.)

Project team member noted that it appeared everyone was in agreement with the enclosed indoor space at Highland Terrace – Liberty Park location, and that the primary goal for that location is identifying programs. One of the key takeaways for Highland Terrace was using it as a voting precinct. The CAC would like to continue to enable residents to be able to vote from that location. Considering a higher level of identifying programs to be incorporated into all of the community centers, bike and car safety, parenting, nutrition, tutoring programs, as well as family skills, as well as investigating and recommending summer youth hiring programs were noted as potential community center programs. Those are all things we will take to the city during the TRC meeting on July 13th, but we will also create a survey so we can continue to develop this list for potential programs. (White, R.)

Another key takeaway from the June 24th TRC meeting was specific to the Russelldale location. The parcel that was initially being considered for the Russelldale pocket park was purchased by another entity, so the City noted that they would work with the project team to try to identify any abandoned or condemned properties within the Russelldale community that could potentially be used as a location for the pocket park. (White, R.)

The final topics to be discussed with the City during the July 13th TRC meeting are connectivity and traffic calming measures. We will be looking at identifying locations for recommended sidewalks and crosswalks, as well as measures to reduce speeding within the community and improved bike, pedestrian, and transit connections. Are there any items related to connectivity, traffic-calming, or and speeding that the CAC would like the project team to address in this meeting? (White, R.)

CAC Members provided no additional comments or questions.

Replacement Community Facility Concepts

Filbin Creek Community Center

This was a review of the most current revisions to the community center conceptual drawings.

There were environmental concerns at the parcel that we were initially looking at for the Filbin Creek location at Elder Avenue. The project team is looking at an additional location in the vicinity of Deacon Street and Elder Avenue as another potential location for the replacement community center. The updated concept for what we've been calling the Filbin Creek Community Center indicates new access via Deacon Street, as well as from Elder Street. With this drawing, there are two entry points to improve efficient access and circulation. In previous meetings, a common concern expressed by CAC Members was the potential difficulty in easily accessing the community center when several programs are held simultaneously. This will provide dual access for cars. (White, R.)

Regarding gym space, there is more than 7,900 square feet of gym space, 4,500 square feet of office space, and 3,600 square feet of classroom space. The project team will continue to evaluate how we can make some of the office and classroom space more flexible with features such as dividers so community members can have multiple uses for these spaces. Regarding feature number 16 on the conceptual drawing (*Connection and Existing Paths* on the Filbin Creek packet slide, page 5), we are looking to improve connections to existing pathways as well as to existing and proposed sidewalks. The project team is also seeking to coordinate with the City of North Charleston as part of this plan and with their resiliency grant to continue to progress the proposed Filbin Creek Greenway. Connectivity has continued to be a key theme for the project team. We are still looking at feature number 10 (Turf Amphitheater on the Filbin

Creek packet slide, page 5) and the parcel at the corner of April Avenue and Eleanor Drive. We are also considering utilizing the SCDOT right-of-way space under 526, as well as the proposed lanes and additional space in the vicinity of Margaret Drive and Bryant Street. We are trying to improve connections to Russelldale and provide parcel space under the interstate as a way to extend our parks further south into the Russelldale community. A playground as well as parking has been placed in the vicinity of the proposed ramps for I-526. This rendering is a result of some of the challenges in acquiring the parcel in Russelldale. We are looking to extend the Filbin Creek Community Center further south under the highway as a way to improve access to recreational facilities for the residents in Russelldale. The project team is continuing to develop this concept. (White, R.)

Russelldale Community Pocket Park

The proposed Russelldale parcel was acquired by another entity (buyer), but SCDOT is continuing to investigate the possibility of acquiring this parcel from its new owner. It is important to note again that because of some of the challenges, we are looking at potentially extending the Filbin Creek Community Center farther south as a way to provide access to the community centers. The City is still working with the project team to identify potential parcels for pocket parks. This is an ongoing effort on our part to try to provide either improved access to the Filbin Creek Community Center for the residents of Russelldale as well as still trying to identify a location for a pocket park within the Russelldale community. (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

So, currently Russelldale will not have a pocket park, if SCDOT cannot acquire the property? (Anderson, A.)

As of right now, we are continuing to look for a plan B to seek a parcel that will allow us to provide a much larger facility at Filbin Creek Community Center, especially utilizing some of the additional properties or right-of-way that SCDOT is going to acquire to put some resources as close to the existing Russelldale Community Center. We are able to utilize the right-of-way under the bridges to get us fairly close to the existing Russelldale Community, but as of right now the parcel we were looking at has been acquired by a developer. Again, we are trying to work with the City to identify additional locations. We are hopeful but want to be realistic in the event those opportunities do not pan out as we are hoping. We want to also consider other opportunities that will still provide improved access and connectivity. (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

I just don't want the Russelldale community not to receive any amenities or improvements. (Anderson, A.)

The location for the Russelldale concept in the meeting packet (pg. 6), is our first choice. However, we can't condemn for this purpose. We have to find a willing seller. We are in contact with the developer who purchased this property and he said he is planning to build affordable housing or multi-family housing on the parcel. If we cannot get a deal to buy it, we have to have a back-up plan. What you were shown on the previous slide (Filbin Creek Community Center, pg. 5), where we have put the same amenities on the southside of Filbin Creek behind the church, it's in an area where there are a couple of homes, but those homes are being displaced by the project regardless of where we put the park. This is the #2 option or the backup plan. We do need to replace the facilities. It is not looking positive that we will be able to get this property on Rebecca Street. That is why SCDOT had the project team develop a plan B. Some of the new design is under the bridge. Some of it is behind the church where they will have a little surplus right-

of-way, where we displaced the homes at the end of Margaret and Bryant Streets. The plan B location has the same amenities that would have been at the Rebecca Street location. (Riley, J.)

On the Filbin Creek Community Center slide, there is parking, a playground, and a full basketball court. The basketball court is identified by feature number 3 (*Outdoor Basketball Court* on the Filbin Creek packet slide, page 5) and the playground is feature number 17 (3,000 sf playground). Those are all connected to the Filbin Creek Community Center by the bridge over Filbin Creek. The TRC meeting scheduled for July 13th is to discuss improving connectivity with sidewalks. Plan B is close to where the Russelldale Community Center is but, but because we may not be able to locate the pocket park in the Russelldale community we're looking at how we can make sure it is safe for residents to travel between this location and their neighborhoods. So we are proposing a series of sidewalks, crosswalks, and traffic calming measures along roadways to ensure safety if there is going to be additional travel required to get to those sites. (White, R.)

I appreciate the comment regarding the need for Russelldale to have some type of recreational amenity. That carries a lot of weight with us. Ryan mentioned a plan B. We will exhaust all options to make sure the Russelldale community has some type of pocket park or some type of recreational amenity, moving forward. (Long, C.)

Highland Terrace Pocket Park (HTPP)

This revision is based on the City of North Charleston's recommendation and desire to continue to maintain programs at this facility. The City recommended eliminating the half-basketball court as a way to provide a larger building. We are investigating the size and orientation of the building in order to maximize the amount of space we can have on this site, being mindful of the widening of the highway as well as ensuring some of the other amenities that were requested. The size presented in this concept is going to be revised because the project team is trying to maximize space. We have to be mindful of the orientation and some of the widening of the highway as well as parking in other amenities as well. We are going to continue to develop concepts and provide them to the CAC as we continue to strive for an acceptable concept regarding Filbin Creek Community Center, but I do want to get final input regarding the idea of sacrificing the half court in order to gain a larger building. Is that something the CAC is open to? (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

I think we are. (Anderson, C.)

Review Draft Community Mitigation Framework

The mitigation plan is a major milestone that will be incorporated into the timeline that you requested. Part of the DEIS (Draft Environmental Impact Statement) process is submitting a community mitigation plan. We will submit the community mitigation plan as a part of the DEIS. I will provide a review of the items that will be included in the mitigation plan. Although the community mitigation plan is a work-in-progress, based on input from the CAC and the social needs assessment, the slide presented is a snapshot of mitigation plan development to-date. Under the "Cohesion" header, organizational training for the CAC/Project Oversight Committee will be provided to address content and how it fits into the larger scheme of the CAC, as well as how the group moves forward. The next header is "Enhancement" with a

focus on community center and recreational facilities programs. Key to this work is ensuring that there is improved connectivity between the community centers and the communities they serve, as well as bus stops along Rivers Avenue and trying to ensure safe travel for pedestrians and cyclists between committees. Regarding “Preservation,” the CAC discussed historic community preservation in previous meetings. Maximum Consulting has identified a number of photographers as well as historians that can assist with the process. We are currently developing the scope, but as of right now the items that we are being considered for inclusion (based on input received from the CAC) are the oral history of the communities, developing a visual archive, collecting historical photographs of the communities prior to the construction of I-26 and I-526. A goal is for communities to be able to tell a story of what the communities looked like and how they continue to grow and develop, as well as documenting the changes that have occurred. The project will also include recent images, the development of a report, and identification of community-related visuals that can be incorporated into the community centers, whether in the form of murals from artists or other concepts that can be incorporated into the playgrounds. Are there any other items that we need to be mindful of because one of our key steps is developing the scope and trying to initiate this piece of the mitigation sooner than later? Any thoughts in regards to community history preservation? (White, R.)

CAC Member feedback:

Am I missing something? I see weatherization under *Preservation* in the physical packet that I received, but I don’t see it on your slide. (Twiggs, D.)

Weatherization is continuing to be investigated. I will defer to SCDOT. There are some continuing discussions on how or if that can be incorporated into this process. (White, R.)

The weatherization program is something that we are exploring. I think we need to meet with the Department of Energy to discuss their local program for weatherization to figure out how it could be funded. There are potentially some limitations on funding for that program from a federal standpoint, but we’re interested in continuing to explore the program and figuring out if it is something that could be implemented as part of this project. (Long, C.)

CAC Member feedback:

I had a conversation with one of the residents who lives on James Bell, not only on weatherization, but also regarding the openness of the sounds that will be coming from the lane that will be constructed. It will be much closer to the residents that will remain on James Bell, and I’m just concerned that if we drop this issue, what else will be dropped? How can we look at it from a preservation standpoint? We have to remember those persons who will still be living there and their quality of life. Many of them are elderly, but they do come out and enjoy the outdoors. A key point, when I was standing there outside the gate talking to this particular resident, the noise level was tremendous. That’s going to be another issue. I don’t think the CAC brought that up when we were talking about this earlier (in previous meetings), regarding the noise level. I was just wondering why weatherization was dropped from the list? (Twiggs, D.)

Those are excellent points. I would not say that weatherization has been dropped. I think we need to continue to explore it. As far as the noise impact perspective, there are federal regulations and specific

requirements on how noise could be abated. But I like those types of comments, especially, from local residents about how weatherization could be beneficial. One component of this that was addressed as part of another project in Colorado was related to the impacts from the construction itself and what happens during construction, especially when homes do not have air conditioning. They have to have their windows open, so that in Colorado they were able to provide some air conditioning window units. I think it is still a program that we need to explore and I would appreciate any comments that the CAC or community has regarding the need and benefits of the program and how that relates specifically to community preservation and community cohesion. (Long, C.)

CAC Member feedback:

I used to run the program with the Department of Energy. And if you need some help, let me know. I provided some information to LaTonya on Dominion Energy because they had a small weatherization program in which they weatherized homes in Charleston and we can probably expand it. Another program we can look at also is solar panels for the community center. They do have solar panels that have battery backup. If some people need to go to the community center in the event of a hurricane, you would have a community center with solar panels and battery backup. You have a lot of solar companies now in Charleston. There are a lot of bus stops that have solar panels so, at nighttime when people have to take the bus, they have lights. If you need help making appropriate contacts, just let me know. (Anderson, C.)

I think those are great suggestions. We have reached out to the Department of Energy, we just haven't had a chance to set anything up. But I think this is something worth exploring and maybe including it as a possible agenda item in the future unless we learn more about the program. One of the things I think that we've been encouraged to do is to seek partnerships with these organizations regarding potential weatherization programs. So we will continue to explore how these programs work and how it could be related and tied back into community mitigation. (Long, C.)

CAC Member feedback:

Some of you have heard this from me before during the initial drafting of I-26 in our neighborhood. When it came through, there were some unhappy people (residents) who experienced impacts from the project they felt were never resolved. Even with my engagement, those issues haven't been resolved. But I would not like for those persons who will remain near the new ramp to feel as if they're not counted and they are not heard. That's my reason for bringing it up and I will continue to monitor to make sure those persons who are remaining in the neighborhood will be well taken care of. And that, to me, is more important in terms of keeping the history, keeping the community preservation, and keeping it healthy. I would like to feel as if everyone in the neighborhood would welcome this [mitigation/EJ process as] opposed to what we had in the past with the construction of I-26 coming through our communities. (Twiggs, D.)

Thank you very much for that comment. Those types of comments are helpful and beneficial to this process. Keep making them. It is very important that you do keep making them. So I appreciate it. (Long, C.)

I want to add to what Chad said. The next 12 months are going to be critical to this community mitigation plan. What we are working on now is coming up with that draft plan that will be go out and be shown to the community this fall for public comment. One of the things that Chad and I are having to do is taking all these things that you guys have suggested and figuring out which are eligible for federal funding. We have to determine whether state funding has to be made available to implement certain requests. Receiving state funding is very difficult right now because of everything that is going on. Gas tax revenues are not where they usually are. Public input is so critical. Whatever goes into the draft plan is not the final. That's for public comment. If there are things in the mitigation plan that we are not able to get funded and in there then, I would suggest that as CAC Members you compel your community members to come out and make comments regarding things that they feel should be in there or why they feel they should be in there. Public input makes a huge difference because our leadership (state legislators, your local government leaders) will be looking at this. If the voice of the community is there, it will help us make this community mitigation plan as strong as it needs to be. Those voices are usually what helps local government officials release funds for constituent initiatives. Whatever we include in the draft plan, I've got to get commitments from our leadership to put those things in there. We've got to know that we can pay for them. That holds true for SCDOT and the City of North Charleston. We're not going to put something out there that we don't know how were going to pay for it. If there are things that we haven't worked out the funding for, that don't fully get in there, then the community voice will be extremely important through this process this fall. (Riley, J.)

To build on that, as we continue to look at some of the items that are going to be incorporated into the mitigation plan, we're also looking at replacement housing and economic opportunities for residents as well. Dr. Stewart from the Riley Center at the College of Charleston will talk about the Community Livability Plan in a bit more detail today, but I want to first note some of the challenges with social distancing. We are looking at ways to make sure we can push this mitigation plan out this fall. So we are going to have to be really creative in how we do that. As Joy mentioned, it is extremely important that you and your neighbors' requests are incorporated into that plan. We will keep you posted in regards to how we are going to push it. But this fall is ultimately when the neighborhood will get there first crack at actually seeing the detailed mitigation planning with all the components. (White, R.)

Livability Plan Scope Development Session

Dr. Kendra Stewart, the Director of the Riley Center for Livable Communities and a professor at the College of Charleston of political science and public administration, and Ms. Marla Robertson provided a session on the Livability Plan Scope Development.

The Riley Center is working with communities and helping them build their capacities to make communities more livable. We will talk about what a livability plan is and about the overall concept to see if this is something the CAC may be interested in, moving forward. The Riley Center mission is presented on the slide [to leverage the intellectual resources of the College to support the economic and cultural vibrancy of the City of Charleston and other communities throughout South Carolina, the United States, and around the world]. The Riley Center is the outreach arm of the College of Charleston. We use faculty, staff, and students to work with nonprofits, local governments, neighborhoods, and other groups within the community on various projects or research that they bring to us. The Riley Center is community-driven.

They don't develop ideas or projects and bring them to communities. Communities bring issues to the Riley Center and the Center then provides support that might not exist in other ways to help communities or organizations find solutions or establish connections with entities that can help communities address needs. (Stewart, K.)

Marla Robertson is an MPA (Master of Public Administration) graduate of the College of Charleston. She is a Program Coordinator for the MPA office and is also the Director of the Master of Public Administration Community Assistance Program.

The purpose of the program is to allow graduate students from diverse backgrounds with skills and experiences in working with nonprofit or government agencies to be coupled with projects with the community organizers and nonprofit organizations, very similar to the goals of the Riley Center, on a smaller scale. We worked in-depth last year with the CNA on the racial bias audit for the police department. We worked with them to revitalize their strategic plan, as with the Riley Center concerning the Illumination Project. The work entailed community, focus group, and accountability-focused initiatives. They matched what citizens said they wanted with charging those needs to different city departments who are empowered to actualize that change. (Robertson, M.)

Dr. Stewart provided a few examples of relevant projects the Riley Center has worked on in the Charleston area, particularly regarding neighborhood empowerment and helping neighborhoods identify both assets and challenges in their neighborhoods, and the community resources necessary to address those issues. A livability plan serves as a guide for a community and helping to establish the vision for that community and the resources necessary to meet that vision. Developing a livability plan is community-driven and requires a collaborative process. The goal of The Riley Center is to facilitate and capture community conversations. We would build on the work the CAC has already done. This wouldn't be starting over. It would be based on the four pillars developed by the CAC and project team, as well as the mitigation plan. The goal would be to take the community beyond the I-526 plan, looking at it from a broader scope and helping to determine the solutions or the strategies necessary to meet the community's vision. The plan also involves empowering the neighborhood and members of the community to have the tools to hold others accountable for meeting the goals and strategies that have been established. Our goal is to empower the people who live in the neighborhoods and to provide some type of tool or guide to track progress and to ensure that everybody knows who is accountable for the different elements of the plan that have been agreed upon and who is supposed to carry them out. It would also help community members define what it is that they want to see and what success would look like. Are there any questions? (Stewart, K.)

CAC Member feedback:

How do you fit into the overall process? Are your services pro bono (without charge) or are you being paid by the project? (Anderson, C.)

The current proposal is that we would be paid by the project, but there would not be any cost to the community. (Stewart, K.)

CAC Member feedback:

So, in essence, you work for the community? (Anderson, C.)

Our responsibility and accountability is to the needs of what is expressed by community groups. We are not held accountable by individual entities that make up some of the structures of this group, but our investment is not only in quantifying what the change looks like in providing resources, but also pushing back through to have it actualized. We walk communities through actualizing all pieces of the livability plan. If you think about all of the different pieces of a puzzle, the livability plan is the picture on the front of the box. It incorporates all of the different pieces of the mitigation plan (e.g., environmental justice, housing, etc.), but making it a little more holistic. (Robertson, M.)

CAC Member feedback:

Would the Riley Center serve as technical support to the CAC and the community? (Anderson, C.)

Correct. An example of a past projects is one we did with the Eastside neighborhood. We held member focus groups and meetings and helped them articulate particular things in their community that they needed addressed, then we created a schedule, as well as a timeline and an accountability chart. We helped the community understand who was going to be in charge of each part and when it would come to fruition, and if it didn't what measures could be taken to ensure they were addressed. That would be similar to our role with the CAC, helping you all articulate what it is that you need, identifying who is responsible beyond mitigation, looking at other things, and helping the community. So, our support would be to the communities answer your question. (Robertson, M.)

Any other questions for the Riley Center staff in regards to the livability plan development process? (White, R.)

To the extent that the City or County will have some participation in this plan, how will their inability or unwillingness to support requests of community members be addressed? How will this plan be developed with those entities in mind to ensure that this plan is viable? How would this work with the elected officials cooperating with the communities to address issues? (Lecque, C.)

Part of that is embedded into the process in the sense that as the community is deciding what its goals and needs are, engaging the local governments in that process (during livability plan development) was really important in previous projects. Bringing local elected officials into the process early helped us pressure some of the city officials to come to these meetings to hear community members and get the agreement there. It would be a very grassroots-based effort and we would work collaboratively. The Riley Center works often with local governments, so trying to get them to join in and agree to the process is a part of the livability plan. Success is driven by persuasion of the neighborhood and the assistance of the Riley Center providing data or other information necessary to convince the local government as to why this needs to happen. (Stewart, K.)

I have a question about the tools that you use for tracking progress. What are a couple of examples of how you track progress? (Ellis, J.)

It depends on what the neighborhood or the community is looking for. We have not used any particular software. Generally, we have created dashboards or graphic visuals that we regularly update that are really easily available and accessible to members of the community. We tailor things to each community that we are working with or each organization depending on what it is they are looking for. So, it's not necessarily any particular software although we have worked with them, but it's generally what the neighborhood or the community or the organization feels most comfortable with. (Stewart, K.)

CAC Member feedback:

How does the Riley Center fit into the I-526 program/process in relation to SCDOT and Stantec? (Anderson, C.)

The goal of creating a livability plan would be to compile all the mitigation factors together into a central hub, so that issues can be addressed for the current I-526 plan, but also to address issues beyond the mitigation plan. The livability plan would have a broader scope to include those issues and work in tandem with those so there's not an overlap, but that it all is seamlessly working together for this broader vision that you all have from your community. (Stewart, K.)

CAC Member feedback:

Those are issues that are addressed as a part of the environmental justice plan, so who is overseeing the environmental justice plan and who is responsible for the livability plan? (Anderson, C.)

Regarding the environmental justice mitigation plan, that that is something that SCDOT and FHWA would finalize with the record of decision at the conclusion of the NEPA process, which would take place around November 2021. As part of the environmental justice mitigation plan, one of the components would be a commitment by SCDOT to develop the livability plan for the community. With that commitment, the livability plan could potentially begin as early as this fall but it could also likely extend beyond the end of the NEPA process because we want the public involvement and the stakeholder process, that is typically included in a livability plan, to be as robust as possible. We wouldn't want to limit our ability to allow that process to unfold based on the timing of our project. So I think this is something related to maybe a few previous question about developing a schedule and how all these things tie in together. Maybe that's something the project team can do after today's meeting. If everyone feels that a livability plan is something that would be beneficial to the community. We can tie that back into our schedule that we are developing and you can see how it fits in with the mitigation plan being developed for the entire project and the conclusion of the NEPA process. (Long, C.)

CAC Member feedback:

In my experience, the livability plan is a part of the environmental justice implementation, especially when you are conducting an EIS. So, I just want to make sure all of these plans are connected and that we have a timeline and a framework for the path forward. (Anderson, C.)

Absolutely. We have been looking at a city in Texas to see how they have implemented the livability plan. They made a commitment in their environmental document to complete the livability plan within a year

after the conclusion of the NEPA process. We will provide a specific timeline regarding development of the livability plan. (Long, C.)

While there are a lot of things we are going to do to enhance the community project, there were numerous topics that the CAC presented or brought to the project team from the community that go beyond the scope of what we can do as a part of the mitigation plan. This livability plan is a great communication tool for the community to really become organized through this process and to create a vision for their community. This can not only help you inform or communicate the issues identified as a part of the CAC process, but as the City of North Charleston does zoning or development plans or other projects that extend beyond the mitigation plan, this is a great tool to express the community's vision. This is something that can carry forward and help the community as they become organized and give them a voice on issues beyond the mitigation plan. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member feedback:

To reiterate the previous statement, it is important that there is a plan for the people who still live in Liberty Park and Russelldale and that they are not left out. (Anderson, C.)

Thank you for that comment, Yes, we agree. Thank you. (Stewart, K.)

Are there any additional comments or questions for Dr. Stewart or Ms. Robertson? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Members provided no comments or questions.

Dr. Stewart and Ms. Robertson were thanked for providing an overview of the Riley Center services to the CAC and project team. (Ellis, J.)

Conducting Outreach in a Public Health Crisis

As CAC Members are personally experiencing the need to make adjustments to how you interact in your homes and communities, the project team is having to make adjustments, but we don't want to have missed opportunities to provide meaningful engagement and interaction with the documents that we discussed today - the environmental justice community mitigation or livability plans. The meeting packet includes a few bullet points about how the project team could potentially utilize virtual meetings, pop-ups, drive-thru meetings, and information packets provided to residents. We are modifying those concepts and will be meeting with SCDOT in the near future to discuss the possibility of engaging through weekly Zoom meetings to review each of the pillars of the environmental justice mitigation efforts. We are tracking the status of the pandemic, but making efforts to ensure we are not missing opportunities to meet face-to-face, while not creating greater risks. With this in mind, pop-ups might be more of a challenge, but if there is some organization that is hosting an event where we might be able to tag along or partner, the project team would love for you to share those opportunities with us so that we can share project information as a part of the resources distributed at various events and activities. If a church is doing a food giveaway, there may be literature we can share with them to include with their offerings. That would be a great opportunity to keep the project fresh on the minds of community members. If there are specific opportunities to engage the larger community, that you think would be safe but also be meaningful over

the next two to three months as we approach the public hearing later this year, I'd love to get your feedback on that. If you think of ideas after our meeting today, you know how to reach me or you can always call the community office and leave a message. If you have ideas outside of office hours or don't wish to speak to someone directly, you can call the office and leave a message and we will respond to you in a timely manner. The community liaisons, through Maximum Consulting, have been doing a phenomenal job of identifying opportunities. We have to be mindful of being protective not only of the community, but of the staff as well. Are there any thoughts? (Derrick, L.)

The outline presented is very good and if we receive information on additional meetings, we will let you know. (Anderson, C.)

CAC Members provided no additional comments or questions.

Update on Coordination with Local Organizations

Maximum Consulting is continuing to coordinate with local organizations by phone and we are adding to the database. (Smith, M.)

Lowcountry Street Grocery is delivering food bundles to some residents in the impacted neighborhoods. They would like to expand the opportunity for residents to get food using the Healthy Bucks program in which people who receive food stamps are able to use \$5 in food stamps to purchase \$20 worth of food. They provided a survey for us to consider giving to people who receive food stamps in the impacted neighborhoods so they can become engaged in the Healthy Bucks program and receive food bundles using EBT cards. This information will be forwarded to LaTonya to share with CAC Members. (Lecque, C.)

Outreach Update

Provided by Horrace Tobin

Community Office update for May 28-June 24, 2020

- Received 5 incoming calls
- Placed 3 outgoing calls
- Responded to 6 voice messages

COVID

- The community office has been closed since March 17, 2020 due to the pandemic, but the Office Manager is on-site daily to address concerns and request received by email, postal mail and phone.
- Right-of-way Liaisons are not currently scheduling face-to-face appointments but are continuing to communicate by phone with the property owners identified in the Meeting #7 packet.
- Request that CAC Members please continue to share with community members that Mr. Tobin is available in the office to take calls, and address project-related requests and concerns appropriately.

CAC Members provided no comments or questions.

CAC Environmental Justice Advocacy Training Overview

Environmental Justice Advocacy training will be needed as the CAC transitions into the project oversight committee. Maximum Consulting will provide training in order to empower CAC Members as well as the Project Oversight Committee (since some would continue to serve in in this role, post-construction). This will provide CAC Members an opportunity to better understand what EJ engagement is, in particular when engaging with the stakeholders and government. EJ Advocacy efforts will align with activities sponsored by the Department of Energy, as well as other federal agencies, as it relates to EJ engagement. The intent of the training is to take a deeper dive with CAC and POC members on how to establish and require accountability from stakeholders in implementing the livability plan. How can we measure what is expected not only now but 12-24 months from now? All of these activities dovetail into the livability plan. If CAC Members feel that such a training is needed and would like to go through this training, I would provide the training. It would be an enlightening conversation as it relates to the work that has already been done, but more importantly it will prepare CAC Members to know what questions to ask and how to navigate conversations that optimize stakeholder accountability. Are there any questions regarding this proposal? (Middleton, C.)

CAC Member feedback:

The proposed training would be really good if you added a component to ensure CAC Members understand environmental justice advocacy within the framework of the EIS process. (Anderson, C.)

I would defer to Ryan and the project team on that because I know there was preliminary work done on this last September at the inception of the CAC process. The proposed training is based on the EPA and DOE collaborative engagement under the Obama Administration. (Middleton, C.)

I agree with you 100%. I think it is a good idea. (Anderson, C.)

Any other questions, comments, or concerns? I appreciate the opportunity to present this and look forward to the decision from the CAC on whether you want to move forward with the proposed training. I hope it is clear how the proposed EJ training complements the livability plan presented by the College of Charleston. (Middleton, C.)

Are there any follow-up questions, comments, or suggestions regarding the proposed EJ Advocacy training? If CAC Members would like to provide feedback after the meeting, please follow-up directly with Latonya to provide any feedback. (Ellis, J.)

Summary and Next Steps

CAC Member feedback (additional information for Update on Coordination with Local Organizations): In the midst of the pandemic, we are trying to stay connected with the community through programs that would have been held face-to-face, but are not possible under the circumstances. We have partnered with Charleston County School District and targeted two schools that serve the communities impacted by the I-526 West project (Russelldale, Ferndale, Liberty Park, and Highland Terrace). We have partnered with two schools, Dunston Elementary and North Charleston Elementary, to make sure that children enrolled in the summer program have access to computers. I have reviewed a wonderful program with John Cobb and Jessica Richards. Retired teachers have volunteered to work with parents and students to make sure they

take advantage of this opportunity. Computers have been given to the students. We are looking at about 22 students at Dunston and approximately 21 students at North Charleston Elementary. The schools can provide more, but we are hoping that we will be able to maintain this program through July. Whether children go back to school in August or not, we need to start thinking out-of-the-box and embracing the fact that learning must take place daily. Learning can take place through a variety of platforms, not just through direct or face-to-face instruction. We need to help parents identify every avenue of learning, not just waiting for it to happen. I call the program Virtual Buddies. We are retired teachers, but we have not retired our brain power or initiatives we have implemented in the past. We are ready to rekindle and work with the children and families in this area. (Twiggs, D.)

I think that is an excellent program, especially at this time. I think the effort that you all have put into initiating and coordinating this with the schools is phenomenal. Thank you for sharing this with the group. Are there any questions for Ms. Twiggs? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Members provided no comments or questions.

Ms. Twiggs, if there is any additional information that we need to communicate through the project team that would support you in your efforts, please let the project team know. (Ellis, J.)

On behalf of CAC Members and the project team, thanks to Dr. Stewart and Ms. Robertson for joining us today and providing us with information on the Riley Center. (Ellis, J.)

Thank you to all CAC Members, project team members, and our guests from the College of Charleston. We appreciate your participation today. We especially appreciate the CAC's commitment to the process. (Long, C.)

Action Items:

- A proposed timeline was requested by the CAC. Included in that timeline will be items achieved to-date, upcoming milestones (to include a timeline for when the project team will present the mitigation plan to the public), and the Draft and final EIS and Record of Decision. The livability planning process and Environmental Justice Advocacy Outreach training will also be included in the timeline. (White, R.)
- A survey will be developed as a means to solicit more input from the CAC regarding community center programs, in addition to program ideas already shared by the CAC. The survey will be accompanied by an inventory of programs that are currently being supported by the City of North Charleston at some of the adjacent community centers to give CAC Members a better understanding of what programs are available, specifically and in proximity to the impacted communities.
- The project team will present questions regarding community involvement in the decision-making process for community center staffing and consideration of residence as a hiring preference in staffing the community center to the Technical Review Committee on July 13th.
- The next CAC meeting will be held on August 1st, 2020.

CAC Member feedback:

Is it possible for the CAC to review the concerns that we diligently labored over, making sure we included every detail when we were given the survey at the beginning the CAC process? I don't want the CAC to start creating new projects without ensuring we have actually captured and are addressing the items many of us labored over in developing a list for the mitigation plan. Did we not put together a composite of all of

those, and were we given a copy? As the project team is developing a timeline, can you ensure these items are not missed? This process is intense to the point where if we are not careful, we'll continue to add new ideas without fully accounting items that have already been identified. I don't want to lose that in developing our timeline. (Twiggs, D.)

All of the information discussed in early meetings was captured through the Social Needs Assessment and community drop-ins, and has been incorporated and summarized directly in the mitigation plan. The CAC will review the timeline before it goes to the public. The foundation of the mitigation plan is the social needs assessment. (White, R.)

We also had a very productive mitigation work session in March 2020. That was an invaluable experience. Not only did the CAC convey concerns about how your community looks and operates, and how you will be impacted; but, your passion during that session was noted just as much as your comments. We definitely would not lose sight of that. (Derrick, L.)

We also have a detailed map all of the notes we took during the March meeting. Anywhere the CAC noted concerns such as traffic-calming, speeding, flooding, and stormwater management, the project team is maintaining a catalog and moving everything forward together. (Sackaroff, A.)

CAC Member feedback:

Thank you. I trust you guys but, I have to say it. (Twiggs, D.)

- This was a very productive meeting and there was a lot of good information sharing today. We appreciate the continued commitment by the CAC Members and all of the departments involved. This was a very good showing of the continued dedication on the part of the CAC Members, and I appreciate that. You have shown that you are committed to the mission of the CAC, and I want to go on record as saying that we appreciate that. (Foster, P.)
- If you all have any comments or concerns or anything you want to add about the livability plan, the outreach efforts, or the advocacy training opportunities, please let the project team know and we'll send some tools to gauge your interest. (Derrick, L.)
- Please keep Reverend Johnson and his family in your thoughts as they are traveling and are personally managing issues related to the pandemic. (Derrick, L.)

CAC Meeting #10 is scheduled for August 1, 2020, 10:00 - 11:30 AM. Unless otherwise notified, we will continue to use the Microsoft Teams online platform for our August meeting.



Community Advisory Council Meeting #11

August 29, 2020

Table of Contents

- Neighborhood Update
- 1-Year CAC Recap
- Community Center & Pocket Park Update
- Recreational Program Survey
- Project Schedule / Milestone Review
- DEIS EJ Project Commitments
- Outreach Update
- Summary & Next Steps

Neighborhood Update

*Are there unanswered questions from the last meeting?
Are there other items you would like to
bring up with the CAC or project team?*



*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.*

1-Year CAC Recap

Why develop a Community Advisory Council?

- Provide a way for you to voice **your opinions, feelings, and ideas**
- **Help shape this project** and create a positive, local impact
- Provide **input on actions to minimize and mitigate** impacts
- Build **relationships**
- Convey **ownership**
- **Meaningful** engagement

Desired Outcomes of the Community Advisory Council

- Provide forum for **open communication** between the project team and the community
- **Early collaboration** to frame expectations and identify solutions
- Help SCDOT understand the community **history, needs, concerns, and priorities**
- Help SCDOT gain a **better understanding of the project impacts** on the community
- Help **shape the community mitigation** package

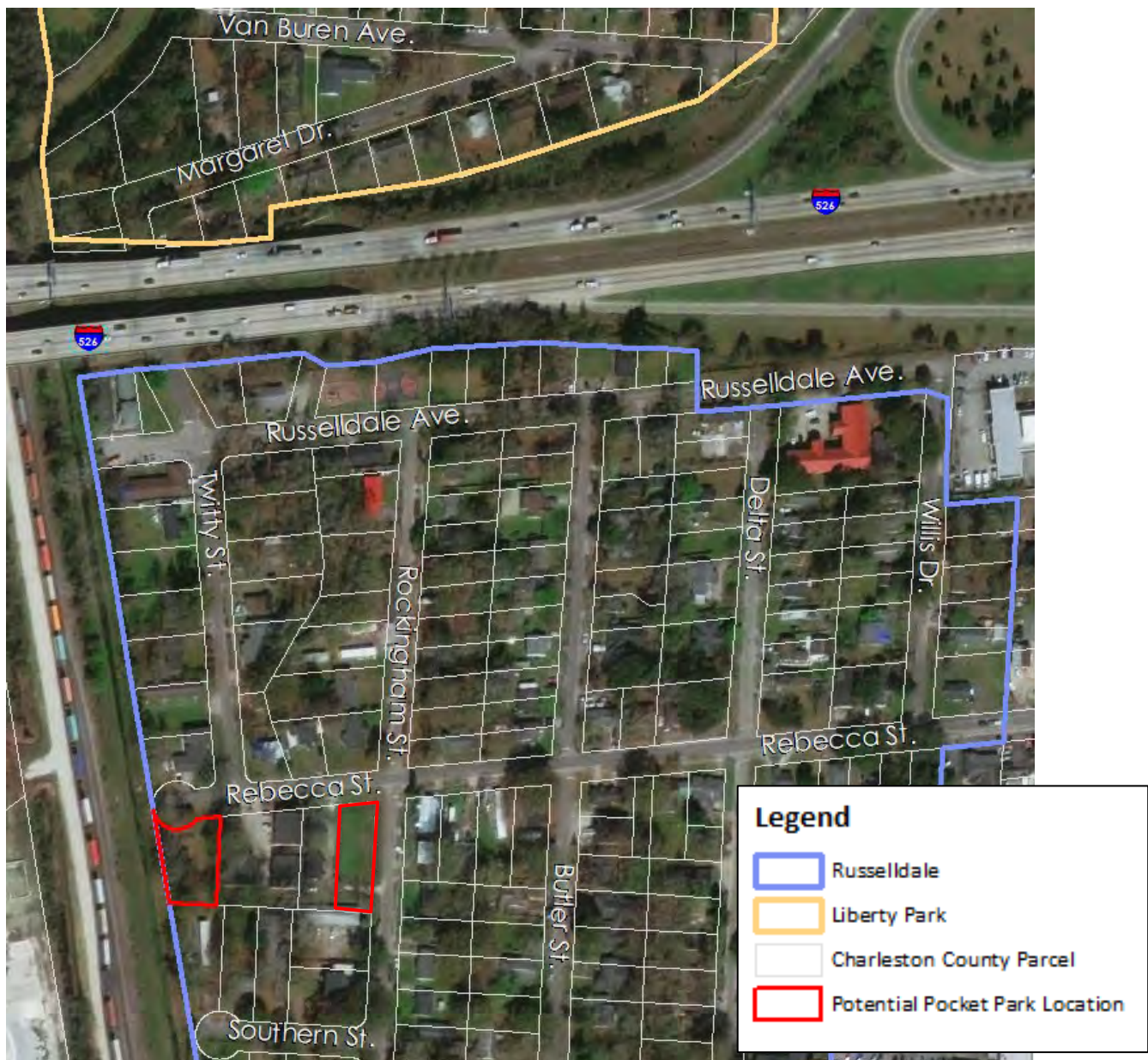
“Cities have the capability of providing something for everyone, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody.”

- Jane Jacobs

Russelldale Pocket Park Update

Update

- SCDOT is currently investigating the acquisition of one of the parcels shown below in **red** at the western end of Rebecca Street, as potential locations for the Russelldale Pocket Park. If one of these parcels can be acquired, the amenities previously shown previously along Margaret Drive as part of the Filbin Creek Community Center concept would be moved to this location.
- Either of these locations would be compatible with current proposed infrastructure improvements on Rebecca Street which may include:
 - Crosswalks with pedestrian crossing signs
 - Curb improvements with ADA compliant sidewalks
 - Increased streetlights
 - Traffic calming measures on Rebecca Street to reduce vehicle speeds



Replacement Community Facility Concept: Russelldale



Replacement Community Facility Concept: Filbin Creek



POTENTIAL FILBIN CREEK COMMUNITY CENTER

BUILDING BREAKDOWN

GYM 130 X 75 - 9750 SF

OFFICE 60 X 75 - 4500 SF

CLASS 40 X 90 - 3600 SF

1 ACCESS DRIVE TBD

2 COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING

3 OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURT

4 RAIN GARDEN

5 5000 SF PLAYGROUND

6 120X210 MULTI USE FIELD

7 EDUCATIONAL WETLAND

8 FITNESS LOOP

9 PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

10 POTENTIAL RUSSELLDALE SITE SWAP

11 DOT ROW PARKING

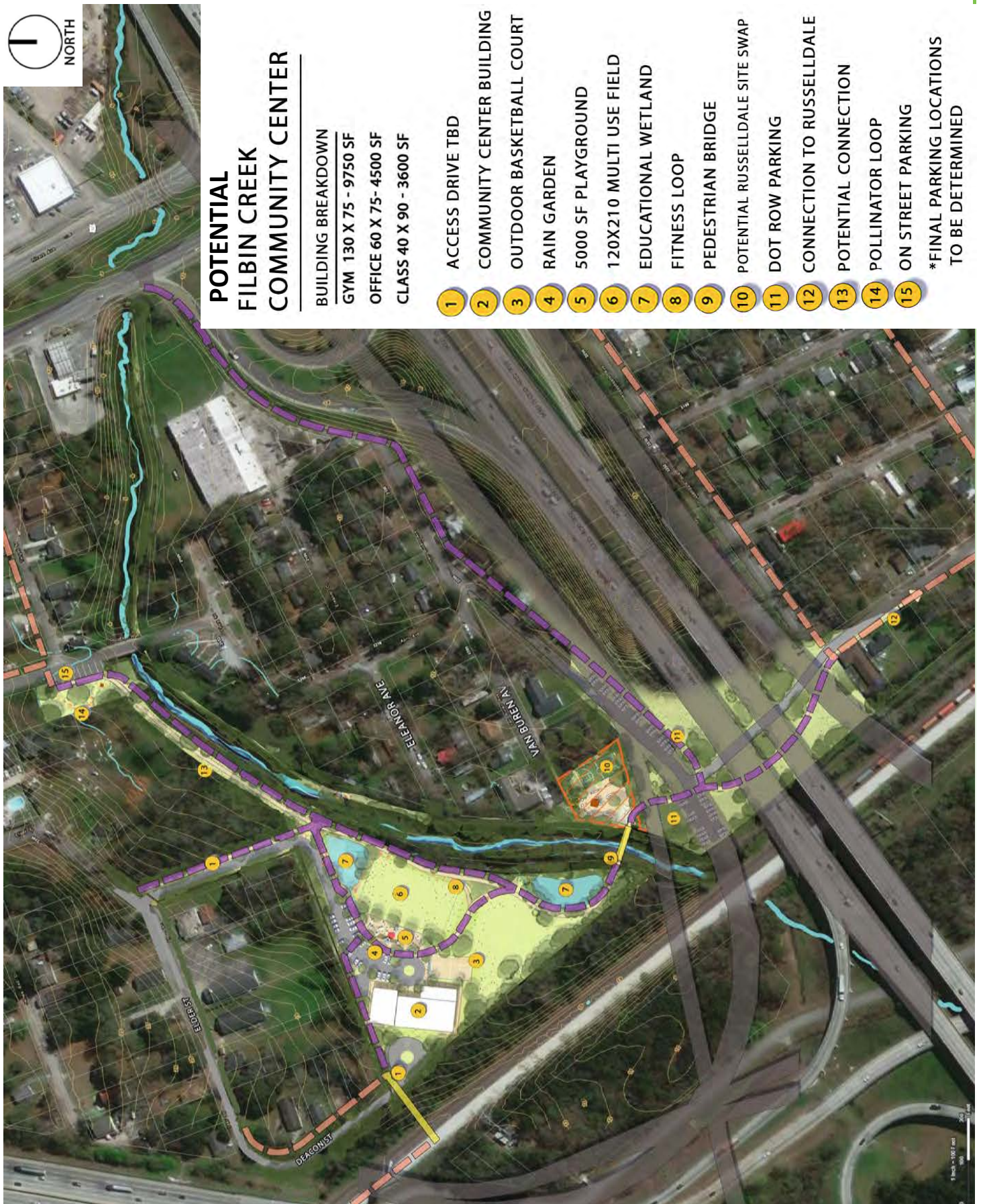
12 CONNECTION TO RUSSELLDALE

13 POTENTIAL CONNECTION

14 POLLINATOR LOOP

15 ON STREET PARKING

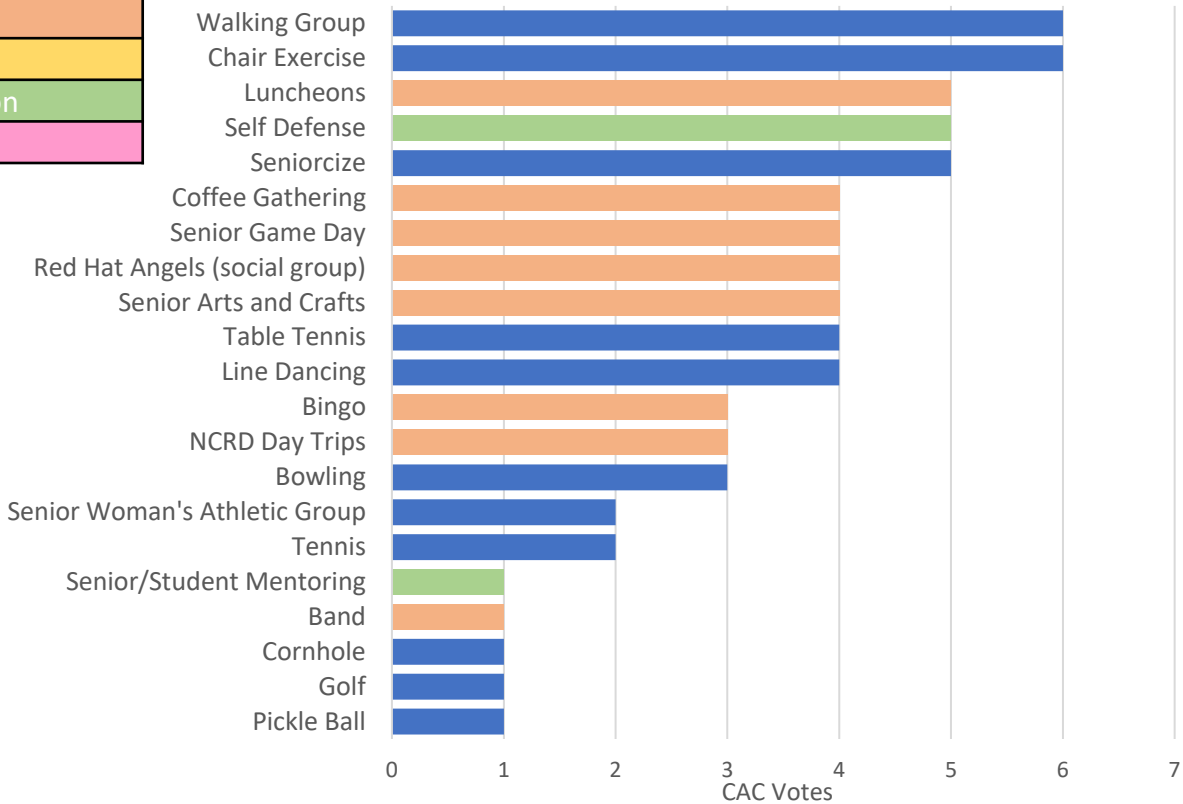
*FINAL PARKING LOCATIONS
TO BE DETERMINED



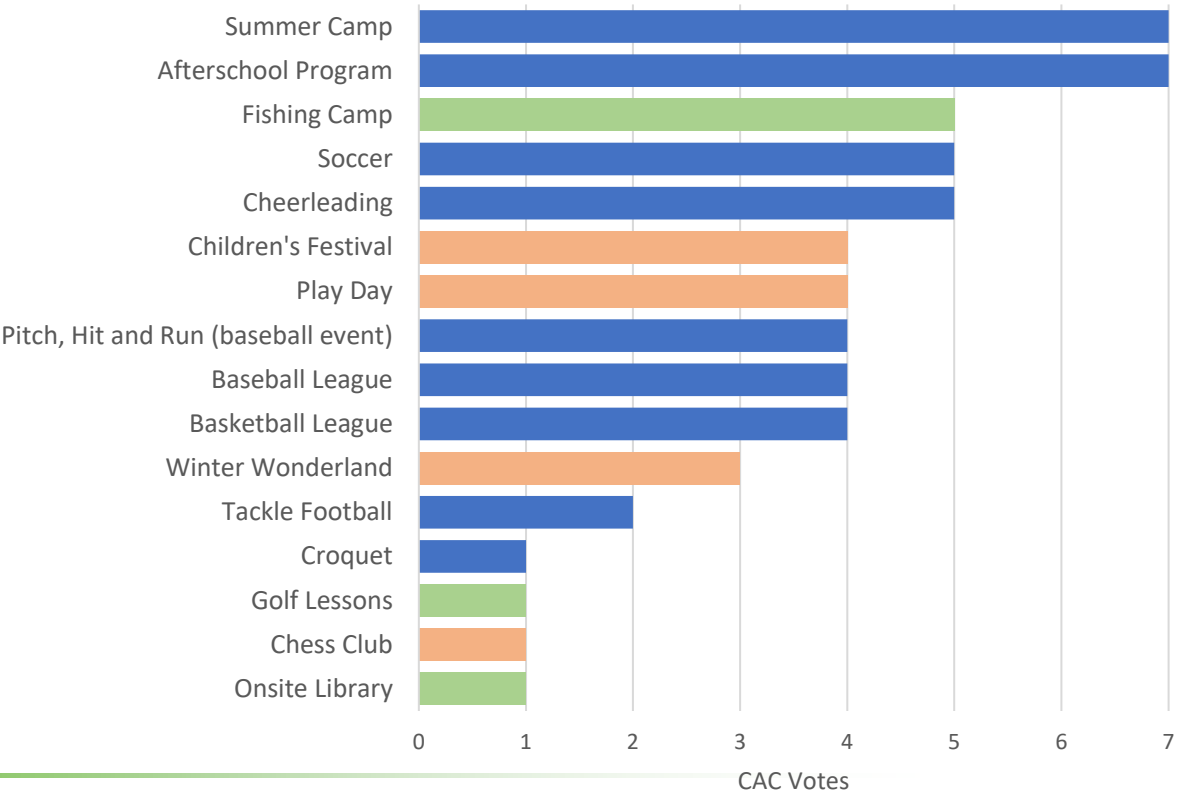
CAC Recreational Program Recommendations (Survey)



Senior Focused Programs

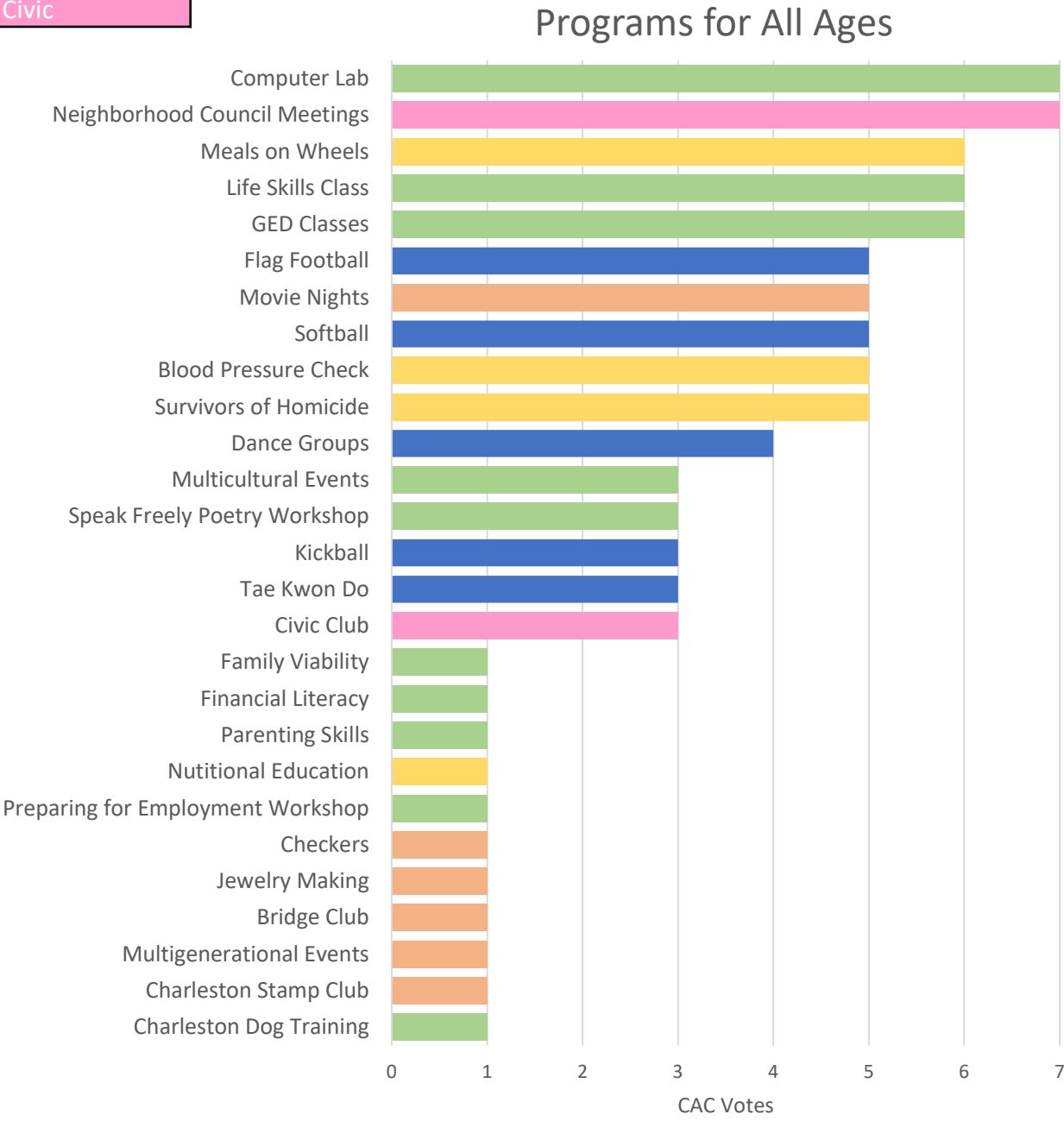


Youth Focused Programs



CAC Recreational Program Recommendations (Survey)

Recreation
Social
Health
Education
Civic



Recreational Program Recommendations (CAC Survey)

Top 9 Recommended Programs (at least 85% of participants voted for these items)

- Computer Lab
- Summer Camp
- Afterschool Program
- Neighborhood Council Meetings
- Meals on Wheels
- Life Skills Classes
- GED Classes
- Walking Group
- Chair Exercise Class



Key Takeaways

- A computer lab within the classroom space of the community center is important
- Specific sports programs will depend on the facilities
- Health initiatives ranked high, but there are not many programs available
- All community center programs should prioritize the local residents
- Additional requests discussed include:
 - Educational courses that address:
 - Parenting for new parents and single-parent households
 - Nutritional guidelines
 - Financial literacy and budgeting
 - Bike and pedestrian safety
 - Child safety seat requirements and installation
 - Arts/crafts for children, youth and seniors
 - Chess Club for children and youth
 - Mentoring programs, particularly those that create a synergy between existing resources and skills of residents and the interested mentee(s)
 - Summer youth employment opportunities at the community center
 - Installation of solar power with battery back up for community center to support families during weather perils

Project Schedule / Milestone Review

- The **Community Advisory Council (CAC)** will continue to meet on a monthly basis until Winter 2021 when the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) are issued by FHWA. During this timeframe, the CAC will focus on further developing the details of the Community Mitigation Plan and related Project Commitments that were included in the Draft EIS.
 - When the FEIS/ROD is issued, the CAC will transition into the **Project Oversight Committee (POC)** and be responsible for overseeing implementation of the Community Mitigation Plan.
 - It is recommended that, at a minimum, the POC meet quarterly beyond 2022 to track the implementation of the commitments during the Final Design, Right-of-Way Acquisition, and Construction phases.
- **Draft Community Mitigation Plan**
 - An overview of the Draft Community Mitigation Plan will be made available for public review and during Fall 2020.
 - The detailed version of the Draft Community Mitigation Plan will be available for public review when the DEIS is published in November 2020.
- **History Preservation Study**
 - Community residents will be able to provide input into the History Preservation Study from its Kick-off in Fall 2020 through the Right-of-Way Acquisition phase of the 526 LCC WEST project.





Community Advisory Council (CAC)

SCDOT will continue to support the Community Advisory Council (CAC) which was established in September 2019. The CAC consists of residents and property-owners from the impacted Environmental Justice (EJ) communities, who serve the following roles during the project development phase:

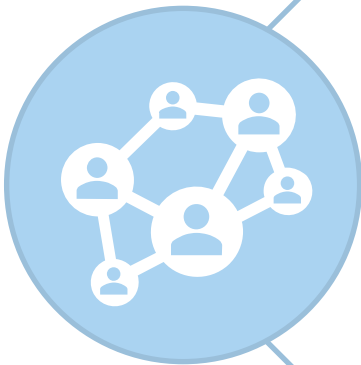
- (a) share individual knowledge and perspectives with the project team;
- (b) provide input on project-related impacts and proposed mitigation;
- (c) serve as a voice for the EJ neighborhood residents; and,
- (d) share project-related information.

SCDOT will continue to support the CAC, through the approval of the FEIS/ROD, by facilitating their regularly scheduled monthly meetings, providing technical assistance, and providing administrative support as needed.



Organizational Training

SCDOT will provide support for training to transition the Community Advisory Council to a Project Oversight Committee (POC). This training will also be made available to residents of the impacted EJ communities who are interested in joining the POC or other groups looking to initiate community advocacy.



Community Office

SCDOT will maintain a Community Office throughout the project development, final design, and right-of-way phases of the project. The Community Office will continue to be staffed with a full-time Office Manager, Community Liaisons/Outreach Specialists, and part-time Right-of-Way Specialists, who will be available to provide community residents with real-time project and right-of-way information. The Community Office will also be available to serve as meeting space for the CAC and the POC. The Community Office will remain in operation until the completion of the Right-of-Way Acquisition Phase.

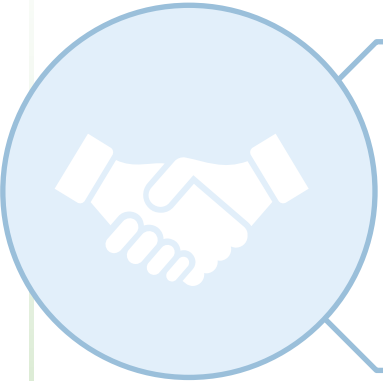
Discussion:



Affordable Housing

SCDOT will develop a plan with the South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority to construct replacement affordable housing units in the vicinity of the impacted EJ communities. The location and final number of affordable housing units will be determined prior to the approval of the FEIS/ROD.

SCDOT is conducting early acquisition of vacant lots within the EJ communities in order to ensure families displaced by the I-526 LCC West project have affordable replacement housing options within their communities. SCDOT is investigating provisions and partnerships that will enable the replacement housing to remain affordable in the future. Displaced residents would have to meet the qualifications for the affordable housing programs.



Financial Literacy and First-time Home Buyer Counseling

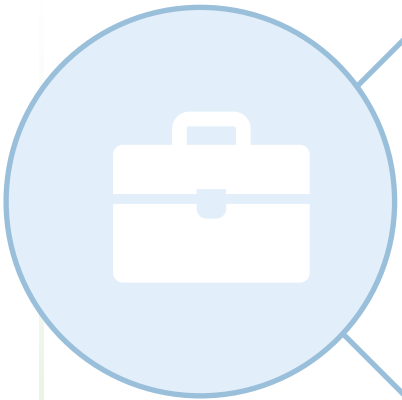
SCDOT will develop partnerships with the local organizations to provide financial literacy and first-time home buyer counseling to displaced residents, which could assist them in securing residential loans and transitioning from renters to homeowners. The counseling will be initiated during first quarter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

Discussion:



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 and engineering. Each year ten (10) high school or college students from the impacted neighborhoods can participate in the program through the completion of the project. Each year the program will be evaluated to determine its effectiveness and subsequent funding.



Pre-employment Training

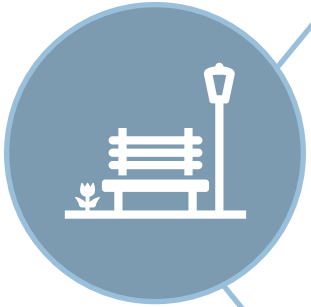
This program will be established prior to construction to provide training and job readiness skills to individuals from the affected communities. SCDOT will determine the number of participants required completing the program and the program will be the responsibility of the contractor. The contractor’s program plan and curriculum will be reviewed and approved by SCDOT. Graduates of this program will be considered for participation in On-The-Job Training (OJT) Program.



College Aid Initiative

Prior to construction, SCDOT will develop a partnership with local educational institutions and provide up to \$50,000 to fund a scholarship program. The scholarship program will be for high school and college students from the impacted EJ communities that intend to or currently attend the selected educational institutions.

Discussion:



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 park will be included in the FEIS/ROD. 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.

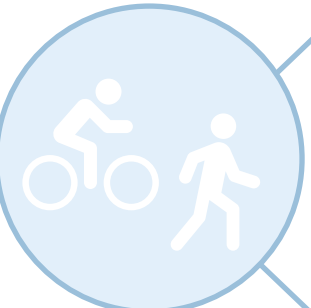


Programs and Activities

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 that live in the impacted environmental justice neighborhoods. The City of North Charleston will post job openings 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.



Connectivity and Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety

SCDOT will develop a plan to improve bike and pedestrian connectivity, safety, and mobility between the replacement community centers and recreation facilities, the surrounding EJ communities, and transit stops along Rivers Avenue. These improvements may include new and upgraded sidewalks, improved lighting, crosswalks/pedestrian signage, traffic calming, and CARTA transit stop improvements.

Discussion:



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 project-related stormwater improvements, and traffic calming measures that would be implemented as part of the project.

Discussion:



Community History Preservation Study

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 community center. The Community History Preservation Study will be complete within two years of the FEIS/ROD.

Discussion:

Project Schedule / Milestone Review

**WHAT IS PROPOSED TO
BENEFIT MY COMMUNITY? And When?**



PROPOSED SCHEDULE

PUBLIC HEARING

**FINAL DESIGN
2021-2023**

**RIGHT-OF-WAY
ACQUISITION 2023-2027**

**CONSTRUCTION
2027-2032**

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



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, replacement 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, project-related stormwater improvements, 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.



Connectivity; Bike & Pedestrian Safety

Enhanced bike and pedestrian facilities within the community to provide safe access to new community centers, parks and transit stops.



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

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

Will partner with educational institutions to develop internship opportunities within the fields of construction and engineering.



College Scholarships

Up to \$50,000 in scholarships will be awarded to students from the impacted communities (up to 10 scholarships of \$5,000 each.)



Pre-Employment Training

Job readiness training will be provided to prepare program participants for On-the-Job Training during the project's construction.

**Schedule is tentative and subject to change*

Outreach Update

Getting the draft Community Mitigation Plan to your neighbors and collecting feedback:

➤ Traditional Mail

- Infographic highlighting the concepts
- Include options to receive more information
 - Obtain a copy of the draft plan from the Community Office
 - Download a copy from the project website
 - Request a mailed copy of the draft plan
 - Call the Community Office to discuss with a Liaison or the EJ Team
 - Request an appointment to discuss at the Community Office

➤ Online Engagement Options

- Video Series on the project website and social media sites
- MetroQuest – online public involvement tool/survey
- EJ Website
 - Project educational resource material
 - EJ Community Mitigation Commitments
 - Introduce the CAC
 - ✓ Purpose
 - ✓ Membership
 - ✓ Meeting notes

➤ Tele-Reach (*telephone-based options to reach residents and obtain feedback*)

- Project Hotline

➤ Invite Team526 to Your Meeting

➤ Hispanic/Latino Community Outreach

- Radio and Online engagement

***How can we best reach your neighbors to
gather feedback on potential mitigation ideas?***

Outreach Update

Magnet Outreach Effort

The I-526 LCC WEST team plans to send a neighborhood resource list as a magnet to the residents in the EJ neighborhoods. This magnet will be sent along with a letter from SCDOT Project Manager, Joy Riley, to encourage calls or appointments at the community office to discuss questions or concerns about the project with the community liaisons or Right-of-Way agents.

DRAFT
Neighborhood Resource List
Just for you!
(Ferndale, Highland Terrace, Liberty Park & Russelldale)

Emergency

EMS.....	911
Fire Station #3 Dispatcher.....	843-743-7200
Police Department.....	843-740-2800
Poison Control.....	800-222-1222
Animal Control.....	843-740-2815 (Office); 843-822-1094 (Cell)

Resources

Lowcountry Food Bank.....	843-747-8146
Trident Area Agency on Aging.....	843-554-2275
Emergency Preparedness.....	843-740-2884
North Charleston Code Enforcement.....	843-740-2672
Trident United Way.....	211
Clerk of Court.....	843-740-2601
Veterans Community Resources & Referral Center.....	843-789-6804

Medical

Roper St. Francis Emergency Room.....	843-824-8733
Nason Urgent Care Northwoods.....	843-773-9903
Trident Medical Center.....	843-797-7000
Bon Secours St Francis Hospital.....	843-402-1000
SC Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC).....	843-953-2450

City Government / North Charleston

Mayor's Office.....	843-740-2504
Councilman Sam Hart, Dist. 7.....	843-554-1249
Councilwoman Dorothy Williams, Dist. 6.....	843-735-1539
Councilman Bob King, Dist. 8.....	843-744-1041
Ombudsman Teddie Pryor.....	843-740-5819

DRAFT
Distributed by the SCDOT I-526 Lowcountry Corridor West Project

526

Visit our website: 526LowcountryCorridor.com
Call our hotline: 866-632-5262
Visit Facebook@526Corridor
To request special accommodations, contact 866-632-5262.

Outreach Update

Project Signs for Your Yard

The I-526 LCC WEST team needs your help to advertise the community office in order to best provide educational outreach opportunities for your neighbors. Please review the two sign options below. Which option would you prefer to see in your front yard?

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? CALL US!



www.526lowcountrycorridor.com
843.258.1135

LET'S TALK!



www.526lowcountrycorridor.com
843.258.1135

Outreach Update



Want Fresh Fruits & Vegetables?

The ***Lowcountry Street Grocery (LSG)*** works with farmers in South Carolina to bring fresh food to communities and neighborhoods in the Lowcountry.

Their goal is to help make nutritious food affordable and available. If you need fresh food, please call the ***I-526 LCC WEST*** Community Office at **866.632.5262** and leave a message. The community liaisons will return your call and connect you with the folks at ***LSG***.

FYI, persons with ***EBT*** cards can spend \$5 and get \$15 in free produce, which equals the cost of one bundle of fresh food from ***LSG***.

LSG exists to help provide you with fresh fruits and vegetables!

Moving Forward

Next Steps: CAC Meeting #12 - September 19th

Notes

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 11

Date: August 29, 2020

Time: 10:00 am – 12:39 pm

Location: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor Community Office, 5627 Rivers Avenue, N. Charleston, SC,
Microsoft Teams (Virtual)

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees

Larenda Baxley, Ferndale
Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale
Gilbert Reeves, Ferndale
Earl Muhammad, Ferndale/Muhammad Mosque
Tony Grasso, Russelldale
Jeanaris Bannister, Liberty Park
Carolyn Varner, Liberty Park
Doris Twiggs, Liberty Park
Prayonda Cooper, Joppa Way
Joy Riley, SCDOT (Project Manager)
Chad Long, SCDOT
David Kelly, SCDOT
Pamela Foster, FHWA

Yolonda Jordan, FHWA
Maxine Smith, Maximum Consulting
Mattese Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Carolyn Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Clay Middleton, Maximum Consulting
Jamelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies
Rick Day, Stantec
Amy Sackaroff, Stantec
LaTonya Derrick, Stantec
Ryan White, Stantec
Hannah Clements, Stantec
Horrace Tobin, Stantec (Community Office)

Participant Summary:

Total participants: 25

Ferndale: 4	Adjacent/affected communities/agencies: 1	Community Office: 1
Highland Terrace: 0	SCDOT: 3	Stantec: 5
Liberty Park: 3	FHWA: 2	Facilitator: 1
Russelldale: 1	Community Liaisons: 4	

Meeting Summary:

Welcome and Introductions

- Roll call (in-person, online, and phone participants)

Administrative Items:

- Participants were thanked for joining and participating in CAC Meeting 11.
- CAC Meeting 11 was hosted using a hybrid approach with participants joining via the Microsoft Teams platform, by phone, and in person.
 - The meeting was recorded solely for accuracy of meeting minutes.
 - LaTonya will serve as the technical host for participants joining remotely.
 - Participants may raise their hands, virtually and in person, to ask questions.

- CAC Meeting 11 packets were distributed to meeting participants prior to the meeting date, including minutes for CAC Meeting 10.
- CAC Meeting 10 minutes were approved with no recommended changes.

Review of Agenda:

- Neighborhood Update
- 1-Year CAC Recap
- Community Center & Pocket Park Update
- Review Recreational Program Survey results
- Project Schedule/Milestone Review
- DEIS EJ Project Commitments
- Outreach Update
- Summary & Next Steps

Neighborhood Update:

Facilitator: CAC Members representing each of the impacted communities were asked to share concerns expressed by the residents of impacted communities regarding the I-526 project since CAC Meeting 10.

CAC Member(s) Feedback (Liberty Park):

- COVID has made it difficult to go into communities and connect with residents, but he would like to begin distributing flyers again and using visual tools, such as yard signs. This may motivate the community to get involved by calling the office and to have ample opportunity to plan for and participate in CAC meetings.
- Community members have asked if there will be additional interstate expansion 10-20 years from now.
- Requested distribution of flyers containing accurate I-526 project information in order to help prevent inaccurate information within the community.

CAC Member Feedback (Joppa Way):

- Looking forward to the I-526 project yard signs to help inform communities about the CAC

Facilitator:

- I-526 project yard signs will be discussed in further detail during the Outreach Update portion of the meeting agenda.
- The project team encourages questions from the CAC and community members from the impacted communities.

Project Team Member:

- A large part of the CAC Meeting 11 agenda will cover the EJ Mitigation Plan. We will ensure that the mitigation plan includes making information available to the public, including sending out a flyer and getting feedback. The target date for the start of the Public Comment period is October 1, 2020, which will be discussed in more detail later in the meeting.

One-Year CAC Recap:

- Why develop a Community Advisory Council? A review was provided as a reminder of the reason the CAC was formed and the main responsibilities of CAC members.
 - Provide a way for you to voice your opinions, feelings, and ideas
 - Help shape the project and create a positive, local impact
 - Provide input on actions to minimize and mitigate impacts
 - Build relationships that will facilitate and sustain long-term solutions for impacted communities
 - Convey ownership
 - Meaningful engagement
- Desired outcomes of the Community Advisory Council
 - Provide a forum for open communication between the project team and the community
 - Emphasis placed on the importance of cross-generational (all age groups) and cross-cultural (all represented races and ethnicities) engagement during the pre-construction and post-construction phases of the I-526 project to facilitate long-term programs and solutions
 - Early collaboration to frame expectations and identify solutions
 - Social Needs Assessment (CAC Meeting 2, conducted October 28, 2019)
 - Mitigation Work Session (CAC Meeting 6, March 7, 2020)
 - Help SCDOT understand the community history, needs, concerns, and priorities
 - Including the Community History Preservation Study led by Maximum Consulting
 - Help SCDOT gain a better understanding of the project impacts on the community
 - Help shape the community mitigation package

Facilitator:

- CAC Members must make a distinction (know the difference) between their role as the Community Advisory Council and the role that members who choose to serve as the Project Oversight Committee will play. Currently, the CAC is in place to ensure that all initial (recreational facility design) concepts and general community concerns are captured and included in the initial mitigation plan because once the Final Environmental Impact Statement and the Record of Decision have been finalized and approved, those documents serve as the final contract. No changes may be made to the mitigation plan once these documents are finalized.
- CAC and community input are critical in the development of the mitigation package. It is the responsibility of the CAC and community members to submit comments and questions, or to voice their concerns during the public comment period.
- CAC members are encouraged to submit comment cards or contact the project team with any questions you may not feel comfortable speaking about in front of the group or if you have additional input after the conclusion of the meeting.
- The public hearing and comment period will take place in October 2020.

Project Manager:

- The draft mitigation plan will be released and available for public comment October 2020 through December 2020.
- She reiterated that this is the time for the CAC and community members to have their voices heard. The project team will give their best effort to make sure information is distributed in the community, and to ensure community members know how to get involved and how to submit their comments and opinions on I-526 project (impacts and design) during the public comment period.

- Some community members may think SCDOT already has plans in place. That is not the case. Community input is valued and considered during the planning process.
- This is the big opportunity for the CAC and community members to look at the different options SCDOT is presenting and to submit feedback for the project team to take into consideration. Public (community) input will be taken into consideration until next year, but the window for public input will eventually close.
- This is the time for people to voice their opinions and to be a part of the process.
- The Community Mitigation Plan addresses issues and concerns, such as traffic expertise, affordable housing, and community amenities that are not managed by SCDOT. Issues that are outside of SCDOT authority and the I-526 West LCC project scope of work, must be addressed and solutions must be driven by community members.

Community Center & Pocket Park Update:

Project Team Member:

- Two locations in Russelldale are being considered for the pocket park. Both will be compatible with recommended infrastructure improvements (such as crosswalks, pedestrian signs, curb improvements, and traffic calming measures) and will provide safety considerations and features. Two locations under consideration:
 - Parcel at the corner of Rebecca and Rockingham (original location)
 - Parcel in the cul-de-sac at the corner of Rebecca and Twitty Street

Project Manager:

- Requested feedback from CAC members.
- She is actively pursuing parcel located at Rebecca and Rockingham. SCDOT cannot condemn the property for this use. The current property owners will not sell this parcel unless we can trade it for another property that can be used for duplex construction. She is checking into potentially trading some of the property purchased in Ferndale for this parcel. However, they may not agree to trading those properties. Because she is on a timeline, she would like feedback on the next best option(s).
- The property at Rebecca and Rockingham Streets is in the open and feels safe.
- The property at the end of Rebecca Street next to the railroad seems isolated, and perhaps less safe, but she asked for feedback from the community.
- If none of the options presented are acceptable, the project team could consider some of the original pocket park concepts that were situated near the overpass on Margaret Drive. This location would be a last choice for the project team because it would be difficult to construct and remain open prior to the interstate widening. We would not be able to construct the pocket park until the interstate widening project is complete because we don't want a playground in the middle of an interstate construction project.
- For CAC members, if we are unable to secure the parcel at the corner of Rebecca and Rockingham, what are the second and third options preferred for purchase?

CAC Member: Requested an explanation of the purpose of and amenities associated with the pocket park.

Project Manager:

- The amenities associated with the pocket park include a basketball court, a playground, and an open-air pavilion. It will not contain a community center.

- Based on feedback from the City of North Charleston, having three separate community centers is not feasible due to operational and maintenance costs associated with enclosed facilities. The City has expressed their preference for the single, larger facility at Filbin Creek. This would include no additional enclosed facilities at pocket parks.

CAC Member:

- What can be done to reduce or eliminate drug activity in the vacant areas, particularly in the Russelldale/Ferndale areas?

Project Manager:

- Law enforcement issues are outside of SCDOT control. These concerns may be expressed to the City of North Charleston.
- Reiterated her concerns with the Rebecca and Twitty Street parcel. The Margaret Drive locations are more open, but construction logistics will cause challenges to community use of the pocket park.

CAC Member:

- Community member reported witnessing crime on Rockingham and Delta Streets and recommended posting hours of operation and signage at pocket parks to help prevent illegal activities.
- Concerns that a pocket park on Rockingham will encourage drug activity.

Project Manager:

It may be possible to install cameras or other means to discourage illegal behavior and keep the area safe.

Asked the CAC to prioritize the following pocket park locations.

- Rebecca and Rockingham Street parcel
- Rebecca and Twitty Street parcel
- Filbin Creek Community Center (Margaret Drive) parcel

CAC Member:

Expressed concern about planning based on a property that has not yet been purchased

Project Manager:

- We are in negotiations with the owners of both parcels on Rebecca Street, but we must have a back up plan if we are unable to secure those properties.
- Traffic calming audits and lighting audits will need to be conducted and included in the final plans. The City of North Charleston is ultimately responsible for lighting because they pay the associated power bills. SCDOT does not have a funding source for non-interstate lighting.

CAC Member:

Regarding safety concerns for residents, particularly children that use the facilities, adequate lighting and the right amenities to minimize the current safety concerns in the Russelldale community.

Summary:

CAC was asked to prioritize the following parcels as potential pocket park locations:

- Rebecca and Rockingham Street parcel
- Rebecca and Twitty Street parcel
- Filbin Creek Community Center (Margaret Drive) parcel

CAC Member:

The Filbin Creek location was prioritized as the preferred location based on access, connectivity, and safety for all communities.

Project Team Member:

Pedestrian safety and lighting components have been included in each community center option.

Project Manager:

Many of these items may not be included in great detail in the draft Mitigation Plan. However, we will have to include the details in the final plan. SCDOT will do lighting and traffic calming audits. Results must be shared with and co-signed by the City of North Charleston. These ideas will continue to be discussed and developed, and included in the final Mitigation Plan. This applies to issues such as sidewalks and trails as well.

CAC Member:

What feedback do we give to community members who will remain in the area and are asking where we are in the process? My biggest concern is how the community will look when we walk away.

Project Manager:

We should be able to answer this question when we discuss the mitigation framework in today's agenda. There is a planning process to tie all of the components together. These will be discussed during the discussion of the Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan.

CAC Member:

What is the status of the Liberty Hill/Highland Terrace pocket park?

Project Team Member:

- Trying to include as many amenities as possible at the Filbin Creek Community Center
- No enclosed spaces at the Russelldale and LH/HT pocket park in order to maximize connectivity and
- Both pocket parks will have outdoor, covered pavilions

CAC Member:

(Called in by phone to make provide feedback regarding preferred pocket park locations)

- Losing a whole community center is not good (for the Russelldale community)
- A pocket park is preferred so that children have recreational options in the Russelldale community
- Older residents may want to have an option for an outdoor facility in the Russelldale community
- This will also encourage Russelldale residents to have more pride in their community
- CAC member prefers the parcel at the corner of Rebecca and Rockingham streets for the pocket park that will service Russelldale. She also likes the Rebecca and Twitty street parcel, but only if there is a barrier that protects the property from the railroad and provides proper lighting.

Recreational Program Survey

- Survey was distributed to CAC members in July 2020
- Thank you for your participation in the survey.
- The data is presented and sorted based on existing programs that received votes.
- Items that received no votes were not reflected in the survey results.

- Other options deemed important by survey participants:
 - Family dynamics
 - Health programs that benefit all ages and various health situations
 - Mentoring
 - Professionals
 - Crafts
 - New/single parents
- Based upon CAC feedback, solar power was added as a community center feature.

Project Schedule/Milestone Review:

- A high-level review of the project was provided. Request for CAC input on the Mitigation components.
- CAC will continue to meet until December 2021.
 - The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and the Record of Decision will include the final commitments when they are published.
 - The committee will continue to help develop the Mitigation Plan until that time. Input from the community is also needed.
- December 2021 – Transition into a Project Oversight Committee (POC). Any members of the CAC with continued interest in serving on the POC will have responsibility to ensure that the commitments made by the CAC and accepted in the FEIS and Record of Decision are completed. The structure of this committee has not been finalized. The CAC will play a role in developing the structure, roles, and responsibilities of the POC.
- An overview of the draft Community Mitigation Plan is projected to be available to the public on October 1, 2020. This will begin the public comment period for community members to voice their opinions about the details of the draft Community Mitigation Plan.
- A project website is available to the public.
- A mailer about the plan and timeframe will be distributed throughout the impacted communities. The mailer will direct residents to the website to get more details about meeting with Community Liaisons and learning about this process and Environmental Justice.
 - November 2020 – Draft EIS issued. This will include the draft Mitigation Plan.
 - December 2021 – Final EIS projected to be issued. This will be combined with the Record of Decision. This will complete the NEPA process.
 - 2023 – Right-of-Way Acquisition projected to begin. SCDOT will begin to acquire the property for the highway improvement project. During this process, the POC will begin to oversee various mitigation components.
 - 2027 – Construction will begin. There will be approximately four years of highway construction and upwards of eight years of construction, including mitigation components and highway improvements.

Project Manager:

- The schedule normally moves much faster (approximately three years), but due to the significant community impact, SCDOT wants to make a commitment to building affordable housing, designing and building community centers, and implementing mitigation before the impacts related to the highway project occur.

CAC Member:

- Are you replacing tenant-based housing or owner-occupied homes?

Project Manager:

- Both. Our affordable housing mitigation plan has two parts. SCDOT is partnering with SC Housing Authority to build a larger, rental based housing unit. This will primarily be for individuals that qualify for Section 8. This will not be located within the affected communities due to the limited availability of land for development. SCDOT is also actively buying undeveloped, vacant lots to replace single-family homes, and will work with owners to purchase parcels of land in the impacted communities.

CAC Member:

- What about totally disabled individuals that may be displaced?

Project Manager:

- There is a developer planning to redevelop the old hotel on Aviation and Rivers Avenue. This will be a senior-oriented, disabled-accessible, affordable housing facility. SCDOT can also retrofit market homes identified by residents in the impacted communities.

Facilitator:

- Participants were reminded to review the minutes from CAC Meeting 5 for a detailed overview and explanation of tax incentive programs and the approach that SCDOT will follow for replacement and relocation housing as it relates to rental and single-family units.

Project Manager:

- These are items that will evolve over the next five months. These details will be formalized in the final Mitigation Plan. Once we reach the final Mitigation Plan, we are required to have final agreements in place with organizations such as the Housing Authority and nonprofits that outline roles and responsibilities, and commit funding.
- If a resident is being displaced under the Right of Way (ROW) process, SCDOT has an obligation to provide them with comparable housing that is accessible and accommodates any special needs.

DEIS EJ Project Commitments:

- First Draft of Mitigation Plan
 - The legal goal of the Mitigation Plan is to address impacts of the project.
 - The CAC will continue to operate until December 2021 (tentative date), after which they transition into the POC.
 - As members train to serve on the POC, SCDOT will bring in subject matter experts to speak to and better equip, inform, and prepare POC members.
 - The Community Office will be available through the final design and ROW Acquisition phase (tentative date 2027). The Community Office will continue to be staffed by the Office Manager, Community Liaisons, and ROW Liaisons. A new community office will be established by the contractor once the project goes into construction.

CAC Member:

Can SCDOT work with N. Charleston to create greenways in the proposed project pathway areas since all of the highways will be elevated? Can we make those areas underneath the highways greenways?

Project Manager:

Greenways are proposed under every overpass. When we get to that part of the planning process, someone from the City will join the CAC meeting to discuss.

Project Team Member:

- As a part of the Mitigation Plan, SCDOT and Maximum Consulting are working together to identify local organizations that can provide financial literacy and first-time home buyer counseling to displaced residents. Assisting renters' transition to first-time home buyers is a first quarter 2021 goal. CAC member input regarding this plan is welcome.
- Feedback will be considered throughout the ROW process.
- We are targeting implementation of three new education and employment initiatives:
 - School-to-Work program - This will engage 10 high school or college students annually from the impacted communities with a focus of fields in construction, engineering, and transportation.
 - Pre-employment Training
 - College Aid Initiative – This will provide up to \$50,000 in scholarships for high school and college students in the impacted communities.

CAC Member:

How long is “each year” that a student can participate?

Project Team Leader:

It is generally a summer internship program.

CAC Member:

What does ‘attend the selected educational institutions’ mean?

Project Team Leader:

We will work with specific institutions to help develop the program. The scholarship will be made available for the students to use at an accredited institution (technical college or institution of higher learning) of their choice within the state of South Carolina.

CAC Member:

Can the CAC play a role in selecting which institutions may play a role in the initiative?

Project Team Leader:

Yes, CAC input will be valued.

- Recreational facilities
 - We are working with the City to implement the list of programs and activities that was created with CAC input. That will be part of an inter-governmental agreement between SCDOT and the City regarding the amenities required for the Filbin Community Center.
 - Qualified residents from these communities will be used to staff these centers.
 - Will post jobs within the community
 - Will encourage the CAC to submit and select qualified applicants
- Connectivity and bicycle & pedestrian and safety components
 - This involves ensuring safe travel for the bicyclists in the community as they travel back and forth between the community centers. Improvements include:

- New and improved sidewalks
- Lighting
- Crosswalks
- Pedestrian signage
- Traffic calming
- Areas where these improvements should be made are being identified, including improvements at the CARTA bus station
- Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan
 - There was review of the Sidewalk Improvement Map to show what the Infrastructure Enhancement Plan does.
 - This plan looks beyond the connectivity of the community centers and looks more holistically at all four communities to evaluate needs from a sidewalk, lighting, project-related storm water, and pedestrian safety standpoint to develop a plan that SCDOT will ultimately implement to address these improvements.
- The Community History Preservation Study
 - Ms. Carolyn Lecque (Community Liaison) participated in the Liberty Hill history exhibit. She is sharing her experience and “lessons learned” as a resource while the Community History Preservation Study is implemented. A list of potential historians and photographers has been developed to help lead the study. CAC will play a key role in this upcoming study. The goal is to initiate the study this fall.
- The timeline blends the two requests made from the CAC:
 - (1) To understand where the commitments fall in the project timeline and to understand where commitments fall over the course of years, including beyond the project
 - (2) To understand where it fits in the development timeline and its construction
 - CAC has been given the project timelines and provided with estimations of when different commitments begin, are implemented, and end.
 - Key takeaway: The majority of the mitigation tasks end before the project goes to construction. The goal is to have the community centers up and running prior to construction of the project. This includes:
 - Connectivity
 - Affordable Housing
 - Financial literacy
 - School-to-Work program
 - Scholarships, etc.

ACTION ITEMS:

Project Team Leader: Provide an overview of the School-to-Work and Scholarship programs at the next meeting and what was done on the Port Access Road, as this will be used as the model.

FHWA: Coordinate with Pamela Foster for technical assistance developing the School-to-Work and Scholarship programs. She helped develop these programs for SCDOT.

Outreach Update:

- An infographic mailer that captures that commitments will be distributed to the residents of the impacted communities. This mailer will include options to provide feedback and advise that residents may receive more details from the Community Office.
 - This all leads up to the public comment period prior to the public hearing.

- Environmental Justice videos are being considered for website, as well as possible CAC experience testimonials.
- MetroQuest is a creative platform that has been previously used by the SCDOT. It is an online public involvement tool/survey that will also be used for people that are comfortable going online to access information and provide feedback.
- Links for all of the tools and the mailer will be housed on the Environmental Justice webpage on the I-526's website. The website will also include information about the Advisory Council formation and meeting notes.
- The Community Office has been open to anyone that has scheduled an appointment.
- The community and CAC members are welcome to invite the SCDOT project team to community/resident organized informational events to share and engage groups in a socially responsible manner.
- Hispanic/Latino Community Outreach Specialists has been contacted about the project. They are looking to engage the affected residents with grassroots canvassing and project advertising on their respective radio and online platforms.

How can we best reach your neighbors to gather feedback on potential mitigation ideas?

CAC Member:

This is a lot to digest, even as a CAC member. How do we “eat this elephant” one bite at a time especially considering current events, the pandemic, the election, etc. considering there is a timeline and a desire to get all the stakeholders onboard? Is it asking too much for this project to be shared on television or through another means of sharing information? A person of age looking at all these things that are going to happen may feel overwhelmed. We lose people because we throw so much at them at one time. Is there a way to get the information out quickly but in smaller bite sizes?

Project Team Leader:

This is an excellent comment. The project team loses sight of how complex this is and how much information there is. The project team will think about how this can be delivered in bite sized pieces. We welcome your input and encourage a future conversation to brainstorm about how to deliver in a manner that is easy to be consumed.

- ACTION ITEM: Maximum Consulting will reach out to the minority media anchors at the three TV stations, as well as, the radio DJs at station WJNI and Cumulus Media, and the Charleston Chronicle to provide a media bite.
- ACTION ITEM: LaTonya will follow up with CAC members to solicit feedback about to distribute information in bite sized pieces. Members are encouraged to contact her with ideas.
- Magnet outreach
 - Magnets will be mailed to residents in the four impacted neighborhoods and Joppa Way.
 - The final magnet will not contain the images as shown in the packet but will include the most important part, the branding at the bottom with contact information.
 - The magnet will be mailed along with a letter from Joy Riley encouraging the residents to call the Community Office and make an appointment to discuss questions or concerns.
- Yard signs
 - There are two versions that may be provided for residents to place in their yards. They were reviewed in the meeting packet.

- *“Which option would you prefer to see in your front yard?”*
- The magnet and yard signs are available in Spanish.
- Low Country Street Grocery is interested in identifying families that need fruits and vegetables. Residents may leave a message with the Community Office. They will receive a call back to determine their food needs.
- There is an upcoming special event that is not sponsored by the project but is sponsored by organizations in the community.
 - On Thursday, September 3, 2020, there will be a Back-to-School giveaway event sponsored by Origin South Carolina and Low Country Street Grocery.
 - 75 to 100 backpacks will be given to residents of the four impacted neighborhoods in this drive-by/walk-by event. Backpacks will be distributed at the following times and locations:
 - 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Ferndale Community Center
 - 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Biblical House of God
 - Carolyn Lecque is in the Community Office and has flyers. Interested parties may also call the office for information.

Meeting Summary and Next Steps

- Summary of CAC member feedback:
 - SCDOT should prioritize the pocket park location that is situated nearest to Filbin Creek Community Center. This is dependent on SCDOT’s ability to secure this parcel.
- Review of the results of the CAC Recreational Program Survey.
- Review of the project schedule timeline and milestones
- Review of the DEIS/EJ project commitments
- Update on the initial outreach using traditional mail and online options
- Review of the ability of the project team to attend meetings and assist the CAC information dissemination and community education along with ensuring that Hispanic residents receive information
- Review of magnet outreach efforts, including a visual example. Review yard sign options
- Review of Low Country Street Grocery Outreach
- A community event, the Back-to-School program will be held on September 3, 2020
- Request for closing comments:
 - CAC Member: Is there a facility available to hold socially distant CAC meetings?
 - Project Manager: SCDOT will return to their offices in a week. The feasibility of having in-person meetings will be evaluated at that time. This is expected to evolve over the next month.
 - LaTonya: Please review the request to provide a video testimonial. Anyone that has not responded to the initial request will receive a follow up. Testimonial recordings will tentatively take place on September 4 and will be scheduled prior to that date.

CAC Meeting #12 scheduled for September 19, 2020, 10 AM.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 12

Date: September 19, 2020

Time: 10:00 am – 12:35 pm

Location: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor Community Office, 5627 Rivers Avenue, N. Charleston, SC,
Microsoft Teams (Virtual)

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees

Larenda Baxley, Ferndale
Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale
Michael Halls, Sr., Ferndale
Gilbert Reeves, Ferndale
Earl Muhammad, Ferndale/Muhammad Mosque
Angela Anderson, Russelldale
Tony Grasso, Russelldale
Jeanaris Bannister, Liberty Park
Carolyn Varner, Liberty Park
Doris Twiggs, Liberty Park
Prayonda Cooper, Joppa Way
Chad Long, SCDOT
David Kelly, SCDOT
Angela Page-Smith, SCDOT

Pamela Foster, FHWA
Yolonda Jordan, FHWA
Maxine Smith, Maximum Consulting
Mattese Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Carolyn Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Clay Middleton, Maximum Consulting
Jamelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies
Rick Day, Stantec
Amy Sackaroff, Stantec
LaTonya Derrick, Stantec
Ryan White, Stantec
Hannah Clements, Stantec
Horrace Tobin, Stantec (Community Office)

Participant Summary:

Total participants: 27

Ferndale: 5

Highland Terrace: 0

Liberty Park: 3

Russelldale: 2

Adjacent/affected communities/agencies: 1

SCDOT: 3

FHWA: 2

Community Liaisons: 4

Community Office: 1

Stantec: 5

Facilitator: 1

Meeting Summary:

Welcome and Introductions

- Roll call (in-person, online, and phone participants)

Administrative Items

- Participants were thanked for joining and participating in CAC Meeting 12.
- CAC Meeting 12 was hosted using a hybrid approach with participants joining via the Microsoft Teams platform, by phone, and in person.
 - The meeting was recorded solely for accuracy of meeting minutes.

- LaTonya will serve as the technical host for participants joining remotely.
- Participants may raise their hands, virtually and in person, to ask questions.
- CAC Meeting 12 packets were distributed to meeting participants prior to the meeting date, including minutes for CAC Meeting 11.
- CAC Meeting 11 minutes require changes to include the omission of Highland Terrace and Liberty Park neighborhoods during the discussion of safety concerns at the Russelldale Pocket Park.

Summary of Meeting Topics from CAC Meeting #11:

- Prioritizing pocket park locations
- Results of the CAC Recreational Program Survey
- Reviewed Project Schedule Timeline and Milestones
- Reviewed the Draft EIS/EJ Project Commitments
- Updated outreach process using traditional mail and online options
- Reviewed additional outreach efforts
- Discussion about the importance of community engagement during the public comment period

Review of Agenda for CAC Meeting #12

- Neighborhood Update
- Russelldale Pocket Park Recap
- CAC Input/Draft Community Mitigation Plan
- Draft Community Mitigation Plan Update
- Draft Education and Employment Mitigation Initiatives
- Project Schedule/Milestone Review
- Draft Community Mitigation Timeline
- Outreach Update
- Summary & Next Steps

Neighborhood Update:

Facilitator: CAC Members representing each of the impacted communities were asked to share concerns expressed by the residents of impacted communities regarding the I-526 project since CAC Meeting #11.

CAC members provided no comments or questions.

Russelldale Pocket Park Recap:

Project Team Member 1:

- The Draft Mitigation Plan will be made available for public comment around October 1st.
- CAC member input is still needed to help refine the content.
- During CAC Meeting #11, a CAC member indicated their preference for the Margaret Drive parcel in lieu of a Pocket Park within the Russelldale neighborhood.
- The other parcels under consideration are located at the end of Rebecca Street near Twitty Street and at the corner of Rebecca and Rockingham Streets.
- The project team is seeking the CAC's consensus on a preferred location in order to move forward.

- The increased potential for crime at the Rebecca Street parcels was noted as a reason for placing the pocket park at the Margaret Drive location during CAC Meeting #11.
- In CAC Meeting #11, SCDOT noted they would coordinate with the City of North Charleston to include surveillance cameras at all of the recreation and community centers.
- The floor was opened for comments or questions from CAC members, in particular CAC members representing Russelldale community.

CAC Member 1 (resident of Russelldale) provided the following:

- Walked the parcel of land at the end Rebecca Street near Twitty Street this week and identified two potential problems with the parcel:
 - There is poor drainage so the parcel floods during rain events. It is a bigger parcel than the property at the corner of Rebecca and Rockingham Streets.
 - Regarding the fence that runs along the railroad track, a higher fence should be installed.
 - It's a perfect parcel to replace the Community Center for Russelldale. It needs to be filled in (backfilled), and have security cameras and proper lighting installed. The Rebecca and Rockingham Street location is a big parcel.
- The Van Buren Avenue and Margaret Drive parcel is not part of Russelldale. Placing the pocket park at this location would be taking the center out of the Russelldale community. In order to serve the people and the children of Russelldale, the pocket park should be placed at the corner of Rebecca and Twitty Streets.
- If residents have to travel to Twitty Street to get across to Margaret Drive, will there be a pedestrian bridge? Will there be accessibility for disabled residents to travel easily from Russelldale to Margaret Drive? What is the safety net for residents under this plan?
- Do not take out of the Russelldale community what the community is already losing. Put the pocket park back in the Russelldale community. Crime is in every neighborhood, but if cameras and better lighting is installed, some safety issues will be deterred. Right now, Rebecca and Twitty Street is a dark area. Moving the pocket park to the Van Buren Avenue and Margaret Drive location is not benefiting the Russelldale community. Russelldale is losing a community center and playground. Put it back where it belongs.

Project Team Member 1: Those are great points. The key takeaway is addressing the drainage issues by backfilling the parcel, if that location is selected, to address drainage issues. Another recommendation was replacing the existing fence or constructing a higher fence between the parcel and the railroad tracks. Installed cameras and improved lighting were also suggested to help deter crime.

- As the project team continues to develop the Draft Mitigation Plan and the Draft EIS public, other residents will have the opportunity to comment as well.
- Please continue to have conversations with your neighbors about specific neighborhood needs. Please encourage them to continue to reach out to the community office to provide their input. That is what helps drive decision making when it comes to items like where to locate replacement pocket parks.
- A part of the infrastructure and improvements related to community centers is adding sidewalks and multi-use paths to make sure, regardless of where the replacement parks and community centers are located, there is safe travel for pedestrians.

Project Team Member 2: Before we move to the next topic, is there a consensus on the preferred location for the proposed pocket park? Are we polling everyone for a comment or agreement since we have emphasized reaching a consensus in the packet?

Project Team Member 1: I do not know if you have enough representation.

Project Team Member 2: We only have two people from Russelldale. Were we looking for any further conversation or discussion from the rest of the CAC?

Project Team Member 1: The floor is open for anyone else to provide input as well.

Community Liaison 1: I have been driving through the Russelldale community and the parcel (Rebecca and Twitty) does look like an ideal parcel, but there are safety concerns, such as protecting kids from the railroad tracks, that would need to be addressed to ensure that nothing happens on that on that parcel as a result of the pocket park being placed there due to fencing, flooding, drainage, or overall safety.

Facilitator: Is her comment was that she ultimately agrees with the Rebecca and Twitty Street parcel?

Project Team Member 2: Yes.

Project Team Member 1: Are there any other comments?

Project Team Member 2: [To CAC members] This is really your opportunity to tell us if you agree. If it was in your neighborhood, would you agree? This would be a good time to share your comments.

CAC Member 2: I agree with both of them. I think the area is a little dark corner and if they are going to do that, the lighting has to be really good and the cameras are going to be a big, big plus for Margaret Drive.

Project Team Member 2: For Margaret Drive, going under the structure, or for the parcel that is at the very end of Rebecca near the intersection of Twitty and Rebecca?

CAC Member 2: Both are in a dark space, but I was specifically talking about the Margaret Drive location because it is currently beside the existing Interstate is in a somewhat isolated corner. From what I've seen in Ferndale, If you have a parcel that sits in the back of the neighborhood, it gives people a little more chance to get in there and cause trouble. So, I think that with cameras and fencing, if it's protected, that is the way to go.

Facilitator: [For clarification] Are you saying that you agree that the project team should look more at the Margaret Drive location because of safety issues or are you saying that the Twitty and Rebecca Street location is better as long as you install fencing and include the cameras?

CAC Member 2: I think that both of them have safety concerns. I think that it is larger and you've got a bigger concentrated area, Margaret Drive is probably the better choice. But it definitely needs cameras and protective measures.

Facilitator: So, Margaret Drive would be your preference?

CAC Member 2: Yes.

Facilitator: Thank you.

CAC Member 3: I agree with CAC Member 1 because she is from the community. I understand what she is saying. She would like for it to be located in the main part of Russelldale community. I would back her with that.

Project Team Member 2: Could you hear Ms. Varner?

Everyone: Yes.

CAC Member 4: I also agree with CAC Member 1 point, because this is her neighborhood and that is one reason why we came on the committee to make sure our community is being safeguarded. Wherever the pocket parks are located, wherever you build a center, we need to have total improvement. We need security for everything. Regardless of where facilities are placed, we need an upgrade on security and safety. I do not care where you put it, those are the core things that we definitely need to have. Thank you.

Facilitator: Thank you. To his point and based on feedback from the project team earlier, regardless of the location that is selected, the project team wants to ensure that there are safe sidewalks and multi-use paths included in the design. Safety will be a primary concern regardless of the location.

Project Team Member 1: That is correct. In addition to bike and pedestrian sidewalks, there is also a lighting component. We are not only focused on walkability, but we want to ensure people are safe during the evening hours as well. There are a wide range of improvements to support the all of the community center locations to make sure they are safe, not just at the locations but also during travel between the locations.

Project Team Member 2: Three quick comments:

- Ms. Twiggs has a comment.
- The SCDOT Team Lead has offered thanks to CAC Member 1 for her comments and for walking the parcel.
- CAC Member 5 from Ferndale agrees with CAC Member 1.

CAC Member 6: Isn't Margaret Drive closer to the Filbin Creek project? I do not think we need to get any closer to that. I think we need to leave the pocket park spread out, closer to the community so whoever is coming from the furthest end of Russelldale or the children would have access to an area for safe activities. Therefore, I agree with CAC Member 1 and the other CAC members since safety is a big issue. We need to implement any necessary measures to deter any type of crime. We need to stop getting second rate service because the City cannot meet those demands. I think those demands need to be met throughout every community and whatever it takes to get us there, that is why we're sitting here this morning.

CAC Member 1: I don't know how the Margaret Drive and Van Buren Avenue parcel became an option for the Russelldale pocket park location, but as I have stressed before, Russelldale is losing a whole community center and playground. I really do not want to see Russelldale get short changed or get the

short end of the stick. When my grandchildren visit, I would like to have some place to bring them in the neighborhood, and not have to go outside of my neighborhood to take them to the park. That is why I took the time to go back and look at the property at the end of Rebecca and Twitty and walk it myself. I will be fine as long as safety issues, such as lights and cameras are installed. I would have no issue with that location. And the parcel is bigger than the one on the corner of Rockingham.

Project Team Member 2: Community Liaison 1 commented that she reached out to a community member who lives in Russelldale to invite her to be a part of the advisory council after the open house. She was not able to participate due to some other constraints. But she reached out to her and another community member, both whom live in the area, to invite them to this meeting for comments but she was unable to reach them.

Community Liaison 1: I did not get a response. I visited another person as well, but she was unable to access them because they had a dog in the yard.

Project Team Member 1:

- To revisit the comment made by CAC Member 1 about the uncertainty of how the Margaret Drive parcel became an alternate location for the pocket park, when the project team began searching for a location, the Rebecca and Rockingham Street parcel was the initial location in consideration. But, when the parcel was purchased by another entity the project team had challenges finding another location within the Russelldale community.
- So, the project team began looking for parcels outside of Russelldale, but within close proximity to the community to ensure we were able to replace the amenities while maintaining access for Russelldale residents.
- We identified the parcel at Rebecca Street so that the parcel at Rockingham and Rebecca was once again an option.
- The goal was to make sure we were able to identify something in close proximity, even if it wasn't situated directly in the community.
- I'm hearing a lot of support for keeping the facilities within the Russelldale community.
- There will be opportunities for additional comments from residents when the Draft Mitigation and Environmental Impact Statements are open for public comment, but we need your help as CAC members to get your neighbors to give us feedback. Are there additional comments or questions regarding the Russelldale pocket park?

CAC Input/Draft Community Mitigation Plan:

Project Team Member 1:

- The project team is refining the content of the Draft Mitigation Plan.
- We want to show how the mitigation measures outlined in the draft plan align with the top 10 areas of concern that were identified through the Social Needs Assessment and comments from the CAC.
- I will highlight what we are addressing, how the Draft Mitigation Plan addresses some of the items identified, and what we heard from you and your neighbors.

I will start with concerns about quality and affordable housing and CAC member's preference for single-family rental units versus multi-family units, mobile homes, and modular homes. There is an affordable

housing component of this mitigation plan, as well as, financial literacy and first-time homeowner, homebuyer counseling.

SCDOT Team Lead: Regarding the affordable housing Initiative, we are in talks with the state housing authority about developing an agreement to provide affordable housing units. That effort would be focused more on multi-family units. Given what we have heard in the feedback from the CAC, those units would be placed outside the directly affected communities but still within the general vicinity of the project. Within the communities themselves, our efforts would focus on developing smaller scale, single-family affordable housing on parcels that we have already acquired and that we would be seeking to acquire throughout this process.

CAC Member 2: I a lot of the conversation has focused on the Russelldale community. They are losing their community center and that is a big part of them getting upgrades. For Ferndale, the only real concern for us is the trailer park in the back in the Lakewood Marson area. The Project Manager mentioned in past meetings that there is a chance the entire trailer park will go. Has there been any further development on what part of that really is going to go? As we have discussed before, one of the concerns with putting apartments in that area is the potential for increased trouble. What are the current plans for that area?

Project Team Member 1: There are some impacts to some of the mobile homes in that area because of the addition of the lanes along I-526. One of the things we will do at the next meeting is talk more specifically about individual property impacts. At that meeting, on the 3rd of October we will have mapping and talk in more detail regarding relocations per community. We will have a more detailed answer for you at that time regarding the overall number of mobile homes that will be impacted by the improvements. I do not believe that all of the mobile homes will be relocated. However, because of the widening and additional lanes that will be added on I-526, there will be some impact to the mobile homes on the last row and Marson.

Project Team Member2: Is that something that we would know based on the early design preparation? Is that something that has come up in conversation as a consideration or was the comment regarding elimination of parts of the trailer park made as a commitment?

Project Team Member 3: Those mobile home complexes will be impacted by the design. The extent of how they will be affected is still undetermined. I do not think I have an answer for the question about what could go back there, whether it be apartments or not.

SCDOT Team Lead: Based on the design that we are working with now, it looks like at least that first row of mobile homes would be impacted, but not the entire complex. We have already secured some parcels within Ferndale and our goal would be to develop smaller scale housing on those parcels, not a larger apartment complex on those parcels that we have acquired. Does that help answer your question?

CAC Member 2: Yes, I will wait for October 3rd and see what else we find out.

CAC Member 1: The same question will apply for Russelldale also. For the apartments that will be lost on upper Russelldale Drive, have you thought about where you are going to relocate those people within Russelldale? Or, will they be relocated outside of Russelldale?

SCDOT Team Lead:

- For displacees within Russelldale, we will be working through the Right-of-Way (ROW) process and they will be provided with relocation assistance.
- As we work through this agreement with the state housing authority, we are going to try to structure it so that housing would be made available with priority given to those being displaced. But it would not be required. They would have a choice. Through the relocation assistance program, they would have the ability to move elsewhere, if desired.
- Our goal is to provide housing within proximity to where they currently live so they can remain within the neighborhoods and the general area where they currently live.
- We are in early discussions with the state housing authority. Land within the City of North Charleston is hard to find. That is one of the constraints we are working within. Besides the parcels that we've already acquired, we do not know where the new replacement housing would be located.
- It will be dependent upon the availability of land, but our goal is to have housing replace within the general area of the project and within the proximity to existing schools. If people have children that are going to schools we can provide them with housing that would allow them to maintain access to those schools and other existing facilities.

Project Team Member 2: There is another hand raised.

CAC Member 7: I hear a lot of goals involved here, as I am hearing a lot of, "This is what we're trying to do." Is there a possibility that with the problem of attaining property that some people may end up with the 'sink or swim' possibility? Is everyone going to be covered as a guarantee or will some be left out to fend for themselves?

SCDOT Team Lead: Again, it is not clearly defined yet. Our goal is to work with the state housing authority to develop the number of units required to accommodate displacees, for residents who want to stay in the area. All displacees will receive relocation assistance.

Project Team Member 1: Any other questions about affordable housing before we continue? There were concerns about being able to self-advocate, as well as to receive financial and educational resources. As a part of our mitigation plan, we are working with Maximum Consulting to provide organizational training for the CAC.

- We have held two sessions and will continue to make that training available and continue to develop it as we move toward the transition to the Project Oversight Committee. There is also a College Aid Initiative, School-to-Work program and Pre-employment Training that is included in the mitigation plan.
- Adequate stormwater management, sidewalks, and well-lit street were items that were brought up as well as. There are two separate plans to address these issues:
 - There is connectivity and safety improvements specifically related to the connectivity to the recreation center.
 - There is the Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan that will cover a much broader range of improvements to address some of the project related flooding, the sidewalks, streets, and speeding.
- In a quick update regarding removing barriers to residents' ability to age in place, this is where the affordable housing helps to address some of those issues as well. One of the things that was noted was partnerships with local nursing programs to develop health and wellness.

- Maximum Consulting has developed a Community Resource Guide. That is a living and breathing document. As we continue to go through this process, they will continue to add more resources. The Maximum team will be available to assist the CAC in preparing the residents on how to navigate that Community Resource Guide. They are here to support the residents in learning the best means to reach out to the various organizations that have been identified in the Community Resource Guide. Some of these organizations would prefer to address issues/services collectively as neighborhoods, while some of these services are meant for individual residents to engage them. Maximum is here to help the CAC members as well as the residents. Learn and utilize the Community Resource Guide.

Community Liaison 2: For the CAC members, please keep in mind that the information is available for non-CAC members as well as, so as we engage with each of you through email and phone, please feel free or do not hesitate to reach back out. Whether you call or leave a message at the community office or call, email us individually. Thank you.

Project Team Member 1: I have seen the guide. It is very comprehensive. It helps to address a wide range of community needs. As it becomes available, I encourage you as CAC members to take a deep dive into it and really work with Maximum to take advantage of it, as well as helping the residents in your communities help get some of these needs addressed.

- We are addressing services for seniors and youth through the infrastructure enhancement plan, as well as some of the bicycle and pedestrian connectivity and safety programs.
- Based on your feedback, we will conduct organizational training, and address various programs that you want implemented at the primary replacement community center, as well as other amenities that will be added to the pocket parks in Russelldale and Highland Terrace.

In addition, we have the Community History Preservation Study that will include incorporating artistic and cultural enhancements into the parks and community centers.

CAC Member 7: The pocket parks that you are mentioning in Russelldale, is that still on the agenda?

Project Team Member 1: We talked about that previously, but we can revisit. Just to give a quick summary, there were residents who felt who strongly that we need to maintain some of the amenities that are being lost with the relocation of the community center in Russelldale. One of the things that we are doing as part of the mitigation is ensuring that there is a lighting program, not just for the community center and the park sites themselves, but also throughout the neighborhoods. That will help to address some of the safety concerns and security measures like improved fencing, as well as surveillance cameras to help address some of the concerns with potential for crime in the park locations. Several residents supported maintaining the amenities within Russelldale. There are some CAC members that mentioned they would prefer having the location at the Margaret Drive parcel, but I noted that as we move toward making the mitigation plan and the draft environmental impact assessment available to the public, there is an opportunity for a broader range of public comment as well.

CAC Member 7: Is the Rebecca Street pocket park still on the agenda?

Project Team Member 1: It's still on the table. It is still open for consideration. There are two parcels. There is the one at the end of Rebecca and the one at the intersection of Rebecca and Rockingham. Based on comments made earlier in the meeting, the parcel at the end of Rebecca, is a larger parcel which allows us to include more amenities to replace what is lost at the end of Rebecca Street. But again, there are

some concerns that we have got to address from a drainage standpoint, which will happen if that site is selected, in addition to the lighting and the security components.

CAC Member 7: Thank you.

Draft Community Mitigation Plan Update:

Project Team Member 1: Many of these topics are repeating, but we've received a lot of feedback from the CAC in regard to community cohesion and what we're doing with the Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan which addresses a much broader set of infrastructure needs in the community.

- Community appearance is a part of this plan. There is an aesthetic and landscaping component of the Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan to address beautification.
- Mitigation does not address increased law enforcement. Law enforcement is not under the SCDOT purview. Programs that address law enforcement or abandoned lots can be conducted at the community centers. The City mentioned that they would work with SCDOT to identify parcels that are either abandoned or overgrown that could potentially be used and acquired for housing relocation or for other locations for the pocket parks. Again, there are some items that the mitigation isn't going to address, specifically with the infrastructure enhancement plan, which we will talk about. The next slide will provide a much broader scale of improvements, including aesthetic improvements in the community.

Facilitator: I think SCDOT has made an additional comment in the chat box.

Project Team Member 2: Regarding a previous CAC Member comment on housing, SCDOT Team Lead said he “failed to mention that our agreement with the state housing authority would have a timeline for construction so that replacement housing would be made available prior to construction of the project.” That was one of the things we touched on before about the overall mitigation process, in terms of construction of the highway infrastructure. All or at least most of the mitigation would be accomplished before that time.

Project Team Member 1: Are there any other comments before we move on?

- In a previous meeting, we discussed implementing a Community Livability Plan. Representatives from the College of Charleston Riley Center joined the CAC meeting to outline possible elements of the plan. Since that meeting, the project team and SCDOT has decided to move forward with a Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan rather than a Community Livability Plan.
- The Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan identifies a set of improvements that will address bike and pedestrian safety, access to community centers, enhance street aesthetics, project related stormwater, and traffic calming measures that would be implemented as part of this project.
- The Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan will look at a broader range of improvement infrastructure improvements within the neighborhoods. For the community centers (under the Draft Mitigation Plan), the infrastructure improvements are focused strictly on walkability between community centers and connectivity between community centers.

- The infrastructure enhancement plan would look at a much broader range of improvements on streets that would not be addressed by the community center improvements (under the Draft Mitigation Plan).
- The similarities between the infrastructure improvements under the Draft Mitigation Plan and the broader improvements under the Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan is they both will have a community involvement component. They both identify infrastructure improvement needs and they both would have a written report that identifies the needs.
- The difference between the Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan and the Community Livability Plan, is that the Community Livability Plan has a much broader social needs component.
 - It would have included more intense public involvement.
 - The time frame for the study would have been longer, two or more years. It would have also identified partnerships to address some of the community needs.
 - One of the key differences is that the livability plan did not include a commitment for the City or SCDOT to fund all the additional needs.
- The Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan is focused solely on infrastructure improvements. There is a shorter timeframe, so all of the improvements would be identified, and the report would be completed by next summer. All the improvements that would be identified by the Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan would be made available to for review next year.
- There is also a commitment by SCDOT to construct and address all of the identified infrastructure needs prior to the construction of the I-526 improvement.
 - The key difference is that the Community Infrastructure Enhancing Plan will be a committed plan. Traffic calming studies will begin early spring. A lighting audit will identify all of the new lighting needs, and identify all needed sidewalk improvements. SCDOT is going to assess all drainage needs, stormwater issues, and landscaping within the communities. This report will be available next summer. Before any improvements to I-526 are initiated, these improvements would be conducted and completed as part of the neighborhood mitigation.
- The Community Livability Plan would have included identifying partnerships. Partnerships will be addressed through the Community Resource Guide as a resource for residents to:
 - Reference resources and benefits and connections to various organizations
 - Obtain a list of organizations that may assist with home improvements
 - Address other community needs through coordination with Maximum Consulting and the resource guide
- The Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan is a committed plan to have infrastructure improvements addressed at a much broader scale throughout the communities prior to the I-526 improvements.
- The floor is open for discussion.

CAC Member 6: If this is a draft that you're going through this morning, is this a time to find a way to connect with the communities, the residents, the homeowners, landowners, and others in the impacted communities? If we are at a draft stage now, we want to have the CAC, residents, every living breathing person in that neighborhood, to say as a stakeholder that they had input. I would not want us to go forward and accept a draft that is not inclusive. So, is this the time to get this information out to them? But somehow we've got to broker that conversation with people in spite of the pandemic and all the other things that's going on around us.

Project Team Member 1: Yes ma'am. You are absolutely on point. And this is a draft.

CAC Member 6: After looking at this, I will give up the time now and reserve my comment, and talk about this later. I'm just wondering as you were going through this because I saw some pieces that I thought could be pushed out.

Project Team Member 1: This is a draft. We are using the advisory council to help mold to draft. Since you are a direct connection, that is part of your role as a direct connection to the residents. October 1st is when this information is going to be open for public comment. This mitigation plan is not final until the final EIS is approved by FHWA. The final EIS and the ROD will be late next fall (2021). So, there is ample time to get input. We are currently developing our plan for the next series of advisory council meetings through next December. A large component of that is continuing to receive input from the CAC and the residents, and to refine the mitigation plan based on the input we are getting. This is a draft for the CAC and residents to take the time to go through it and make comments and help the project team determine the factors that should be included in the plan.

Facilitator: Her question is a great question. One of the things on this particular slide that you need to understand is that with the livability plan, there is no commitment from SCDOT or the City. You have identified several community needs throughout this process, but the enhancement plan addresses only the infrastructure improvements. So, to your question about the urgency with which the CAC members and community at-large needs to be engaged in this process, the project team has indicated there is ample time to provide comments. But, there is also some sense of urgency that now is the time to start having those conversations with the greater community, if you have not. You need to make sure that you're talking to each other and that the people that live with and around you understand the process. Whatever details are outlined in the document, that is what SCDOT is committed to. If you have not voiced your concerns or engaged in the public comment period, then you have lost the opportunity to do so. So, you have time, but you (the CAC and larger community) should have a sense of urgency. There should be a greater sense of urgency about engaging each other in the conversation so that you can make the comments the way you want - to make sure their stated properly, you've thought through them properly, you've communicated with each other, and that you're making decisions and comments that are representative of the impacted communities. I just want to make sure that that point is not lost. (Ellis, J.)

Community Liaison 2: The other part of that is the things that are not covered from the livability plan. It is very important that CAC members, when engaging with the City of North Charleston, be very clear. Because this is the only time that you all would have this kind of attention because of this billion dollar plus project. So, I would leverage this time to get some clear answers on things that have been ignored previously.

Project Team Member 1: Advocacy training will continue to be refined and offered as we move through this process. The livability plan would have provided for advocacy training. However, the project team is still trying to address the resources to advocate with our training, as well as making the Community Resource Guide available to address other needs. The key takeaway from this discussion is that there is still time to get feedback and to continue to develop the plan.

- Another status change is regarding weatherization. The project team evaluated including weatherization extensively as part of mitigation for this project, and to determine if it would have been applicable as mitigation for some of the project related impacts. We are currently unable to tie

the project impacts to weatherization in individual homes. Based on the current evaluation, weatherization is not currently included in the mitigation plan.

- Maximum Consulting has identified a number of resources for residents get weatherization and energy efficient improvements to their homes outside of the project mitigation. This is one of the resources provided in the Community Resource Guide being developed by Maximum Consulting.
- Although weatherization will not be included in the mitigation plan, the project team will continue to connect residents and communities to resources that can help them address those needs through the Community Resource Guide.
- Maximum Consulting is here to assist residents in communities to help navigate how best to engage various organizations to use resources and obtain home improvements throughout their communities.

SCDOT Team Lead: I want to revisit an earlier comment about the urgency related to providing comments on this draft plan and the need to engage the larger community. I think that comment is spot on and I think when we get to the outreach update, you will see the proposed methods for getting this mitigation plan distributed to the community. Your comment at the last meeting about providing it in bite size pieces really resonated with us, so we are working hard to develop an engagement approach to allow for the larger community to comment on the plan.

- This is where we need your feedback, advice, and counsel regarding our proposed methods, because if they are not working, then it's no good. As we start to implement some of these outreach activities, we welcome your feedback throughout that process so we can pivot or alter our strategies to make sure we're getting this information to the residents in a manner that they can understand and can provide feedback on the plan.
- My second comment is to follow up on the h comment regarding the window of opportunity that we have right here. It is very important to understand that there is a window of opportunity where we need all of the community's feedback while SCDOT is making the resources available. We have the opportunity through working with Maximum Consulting right now to provide resources to the community and to provide organizational training. If there are community needs, if there are concerns, with the City of North Charleston, we have an opportunity now to engage and to provide training and to provide resources through this EIS process. But, as the EIS process window closes, there will be less ability to address those concerns. So, there is a sense of urgency, and I think it is very important for the CAC and community members at-large to understand that.

Project Team Member 1: Thanks for the clarity.

Community Liaison 2: For this page in the meeting packet, Dominion Energy is probably the only resource listed that residents can contact for one-on-one service, compared to the others. There is Metanoia and others that have been provided back in May when we were discussing this topic. If the group really is interested in weatherization for their community or their block, a more strategic approach would be needed for the sustainability institute and Palmetto CAP. Although again, Palmetto CAP does provide financial assistance to those needing to pay their bills and provides a level of weatherization. But, my experience, especially based on the funding, is that it is best if a collective approach is taken.

Project Team Member 1: Thank you. Are there any questions from the CAC members?

CAC Member 6: I'm hearing that as it relates to weatherization, DOT is like an open resource that residents can tap into now. As a final assistance, are you saying that Palmetto CAP is available now and will be [continue to be] available? I think you mentioned another organization? I think it is down in the Cherokee

area. [Project Team Member 2: Metanoia?] Help me round out what I will be saying to people because this is very important, just like the overall environmental piece in the neighborhood, the 'now' of what they can do.

Community Liaison 2: Since weatherization is not a part of the mitigation, SCDOT is not funding any weatherization activities. So, for individuals within the impacted community, Dominion Energy can be contacted as it relates to their weatherization/energy efficient programs. This is also tied with the state energy efficiency office that receives grant funds from the Department of Energy. So that is one course of action that people could take. Palmetto CAP provides resources to people to help pay some of their bills, and they also provide weatherization services on individual homes. The sustainability institute does the same thing and they also have job training programs in place for those interested in this field of weatherization. Metanoia also has programs in place to address this topic. My recommendation is that approaching Palmetto CAP collectively, as a neighborhood, would be a better approach than individually, based on how they receive their funding, how they allocate their funding, etc. That would be my recommendation versus individuals calling and them running out of money or not being able to service those needs. But, if they know that community X has 20 homes that need weatherization services, they could better assist, in a more comprehensive manner.

SCDOT Team Lead: I will just add on to that. If I was hearing the question Ms. Twiggs posed regarding this window of opportunity properly, I think these different organizations, partnerships and groups, provide weatherization programs outside the context of our project. But, I think right now we have the opportunity through our engagement with the communities and the CAC as part of this project to explore what those weatherization programs are, invite them to a CAC meeting to explain what programs are available, and really just bring them to the table now as we're having this conversation. And SCDOT can talk to these organizations and to share with them the feedback community members provide and to work with them to determine what program they have in place to assist communities.

CAC Member 6: That's where I was going with that question. "What's the now?" I think people need to hear that. Sometimes, the approach to take is to explain the direct impacts, such as how the program can help them immediately or what can these programs do to assist them, in general. I think it's now that we need to creating links [in communication and information] so that people will feel as if they are on board. And I think weatherization would be a nice way to create this link so that we can move into other aspects of the project that we have been discussing this morning morning in terms of communication with people in our neighborhoods.

Project Team Member: We will make sure to add that to the CAC plan as we plan long-term CAC meetings. Any other questions regarding weatherization?

Draft Education and Employment Mitigation Initiatives:

Project Team Member:

- Education and Employment Mitigation Initiative is also included in the mitigation plan. W A School-to-Work Program and Pre-employment training that will be managed by the contractor during the construction phase, as well as, a College Aid Initiative.
- The focus career tracks for the School-to-Work Program include construction, engineering, and transportation. The project team is requesting input from the CAC on which institutions we should look to partner with, and whether we focus on regional or statewide institutions in South Carolina.

- From a time frame perspective, we can start the School-to-Work and the College Aid Initiative immediately following approval of the ROD in November 2021. That would extend into the ROW phase at the end of 2027. Once this mitigation is made available to the public, we need CAC members and residents to assist the project team in identifying candidates for the School-to-Work and College Aid programs.
- Regarding the College Aid program, there is currently \$50,000 allotted for scholarships. But we need help identifying candidates to receive the scholarship money. Additionally, we will need help advertising the School-to-Work Program so that we can get candidates and students engaged.
- The project team is asking for volunteers to serve on a subcommittee to evaluate and assist the project team in developing details of participation in the application process (students and institutions), identifying potential candidates, and implementing educational and mitigation initiatives.
- Again, we are in the draft phase, so there is still time to work out the details, but we help from the CAC.
- I want to open it up, one for immediate conversation and two if there are individuals who are open to taking a deeper dive into this offline and reporting back to the CAC to give us more guidance. The floor is open.

CAC Member 1: Are you looking for individuals from the four affected subdivisions or outside of the four main neighborhoods?

Project Team Member 1: The goal is to get candidates from the four impacted communities. If there are not enough applicants from the four communities, the project team may consider opening the application process to residents from other environmental justice communities adjacent to the project area. Ideally, we want to focus on the four impacted communities, but if there are not candidates, we want to make sure other individuals who are in need and that meet the criteria are able to apply. We do not want to have a program in which no one benefits. We are looking to you to help garner interest, identify candidates, and make sure the monies and programs are authorized and available, and are received by members of your community.

SCDOT Team Lead: That was a great question. I see these programs as being very impactful and very beneficial to members of the community and we really need your help and helping shape these programs so that they are successful and we're not leaving any of the money or the resources on the table.

- These programs were implemented on the Port Access Road Project and they limited participation specifically, College Aid Initiatives, to just those members in the impacted communities and they had a really hard time finding enough candidates. So, as we move forward with these programs, we need to do a really good job of marketing and shaping the programs so that we can fund all of the proposed internships and fully fund the scholarship program. On Port Access Road, the goal was to provide individual scholarships and to limit each applicant to one scholarship opportunity.
- FHWA brought up a great idea that if you only have one successful applicant or candidate, we could perhaps extend more scholarships to that person. Therefore, that student would be able to receive more scholarships and that may ultimately be able to fund a larger part of their degree. That would be highly impactful.
- This is where when we talk about developing a subcommittee, the CAC would have input on the educational institutions that would be targeted for the School-to-Work Program.

- We need your input and we want the CAC to help us identify those educational institutions that we target for the School-to-Work Program and help us shape the kind of requirements for who could be involved in the program through shaping, for example:
 - What does the application look like?
 - What are the program requirements? Is it just a one-page essay?
 - Do you have to have a certain grade point average?
- We are open to hearing from the CAC and really need your help in shaping the program to benefit as many of the community members as possible. We really do not want to develop these programs and only have one or two members of the community to go through it. We do not want to have any missed opportunities. If this is where the CAC feels like it needs to be broadened to a larger community, then I think we are open to that. But again, this is where we need your assistance in shaping the programs.

Community Liaison 2: CAC members do not need to feel that you must create something from scratch. For instance, the Coastal Community Foundation has been doing community-based scholarship grants with other organizations, both government and private sector, so there is a track record as it relates to engaging communities as it relates to the College Aid Initiative. Another model that is used, for instance, is if the oldest adolescent in these impacted communities is in the 9th grade, members within the CAC may have a grandchild that doesn't live in the their community who may qualify for the program. Other models exist in which members in the impacted areas make recommendations.

Project Team Member 1: This program could start as early as the completion of the final EIS ROD, which would be November/December 2021, but the commitment is to make the School-to-Work Program and the College Aid Initiative available through the completion of the ROW phase, which would be 2027. There is a approximate 6-year window in which these resources will be available to residents of the impacted communities and members of the CAC. SCDOT wants to make sure that there is a wide enough window to make sure we could address some of the gaps in aid as it relates to availability of these programs.

Project Team Member 2: [For DOT and FHWA] How do we track young children of displaced families who may qualify for these programs? This applies to children who start in the impacted neighborhoods but are displaced by the project. That could be something that the subcommittee discusses, but certainly I would not want them to be omitted from consideration because of their displacement.

SCDOT Team Lead: Absolutely. We are open to those suggestions, and again I'll go back to my point that we want to make this program as successful as possible. We do not only want to see one student go through the program. I think we can provide the final report from the Port Access Road so the CAC can see how that program was structured, what the limitations were, why it was or was not successful, and how it can be shaped in a manner to ensure full benefits to the community. If it needs to be broadened in any way, or someone is displaced, I think they should be eligible for participating in the program, even if they move out of the area.

CAC Member 8: My other suggestion was about the School-to-Work Program. Is it possible to leave a slot for someone who might not make the requirements of a normal scholarship? For instance, you might have a student has gotten in trouble so he won't qualify for a scholarship under a different program, but he may qualify to apply for this program. We might want to investigate things of that nature, like someone with a minor incident that may disqualify them.

SCDOT Team Lead: Great comment. We are open to those suggestions and we can shape this program so that it provides priority to someone who meets the first level of requirements. I think we should be open to providing for those residents and young individuals who may have made a mistake and gotten into a little bit of trouble. We want to provide them with opportunity as well. That is where we are looking to the CAC to help us shape it in a manner that we can help as many people as possible.

FHWA Team Member: The purpose of suggesting the subcommittees was to help design this program so that the discussion that we are having now could be handled outside of this type large community and because I figured there would be some of these types of items that require detailed discussion. In the past, when we had School-to-Work Programs, scholarship programs, professional development and other development type programs, we always discussed these issues and always developed criteria, ranking criteria, and priority criteria in order to determine who would receive the benefits first. In a case like this, if you're having recruiting problems, and recruiting problems will arise, you would be able to determine how to prioritize the recipients. It's hard to have a large group meeting like this to make those types of determinations and to cover all instances that may arise, so that's where the idea of having subcommittees came up. We definitely need the input of the CAC members to help us decide what would best fit your communities in order to best use the funding available so that the communities impacted can be the beneficiaries of these particular programs. Again, the offer from Federal Highway for me to serve and help to develop and design these programs still stands because I do have experience in it and from the perspective of how FHWA and SCDOT normally designs their program.

Project Team Member 1: Please contact Maximum Consulting if you would like to serve on the subcommittee for Education and Employment Mitigation Initiatives.

Community Liaison 2: A deadline needs to be established for contacting Maximum Consulting to sign up for subcommittees so that we have something to report before the next CAC meeting. What deadline do you want to set for CAC members to commit to participating on subcommittees?

Project Team Member 1: The deadline for signing up for the subcommittee is next Saturday, September 26th. We want to be able to identify who is on the subcommittee by the next CAC meeting on October 3rd.

Project Schedule/Milestone Review/Draft Community Mitigation Timeline:

Project Team Member 1: As CAC members should always be equipped and have a complete understanding of the project schedule and where we are. We are at the point where we are about to issue the Draft EIS and the Draft Mitigation Plan. The Draft Mitigation Plan will be made available to the public early October, ideally October 1st, with the Draft Mitigation Plan being released in mid-November at a public hearing at the end of November.

Facilitator: Will you provide clarification on the two dates you provided?

Project Team Member 1: The Draft Mitigation Plan will be made available to residents ideally October 1st. This is when we are planning to make the Draft Mitigation Plan available for public comment. The draft EIS will be made available in November. That is the more detailed document which evaluates all the alternatives and identifies all the impacts to the natural, cultural and the social-economic impacts of the alternatives.

- So, two documents will be released - the Draft Mitigation Plan on October 1st and the Draft EIS in November.

- The public hearing will be late November, so over the next few months there will be a big push for community engagement and outreach opportunities, for people to make appointments to come to the office, as well as a public hearing.
- The Final EIS, Record of Decision and a Final Mitigation Plan are scheduled to be approved in November and December of 2021. That will conclude the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.
- The final version of the mitigation plan will be approved at the end of 2021.
- Once we complete the final EIS and ROD, the mitigation phase will take place 2021 through 2027. That includes educational programs, like the ones just discussed, design and construction of the community centers, design and construction of various infrastructure improvements to sidewalks, the lighting plan, security cameras, and traffic calming.
- All of those will occur between 2021 and 2027, the actual ROW acquisition for the I-526 highway improvements will run from 2023 to 2027. Construction of the I-526 improvements will run tentatively from 2027 to 2032.

The key takeaway here is that mitigation will be constructed and implemented prior to actual construction of the highway project. Are there any questions?

Outreach Update:

Project Team Member 1: We will transition and talk a little bit more about the upcoming outreach efforts.

Project Team Member 2:

- A primary CAC discussion point has been getting information out to the public. An initial, significant effort towards getting the Community Mitigation Plan, to increase awareness of it and initiate feedback, is the document you have in your packet which will be included in the mailer. It is called Community Mitigation Plan Highlights.
- The project team provided a little background about how feedback from the community drop-ins, public information meeting, the Social Needs Assessment, and CAC meetings were used to develop the proposed mitigation plan.
- On the inside is a visual reference of a timeline with each element of community mitigation and each commitment.
- On the back are the color-coded pillars used throughout the process and how they were established.
- The commitments on the inside match the pillars that we have been discussing. This will go in the mail tentatively on October 1st and should arrive in mailboxes during the first full week of October along with a letter from the Project Manager, a survey that is designed to get input from the residents about different features related to the commitments, and a self-addressed stamped envelope for them to return the survey. The survey will also be available electronically, but we recognize that since not everybody will be able to go online, we are providing a paper copy. Included in the packet will be a 4 ½" by 6 ½" magnet with contact information. This is also included in the directory that Maximum Consulting has been developing. You saw an example of it in this month packet, but it will be the same magnet.
- You will see some duplication of what you have seen in previous months, all coming together at this point. Your work has not been in vain. It is now materializing to a point where it can be widely distributed for comment. This may help address some of the earlier comments about getting information out to the public. Certainly, we count on the advisory council to have as many conversations as you can and as safely as you can, but from a holistic perspective, this document will go out and we would love your feedback and your comments.

- We will also be distributing flyers. I have copies for everyone. There are some here in the office. If you do not get them delivered with your yard sign, then you can pick them up from the office.
- The survey again will be sent by mail to everyone in Ferndale, Russelldale, Liberty Park, Highland Terrace, Joppa Way, almost all the way up to Remount Road. The two mail routes that cover all the project study area and EJ communities that are being impacted will be included.
- Flyers that describe other opportunities to engage will be stationed inside select businesses, as well as, at the bus stops and at other stations where we can put the real estate boxes. At the bottom of the slide, we talk about EJ Community Town Hall meetings to help garner opportunities to give more feedback to the project team. There are two approaches to those for a Town Hall meeting. SCDOT will also be participating and we are looking to host those virtually. Not everyone is going online, not everyone feels as comfortable, so we would like for the community to invite us to their meetings. Or, invite us to meet so that we can talk about the content that you have been discussing over the past year for mitigation and really focus on those things that you may not have thought about but also vetting these elements.

CAC Member 4: As stated on numerous occasions, Liberty Park, Highland Terrace, and Joppa Way do not have a place to meet. We have a community center, but we do not have a committee as such. We need to get the information out to our residents so they can find an area to meet and discuss details of the project.

Project Team Member 2: Part of this solicitation is that if you invite us to meet, we can help you find a place. The Highland Terrace, Liberty Park, and Russelldale Community Centers are small, and they may seem size inhibited. If larger meeting space is required, Maximum Consulting and the rest of the project team can assist in identifying a location that is reasonable, sizable, and safe. We do not want to eliminate a conversation because of the lack of a location.

CAC Member4 : What is a feasible way to get them (community members) out (to community meetings)? How do you give them notice?

Project Team Member 2: We love that kind of feedback from you all. We can speculate and come up with options, but we are here to support that happening, but we need to know what you find to be the best ways. We want to make sure we do it in a responsible way and a healthy way because it is for healthy discussion. As discussed earlier, we need to distribute information in digestible pieces and ensure that it is comprehensible. We need your help in that regard as well.

CAC Member 6: May I add something to the earlier discussion about getting the information out? I think this is great. This is what I have been talking about and asking about.

- But the other factor is that I have spoken to residents in the community that feel as if the project is not including them. Somehow that message needs to come across first. I have two statements.
- First, it needs to say somehow that this includes everyone in that neighborhood and that they are all a part of the whole. And, being a part of the whole, they are included in the total plan, whether their property will be impacted or not, whether they will be relocated or not. That is not the issue. They need to be a part of this because, down the road, there may be something that will impact their property or their living status. I think that needs to be said.
- Secondly, if someone has a question, I am sure the Project Manager would not want to receive calls or questions from multiple neighborhoods. There should be one contact phone number for answers. Usually, there is one contact. This may help get more surveys returned. That is my experience.

Project Team Member: Let us not forget the purpose of the Community Office and the phone number here, having a central and accessible location. You're right. If you start putting out too many numbers in too many places for people to call, then you lose track of the conversation. So that's part of the purpose for having the office here, a central location, a hub, so that people can come here and talk with the community liaisons and with the ROW specialists.

- The phone line here is open and they can call here. It rings 24-hours a day and accepts messages 24-hours a day. The Community Office Manager is faithful with his responses to anyone that calls, because this office, this space, these resources are for the community. The other opportunities to engage will be included in the Project Manager's letter. The other stack of flyers has a little more detail about how you engage, but the draft letter that will accompany what you have in your packet will also include the opportunities to engage and how to have a conversation.
- The Community Office number is (843) 258-1135. The number here can be called and can also receive text messages.

CAC Member 8: Our church is in Ferndale and we have a food drive every Thursday. Can we get those signs, one in Spanish and one in English to distribute at the weekly food drive?

Project Team Member 2: You can take 2 Spanish signs with you today. I will have 3 for the Hispanic and Latino Liaison to put out as well. One of the things I have spoken to Mr. Halls about is use of the church beyond the sanctuary space.

CAC Member 8: We aren't using the inside of the facility. We have church outside, right now. If you want to do small groups (about 30 people), we could set up the chairs in the parking lot for proper distancing. That is how we have church now. But nobody is in the building.

Project Team Member 2: That is a great resource that is central and accessible in the Ferndale area.

CAC Member 8: I could put the signs out during our food drives so community members can see it. Residents from Russelldale and Ferndale visit our food drives. I do not think we have any residents from Liberty Park or Highland Terrace, including a number of Hispanic residents.

Project Team Member 2: We can get more information about that to put in the information that we share with the CAC.

CAC Member 7: If I have it right, ground-breaking is seven years from this year before we start this highway. Is that correct?

Project Team Member 2: That is when highway construction takes place, but all the components that we have discussed have to be in place prior to that time.

CAC Member 7: That means seven years from now. Many changes will take place in seven years (relocations, evictions, death, etc.). There are a lot of people that do not care about this project because they may be tenants, or they are not going to be here very long. Is there a way to focus on residents who wants this information? Are we going to be forcing this information into mailboxes, beating on the doors of people who do not care? I do not know what you want to do about that.

CAC Member 1: I understand what you are saying about renters and people that may not be here seven years from now. I have been a long-time renter. I still plan to be here. I am the type of person that does not like to hop from home to home. Being a renter does not mean you don't care about the project.

CAC Member 7: Your words are important right now but there are some residents that may feel differently.

CAC Member 1: Give them the opportunity to say to decide how involved they want to be in the process. Don't just count them out.

CAC Member 7: I'm not counting them out. I am asking for their input now.

CAC Member 1: You may ask for their input and they indicate they aren't interested, but for people like me, they should be given a chance to participate. I have been here for eight years, going on nine. I care. My grandchildren and my great grandchildren visit. My grandkids tell me they love where I live and the the area where I am renting. I understand what you are saying, but at least let there be some solidarity. Everybody has their rights to their option. If they do not care, so be it. But for those that will be there, let's find out who wants to put their feet on the ground running to help make the neighborhood, especially the four neighborhoods, a success and upgraded. That is what I am also looking at. We have the chance to get some help with upgrading these neighborhoods. Let us go for it. We could not do it before this project came along and now you have the chance for upgrade. And some things in all the neighborhoods need to be upgraded.

Project Team Member 2: I want to read SCDOT's comment (in the chat box) quickly. "We must provide all residents, tenants, or owners with the opportunity to provide input. We cannot presume an individual's level of interest."

- One of the things that usually happens if you become selective in how you disseminate information, is someone is left out and that is the nail that will stick out. And, they will probably create more conflict than anyone else, because they feel like they were intentionally excluded. Now there are opt-in options for other communications if you want to receive electronic updates, we can add you to the sign-up list.

CAC Member 7: That is what I am asking about. Not who we leave out, but who wants more information. Can we identify those people?

Project Team Member 2: All the tools that we put in the mail or advertise have options to be part of the recipient list for information. You can go to the "Contact Us" link on the website and indicate your preferences for paper mail or email or opt into the texting service. But when all else fails, call the Community Office at (843) 258-1135. We want to drive traffic to this office because the Community Office Manager has been faithful since March 17th to be here every day except Saturday and Sunday. He answers the phone in response to the phone calls and voicemails. Those people that you are alluding to that do want to be informed and want to be engaged, please encourage them to make that call. These leaflets and this literature that we are putting out, the surveys, and the invitation invite us to conversation, are the part of the ways we need you all to help us push the content and drive the conversation.

Facilitator: I want revisit a comment that was made earlier. The comment was made about community members who feel that the project may not be inclusive of them and [the importance of disseminated

information] being more explicit throughout the process and that it is clear that feedback and comments from the public are expected, encouraged, and inclusive of the larger community, not just the CAC. I want to make sure that point is not missed. CAC members should take the opportunity throughout the process, to provide the project team with feedback on how any of the communication, whether it is on the website or at in-person meetings, town halls, mailers, etc. Is being received by community members. The project team and SCDOT see this information all of the time. They are working from their perspectives and it may look to them like it is worded in a way that is inclusive of all communities. But, if you are receiving feedback from the community and hearing that the project language (or messaging) is not reaching individual members of the community as a project that is personal to them, then your point is a great point. That is something CAC members always need to be cognizant of and willing to give feedback on how to word things so that community members feel like they are part of this process.

CAC Member 6: I have heard that comment communicated as I travel through the community.

CAC Member 4: The town hall meeting for my community is the best way to reach residents. We need to work on how to get our residents to attend the meetings. Town hall meetings will get more responses. If residents receive information from the project team and community office, they have more confidence in the information. They know we are not adding anything [to the project purpose or plans] or trying to gain anything from it.

Project Team Member 2: I have already talked about the yard signs. Those that are in the office now can see them. We have them in English and in Spanish. We will make sure everyone who indicated that they wanted one, gets one.

- We are converting the Metro Quest Online survey to a paper version. There is an online option to complete it, but because we do not want to eliminate anyone from the conversation (because of access to a computer or device or just their familiarity with those types of online surveys) a paper version will be included with the same flyer that you all got in your packet, the letter from Joy, the envelope so that it's conveniently returned with postage, and the magnet.

Project Team Member 2: Please keep in mind that we want you all to help us understand how to communicate. As it was already said, we look at this every day almost all day and into the late hours of the day. So, we appreciate you all telling us how to make sure we are effectively reaching the communities, as well as, giving them meaningful opportunities to engage.

Community Liaison 3: We are prepared to give highlights of the back-to-school giveaway and the new information boxes that have been identified.

Community Liaison 1: The back-to-school event was on Thursday, September 3rd.

- The event had significant participation due to the participation of our coordinators Origin South Carolina Lowcountry Street Grocery, Charleston County School District, the A. Phillip Randolph Institute, the Humanities Foundation, the Biblical House of God, and the North Charleston Police Department. All these people came together and made this a success. It really turned out well.
 - There were 83 adult and 17 Latino participants, plus 72 children at the Ferndale Center.
 - At the Russelldale site, the Biblical House of God, there were 42 adult and 12 Latino participants to sign up.
 - We gave away 320 book bags and 33,000 pounds of food at the Biblical House of God. We were pleased that A. Phillip Randolph and the Humanities Foundation were able to participate with us.

- It was a successful event. We thank everybody who came by. We really appreciate the help of the CAC members who gave out flyers. Some of our Ferndale CAC members and residents gave out flyers, so that was really helpful. We really appreciate all who distributed flyers.

Community Liaison 3: Can you give the list of new information box locations?

Community Liaison 1:

- We have a total of 18 confirmed community outreach boxes.
- Eight of them are exterior.
- Existing boxes at the transit stops include: Rivers and Remount, Rivers and Harley, Rivers and Rebecca, Rivers and Emden, Rivers and Mall Drive, Rivers and Summer, Dorchester-Leeds, and the Super Stop.
- The new interior acrylic community outreach boxes will be located at the Dorchester Senior Center, the Berkeley County Dorchester Charleston County organization (BCDCOG), and Penders Market that has two new retail stores in that area. CVS Drug Store on Montague and Mixon, Save A lot store on Durant Ave, Maxway Variety store on Rivers and Durant, and Cooper River Library at 3503 Rivers Avenue.

Thanks to our Liberty Park CAC member. Walter's Seafood and Gerald's Tires were more than happy to have the flyers placed inside their buildings.

Community Liaison 2: I want to emphasize what we have talked about throughout the meeting in terms of what is not covered in the mitigation and utilizing Community Resource Guide. Please remember the deadline is next Saturday to provide names and subcommittee assignments to the Maximum Consulting team for the education and employment mitigation initiatives.

Community Liaison 3: As a reminder, we encourage you to call the office and leave a message for us. By using that number, it enables us to keep a track of how many residents we are really reaching. The number is (843) 258-1135. Please be sure that you let the residents know that is the best way to reach us

Summary and Next Steps

Project Team Member 1:

- We had a great meeting today with a lot of great feedback. I really do appreciate all the input that we have gotten from our advisory council. Remember, these are your meetings and we want you to help drive and formulate the conversation and help us to develop this Mitigation Plan.
- We have been really focused on the mitigation. For next month's meeting, we want to start looking at what the actual impacts are from a community-by-community standpoint to help you better understand and better relay to your neighbors what the impacts are and really get people's attention, so we can start driving more people to the community office to get input as well as take advantage of some of the information that is available. We have ROW agents who are available to assist with providing information on the ROW process, so we want to take advantage of the resources that we have at the Community Office, as well as our Community Liaisons.

SCDOT Team Lead: Thank everyone for their participation today. There was a lot of great feedback, a lot of work to do, but I appreciate everyone's input today.

CAC Meeting #13 scheduled for October 3, 2020, 10 AM at the at Ferndale Community Center (across from Harvest Pointe Church, 4870 Piedmont Avenue, North Charleston, SC). Microsoft Teams will be available to join the meeting virtually.



Community Advisory Council Meeting #12

September 19, 2020

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- Draft Community Mitigation Timeline
- Outreach Update
- Summary and Next Steps

Neighborhood Update

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



Are there unanswered questions from the last meeting? Are there other items you would like to bring up with the CAC or project team?

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.

Russelldale Pocket Park Recap

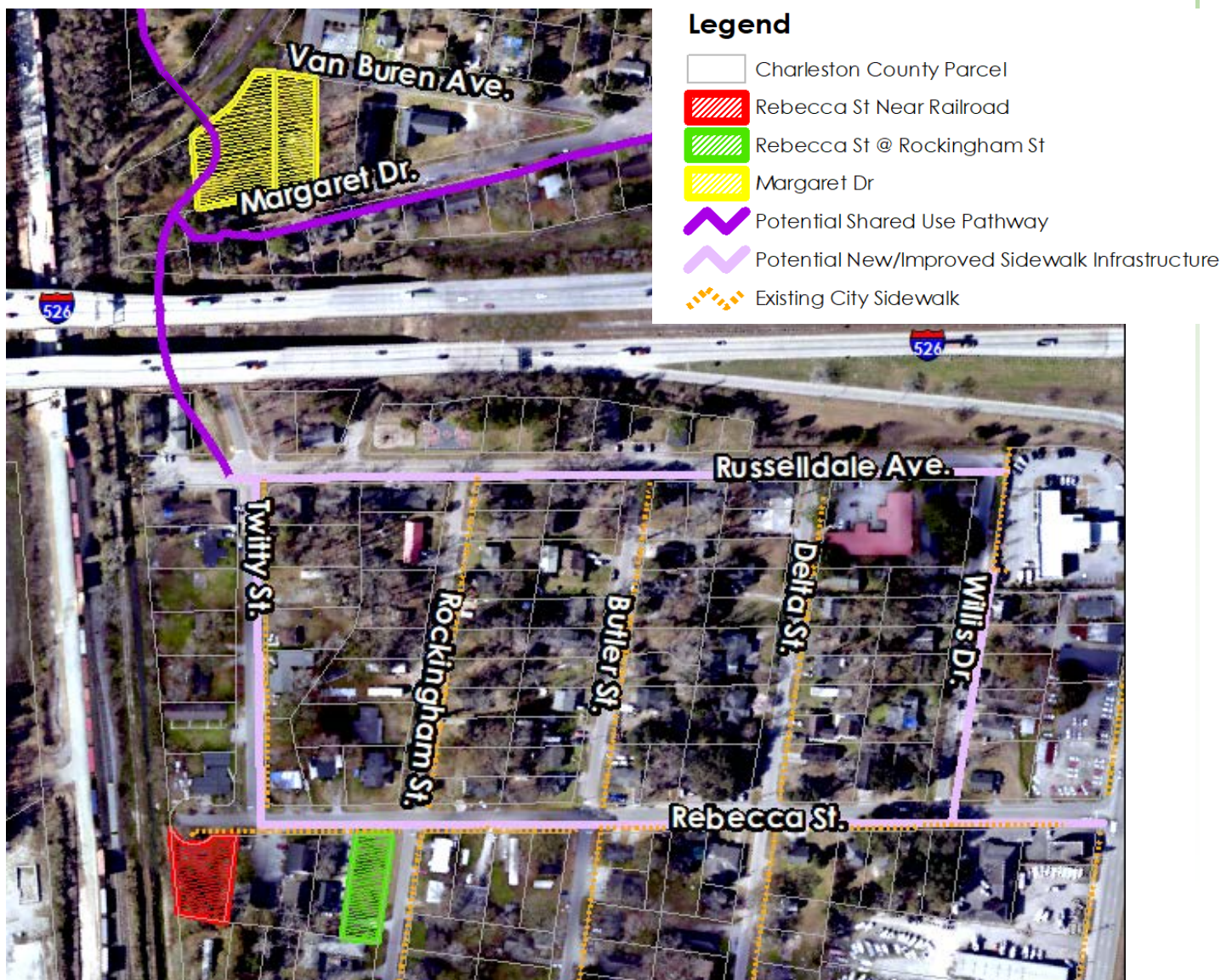
There are currently three options for the replacement of the facilities and amenities at the current Russelldale Community Center:

- Southwest corner of Rebecca Street /Rockingham Street intersection (Green)
- Western end of Rebecca Street near the Railroad (Red)
- Property between Margaret Drive and Van Buren Avenue (Yellow)

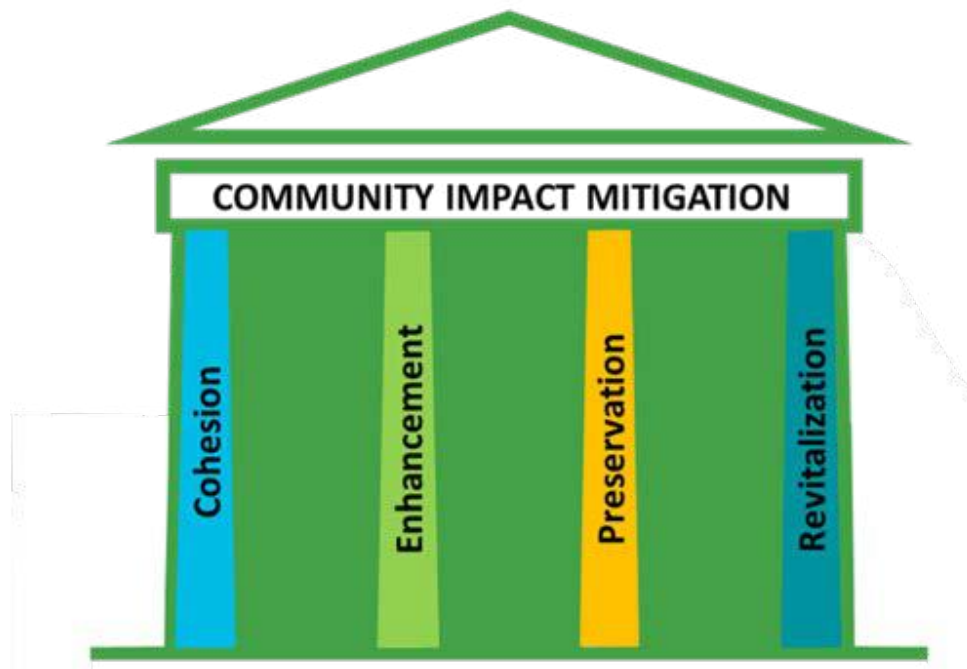
CAC members from Russelldale have provided opposing views regarding their preferences for the location of the Russelldale Community Center replacement facility.

- Mr. Grasso noted a preference for replacement facilities to be located on the parcel along Margaret Drive in Liberty Park (adjacent to the new community center).
- Ms. Anderson noted a preference for locating the replacement park amenities at the parcel at the corner of Rebecca and Rockingham Streets.

We would like consensus so we can document a preferred location.



CAC Input | Draft Community Mitigation Plan



REVITALIZATION: REPLACEMENT HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT/ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES	
CAC/SNA FEEDBACK	SCDOT COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURE
Social Needs Assessment: Availability of quality housing #3 out of 25 Availability of affordable housing #4 out of 25 CAC Feedback: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prefer single-family rental units versus multi-family units/mobile homes/modular 	Affordable Housing Financial Literacy and First-time Home Buyer Counseling
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy and self-advocacy – educational and financial resource 	Organizational Training College Aid Initiative School-to-Work Program Pre-employment Training

Please review the CAC/SNA feedback to ensure your community's needs were accurately identified. Note any additional questions or thoughts in the space below.

CAC Input | Draft Community Mitigation Plan

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION: INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS	
CAC/SNA FEEDBACK	SCDOT COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES
<p>Social Needs Assessment: Adequate stormwater management #1 out of 25 Adequate sidewalks/bicycle facilities #2 out of 25 Well-lit streets/sidewalks #8 out of 25</p> <p>CAC Feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of speed humps to address speeding and general safety • Need to address sidewalk infrastructure needs and connectivity in neighborhoods • Pedestrian accommodations over/across Rivers Avenue; safety issues for veterans crossing at Patriots Villa across Rivers Avenue • Importance of safe, practical footpaths/sidewalks • Safety for bicycle riders • Address areas with inadequate streetlighting • Address areas of standing water • CARTA/shuttle bus (with seats) to transport residents, morning and evening • Bus shelters with covers and seating 	<p>Connectivity and Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove barriers to residents' ability to 'age in place' 	<p>Not addressed by draft Community Mitigation Plan **The Community Resource Guide being developed by Maximum Consulting will identify programs and resource contacts</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential partnerships with local college nursing programs to develop health and wellness program for senior residents 	

Please review the CAC/SNA feedback to ensure your community's needs were accurately identified. Note any additional questions or thoughts in the space below.

CAC Input | Draft Community Mitigation Plan

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT: COMMUNITY CENTER AND RECREATIONAL FACILITY REPLACEMENT	
CAC/SNA FEEDBACK	SCDOT COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of traffic calming measures • Installation of speed humps to address speeding and general safety 	Connectivity and Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for advocacy training to prepare for CAC transition to POC • Networking opportunities 	Organizational Training
<p>Social Needs Assessment: Services for seniors: #5 out of 25 Services for youth: #6 out of 25</p> <p>CAC Feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian bridge to help children and other community center users avoid traffic • Concerns about walkability for children to the proposed community center • CAC agreeable to evaluate one, centrally located facility and smaller pocket parks due to limited availability of large and/or contiguous vacant/underdeveloped parcels • Residents' first choice options (amenities) should be included in the intergovernmental agreement • CAC input in the intergovernmental agreement with the City of North Charleston • "Neighborhood" center vs. community center (CAC does not want a box design) • Facility should be broad scale in design, diverse use, forward-thinking, multi-faceted • Include history in community center 	Recreation Facilities and Amenities Recreation Programs and Activities Connectivity and Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Community History Preservation Study

Please review the CAC/SNA feedback to ensure your community's needs were accurately identified. Note any additional questions or thoughts in the space below.

CAC Input | Draft Community Mitigation Plan

COMMUNITY COHESION: ACTIONS THAT STRENGTHEN NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS	
CAC/SOCIAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT FEEDBACK	SCDOT COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES
CAC Feedback: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More access to community center for community children; “neighborhood” center versus “community” center • Center staffed by neighborhood residents with scheduled activities that engage the community • Center staff need to be qualified to run the center • Crime prevention through well-lit streets; going above code for minimum requirements for spacing of streetlights • Sense of ownership through well-defined private/public areas; directional signs, landscaping, and informal common areas 	Recreation Facilities and Amenities Recreational Programs and Activities Connectivity and Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Organizational Training
CAC Feedback: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian bridge to help children and other community center users avoid traffic • Concerns about walkability for children to the proposed community center 	Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan
CAC Feedback: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime prevention through lighting design and maintenance (CPTED principle) • Surveillance cameras as crime prevention measure • Convey sense of ownership of public spaces as crime deterrent by maintaining areas in public domain (CPTED principle) 	Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan
Social Needs Assessment: Appearance of neighborhood homes #9 out of 25 CAC Feedback: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to eliminate abandoned properties/overgrown lots • Crime prevention through increased law enforcement presence • Community yard sale to foster community cohesion 	Not addressed by draft Community Mitigation Plan

Please review the CAC/SNA feedback to ensure your community’s needs were accurately identified. Note any additional questions or thoughts in the space below.

Draft Community Mitigation Plan Updates

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENT PLAN

The *Community Livability Plan* concept has transitioned to a *Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan (CIEP)*

“A CIEP would identify a set of improvements to address bicycle and pedestrian safety, access to community centers, enhanced street aesthetics project-related stormwater improvements, and traffic calming measures that would be implemented as part of the project.”

SIMILARITIES

- Requires community involvement
- Identifies infrastructure improvements needs
- Develops a written document to summarize recommendations

DIFFERENCES

- *Community Livability Plan*
 - Focuses on identifying a broader range of community social and infrastructure needs
 - Requires a more intense public engagement process
 - Involves a longer study timeframe --- completion within 1 year after the FEIS/ROD approval date (Approximate 2-year duration)
 - Identifies partnerships to assist in addressing community needs identified through the study process
 - No commitment required from SCDOT or the City to fund all identified needs
- *Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan (CIEP)*
 - Focuses solely on identifying infrastructure improvements and includes separate technical studies to identify various infrastructure needs.
 - Involves a shorter study timeframe -- completion prior to the approval of the FEIS/ROD (Approximate 1-year duration)
 - Commitment by SCDOT to construct or address specified infrastructure needs prior to construction of I-526 improvements.

Draft Community Mitigation Plan Updates

WEATHERIZATION

- Weatherization of homes in the impacted EJ neighborhoods was evaluated to determine if it would be applicable as mitigation for project-related impacts.
- The draft Community Mitigation Plan currently **does not** include weatherization for the following reasons:
 - The needs that would be addressed by home weatherization improvements exist with or without the roadway improvements which will be constructed by the I-526 LCC-WEST project
 - There is not a direct connection between weatherization goals and the impacts resulting from the I-526 / I-26 improvements
- How can residents receive weatherization and energy-efficiency outside of project mitigation?
 - Neighborhood Energy Efficiency Program (Dominion Energy)
 - Palmetto Community Action Partnership
<http://www.palmettocap.org/menus/weatherization.html>
 - The Sustainability Institute
<http://sustainabilityinstitutesc.org/ecc/weatherization/>

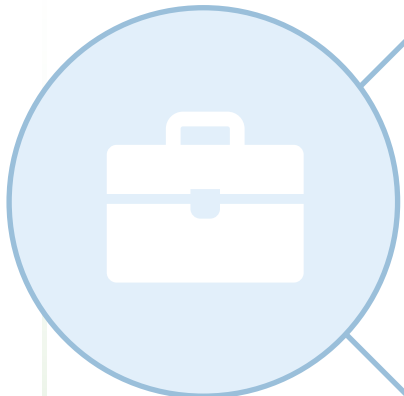
How can the local weatherization resources be better utilized in the EJ communities?

Draft Education and Employment Mitigation Initiatives



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 and engineering. Each year high school and/or college students from the impacted neighborhoods can participate in the program through the completion of the project.



Pre-employment Training

This program will be established prior to construction to provide training and job readiness skills to individuals from the affected communities. SCDOT will determine the number of participants required completing the program and the program will be the responsibility of the contractor. The contractor's program plan and curriculum will be reviewed and approved by SCDOT. Graduates of this program will be considered for participation in On-The-Job Training (OJT) Program.



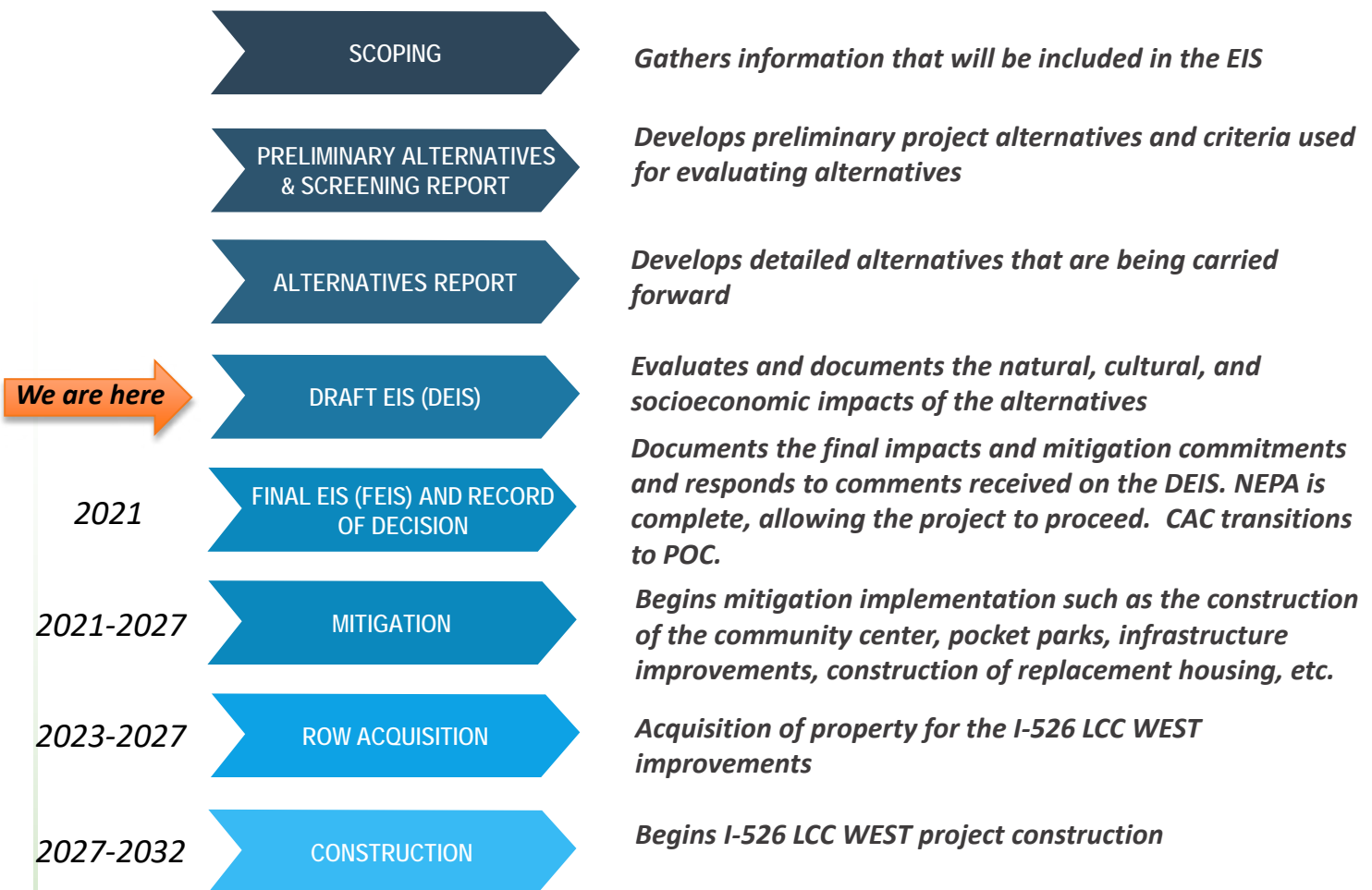
College Aid Initiative

Prior to construction, SCDOT will develop a partnership with educational institutions and provide up to \$50,000 to fund a scholarship program. The scholarship program will be for high school and college students from the impacted EJ communities that intend to or currently attend the selected educational institutions.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT:

Are there members from each community that would like form a subcommittee to determine how best to implement the Educational and Employment Mitigation Initiatives?

Project Schedule / Milestone Review



Outreach Update

➤ Draft Mitigation Plan Mailer Feedback

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

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 for Transportation Improvements

- 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.

Additional details and new mitigation measures may be added to this Community Mitigation Plan after the Public Hearing and public comment on this proposed mitigation plan. The final Plan will be included in the final environmental document and will include all agreements and plans for mitigation implementation. **It's important to provide your comments now, so they are considered in this plan!**

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 walking distance of potentially impacted communities. Located in Gas Light Square at 5627 Rivers Avenue (CARITA 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.

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

CAC's Role
Advise
Connect
Represent
Communicate

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

Your Input Matters!
NOW is the time to have your voice heard! Complete our survey & leave a comment by January 15, 2021
www.526LowcountryCorridor.com

Make an appointment at our Community Office (5627 Rivers Avenue, Gas Light Square)
info@526LowcountryCorridor.com 843.258.1135
SCDOT Project Manager 866.632.5262 (Toll Free)
Joy Riley, PE, DBIA, PMP, CFM @526Corridor

Please review the draft Community Mitigation Plan mailer that was included in your packet and provide feedback here:

➤ EJ Community Town Hall Meetings | Draft Community Mitigation Plan

Previous discussions have suggested that neighborhood virtual meetings may be a useful tool for reviewing and explaining the items within the draft Community Mitigation Plan to residents within the EJ communities.

In your opinion, what is the best way to garner interest in these meetings?

Outreach Update

PROJECT YARD SIGNS

Please see below for the final English and Spanish versions of the project yard signs that will be handed out at the Sept 19, 2020 CAC Meeting #12. Please place this sign in your yard where passing cars and neighbors can easily see it. Thank you!!

Questions? Comments? Call Us!



www.526LowcountryCorridor.com
843.258.1135

¿Preguntas? ¿Comentarios? ¡Llámanos!



www.526LowcountryCorridor.com
843.258.1135

METROQUEST ONLINE SURVEY

The draft Community Mitigation Plan is scheduled to be available to the public starting at the beginning of October 2020. To gather feedback, the project team has developed an online survey and would like input from the CAC before publishing it for public engagement.

We will walk through the survey during CAC Meeting #12

Main topics include:

- Project communication methods
- Community Center Recreation Programs
- Community Center Amenities
- Infrastructure improvements

Outreach Update

Maximum Consulting On-going Outreach

- Lowcountry Back-to-School Giveaway Highlights
- Community Info Box Update
- Magnets Outreach Update

NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE LIST

FERNDALE • HIGHLAND TERRACE
LIBERTY PARK • RUSSELDALE

Just for you!

EMERGENCY

Fire – Police – Ambulance 911

Animal Control..... 843-740-2815 (Office); 843-822-1094 (Cell)

Police Department (Non-Emergency Line)..... 843-740-2800

Poison Control 800-222-1222

RESOURCES

Lowcountry Food Bank..... 843-747-8146

Trident Area Agency on Aging..... 843-554-2275

Trident United Way..... 211

Veterans Community Resources & Referral Center... 843-789-6804

MEDICAL

Bon Secours St Francis Hospital (West Ashley) 843-402-1000

Medical University of South Carolina (Downtown) 843-792-3826

Nason Urgent Care Northwoods (N Charleston)..... 843-773-9903

Roper St. Francis Emergency Room (N Charleston) .. 843-824-8733

SC Department of Health & Environmental Control.. 843-953-2450

Trident Medical Center (N Charleston)..... 843-797-7000

Centre Pointe Emergency (N Charleston)..... 843-746-2400

CITY GOVERNMENT / NORTH CHARLESTON

City of North Charleston, Information..... 843-554-5700

Clerk of Court 843-740-2601

Emergency Preparedness..... 843-740-2884

North Charleston Code Enforcement..... 843-740-2672



*Distributed by the
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Corridor WEST Project*

www.526LowcountryCorridor.com

843-258-1135 **f** **t** **@526Corridor**

Community Office: 5627 Rivers Ave. (Gas Lite Square)

Moving Forward

Next Steps: CAC Meeting #13 - October 3rd

Notes



MEETING MINUTES

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 13

Date: October 3, 2020

Time: 10:00 am – 12:45 pm

Location: Ferndale Community Center (across from Harvest Pointe Church, 4870 Piedmont Avenue, North Charleston, SC),

Microsoft Teams (Virtual)

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees

Larenda Baxley, Ferndale
Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale
Michael Halls, Sr., Ferndale
Gilbert Reeves, Ferndale
Geneva Swett, Ferndale
Angela Anderson, Russelldale
Jeanaris Bannister, Liberty Park
Carolyn Varner, Liberty Park
Doris Twiggs, Liberty Park
Prayonda Cooper, Joppa Way
Omar Muhammad (Panelist), LAMC
Nashonda Hunter (Panelist), The Charity
Foundation, Executive Director
Phillip Scott (Panelist), NAACP, North Charleston
Chapter, President
David Brunson, NAACP Guest of Phillip Scott
Allison Lane (Event Photographer), Rawle Murdy

Joy Riley, SCDOT
Chad Long, SCDOT
David Kelly, SCDOT
Pamela Foster, FHWA
Yolonda Jordan, FHWA
Maxine Smith, Maximum Consulting
Mattese Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Carolyn Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Clay Middleton, Maximum Consulting
Janelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies
Rick Day, Stantec
Amy Sackaroff, Stantec
LaTonya Derrick, Stantec
Ryan White, Stantec
Hannah Clements, Stantec
Horace Tobin, Stantec (Community Office)

Participant Summary:

Total participants: 31

Ferndale: 5	Adjacent/affected communities/agencies: 5	Community Office: 1
Highland Terrace/Joppa Way: 1	SCDOT: 3	Stantec: 5
Liberty Park: 3	FHWA: 2	Facilitator: 1
Russelldale: 1	Community Liaisons: 4	

Meeting Summary:

Welcome and Introductions

- Roll call (in-person, online, and phone participants)

Administrative Items

- CAC Meeting 13 hosted using a hybrid approach with participants joining via the Microsoft Teams platform, by phone, and in person.
 - The meeting was recorded solely for accuracy of meeting minutes.
 - LaTonya will serve as the technical host for participants joining remotely.
 - Participants may raise their hands, virtually and in person, to ask questions.
- CAC Meeting 13 packets were distributed to meeting participants prior to the meeting date, including minutes for CAC Meeting 12.
- CAC Meeting 12 minutes require changes to include corrected spelling for both Pinders and Welch's markets.

Safety briefing: In case of emergency, meeting participants should exit through the front entrance of the community center and congregate on Piedmont Avenue at the front of the Harvest Pointe Church across the street from the Ferndale Community Center. In the event the entrance is blocked, meeting participants should exit through the door in the gymnasium space and proceed to the front of Harvest Pointe Church. (White, R.)

Review of Agenda

- Welcome and Administrative Items
- Neighborhood Update
- Education and Employment Mitigation Subcommittee
- Community Leader Panel Discussion
- EJ Neighborhood Impact Update
- Community History Preservation Plan Update
- Outreach Update
- Summary and Next Steps

Neighborhood Update:

Facilitator: CAC Members representing each of the impacted communities (Ferndale, Highland Terrace/Joppa Way, Liberty Park, and Russelldale) were asked to share concerns expressed by the residents of impacted communities regarding the I-526 project since CAC Meeting #12. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member (Liberty Park):

- Flooding on Target Street and in the back of Taylor Street, parallel to the railroad tracks continues to be a problem. When it rains, that whole area floods.
- Neighbors complain about the (poor) lighting in Liberty Park and Highland Terrace as well. (Bannister, J.)

CAC Member (Russelldale):

- Flooding at the corner of Rebecca and Rivers Avenue and poor lighting continues to be a problem in the Russelldale community. (Anderson, A.)

Project Manager:

- May I ask a question about the lighting? Is it the lack of lighting or the light power? (Riley, J.)

CAC Member (Russelldale):

- Both, lack of lighting and light power. The lighting is so old that even when the lights are on, it doesn't provide enough light. (Anderson, A.)

Project Manager:

- The City of North Charleston is planning to upgrade existing lighting to LED lights. I don't know the timing on installing those upgrades, but so that you are aware, there are plans to upgrade lighting in the area. (Riley, J.)

Project Team Member:

- And again, as a part of our Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan (CIEP), there is a lighting component. The project team is planning to start the lighting study in early 2021. This is when we will begin evaluating lighting needs of the community. (White, R.)

CAC Member (Liberty Park):

- The old system in my neighborhood, I think it used to be 300 feet from light post to light post, that is the old system. In some areas, there is no light, because they have taken the light off of the post. I don't know why. (Bannister, J.)

Project Team Member:

- As part of that scope, one of the things we will be looking at is the actual light spacing. For the most part, it will be a pretty comprehensive look at what the lighting needs are for all four communities. So, that is a part of the proposed mitigation for the project. (White, R.)

Unknown Speaker:

- This is a part of the [inaudible]?

Project Team Member:

- Yes sir. This will be a part of the CIEP. (White, R.)

Facilitator:

- Ms. Cooper, thank you for joining us. We are going through and asking if there are any questions about individual communities. Do you have any comments regarding Joppa Way? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member (Joppa Way):

- Just (poor) lighting. (Cooper, P.)

Facilitator:

- Thank you. Any other questions or comments for the neighborhood updates?
Before we move to the next agenda item, we wanted to make sure that we circled back to close the loop on a couple of items from previous meetings.? Is Ms. Twiggs on the line? (Ellis, J.)
- Project Team Member:
She is. (Derrick, L.)
- Facilitator:

In CAC Meeting #11, Joy commented on the overgrown vegetation at the Rebecca and Twitty Street parcel which is under consideration for the Russelldale pocket park. Her point was that the parcel is not currently the responsibility of SCDOT or the City of North Charleston (because it is privately owned). In the event that parcel is chosen and purchased as the Russelldale pocket park location, the City will then be responsible for maintenance of the location. I know we have had some discussions about intergovernmental agreements, but I think, if it is their property, they will be responsible for maintaining it. (Ellis, J.)

Project Manager:

- The City currently has a program for overgrown lots. For lots that we (SCDOT) are responsible for, we get notices for overgrown lots. We are fined if we don't address it. That is how SCDOT manages notices for overgrown lots. Once we purchase a lot, our intention is to maintain it. (Riley, J.)

Facilitator:

- I just want to make sure we closed the loop on that conversation to ensure that people understood the comment in its entirety. The other item...Mrs. Twiggs, can you hear us? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member:

- Yes, I can hear you. (Twiggs, D.)

Facilitator:

- One of the comments that you have made as sort of a recurring comment is a concern about those residents that are "left behind" and wanting to make sure that the project team is clear in terms of what these changes "will look like" in the process of implementing this plan. So, one of the things we think, as the project team, that we understand is what you mean by being "left behind," but if you are comfortable and you can take a couple of minutes to clarify for us the meaning of your question to make sure the project team is answering the question you are asking...Would you mind taking a minute to clarify that comment? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member:

- Well, I did not hear your question in its entirety. The audio is not clear on my end. But, I think I heard you say that you wanted clarification on what I meant by "left behind," and yes, that is my comment taken from a conversation that I had with someone.
- My only focus here is to make sure that the person's who are not going to be immediately impacted, will know that they will have a comfortable life in the area, in the neighborhood, going forward. I can't answer that question, and maybe some of you cannot today, but I would like for us to keep it upfront so that we are inclusive of everyone that's in the neighborhood, whether they are in the shadow of what is to come, or whether they will be, quote unquote, "left behind."
- Left behind merely means when they remain in that neighborhood going forward into another seven, eight years and beyond, that they can truly say that they'd be comfortable. One reason why I can adapt, or think about it from the standpoint of left behind, is that my family experienced some of that. And it was, I would say, maybe no intentional, whatever, of the first project that came through with I-26, but there were many unpleasant situations for persons that were left there in terms of beside the lane that is on Liberty Park side that would pass into James Bell, Elder, and possibly some of Taylor.
- And that's my only concern. I would like for the quality of life for those persons to be pleasant and sustained. Some of them are elderly. Some of them are younger persons inheriting the property of

their family. And I would just like for us to be very sensitive to how the neighborhood will look in terms of those persons that will be there. And maybe that's a lot or too much, but I just felt it needed to be said. And, definitely, I will not be leaving it out as we go forward. (Twiggs, D.)

Facilitator:

- Thank you, Ms. Twiggs. (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member:

Sure thing. And I'm also open for Joy and Chad to add, but that's where a big part of the Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan comes in. We're looking at a wide range of things. I did mention lighting, sidewalks, landscaping, etc. So we're trying to look at the neighborhood improvements with that plan from a holistic standpoint, as best we can, with the mitigation for the project. And so hopefully that addresses some of the concerns. (White, R.)

Project Manager:

And, I think a couple of other components...[inaudible]. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

Ryan, are you speaking directly to what my comment was? (Twiggs, D.)

Project Team Member:

I'm trying to. And Joy was just adding as well that there is a... (White, R.)

CAC Member:

I can't hear Joy. I can hear you. I'm sorry. (Twiggs, D.)

Project Team Member:

They're passing the microphone now. (Derrick, L.)

Project Manager:

I was going to say... Can you hear me now? (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

That's much better. (Twiggs, D.)

Project Manager:

I was going to say that what Ryan said was a very general overview, but things that can come into play in that Infrastructure Enhancement Plan would also be visual appearance, or aesthetics. And that could be done with landscaping or with other types of things, such as walls or cultural displays. There's a wide range of things that you can look at, and the community can drive those decision points. But also storm water is a component of that. I know that was a concern that Ms. Twiggs and I have had a conversation about before. And also, noise. Ms. Twiggs, is there anything else that would contribute to quality of life that falls beyond the things that Ryan and I just mentioned? (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

I think you did hit upon, the both of you, several things that may ease my mind some. But, I will be talking more about this as we go forward, especially thinking back on the water that flooded communities and

yards from Elder to Deacon, the mudslide that became a part of person's backyards between James Bell and Elder. And these issues are not hearsay... What I'm mentioning to you are experiences as I grew up in that area. So I understand perfectly when Mr. Bannister talked about stormwater and how the area floods. I just would like to make sure this time, along with some of the residents that continue to live there, that we do not have this unpleasant experience again, because it does impact the property of these persons when we have the overgrown areas that become their yard or part of their yard, or the mudslides that become part of their yard. And as you get the vegetation, you get less of the mudslide. I understand all of that. But, I would like for us to have lovely pocket parks, such as the Filbin Creek Development. All of those nice things. But as we walk through the community, I would like to know that I'm walking through a community that is left better than when we first entered it. And I guess that's the crux of it all. (Twiggs, D.)

Project Manager:

- I'll just add one more thing. This is Joy. Because I live in a community that DOT is responsible for the drainage, as well. It's a 1930's-style community that was built a long, long time ago. Please recognize that you guys have the same situation, and that drainage system was probably installed well before all that development came through, so it's undersized for what is out there. There are some things that you can do proactively to put... I put in a maintenance request every time there's a major storm event, because our ditches and our pipes fill up. And that means if nobody calls in a maintenance request, that means we don't know it's a problem.
- We are not out inspecting every time there's a storm event, all our infrastructure. We just don't have the personnel to do that. So we do have a maintenance request. You can either call to the 855-GO-SCDOT and talk to somebody. We're not open on the weekends unless it's an emergency, but during normal business hours you can call that number and file the maintenance request.
- On our homepage, there's a maintenance request. You can just type it in, and they will call you and follow up if you say, "I want to be followed up with." A lot of times, it's not that DOT is not doing it because they don't want to do it. It's, a lot of times DOT doesn't know it's a problem, because we have a long list of problems, and a lot of times, very few resources and manpower to get to them. So if you make sure you file those issues, then at least somebody can come and look at it, because, nine times out of ten, in a neighborhood that's older, it's going to be... It just needs to be maintained. And that's an easy way for us to address a problem without having millions of dollars to upgrade the infrastructure. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

Joy, I have a question. (Bannister, J.)

CAC Member:

Thank you. (Twiggs, D.)

CAC Member:

My question is, being in North Charleston paying stormwater fees, do I need to call DOT about my drainage, or call City of North Charleston Sanitation? (Bannister, J.)

Project Manager:

Well, you're on Taylor Street.

CAC Member:

We're on Taylor Street. Also, I have some property on Beulah Avenue. (Bannister, J.)

Project Manager:

Nine times out of ten, you're going to call the City. (Riley, J.)

Project Team Member:

I think Ms. Varner had a question. (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member:

Starting I guess at Taylor Street and the stop sign, going back to what really is happening. I mean, it flows like a river if we have a very bad downpour of rain. I'm glad to hear them say that, because I do not call every time, and maybe that's something that we need to start doing because it is horrible. Cars pass through that water, and water is splashed everywhere on everyone's property. And what's happening is that sometimes it's mixed with sewage. And when you do that and you're splashing it on people's properties, to me, that's a health issue, also. And I understand that. Earlier, I was the person who was complaining. They did come and they improve some things but from my standpoint, it looks like it made it worse. I mean, the water looks like all of a sudden we have a river now instead of just that slow and standing water from before. So I guess I don't understand what happened. (Varner, C.)

Project Manager:

Yeah, if you take pictures, it helps a lot, because if we're not out there during a storm event, a lot of times we don't know what the problem is. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

I will do that. (Varner, C.)

Project Manager:

I mean, I usually have to take pictures. Even I have to take pictures. And that may help them to [crosstalk 00:24:57], but it's also something that you may just have to do more than once. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

I understand that. (Varner, C.)

Project Manager:

But I will say that, when we do projects, we will upgrade all the infrastructure that is tied to the interstate, and also just so you know, the major project that's coming through on Rivers Avenue, the BRT will upgrade that drainage infrastructure, which is probably contributing somewhat, because all those systems are connected to what's on Rivers Avenue. And of course, all these projects that we do in the infrastructure enhancement plan, I mean, we're not obviously going to go in and upgrade all the drainage infrastructure in the neighborhoods because that would cause another impact. But, everywhere where we're doing traffic calming, or a sidewalk improvement, we are required to upgrade the drainage as well. So I think that there will be a positive benefit, but if you do have a [inaudible] you can up being one of those people who live and have that older infrastructure that hasn't been upgraded, you just have to stay on top of the maintenance requests unfortunately. Because if it's undersized, if it gets clogged, it's going to be much worse. (Riley, J.)

Facilitator:

Thank you, Joy. Chad, did you have anything to add to that at all? (Ellis, J.)

SCDOT Team Lead:

I would just add this. We have recently discussed putting together a resource guide for the communities, and so this is something that would fit right in there. So beyond the life of this project, you would know who to call, how to document this information, and have them hopefully help you out or point you in the right direction. Good discussion. These are great comments and that's what we need to hear. (Long, C.)

Facilitator:

Perfect. Thank you for your questions, are there any other questions? And Ms. Twiggs, does that, for now- and I know that you said you continue to have questions throughout the process, and that's good. That's what the purpose of these meetings is. But for today, at this moment, do you feel like your question has been answered substantially? (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member:

You're still on mute. (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member:

Yes, I'm sorry. (Twiggs, D.)

Facilitator:

That's okay, just giving you a chance to get back on the call. That's fine. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member:

Go ahead, I'm sorry. (Twiggs, D.)

Facilitator:

Oh, no ma'am, you're fine. I just wanted to make sure that, for right now, you feel like your question is being answered according to what it is that you're interested in understanding. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member:

Yes. I'm okay for today. Of course, at meeting 14, I'll be back. (Twiggs, D.)

Facilitator:

Okay. All right. Thank you. Any other questions regarding neighborhood updates before we move on? Yes, ma'am, Ms. Baxley? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member:

One question in about the drainage thing. I know some areas have very shallow ditches, or no ditches. Others have ditches that literally I could stand in and you can't see the top of my head. For someone who is not quite five foot tall, getting down and there and cleaning those out makes it kind of difficult at times. For people who have these huge ditches in front of their houses, how do you get those filled in? Obviously, the other house I had did not have pipes put in. That was a problem. (Baxley, L.)

Project Manager:

That's a much bigger thing, because what you're talking about is doing a full drainage project in the community. And right now we don't have a funding source that's specifically geared towards drainage, so we can do some maintenance stuff, but probably installing a closed drainage system...you can't always just

put a pipe right there. A lot of times it entails taking a pipe all the way to your outlet point. So all I can say is put in a maintenance request, and try to give them as much information as possible. A description of what happens when the storm event, exactly what your problem is. I took pictures of my yard flooded. I took pictures of sediment in the pipe. I mean, I kind of got down in the ditch, took pictures, and I got better results doing that than just saying, "I got a drainage problem." Because believe me, in older neighborhoods, there are hundreds of drainage problems. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

Well, luckily with mine, it's not a drainage problem. (Baxley, L.)

Project Manager:

And a lot of times it is that the squeaky wheel gets the grease. So if somebody calls and says, "I've got flooding in my yard," their initial reaction is to go out and clean out the ditch, and it's going to make it deeper, and clean out the pipe, but it might be clogged. A lot of times it is, areas, ditches get filled in over time. Sometimes even property owners still do work in their yard, and inadvertently fill in ditches, which cause problems for all the neighbors. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

Yeah I actually had that problem at the other house. They had to come out and dig it out. (Baxley, L.)

Project Manager:

The squeaky wheel gets the grease. So if you get proactive about it... and I even sometimes put in requests that are not on my property because I know it's causing a problem on my property. (Riley, J.)

Project Team Member:

And to address a quick comment in the chat, Ms. Foster from FHWA wanted the number restated, it is 1-855-GO-SCDOT or 855-467-2368. (Derrick, L.)

Facilitator:

Thank you, Ms. Baxley. Any other questions or comments regarding individual neighborhoods? The next thing on our agenda is that Ryan is going to give us an update on the education employment mitigation subcommittee. (Ellis, J.)

Education and Employment Mitigation Subcommittee:

Project Team Member:

Yes ma'am, and this will be really brief, but we did, at the last meeting, solicit volunteers to participate in our subcommittee. So as part of our mitigation plans, there are employment as well as educational opportunities that are being funded by the project. And so, as part of this, we've reached out to our advisory council to help us continue to develop how these programs should be administered, specifically the scholarship program. That includes developing the qualifications, but also helping us to get the word out to members of the community that there's a scholarship program that's available to them. Members who have committed to serving on the Education and Employment Mitigation Subcommittee include: Mr. Nathaniel Bryant will be representing Highland Terrace. Miss Prayonda Cooper, representing Joppa Way. Miss Cynthia Anderson, Liberty Park. Brother Earl Muhammad, from the Muhammad Mosque. We did not get a volunteer from Ferndale. (White, R.)

Project Team Member:
I thought Gilbert Reeves... (Derrick. L.)

Project Team Member:
Oh, yeah I'm sorry. My apologies Mr. Reeves. Then also Ms. Carolyn Lecque is making herself available also. (White, R.)

CAC Member:
And also Russelldale. (Anderson, A.)

Project Team Member:
Russelldale. Okay. Yes ma'am. And then also Ms. Pam Foster from FHWA has also volunteered to make herself available to assist in this effort. So what we'll do as a project team is take the lead on scheduling the meetings with Pam Foster, just so she can give you all some guidance on things that she's experienced in her work to help develop the criteria and help us move forward. And then as an individual committee you all are definitely free to meet as you need to, and then just be prepared to follow back up with us as a committee during the next CAC meeting. We'll just make sure we schedule time at each CAC meeting for you all to provide us with an update. That's all I've got. (White, R.)

Facilitator:
Okay. Yes, ma'am. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member:
As far as I'm concerned, Mr. Earl Muhammad, he comes to our Ferndale meetings. I don't think he's here today. As far as I'm concerned, he's kind of representing us. So I don't see where we don't really have a representative. So I just wanted to mention that. (Baxley, T.)

Project Team Member:
Yes, ma'am. (White, R.)

Facilitator:
Is Muhammad on the phone? (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member:
He's not able to participate today. (Derrick. L.)

Facilitator :
Okay. Thank you Ms. Baxley. All right. Thank you for your comments. And thanks to everyone who's actually volunteered to serve on this subcommittee as well. The next thing that we're going to- (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member:
Real quick, one thing. And just as we move forward, as we start looking at other mitigation items, one of the things me and Chad have discussed is developing subcommittees to help address some of the other components of the mitigation plan. For example, when you start to dig into the Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan, creating a subcommittee that is constantly engaged with the project team to give feedback and help us receive input from the neighborhoods as well. So as we continue to progress the advisory council, there will be other opportunities for a subcommittee to help us to continue to develop

the mitigation plan. So if you haven't volunteered, we'll make room for you. (White, R.)

Facilitator:

So quick question. You guys have been talking more about the small groups. Will those things be determined through the small groups, or will we just... (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member:

Well, they'll still report back. It's just more intimate conversations where we may not have time for this bigger collective group to have more detailed dialogue. (White, R.)

Facilitator :

Okay. Yes ma'am, Ms. Mattese? (Ellis, J.)

Community Liaison:

We don't want to deter a person, a chairperson in volunteering if they are interested. So, if a person is volunteering their time and saying that they express an interest in what is going on, we need to let them do that. (Lecque, M.)

Project Team Member:

Absolutely. (White, R.)

Community Liaison:

He might not be representing Ferndale, but he is representing some component of community needs. (Lecque, M.)

Facilitator:

Okay. That's a good point. Thank you Ms. Mattese. Any other comments regarding subcommittees? Okay. And then you're going to move into our community leader panel discussion now. And Ms. Carolyn, I need to make sure you have the microphone. (Ellis, J.)

Community Leader Panel Discussion:

Facilitator:

[To Ms. Carolyn] We need to make sure you have the microphone, so I will run it back. Okay. Then we will talk about the objectives of the session. (Ellis, J.)

Community Liaison:

- We have three panelists for today's meeting. We have Ms. Nashonda Hunter who is with the Charity Foundation. Charity just completed a house that they just sold in the Liberty Hill neighborhood. Ms. Hunter will be able to give us some information regarding what they went through in terms of getting that house. And I think the important part is advocacy and working with the City of North Charleston in terms of the hoops that they put them through in order to get to that point and which advanced all for affordable housing going forward. We want you to give us the experience about those things, because we want to make sure that this group has the information they need now to advocate for themselves. So, if you will tell us about that and also tell some more about yourself as Executive Director of the Charity Foundation.

- We have Mr. Phillip Scott who is the President of the North Charleston NAACP. Mr. Scott has worked a lot in this community. He knows North Charleston well because he grew up on Liberty Hill. So, he is familiar with a lot of the things that we need and he could tell us again about advocacy and also about what the and North Charleston NAACP can do to improve the lives of citizens here in North Charleston.
- We have Mr. Omar Muhammad who is the president and executive director for LAMC. LAMC did an excellent environmental study where they really did a real good job of looking at issues that impact the environment in this area. They called to our attention a lot of things that we need to think of in terms of how the power lines effect our community, how the water effects our community, and they also did some things in Ferndale and Liberty Hill, which he could probably tell us about, and also about their role in advocacy for the North area. (Lecque, C.)

Facilitator:

- Before we get started, I'm going to keep the microphone close in case they need it here. Let me just kind of set the stage or set the tone for the discussion this morning. And we'll start by just kind of establishing what the objective is for this session. And so bear with me. It's a little long, but I want to make sure if you guys have any questions about why we're here this morning you can ask those as well and throughout this process, if you have any questions, stop and ask. So it's not that we'll have presentations by guests (panelists), and then we stop for questions. We really want this to be interactive. So at any point, if you have a question, make sure that you are clear in articulating that. The objective of this panel is:
 - to provide CAC members an opportunity to engage with leaders of local community organizations,
 - to learn about their experiences in working with the City of North Charleston and other government agencies, and
 - to gain an understanding, a better understanding of what is required to remain engaged and effective also
 - to solicit and maintain involvement and participation from younger members
 - to assess how to organize for the benefit of their community beyond the I-526 LCC West project.
 - And so keep in mind that the purpose for this session this morning is to empower the CAC members, but also to help SCDOT, understand how they can best facilitate the success of the efforts that the CAC members are putting into this process. And not only now as, during the community advisory council, and I believe LAMC has the CAB (Community Advisory Board), but beyond and looking at the, the Project Oversight Committee. So please keep those things in mind. And so even though the SCDOT is in the room, we have, if they FHWA on the call, this is not what that's about this morning. We really need transparency. And if you are helping to empower this group of people as they came forward, please be honest, open and honest about some of the challenges you face as we get to some of the specific questions. (Ellis, J.)

Facilitator:

So, same thing for CAC members. As we go through, please do not hesitate to ask this panel of guests any questions. This is why this session has been established. So again, any comments, questions, concerns - this is a good time to articulate it. I know Ms. Carolyn said we'd like for you to tell a little bit more about yourselves. If you can each take about a minute because we only have 50 minutes for this session. And I know that the short amount of time to get a lot of information covered, but if you will please just start by giving us a little more information about your organization and your role with the organization. (Ellis, J.)

Panelist:

Good morning, everyone. I am the Nashonda Hunter, the Executive Director of the Charity Foundation. We are a nonprofit that stems from Charity Missionary Baptist Church here on East Montague Avenue. Reverend Nelson B. Rivers, III is my Pastor, and I'm actually sitting in as a proxy for him today. We have four initiatives with our Transformation Liberty Hill Initiative:

- STEM education
- Affordable housing
- Workforce development, and
- Financial literacy.

And those all work together to make Liberty Hill a community of choice. (Hunter, N.)

Facilitator:

Very good. Thank you so much Ms. Hunter. (Ellis, J.)

Panelist:

And I'm a native of Charleston. (Hunter, N.)

Facilitator:

And if you need the microphone... (Ellis, J.)

Panelist:

No, I am fine. My name is Phillip Scott. I'm from the Liberty Hill area. I am the President of the North Charleston branch of the NAACP. I served in the United States Air Force. I look forward to...this is very helpful for me. This is some very powerful discussion. I am probably the least knowledgeable about the area you're talking about right now. (Scott, P.)

Facilitator:

Very good. Thank you. Mr. Muhammad. (Ellis, J.)

Panelist:

Good morning. I hope everyone can hear me, okay good. Omar Muhammad, the Executive Director for the Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities. Our goal as an organization or the purpose of our organization is to build healthy families. And we build healthy families by creating opportunities. The four core areas of our organization are:

- Affordable housing
- Economic development
- Education, and
- Environmental justice.

And as we go through this presentation today, I'm pretty sure that it will help clear why those four core areas were selected by the residents. It wasn't our organization. The residents of the community, that we now represent, they formed LAMC. And they came together and coordinated and collaborated with each other to form this organization that I represent. (Muhammad, O.)

Facilitator:

And just a key point there that I'd like to stress is the last point that Mr. Muhammad made, and that is that the community was instrumental in shaping that program. Mr. Muhammad works very closely with Mrs. Frazier-Rahim, and a lot of times over the years, I've seen the two of you representing the organization,

but the community members are really responsible for putting that program together. So keep that in mind if we're going through this process. So I'm going to start with you and just ask you as it relates to LAMC, specifically, if you will provide some background on how the organization was formed, the level of community engagement that was required, and just talk a little bit about maybe some of the activities currently, kind of post mitigation, in terms of implementing some of those programs. (Ellis, J.)

Panelist:

- So, I mean, we were in the same seat that you all are in right now. Concerned about quality of life in the communities, what does the project that's happening in the periphery or even in your community, what are the impacts of those projects? And even prior to those, those types of projects coming in, having those impacts. Our communities already experience disproportionate impacts from, from low income, housing, economic development, educational attainment. So you already had a stressful environment. So, in addition to that, you have projects that come along, it further impacts your community, maybe in positive ways maybe not.
- So the residents wanted to understand the impacts of a project, and at this time it was the port (SC Port Authority) that was coming into the City of North Charleston, the southern end of the City of North Charleston, and the impact that project was going to have on their quality of life.
- The residents wanted to better understand that project. So, they went through the same thing that you all are going through. Reviewing the documents, reviewing the environmental impact statement, understanding what is NEPA, the process of NEPA. You know, it's a huge learning curve, huge. You're talking about residents who work a full-time job. They get off that job and get asked to dedicate six, seven, eight hours after work to review documents that are several hundred papers, to understand that project, and be able to make comments, and represent the best interest of their community, right?
- What's the interest of the community to understand the impacts of the project. And what they did is they realized that it could not be just one community preferences of what the impacts are. It had to be a collective of communities. So, LAMC represents seven communities. Those seven communities came together and formed LAMC to represent the interests of all of those seven communities.
- Since then, what they have been able to do, is we have been able to mitigate the port and we have been able to mitigate the Palmetto Railway and all this was done through the similar process you are all going through, which is the National Environmental Policy Act. So, it allows communities allows other groups to mitigate impacts of federally funded projects like this. And out of that, we received funding, right? And each mitigation project is different. It's different across projects, different across communities.
- But, we received resources to mitigate those impacts in our communities. And the first thing we did is we recognized that we could not, as a grassroots organization manage a multimillion-dollar mitigation package. So, we immediately partnered with the City of North Charleston, right? And we faced some unique challenges there, but ultimately what happened is that you were able to take those funds and establish endowments, so we have endowments at the Coastal Community Foundation.
- This is partnership development. You cannot do this alone. You have to have partnerships. You have to be able to leverage your knowledge against other people's knowledge. The one thing I want you all to take away today is that you are experts. You may not have the degrees. You may not have the level of knowledge of what a transportation project is and what that means, but you are experts. You are the experts in your community and what happens there. So, you have to approach this process that you are the experts and that you have the right to push back on anything that you don't agree with, or that

doesn't represent the interest of your community, you can push back on it regardless of who is telling you.

- You can push back because you are the experts on contextual realities. So we established those endowments. We established revolving funds. We established partnerships that help us today have the substantial impacts that we have now.
- Because of those relationships and partnerships we have been able to land bank 30 pieces of property in our communities on which we are building affordable housing. We have been able to award over \$45,000 of scholarships because we have a scholarship endowment that we pull interest on.
- We have been able to address environmental concerns in our communities because we have established relationships with SCDHEC, EPA, and other environmental groups that help us address systemic flooding and other issues and concerns about brownfields and superfund sites and contaminated sites in the community.
- We have been able to establish partnerships with a local CDC that assist us with building a affordable housing. We helped the community establish its own community development group called the Community Land Trust. So the community was takes the driver's seat and moves the process forward.
- So it's about partnership development, leveraging your knowledge, and it's about representing the best interest of your community. (Muhammad, O.)

Facilitator:

Thank you very much. Just to express, you captured all of that wonderfully. I just want to make sure people heard that you said you can push back? (Ellis, J.)

Panelist:

You can. (Muhammad, O.)

Facilitator:

But that's an option. That's a choice. (Ellis, J.)

Panelist:

Well, it shouldn't be a choice. (Muhammad, O.)

Facilitator:

- I want to make sure that you guys are hearing the language and you have the option to have a conversation with government agencies as you go through the process. And so what he said is you can, and so it's something that you're going to have to proactively do. And that's part of the reason why this panel is here to help you better understand how to participate in that process, as well as for SCDOT and FHWA to understand how you guys can also best support the process.
- So, the next question, and I appreciate that Mr. Muhammad. Is really a question for the entire panel. And that question is really a segue from the previous question. And that's what has been your experience in interacting with not only the City of North Charleston, but other government agencies?
- I know in your case, it was the South Carolina Ports Authority. [To Mr. Muhammad] Is that right? And so if you will just discuss some of the key challenges that you have faced, as well as some of the steps that you took to resolve those issues and some of those success stories. And when I say success stories, that's within the context of working with those government agencies. So if you guys will please take a moment. I don't know who wants to go first. (Ellis, J.)

Panelist:

I will go first. I've been a resident of Charleston County all my life. (Scott, P.)

Project Team Member:

Because we've got people trying to hear on the computer and phone, we want to encourage you all to use the mic. Thank you. (Derrick, L.)

Panelist:

All right. In regards to North Charleston, I've been a resident of North Charleston all my life. I played basketball in Liberty Hill on the basketball courts. We have a great relationship...I have spoken with the mayor. He seems to endorse and embrace NAACP policies. With regards to the NAACP, my mission is to ensure that the residents get what they deserve in regards to this location. As far as other agencies, I haven't dealt with a lot of agencies, but the City of North Charleston, we work very well with them. (Scott, P.)

Facilitator:

Thank you. (Ellis, J.)

Panelist:

- And our relationship with the City of North Charleston has been a positive one. It came with its challenges in the beginning, but one of the leads that worked to our favor, it's that we had support from our Councilman Sam Hart, and he was able to go and stand in the gap for us and actually make appeals for us on our behalf.
- And so one of the things I'd like to piggyback on from what Omar said, is that you are the experts. You have to use your resources as well. If your Councilman is not engaged with you and your community, that is something that you should be looking at as well as far doing business with the City of Charleston.
- You want to make sure that everyone is kind of on board and working together. With our affordable housing project we were able to get the cities to donate that property to us because of advocacy from our council. When we showed them a plan of what we plan to do in order to impact blight in our community, and to build more affordable housing with the City of North Charleston, doesn't have a plan on going at this time. It made it more advantageous for them to support our cause, because it's something that our community needs.
- And so having a plan, having a strategy to present to the City is something that I would recommend. And get the support of your local officials. Also, we work on legislation with our State House Representative, Marvin Pendarvis, as far as rezoning, making sure that developers who are building in our areas are giving back in our communities and putting resources that we need in our communities as a part of their development, including those items.
- And that's where the communities voice comes in. No, you cannot come in and install a 300-unit development without making sure that we have enough sidewalks or that we have street lights and make sure that we don't have traffic issues.
- And so that is what it's all about and using your voice and, and one of my teachable moments from my mentor is, "You're looking for an answer from them. They're not looking for an answer from you." So sometimes they'll say, "Oh, well, I haven't heard back from this person." Stay on them and apply pressure because they're not looking to give you an answer, you are looking for an answer from them. (Hunter, N.)

Facilitator:

I want to also reiterate the point about having a strategy, having a plan. That's a very good point, not just in your role as the CAC, but as you transition into the Project Oversight Committee, as well. (Ellis, J.)

Panelist:

- I mean your first challenge is deciding if you all want to come together. There are four different communities represented. And you all have to speak with one voice. You have very similar challenges. Challenges are not different. They are the same, but it's not going to work if you, if Ferndale is speaking for itself, Russelldale is speaking for itself, Liberty Park is speaking for itself, and other...you know, everyone is speaking for themselves, it's going to confuse the agencies that you are working with. You're going to have to speak with one voice.
- So that means that you are going to have to decide what you are going to be called, such as a nonprofit, or some other type of entity, that represents the best interest of all four of the communities.
- And then in addition to that, are you going to have to stay committed. In the beginning a whole bunch of people are going to want to become involved, but in the end, it's going to be very few of you because this is work. It is a lot of work. It is hard work. So, you've got to stay committed. You've got to stay consistent.
- And the other thing is that people with power don't want to give up that power. So when you have to make a call, they are going to push back on you, believe me. Do not give in to that push back. Know that you are going to be told no a thousand times. You are going to be told that what you are saying is not going to work, but that means you have to go into the room understanding what it is that you want. Even when you told no, even when you told that it is not going to work. Your strength is in numbers. (Muhammad, O.)

Facilitator:

If we can take a moment to see if there any comments or questions regarding any of the feedback that the panel has provided at this point. One of the things you touched on but, but I want to revisit. Could you frame up some of the challenges, and then some of the lessons learned that will help the CAC members and perhaps SCDOT understand how they can work through some of the potential challenges moving forward? (Ellis, J.)

Panelist:

So the first thing is that the information that you all learn during this process, you have to share with the broader community. It can't be kept in this room. You are going to need the community to back you. So when you go to Council, or SCDOT, or the federal highway administration, you need your community supporting that. You need a broad alliance, so that's partnership building, again. You need a broad alliance. It was said earlier, but you need a plan. You need a plan and a vision, a roadmap. And where do you want to go and how you plan to get there and who you need to support. So you need to do a power map. Power map of your community and get to know who your stakeholders are that you need to engage. (Muhammad, O.)

Panelist:

- I'm going to say engage with your community. Earlier, you posed the question about how to get your youth involved and your young people involved. Or even if it's not young people, people are professionals. They have families, but you want them to be engaged. So get a newsletter, make a text bank for your community, put it in writing.

- Communication is key. And so that they know what's happening. They know when the next meeting is. They shouldn't have to question. They should know, "Oh, well, I can go over here. I can look through my messages. Oh, here's the date? And here's the time here's where we're meeting."
- Capture people's emails addresses, set them up for your seniors, show them how to use it, develop a community page, a Facebook page for your community, so that they can check there for periodic updates and make sure that whoever is managing those accounts, that this isn't a spam account. This is where we come for information about what's happening. And this is where we get an update. So my piece is communication is key and make sure that people are engaged. (Hunter, N.)

Panelist:

Communication is the key. I came in and I heard the information about flooding in Liberty Park and Russelldale. I was kind of thrown aback because where I live, we don't have flooding. My thing as the NAACP president is somebody doesn't have flooding on this side of town, we shouldn't have it on your side of town. (Scott, P.)

Project Team Member:

This is a few months back where we had a meeting with FHWA and talked about some of the other projects that were going through very similar environmental justice processes, but one of the things they mentioned was inventory and the resources, and by that I mean the professional resources, and so this was for the project in Indianapolis, but they were able to get professional engineering services and lots of services because they had residents, who had cousins or friends who had connections. So, I think the key thing is that inventory of resources, know who you have, and who will be willing to do some of these efforts pro bono because they believe in what you're trying to accomplish. (White, R.)

Facilitator:

Ms. Baxley. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member:

This is for Ms. Hunter, especially. One of the problems we've had in Ferndale, for pretty much as long as I can remember, is we have a lot of rental properties. And getting people who rent involved has been a huge problem. Is Liberty Hill still mainly homeowners? (Baxley, T.)

Panelist:

Yes. (Hunter, N.)

CAC Member :

I know when this came up years ago, that was one of the comments, if you guys could get all these people to help you, but a lot of them were homeowners. Do you have any suggestions ... We've run into this, you're getting people who have been, in our case a lot of times, they come in and they go almost as quickly as you get to know them. Any suggestions on getting those people involved? (Baxley, T.)

Panelist:

Thank you for your question, and you sound like somebody who knows your neighbor and who keeps people engaged in the community. You know who's there. I would appeal to them that this is still their neighborhood while they're living here, and so door hangers, a flyer in their mailbox, a quick conversation in passing just to let them know what's going on and why they should be involved, and why it's beneficial for them to be involved while they're living there is what I would recommend. (Hunter, N.)

Facilitator:

That's actually a good segue. I have a question about how has direct community feedback and engagement been important to the successes your communities have experienced. My next question was what steps did you take to successfully increase community engagement? But also, and I think you guys have talked about it, some of it may be having renters. Ms. Anderson actually addressed that to some degree in the last meeting. And Mr. Muhammad actually addressed to some degree some of the challenges that people face in trying to increase community engagement. The other question was what were, or are, some of the common barriers to community engagement? (Ellis, J.)

Panelist:

- So from our experience, it is definitely dynamics within communities, figuring who is the leader. From our perspective, normally it's the person in the neighborhood, the old lady that's sitting on the porch, that knows everybody's business on that street. That's the person you go and talk to about challenges on that street. It's not the person that is being the loudest person, that's always dominate the meeting. Although you listen to that person because their voice is important in the process, too. But, you have to find diversity of voices – youth, elderly, transient renters...Everyone's voice is important in helping you build a profile for the community. For us, what it looked like is that we meaningfully engage communities.
- And this is a process, here, that meaningfully engaged, outside of that, you have to meaningfully engage in meetings. What does meaningful engagement mean? It means that you involve your residents, your communities, in every process, every step of this process. They got to be involved in the discussion. They have to be involved in solutions. They got to be involved with the implementation. And they have to be involved in the evaluation. Did it work or not? And if it did not work, how can we pivot?
- After you meaningfully engage you have to educate them. You meaningfully engage them to educate. Then you educate them so that they become the advocates. The community becomes the advocates. (Muhammad, O.)

Panelist:

Again, I am very new at this, but starting today we're going to upload a lot of this information to the NAACP Facebook page to get folks engaged. (Scott, P.)

CAC Member:

My question is, coming from a laid back community... We have no meetings at all, and usually, right now because of the virus, everybody pretty much keeps to themselves. How could you get the group to come out and just listen...to see what's going on, so we can unite and go forth? But now my community is pretty much over 60 years old. They've been in the community more than 50 years and they just laid back. (Bannister, J.)

Facilitator:

One of the things that I encountered, and certainly I know that LAMC encountered some years ago, is when you talk about the challenges associated with community engagement ... When you're looking to get a younger group engaged, but then you're looking at childcare, or a lack of childcare. People working longer hours, certainly transportation was an issue from time to time. As you respond to Mr. Bannister's question, will you also speak to the fact that it is a process. Before you get to where Mr. Muhammad is talking about - that mid to end point - there is a process of overcoming exactly where you are now in terms

of even getting people to the table. How did you overcome those initial barriers to get people excited and engaged? How to get them to the table? (Ellis, J.)

Panelist:

- At the beginning we had to do creative things like giving away fish fries. We gave door prizes. We gave gift cards. This one group that we're working with now in Gadsden Green to get their communities involved in gatherings since you mentioned challenges in the community, we're paying people to be liaisons. We're paying the community to go out and interview other residents. You have to be creative.
- The thing is the community has to have a feeling that their issues are being addressed. If a single mother is having challenges with their children, how would you address that? Because she is not going to listen to you or anyone else talk about a road project where she's having issues with her child, or she's having issues putting food on the table, if she's having issues with other types of things that is a need, a road project is far from her mind.
- So addressing, in addition to the roads, the issues and concerns around that project, the immediate needs around kids, around education, job opportunities, but identify other resources throughout the community that you know. That is what's going to bring them to the table because they see that their immediate needs will be addressed. This organization is addressing it. I need to attend those meetings that they're talking about. (Muhammad, O.)

Panelist:

- First off, I want to say, that's a great idea to have a fish fry for your community, but also while you're doing that, see what kind of surveys you can take while they're there, and capture their information while they're all sitting around laughing and having a good time and you're bringing up these issues.
- Try to narrow it down to, okay, what four things are our priorities right now? Then you can take that and then go to the next level.
- Again, like Omar said, I think that financial literacy is always key. That's in any community, workforce is always going to be key, so making sure that you're tapped into these local organizations like SC Works can share their flyers when they're having job fairs. And the Center for Heir's Property recently just had a drive through will clinic, so those ... Especially just saying that she has an older community, those are the kind of things that you're going to get engagement because that's going to pierce the ears of your community and make sure that these are things that address their immediate needs. (Hunter, N.)

Panelist:

I would say get them all involved. Get them involved on a job or a task or whatever, so they feel important to the project. (Scott, P.)

Facilitator:

- Any additional questions or comments about community engagement?
- Okay, and to close out the thought on that particular issue, keep in mind, going back to addressing immediate needs...and, Mr. Banister, that's something that you have expressed from the beginning of this process is the challenge of getting community members to engage in meetings. That is really something that the CAC would have to do, certainly much more so than SCDOT or any other agency because, as Mr. Muhammad said earlier, you are the experts in terms of knowing your community.
- Getting to the base of the problem and understanding what some limitations may be that your community members are facing, might be one of the initial steps. I love the idea of going in, if you

have something like a fish fry or some other similar type of gathering, and taking the opportunity to survey and get a better understanding of people in the community.

- So another question that I have for you is any time you're working with government entities, we know that those agencies have priorities. They come to the table when they're interacting with community groups and they are very often limited because they have to work within certain parameters.
- How, in your experience, are differences between community needs versus local government priorities managed or resolved? (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member:

Could you repeat it? Say it again. (Derrick, L.)

Facilitator:

How were differences in the community needs versus local government priorities managed or resolved? (Ellis, J.)

Panelist:

- The partnerships that you all develop is going to be important and identifying those resources that can be brought into your community. College of Charleston, you all need to be tapping into that. Those students at the College of Charleston, they can intern with this group to help you all develop a structure, help you all develop other things that you need. Grant writing, whatever it is. Use the College of Charleston. You also have the other organizations like Coastal Community Foundation. They have a grant called the New Fund Grant that you could get up to \$3,000.
- You don't have to be a 501 (c)(3). You can get up to \$3,000 to organize yourself in whatever way that you decide that you want to do that. Then you have other organizations like the Riley Center, other organizations, NAACP, Charity Foundation, LAMC. You need to be reaching out to these groups and saying, we are having this concern. How can you all help?
- There is Together South Carolina which is an organization that organizes global nonprofits and other groups. There is SCACDC that is led by Bernie Mazyck. There's all types of groups out here - Origins, Operation Hope, that does first time home buyer classes and financial literacy. There's a lot of organizations out there that can be tapped into. You mentioned the Heirs Property folks. All of them would be willing to come in and see how their services can be provided. So it's about partnership with them and reaching out and making those connections in your community, in the broader sense.
- And then the City has some resources that you can tap into, too. That's what I mean about power mapping, power mapping your community and looking at where resources are, and learning the structure or your government. What they can do, what they can't do, when they can do it. Because there are CBDG dollars that can be tapped into. Who do you need to go to for that? They're for infrastructure needs, right?
- You have to prioritize those things. A lot of times having continuous ... And remember, this is going to be a frustrating process. You're going to have these conversations over and over and over and over again, but you have got to continue having those conversations. (Muhammad, O.)

Facilitator:

I want to thank you all for your comments. Let's give the CAC and SCDOT an opportunity to provide comments or to ask any questions and to allow the panel time to provide any closing comments. (Ellis, J.)

Project Manager:

- I want to thank you guys for coming, because this is fantastic. Great comments. I do want to ask a question about social media because I live in a very diverse downtown community, and because of the pandemic, that is how we communicate. And I found it very useful because I get information and it's easy for somebody who works a lot. I didn't know if that's a tool that y'all found useful or not, because we're starting to open up a little bit so I think we can get out there a little bit.
- One thing I did want to say for the benefit of all the CAC members is the community office, the community liaisons that work with the office, we are here to support you in this. You guys have given us some great suggestions.
- I just want you to know that we're here to make sure that we give you the resources and the tools to assist our community liaisons who are there to assist you in this. Don't think that this is, "I got to go home and come out with a plan and execute it all myself." Reach out and ask and we will help you through that. (Riley, J.)

Facilitator:

- Chad do you any comments at this time?
- Are there any other comments from anyone else on the CAC or the panel? I wanted to make sure that if you had any recommendations on next steps, particularly considering where the CAC is now in terms of providing insight and information to SCDOT as opposed to where they're going, where they take ownership and become the project oversight committee.
- If you can leave them with some words of wisdom in what they need to be doing now and how they need to best transition into an oversight committee. I think that's how we'll close out the session. (Ellis, J.)

Panelist:

- You all have to organize. You have to come up with some type of structure - a steering committee, a coalition - or some other type of organization. They determined that that is not the best route, but you do have to speak with one voice. They cannot be separate voices. There has to be one voice because the power dynamics that exists with projects like this, they will divide you and you will be on the losing end of this thing. You have to come together, even when you disagree among yourselves. You have to walk outside of your meeting with consensus, speaking one voice in the best interest of the community. Although you may not agree with what happened internally in the meeting, because that's another way that they can divide you. Happens all the time.
- The other thing is you have to stay united. You have to stay united. You're going to have challenges. This is a challenging process, and you have to stay united. You have to have your core group that stays together because once that group gets divided, you have all kinds of issues and concerns.
- And to answer Joy's questions about social media, that's in the toolbox, but for our communities, what happens normally is a strategy. I know COVID presents a lot of challenges, but you have to get creative in how you continue those face-to-face communications with communities. I hope that helps. (Muhammad, O.)

Panelist:

I wanted to say it's been an honor being here today, and next time I'm here, I'll be more prepared. I was out of town and I got the information late, so it caught me off guard. I love being here and I look forward to working with this group, as well. (Scott, P.)

Panelist:

- So I graduated from an HBCU and their bands are known for saying “one band, one sound.” Everybody has to be on the same page. You're all working towards one common goal. You need to make sure that your organization, your community understands that. Like Omar said, it's going to be tough. It's going to be difficult. There are going to be moments where some people say, “oh no, this is the direction we want to go into,” but you're going to have to have a leader or some optimist in the group that brings everybody back together and gets them back on the same page, because the ultimate goal is bigger than whatever other little stuff that's going on down here on a home level, and that is that you're thinking about the presentation of your communities. That's what your community is going to look like once this project is over. What the residents of your community need, and that is always supposed to be at the forefront of your mind.
- Then also dealing with the social media. I touched on that before, but I think that education is really key. If you need to come into a space like this and walk your seniors through what a Zoom call looks like, get some of your grandkids to come in and say, “hey, I need y'all to come in here and spend a couple of hours with us walking us through this,” or like we said earlier, there are organizations that will help you do that.
- There are churches in your community that'll help you do that. Reach out and utilize your resources because one, seniors like face-to-face because they've already been in the house for the past couple of months. And even if they're not comfortable with going outside, a Zoom call gives them that personal feeling. Zoom is one. Again, text messages is another. If some people have the older model phones then they don't have the technology for that. A traditional conference call is not that difficult. Make sure that you're keeping them engaged, and you can utilize several different methods of communication so that your message gets through. Allow no room for errors is what my statistics teacher says.
- Make sure you cover all of your bases. And whenever it is difficult, I want to remind you this is the ultimate goal here. You want to keep in mind, this is about the future of our community. This is what we're looking for.
- [To Mr. Bannister] You mentioned that you have a bunch of seniors in your community. What's this going to look like when their children come in here, or God forbid, but death is inevitable. What have we done to prepare for the next generation? That's what this is all truly about. (Hunter, N.)

Facilitator:

- Thank you for your comments. I want to capture three things.
 - One is the common message, and we've talked about that and working on that now as a CAC, the community advisory council, and talking about breaking down the messaging and making sure that it's being captured in bite-sized, digestible pieces so that you guys can go out into the community and talk with community members, but using the same message. That's one thing the panelists discussed that is perfectly aligned with what the CAC has discussed in previous meetings.
 - Another thing is meeting people where they are. To Mr. Bannister's point, and trying to get people out to these community meetings, making sure that you ... even if it's not a formal survey, making sure that you have taken an opportunity to survey your community and understand who the main players are. In turns to social media and whatever platforms you're using to reach those different members, meeting people at different places. Maybe that's how you get some of the younger people, but you're also accommodating some of the older residents who may not want to use Instagram. That's another point.

- Then going back and reinforcing the point that Mr. Muhammad has made about the power mapping. Clay, you can correct me on this, but I think that is what Maximum is trying to do through the Community Resource Guide. Is that correct? (Ellis, J.)

Community Liaison:

That's part of it. (Middleton, C.)

Facilitator:

That's part of it. If that's something that we can capture in that way, or if a community advisory council members, have questions about how to develop something like a power map, I think that's an excellent point that has been made several times this morning and we can certainly revisit that moving forward. Joy, any other questions. Chad, any questions? FHWA is on the phone, do you all have any questions or comments for our panel members? (Ellis, J.)

FHWA:

This is Pam Foster. The only thing I'd like to say is that I agree with the discussion that we heard and thank the panelists for the information. This has been a very fruitful and informational session. Thank you. (Foster, P.)

Facilitator:

Thank you Ms. Foster. Alright, thank you so much panel. We appreciate the panel members. We appreciate your time. (Ellis, J.)

EJ Neighborhood Impact Update:

Project Team Member:

- If they can, for the panel members, I do encourage you to stay. We have provided a copy of a number of our materials that we provide to the advisory council, and so there is information about the mitigation plan, so I would encourage you all to take time to read it and get familiar with it and see all the things that the advisory council has come up with. Work with us in teams to develop mitigation for the impacts that we're actually going to talk about now. I do want to be a good steward of everyone's comments, so we'll hit the impacts at a high level, but I am committing myself as well as the team to reach out to members of the advisory council one-on-one to make sure y'all have a very clear understanding of these impacts. Again, I'm going to get them high here, but you can go through later on and schedule time for where we can actually call you individually and walk through this in more detail because the key here is for you to have an understanding of what the impacts are, and understand how these all tie back to the mitigation that you all have been working on feverishly for the past year to get to this point.
- So, again, for the panel members, I do appreciate you all coming in. Feel free to stay and participate. From an impact standpoint, we're going to talk about the Right-of-Way (ROW) impacts first, and then transition and talk about some of the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on the project.
- Really quickly, what I want everyone to understand is that these are preliminary impacts, so as far as what this process ... how this process works is we're at the preliminary design stage. This is still very early in the process. As we continue to refine the design, the goal is to continue to reduce impacts.
- The numbers you're seeing may actually get reduced, and that's really our goal as we go through this design process is to continuously minimize the designs until we get to a point of construction where ultimately these numbers go down. Please understand that these are all preliminary numbers.

- To get everyone oriented to the mapping, and take a look at the legend, but the red line identifies what the proposed right-of-way is for the project. What we're not showing are all the different ramps saying street configuration changes for the sake of clarity on the map. What you're looking at is the proposed ROW at this stage of the project, and then we've got various color coding to represent single family homes, apartments, vacant properties, and partially impacted properties with width. As we go through the various communities, we are going to look at the ROW impacts, community-by-community. Depending on the community we're going to see more items, more different colors based on the lane that you stay in, whether there are apartments or single-family homes.
- So we're going to start with Highland Terrace and the key thing to remember what this project is, even though this is an I-526 project, we are making improvements along I-26 as well. And that's where you'll see in Highland Terrace, there are impacts adjacent to I-26 that's based off on changes that have to be made to the big interchange between I-526 and I-26. When we look at the number of impacts, we've got 12 single family home impacts, one mobile home, 17 vacant lots, and 10 lots that are partially impacted in Highlands Terrace.
- Again, these are preliminary numbers, but as we look at these numbers, if there's any questions, feel free to ask. Whether it's a why we're having these impacts, or anything. Again, the goal here is to make sure there's clarity and understanding about what the impacts are. So, in regards to Highland Terrace, are there any questions?
- And so, for Liberty Park, and as I mentioned, you're going to see impacts on I-26. And again, it is part of I-526 as well, so we have two clusters of impacts when we look at Liberty Park, and along the I-26 portion, and then north along I-526 as well. And so, for a total, for both clusters, 19 single family home impacts, one apartment complex, a church, two commercial buildings, the Liberty Park-Highland Terrace Community Center, which we've had a lot of discussions about in regards to the mitigation. Two mobile homes, eight duplexes, 12 vacant lots, and then eight partially-impacted lots.
- And feel free, as we go through the slides, to ask any questions. (White, R.)

Project Team Member:

Could you describe what a partially-impacted parcel is? (Derrick, L.)

Project Team:

Absolutely. So, when we talk about the partially-impacted projects, so it's a property that will still require some right-of-way acquisitions, but would not require SCDOT to acquire the whole parcel. So, for example, they may need to acquire a portion of someone's backyard, but the house, for example, is far enough away from the proposed ROW so that the parcel itself will not need to be acquired. And so, the homeowner would be compensated for the portion of their property that the department needs for the project, but not will not need to acquire the entire property. (White, R.)

CAC Member:

What's the max you all are going to take from a single piece of property? (Bannister, J.)

Facilitator:

Could you repeat his question? (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member:

So, Mr. Bannister's question was, what is the max we would take from a single property? Is that correct? (White, R.)

CAC Member:

Yeah, a single property, or a partial property. Because the reason I'm asking this is because I may have mentioned before, that my dad had property. When I-26 came through, and 526, and they took portions of both, of the same piece of property and he ended up having nothing, and no money. They were going to replace him with nothing in property. That's why I'm asking how much is supposed to be taken off the max. (Bannister, J.)

Project Manager:

- Just keep in mind, the rules are different today than they were back then. So, we don't approach it quite the same way, but when we lay the ROW lines out, they're based on what we have to have in order to try to maintain that infrastructure. So, if we are not hitting the corner of a house, then we will show it as a partial acquisition. But you do have rights through that process. And so, some of the things that we look at when we come in and start working with you as a property owner, it may end up being a relocation, if we can't work things out. Because the property owner has rights and they have options.
- So, in some cases, people want to stay, and there will be, and end up probably losing some yard. In some cases, if it's a smaller lot, you're now losing some required frontage that the City is going to require, let's say, if your house burns down, or it's somehow damaged, and you need to rebuild, you're probably not going to be able to rebuild back. So, those are the types of things that you look at through the process. But the property owner has a choice. If they want to stay, they can get paid, what we call "damages," which is a financial compensation for the loss of that. Stay and take on that risk, that they may end up not being able to rebuild there. They may have to move in the event of a, they can't meet the setbacks.
- Or, they can say, "This is unacceptable, and I need to be relocated. And this is not something that I want to stay in." So, in those cases, you'll have options as you work through that ROW process. And that's where it's very a good idea to encourage folks that you know that are in that situation to come to the Community Office and talk with a ROW agent, so they can fully understand what their rights and their responsibilities are during that negotiation process. (Riley, J.)

Project Team Member:

Thanks, Joy. Any other questions? (White, R.)

Project Team Member :

For Russelldale, the majority of the impacts are along the north side of Russelldale Avenue. And so, that does include the need to acquire the property where the Russelldale Community Center is. There would be one single-family home, two apartment complexes, one mobile home, five vacant lots. And then again, a partially-impacted property at the corner of Twitty and Russelldale. (White, R.)

CAC Member:

I believe I've asked this question before, and I don't think I ever really got an answer. Okay. Even though they are being impacted on that back, I believe I asked about the situation of what will happen with Russelldale Avenue? How will Russelldale Avenue be impacted? And then also, will some of it be gone, or will the whole street still be there? (Anderson, A.)

Project Team Member:

My understanding of the plan is that Russelldale Avenue will still be there. And so, what you would have where the homes are being relocated, are elevated bridge structures. So, that's SCDOT still needs to acquire the property in order to build the bridges, but Russelldale Avenue would still remain. (White, R.)

Project Team Member:

Any other questions? (Derrick, L.)

Project Team Member:

- Any other questions? All right. And then lastly, Ferndale. And all of the impacts are centered along the backside of the mobile home park along Morrison Street. And what we're looking at is eight mobile home relocations, one vacant lot, and four partially-impacted parcels.
- Any questions in regards to Ferndale? And so, before we transition and start talking about some of the other impacts, again, we do encourage you to have conversations with your neighbors and encourage them to come to the Community Office to have these discussions about the property acquisition process. We have staff available, so again ... So, any other questions before we transition?
- And again, I know we're kind of going through this pretty fast, but the project team is available to have one-on-one conversations with you as advisory council members. And again, even our liaisons are available to have conversations with your neighbors. So, we're here. This is what our task is, is to help guide people through this process. So, use us.
- So, as far as the additional direct impacts. And so, in addition to just the ROW impacts, visual and aesthetic impacts were mentioned as well. And so, as you know, I-26 and I-526 are currently either on an embankment or bridges, and so, you are going to have a very similar visual view of the project, based on what you're currently seeing. And we're adding additional ramps as part of the project. And so, the visual impacts are going to be very similar, very consistent with what you're seeing now. And so, a key takeaway is, this is where the community infrastructure enhancement plan comes into play, where one of the things that this plan is going to look at, is how to best look at landscape, and to address some of the visual impacts along the ROW.
- Now, understand, that these are bridges, but we're still looking at types of vegetative buffers that can be put into place to help shield and improve some of that view. And so, the individual or the Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan is looking at a wide range of aesthetic impacts or aesthetic enhancements across the community. But one of the key features is looking at how we can better address the visual impacts of these elevated structures, and the construction of bridges on the backside of some of the properties.
- All four communities are expected to experience an increase in noise impacts. We did a separate noise technical report. And you can see in the packet the actual numbers. So Highland Terrace, about 46 homes would expected to experience an increase. Liberty Park, 25. Russelldale, 40. And then Ferndale, with 30 homes experiencing some increase in noise. And that's in addition to the noise that's already been experienced from some of the other transportation infrastructure, in the area of trains, the airport, and so forth.
- And so, in looking at noise impacts, the things we look at are feasibility. So can a wall actually be built? But then also, the reasonableness of a wall being constructed. And that looks at, one, the noise reduction design. Will constructing this wall actually meet the requirements, and actually get the noise reduction that is required? And so, SCDOT has a 80% goal for noise reduction. So, that's another key factor in looking at whether or not a noise wall is built. But then also polling the community, if a noise

wall is recommended. Not all people want to have a 10-foot wall behind their home. So, there's a polling process, if they're doing it for all that's recommended as well in a community. (White, R.)

CAC Member:

I'm going to say what I want to say. I know that there's some kickback on the wall. And to be honest, I don't think I would like it myself. But what about giving the residents of these communities a discount at some of the window companies in the area, that will give us windows that will be a little better than the older windows that some of us have in our homes. And that's just something I thought about it. I'm not telling them to pay for it, I'm just saying, is there any way we can get some type of discount, maybe? Or set up something with a company? I'm just asking. (Varner, C.)

Project Team Member:

We have had quite a few discussions about weatherization and who pays for new windows, and other things that would assist, and I'll use the term assist in soundproofing. So, as of right now, weatherization isn't included as part of the mitigation. But one of the things Maximum has been tasked to do and what they have done, is to provide an update in regarding the resources out there that will assist residents and communities, collectively and individually, for that matter, on getting those resources to get new windows, and get other things that assist in the preservation of homes that can help with it, in noise reduction. So, even though we can't include it in the mitigation here, we are trying to make sure we are connecting residents with those resources that can help with that. (White, R.)

Community Liaison:

So, to answer Ms. Varner's question, there is South Carolina State Homes. They will do a 50-50 grant. They will replace your windows, and do them up to the hurricane wind standards. I guess noise standards also. The individual has to apply. They have to have someone come out and measure their windows, and see the environment to see what's happening. But we'll get you the information about the site. (Lecque, M.)

CAC Member:

My question is about your numbers. For Ferndale, it says we've got 30 homes expecting to increase noise impact. How do you come up with that number? Because we're four streets away from the current I-26, and we can sit out on the front porch and hear it quite clearly. So, I can't imagine if they're going to move it this much farther back, but it's not going to impact the noise? (Baxley, T.)

Project Team Member:

So, I don't know if you've seen the stats that have come out, the noise meter is actually out. We have to get out and measure existing noises, and then based on existing noises, they will compute a model that measures it. And ultimately that's where the numbers come from. And it's also based on the noise increase as well. And so, we do expect that, again, I wanted to talk about the reduction that the noise wall will provide. I'm going to call it the clickety-clank noise, from the ... So, noise walls won't address that. And that's where one of the things that SCDOT is looking at, is how to adjust what is causing the noise, that noise, and how to address that. And those are like the things that come from different pavements, that help at least that noise. Because you end up with a lot of noise as well as the transportation projects. But ultimately it's a model based on the design. (White, R.)

SCDOT Team Lead:

Impacts, noise impacts, are defined by federal regulations. And for residential properties it's 66 decibels, and it's meant, because we know it's noisy out there, but the 66 decibels is the threshold for when noise

interrupts speech in outdoor settings. So, that is the correctional event, and how the impacts are defined. But we know that even well beyond the interstate, you can still hear it, but we work within federal regulations, and use that 66 decibels to define what impact that actually is. (Long, C.)

Project Team Member:

- And so, five barriers were modeled. And four of those five walls did not meet the noise reduction goal. But then the remaining walls were not determined to be feasible. And that's where we're looking at other options to address some of the noise. And again, the pavement, a lot of noise comes from the actual wheels on the ground, but then also the vehicles hitting the expansion joints. So, those are key areas where SCDOT is going to focus on trying to assist with getting some of the noise reductions.
- But then there's also construction noise. And one thing to remember is, based on all the mitigation we're doing that's proposed for the project, there is noise related to the construction of the project, which is later. And then there is going to be construction noise related to the construction of the community centers, the construction of the new sidewalks, the construction of calming measures. So, there is going to be a considerable amount of time where you're going to experience construction noise. And again, that first phase is going to be based off of SCDOT addressing the mitigation upfront before you actually have to deal with the construction noise.
- So, we do recognize the review document as part of this study, that there is going to be construction noise and dust that residents are going to have to experience. And that's where it goes back to looking at the weatherization, and trying to make sure you all are connected to resources that can help you address some of the noise at an individual, and again, at a community level to deal with some of the noise issues that you're going to have.
- So, before I move on, are there any questions? The key here is to make sure there is clarity and understanding, because we are encouraging all of you to have conversations with your neighbors. But if not now, make sure you hold us accountable, and we will follow back up with you all. Because again, we want to make sure we're very clear on what the impacts are, as well as any other project-related engineering questions that you may have. (White, R.)

Community Liaison:

I'm just wondering, is there a way that you can have the community to monitor the decibels of noise levels on their own, and you could train them to do that? If they have a monitor sitting in the ground, and you give them a number to let you know that the noise is exceeding the 66 decibels, and it could at least be part of the training to our community to monitor that. I was just wondering. (Lecque, M.)

SCDOT Team Lead:

I guess what we could do is provide all of the residents with that, provide them with the information from the model, to let them know what the current levels are predicted to be, and what the future. And when we say impacted, we're looking out 20 years, like what is kind of that worst-case scenario. And really that traffic model is really good. Every state DOT relies upon it across the country. And I think it accurately predicts the information. So, I'm not sure, while putting noise monitors out there would provide someone with the information, let them know that it is really, really noisy. I'm not sure if, at the end of the day, it would lead to anything differently than what the noise model volume predicted. If that helps. Let me explain it. So, it's different than an air quality monitoring system, because it's measured once. So, I think we know it's all pretty, pretty loud out there. The noise model and the data that derives from it, would probably produce the same information. (Long, C.)

CAC Member:

How could we get a copy of that? (Lecque, M.)

SCDOT Team Lead:

It's in the report right now. And we could provide it to the individual residents...Noise is a complex topic. (Long, C.)

Project Manager:

I don't think you want to read a technical report. (Riley, J.)

SCDOT Team Lead:

We will want you to read the report, but we provide a summary, and if the residents want to know individual impacts, or what the noise level is at your house, we can easily provide that. (Long, C.)

CAC Member:

My question I thought about, and I hear you about the construction period, about the noise and about the air quality and about the dust and everything. What happens, let's say, 20 years from now, as far as pollution from cars, trucks, and etc., when all of the extra has been added? What happens to our air quality during that time? (Varner, C.)

Project Manager:

- I'll just say, we did do an air quality study and model similar. And it basically, I'll just give you the gist of it, is that the regulations that are in place that are reduction in place to force the car manufacturers and truck manufacturers to reduce emissions over the next several decades, are actually going to reduce, even though the volume of cars is kind of working inversely together. And so, the air quality study did not come back and say that we were predicting it to be worse. It actually should get better, because of those measures that the state level has taken.
- The one thing I wanted to point out, and just to frame this for you guys, and I'm going to be real with you for a second, so, I hope everybody's listening. The reason that Ryan is going through these impacts, is because we want to be transparent about that. And we want you to fully understand what the impacts are. There's an opportunity over the next three months. This is a draft mitigation plan. So, when you say, "Could we get a discount?" Ask for what you want. It's very important. If you want weatherization, ask for it. Encourage your neighbors to come out and ask for it.
- What we're presenting in the draft mitigation plan is what SCDOT is committed to at this time. Now there's some other things that we've talked about, and we haven't decided whether we can commit to it yet. But if the community comes out and says, "We want a noise wall. We want weatherization." These are the impacts. And we feel to fully mitigate for these impacts, this is what it takes. That is what needs to happen.
- I think Mr. Muhammad put it very, he did a very good job of communicating that. Is when it comes to these government processes, I know that sometimes you think that your voice has no bearing on it. But with this? This money that's being spent in your communities is, it should be driven by what the community feels is most important to improve their quality of life after this project comes through and goes away. We won't be able to come back 10 years from now, when you say, "Gosh, we should have asked for this, this, and this." I don't have a project budget anymore. I've got no money now to spend. I'm going to feel really bad about it, but, there's nothing I can do at that point.

- So, I just want to make sure everybody makes that connection. Look at this information and think about it, and use that, because the things that go into the mitigation plans should tie directly to this. (Riley, J.)

Project Team Member:

Clay, you have a question? (White, R.)

Community Liaison:

- I was going to say, regarding the noise, I think it's important if it is more animated in what the noise levels are, and what it means.
- So that it is, one, on the website, two, on the social media platforms about the project, and three, it will allow a better interaction as it relates to the noise. Second, Joy is correct in terms of emission standards, both at the federal and state level. However, there is no plan, to my knowledge, that some of the noise or environmental meters are going to be available or still out after this has happened.
- And in Rosemont, Rosemont would not join LAMC when it should have, but we had a environmental monitor in the community, and that monitor has long been gone and abandoned. But yet, the impact, now that the noise barrier's up, and when more traffic and emissions and vehicles are wanting to pass, the community is still going to be affected by it, but there's no detection out there. So one thing you all may want to ask is, can there be other, or can there be a regular monitoring of the impact of noise and of the air quality, knowing that this project, the ribbon-cutting is going to happen in 2032. Some people may not be here then, but nonetheless, the effects today are going to be much higher in 2032 and in 2050. (Middleton, C.)

Project Team Member:

- Appreciate it. And, well, LaTonya's going to go through the project website, which is constantly being updated, but there is a section on noise and how we address it, and so forth. So, it definitely, we're going to revisit this in a few minutes, but definitely take some time to go to the project website, because we also update the information on the mitigation as well. And so, I'm not going to dwell on the website, because we will revisit it again, but there is updated information up there that I would definitely encourage you all to go to and check out.
- And really quickly, because I know we're presently out of time. And again, I do encourage you all to hold us accountable. And if you have questions to call us. You all definitely know how to catch up with me to get more information on this. And so, part of this process involves documenting the cumulative impacts. And so, for you all like Mr. Bannister, and so forth, who've been here many years, you all constantly mention the experience from when I-26 came through, and then I-526. And so, this is actually the third time that interstate improvements have impacted your communities.
- And so, these are impacts that we have to document and be mindful of as well as, so, as we go through all these impacts, again, be mindful of the mitigation plans and the contents of it, and what we're looking to do, to not just address the direct impacts, but also some of the indirect impacts that have resulted in community land being taken away. And we're going to have some of the priority issues as well. So, just be mindful of that.
- And so, again, I'm not going to go through all of these, but in addition to the property impacts, the construction noise, there's various environmental stresses related to some of the enduring impacts, again, with the train noise, the airport expansion, and the airport noise. The ports and emissions for ships. So, there are a lot of other things that we actually have to document as well as part of this process as impacts, because those are indirect impacts from the variety of transportation

improvements that occur by virtue of where you're located here in Charleston. You're kind of an epicenter of a lot of different things. And so, those impact your lives as well.

- Housing is another key factor. And with relocations, as well as the ongoing development and gentrification around you, the amount of affordable housing that is under pressure and constantly being reduced. And so, those are also impacts that we had to be mindful of as part of this process, because again, the project is actually having to acquire some of the homes. So your affordable housing stock is considerably reduced as well. And then there's the heir's property issues. And also rezoning of portions of Russelldale. I mean, these are all wider-spread community things that are having to be addressed as part of this process.
- Really quickly before we transition. So, that ends our discussion on at least for now on the impacts. But again, our goal is to make sure everyone has a very clear understanding of the impacts as well as the mitigation. And so, don't leave here without getting your questions answered. I'm here. The project team is here. But also beyond today's meeting, feel free to call us or come by to the office, whatever it takes, to make sure you're very clear on what these impacts are and how this ties to the mitigation. Because remember, the impacts drive the mitigation. So, if there are impacts that you feel like the mitigation isn't addressing, this is definitely your opportunity to make that known to the project team, so we can adjust accordingly. (White, R.)

Community History Preservation Program Update

- And so, really quickly, the first portion of that mitigation plan that you're actually going to see begin to happen, is the Community History Preservation Program. And so, we've already finished up our scope of work when we already started soliciting for historians and photographers to join the team. And so, ideally within, beyond the public hearing in early 2020, is where you'll actually start seeing more engagement. And whoever's actually meeting with the advisory council to get input for this history project.
- And so, This fall and early next year is when you're really going to start seeing things ramped up. And we would encourage you as this history program begins, to make yourself available to sit down with a historian, and tell your story. We're going to document the history, we want verbal stories, photographs, whatever it is that you feel is important about your community, that you want documented, not just in a report, but also documented in a visual display that's going to be a part of the community center. And so, encourage your neighbors to be a part of it. Again, come by the community office and share your story. We'll have scanners. Yes, ma'am? (White, R.)

Facilitator:

Can you just reiterate what the expectations are for an anticipated start date in early in 2021? Will you please repeat that? (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member:

Yes, ma'am. And so, we're actually going to, as part of our, this fall with our public hearing, we're looking to have the historian on board by then, available to actually start engaging the residents. But ideally, the bigger ramp-up will be early next year, early 2021, is when you'll really start seeing more opportunities for you all to be engaged in, or your neighbors to be a part of this. Again, this is a long-term effort, because again, the goal here is to actually take the input that you've provided, and incorporate this into the community centers. And so, you provided and incorporate this into the community centers. And so, again, reach out to your neighbors, even relatives that moved away, because we are collecting the visual archive as well. We want pictures. We want stories. Anything you've got that are key to the history of these communities that provides history. Yes, ma'am. (White, R.)

Facilitator:

So is the expectation for the involvement or engagement piece to help support this particular initiative for the entire CAC to be involved, or are you trying to form a subcommittee as you've done with educational piece of it? (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member:

So for this, and that's something we can still work through, but, ideally, their first kick off meeting will be with the advisory council. So the advisory council is going to help guide this process. (White, R.)

Outreach Update

- So really quickly, one of the things, and this is based off of a recommendation from Mr. Bannister, is the community small group meetings. So one of the things we're looking to do later on this month, early November, to coincide with the release of the DES, is actually have some small group meetings with your residents, your neighbors, to talk about the project and to talk about the impacts, and get the feedback on the mitigation plan.
- And so the Ferndale Community Center is probably the prime location for where we're going to do it, but as we start getting closer to those dates and finalizing our plan, we want your help to get the word out, but also any guidance that you all may have that's going to help us pull in the information that we need from your neighbors. So if you feel like there's a particular format that we need to have these meetings more, let us know. Should it be a more formal presentation, or should it be a half a day drop in where people can come in, let us know what you feel like is the best way for us to operate this meeting so we can be productive, and get the most bang for our buck and get the information that we need and you all need to help to continue to develop this mitigation plan.
- So any thoughts, really, in regards to this before we move on? We're looking to probably kick these off before you all see us as a group together again. So are there any thoughts or recommendations in regards to format or timeframe or when they'll... afternoons, midday, weekends? What do y'all feel is the best way to engage your neighbors, to get them out here, to talk to them? Any thoughts? (White, R.)

CAC Member:

You mentioned that we're supposed to have the meeting here. But, for my neighborhood, and I'm not an exception, why can't we try to do a church in the neighborhood first? Well, we can try it. Hopefully we can try it. (Bannister, J.)

Project Team Member:

And we can try. And even if it's attempted, I guess the goal for us is to be out where we can meet with your neighbors. And so any recommendations that you've got, we'll take it and run with it, and put it into play. (White, R.)

Project Manager:

Or even maybe like a tent with a drive-up. Trying to figure out how to do this. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

How about the Community Center? It's small, but who know who will be there? (Bannister, J.)

Project Manager:

Well, we can only have six people. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

That's it? Okay. (Bannister, J.)

Project Manager:

We could do it by equipment, because people can just drop by. (Riley, J.)

Project Team Member:

Make sure and repeat what you just said because I'm recording. (Derrick, L.)

Project Team Member:

- Okay, absolutely. And one of the things that Joy mentioned is that we are preparing to reopen the community center, as well. So there will be opportunities for drop-ins, but we also want to make sure that we're out in the communities as we need to be, to make sure you get the feedback, and make it convenient.
- Again with COVID that does cause some challenges, but we're trying to be responsive to the needs of your neighbors. So think on it, and give us guidance. As we move forward, we're still going to plan on doing a meeting where people can drop in here, as well as the office, but we do want to get out. And we want to make sure we've got enough bodies to have one-on-one conversations with as many people as we need to ensure that people have a complete understanding of the project. So, next Maximum is going to do a really quick update on the ongoing outreach.
- So the mitigation mailers have gone out, and I'm not sure if everyone's read them or not yet, but they do include a... The mailer? So the mailer is actually going out next week, my apologies, but what we'll include is a community resource magnet, an infographic with the draft mitigation plan, and a survey as well, with a self-address envelope. And, again, we're trying to get feedback from you and your neighbors on the mitigation plan, as well. (White, R.)

Community Liaison:

- We reported at the last meeting that there are about 33 different locations where there's either an exterior box with information about the project, or an acrylic box placed on it the inside of a business. Mattese was able to locate about eight new locations.
- The East Montague market has two locations. The CVS Drug Store on Montague Avenue, the Save-A-Lot Food Store on Durant Avenue, the Max Way Variety Store at Rivers and Durant. The Cooper River Library is going to be two locations, inside and out. They're located on Rivers Avenue.
- And Mr. Banister referred two locations to us, which he's able to confirm, and that's Welch's Seafood and Gerald's Tires.
- So as you move about in your neighborhoods, please call us, leave a message at the office, that we were able to document that we did have this conversation with you. In today's packet, we have information on two weatherization programs that you can contact on your own as individuals. Again, we encourage you to call the office, leave a message for us.
- Whatever your community needs are, you as an individual, families that you know, we can connect you with those resources. But again, just give us a call. And that phone number, we're all learning, 843-225-1135. So please call and keep in touch, and we will stay in touch with you, as well. (Smith, M.)

Project Team Member:

- So at last month's meeting, those who are present in the office, and even today we still have copies of the flyers that Dr. Smith described being placed in real estate boxes at bus stops and interior sites and acrylics things, they look very much like what you will receive in the mail, but they are different. So we also will have copies for you, what you will receive in the mail. We have some today, the entire packet with the exception of the self-addressed envelope, so that you can see it, touch it, feel it, and you will receive it in the mail.
- I would like to know, and you all text me often, I appreciate that, I would like to know when you received it, if you don't mind. We've had some challenges with packets being delivered. Some of you get your packets, some of them were taken out of mailboxes, so I get a phone call, but nevertheless things happen, and we recognize that postal delivery may be a concern in the future. So, we're using what postal service calls every door direct mail right now. So we touch every residential mailbox in Russelldale, Ferndale, Liberty Park, Highland Terrace, and Joppa Way.
- But I would like to know that you received yours, because that's a good indicator of what your neighbors are receiving, and when they receive it. But we will definitely make sure you have a supply of materials in case you find that your neighbors, sorry, your neighbors don't get a packet. One of the tools we're using is the website, so we are encouraging you to encourage your neighbors, and you yourself, become familiar with that website. There is an online survey for which we are providing the paper copy in a self-addressed stamped envelope in the mail packet. So as you become familiar with it, as our panelist here today, you'll be able to advocate, you'll be able to use it, and help others use it as well. So, please reach out to the office, reach out to the rest of the team if you have questions, concerns, if you need copies.
- And I also appreciate you all picking up the yard signs. I see them in both languages, and I understand I probably need to get more, because more are being picked up. So they are visible in both languages. We've also had an Hispanic and Latino outreach coordinator in Ferndale walking around and asking more questions about where that demographic might need to be touched within your community. So please let me know so that we can provide the right direction and support for them to reach everyone. No one should be left out of conversation or omitted from a table seat.
- We have a weekly report of the flyers at our stations in interior and exterior sites, and in our first week about a third of the flyers were taken. And that flyer is the one, that again, some of you picked up from the office, it's called Project Updates. It's not the one you got in your packet last month. It's a different flyer that tells people how to get engaged, how to communicate with the project team, how to use the website, how to invite us to conversation with you. But what you will receive in the mail is the one that you got in last month's packet. About a third of the flyers that were placed in the boxes, totally, I don't have the exact breakdown of interior vs. exterior, but a third in the first week were taken, which is a good indicator.
- And the yard signs... I believe everybody here with exception of Ferndale, got signs at the last meeting. So we still have signs. I don't know that we have any more in Spanish... I don't think so. But we do still have about nine, so I'm happy to order more. And also, today, the magnet that Maximum Consulting put together, I have those here, because they will be part of the mailer. So if you would like to take one, or at least have an opportunity to experience what you're going to get in the mail, all of those materials with exception of the self-addressed stamped envelope, is here today. But the sign work, the flyers are being taken, we're replenishing them on a monthly basis and tracking, and we'll be reporting a little more detail about how they're being moved from interior and exterior sites. (Derrick, L.)

Project Team Member:

Moving forward, one of the things we're working with SCDOT, is our long-term CAC meeting plan. And so let me note that this is your CAC. So, even though we'll develop a plan of what we're looking to do for the next two quarters, we'll adjust as you guide us to. So, as we've been saying, this is your CAC, your plan. We're just trying to lay out a vision for the next few months as we move toward, one, getting the public- or the Draft DEIS being made public, but also working toward the transition to the POC, and ultimately the final EIS being published next year around this time. (White, R.)

Project Team Member:

- And so just scrolling down quickly on the... So on the website, and again, we do encourage you to have your neighbors look at it, but we do lay out what the commitment plans are, and what environmental justice is. There's also videos from FHWA in regards to just more information to educate yourselves and your neighbors about environmental justice, not just all.
- So, as we continue to go through this process, I do encourage you all to look beyond just this project to get information on how, for us, to move forward. You need to know your advisory council members, so your names are on the website, not your phone numbers or addresses, but we do want to make sure that residents know that you are representing them, and making sure that their best interest in regards to this project were being met. And then there are a couple of videos.
- Showed Mr. Bannister's CAC video using the direct link on the project website. (Derrick, L.)

Project Team Member:

And just let me add, also, for the sake of your neighbors, the materials from the previous meetings are available, also the meeting summaries, as well as the packet. So, again, point your neighbors to the website, point to the Community Office, have them reach out to us, but just like the panel said, we need you all to be a part and educate on this process, so that you could better advocate for yourself, and help guide this mitigation plan, because it is your mitigation plan. And again, there are a lot of details on the various components. There's also ways where you can actually... your neighbors can actually get more engaged in this process. So there's a survey, community forum. You can also opt-in to texting up here, as well. So there are a variety of ways for where your neighbors can get engaged in this process, so please, please, please encourage them to be engaged for the sake of the true success of this project. (White, R.)

Summary and Next Steps

Facilitator:

So I guess before we just kind of confirm what the next meeting date is, just making sure that we tap through any questions or comments about any of the topics that you guys have for today's meeting. So if it's okay if I can take just one or two minutes, what are some of the primary takeaways from CAC members, that you got, particularly from the panel discussion today? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member:

Don't give up. (Baxley, L.)

Facilitator:

Don't give up. Okay. Yes, ma'am? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member:

We've got a lot of work to do. (Baxley, T.)

Facilitator:

We have a lot of work to do. And Ryan talks about that frequently in terms of this being a marathon. I'm not sure if I can count how many times I've heard that, so absolutely. Anyone else? (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member:

- I know very early on we talked about the CAC meetings being closed with discussions limited to the advisory council, and then at one point we were going to plan a community advisory council drop-in at the office, but COVID kind of threw that out of whack. We do still think that the integrity of the conversations are very important here, and we would like to keep the conversation as tight-knit as possible, only because we don't want to infuse any other personalities that might impede the progress already made, so to speak. But that just means we have to give you what you need to be successful when you're in the community, getting the conversation and the information out. If you do want to invite someone to these meetings, as it is definitely difficult to convey all of this whole year's worth of conversation and effort into this one meeting or call, please remember that these online tools and paper tools and the community office staff, all of the people and resources are available to inform anyone interested.
- I think at the end of every meeting, I reiterate that whatever we can do to make sure you have what you need when you're out having conversations with residents, please let us know what we can make available to you. Even property owners that we might not be able to touch because either they're not physically here, but you are in relationship with them. Please share the links on the website information that you have, and Joy is clear about transparency. The meeting minutes, in an abridged version, will be on the project website, so there is no reason for anyone to be left out, and the previous conversations, they can review those. And if there's anything they want to add, you certainly want to give them that opportunity, too. But as you plan to be on the streets, we definitely want to make sure you have what you need. And so, just as you all call and ask for copies, don't stop doing that. And let us know, as the office is opening up on Monday from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM, we want to be as socially responsible as possible.
- But please, anyone that you see in these maps that might be impacted, to reach out to Horrace, so that meetings can be scheduled, conversations are being scheduled with ROW specialists. You know those people. You might know those people. You might know people who know those people, so we need to get those conversations going, as well. (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member:

I was just curious. Normally, most of the time at the end of our meetings, the project team will let the CAC know how many people have called into the office. Are we going to get back to that? (Anderson, A.)

Community Office Manager:

There's maybe two people a week that's calling in. About two people a week. And we do respond to the voicemail. But that's where way it is right now. Hopefully, after this meeting and the office opening up on Monday, we will have more responses, and more call-ins, more walk-ins. (Tobin, H.)

Project Manager:

I was just going to say, all the information that's in the office now is going to be changed over probably by the first of November, maybe... early November, to the public hearing information. So just make sure you let your neighbors know to come by. There'll be new information in the office. (Riley, J.)

Facilitator:

- There are several nuggets that you guys I am hoping, on behalf of the project team, that you walk away with. And just remembering that you're all- and I love that comment, Mr. Bannister, in the video, just kind of speaking to the cohesiveness of the group... I was just saying I really liked the comment that you made about the cohesiveness of this group. And just continue to remember that as you move forward, staying on message, don't let people divide you. I think that's one of the things that this Mr. Muhammad spoke to. Continue thinking about this in terms of a long-term plan, and with the operative word being plan, and then making sure that you're thinking about this in terms of strategy.
- I think it was Ms. Hunter that talked about the fact that you're doing this for the next generation of people coming behind you. And so don't leave today without really thinking on and sharing with those that you live, work with, and around, just kind of pushing that message of how important it is, the work that you're doing here. Particularly over the next two or three months with this public comment period, just wanted to sort of push that home, that don't leave here today without those points.
- With that, the next meeting is November 7th, I believe, at 10:00. So we'll be here. We're not sure if we'll be here, but the date definitely is November 7th. And we will start at 10, location to be determined. And if you have any questions in between, please don't hesitate, of course, to call the Community Office, Mr. Horrace, of course, or project team members, or Joy, or the SCDOT team, as well. I think that's it.
- Joy, Chad, did you have any comments? (Ellis, J.)

SCDOT Environmental Team Lead:

Thanks everyone for coming out and participating, as well as the panelists. We all thank you for that. (Long, C.)

Facilitator:

And then we have FHWA on the phone, or on Teams. Does anyone have comments? (Ellis, J.)

FHWA:

Thank you, Dr. Ellis. I want to thank everybody for participating in the panel. And of course Dr. Ellis, Ryan, and LaTonya for always facilitating such a good meeting. But also I want to add Joy. Joy, I really appreciate today you're being real. And I just want to remind everybody what Joy said about what you have to do within the next three months. So thank you, Joy, for that comment, and I hope everybody adds that to their takeaways today. Thank you. (Foster, P.)

Facilitator:

If there are no additional comments or questions then we will adjourn, and we'll see you on the seventh. Thank you. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Meeting #14 scheduled for November 7, 2020, 10 AM. Location TBD.



Community Advisory Council Meeting #13

October 3, 2020

Table of Contents

- Welcome and Administrative Items
- Neighborhood Update
- Education and Employment Mitigation Subcommittee
- Community Leader Panel Discussion
- EJ Neighborhood Impact Update
- Outreach Update
- Summary and Next Steps

Neighborhood Update



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

Are there unanswered questions from the last meeting? Are there other items you would like to bring up with the CAC or project team?

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.

Education and Employment Mitigation Subcommittee

- | | |
|--|--|
| ■ Nathaniel Bryant (Highland Terrance) | ■ Earl Muhammad (Muhammad Mosque) |
| ■ Prayonda Cooper (Joppa Way) | ■ Carolyn Lecque (Maximum Consulting) |
| ■ Cynthia Anderson (Liberty Park) | ■ Ferndale – <i>still need a volunteer representative</i> |

Community Leader Panel Discussion

Charity Missionary Baptist Church & The Charity Foundation

The Charity Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization located in Liberty Hill that is uniquely positioned to lead the charge of transforming the community into a model community. Their mission is to transform Liberty Hill — one of the Lowcountry's oldest African-American communities, founded by the families of four free persons of color in 1871 — into a vibrant, thriving community.

➤ **Rev. Nelson B. Rivers III**

Pastor, Charity Missionary Baptist Church & Chairman of the Board of Directors, The Charity Foundation

➤ **Ms. Nashonda Hunter**

Executive Director, The Charity Foundation

➤ **Ms. Trudy Grant**

Representative of The Charity Foundation and Personal Assistant to Rev. Nelson B. Rivers III

NAACP – Charleston Branch

Founded in 1917, the Charleston Branch of the NAACP is a local unit of the NAACP, the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. For nearly 100 years, the Charleston Branch of the NAACP has been committed to important issues effecting the lives and welfare of people in and around the Charleston area.

➤ **Ms. Dot Scott**

President, Charleston Branch of the NAACP

➤ **Mr. Phillip Scott**

President, North Charleston Branch of the NAACP

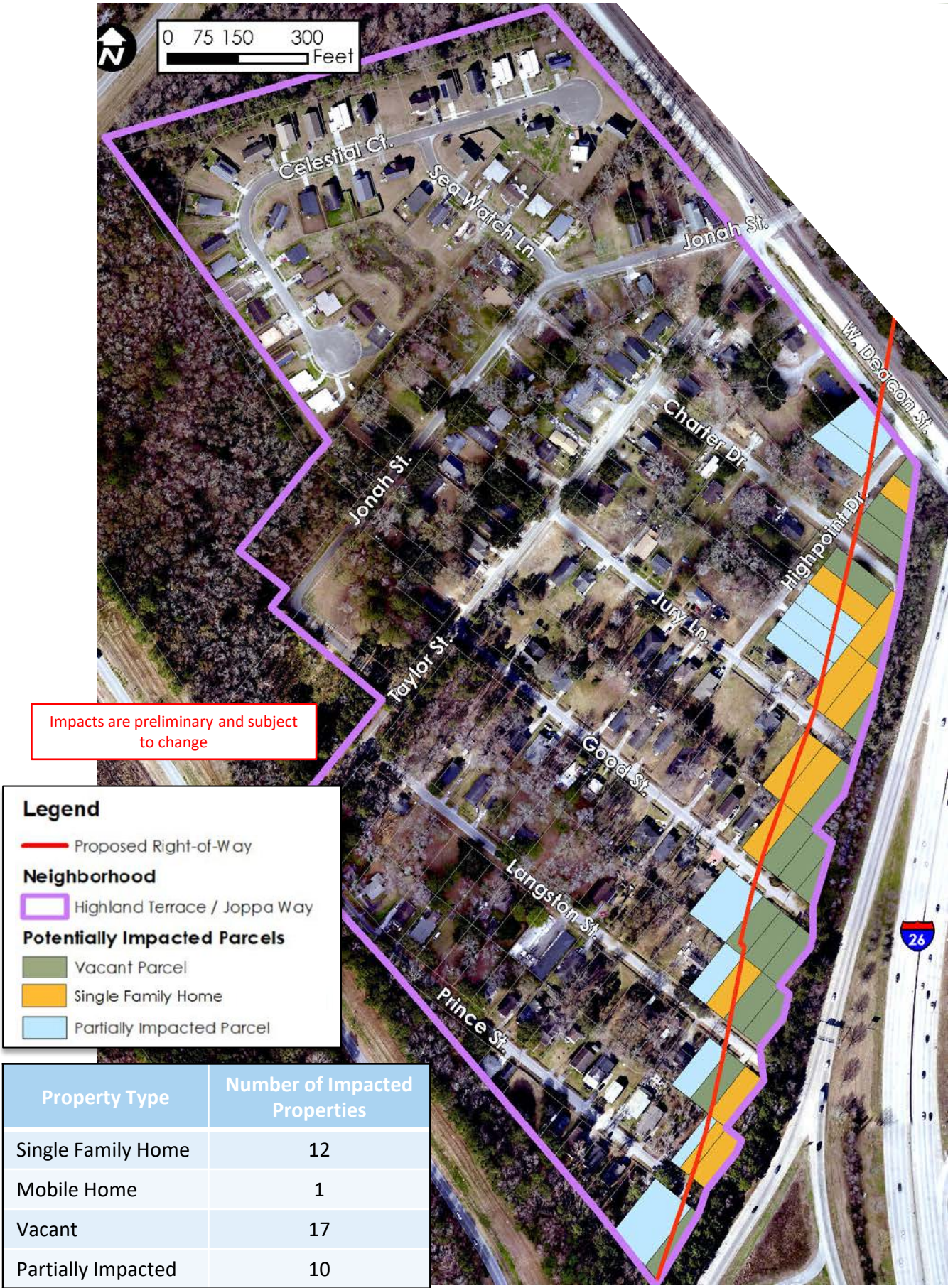
Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities (LAMC)

LAMC is a nonprofit organization founded for the purpose of advocating environmental justice and promoting community development, education, employment, quality housing, and community involvement for the study area neighborhoods.

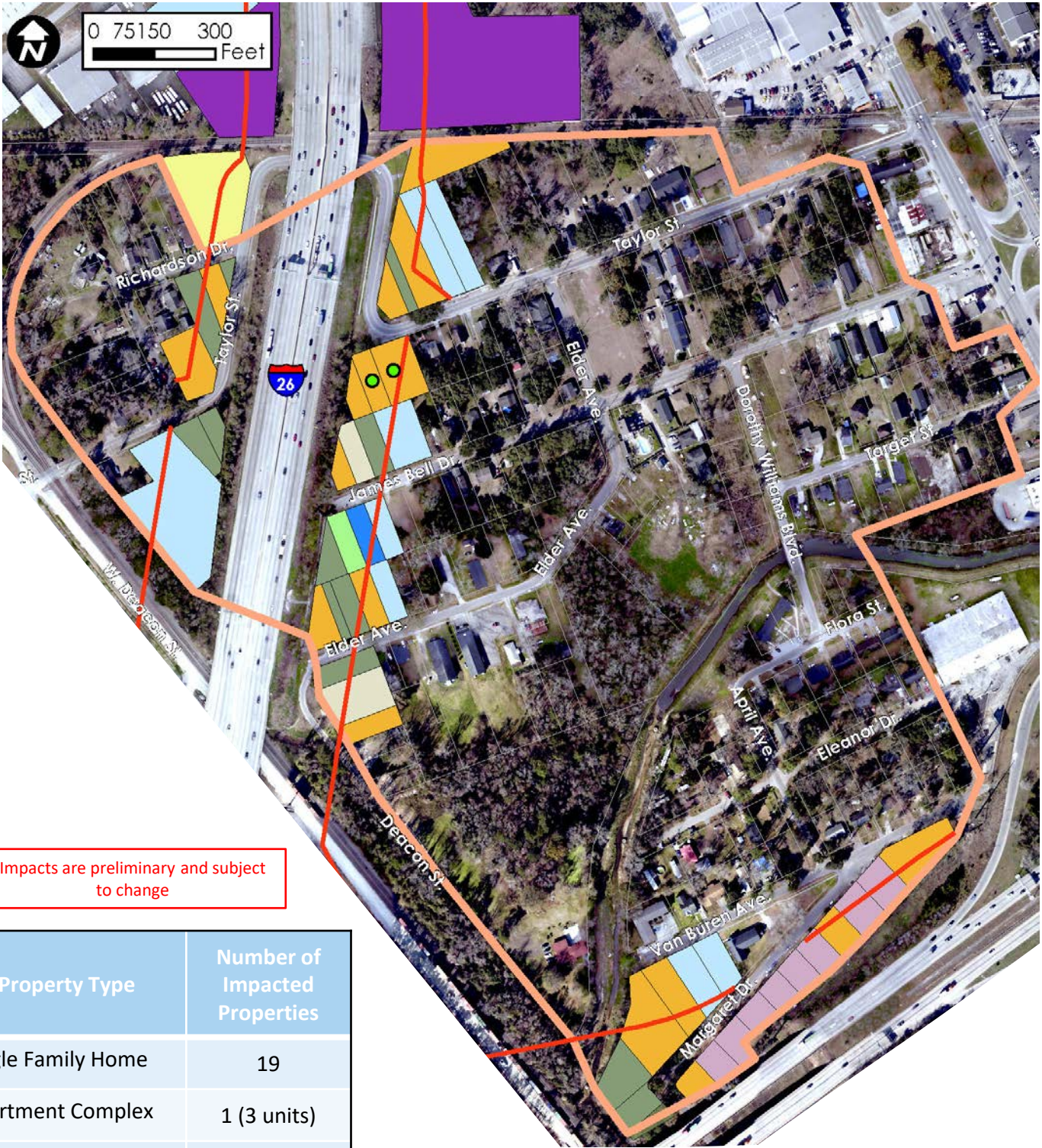
➤ **Mr. Omar Muhammad**

Executive Board President, LAMC

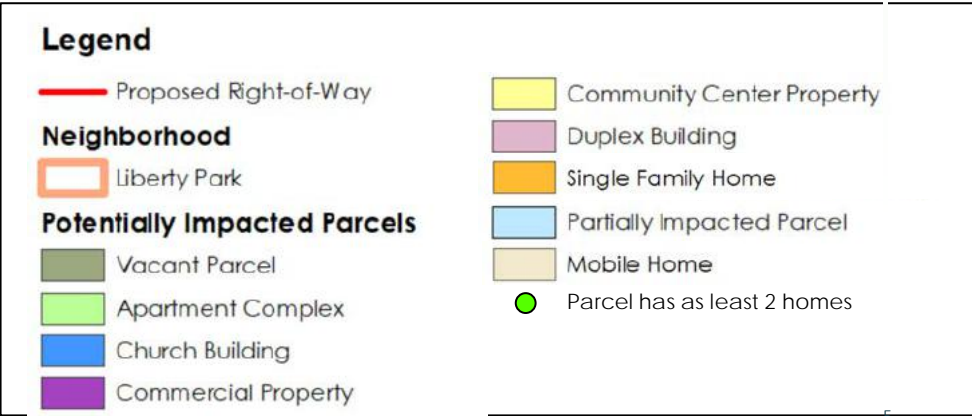
Neighborhood Impacts | Highland Terrace / Joppa Way



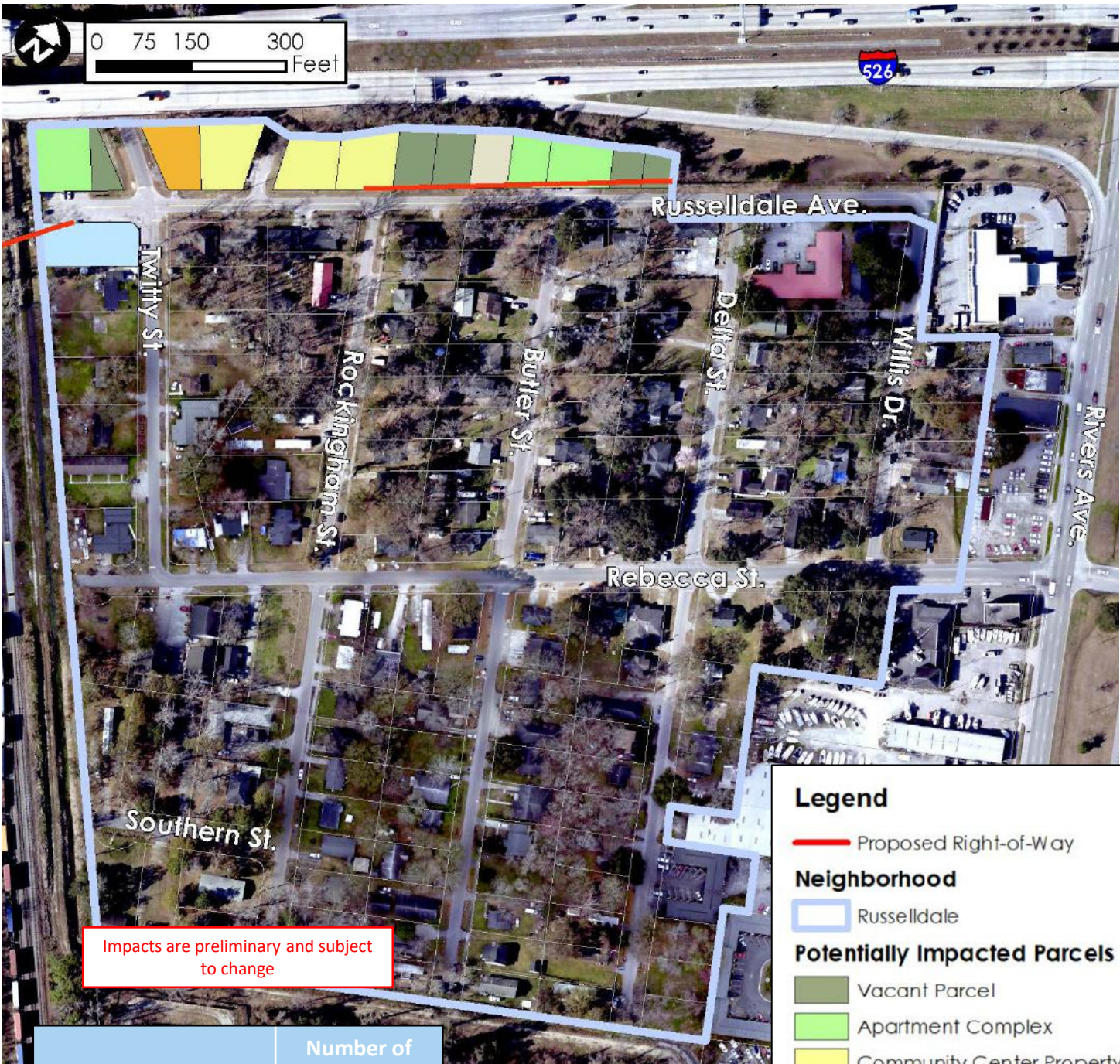
Neighborhood Impacts | Liberty Park



Property Type	Number of Impacted Properties
Single Family Home	19
Apartment Complex	1 (3 units)
Church Building	1
Commercial Building	2
Community Center Property	1
Mobile Home	2
Duplex Home	8 (16 units)
Vacant	12
Partially Impacted	8

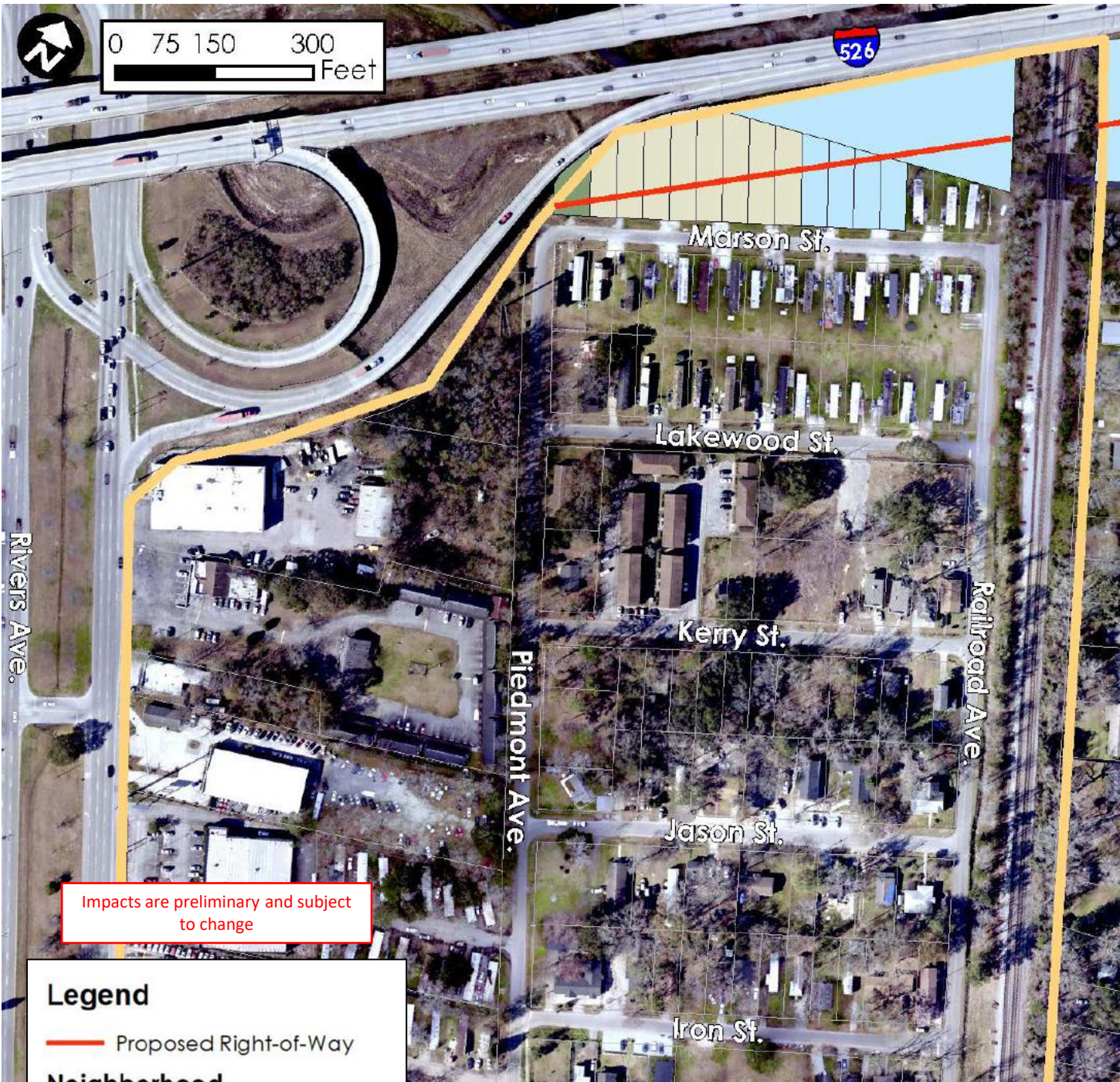


Neighborhood Impacts | Russelldale



Property Type	Number of Impacted Properties
Single Family Home	1
Apartment Complex	2 (15 units)
Mobile Home	1
Community Center Property	3
Vacant	5
Partially Impacted	1

Neighborhood Impacts | Ferndale



Legend

Proposed Right-of-Way

Neighborhood

Ferndale

Potentially Impacted Parcels

Vacant Parcel

Mobile Home

Partially Impacted Parcel

Property Type	Number of Impacted Properties
Mobile Home	8
Vacant	1
Partially Impacted	4

Additional Direct Impacts

VISUAL AND AESTHETICS

- Existing road already sits above many of the affected communities
- Low level of permanent visual changes to the existing environment
- Moderate public concerns regarding the visual character of the project
- Project design will follow the landscape standards set forth by SCDOT
 - **Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan to investigate adding a vegetation barrier to address visual impacts**

NOISE

- All four neighborhoods are expected to experience increases in traffic noise levels due to the proposed improvements related to the I-526 LCC-WEST improvements.
 - Highland Terrace: **Forty-six (46)** homes are expected to experience an increase in noise impacts
 - Liberty Park: **Twenty-five (25)** homes are expected to experience an increase in noise impacts
 - Russelldale: **Forty (40)** homes are expected to experience an increase in noise impacts
 - Ferndale: **Thirty (30)** homes are expected to experience increases in noise impacts.
- Feasibility is the consideration as to whether noise abatement measures can be implemented----Can the noise abatement measures be constructed?
- Reasonableness is the consideration as to whether noise abatement measures should be implemented.
 - Mandatory Reasonable Factors
 - Noise Reduction Design Goal
 - Cost Effectiveness
 - Viewpoints of the property owners and residents of homes benefited by noise abatement

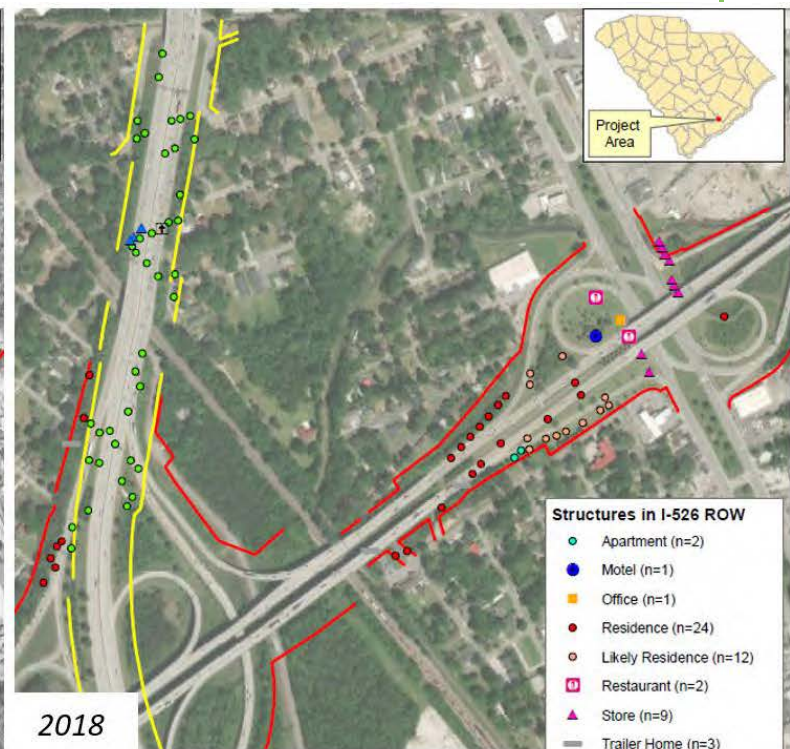
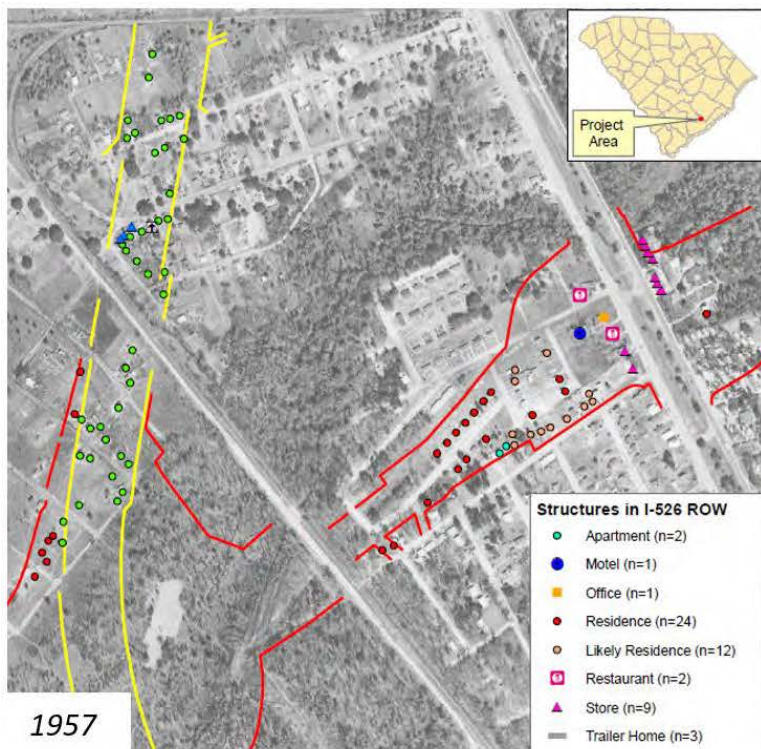
Additional Direct Impacts (cont.)

- Noise barriers were evaluated for each community
 - Five noise walls were modeled. 4 of 5 noise walls did not meet noise reduction design goal.
 - Noise Barriers in Highland Terrace, Liberty Park, and Russelldale did not meet the SCDOT Noise Policy criteria for cost-effectiveness
 - Noise barriers in Ferndale did meet the SCDOT Noise Policy for feasibility
 - SCDOT is investigating ways to lessen noise impacts on elevated bridges where noise walls are not feasible. Alternative noise abatement measures could include:
 - Quiet bridge joints
 - Alternative/lighter noise absorption materials/Quieter pavements
- **CONSTRUCTION NOISE AND AIR QUALITY**
 - EJ neighborhood residents are anticipated to experience disproportionate impacts associated with exposure to construction noise and dust as they are likely to have windows open to help ventilate homes

Cumulative and Indirect Impacts

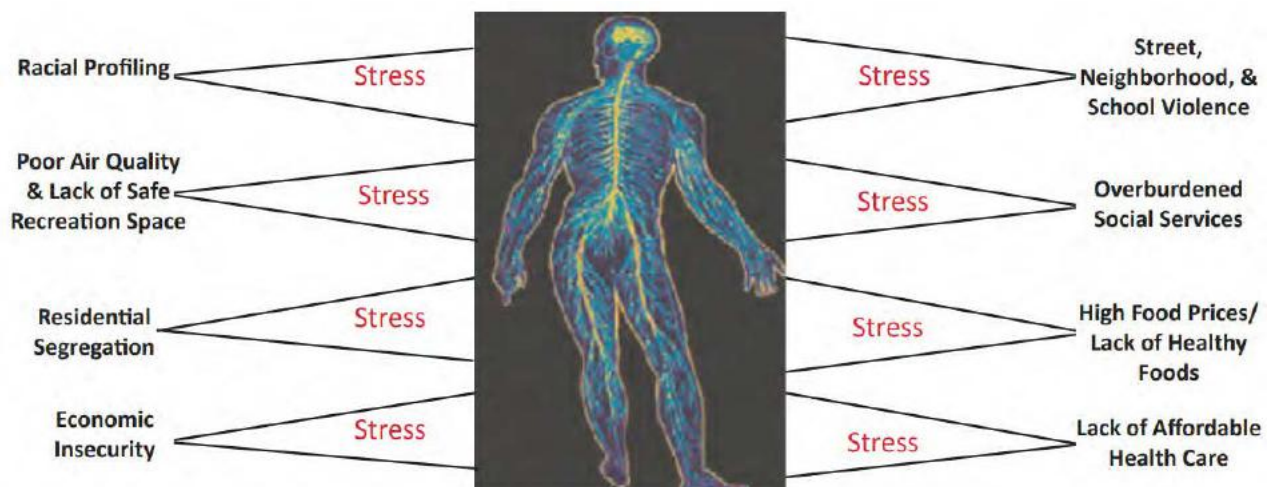
ORIGINAL I-526/I-26 CONSTRUCTION

- Past displacements associated with the original construction of I-26 and I-526
- Unjust compensation from I-26 and I-526 projects



ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS IMPACTING EJ NEIGHBORHOODS

- Residents experience a high degree of vulnerability related to weather hazards given the quality of housing stock, location within the Filbin Creek drainage basin, and Heirs' Property issues
- Residents experience environmental stressors, notably those related to economic insecurity, outdoor and indoor pollutants
- Residents are anticipated to experience exposure to construction noise and dust as they are likely to have windows open to help ventilate homes



Cumulative and Indirect Impacts

HOUSING

- Many of the houses in the affected EJ neighborhoods were built in the 1940's; these homes were prefabricated houses designed to be easily assembled and disassembled so they could be moved as needed; as such, the existing **housing stock is old, and much is in disrepair**
 - These factors increase potential for further erosion of community cohesion as homeowners may sell to developers that **do not reinvest** in the current community
- Affordable housing stock is also affected by the **reduction of mobile homes** in the project area and vicinity; this trend is anticipated to continue based on local growth plans and policies related to mobile homes
 - For example, the rezoning of Trailwood Mobile Home Park and the displacement of approximately 420 mobile home residents in 2013.



Trailwood Mobile Home Park: 2013 (left, source: Post & Courier), 2020 (right, source: Google Maps)

- Available land for affordable housing is also being reduced by **new development in the area** including other transportation projects, past airport expansions, and large-scale commercial development
- **Heirs' Property issues** can hinder residents from performing home repairs or building new homes
- Rezoning Russelldale neighborhood to "light industrial" use

Community History Preservation Program Scope

SCOPE OF STUDY

- Coordination
 - Kick-off Meeting w/ CAC
 - Monthly CAC Meeting Updates
 - Project Oversight Committee updates
 - Project Outreach Activities
 - Project Team Engagement (Community Office/Community Liaisons/Stantec)
- Develop History Preservation Plan Website
- Conduct Oral History Interviews
- Development of a Visual Archive
 - Historic mapping and aerial photography
 - Photographs of resents, homes, businesses, and other community institutions
 - Pictures and profiles of key community figures and residents
- Final Community History Report
 - Historical timeline and narrative
 - Community and regional context
 - Key resident and institution profiles and bios
- Visual Imagery Recommendations for the Community and Recreation Centers
- Final Display and Presentation
- Recommended Staff
 - Historian
 - Graphic Designer/Web Designer
 - Photographer

PROJECT SCHEDULE

- Commence **Fall 2020** in conjunction with the DEIS Public Hearing
- Complete during Right-of-Way Phase in **2027**.

Outreach Update

Community Small Group Meetings

- CAC Member mentioned the need for meetings *within* the communities to discuss the project impacts and the contents of the EJ Community Mitigation Plan
 - Community meetings are proposed for late October-early November to coincide with the publishing of the DEIS and Draft Mitigation Plan
 - Meetings to be conducted at the Ferndale Community Center to allow for proper social distancing
 - Opportunities for one-on-one meetings with Community Office staff by appointment only. Currently no walk-in appointments taken at the Community Office
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Maximum Consulting On-going Outreach

- Community Info Box Update
- Mitigation Mailer Packet – To be mailed around October 1, 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

Outreach Update | Weatherization Programs

PALMETTO COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP (CAP)

What is weatherization? Weatherization (weatherproofing) is the practice of protecting a building and its interior from sunlight, moisture, and wind, and of modifying energy use.

Why should homes be weatherized? Weatherization ensures that homes are warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. There is also a proven record of a 50% reduction in energy costs.

What does weatherization include? Weatherization includes: 1- attic insulation, 2- weather stripping and caulking, 3- insulation of hot water heaters, air sealing to improve air quality and 4- furnace tune-ups.

Who qualifies for weatherization? Families in Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester, and Jasper counties qualify if they meet the income guidelines. Priority is given to senior citizens, homes with children under the age of 18, and homes with high energy usage and costs.

What happens once eligibility is established? Once eligibility is established, the Palmetto CAP will perform an assessment of the home. Depending on outcome, the agency will install the needed weatherization measures.

Call Palmetto CAP at 843-720-5336 for information and to see if your household is eligible.

DOMINION ENERGY NEIGHBORHOOD ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM & HOME ENERGY CHECK-UP PROGRAM

The Home Energy Check-Up Program is available to all Dominion Energy customers. **It is a free program.** If you would like a brochure with descriptions of their energy efficiency programs, call the Community Office at 843-258-1135 and leave your name and mailing address. The Community Liaisons will mail a copy of the brochure to you.

www.DominionEnergy.com

Gerald Freeman, Demand Side Management / 803-217-7514

Customer Service / 800-251-7234.

Moving Forward

Upcoming CAC Meeting Goals

Q4 2020

- Review of Public Hearing Materials
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement / Draft EJ Community Mitigation Plan community and public comment review

Q1 2021

- Draft Environmental Impact Statement / Draft EJ Community Mitigation Plan community and public comment and response review
- Subject Matter Expert presentations
- Final EJ Community Mitigation Plan Development
- Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan

Next Steps: CAC Meeting #14 - November 7th

Notes _____

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 14

Date: November 7, 2020

Time: 10:00 am – 12:44 pm

Location: Ferndale Community Center (across from Harvest Pointe Church, 4870 Piedmont Avenue, North Charleston, SC), Microsoft Teams (Virtual)

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees

Larenda Baxley, Ferndale
Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale
Gilbert Reeves, Ferndale
Nathan Bryant, Highland Terrace
Angela Anderson, Russelldale
Jeanaris Bannister, Liberty Park
Doris Twiggs, Liberty Park
Prayonda Cooper, Joppa Way
Joy Riley, SCDOT
Chad Long, SCDOT
Pamela Foster, FHWA
Yolonda Jordan, FHWA

Maxine Smith, Maximum Consulting
Mattese Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Carolyn Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Gwen Boyd, Maximum Consulting
Janelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies
Rick Day, Stantec
Amy Sackaroff, Stantec
LaTonya Derrick, Stantec
Ryan White, Stantec
Hannah Clements, Stantec
Horace Tobin, Stantec (Community Office)

Participant Summary:

Total participants: 23

Ferndale: 3	Adjacent/affected communities/agencies: 0	Stantec: 6
Highland Terrace/Joppa Way: 2	SCDOT: 2	Facilitator: 1
Liberty Park: 2	FHWA: 2	
Russelldale: 1	Community Liaisons: 4	

Meeting Summary:

Welcome and Introductions

- Roll call (in-person, online, and phone participants)

Administrative Items

- CAC Meeting 14 hosted using a hybrid approach with participants joining via the Microsoft Teams platform, by phone, and in person.
 - The meeting was recorded solely for accuracy of meeting minutes.
 - LaTonya will serve as the technical host for participants joining remotely.

- Participants may raise their hands, virtually and in person, to ask questions.
- Meeting etiquette for in-person and on-line participants was reviewed.
- CAC Meeting 14 packets were distributed to meeting participants prior to the meeting date, including minutes for CAC Meeting 13.
- CAC Meeting 13 required changes to names assigned to comments made by Tina and Larenda Baxley. Their names were transposed. Edits will be made accordingly.
- CAC Meeting 12 minutes were approved.

Safety briefing: In case of emergency, meeting participants should exit through the front entrance of the community center and congregate on Piedmont Avenue at the front of the Harvest Point Church across the street from the Ferndale Community Center. In the event the entrance is blocked, meeting participants should exit through the door in the gymnasium space and proceed to the front of Harvest Point Church. (Ellis. J.)

Review of Agenda

- Welcome and Administrative Items
- Neighborhood Update
- EIS and Mitigation Activity
- Review of CAC Member Feedback Received After Meeting #13
- Community Leader Panel Discussion Re-Cap
- Review of Virtual Public Hearing Materials
- Outreach Update
- Project Schedule and Milestone Review
- Summary and Next Steps

Neighborhood Update

Facilitator:

- The first agenda item is the neighborhood update. There have been ongoing concerns from CAC members and the larger community related to lighting and flooding, but with the public comment period having begun, I know that a lot of you are in your communities talking with neighbors.
- So, for the neighborhood update, we want to gauge what people might be saying or making comments about the information that's being shared online or anything else. Have you been able to have discussions with family members or neighbors about the website or any of the mailers they're receiving? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member:

- Some of the people that I've talked to are nonchalant. They don't feel like anything is affecting them. Especially the Latinos. I don't know if it doesn't phase them or if they don't quite understand what is going on. So, I'm getting mixed feelings, you know, the homeowners are like, yes. But, those that are there renting, they are not there for the long term. (Anderson, A.)

Facilitator:

- So, Ms. Anderson, are they actually saying that it doesn't affect them? Or are they just indifferent to it, just not really sure what's going on? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member:

- A couple of them, it doesn't bother them. They feel like I am not paying property taxes, so...(Anderson, A.)

CAC Member:

- Yes. When I talk to some of my neighbors one-on-one and I used to ask them did you receive the flyer? And they tell me, "yes." And they ask me "what are we going to get from this?" I said, "if you read what the package said, then you will see what is probably going to happen in your neighborhood or on your street."
- You have to bring those things together to make your own conclusion, but I'm not trying to put nothing in your mind. I'm just telling you what the basics are all about. I spoke with three individuals in the community that attended the community drop-in on yesterday. Some are serious. They have signs out. So, it's not that it's not being noticed. (Bannister, J.)

Facilitator: Is it an issue that they don't understand the significance of the impact associated with the project or that they just don't care? Not that they don't care, but they may be indifferent. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: I think the news media sometimes can give a more positive affect, when they see information about the project on a tv commercial. But flyers and mail, they don't pay attention. But, if I see them, I plead that they come to the office. I tell them this is something important and that we need their opinion. (Bannister, J.)

Project Team Member:

- One of the things we heard last night was people talking about the schedule. So, when they see that things are happening later, they're a little less likely to get as involved or have the appearance of interest because they think it's farther down the line.
- Do you think that is a factor because I was telling someone last night, "Guys, it seems like we were just talking about Easter and now we're talking about Christmas and Thanksgiving. So this year has gone by really quickly, but and time will fly by just as quickly to get the 2023, 2027."
- But there's a planning effort. Do you think that people are just not willing to get as involved or show interest because they think that it's so far down the road, when they'll finally either be impacted or see anything before they get involved? Do you think that's a factor? (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member:

- That could be a factor, maybe. But, we like to procrastinate. But, now is the time to get your ducks in a row. Whatever you need, who you need to consult with, put everything down and notice what is going on in your neighborhood or your yard.
- Now is the time to document these things, so that when you bring it forth, you have it. You don't wait till the last minute and try to rush it, but now you have time to take time and do it right. You won't be making mistakes and holding someone else accountable for it. All you can do is talk to them. (Bannister, J.)

CAC Member: And I kind of think that is the problem too. Even though we are in 2020, they probably look at the fact that the project won't end until 2032 and think "big deal." They can't see anything happening. When I was leaving my house in Russelldale yesterday, on the left side of Rebecca Avenue, they have a paving company paving, I don't know if it's all streets or one street at a time. I don't know who is doing the

work, but we just can't lay back and say, "oh, it's down the road" and let them fall behind the eight ball. (Anderson, A.)

Facilitator:

- Thank you both for your comments. I think one of the things that makes me think about is the comment that Ms. Twiggs has shared repeatedly is the thought of trying to break down this project into bite-size pieces so that people understand here's what's going on in 2020. Here's what we're going to do at the beginning of 2021.
- Is there anything that can be done either by the CAC members or by Maximum or by the project team that can help to better facilitate that communication on a smaller scale and smaller increments, so that people understand the impact right now and what needs to be done right now? Because I guess the material that I see, you can see where the effort is being made to do that, but it is that what needs to be done? Is that the proper way? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member:

- Hi, this is Cynthia. I think that's an issue. I've talked to some people and just like the other commenter said, some don't realize what the full extent of the project and how the project effects them or their community.
- I think that the timeline, it should be showing people these are the things that have been done, and these are things that are going to be done, and you can break it up into smaller chunks so they can understand. I think the biggest thing is communication.
- We almost have to go door by door and make sure people get the information because there's still some people in those neighborhoods who don't understand or know what's going on. I think the concern is they see the signs, the signs were an excellent idea, but they need the information behind the signs. (Anderson, C.)

Project Team Member: She said that it seems that they need the information behind the sign and we might need to implement efforts similar to the census, more door to door, more interaction, and in digestible pieces. (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member: I know we are dealing with COVID-19 and we have to be very careful, but if the contractors don't have the proper equipment, mask or whatever, and just make sure you go door to door and even if no one answers, you can put the information in their doors with a mask over the face. (Anderson, C.)

CAC Member:

- What I just heard is good. I'm not taking anything from that, but I remember about two years ago when Highland Terrace was told they were going to bring the Palmetto Commerce through their area. City Hall was packed. It was packed with Highland Terrace. I live in Liberty Park, but that place was packed. They had several meetings, at City Hall and Stall High School. There were lots of people there, but they thought their homes were going to be taken away from them. They came out in droves. And they didn't have literature going out about the Palmetto project. That was because of rumors.
- That was word of mouth. But, now we are on our third time passing flyers out. I haven't had a single person ring my doorbell to ask me what the sign in my yard is about. What can you do other than a commercial? (Bannister, J.)

Facilitator:

- Any other comments regarding the communication and really reaching the community. I was on a call yesterday, unrelated to this project, but one of the things that, one of the things that I've talked with them about is the fact that when you are trying to share an idea and get people to buy into an idea, and you want to get involved.
- And Maximum, you know this very well. You really have to appeal to people on a personal level. People even with like, if you're selling something, most people don't buy anything they don't have some kind of personal or emotional connection with. So one of the things that I was talking to them about is because they were trying to push an idea in the community and one of the things, and I'm not saying that this has not been done, but just to encourage all of the CAC members to keep thinking about when you are approaching community members, your family and friends, sometimes it's most difficult to reach family and friends.
- Sometimes they're the least likely to listen to you. You really have to figure out and I say you, we, we have to figure out how to package this in a way that really connects with people on a personal level, on an emotional level right now today. So yes, the construction, you know, we use the, and we'll talk about like the mitigation plan, community infrastructure enhancement plan, the CIE in just a moment, but for most of the people in the community, that's this big amorphous blob. And it doesn't really mean anything to them.
- You all are more educated and you understand what those documents are and their features right now, for people in the community, we have to figure out just how to get them to the table. So, and I think that's really the challenge that as the CAC, we have to continue thinking about how you, and you talk about this so much, Mr. Banister, but how do we get people just to come to the table to have a discussion? And that's a point I think it will continue to be until we figure something out.
- We'll continue to be a challenge that we'll all have to continue working on. But if you see something that works, if there's something in your conversations that you think connects with people more than others, if there's some other the communication strategies that you think reach people on a different level, one more than the other, those are the things that you all need to bring back to the meetings or contact Stantec, or let Maximum know.
- We need to continue thinking about those bite bite-size pieces of information and how to really appeal to people on a personal level. Ms. Anderson, I think you have a comment. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member:

- I agree. 100%. But some of the tactics that we probably can use, I don't know how much you have access to people's telephone numbers or emails, because if take the election, they email information constantly to you. So we could get people emails and telephone number. We can check information, or we can email information to give to the people.
- And one of the things we can do is a group of people who live in a neighborhood that sits on the CAC. We can work with Stantec to go door to door because they know us. So, for Liberty Park and Ferndale, the people who live there, they go to CAC, we can go door to door. We can ask, if you have an email address, we can send you the information. Or did you have a telephone that we can set you to keep you up to date? So that's probably one of the next steps we can do to get that information out. (Anderson, C.)

Facilitator: So a text campaign, or just canvassing? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member:

- Mail, text, and email. And most people will read their text. And most people will read their emails. They have smartphones now. So I think if we get a group of people like in Liberty Park. We can work with Stantec and we can go door to door. And because they know us, we live in those neighborhoods. And they can say, well like this, I'm Cynthia Anderson and I live in Liberty Park for so many years, you know, we want to make sure you get the information. Do you have a telephone number, we can text you information? Do you have email? Have you been seeing the mailing that we sent out.
- I think we have to be more aggressive now to go into Ferndale, Highland Terrace, Liberty Park, and Russelldale and we can use the CAC members as a member of the team to go with you guys to tag team to get the information distributed. (Anderson, C.)

Facilitator: Okay. Ms. Anderson, I think those are great comments and they certainly will be added to the record, but also probably continue figuring out...I guess that would come through...I'm not sure with Maximum or Stantec. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: But for the CAC, use us. We live in these neighborhoods. We know the people. We can work with the project team to try to go door to door and to make sure people get the information. (Anderson, C.)

Facilitator: Yes. Ma'am absolutely. Anybody else have any comments?

Community Liaison: I think somehow we've got to get the mayor and the city council involved. When the mayor comes to a fish fry, everybody shows up. So, we can do a fish fry. We can do a barbecue. (Lecque, C.)

Unknown speaker: Absolutely, if you feed them, they'll come.

Community Liaison: Right. But, we don't feed them until after we talk. [inaudible] (Lecque, C.)

Facilitator: I love that, and that's some of what they talked about at the last meeting as well, is bringing people out and feeding them. Food is very personal. People like to come out and fellowship over food. And at least in most of the community groups I've worked in, it certainly seems to get people out. I like the idea of getting them out and getting the message and then feeding them. (Ellis, J.)

Community Liaison: And we should also have the mayor and city council. [inaudible] (Lecque, C.)

CAC Member:

- Until you bring all of the stakeholders and landowners, all of the persons that live there presently, or the renters and tenants. I have yet to receive a packet and I hear everybody talking about it. And we do have email addresses. We have telephone numbers.
- We have divided Liberty Park into three areas. I'm on Deacon, and what else Jeanaris? Jeanaris directs me. And I follow directions well. So, I take care of that area so if a person is not living there, even if they're homeowners, I make sure to find out where they are. And I'm that person that on a regular basis, I communicate with owners who aren't even living in Charleston. But, they know that this is going on. And from time to time, I might send someone to the office to check out what's going on and get updates.

- So, it's a big challenge. And unless we get on it, and get started, it will start trailing with different pieces of information. And I don't like ill information going out. Let's give it to them exactly the way it is. (Twiggs, D.)

Project Team Member: Can you repeat the last thing she said? (Derrick, L.)

Facilitator: She said she does not like to have that information go out...(Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: Ill information! (Twiggs, D.)

Facilitator: She said ill information. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: Incorrect...(Twiggs, D.)

Facilitator: Incorrect information. Accurate. Yes sir, Mr. Bannister. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member:

- When passing out the flyers, I just try to cover the areas that I think are going to be effective. First, I try to catch the party living in the house, whether they are a homeowner or renter. And I always tell them, just because you're renting, you're still affected. But, I give them the flyer at the same time. And don't take for granted because this is not your house, that you're not going to be affected when the final analysis is said and done. So, they have different provisions for you. And I ask them, how would you like to see your residence taken care of after the fact?
- Anything you need done to your home, just don't sit there and say, it's not going to affect me, go out anyway and see what's in the process. I can't tell you everything, but here's the flyers. Here's the numbers and that's all I can do. And I'll probably keep doing the same thing over and over. Liberty Park did leg work in these areas. (Bannister, J.)

Community Liaison: To answer Carolyn's question about notifying city officials, I sent out an email messaging with the flyer and everything that's upcoming for the community drop-ins to the mayor's office. Please know that city council Dorothy Williams is still in the hospital from her accident. She said, she's not able to walk. She's going to have to learn how to walk again, but I did send the flyer to her by email and she is going to try to spread the word, the best she can. (Lecque, M.)

Facilitator: One of the things that you all have the authority to do is then reach back out to someone else on that team or on that staff to ask for a proxy. If she can't be here to represent her staff, who else can represent? And you've done that? Okay. So, that would be my only point, and that's been done. For Stantec, before we move on or from SCDOT are there any other comments? I think those are great comments, great update, good feedback from the community. But let's see if we have any comments from the project team before we move on. (Ellis, J.)

FHWA:

- This is Pam. I've had my hand up for a minute. I hope I'm not being redundant, because I cannot understand what everybody else is saying. However, I want to respond to the language I'm hearing about 'feed them and they will come,' and I hope I'm not repeating what everybody else has said, but I want to make a comment that I don't want our minutes...I know these are official meetings, and I don't want it to seem that you're saying, 'feed them and they will come' in that context because, culturally,

what happens is we believe and understand that we like the nature of fellowship and we respect the fact that we like breaking bread together.

- That is something that brings us together and puts us in a sense of unity. So that's why in our culture, when we eat and break bread together, we seem to be on one page and in a place of unity, not so much in the context of 'feed them and they will come.'
- I don't want us to have in our written documents, in our minutes that we can read in. If you feed them, they will come. And that is a marketing tool for our meetings and gatherings to get people to attend whatever we put together in these efforts, in our CAC activity. That's all I wanted to say. Thank you. (Foster, P.)

Facilitator: Thank you, Ms. Foster. That is duly noted. I think cultural competence is critical. So I definitely agree. I think that's important to make sure we capture in the record. So thank you. (Ellis, J.)

SCDOT Project Lead:

- First, thank you for all the time, this is exactly the type of feedback that we need from you as far as this neighborhood update. I think we're hearing the message that we need to expand our outreach numbers, do something a little bit different and really target these communities and target individual property owners and the renters, so I think that a challenge has now been set forth for our team.
- There is definitely a sense of urgency because we're in a critical period right now, and the public comment period is going to run till January 15th. So I wanted to say thank you for these comments, I assure you that project team is going to work hard to meet with everybody and really expand our outreach efforts to try to get the word out and get the feedback that we need. Thank you. (Long, C.)

Facilitator: Thank you Chad. Yes sir, Mr. Bryant? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: I know we have a lot of renters in the area and some Hispanics who have a language barrier. I just think if we can get the owners of the property and try to get a commitment from them, try to talk with them once a month or twice a month, and let them know that hey, this is what they are trying to do for you. Renters don't believe they can stay there and rent the property. So, if we can make it seem like it's beneficial for them and get the word out, then they may help you stay connected. (Bryant, N.)

Facilitator: I like that. I think you should add that to your strategy instead of focusing on a general sort of broad brush focus on the homeowners, that may be something you guys want to consider and then really enlist the homeowners to then go out and be more focused and intentional about speaking with renters, maybe in smaller groups. So that's definitely a good suggestion. Thank you. Any other comments? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member:

- I just thought about this and when I first came to be on the board at Charleston school district, I asked them if we could do an app to update the parents. And so what I'm thinking now is maybe they can put something on their telephones that can tell you the status, the dates, and give any pictures.
- When I worked for the federal government, the Office of Personnel Management had an app. Charleston County School District has an app to update parents. They can use it for this project or any other project that people can just download or we can show them how to download it and see what's going on because I think everybody now has a smart telephone. (Anderson, C.)

Facilitator: Did everyone in the room hear what she was saying? Okay, essentially what you're saying is that when you worked on the Charleston school board you recommended that they use an app to stay in touch and update parents. And you're recommending that an app be developed to keep community members in the four impacted communities, in particular, informed. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: For future communities. That's a way for everybody to find out what's going on. (Anderson, C.)

Facilitator: And that's a way for everyone to know what's going on. Okay. We'll definitely add that to the record as well. Thank you. (Ellis, J.)

Community Liaison: We have a partnership with the Office of Community Engagement with the Charleston County School District and any time we have a meeting of any kind, they get the information out to the parents of the four schools that are in this footprint. We do have a partnership with the school district. It's not an app, but it's still a way of communicating with the parents. (Smith, M.)

Facilitator: And how, how do you communicate, how do you send that information? (Ellis, J.)

Community Liaison: So the information is sent to the Office of Community Engagement - Family and Community Engagement. And they actually provide the information to the school liaison for the four schools in their footprint, not necessarily through an app. But they email them essentially the same information. (Smith, M.)

Facilitator: Okay, so through emails. Do they do robocalls? (Ellis, J.)

Community Liaison: I don't know that they are able to do the robocalls, but they are able to send the information electronically to the parents. (Smith, M.)

EIS and Mitigation Activity

Facilitator:

- That's good information, too. I think this feedback in terms of the discussions that you're having regarding some concerns, and perhaps that you're continuing to think through some strategies that we might be able to implement a little bit of adjustment there. And so that's all very good and we'll make sure we capture everything and share it so we can figure out where we need to go from there.
- Let's move on to the EIS and mitigation activity. The project team began meeting formally with the CAC on September 30th of last year. So, we have been at this for a while. And one of the things that you all have been tasked to do is to familiarize yourself with terms and acronyms and documents, so that you understand the NEPA process. And you've heard a lot of talk about NEPA. NEPA is the National Environmental Policy Act.
- That's the reason why we're all in this space. The federal government requires that for federal agencies that are implementing projects that potentially impact the environment, including the human or human impacts, that they evaluate what those impacts might be before finalizing or formalizing the details of a project.
- We're here because we're engaging in the I-526 expansion process, but SCDOT and FHWA cannot proceed with this work until we go through this process. Right? So that's sort of the overarching issue. We've been talking about a number of documents. The project team has discussed resources, even some that Maximum has presented to you, for example the resource guide.

- We talked about a lot of documents over the past year, but the three primary documents that this group as the CAC, is most centrally focused on would be the draft environmental impact statement, the mitigation plan, and the community infrastructure enhancement plan. So those are three key documents that keep coming up. We keep talking about those documents. Right?
- And so, for the purpose of this, let me start by saying, this is not a test. I will ask that you all take out your notes if you're on Teams, you'll definitely be able to participate better if you have this in front of you. We've asked that everybody finish this sheet in your packet. Hopefully you have had an opportunity to go through that. The activity was to take these items at the bottom of the page and try to match them up with these three documents.
- If you have not done that, don't panic, we'll work through that this morning, but this is an opportunity basically for you guys and us together to just sort of go through all of the things, most of the things of the key things that we've discussed over the past year, and just get an understanding, make sure you feel comfortable and you know, where these different things belong in the process. The reason why that's important, for example, is Mr. Jeanaris is going out and talking to members of the community, as he stated before. All of you are. Ms. Doris is talking about the work that she's doing. We're talking about increasing going out and doing door-to-door visits. It's important that you understand these documents.
- So, when people start asking questions, you can at least answer the basic questions about what the draft mitigation plan covers, why it's important to you, and why do you need to participate in the public comment period. But that's what this activity is for.
- So the EIS is the big picture document, right? That's where SCDOT, Stantec, they're going out, they're doing this evaluation and assessment. We talked about this early on in the process in the first several meetings where we really spent some time focusing on direct impacts, indirect impacts, and cumulative impacts.
- The mitigation plan is really that part of the process where these four impacted communities come together and work with the project team to mitigate for the impact, whether it's cumulative, direct or indirect. Do you remember what the word mitigate means? The whole purpose of the mitigation plan is to minimize, reduce, offset, whatever word you want to use. It is to reduce those impacts, right? And so that's the purpose of that mitigation plan.
- Now the community infrastructure enhancement plan, that's really to address those topics that kind of fall outside of a mitigation plan, but that SCDOT is committed to supporting those four communities in addressing resolution, to the extent possible. Is that right, Ryan? Make sure that if I'm off a little bit, you correct me. (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member: So, they are part of community infrastructure enhancement management sub-component. But it is a separate effort that we are doing as a part of the overall mitigation plan. (White, R.)

Facilitator: Do you guys have any questions, first, before we start kind of going through these topics, these bullets at the bottom about the three documents? It's okay, if it's wrong, we just want to make sure that we can talk through it and answer any questions. But the first is purpose and need. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: That's probably the DEIS. (Anderson, C.)

Facilitator: That's correct. So the purpose and need, that is part of the environmental impact statement. You're defining what the purpose of this project is and the needs of the communities, right. Or that area that is being impacted. (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member: According to the NEPA process. So, why is SCDOT and FHWA actually moving forward? The congestion issues, the traffic issues...that is part of the need of the project. (White, R.)

Facilitator: Did you guys hear that on the phone and on Teams as well? (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member: So, again, with purpose and needs, and again, it is a component of the DEIS, but it's the reason why the project is doing that. And that's extremely important. As you explain to your neighbors why this project is being done and why are we getting these impacts. There is a much broader picture of the purpose of the project and all the traffic and safety needs for the region that is defined in the DEIS in regards to why the project is being addressed. (White, R.)

Facilitator: Thank you Ryan. Next is traffic calming. Which document would traffic calming, things like speedbumps fall under. Hold on.

CAC Member: Infrastructure. (Baxley, T.)

Facilitator: I hear, I hear infrastructure. What did you say Mr. Bannister? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: I see where... (Bannister, J.)

Facilitator: Anybody else brave enough? This is a discussion time. So it's okay. I heard the infrastructure enhancement plan. So that's right. So traffic calming belongs in the enhancement plan. Okay. Next is affordable housing.

CAC Member: Mitigation. (Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: I got one answer, anybody else? So that's right. Affordable housing belongs in the Mitigation plan. Okay. Next is the Community History Preservation Study.

CAC Member: Mitigation. (Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: That's right. All right. Next is, community advisory council? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: Mitigation. (Baxley, T.)

Facilitator: Okay, that's right. Next is storm water improvement, Flooding. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: That's infrastructure. (Baxley, T.)

Facilitator: Anybody on the phone? On Teams? Right. Okay. Good. Infrastructure. All right. Next is financial literacy. First time home buyer counseling. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Members: Mitigation. (Baxley, T. and Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: Mitigation. Good. Alright, next is community centers and pocket park. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: Mitigation. (Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: You guys should be experts on where that belongs. Okay, next is sidewalks. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: Infrastructure. (Baxley, T.)

Facilitator: Infrastructure. Okay. Next is Community office. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: Mitigation. (Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: Alright. Are you all good with that? All right. College Aid initiatives? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Members: Mitigation. (Baxley, T. and Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: Mitigation. Next is recreation programs and activities.

CAC Members: Mitigation. (Baxley, T. and Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: Mitigation. Let me slow down. You guys are taking notes. Let me give you a second to take notes. Does anybody have any questions so far about why these items might belong in any of these documents? Or do you feel pretty clear about it? Alright. Next is recreation programs and activities. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Members: Mitigation. (Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: Mitigation. What about environmental impact? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: EIS. (Anderson, C.)

Facilitator: DEIS. The environmental impact statement. What about alternative analysis? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: Impact Statement. (Baxley, T.)

Facilitator: So, the project team has to come up with a plan, but they also have to come up with alternatives, right, for what they're proposing. So...say it again, Ms. Prayonda. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: DEIS? (Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: DEIS. Good. Very good. What about the school to work program? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: Mitigation. (Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: Mitigation. Okay. Street lighting? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: That's infrastructure. (Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: Infrastructure. Okay. What about organizational training? We've been talking a bit about that too, in more recent meetings. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: I think mitigation. (Baxley, T.)

Facilitator: Okay. Let's see. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: [inaudible].

Facilitator: What did you say Ms. Cooper? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: In my mind, I was thinking it was the DEIS. Because in the project, you need the organizational training. (Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: So, Ms. Cooper is saying she would think that that's a part of the DEIS rather than the mitigation. (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member: So regarding organizational training, and we'll talk a little bit more about that later on today, but the organizational training is part of the next steps for what you all may want as far as mitigation and how to move forward beyond the life of the project. So, without getting ahead of ourselves, one of the things SCDOT is committed to is, similar to our panel discussion last month, if there's a desire for you all to organize as communities and advocate and so forth, that is part of the mitigation plan, that is something SCDOT is willing to assist you all in doing, as a parallel process to this project and life beyond the project. (White, R.)

Facilitator: And I appreciate that comment though [to Ms. Cooper], because I understand, I think, where you're coming from with that reasoning. But think about the organizational training piece of it as part of this. So, you have the advisory council and that organizational training is tied to the work that the CAC is doing. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: Once you explained it, I understand. (Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: So the good thing about, at least to me, this kind of discussion or format is...when I was in school, like in high school. I always learn things better when I was in a group and I thought I had something right. And talk with somebody else and start reading through it. What that does is then you get out and you start talking to people in the community, it helps you to just process that information in a way that you can better explain it. So the fact that you said organizational training is a part of the DEIS, it helps you on a deeper level (when the answer may not necessarily be correct), be better able to explain why it fits into the mitigation plan (to your community). So I think that's great. Not only did you say that it was in the DEIS but you gave an explanation, so that's good. I appreciate those comments. Okay, we are at bike and peds. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: I think that's mitigation and infrastructure. (Baxley, T.)

Facilitator: What did you say Mr. Bannister? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: No, no. I was talking to myself. (Bannister, J.)

Facilitator: That's not fair. Okay. So, Ms. Baxley said she thinks it should actually be in the mitigation and the infrastructure. (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member: She's actually correct. So again, one of the things that we're doing specific to the recreation center, is making sure there are improvements to make sure people get from point A to the recreation center. So, yes, its going to fall primarily under the CEIP because there are so many more improvements that are part of the infrastructure enhancement program but she is absolutely correct. There are greenways, multi-use paths, some additional side walks and so forth that are directly connected to the recreation center. (White, R.)

Facilitator: Okay. So next is preemployment training.

CAC Members: Mitigation. (Baxley, T. and Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: Mitigation. And then finally the recreation center, connectivity improvement.

CAC Members: Mitigation. (Baxley, T. and Cooper, P.)

Facilitator: Mitigation. And to your point, you're talking about connectivity improvements that kind of ties into the whole discussion about bike and pedestrian walkways. So that's good. That's very insightful. And so I do want to just make sure. All right. So don't panic if you have not had a chance to jot all of this down, the project team will send the completed document to you. But, I appreciate that you obviously did your homework and I appreciate that too. Ms. Prayonda, I appreciate your comments as well and others. But, take some time to sit down as you prepare to go out and work with community members, to make sure you understand all of the elements of these documents and reach back out to the project team if you have any questions about why this thing belongs in this document or not? So, okay. Any comments? SCDOT, any comments? (Ellis, J.)

SCDOT Team Lead: My only comment is that organizational training. Public outreach is at the core of NEPA and the environmental policy act. Organizational training is about keeping the public informed about the process. (Long, C.)

Review of CAC Member Feedback Received After Meeting #13

Facilitator:

- Thank you. I think we're ready if no one has questions about this activity to move on to the next agenda item. After our last meeting (#13), Maximum really spent a good amount of time talking with CAC members, just getting some feedback on projects impacts, the EJ efforts, and CAC meetings. You guys gave extensive feedback. They were able to collect information on the high points, so things that were recurring and continued to come up as discussion points or the most significant issues from those discussions.
- And so what we wanted to do this morning is to share those topics with the group and give you an opportunity to discuss them in a bit more detail and see how we might be able to address them, if we're not already.
- Maybe, as we talked about during the neighborhood update, we can discuss how we might be able to improve our approach. So we'll start with dissemination of project information and some of the bullets listed here is that information should be written at a fifth to eighth grade reading level. I know some

years ago, for most of the country, the literacy level was at a fifth grade reading level. And we want to make sure we're packaging our message in the most clear, concise way that we can. And I think that is some of the feedback that was coming from CAC members as well.

- So information about the projects should be sent to radio and TV stations. Those are things that we've talked about. And we've even kind of mentioned today as well. And information about the project should be sent to churches through e-blast. So let's talk a little bit more about dissemination of project information. I know we talked about contacting the mayor, for instance, and having a fish fry within the proper context. (Ellis, J.)

Community Liaison: Through fellowship. (Lecque, C.)

Facilitator: Yes, ma'am, absolutely, through fellowship. So what are some things that CAC members would like to see happen, how the project team can better support some of those efforts, and determining whether or not you think it's effective? Have you been working through churches? (Ellis, J.)

Community Liaison: Because most of the churches are still closed, we are gathering email addresses and phone numbers [Inaudible]. Although interestingly enough, we're finding that the churches that are located in the footprint, the residents don't necessarily attend church there. So that's been an interesting revelation to us. We're trying as many different ways as we can. For the minority media contacts, Joy is scheduled to talk on a gospel radio station, WJNI. We know the residents listen to that station. So, we are trying multi-faceted ways. (Smith, M.)

Facilitator: Did you hear that? You didn't capture that either? (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member: I got churches are not congregating, but the latter part I couldn't get? (Derrick, L.)

Facilitator: So, Dr. Smith, correct me if I'm wrong, but I think what I'm hearing is that they been reaching out to churches, but one of the things that they're facing is that the residents who live within the footprint... the churches that are situated within the footprint of the four impacted communities, the residents don't necessarily attend those churches. And so they're having to come up with creative ways outside of congregations, churches to reach those community members. So that's interesting. (Ellis, J.)

Community Liaison: We can use Harvest Point as an example. They have a food distribution drive every Thursday, and we attended that or got permission to be there. And I think it was Priscilla who took the flyers and was able to distribute flyers about the drop-in meetings. Those individuals that attended the food drive don't necessarily attend the church, Harvest Point, which is just right across the street. But they live in Ferndale. They live in Highland Terrace which is right across the street. (Smith, M.)

Facilitator: That's a good point, that's something that could possibly be missed if you're not making, you know, taking the time to understand your community. (Ellis, J.)

Community Liaison: I think we were able to identify that as a part of the strategy because Prayonda is a part of the CAC. (Smith, M.)

Facilitator:

- Yes, absolutely. And that goes back to some of the discussion that Mr. Muhammad was talking about in the last meeting about understanding your community. I think that's an excellent example of that,

that just making sure that you're giving that type of feedback and helping Maximum to help you to help the community. That's exactly the kind of information that will continue to help strengthen the efforts on moving forward. So that's great information. Okay. Any other comments on dissemination of information?

- Environmental issues was another that came up, and the specific questions, how will environmental issues such as dust pollution be addressed? I know we had a conversation during the last meeting about noise and Ms. Varner had some questions about some of the long term environmental impacts. And so I know that that's an ongoing conversation, not just necessarily related to noise, we had more of a general question about long-term environmental impacts.
- Does anyone have any comments, concerns, or questions that you want to ask? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: I think one of the issues with environmental impact is the flooding. There's a lot of flooding in these areas that needs to be addresses and also power lines above, not underground, like real neighborhoods. So tree trimming is a big deal, because if we have a storm, ice storm coming, Liberty Park don't have lights or electricity. So I think tree-trimming and flooding all also big environmental issues in these communities. (Anderson, C.)

Facilitator: Ms. Cynthia, you broke up at the beginning of your comment, but I think what Ms. Anderson was saying is that in a lot of these neighborhoods, they're still traditional telephone poles. And so that becomes of an issue with tree trimming. So I think everything else everyone was able to hear. Well, to make sure they've heard that part of the comment. Okay. Regarding project visuals, the comment was made that the CAC would like to see visuals of what will be done and when. So I'm not sure if Maximum wants to maybe expound bit more on that one. (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member: And I can speak to that. So, later on the in meeting you'll get to see the visualization for what the project itself would look like. We've all seen on the number of occasions, visuals for the community center and that's a continual work in progress. So as we transition beyond the final EIS into the design process, you'll get a better understanding, more clarity on what your parks will look like in the actual community, so those will all progress once we finalize acquisition of the property. For example, we'll go through the design process. But in regards to what I-526 will look like, and how everything fits in relation to that, we've got a visualization that's actually on the web. You'll get to see that toward the latter part of the meeting. (White, R.)

Facilitator: Ms. Baxley. (Ellis, J.)

Community Liaison: Did you skip the one above it because that's the one I had a comment on. (Baxley, T.)

Facilitator: Yes ma'am, I did. I'll come back to it. Ryan, is did you finish your thoughts? (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member: I'm good. (White, R.)

Facilitator: Okay. So, let's go back to project schedule vs. community needs. The comment was made that the project schedule seems to be more important than current community needs. So, Dr. Smith, if there is something Maximum can share with us (.Ellis, J.)

Community Liaison: I guess I can say something about that, I think they were looking at the timeline. The person who made the comment was looking at timeline versus what was happening with them. So, that seems like the timeline is more important than what's happening on the forefront. (Lecque, C.)

Facilitator: Thank you for clarification. Joy? (Ellis, J.)

Project Manager: I just want to point out that in the past, [inaudible]. (Riley, J.)

Community Liaison: Please be clear, I was giving the person's perspective, not mine. (Lecque, C.)

Project Team Member: For anybody that is on the phone, I put in the chat box that Joy was explaining that mitigation had to be implemented before the highway infrastructure. (Derrick, L.)

Facilitator: Ms. Carolyn, will you hold your comment for just a second? For those on Teams, did you hear Joy and Ms. Lecque's comments? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: Not too clearly. (Muhammad, E.)

Project Team Member: So just to repeat what Joy was saying, traditionally mitigation is done during construction of, in this case, the highway improvement project. And so when you look at the project schedule construction isn't starting to 2027. So the highway improvements have actually been pushed out to create an opportunity for SCDOT to actually do most of the mitigation before the project construction. So we're trying to, we're changing the order of things ultimately. And so once the final environmental documentation is done, mitigation happens, or most of it, and then construction. So we are trying to get the construction of the community centers and affordable housing. Some of the infrastructure enhancement to address the lightening and some of the storm water issues done before we even start constructing I-526. So the traditional process has been switched up to put emphasis on mitigation first. (White, R.)

Facilitator: Did you all hear that on Teams? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: Yes. I have a question though? This is going to be ongoing because wouldn't construction of the I-526 expansion affect some of the storm problems or enhance it even more? (Muhammad, E.)

Project Team Member: So the question was, will construction of I-526 impact storm water for the community? If I'm hearing that correctly. (White, R.)

CAC Member: Even though you're doing it now, or you would do it before the construction of I-526. (Muhammad, E.)

Project Team Member: Okay. And so there are storm water issues that are related specifically to some of the roads within the community that aren't tied to the I-526 at all. And so, those smaller improvements, we're trying to address. But, there are really two needs, one through regular maintenance. That's when Joy provided the 1-800 number for immediate improvements or small level corrections, but then also within that enhancement plan looking at some of the water spray, storm water that's related to the rest of the roadway. Then for I-526, there's a drainage plan specifically to ensure that the storm water from the

new improvements aren't impacting the existing storm water network with the community. Does that help? (White, R.)

CAC Member: Yes, thank you. (Muhammad, E.)

Community Liaison: In reference to project versus needs, we're talking about mitigation and helping to improve [inaudible] we ought to be doing something about this. Someone needs to put the pressure on the city, to make sure that the [inaudible] some improvement to quality of life regarding [inaudible]. I think if we could put a [inaudible] call this number, I don't think [inaudible], look for the cell phone number [inaudible]. (Lecque, M.)

Facilitator: Duly noted. It's on the record. I do have, hold just for a second, let me make sure that I just make a clarification. So when I see that bullet, "the project schedule seems to be more important than current community needs," I just want for clarification, because what Joy addressed was two things within this project that this team is placing more importance on the project schedule rather than the current community needs. But what I hear you saying is that these community needs here are more to do with things that are related to the city and some other significant issues. But they also need to be addressed maybe at the same time as this project. Is that correct? (Ellis, J.)

Community Liaison: That's correct. Just telling people, their community is going to be impacted [Inaudible]. 2023 or 2024, I'm talking about right now. (Lecque, M.)

Facilitator: And I guess one of the things I understand completely because people are prioritizing if you're talking to them about this project, they're prioritizing immediate needs. But I guess my question then is how do we equip the CAC members and even Maximum to go out and have those conversations where they can make a distinction between, this is what a lot of SCDOT and FHWA are doing, and Stantec to address this particular project. But we do understand that these are some other needs. These are very, you know, significant needs of the community and what can be done, or what is being done to address, abandoned homes and abandoned lots, and that sort of thing. That I think, and maybe I get some feedback from Ryan or, or LaTonya on this, or Maximum in terms of where you are. (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member: Understanding the difference between advocacy and activism for your community, is that where you're going in a separate veins, separate projects. (Derrick, L.)

Facilitator: You know, both things have to be done. We've had so many conversations about what things are really the responsibility of like the city as opposed to those things that SCDOT can do as a part of this project. And it's not that those other things don't need to be done or shouldn't be done or won't be done. It's just that, how do we use this process and pulling this group together and others that we can pull into this process to maybe work in tandem. So we have these actions that we're taking to address mitigation related to the LCC I-526 West project. And then we have all of these other community needs that need to be addressed at the same time, but as a CAC, and I won't go into the POC and all that now we'll talk about that later, but what is the strategy going back to Mr. Bryant's earlier conversation and the thought process of putting together a strategy, how do you put that together to make sure that all of those issues are being addressed effectively? I think that's a good point. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member (21:10): [inaudible] one person assigned to this project [inaudible]. (Bryant, N.)

Facilitator: So, Mr. Bryant's question is, do we have contacts that different government agencies that serve as a liaison between those agencies and the CAC or this project team, to ensure that they're not, you guys are not going all over the place, just kind of touching base randomly with people in these organizations. And to some degree, I think we'll hit on that today. We'll start having a bit of a conversation about our organizational structure, so that we can maybe start talking about long-term, how we start to set those types of structures up moving forward, with these organizations. (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member: But I think in the near term, that's where I think your council members come in and I understand the situation, but as far as a project liaison, that's something that we haven't addressed as far as someone from the project specific to coordinating with a particular department within the city. We do have our technical review committee, and you had an opportunity to have a conversation with them. And those issues were brought up. And so the city has been aware of a lot of those issues based off our initial meeting. The technical review committee is very specific to this project, but that's always an opportunity for us. But those are things you can address later. One of the things we're going to address is our organizational training and how you all as communities want to move forward to provide a unified structure, to help advocate for a lot of the community work. (White, R.)

Project Team Member:

- Okay. And I have a general comment just because of my experience at Richland County. And I know I've said this before, and I think the comment, I think I recall the comment and I'll integrate it in what I'm about to say. The City of North Charleston has an ombudsman. Now, whether the Ombudsman is the right person for the job, and has the capacity to do the work, I don't know? But that's that person's job. And the purpose is to coordinate, you know, if somebody calls in and says, I have this kind of challenge, they should be helping the citizens coordinate with the right entity to resolve their issues. Now, I know I brought it up before, and I don't know if it was with the CAC, but I know in a conversation before the response was, well, this person, we don't know if they're doing their job, but you don't know if they're doing their job. If you don't call them and make them do their job in part.
- So I know if you call generally, in Richland County, if you call them, buzz them and then they'll tell you whether it's under their purview to resolve your issue, or they'll help you find the right entity to help resolve your question, whether it's debris in the street. You know, I think Mr. Bannister talked about construction and demolition debris flying around through the neighborhood, if roll offs aren't there to containerize it, or people are just doing work on site and they just throw stuff in the yard, or if trash isn't being picked up. Then you call your Ombudsman, and that, I mean, that's really their job to help you understand who you call or they coordinate a call on your behalf to get your issue resolved. So, while I know there are issues that are integrated with the transportation project, and then just things that need to be addressed locally in a local problem, local solutions, I think making those calls to the person who's assigned to that type of task.
- They should be able to help facilitate, you know, things that aren't necessarily captured in this project or will be captured much later, but it's an immediate need that needs to be addressed now. So I mean, I can Google it really easily. I think it's, I think somebody might've said Teddie Pryor, that's the Ombudsman for the City of North Charleston. So, and he's also a County council person. So I mean, if anybody should know being in both sides of government, they should at least know a point of contact. (Derrick, L.)

Facilitator: I have a question. Mr. Bryant, are you speaking of issues that effect you individually or community level? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: Well, community-level. Maybe the government, we work together [inaudible]. (Bryant, N.)

Facilitator: Yes, ma'am. Ms. Lecque. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member:

- The fact of the matter is that we are listed as low-income communities, and nobody counts. If we were Park Circle or we were West Park, I guarantee the houses you're talking about on the corner on Piedmont that had been there for 20 years in total disrepair would not still be there.
- Maybe if we do get to the point where we take this CAC meeting and make it a community organization type of thing so that we have all of us together, we'll have better luck with that. I had someone tell me right after Hugo, "oh, that house was boarded up because of Hugo" and at that point I said, I'm sorry but that house was boarded when I was a child, that's a long time ago. So if we all get together, maybe we could have a better effect than us trying to do it alone. (Baxley, T.)

Facilitator:

- Okay. So Ms. Baxley is saying that in comparison, because these communities are considered low income communities and compared to other communities, on a tax-basis, some of the other communities in the area that would probably get different types of responses.
- And particularly, Ms. Baxley is talking about abandoned homes or shut up or shuttered homes that in some of the communities not considered low income, they would not have those issues, long-term.
- She's using an example of a particular home that's been boarded since she was a child and encouraging the group to consider working together as an organized group moving forward in order to more effectively come together and address some of those issues to resolve those types of long-term issues. Is that accurate Ms. Baxley? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: That's correct. (Baxley, T.)

Facilitator: Okay. Thank you. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: And I think I wanted to add, LaTonya is correct about calling the Ombudsman to address certain issues. I think of LAMC and the Port Authority, when that was going on, there was a person, Wanetta Mallet, that was assigned to the LAMC project as the City representative. And I don't know how that happened, or what made it happen, but that's the kind of person Mr. Bryant is talking about. They will be able to get the information from the community, go back to the City, the mayor, and everyone, let them know what the committee was thinking, and bring the information back. We need to find out how did they get that person assigned to LAMC to work with the Port Authority. (Lecque, C.)

Project Team Member: I'm typing it. But what she explained how, Wanetta Mallet was assigned to the city of North Charleston Office of Planning to LAMC to be a community liaison or direct connection between the organization that supported that project on the community level and with the City. (Derrick, L.)

Facilitator: Any questions or comments before we go to the next bullet point from Teams? The next topic is multi-family and rental units. I know Ms. Baxley talks about that quite a bit. So one of the comments is, being concerned about multi-family housing and rental units, that's one of the things that we continue to talk about and, and SCDOT has addressed their plans and some of the limitations that they have in addressing multi-family units. I don't know if you want to add something, Ryan? (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member: Within the mitigation plan, there is an affordable housing component. And so we're still continuing to work with the Housing Authority to develop that plan, but ideally the goal is to ensure that as residents that are relocated, for example, having a place to go within the vicinity of their communities. So, the affordable housing is there to ensure residents are relocated, aren't moved. Having an opportunity to stay close to where they are, be close to trains, to be close to the community resources that they already take advantage of. So, as the DOT continued to work that plan with the goal of ensuring that the affordable housing is put in place again, prior to construction of I-526 project. (White, R.)

Facilitator: I have a question about that in terms of the CAC, again, going back to the point of you guys being, you know, you are the front line at this point, going out and talking with community members, do you feel like you can go out and have that discussion and explain what the goals are and the limitations of SCDOT and just, and explain here's what the plan is. Do you feel equipped to be able to have that discussion? (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member: Equipped and willing. I think we have a comment on Teams. (Derrick, L.)

Facilitator: No? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: On that multi family housing, what is going to happen to Liberty Park and Highland Terrace? What style and type of home would be placed there? (Bannister, J.)

Project Manager:

- So for the affordable housing, you know, we originally were trying to buy land within the impacted community. And we did, they're really the only areas that are zoned for multi-family are Russelldale and Ferndale. We have bought some lots in Ferndale. I'm still looking for lots, and there's not a lot available in Russelldale, but in Liberty Park and Highland Terrace, I will buy a lot there too.
- Right now I'm trying to get the community center lots. As soon as we get those secure, we'll start reaching out to owners that have undeveloped single family lots to try to get some more lots. But given that we've got to do a hundred units on the rental, those are not going to go in the impacted communities. There's just not a piece of land big enough for that. So that will be a developer based program. And we're just going to give priority to developers that bring things close to the community.
- So we're hoping somewhere along that Rivers Avenue corridor is where that potential development could be potentially still in the same school district, still near your job, still near the community, but getting it in the community, unless one of those businesses goes for sale that's right on the edge of your community, that's probably not going to happen.
- The lots we are buying are probably going to be single family homes. We don't quite know yet. But again, you know, we can't, we don't want to own rentals. And so it kind of ties our hands. If we're not doing some kind of partnership with a developer, then we'll probably have to partner with somebody like Habitat or another nonprofit that helps transition people into homeownership or single family homes. Now, I did want to mention talking about the boarded up or abandoned homes.
- I do know that the City does use grant money sometimes to tear down homes that are professionally like that, but the owner's not going to take care of it, but there's a long lengthy process to make that happen. And you're competing with every, there's so many in this area that there's a lot of people wanting their house torn down and only so much grant money. So you probably will do better if you have somebody to advocate, especially with you get a council member involved.

- That is not something that DOT. The only thing that I can tell you that we can try to do is as we buy a lot, I certainly don't want to buy a lot with a house on it right now, just because I can't maintain it. I don't have anybody I can get to go out there and tear it down. But at some point in the project, we will have a demolition contract and buying lots is buying lots. So there could be some opportunities to try to get, get some of those lots, if the owner's willing to sell, when we're equipped to deal with that. Right now, it would continue to be a problem because I don't have resources to do anything with it. If we bought it with the intention of building a new house on it. So we'll explore those opportunities as we get in a better position to look at some of that, but you just got to take it step by step. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member: I'd like to ask Joy, we could start building these houses, do you know if these are crawl space houses or slab? Because we'd rather not have slab if we have a choice in the matter. (Baxley, L.)

Project Manager:

- So, DOT is not going to dictate anything as far as the houses go. I think that the goal would be, or in any agreement we enter into, especially for construction in the community would be that similar style homes to what is in the community are built.
- And it will be more market driven, meaning you're not going to build a house in there that's completely different than every single other house in the neighborhood. Otherwise, that house kind of an anomaly and it doesn't fit in. So, that's typically we'll have some stuff like that, that's not our area of expertise. So we're not going to start dictating certain things. We would let the building code and the local ordinance sort of dictate some of those things. (Riley, J.)

Facilitator:

- Any other questions or comments? So, we are going to move the Livability Plan to the next section and have a more detailed conversation then. Obviously, the Community Resource Guide that has been in discussion now for several months during our meeting. And I know that Maximum has been pulling together a comprehensive list to include in that guide.
- Many members want to know what can be done today, and I think that's a valid conversation. And so part of what we need to be able to do, is to answer those questions. Some of that will be through the project timeline. Some of that work will be through very specific conversations about you know, where we are, what needs to be done right now, we're in the public comment period. What does that mean?
- Talking about mitigation versus construction and that sort of thing, but helping people to understand the significance of involvement at every stage, is really going to be very important to the long-term success of the project. And then the last bullet point here is "would like to see mentoring programs, family services included in the resource information guide."
- Many months ago, we had at least one community advisory council member who had very good suggestions and comments about mentoring programs and family services. And so those are things that the CAC members need to continuously provide feedback and communicate with Maximum as they are developing that plan and not the CAC member. Again, you guys are representatives of your community.
- It's important that you're continuing to talk with the people that you live with and around so that, you're bringing that information back. We can only speak from our own perspective. And so you can share information from other people, but if I have a conversation with Ryan, I only have my perspective.
- So I think it's important to understand that it is really important that you guys are here for these CAC meetings because you bring value that the process would not have without you, clearly. But also,

when you go out into the community and you're bringing information back to this process from your larger community, it's not one dimensional. So, we're not just getting what Ms. Cooper thinks or what Ms. Anderson or Ms. Baxley thinks, it's multi-layered.

- So, we're getting a little bit deeper into what the community at large needs, because we're talking to other people and trying to figure out what it is that needs to be included, what types of resources need to be included in this guide. Any comments or questions about that? (Ellis, J.)

Community Leader Panel Discussion Re-Cap

Facilitator:

- We can go to the next slide. So, we'll go into our community panel leadership session, the recap from CAC Meeting #13. And if you remember on that panel, we had Mr. Omar Muhammad from LAMC, we had Ms. Nashonda Hunter from the Charity Foundation, and we had Mr. Scott from the NAACP. And they provided very good information in terms of some of their successes and limitations or challenges going through their process. Now, granted, they're much farther along than this group.
- But what we wanted to do was just kind of come back and talk about some of the takeaways from that meeting, and how we might be able to use that information to move forward. One of the things that we want to start with, and I'll just start with the takeaways, is, does the CAC and the community want to organize? And so, we probably need to just start there and understand what does that mean? What does organizing look like? (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member:

- And so again, in regards to the commitment, one of the things SCDOT has done is committed to organizational training and what that looks like really depends on what you all, and all the residents of four separate communities want to do beyond this project. And so there is opportunity. There is opportunity for you all via the commitments SCDOT is making to partner with an organization, or bring I in an organization to conduct training to help you organize to something similar to a LAMC, if that is desired.
- And so, we used that organizational training commitment as a place holder, but until you tell us what you want to become, it's really hard to dictate what that training needs to be. And so, again, the question was asked do we need to work it out because when you're organized, there's more power as four separate communities. But again, that's something that we need to hear from you all as an advisory council, but also from your residents. That is something that the resources are put behind you. That is something that's going to carry forward. And so one of the key things that we need from you all at the advisory council is a response to the mitigation plan.
- I mean, there are things that are in there that you all played a significant role in helping to put in. Is it enough? Does that organizational training commitment meet your needs? Does the affordable housing, all those different components, meet what you're asking for? And so if you all, and we can work with Dr. Ellis to set up a meeting where you all are in the room, talking through the mitigation plan and providing the final response to SCDOT about what this plan is or isn't and SCDOT has to respond to it. But what we are looking for and again, going back to organizational training and some of the other things that we're looking to help you all do to address some of the needs that aren't being addressed by the project.
- Some of the social needs, some of the things that are in the Community Resource Guide to help you be empowered in a response. So we talked quite a bit about comments, but now's the time for you all as an advisory council to provide an official response that we, as the I-526 LCC West Advisory Council, this is our group, our organized...We agree on these things and SCDOT will respond to it. So that's one of

the things that we definitely need from you all. And again, Dr. Ellis is able to facilitate that meeting, where he could put together, or I say, you all can put together a full response and in there, you can indicate that you want to organize. Say it. And then that helps us figure out how we need to create this training to help you all then become that separate organization and advocate for yourself now, during mitigation, and even beyond the project. So the resources are going to be available if that's something that you all want. (White, R.)

Facilitator: Will you please break it down into three specific phases, in the most elementary way, just so everybody's able to really process what the CAC does which is different from the POC, which will be different after the POC? So make sure people understand the difference between roles and responsibilities. Right now is the CAC, what that will look like in the next stage, and if you don't mind adding a timeline so they understand where that whole POC takes place and where the post-POC takes place. (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member:

- Okay. Absolutely. And so the advisory council, your role is to help develop, refine, and finalize this mitigation plan. So what you have is draft version. This can change. Things can be edited. Things can be taken away. But you've got to let us know if this meets the needs of the community. Now we do have to make sure that the things that go into it are related to project impact, that is a huge caveat to it. But, if it's not sufficient, make a note.
- And again, that's where having a formalized written response from you all as an advisory council to submit to DOT, for this draft plan. That means we go back to the drawing board and work with you to see what else we need to add to it. We hear from you all. We hear back from your neighbors about what else needs to be added. So the advisory council, once we finalize the plan, which will be when the final EIS is December of 2021. That is where the goal is to have finalized the official plan.
- So the draft is done and being worked on, that's what you have in front of you. There's the comment period. We can continue to tweak it and work it until the environmental document is ultimately signed in December of 2021. That's where the role of the advisory council ends because now, you developed a mitigation plan.
- Next phase is the project oversight committee. The role of the oversight committee is to oversee the implementation of the mitigation plan that the advisory council has developed. And what it will consist of is a potentially a smaller group. But SCDOT, the Housing Authority, the City of North Charleston, all the agencies that are responsible for implementing the mitigation plan will report back as part of the POC. So there'll be meetings with the City, again, with the department to ensure that those specific components that CAC developed, are being done. The sidewalks, the community center, all those things that you all are talking about now, making sure that they are done the way you all agreed to according to what is in that mitigation plan. Now, there is an opportunity beyond that. (White, R.)

Facilitator:

- I'm sorry. Just for clarification, that in that second stage. Even though you'll be working with SCDOT, and the City and other organizations as a POC, you will not be serving as a group like LAMC at that point, who is more autonomous at this point. They're on their own. They've probably got a structure where they have officers and that sort of thing in their organization.
- After the CAC, that's not when you start to become something like LAMC. So, it's not like the project team will then throw you out to handle it at the end of next year, you will be a part of a team that's still led by this project and informing the work that's taking place. So, I just want to make sure they

don't think that at the end of 2021, they'll be functioning like a full-fledged LAMC type of group. (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member: That is correct. And so it goes back to the comment about organization. If that is something you all want to do, then that is an opportunity to still do that. And that would be separate from the POC. The POC is a joint organization with SCDOT. If you all want to organize that for your community, that is something that DOT could help you set up and become. Yes, ma'am. (White, R.)

Project Team Member: Ms. Anderson. (Derrick, L.)

Project Team Member: Yes ma'am. (White, R.)

CAC Member: They need to understand that you can still have the CAC in perpetuity, because what we can do is do a memorandum of understanding or a memorandum of agreement of how the CAC will now function, such as they can elect members and officers. We can have a list of things that need to be done and the whole community could still maneuver like a CAC but have it formalized in how we give out information and who is responsible for what? (Anderson, C.)

Project Team Member: Yes. And so that's where the organizational training comes in, is where if there is a desire to organize, there can be training and support provided to assist in that development. So the CAC or whatever you all choose to become as an organized structure can still carry forward. But, then there's also a project oversight committee that is specific to the project. (White, R.)

CAC Member: They call is CAC, but we used to call it a CAB. In my past life, we called it the community advisory board, and they are as I said in perpetuity. You have members, you have a director, deputy director, treasurer. And that is one thing that could be helped with a Livability Study that we can, after the project is finished, that we can still track what needs to be done or what has been done. (Anderson, C.)

Project Team Member: And, again, there are resources, if that is your desire. And again, we've got to make sure we hear from all the residents, because as you mentioned the MOA that the current advisory council provides, and ultimately becomes the CAB. SCDOT has committed to provide support for training to assist you in that. (White, R.)

CAC Member: I have a question. A lady just spoke and said that we could track what's going on. Could we also initiate new projects? This organization that we are, I believe is necessary because this group has worked so long together. They have a lot of intelligent members here in the community. They know what's going on and they want to continue to perpetuate this here, for as long as possible. So will we be able to initiate new projects outside of what we are actually doing with the CAC? Is this something we need to discuss? (Muhammad, E.)

Project Team Member: And that's something that you need to discuss, but ultimately there would be opportunities to coordinate with the City. There are grants that organizations such as the CAC can apply for to where you can get funds as well, but ideally that's something that, and again, with the organizational training, if you decide to go that route, there are ways for us to support organizations to come and help you figure out what you can and can't do, or if there are limitations, how do you get around them? And so, if, again, if that's the desire of this CAC to transition to a community advisory board, SCDOT is willing to

help support that and that organization would have life and economy outside of and beyond the I-526 project. (White, R.)

CAC Member: And another thing with that, what we could do is and I think training would be necessary and helpful. But, we also can get other CACs. I know, like I used to work at the Savannah River Site, it's around Aiken and Augusta, where you have an advisory board in South Carolina, and I'm sure other areas, they can come and talk to the CAC members and tell them how to develop a CAC. And what's the benefit, some of the pros and cons dealing with a CAC. So, I mean, I think it would be beneficial to get training and get other CACs now to talk to the members of the CAC, so that they can understand what they can and can't do. (Anderson, C.)

Project Team Member: Absolutely. And that's something we can facilitate, whether it's within the CAC meetings or outside, we could still provide resources through the Community Office as a way for people to come in and coordinate with you all and share some of the opportunity for new rapport. (White, R.)

Facilitator:

- Can I add something to that? Before our listening session with the City of North Charleston, CAC members decided not to have a leader of the group. That was the discussion. I'm not sure what the meeting number, right off but it was just before we had that listening session. After listening to the panelists from LAMC, Charity Foundation, and the NAACP at last month's CAC meeting, they have clear leaders of those groups who are spearheading efforts and communications with government agencies.
- I do think it's important that when you're working with a government agency it's very helpful to have a single contact. But I also think that it's something that you all should consider that you have either a leader or some kind of leadership team that serves as the contact to come and bring back to the larger group to make sure that you don't have this web that thrown out where everyone is getting random information. There are opportunities for information to fall through the cracks before you come back together.
- So, I'm just curious about where you all stand and what your thinking was on their perspective. The NAACP is a little bit different because they're a national organization with some built-in structures, even locally. But, LAMC and the Charity Foundation, what do you guys think about that, about considering changing the leadership structure for the CAC? Or is that something that you would consider maybe for the next stage?
- And you don't have to answer today with a definitive response, but it's something that you guys certainly need to be thinking about, considering that, we're quickly approaching the end of 2021, considering how quickly we've seen 2020 pass. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: I've been thinking for a long time that a group should get together from the four neighborhoods and see how it goes, and let it go for a while. Maybe talking about the beyond part, then after a while, if it goes well, find out about all the other low income neighborhoods because I don't know which ones exactly they are. See if we want to come in. And see if we can come together like a low-income area group. Because we have a president's meeting, but I don't get to go to that and I hardly get any information about anything that comes back to me about the neighborhood. That's been my fault for awhile. (Baxley, L.)

CAC Member: Mine kind of goes to what Tina is saying as well. How do they determine who is on this? The reason I'm asking that is that we may decide we want to make a group, but who really determines who from the neighborhood participates. Because we're here because frankly nobody volunteered,

nobody. We have a neighborhood organization and we have a president. She basically just facilitates the meeting because we don't have an organizational group. We don't have enough people to have an organizational group. Frankly, most people don't care. So how do we even determine who gets to do it because we can say we're representing the neighborhood. But the fact of the matter is we're just two people that volunteer, so if you want to make sure we have the right representation, how do we get that? I know you probably don't have that answer, but it's just thrown out there for everybody. (Baxley, T.)

Facilitator: Well I have a response, I don't know if I have an answer but LaTonya, I'll let you take that. (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member:

- I'm probably am in the same boat. As I say at the end of every meeting, you have an opportunity to come together and really outline that. You are a beacon right now for your neighborhoods, because you've been involved in these meetings since last year. So that framework, you all can dictate yourself and then maybe extend an invitation to the larger neighborhood and communities to say, this is what we've worked on for a year. This is our success.
- We'd like for this to continue to go and grow. But to do that, we need everybody's participation. If they choose to not participate at that point, then you all move forward and develop a plan for your own success. You know, you, as you can see, we don't have an overwhelming crowd at most of our public meetings, community meetings, even with the attraction to be a participant in this group. So you all kind of, you can dictate that yourself and we can support that with tools, resources, training, whatever is going to help build your success.
- And then, it'll be the platform. It can catapult you into more opportunities, not just limited to this. Because your neighborhood meets, but the others don't. So I think that might galvanize people. Once they see organizations, then they may be a little less likely to have the street committee and phone committee meetings, and they can become active participants. But you all have been organized and structured here. You can take that as the platform, the good, the bad, the indifferent to make your own collective group to really do greater things and do more things for your neighborhood. (Derrick, L.)

Facilitator:

- I have nothing to add, or take away from that comment. I think that pretty much summarizes my thoughts on it. I will say here this bullet, you are the experts of your community. I think about the time that you all have spent to document the relationship with Stantec and with DOT and with FHWA. Nobody else in your community has had access to that kind of information, the way that this group in here and those of you on Teams, has had.
- And so you're already the experts in your community, And there are other experts in your community who know the history, they know what's gone on, what's happened with previous projects. They know a lot about the current needs of those communities, but you all also have this wealth of information in participating in this process and engaging in conversations about it. And so by default to some degrees, you guy are the ones who come together and make the decisions about how you proceed forward, and you open the doors and make sure that others from the community are welcome and engaged in the process. But I agree with that.
- In the interest of time. I just want to make sure that you all take some time, if you have not thought through the rest of these bullet points in terms of a recap from the last meeting, but I think we talked a little bit about the leadership structure in terms of deciding how you want to evolve to a POC. That's

something that right now, you just need to start thinking about what that looks like. How do you move from an advisory council to serving in the next stage, as the POC, the oversight committee, and helping to ensure that everything you decided you wanted done in the mitigation plan is actually done. And you'll do that with SCDOT and other government agencies. So not as an autonomous group. But I will, say, and some of this, in my mind anyway, goes back to Mr. Bryant's question and comment. That is thinking about now what a power map looks like. What people are going to be important to serve you when you start putting together that power grid or that power map, or looking at the community resource guide?

- Be thinking about that constantly in your conversations throughout the week, because really, you represent yourself better than any of us ever could. So you've got to make sure that that line of communication is open.
- Barriers. I think we talked a bit about overcoming barriers of how you can implement creative ideas. One of those, for instance, that was assessed in this meeting those back to Ms. Carolyn's comments about a fish bar with the mayor and proper communication within a cultural context. And those are some of the things that we can do. Mr. Muhammad talked about some of the challenges, and I think Ms. Nashonda did too, in terms of community challenges and getting to know the people in your community. You have people who have small children, but they want to participate, figure out how to meet them where they are, so that they can engage.
- If you have elderly community members who want to participate, you've got to be connected to understand who they are so that you can help them become a part of the process. You have to have a common message and that's not something that the project team can do for you. You guys have excellent ideas, having gone through this with other communities. You're starting off, I think very strong but be empowered and be confident and know one, you're the expert.
- You know what you need better than anybody else. How do you all have together as one group rather than four different communities to solidify your message? And that takes a little bit of time, but you have to start the process of thinking through and talking to each other so that you can start filtering all of these messages into one common message. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: I agree with you, I think we as a group, the full community, need to have a mission statement, a goal statement and a vision. And if we come together with those things then we can lay out the other groundwork that needs to be done. (Anderson, C.)

Facilitator:

- I agree. You guys heard that back there too. I agree. And that was Ms. Cynthia Anderson. So , very good point. I absolutely do not believe in doing things in an organizational space without having a mission statement. So I agree with that wholeheartedly.
- And then when you start to go out and do some of this community work, if you end up having a fish fry or some kind of gathering or fellowship, be strategic before you get there and have a survey. Make sure you have developed a survey to collect the information that you really want to get from the community in terms of what they need and what they think that you can do to help them. Because the more they can see that you're there to help them, the more they start showing up and engaging. If it looks like it's about the CAC and it's just this little group, but they don't see where they fit in or how you help them, they're not going to show up. We know that.
- So I think just the most significant takeaway from the leadership panel for today is just to be thinking about leadership and how you can begin implementing these things as an organized group, moving forward, if that's your intent. And I think we're hearing some of that from Ms. Anderson, Ms. Baxley,

and several of you. So I don't have further questions or comments there. Anyone have any comments, additional comments on the panel? Do you think that the panel was worthwhile? Okay, good. I think then we will move to the next topic and that is a review of the virtual public hearing materials. (Ellis, J.)

Review of Virtual Public Hearing Materials

Project Team Member:

- In the interest of time, I'll be super fast. Have you all had a chance to pull up the link that is in your packet? It's gather.cdmsmith.com/v/v8jkyRoO149. If not, that is what Hannah is pulling up now. It's an interactive website that simulates everything you would experience during a face-to-face live public information meeting or public hearing. What you see bulleted in your packet is all of the stations that you can click on or hover over and see the board that you would see during a public meeting.
- It's coming up for those who are online and here, but also the bullets in your packet describe essentially what you will have an opportunity to experience in a three dimensional platform. There's also a video, a flyover video, we'll pull that up separately. So that if anyone wants to see it here today, we can pull it up for you, but also it's available if you pull this link up for those who are on Teams.
- And I also have for you today, the public hearing handout that we're using for that this whole meeting session. I don't think it was in your packet, but we will send a link for those who are on Teams and get you a paper copy as well this week. This is comprehensive of the entire project, not just the community mitigation plan, which is what you all are focused on. But, the things we've talked about here, particularly last month with the noise analysis and, and features and components of related to noise, there is a video there.
- These things are also on the project website, but they're housed in one central location so that you can interact with it and get information. There is a mini Joy somewhere, and there she is with her red top on. So there's a video there of her speaking. So again, this is an opportunity to, if we can't be face-to-face for it, for the public to experience everything they would experience if they were able to come to a physical meeting. Now we recognize that not everybody's going to go online.
- So if you can encourage those who have access to the internet and to devices where they can pull this up as far as their participation and their interaction with this tool, because it is the next best thing to being there, but also you advocating it is an even greater tool because us saying that it's good, it's just words, but if you engage with it and have an opportunity to help us understand how it can be not necessarily improved at this point, but how we can encourage people to interact with it, then that would be super helpful. I don't think I was going to say anything else about the virtual public hearing materials. (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member: I think that was awesome. I thought that was one of the best virtual public hearings and information, but can we add somebody from the CAC to speak in this virtual platform on CAC participation information? (Anderson, C.)

Project Team Member: Let's talk about that offline. I don't know that there's much we can do to change the actual website or add to it. I don't know that, but I will ask, but also as we encourage everyone to participate, we can also push them to that link. It's in last month's packet, but it's the 526lowcountrycorridor.com/community-commitments page where the videos that both Ms. Cynthia Anderson and Mr. Bannister recorded, are there. And we can also pull with links to the videos and other media tools that are currently...and I don't know if all of the media day things that involve the CAC have happened yet, but there's links to the newspaper and the television station. Is it channel five? Whoever interviews, I think Ms. Anderson, Cynthia Anderson, we can send those out as well. Because that puts a

relevant face and a local face to the conversation. So I don't know that we can add it to that, but I will ask Ms. Anderson, thank you. That is all there. (Derrick, L.)

Facilitator: We'll move onto the next agenda item. (Ellis, J.)

Outreach Update

Project Team Member:

- The next thing in the packet is the community drop-in meetings. We did have one last night from 3:00 to 6:00 PM. Probably not the success we wanted, but we were able to, there was a visual right in the community we had about 31, 32 people to attend. And we did provide food at that event.
- We'll do it again today from 2:00 to 5:00 PM right here in the Ferndale Community Center parking lot. And then on next Saturday at Enoch Chapel United Methodist Church. We encourage you all to come out and encourage others to participate.
- We have the materials that you find in your packet from this month, the community mitigation plan and other resources that are on the project website, lots of boards, lots of visuals, and lots of good opportunities to converse with a right-of-way agent, Joy, Chad, others from the project team to get information about how to be involved. Horrace is very proactive with checking temperatures and providing PPE.
- So, and we're recognizing and utilizing all the social distancing and safety precautions that we are aware of and have been used as in March of this year. I think that's all for that page. We'll keep going forward. I'll go over quickly, the community info box update. Claudia continues to put information in those boxes. They are being retrieved, not tremendous numbers coming out of them, but people do recognize those stations and they are taking the flyers. We'll still be putting out the one that we gave you that advertises the community drop-ins and we'll be shifting the content after next Friday to more public hearing related materials on how to engage and how to be a part of the whole formal public comment period, which lasts through January 15th.
- Maximum Consulting is continuing to canvas the neighborhoods and distribute flyers. They, I think have been to all of the neighborhoods now, but listening to you today, we'll be looking at possibly developing some type of plan to canvas more and get more information out during the next month and a half or so, as we approach the end of the public comment period.
- The packet I gave you all last month, but it hit the mailboxes. A few people said they didn't receive them and they communicated that with the community office, but we are providing them packets from the office. And I spoke with Ms. Twiggs. We are working to make sure property owners who don't get the mail because we use what the postal service calls every door direct mail. So every mailbox on the routes that cover the neighborhoods received the packet, but we want to make sure the property owners received them as well.
- And hearing what Mr. Bryant said earlier, about making sure property owners, home owners are engaged as well. So we heard both of you and we'll be working on that. Horrace with Community Office stats. (Derrick, L.)

Project Team Member:

- As far as the office is concerned and people coming by and information being dropped off, everything is picking up pretty good right now. And I encourage you to encourage other folks to continue that and to increase that. If you have something to drop off at the office and you don't want to come into the office, we have a Dropbox available and it's marked as such. So you can just drop it into the Dropbox. And its by the door. Community Office Stats for October 2nd to October 23rd:

- Visitors: 24; A month or two ago, we had four or five. Before that it was zero.
- Incoming Calls: 19
- Outgoing Calls: 43
- Voicemails: 6
- As they come in, we take care of them. So we do encourage folks to continue that, any questions?(Tobin, H.)

Project Team Member:

- Included in last months packet as well as the mail-out, we included a paper version of the online survey, which is designed to get more information about everyone's interests in the community center and other community mitigation commitments.
- Hannah has updated with the exception of four new surveys received during this week. We've had a total of 83 participants. So that as of right now, as I'm looking at the data now, so 66 in your packet, but as of today, 83, and we'll add the four that Horace just got so 87. There were 65 people of the 83 that chose to provide demographics. And 22 of the 65 provided demographics did not live in the EJ Communities. Eleven (11) were from Russelldale, 10 were from Ferndale 10 were from Liberty Park, seven from Highland Terrace and five from Joppa Way.
- That's probably pretty good as far as demographics. Most people get to the end of a survey and they're tired of doing the survey. They just want to finish and submit. So we're glad to see those numbers, but we would really like to see more. 43 out of the 65 people lived in the impacted community. So that's pretty good. Initially our numbers were more skewed. Our first set of numbers were more people who did not live in the impacted community. So once we start putting up paper surveys in, that improved. Because obviously the mail-out went to the impact that your, your neighborhood, so that made the numbers look a whole lot better.
- But so that simply means we're not getting as much online engagement from the community, but we are seeing the numbers increase with receiving the mail at the office. And we're entering that data. Other than that, I think that is it for me.
- Maximum Consulting has provided some information about utility pay assistance, and there's a flyer that Ms. Gwen Boyd, who we'll let Maximum introduce in a second, has some more information about community resources and opportunities to either benefit from partnerships that Maximum has, or just relationships that are beneficial to the community. And Maxine, if you speak, you have to come up here because they won't hear you unless you come up here. (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member: Quick question, regarding the mailers, about how many have you sent out? (Twiggs, D.)

Project Team Member: 1,201. Ms. Twiggs asked, how many packets did we send out in the mail? There are 1,201 mailboxes on the route that cover the four neighborhoods, five neighborhoods including Joppa Way. And we've received 83 submissions and 43 were from the community that have been entered. Ms. Twiggs is saying she wanted that data so she could make sure to encourage those that she might interact with to submit their forms. (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member: My question is how many homeowners, property owners sent [inaudible]? Do you have a count on that? (Bannister, J.)

Project Team Member: I don't think that question is part of the data that we collected, yes it is because we said are you a homeowner or a renter. (Derrick, L.)

Project Team Member: No, we don't. We say, "are you in the neighborhood?" (Clements, H.)

Project Team Member: We don't have that data, but there will be potentially a separate mail out based on Charleston County records. Those who are property owners, because they may be a homeowner and live there, but we just touched the mailboxes. We didn't address it to individuals. We addressed it to the route. We can work on getting that. Ms. Maxine. (Derrick, L.)

Community Liaison:

- In your package today, you saw the information about the utility bill pay assistance. And this is something that you get in your phone bill or your water bill anyway, but we still wanted to provide it as an additional resource. Carolyn keeps in constant contact with Palmetto Cap, one of our resource agencies and Gwen Boyd is the newest member of our team. Would you just stand for now Gwen. She's a retired insurance agent. So as we did our canvassing in the four neighborhoods this week, she was able to recognize and also talk with a couple of people that she had sold insurance to years ago. But again, we are happy to have her with us.
- She will give you a copy of a flyer that we have brought and made available today. This is for a drive-up event that's happening on November 20th and it is in the footprint. It will be at the Joshua Baptist church on November 20th.
- Carolyn also keeps in contact with the Low Country Street Grocery. We want to remind you that if there are individuals or families in the four neighborhoods that need Thanksgiving baskets, please call and leave a message at the office. That's the best way for us to keep a tally of those that we're able to reach. Again, that number is 843-258-1135. Palmetto CAP is also going to have a drive by event on November 20th. I just said that, you will be able to attend and let others know about it.
- We're hoping to do an event on December 18th, which is a Friday, that will be held with the Biblical House of God Church. We're partnering with the Humanities Foundation. And in addition to food produce, that will be given. We also hope to have some Christmas gift bags for children in the neighborhood. Again, I try to send the messages to you electronically as embedded messages.
- So, you don't have to open attachments. And I have you saved as a group, so you don't see any emails when you open it, but I think a number of you have responded when I sent you messages in that way. So again, we just keep in touch. Again, if you think of a resource that you may need, or that your neighbors need, please leave a message at the office and we will get back with you. Any questions for me or any of the team members, we're here for the afternoon, and hopefully you get a chance to speak with Gwen. Thank you. (Smith, M.)

Project Schedule and Milestone Review

Project Team Member: The last page of the packet includes the project schedule. You have that in previous meeting packets and in the community mitigation plan packet that was included in a different format, but please know that we're going to keep this in every packet every month. So you will know where we are in the process, to keep some of those acronyms before you so that as we have conversations, we have a tendency to refer to things as CIEP (community infrastructure enhancement plan), DEIS, FEIS. All of these acronyms are familiar to us, but we want you to be able to speak as fluently as well and we don't want you to be lost. We also want you to know where we are with the schedule. (Derrick, L.)

Summary and Next Steps

Facilitator: So we are at the end of our meeting. I just want to make sure as always that we open the floor for any comments from SCDOT or FHWA? And certainly from Stantec as well? Did you have any comments before we close out the meeting this afternoon? Ms. Foster, do you have any comments? (Ellis, J.)

FHWA: It was a good meeting. Thank you very much. (Foster, P.)

Facilitator: Thank you for closing us out. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member: [inaudible].

Project Team Member: That packet is the packet that we are giving out at the community drop in. You got a left corner staple version, but it's found as a booklet. So we wanted you to have in advance the same information that the public received last night, this afternoon, and on next Saturday. So as you continue to have conversations that will be refined during this comment period, but that is the culmination of all the things that you all have discussed in graphical form, in narrative form, it's available on the website. And it's what we're giving the community and the residents, anyone that shows up for these drop-ins or comes to the community office and asks for information. That's what they're given. (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member: Okay so I can share this at this time? (Twiggs, D.)

Project Team Member: You can share that and you can actually get copies. We can give you more if you would like to distribute them. But, you can share that. (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member: [Inaudible]. (Twiggs, D.)

Project Team Member: And it's on the website, in that form. (Derrick, L.)

Facilitator: Ms. Twiggs, thank you for your patience. Ms. Foster, thank you for closing the meeting this afternoon. Our next meeting will be held on December 5th at 10:00 AM. Please continue to encourage others in the community to participate in the public comment period. If there are no other questions, then we will adjourn at 12:44 PM. (Ellis, J.)

CAC Meeting #15 is scheduled for December 5, 2020 at 10:00 AM. Location TBD.



Community Advisory Council Meeting #14

November 7, 2020

Table of Contents

- Welcome and Administrative Items
- Neighborhood Update
- EIS and Mitigation Activity
- Review of CAC Member Feedback Received After Meeting #13
- Community Leader Panel Discussion Re-Cap
- Review of Virtual Public Hearing Materials
- Outreach Update
- Project Schedule and Milestone Review
- Summary and Next Steps

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 / 1 st 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?

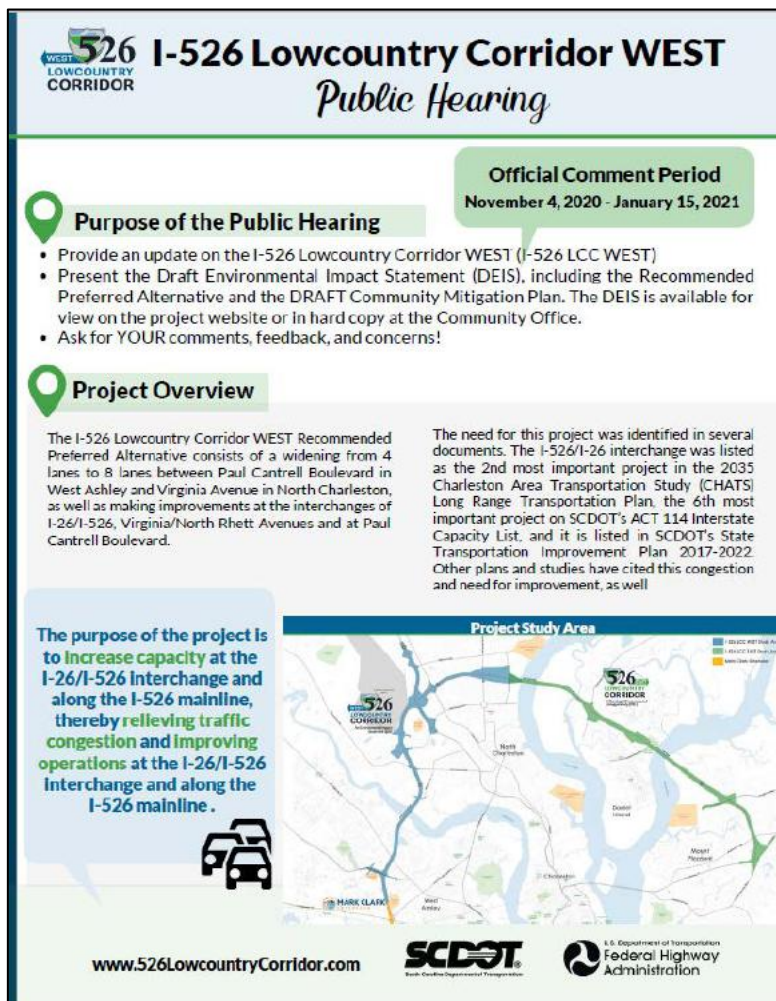
Review of Virtual Public Hearing Materials

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

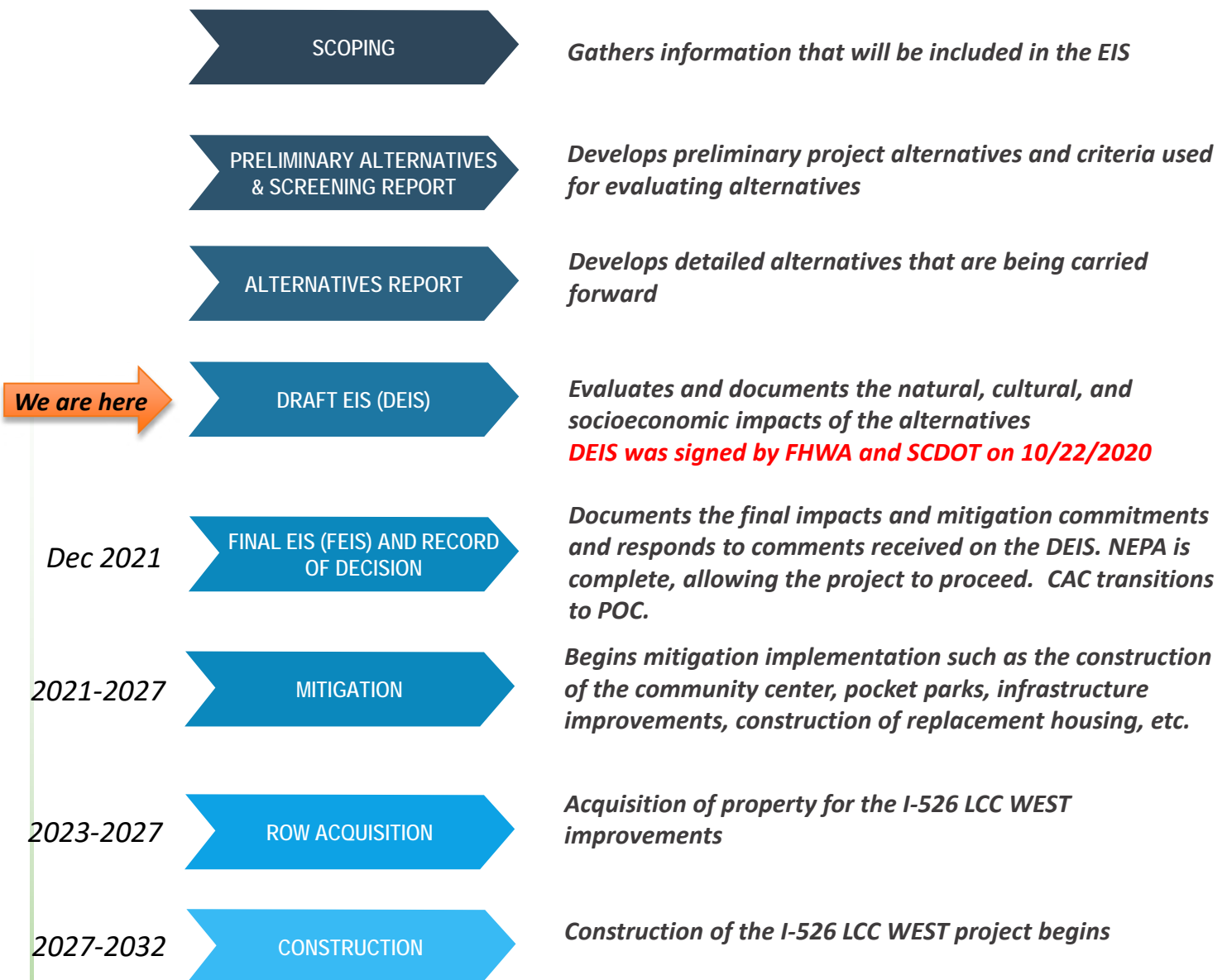
Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

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



Summary and Next Steps

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



MEETING MINUTES

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 15

Date: January 9, 2021

Time: 10:00 am – 12:22 pm

Location: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor Community Office, 5627 Rivers Avenue, N. Charleston, SC
Microsoft Teams (Virtual)

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees

Larenda Baxley, Ferndale
Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale
Gilbert Reeves, Ferndale
Earl Muhammad, Ferndale
Angela Anderson, Russelldale
Tony Grasso, Russelldale
Jeanaris Bannister, Liberty Park
Doris Twiggs, Liberty Park
Joy Riley, SCDOT
Chad Long, SCDOT
Pamela Foster, FHWA
Yolonda Jordan, FHWA

Shane Belcher, FHWA
Maxine Smith, Maximum Consulting
Mattese Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Carolyn Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Gwen Boyd, Maximum Consulting
Janelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies
Rick Day, Stantec
LaTonya Derrick, Stantec
Ryan White, Stantec
Hannah Clements, Stantec
Horace Tobin, Stantec (Community Office)

Participant Summary:

Total participants: 23

Ferndale: 4	Adjacent/affected communities/agencies: 0	Stantec: 5
Highland Terrace/Joppa Way: 0	SCDOT: 2	Facilitator: 1
Liberty Park: 2	FHWA: 3	
Russelldale: 2	Community Liaisons: 4	

Meeting Summary:

Welcome and Introductions

- Roll call (in-person, online, and phone participants)

Administrative Items

- CAC Meeting 15 hosted using a hybrid approach with participants joining via the Microsoft Teams platform, by phone, and in person.
 - The meeting was recorded solely for accuracy of meeting minutes.
 - LaTonya will serve as the technical host for participants joining remotely.
 - Participants may raise their hands, virtually and in person, to ask questions.

- Meeting etiquette for call-in, in-person, and on-line participants was reviewed.
- CAC Meeting 15 packets were distributed to meeting participants prior to the meeting date, including minutes for CAC Meeting 14.
- CAC Meeting 14 recommended changes:
 - On page 11 where a CAC member is speaking, down below the middle of the page. It says, "Because if we have an ice storm, Liberty Hill doesn't have lights or electricity." It should probably be Liberty Park. (Lecque, C.)
 - And on page 17, where the Project Team member is speaking and indicates at the fourth bullet, "Next phase is the Private Oversight Committee," and I think that should be "project." Page 17. (Lecque, C.)
 - Edits were made and submitted to the project team immediately following Meeting 15.
- CAC Meeting 14 minutes were approved.

Safety briefing: In case of emergency, meeting participants will exit through the front door and meet in the parking lot at the median to the right (upon exiting). In the event the front door is blocked or inaccessible, Mr. Tobin will lead meeting participants through the back door, taking care to ensure everyone steps down safely from the building onto the surface below. LaTonya will be the last person to exit the building. (Ellis, J.)

Agenda Review

- Welcome and Administrative Items
- Neighborhood Update
- EJ Community Mitigation Plan Update
- Summary of Recent EJ Outreach Efforts/EJCMP Comment Review
- Update to the EJ Outreach Strategy
- On-going/Future Outreach Update
- Project Schedule and Milestone Review
- Summary and Next Steps

Neighborhood Update

- Attendees discussed increasing community interest and involvement through virtual town hall meetings with several CAC members serving on panel
- A recommendation was made to host telephone conference calls with community members in small groups. Some residents have already expressed an interest in participating.
- Community liaisons have contact information for residents in impacted neighborhoods.
- CAC members were encouraged to continue brainstorming effective community engagement practices.

EJ Community Mitigation Plan Update

Project Team Member:

- The public comment period ended on January 15, 2020. The project team is currently collecting final comments from the community. The EJ Community Mitigation Plan will be finalized January thru April 2021.
- The final Mitigation Plan will be incorporated into the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).
- The review process for the FEIS and the Mitigation Plan will be submitted for review by mid-April. The Mitigation Plan will continue to be refined until that time. We will continue to obtain input from the

CAC and community members until that portion of the EJ process is concluded. CAC project responsibilities will end in April. The CAC will begin transitioning responsibilities to the Project Oversight Committee, from May through October 2021, when approval of the final EIS is scheduled.

- The project team discussed training for residents and CAC members who want to participate in the Project Oversight Committee as well as for a community advocacy organization.
- The Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan (CIEP) helps identify infrastructure improvements within the community, including sidewalks, street lighting, stormwater improvements, aesthetic enhancements, etc.
- We are hosting a CIEP workshop on March 6th at the Ferndale Community Center. Residents will be asked to review and comment on a number of improvement recommendations, including pedestrian and stormwater improvements, street lighting, aesthetics and landscaping and traffic calming.
- Stations will be set up for each type of infrastructure improvement with maps and images to help residents identify areas where improvements are needed.
- The goal of this meeting is for the project team to gain a better understanding of the infrastructure improvement priorities and to provide an opportunity for the CAC members to interact with residents from the impacted communities.
- The Ferndale Community Center was chosen as an outdoor meeting location in order to observe proper social distancing. The project team is considering having residents sign-up in blocks according to their respective neighborhoods in order to manage the number of attendees and movement between tables, while maximizing participation.
- The March 6th CIEP workshop will be one of the last opportunities for residents to provide feedback on components of the Mitigation Plan that have the most direct impacts on infrastructure in the affected neighborhoods.
- The project team requests support from the CAC in recruiting community members. The project team will also develop CIEP yard signs. Door-to-door canvassing, and contacting churches, schools and other local institutions will help to solicit residential participation in the CIEP workshop.
- CAC recommendations are needed to determine how to best encourage residents to participate in the workshop. What can the project team improve to get residents to participate in the CIEP workshop?

CAC Member:

Yard signs are effective for pedestrian or vehicular traffic. People pay attention to information on yard signs.

Community Liaison:

- Adding effective visuals to yard signs that indicate potential impact, such as flooded ditches, is recommended. Signs should also include contact information so residents can call the Community Office with questions or to schedule a meeting. Many residents have provided personal contact information to the liaisons to reach out to public works and other City agencies to address their concerns.
- Elected officials (e.g. the mayor, council members, state representatives, etc.) should be involved in order to increase interest and participation from the residents. We should also engage the City Ombudsman.

Project Team Member:

All points are acknowledged by the project team and will be followed up on by the project team.

CAC Member:

I posted project signs at the entrance of our neighborhood last year that I didn't think had a clear message, especially for someone unfamiliar with the project. It is difficult for drivers to read the signs while moving, so they are ineffective for anyone but pedestrians. The large signs currently installed at the off-ramp are more effective because they provide more information.

Project Team Member:

Those signs were for project awareness. They were intended to be placed in CAC members' yards, to inform the community about website access, to increase awareness of the project logo, and to encourage community engagement between residents. The purpose of the signs was different at that phase of the project. Currently, we have to develop new materials to market events, increase awareness, and encourage residents to come to the community office. The project team welcomes and encourages any insight CAC members can share on the content, format, and display of new signs.

CAC Member:

Drivers should be able to read and process signs in less than three seconds.

Project Team Member:

Your point is taken. As we did for the last round of project postcards, holiday cards, and New Years cards, the project team sends drafts of signs or advertising to the CAC for review and feedback prior to public distribution. As we begin planning workshops, it is important that we focus on content that is specific to the Mitigation Plan the CAC helped to develop. CAC members hear what is being discussed outside of their communities, and know the community needs. We need to determine how to better engage residents, so CAC feedback on improved wording on signs is important.

Community Liaison:

Is it possible to display the information on a small billboard?

Project Manager:

SCDOT can make the signs on the highway larger and install them. Billboards are a little more difficult because they require permits. SCDOT can do a larger roadway sign, but a billboard-sized sign will not be possible because it requires a permit accompanied by a significant amount of time and amount of paperwork.

Project Team Member:

For clarification, the roadway signs in discussion were for public information announcement meetings (white with blue letters).

CAC Member:

Some residents did not understand the previous I-526 Lowcountry Corridor signs. Using plain-stated language such as "I-526 Widening" would be more effective.

CAC Member:

Is the project team mailing the mitigation survey?

Project Team Member:

- Mailing a mitigation survey questionnaire that mimics the online version is an option.

- The project team is open to improving the way information is distributed if CAC members have recommendations for a more effective approach.
- The project team sent 1201 mail-outs. As of December 29th, roughly 116 were returned through mail, or dropped off at the Community Office or at community events.

CAC Member:

Providing residents with physical documents to read is more effective. The wording just needs to be more concise, as previously stated. Information should be distributed frequently. As a follow-up to getting them back, CAC members can divide them and do follow-up telephone calls or send a follow-up message.

Project Team Member:

For clarification, it was expressed that having something tangible in-hand that people can respond to at their leisure would be a better method of distributing information. Also, sending multiple and overlapping mail-outs rather than one comprehensive document would encourage more responses. CAC members could divide and conquer to follow-up, being creative to make sure (either by phone or in-person visits, whichever is appropriate and safe), to get people to follow-up with those documents.

Project Team Member:

CAC relationships and connections with their neighbors and the surrounding communities will be necessary in engaging them, following up, and encouraging them to participate.

CAC Member:

This is new information, so we need to send this information to residents frequently, until they are tired of hearing it. When you get to that point, then you know that you have done an excellent job on getting the message out.

CAC Member:

Since the pandemic, the Russelldale community center has been shut down. Maybe the Russelldale community center can be used for the workshop. Perhaps it could open for a day to have residents come by to drop off surveys. Let's find a way to use the center.

Project Team Member:

- In the past, the project team discussed stationing a project team member in the community center, one day a week. Since, for obvious reasons, the City is not using the community centers right now, it may be a good idea to make sure we have somebody to receive surveys and talk about the content.
- Revisiting the idea of having a physical presence on some frequency and providing the same information that we will be presenting at the workshop sessions is something that should be considered. Again, the idea is duplication and repetition in distributing information as opposed to sending significant amounts of information at one time, expecting that everybody is going to come in and give a response.
- We also have the Community Office, but the results that we get are better when we are in the community, not just here on Rivers Avenue. So we need to increase our presence in the community.

CAC Member:

The community center is available. There is no reason we can't use it. When is demolition planned for the Russelldale community center?

Project Team Member:

Referencing the project timeline in the CAC packet, mitigation occurs before construction.

Project Manager:

The existing community center would not be demolished until the new one is built.

CAC Member :

Although the community center has stopped operating due to COVID-19, we could still use it for a community drop-in.

CAC Member:

Do they have the manpower to operate the community center once a week?

Project Team Member:

We can talk about that and figure out how we can coordinate with the City to understand the liability concerns. If we are able to use the community center, it would be good to have a CAC member there as well to help residents who drop-in to understand the terminology associated with the project.

CAC Member:

How many people are currently visiting the Community Office who are unaware of this mitigation project?

Project Team Member: We get very few people that are unaware of the project.

Very few that aren't completely aware.

Most people who visit the office are looking for updates.

CAC Member: Could we maintain the same levels of communication with the community if we were to open the community centers to distribute information?

Project Team Member:

We currently have the flyer boxes and we can visit the whole concept of flyer boxes, its utility and how successful it is. But, manpower will have to be revisited and we need to look at what type of information will be shared. That is why we have the community liaisons. Can we start encouraging people to come to the Community Office? This office is an expense too and you've got people here who are communicating about the project but still hearing that being in the community is an important element.

Project Team Member:

- Another active component of the Mitigation Plan is the Community History Preservation Program. At Ferndale Community Center drop-in, many of you had the opportunity to meet Professor Fordham who will be our lead historian on this project. We have selected the team and we will be kicking off these efforts in March.
- The History Preservation Program kickoff will piggyback on the Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan workshops. This will be an opportunity for our residents to sit down and meet the historian, meet the photographers and sign up for opportunities to get interviewed and to tell their stories. We are really excited about upcoming activities. We are finalizing our detailed work plan and that will be provided to you all before the kick off. This will ensure our approach is sufficient and to make sure we have not missed important elements. We would like for you to serve as a sounding

board to make sure the vision for this history program aligns with the flavor and the dynamics of your neighborhoods. This is about history, but there are also opportunities to tell the current story. We want to make sure that we are thorough in our approach and tell the complete story for all the residents of these neighborhoods.

- We will make a formal introduction of our team members. The kick off will be a part of the Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan workshops as well. We are looking for your assistance with engagement and recruiting participants. Like utilizing a lot of the tools that we just mentioned for the Infrastructure Enhancement Plan, we will be using tools and resources to raise interest and awareness of this history program.

Project Team Member:

- As a reminder, Professor Fordham is a part-time professor at Citadel. He's done a lot of work on the history of South Carolina, particularly African American history in South Carolina. His roots run deep in Charleston. Mr. Coaxum is our photographer. He has already worked on this project. He has done some videography for the project. He is a public affairs officer in the Air Force Reserves. They both bring a wealth of perspective and experience when it comes to telling stories and this is where we're looking at a broad approach to how we tell these stories.
- We are still working on the work plan, but we will present it at the next Advisory Council meeting. We want to hear everybody's story, as these communities in North Charleston have a wide range of stories. We are asking you to consider telling your stories on video.
- We took some lessons learned from the history studies from the Liberty Park History Program that was part of the multimodal station. We are trying to build on that and do something that is going to add a different touch to the Mitigation Plan and help tell your stories.

Project Team Member:

Remember, these are things that are active components of the Mitigation Plan as well.

Community Liaison:

I want to suggest that we include the children in this program. If we get the kids interested, we get their parents interested. We have been in touch with the Cultural Arts Department at the City of North Charleston asking them to work with us on this project as it relates to the children. There may be a spring break camp at the end of March as well as a small camp this summer. We thought that would be a good way to embed ourselves in those situations. Asking the kids who have a piece of history or culture to share would be one way to attract parents and give the kids a piece of ownership.

Project Team Member:

- That is an incredible recommendation
- There is a first time home buyer financial literacy component of the Mitigation Plan as well. The Maximum team provided us a list of vendors and we are looking to partner with the Charleston Trident Urban League as the primary vendor for the initial training. We are updating our outreach strategy to inform residents of the training opportunity and really gauge interest.
- We are looking for your assistance to get the word out and get some excitement about this program, but also to help us target residents. We are looking to kick the training off this summer. We are looking for your assistance as we get closer to summer and start implementing this training.
- Finally, we have two sub-committees:

- College Aid Initiative - Mr. Reeves, Ms. Twigs Ms. Angela Anderson and Mr. Earl Muhammad have all volunteer for the College Aid Initiative.
- Organizational Training - Ms. Cynthia Anderson, Ms. Angela Anderson and Brother Earl Muhammad have volunteered to participate in the organizational training.
- We are still looking for participants for the College Aid Initiative and for the organizational training. We want to make sure that as that as the work continues to develop that training is made available to make sure you all are well equipped to move forward beyond the project and advocate for yourselves and meet the community goals that you desire ahead.
- Related to the organizational training, we have developed an original commitment that was included in the mitigation plan. The way that commitment was written, it tied the training specifically to the POC, the project oversight committee, which will be a smaller committee with stakeholders from the City and SCDOT. The POC will be strictly responsible for making sure that the components of the mitigation plan are implemented. That is separate from the community advocacy, the community advisory boards.
- We want to revisit those commitments and make sure that we separated the two so that the way these commitments were written was that SCDOT was committing to one, providing organizational training for CAC members and residents who wanted to be a part of creating a community advocacy organization. Again, in that scenario, a community advisory board similar to LAMC and the NAACP will be formed.
- There is also training that is specific to the project oversight committee which would be strictly responsible for overseeing the implementation of the components of the mitigation plan.
- So we wanted to make sure that there was a complete separation of ideas, noting that SCDOT is committing based on final approval of the components of the mitigation plan to provide training and support for a community advocacy organization, in addition to training and support for the project oversight committee.

CAC Member:

For clarification, the organizational training and project oversight committee are two separate committees, correct?

Project Team Member:

Yes. The project oversight committee that would include residents (CAC and non-CAC), as well as representation from government agencies that are responsible for implementing various components that have mitigation plans. For example, the POC would include SCDOT and the City of North Charleston's departments. Because there's a housing component of the mitigation plan, there would be representation from the housing authority. That is much more project-specific organization. The other opportunity would provide training for residents to be able to advocate for specific community goals beyond the project that you all want to be able to start pushing any initiatives.

CAC Member:

In the organizational training, can a person transition from that phase to the project oversight committee as well?

Project Team Member:

This is where you all have the opportunity to help guide what this looks like. This is your mitigation plan. We drafted the commitments, and we are working on developing some type of a framework for the POC, but this is where you all can help guide what this looks like. And if there's a desire for this community

organization or the POC to report to this community organization, then that is something that can be included as well as how the two groups will function together.

Project Team Member:

- The goal is to start finalizing components of the mitigation plan. We need to start fine tuning the language because once this goes into the review process and the mitigation plan, as components of the final environmental impact statement and the record of decision, these are legal documents.
- This is why we're encouraging you and your neighbors to be a part of these conversations because this is a legal official document. We want to make sure, as we close out this phase of the CAC and start transitioning to the project oversight committee, that what we've agreed upon on this phase. We won't necessarily have the opportunity to change it. Whatever is agreed upon in this phase of the CAC and the development of these commitments, they're going to be committed to, and then the POC has got to oversee them.

CAC Member: Will it start in April, June, May?

Project Team Member:

- Between now and April, we are working to revise and finalize every component of the mitigation plan, whether it is the education and workforce components, parks and recreation, or community infrastructure enhancement. All of those components are being refined over the next three months. We're going to submit the final environmental impact statement as well as the final version of the mitigation plan for agency review (that's SCDOT initially, then the federal highway and some of the other government organizations) starting around April 23rd. The goal again is to finalize these various components before then.
- After April, we are hoping that the CAC has made a determination that you want to move forward and create your own advocacy organization. If that is the case, after April, the training will begin. A lot of what we typically do is from CAC standpoint. So the focus on the mitigation plan will start transitioning to training you all. Training would ultimately start being initiated after April and last thru October. Based on our current schedule, the final EIS, environmental impact statement, and the record of decision are scheduled to be completed and approved, assigned, and official, by the end of October.
- The CAC's responsibilities officially end in October. And it is officially approved as part of the final environmental impact statement. After October, the project oversight committee will be responsible for seeing the implementation of the various components of the mitigation plan when design and development of community centers begin. The CAC will be briefed on the design process as we start implementing the components of the community infrastructure enhancement plan agreed upon between now and April. As design and construction and design begins, you will be briefed. The POC will also be briefed on the education and scholarship programs.
- Beginning in October, the POC will be the official organization responsible or involved in the project, and will be briefed quarterly by SCDOT and other government agencies on the various project components.

Project Team Member:

- CAC members who are still interested in participating in the College Aid Initiative and organizational training can still join those groups. I will send the invitation for those committee discussions first of next week.

Project Team Member:

- We are asking CAC members to recommend to the project team committee members who may be beneficial to the POC and would benefit from the training. We are depending on CAC members to help identify participants for the POC. We will contact them, educate them on the program and process, provide them with all relevant project materials, and make sure that they are incorporated into any future trainings.

Summary of Recent EJ Outreach Efforts/EJCMP Comment Review

Project Team Member:

- The next few pages of your packet are simply summaries of the information we've gotten back from the online and paper versions of the mitigation strategy and the mitigation plan. It seems that the responses we're getting are consistent with everything the CAC has shared in previous meetings.
- A significant statement from survey participants was that right-of-way specialists help them understand fair market value if they are going to lose their homes. Residents want to know if it is fair for them to make home improvements and see any greater return on my investment, if they are going to be displaced or relocated. They want to understand the benefit of the relocation package.
- We also received feedback from residents who will remain in place. They want to know what affordable housing looks like in my area. Sixty-four percent of residents who completed the survey live in the affected communities. Some very early on were giving us feedback online that if they visited the project website, they saw the online survey and they might not have necessarily lived in the impacted area, but they provided some feedback there as well. The parks and the community center is being replaced, the amenities and the housing option are still very important parts of the conversation that we're having.
- We are getting agreement from those who are completing the surveys with the CAC members.
- We heard you, and now we hear from the community when they say if their homes are going to be impacted, they do want to live as close to, within, or near the neighborhood from which they would be displaced. The preference is single family dwellings, but if multi-family dwellings had to be a replacement option, they wanted them to be within or near the community. We still hear that basketball courts are important. So that is an element that is included in the mock-up of the potential replacement community center as opposed to some of the other options that included tennis courts, volleyball courts, and other activities and outside activities.
- Survey participants prefer to receive project information by mail. Other options included text messaging, emails and phone calls. But the overwhelming response here was that they prefer to get information by mail.
- Sidewalks with curbs and gutters was the more important of the infrastructure improvements. Others included sidewalks, bike and pedestrian trails, and storm water management.
- We asked you to come to the meeting and be prepared to discuss if and how you would like to respond to the whole mitigation plan.

Facilitator:

- The question has been posed as to how we come together at the end of this process, the CAC members, and put your stamp of approval, so to speak on the mitigation document. The project team would like to ask whether or not the CAC would be interested in developing and presenting a formal response that comes from all of the CAC members that would be included in the mitigation plan, just to say that you have reviewed the process. You have represented the community and you have

provided feedback and that you believe South Carolina DOT has listened to and incorporated your advice, opinions, guidance in this document and in the plans for infrastructure improvement. So one of the things to remember is that you've met all of this time to provide your feedback.

- This is an opportunity for the CAC to use this as culminating act, that puts your stamp on the work that you've done over this time. I want to open the floor to see if CAC members are interested in developing a letter. It can be whatever format you all may think is necessary to include in the document that either you sign off on as a group or you can sign off individually. But I want to offer to help CAC members if you're interested in having a meeting to see how that type of letter would be worded, and to determine what you see or what you believe might be most acceptable to the CAC members and what you feel most comfortable with in presentation. We would also need to discuss how you present that document to the public, because this is a public document.
- We discussed earlier that by the end of April, the project team will be submitting a final mitigation plan to South Carolina DOT and FHWA. As CAC members, you have an opportunity to provide a written statement. It does not have to be a multi-page document. It can be something as simple as a letter to be included in that document to say the I-526 LCC West CAC has met for the past 14 months as a part of the process. You might give dates and outline some of the items that you have discussed. You can use the survey information, or you can talk about those things that have been most critical to this group such as the recreation center, programming, certainly infrastructure issues. By then, you will have gone through the CIEP. And you can address some of the highlights that you feel make this document a success or something acceptable for the community. That's just your way of perhaps, and I'm not telling you to do this, but just offering that as an option to put your stamp of approval on the mitigation plan, because this becomes a part of the formal document. And it's your way of saying, 'this is our contribution to the process that we have actually gone through this process. We've gone to the meetings. We've had conversations outside of the meetings. We've worked with Maximum Consulting on helping to develop new ways or create new ways of communicating with the larger community. We have given good feedback in helping SCDOT pull this mitigation plan together. It's just a letter that shows we did our part as the community, and we feel like this is a good document.'

Project Team Member:

And it might be good to describe what it's not. It's not a document that says you agree with everything. It doesn't mean that you have to say 'I'm giving a stamp of approval and everything in here reflects everything I want,' or anything like that. If you want to say whatever you want to say. I don't want to assume or put words in your mouth, but you definitely have an opportunity to indicate that either things were done in an acceptable fashion, what is presented as the final document is vetted through this group, or however you want to word it. But it's not that you're walking out the door saying that FHWA did everything we said, and we fully agree.

Facilitator: That's a great point. I would piggyback on that to say it more of a way of acknowledging the process more so than approving the document.

CAC Member:

You're saying all the pros but then I'm not hearing any cons that we've identified. If we do this, it should include the pros and the cons about what we have done for the past 14 months.

Project Team Member:

Right. I was calling it a bit of a preface for the actual EJ Mitigation Plan. That is when you get you read a book. It's got the little preface, but it's like a foreword. Because the mitigation plan is an appendix to a

larger document, but it is of all the other little chapters at the end of the whole document. The others are like technical documents, but this reflects the people, the heart of what you all have invested all of your time and energy in. And the opportunity is there for you to write that, or craft that narrative so that your presence is not negated by just a whole bunch of pages. You were here. You were working out and you have an opportunity to say we are the group that maybe laid some of the foundation for the community to come back and support or give feedback on.

Project Team Member:

- And let me just add in response to Ms. Anderson's comment about the 'bad.' The plan isn't official yet. We are looking for you all to continue to work toward April to help us still tweak the plan. If there are still areas that we need to focus on and help make adjustments, we need to identify those and make sure, if they can be addressed completely, to do that. If there's some form of middle ground that may need to be met based on the things you all feel like you still want to see versus what is in the legal framework for SCDOT and FHWA to do, then we need to have those discussions. Ideally, the way I would hope that this happens is that there continues to be dialogue about what needs to be tweaked through April.
- Make sure you are being participants in the community infrastructure enhancement plan. Making sure we're addressing those components as well, so that as we approach April, the advisory council is much more comfortable. Again, providing a response to a plan that they still have the opportunity to continue to provide feedback and work with their neighbors to tweak. Ideally, what would go in the final version of the mitigation plan, is that you're adding a preface to a document that you molded and continue to mold for the next three months. I'm not asking, or we're not asking for you all to approve it today.

Project Manager:

If the CAC is not comfortable with that yet, there should be an interim step. The comment period is not going to close until next Friday. And so after that comment period closes, we will assimilate all the comments that we received and present that to the CAC so they can see what their neighbors are saying in regards to the plan. If after we review that and we talk about any potential changes in the plan, there is something that if the CAC is not comfortable, what's in the plan and they want a change to the plan, then maybe a step before you advocate for the plan is to make that request to DOT as a group, as a body, that we feel like these are... or we don't feel the plan is there yet. We don't feel it's fair yet. And these are the changes that we would recommend or request as a council, based on the community's comments and our input. And let's not ask them to advocate for a plan that they're not comfortable with yet.

Facilitator:

And I have a question for Ms. Angela, too. When you say 'the good and the bad,' are you talking about the actual plan that will be submitted, or are you making reference to the process that we've gone through?

Project Team Member:

Just for clarification, she said 'pros and cons,' which is just a little bit different from 'good and bad.'

CAC Member:

In everything, there is a pro and there is a con. We can't say everything that's been done is 100% agreeable or good.

Project Team Member:

You know when to bend, you know when you had to compromise, is what you were saying earlier.

CAC Member:

We know that some things, we're going to have to compromise on. There's going to be some compromise in every part of this mitigation. So that's why I was saying 'pros and cons.' Everything is not going to go 100%. The highway is not going to be 100% straight. Somewhere, there's always going to be a counter. So, that's why I said 'pros and cons.'

Project Team Member: So, the cons would be where we would have to tweak.

Facilitator:

Based on the project team's feedback, if the comment period ends in the middle of January and the document is to be submitted to South Carolina DOT and FHWA near the end of April, what would the expectation be in terms of that timeline of providing feedback to CAC members and giving them an opportunity to review it and synthesize their comments? What would the expectation be for some sort of a reasonable timeline on them getting together, collectively, and if they so wish to do, to provide a formal response?

SCDOT Project Lead:

- I think we would need something in February. One of the goals of having a formal letter or formal document from the CAC at that point is really just to be able to document what the CAC's reaction is to the proposed mitigation plan. Right now, I think it's one of the challenges the project team kind of faces is being able to take all the meeting minutes and put that into a document to convey what the CAC's concerns are with the proposed mitigation plan. Given that the timeline and our current schedule, trying to package up everything, you're moving into later in the spring. I think the best step would be to provide information to the CAC in February. Let them know about all the comments that we have heard through the comment period from the community. Give the CAC an opportunity to absorb that information. And then, if the CAC is interested, provide your comments and concerns, including the pros and the cons.
- We definitely are not looking for an endorsement. We're kind of just looking for a more formal document that summarizes all of your concerns, good or bad associated with the proposed mitigation plan. And the reason I say February is that gives us an opportunity, the project team, to identify those areas where we can improve the plan based on your comments and concerns.

Facilitator:

The letter does not necessarily need to be included as a part of the final document? That is something that you all would like to receive earlier in the process? Are we looking at February, which is almost two months before or a little over two months, before that April deadline, so that you have time to respond to the comments? This is not necessarily a request that the CAC give you a final response that goes in the final document, is that correct?

SCDOT Project Lead:

One is prepared at this interim step. And then one that is kind of the final reaction to our final mitigation plan. So, that would occur later in the process.

Project Team Member:

He essentially sees two letters, one as an interim in response to what we get as feedback from the community and one that is the final reaction to the mitigation plan.

CAC Member:

Will there be one document coming from the CAC at the end or in the interim before this report is finalized?

Project Team Member:

What was described is what we will do in the public comment period. Keep in mind, we pushed a lot of information out to the community in October. So taking what we have collected as information from October to the end of next week, summarizing that, getting it back to you so you can see just how those comments impacted the actual documents, the mitigation plan and then you all responding to that. That was the interim letter that he referred to, just processing what you've done and how the community has responded, isolated to the mitigation plan work. And maybe some infrastructure related stuff that might be impacts to the neighborhood, because it might not solely be just the document itself. And then once we visit that information, visit your response to that information, react to it, make adjustments, make improvements to the mitigation plan and present it back to you. Then your final reaction. That will be your second letter.

CAC Member: So then, that's two letters?

Project Team Member: That's two letters.

CAC Member:

And so when I looked at it from that perspective, I don't have to have a black, white, yes, no or pro, con. I can come in consensus with you that we work as a team to facilitate what you brought to this community. And I don't mind doing that, but I was getting a little uneasy when you were presenting it. She'll ask us to come off with a forward or acknowledging whatever you want to say. Pro, con whatever about the process. But I can come to after reviewing at an interim point, I could come to a final forward of whatever you want to call the letter as agreeing on the consensus. Because even when we get to the final, when I look at it, I may not be ready to say, "Okay, you know what? I can put a stamp of approval and write this customer friendly comment to you." Maybe I won't be there then, but I can come to consensus that we work through the process and I can live with whatever, as a team, as a group that we came up with.

Project Team Member:

Did you all get that clearly?

Facilitator/Project Team Member:

Yes ma'am.

CAC Member:

I now see on the wall what appears to be the preferred? I see the other maps missing and it appears if I see correctly, at Rivers Avenue, we are now removing, or at least this is the preferred or removing the access ramps to I-26 from Rivers. Correct? Is that what I understand?

Project Team Member: Yes.

CAC Member:

So here's my next question. Does anybody remember Mall Drive before I-526 was constructed and connected to Rivers Avenue? At that time, in 1983, '84, '85, Mall Drive was a bottleneck before made changes to Remount Road. Remount Road now has an access. So this means thousands of cars will now they be diverting to Montague, which is awful, trying to get to Centre Point, Walmart, all of that community and Remount Road will also be diverted with thousands of cars from the Mount Pleasant side of I-26 to even access on major Centre Point. At the end of this project, when construction is complete, those two roads are going to be overwhelmed with additional traffic. Is there a contingency plan for this, after this is completed to relieve the traffic on those two roads?

Project Team Member:

Is there a contingency plan to relieve congestion on Montague and Mall Drive with the removal of Remount?

CAC Member:

The only two access roads have been on this side to get to the most major center we have - Mall Walmart, Sam's. That is going to be one cluster when they get done. And it will be regretted, guaranteed.

CAC Member:

According to the other ramp that was originally out there, when I first came in to check on the project, if you are coming from I-26, you weren't going to be able to come off of I-526 to get to where we live anyway. We were losing that. And we still have to come off of Mall Drive on Montague. So, that was already established when we first started. And my concern was the exit for coming out of Russelldale to get onto I-526.

CAC Member:

They took it out.

Project Manager:

The ramps are not being removed. You will still be able to access I-526. What you will not be able to do is get directly on I-26 at that I-526 interchange. So if you are going from Rivers to I-26, you will have to go up to Remount or go down to Montague.

CAC Member:

You can get on I-526, but you can't go to I-26, in either direction. In other words, you can't come from Ashley Phosphate to I-526 and get off at Rivers, any further from here. That means you have to go to Mall Drive to get to Rivers Avenue, or you have to come from Remount Road to get to Rivers and the same way back on I-26. You have to go to Remount Road. If I want to go from Rivers Avenue and get on I-26 and go to Ashley Phosphate, for example, I have to go Remount Road or backtrack to Mall Drive in order to do that. So what that means is you're going to have an excessive amount of cars that want to go the direction of I-26. You're going to have to get there via Mall Drive or Remount Road, or even go down to Aviation. And we have a lot of community on this side of that highway that will move towards those on and off ramps like it was back in the 1980s. We're returning back right now with that. With that map, we're going back to the early '80s. That will congest those two roads unmercifully.

Project Team Member:

That's an excellent comment for the public comment period, too.

Project Team Lead:

You can get on from Rivers to get on I-526, go to the mall that way via International. That is not being changed. So the issue about, 'can I get to Sam's and Walmart, that retail cluster via Rivers,' yes, you can. It's only the connection to I-26. The volume going directly from Rivers to I-26 really is not that huge at I-526, but it is a very difficult movement to allow and make the interchange work. It also eats into the neighborhood by a pretty good bit. And that's why the preferred design ended up the way it did. So we do have other ideas of how we can make modifications to the adjacent intersections up and down Rivers to allow that access to I-26. I would be happy to talk with you offline, if you'd like, specifically to share how that occurred. And also the number of volume, because we have the trips counted and we also have the forecasted trips identified that makes that movement. Does that make sense?

CAC Member: Are there other ideas for that on the other exchanges to take over that flow?

Project Team Lead: Yes, sir.

Project Team Member:

On the project website is a fly-over, and we can look at that here and then walk through the maps, too, as if we were literally driving it. But it's that kind of feedback that definitely is valuable in this public comment period. So it's noted in our meeting notes, but also be a very good idea to submit it during this next week. We have forms on site. We can provide, or I can show you how to do it online.

CAC Member:

As long as you are identifying the additional flow towards those two possible ways to get on I-26, going either direction.

Project Team Lead:

And I'd be happy to follow up with you, if that's okay.

CAC Member:

That would be fine. Yes, sir.

Facilitator:

Once they get all of the comments back after the comment period, and they've had an opportunity to review, is it then that they would like to make a decision about providing a response or are they committing today to an interim and final response?

Project Team Member:

So we've got an affirmative on our end.

Facilitator:

And I don't know who's on the call. Is that something that you might be able to follow up on and make sure that we've gotten feedback from everyone? I think from my end, I just want to make sure that if that is something that you're interested in that we are getting a good gauge on what type of support they might want or need in pulling the interim letter together.

Project Team Member: I can follow up.

Update to the EJ Outreach Strategy

Project Team Member:

- We are revisiting the outreach strategy. It is a living document because many of the initial ideas have been modified based on the CAC's feedback. We have even noted additional ideas during today's meeting. If there are other ideas that you all may have, we certainly appreciate those.
- Not only are we planning to have the discussed workshop sessions and we will follow up on the conversation of having people onsite routinely to discuss the elements of the community infrastructure enhancement plan commitment. Safety is first, but if there are ideas that we haven't visited, we welcome small group discussions. We don't want to miss an opportunity to be productive and get the feedback that we need on the elements of community improvements, parts of the mitigation plan, or the community history preservation study.
- Other ideas are greatly appreciated with regard to increasing our engagement with the residents. Some of the useful feedback the CAC has provided today was regarding use of visuals like billboards, yard signs, involving younger residents, more routinely engaging elected officials and faith-based and religious organizations.

On-going/Future Outreach Update

Project Team Member:

- Everyone should have received Happy New Year postcards, in the impacted communities and some just outside of the communities, based on the mail route. We hope to see some responses through online submissions of the mitigation plan survey, as well as the paper copies.
- The project team can provide paper copies of the survey or mail them to the residents individually. We don't want to lose the opportunity in the next seven days to get, as much feedback as we can. The online version will shut down by first thing Saturday morning.
- The project team has to begin processing and synthesizing the information to get it back to you so that you can visit the concept of an interim response to the feedback.
- Regarding the December Community Office statistics, we had 14 visitors to the office. We are still receiving incoming calls and making outgoing calls. The voicemail box received five messages, all of which were responded to. We also received three text messages with regard to the project. That component of the community office stats is tracked outside of the office because the text responses come through different teams.
- We had an online public hearing where we had two commenters. We are not being flooded, but there has been a good bit of feedback that we are tracking through the online option.
- We have a live chat session that's available every day through next Friday. If people visit the online hearing, they can look at the mitigation plan there, too, and have an opportunity to chat with someone on the project team, real-time. We encourage you to encourage your neighbors to engage.

CAC Member: You are still receiving any mail-outs and responses?

Project Team Meeting:

- Yes, through next Friday. We used Charleston County's GIS data and tax information to send the survey to property owners, not just the residents. We sent out the same packets to property owners.

The only thing that wasn't included was the magnet that you all got as resources in that October mailing. But, a cover letter from Joy, the infographic describing what the mitigation plan elements are, the actual paper survey and a self-addressed stamped envelope to return it to the office were included. We sent out just under 425 surveys to property owners that would not have received them as residents in the neighborhoods.

CAC Member: Does that include landlords?

Project Team Member: Yes, and in case you know of anyone that owns multiple properties, we only sent them one. So we didn't send one for every property they own. For the sake of cost and being responsible, we sent them one packet.

Project Team Member:

Dr. Smith, will you speak to the events that were held in November and December where Maximum Consulting also went to various events and supported other community resource agencies?

Community Liaison:

I believe you included our numbers in your last report. Gwen, Mattese, Carolyn, and Clay continue to work on identifying specific partnerships. We are available if you think of any resources that you would like to have identified for you as individuals or for your neighborhoods.

Project Schedule and Milestone Review

Project Team Member:

- The project team is finalizing the environmental justice community mitigation plan so it can be incorporated into the final Environmental Impact Statement, which will be submitted to SCDOT for review by April 23, 2021. The project team needs to determine a time when the CAC can meet and provide the initial response to the mitigation plan.
- The project team will continue to work on the mitigation plan, and revisit it with the CAC to make sure they are in agreement with the components by April 23rd. The final EIS approval date is scheduled for October 2021. October is when the official transition to the project oversight committee will take place.
- We are currently establishing the POC to oversee the design and construction of these various components in October. Construction is scheduled to start in 2027.
- Right-of-way acquisition will take place between 2023 and 2027.

Summary and Next Steps

Facilitator wrap-up: If CAC members are interested in participating on the POC or would like to sign up for organizational training, please let the project team know. The CAC will develop interim and final responses to the mitigation plan. Look for emails on the upcoming CIEP workshop. CAC recommends duplication and increased frequency of project material distribution.

CAC Meeting #16 is scheduled for February 6, 2021 at 10:00 AM. Location TBD.



Community Advisory Council Meeting #15

January 9, 2021

Table of Contents

- Welcome and Administrative Items
- Neighborhood Update
- EJ Community Mitigation Plan Update
- Summary of Recent EJ Outreach Efforts / EJCMP Comment Review
- Update to the EJ Outreach Strategy
- On-going/Future Outreach Update
- Project Schedule and Milestone Review
- Summary and Next Steps

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.

EJ Community Mitigation Plan Update

Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan

- What is a CIEP Workshop?
 - Residents will be asked to review and comment on improvements within each of the CIEP categories (*pedestrian and stormwater improvements, street lighting, aesthetics and landscaping, and traffic calming*)
 - There will be a station for each of these categories with images of the proposed types of improvements and large maps to help residents identify areas where infrastructure improvements are needed
- Goal
 - Gain a better understanding of community priorities regarding infrastructure improvements within each category
 - Provide an opportunity for CAC members to interact with other residents in their neighborhoods
- Logistics
 - First workshop tentatively scheduled for February/March 2021
 - Indoor vs outdoor risks and benefits
 - Requiring commitments/sign-ups for participation – appointments at the Community Office
 - Timeslots per neighborhood
 - Proactive COVID-19 safety protocols
- Outreach
 - The project team needs help from the CAC to spread the word about the workshops and encourage neighbors to participate
 - CIEP specific yard signs
 - Door-to-door canvassing
 - The project team will be contacting churches, schools and other local institutions to further identify interested EJ residents

How else can we better encourage residents to participate in the CIEP workshop?

EJ Community Mitigation Plan Update

Community History Preservation Program

- *Completed and On-going Activities*
 - A team has been selected and will kick off their efforts in **March 2021**
- *Upcoming Activities*
 - A detailed workplan for the program will be developed and provided to the CAC for review
 - Introduction of Team Members
 - Kick-off will be coordinated with the first Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan Workshop
- Engagement and participant recruitment

1st Time Home Buyer / Financial Literacy Training

- *Completed and On-going Activities*
 - A list of vendors to provide the training was developed and reviewed
 - **Trident Urban League** was recommended as the primary vendor for the initial training
 - Updating Outreach Strategy to inform residents of training opportunity and to gauge interest
- *Upcoming Activities*
 - Training kick-off: Summer 2021

Mitigation Subcommittees

- **College Aid Initiative**
 - Gilbert Reeves, Doris Twiggs, Angela Anderson, Earl Muhammad
- **Organizational Training**
 - Cynthia Anderson, Angela Anderson, Earl Muhammad

UPDATED ORGANIZATIONAL TRAINING COMMITMENT

Current Commitment

SCDOT will provide support for training to transition the Community Advisory Council to a Project Oversight Committee (POC). This training will also be made available to residents of the impacted EJ communities who are interested in joining the POC or other groups looking to initiate community advocacy.

Proposed Commitment

Organizational Training

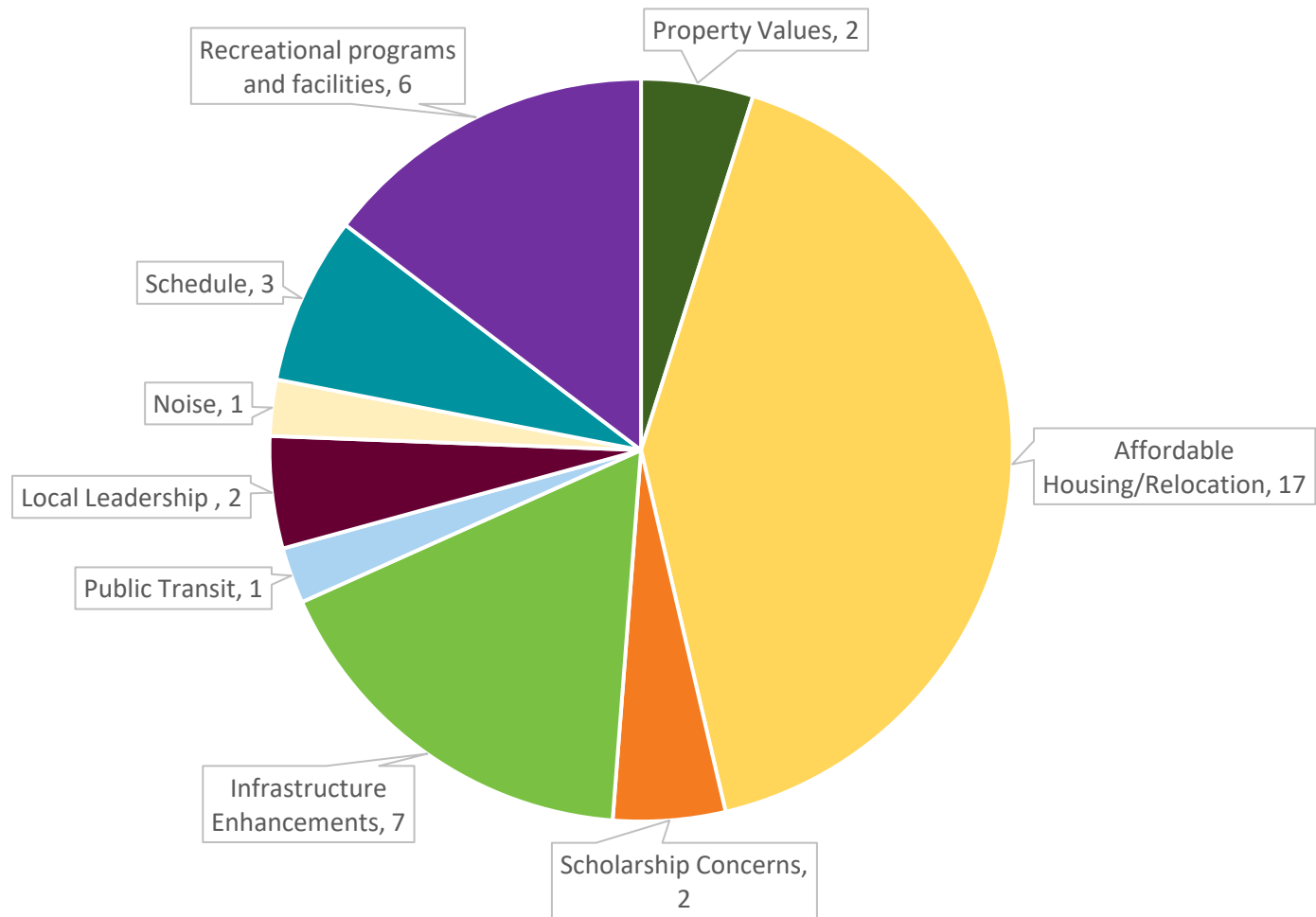
SCDOT will provide organizational training for the CAC and community members interested in creating a community advocacy organization.

Project Oversight Committee (POC)

SCDOT will assist in the creation of a POC that will be responsible for ensuring adherence to the commitments included in the Final Environmental Justice Community Mitigation Plan and Final EIS/ROD. SCDOT will provide training to residents and CAC members interested in joining the POC and provide administrative support to the POC for the duration of the project.

EJ Community Mitigation Plan Survey

Preliminary Comment Summary on – As of 12/29/2020



- Most comments relate to **affordable housing** and concerns over the possibility of **relocation**, especially for the elderly and disabled.
- Second highest category is the request for **infrastructure enhancements**.

All comments can be reviewed in the handout

“Why do all of your projects [a]ffect the Black area? Do you really believe we will be able to relocate with the prices of homes now, especially the elder residents of this area?”

“Need to make some home improvements and I don't know if I should invest the money if I may need to move later???”

EJ Community Mitigation Plan Survey

Preliminary Results as of 12/29/2020

As of 12/29/20, a total of 116 people took the survey.

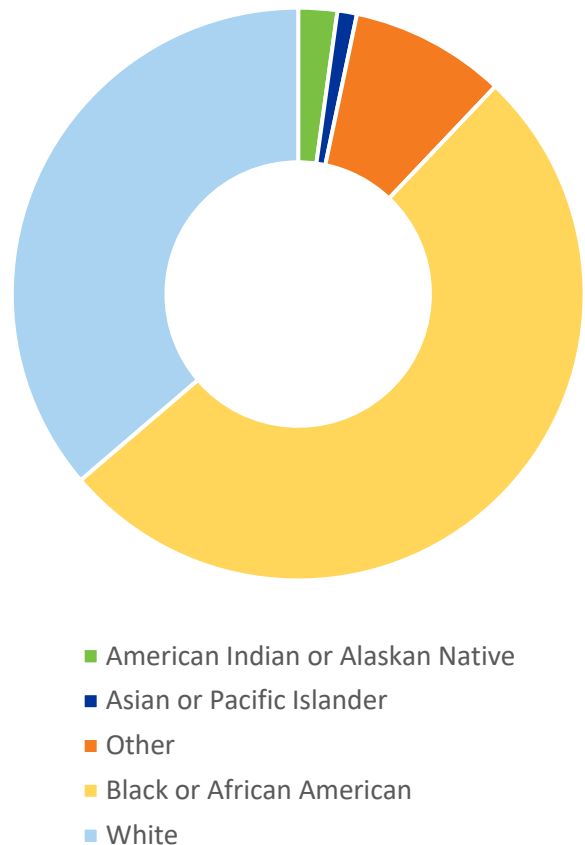
- 64% live in an EJ neighborhood
- 36% live outside the impacted area

Overall, draft mitigation items had a similar level of prioritization for survey participants.

- **Recreational Facilities/Amenities** were prioritized within the top 5 mitigation items most frequently (17% for each).
- **Affordable Housing** was selected as the #1 priority most frequently (35%).

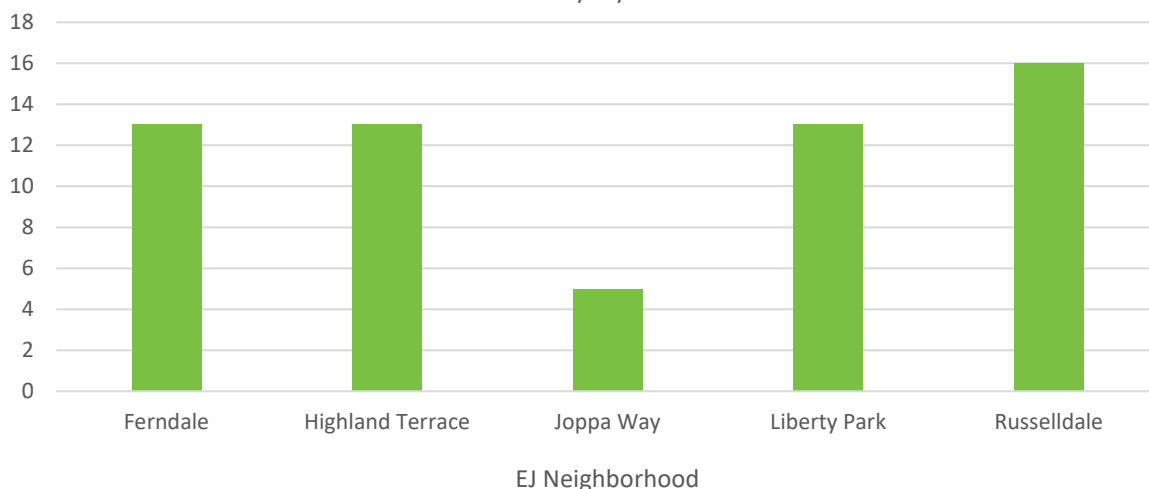
The CAC will be emailed a summary of the final survey results after 1/15/21.

Survey Participant Demographics: Race
As of 12/29/20



Which EJ Neighborhoods are Represented?

As of 12/15/20

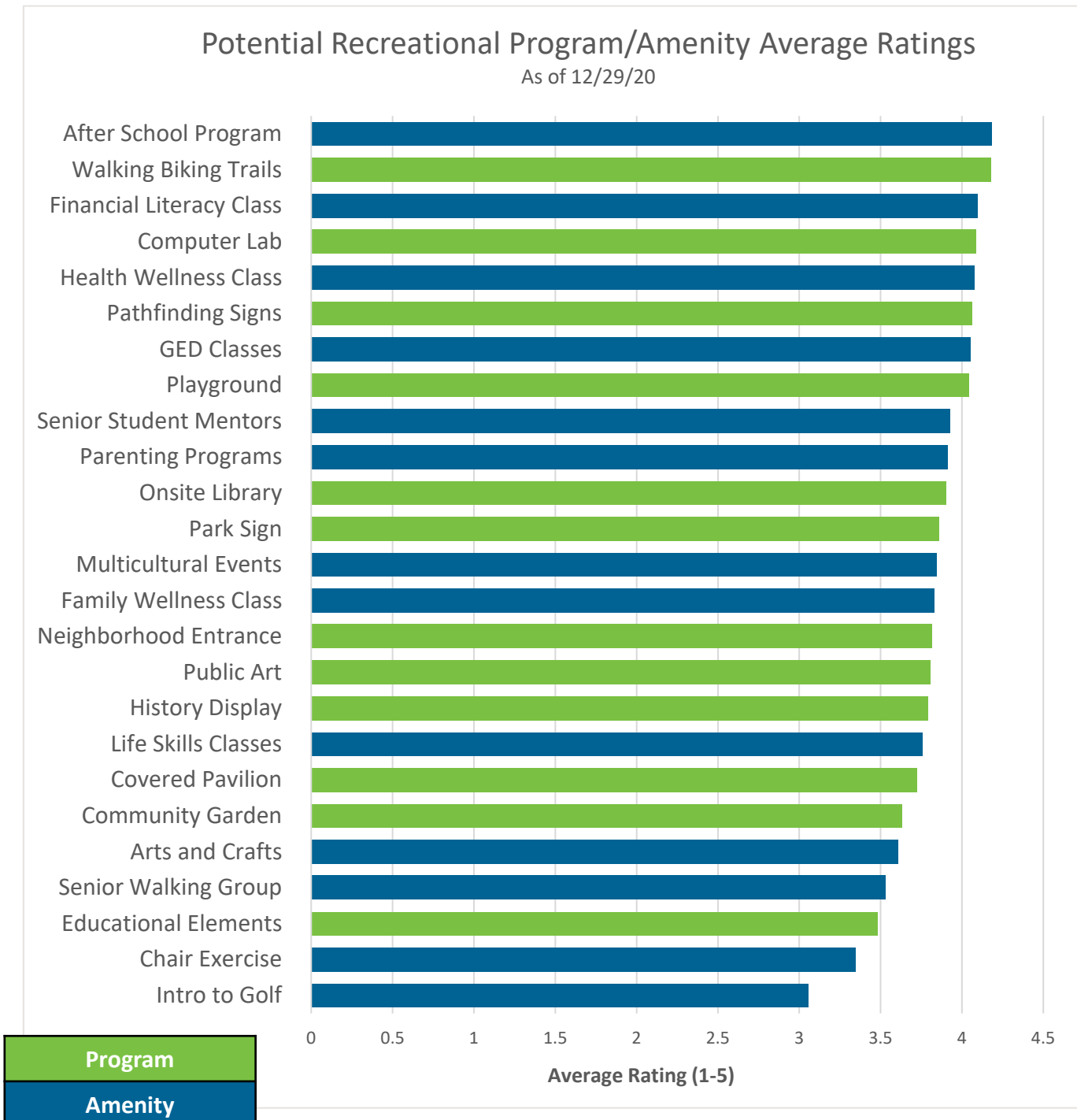


EJ Community Mitigation Plan Survey

Preliminary Results as of 12/29/2020

Each recreational program and amenity was rated at an average of 3 or above.

Key takeaway: residents see a need for both recreational programs and outdoor amenities in their communities. Many of these items require classrooms, supporting the need for a larger community center.



EJ Community Mitigation Plan Survey

Preliminary Results as of 12/29/2020

82%

Prefer multi-family housing to be built ***within or near*** the impacted neighborhoods

Prefer ***single-family*** affordable housing

51%

56%

Prefer a ***basketball court*** as an outdoor recreational amenity

Prefer to receive project information ***in the mail***

43%

31%

Prefer to focus the infrastructure improvements on ***sidewalks with curbs and gutters***

Do you think these results accurately reflect the needs and goals of your community?

Please come to the meeting prepared to discuss if and how the CAC would like to formally respond to the DRAFT EJ Community Mitigation Plan.

Updates to the EJ Outreach Strategy

- Storyboards to garner interest in the mitigation-specific improvements (example: boards displaying images of the proposed community center and pocket parks)
- Yard signs to advertise CIEP workshop and Community History Preservation Program
- Targeted outreach to renters including information and education on renter rights
- Emphasis on engaging younger residents (example: utilize social media to engage with younger residents)
- Conduct small group community drop-in meetings prior to larger-scale public meetings and public hearings
- Increase participation in events that have an emphasis on minority communities and businesses (if they are not cancelled due to public health concerns)
- Invite elected officials and other local government staff to quarterly meetings with residents at the Community Office
- Continue to coordinate with the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance
- Continue to expand community partnerships (examples: Charleston County School District, Trident United Way, and Charleston Water System)

Do you know of any additional resources or strategies that can be utilized to increase resident engagement?

Outreach Update

ONGOING OUTREACH UPDATE

- Holiday postcard from the CAC to remind residents to provide comments on the Draft EJ Community Mitigation Plan and to complete survey was mailed out on 1/4/2021



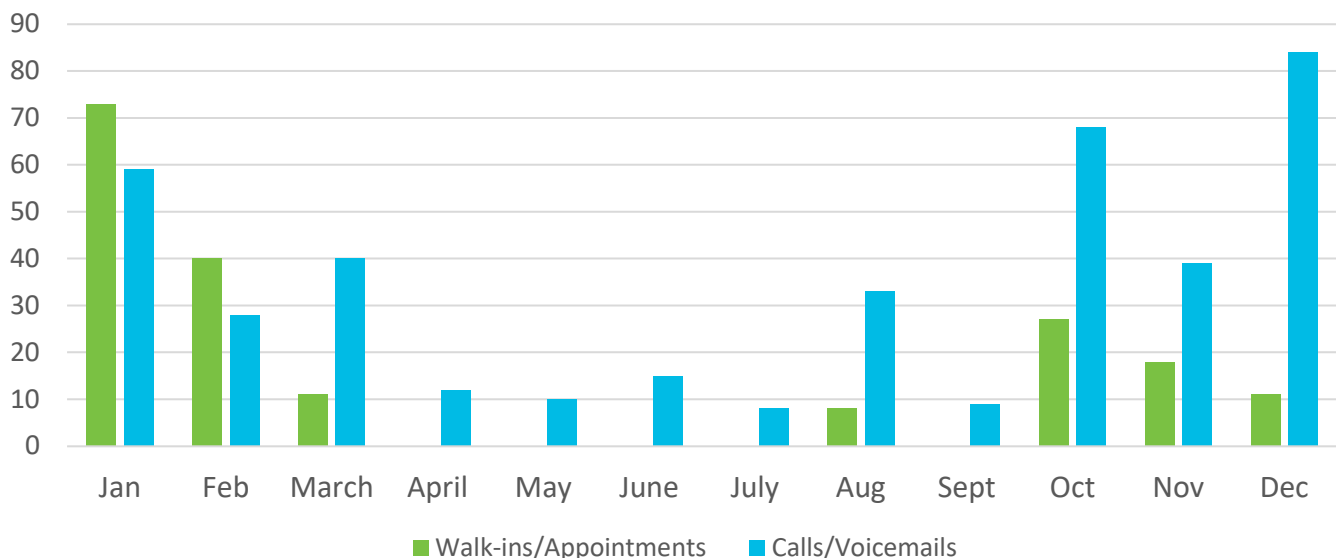
COMMUNITY OFFICE STATS

(December 2020)

- Visitors: 14
- Incoming Calls: 27
- Outgoing Calls: 55
- Voicemails: 5

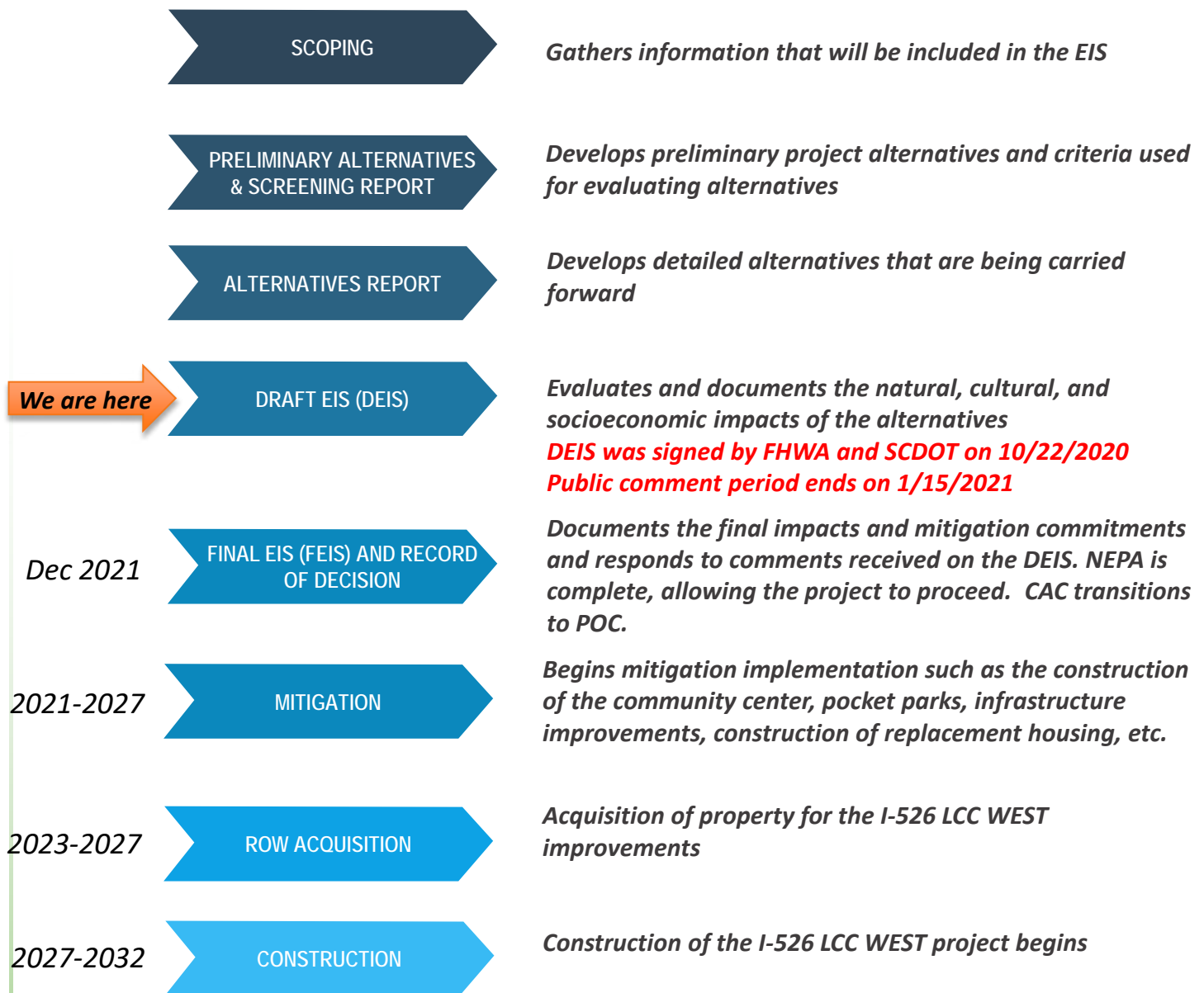
2020 Community Office Engagement

As of 12/28/20



*The Community Office was closed from March through September

Project Schedule / Milestone Review



Summary and Next Steps

- Action Items
- CAC Meeting #16 – February or March 2021, depending on the scheduled date for the CIEP Workshop



MEETING MINUTES

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 16

Date: March 6, 2021

Time: 10:00 – 11:57 am

Location: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor Community Office, 5627 Rivers Avenue, N. Charleston, SC; Microsoft Teams (Virtual); Telephone

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees

Larenda Baxley, Ferndale
Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale
Gilbert Reeves, Ferndale
Brother Earl Muhammad, Ferndale
Angela Anderson, Russelldale
Jeanaris Bannister, Liberty Park
Doris Twiggs, Liberty Park
Bishop Leroy Middleton, Biblical House of God
Rev. Dr. Lawrence Bratton, Bibleway, IMA VC
Rev. Sheri McClain-Brown, Great Present, IMA EC
Rev. Victoria Richardson, Enoch Chapel UMC
Rev. Edward McClain, Jr., IMA Chair
Joy Riley, SCDOT
Chad Long, SCDOT
David Kelly, SCDOT

Pamela Foster, FHWA
Yolonda Jordan, FHWA
Shane Belcher, FHWA
Maxine Smith, Maximum Consulting
Mattese Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Carolyn Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Gwen Boyd, Maximum Consulting
Clay Middleton, Maximum Consulting
Jamelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies
Rick Day, Stantec
LaTonya Derrick, Stantec
Ryan White, Stantec
Amy Sackaroff, Stantec
Hannah Clements, Stantec
Horrace Tobin, Stantec (Community Office)

Participant Summary:

Total participants: 30

Ferndale: 4
Highland Terrace/Joppa Way: 0
Liberty Park: 2
Russelldale: 1

Adjacent/affected communities/agencies: 5
SCDOT: 3
FHWA: 3
Community Liaisons: 5

Stantec: 6
Facilitator: 1

Meeting Summary:

Welcome and Introductions

- Roll call (in-person, online, and phone participants)

Administrative Items

- CAC Meeting 16 hosted using a hybrid approach with participants joining via the Microsoft Teams platform, by phone, and in person.
 - The meeting was recorded solely for accuracy of meeting minutes.
 - Hannah will serve as the technical host for participants joining remotely.
 - Meeting logistics review: Microsoft Teams features; in-person and phone participants
 - Hybrid meeting etiquette review for in-person, phone, and virtual participants
- CAC Meeting 16 packets were distributed to meeting participants prior to the meeting date, including minutes for CAC Meeting 15.
- CAC Meeting 15 minutes were approved.

Safety briefing: [Provided for Community Office and Ferndale Community Center]. (Ellis, J.)

Agenda Review

- Welcome and Administrative Items
- Neighborhood Update
- Deacon Street Update
- CIEP Recommendations and Open House Overview
- Pedestrian Bridge Options
- Replacement Affordable Housing Update
- Community History Preservation
- Funding Opportunity: On-the-job Training/Supportive Services
- Funding Opportunity: Environmental Justice Grants
- Community Office and Outreach Update
- Scholarship Opportunity
- Project Schedule and Milestone Review
- Summary and Next Steps

Welcome: Members of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance

Bishop Leroy Middleton, Jr., Biblical House of God (Russell Dale), Pastor of the Biblical House of God on Van Buren Avenue. And I'm just interested in what it will take to do your project and how it will impact our church.

Reverend Edward McClain, Jr. (Union Heights), Chairman of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance

Reverend Sheri McClain-Brown, Pastor of Great Present AME Church, Andrews, SC; Executive Committee Member of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance. Attending CAC meeting to further engage and support community members as needed.

Reverend Lawrence Bratton, Pastor Bibleway Baptist Church on Savage Road in West Ashley, SC; Serves as the Vice Chair of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance.

Reverend Victoria Richardson, Enoch Chapel United Methodist Church (Liberty Park); Not IMA but attending the CAC meeting because Enoch Chapel is affected by the I-526 project.

Neighborhood Update

Facilitator: As you've been discussing this project with your neighbors or family members, have they had any additional questions or comments about the project that you'd like to share this morning? (Ellis, J.)

No comments provided.

Deacon Street Update

Project Team Member:

In some of the initial presentations of alternatives, there was not an indication that all of the properties would be part of the relocation or acquisition of residences on Deacon Street. Initially, the corner lot, which is an Elder Avenue address and the next parcel, after you turn on Deacon Street (with the double-wide mobile home) were the only two that would have been indicated on any of the other maps as a relocation. But because of the current proposed design with a cul-de-sac at Elder Avenue, it would change all of the access to Deacon Street. So at this point, we will now be relocating those homes and inviting those residents and property owners to start having conversations with our right-of-way specialists. (Derrick, L.)

No additional questions or comments provided.

CIEP Recommendations and Open House Overview

Project Team Member: [Michael Wray, Stantec, Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan (CIEP)]

- The CIEP addresses improvement needs in the areas of conceptual lighting, stormwater drainage, aesthetics, and landscaping, traffic calming, and pedestrian facilities along with other opportunities that will be made available to residents.
- The draft improvement concepts have been developed and will be revised based on feedback from SCDOT, the City, the CAC, and the public.
- The CIEP Open House is today at Ferndale Community Center from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
- The Open House will consist of stations for each CIEP element, where attendees will be able to review proposed improvements, provide feedback by prioritizing improvement types and locations as well as suggested locations for improvements that may not have previously been studied.
- Regarding outreach for this meeting, the efforts have included yard signs, flyers, postcards, and letters from local officials which were distributed within the neighborhoods.
- We had meeting notifications provided through the project website and through social media. And we also developed a press release, which was sent to numerous television, radio, and newspaper outlets.
- An online survey was developed to receive feedback and is available through MetroQuest for residents to provide feedback on the CIEP improvements that they prefer.
- The survey will be open through March 27th. It allows participants to prioritize the elements of the plan and identify locations of concern.
- We also had a paper version of the survey that will be available today at the Open House and will be distributed via mail throughout the neighborhoods.
- Review of potential lighting improvements along Railroad Avenue using visuals of existing conditions as a baseline [photo dated November, 2020] to show current conditions along the corridor. A

comparison photo of planned LED upgrades to existing lighting by the City of North Charleston was presented.

- These upgrades are scheduled to take place over the next four and a half years, with initial improvements taking place as early as this year.
- Four options of pedestrian scale cutoff lighting fixtures offered by Dominion Energy presented. Residents can select their preferred light fixtures as a part of the survey.
- A map of existing lighting locations that will receive LED upgrades in the four neighborhoods was presented, as well as the proposed routes of shared-use path lighting.
- Approximately 75 new lights are recommended for the shared-use paths. The paths will connect Margaret Drive, Elder Avenue, Dorothy Williams Boulevard, and other neighborhood roads with the replacement community center. (Wray, M.)

CAC Member:

How is this going to change the spacing between lights? Currently, there appears to be 300 feet between street lights in my community. (Bannister, J.)

Project Team Member:

Existing street lights will be upgraded to LED lights. Additional lighting is not currently included in the plan. I would defer to SCDOT for comments on future lighting plans. (Wray, M.)

Project Manager:

It is important that you and other community members make those types of comments today. If there are specific locations where you would like to see additional lighting, you have an opportunity to mark those locations on maps that will be displayed for those types of recommendations or requests at the Open House today. You are on Taylor Street where there definitely appears to be gaps in street lights. This would be a good opportunity for you to indicate where additional lighting is needed. (Riley, J.)

Project Team Member:

If you are not able to come out today, I am happy to bring some of the materials to you so that you can provide specific comments about lighting. If that is helpful, please let me know. (Derrick, L.)

Project Team Member:

- Review of stormwater infrastructure improvements located along Taylor Street, James Bell Drive, Elder Avenue, Willis Drive, Rebecca Street, Harper Street, and Railroad Avenue.
- These improvements range from cleaning and re-establishing existing drainage systems to installation of new catch basins, drop inlets, and extended ditches.
- There is a City plan which includes drainage improvements to Van Buren Avenue, and these improvements include a series of new pipes and drop inlets.
- The aesthetic and landscaping improvements considered include enhanced landscaping at neighborhood entrances. A visual was provided to meeting participants which provided three planting options featuring low-maintenance native perennial plants.
- An overview of traffic calming improvements was provided. A recently completed speed study recommended that speed limits be lowered to 25 miles per hour in area neighborhoods. Traffic calming treatments were evaluated along Taylor Street, James Bell Drive, Dorothy Williams Boulevard, Rebecca Street, Russelldale Avenue, Piedmont Avenue, and Railroad Avenue.

- The proposed treatments include the addition of speed humps in certain locations and pedestrian crossings as shown in the overview map.
- Improvements to pedestrian facilities were proposed along Railroad Avenue, Rebecca Street, Twitty Street, Russelldale Avenue, Margaret Drive, Van Buren Avenue, Dorothy Williams Boulevard, Elder Avenue, Deacon Street and Highland Terrace Drive.
- These improvements include construction of new sidewalks and shared-use paths, repair of existing sidewalks as well as the construction of a pedestrian bridge over the railroad, which will connect Highland Terrace Drive to Elder Avenue.
- The shared-use path will connect to the pedestrian bridge and that connection will be developed in detail in conjunction with the proposed community center.
- A rendering of a new crossing of the roadway, raised crosswalk, new plantings and signage, along with improvements to existing conditions, along Dorothy Williams Boulevard, was presented to meeting participants. This is one of many proposed improvement designs. (Wray, M.)

Pedestrian Bridge Options

Project Team Member:

- The project team is proposing to construct a new community center near Filbin Creek. We want to ensure that we are providing adequate access to that location, particularly for residents who live on the opposite side of the tracks and want to participate in events at the community center.
- We developed a location for a pedestrian bridge to safely get residents across the railroad tracks. One of the things we noticed during field studies and that has been mentioned during our advisory council meetings was that there are pathways where people walk across the tracks. As port traffic grows, so will the volume of trains. In moving the community center, we have been mindful of how we can get people safely to the opposite sides of the tracks.
- We developed two alternative locations for the pedestrian bridge
 - At the Northern end of the community center site location, connecting directly to Lacross Street, which would also have a separate pedestrian bridge, over Filbin Creek.
 - A combined bridge that would cross the railroad tracks and provide a crossing of Filbin Creek within a single structure.
- We recognize that location and convenience are extremely important factors, so we are asking for feedback from CAC members and other meeting participants to help the project team determine a design option that will be most practical for the community. (White, R.)

CAC Member:

Coming from Highland Terrace, will the crosswalk be near High Point Street? High Point Street is where I-526 makes a turn to go south off of I-526, beside the railroad tracks. (Bannister, J.)

Project Team Member:

Is this adjacent to where I-526 actually crosses over the railroad tracks near Taylor Street? That option is closer to where Taylor Street crosses under the railroad tracks. Is this your preferred option? (White, R.)

CAC Member:

That is what I am saying. (Bannister, J.)

Project Team Member:

These designs are open for comments and recommendations. The project team seeks to share information with and take comments from residents and the CAC on the most practical and convenient design options for the impacted communities. (White, R.)

Community Liaison:

[From the Chat History] The bridge that crosses the Ashley River on Cosgrove Avenue is referred to as the North Bridge. (Page 8) on handout for today. (Lecque, C.)

Replacement Affordable Housing Update

Project Team Member:

- SCDOT is working with the South Carolina Housing Authority (SCHA) to create multi-family housing. A heat map has been developed to identify areas that would be most suitable for replacement housing. An explanation of how the project team determined what areas are 'suitable' was provided followed by an overview of areas that are and are not being considered for replacement housing, and why. Areas of priority are based on the following factors:

Location

- The highest priority in mapping was location. Preferences were collected from the community using the mitigation survey that was sent out several months ago. Over 80% of people surveyed said they preferred multi-family housing to be either within the existing neighborhoods or within one mile.
- The project team ranked location as the highest priority within census tracks including Liberty Park, Russelldale, and Ferndale. Highland Terrace is in a different census track and was considered to have a slightly less priority in the process.

Proximity to Transit

- If there was a parcel that was closer to a transit stop, it was rated as a higher priority

Green Space

- Green space (such as parks, community centers, or spaces people can walk and access the community center) were given a higher priority.

Parcel vacancy

- Vacant parcels were considered to have higher suitability.
- The project team does not prefer to purchase parcels with existing structures

Social Vulnerability Index

- A method of tracking how communities recover from natural disasters (such as flooding, hurricanes, etc.). Social vulnerability is based on proximity to land features such as flood plains and flood zones, and considers community factors like income disparities to determine the ability of impacted communities to recover from disasters compared to other areas. Although we thought it was important to include the SVI, it had smaller weight than the other considerations. (Clements, H.)

CAC Member:

Regarding multi-family housing, will you clarify what you mean by census tracking? (Twiggs, D.)

Project Team Member:

Census tracts are larger areas on a map that are broken down into smaller parcels in order to prioritize certain areas over others. (Clements, H.)

Project Manager:

- To provide the proper context, the census tract is simply a mapping unit. When we do the procurement for the developer to develop the housing, we use census tracts to define what areas get priority. The intent is to create housing in close proximity to where people live now.
- Census tract mapping is an accepted type of mapping that is used to display map boundaries that have been clearly defined by the government so developers are not confused about specific parcels of land.
- Because there is not enough undeveloped land in one contiguous area within the impacted communities, the project team had to identify parcels of land based on smaller, available units. We are also attempting to identify parcels that do not go too far beyond school district lines, access to transit, etc. So census tracts are a way for the project team to determine mapping boundaries that break down larger areas of land into smaller units so that criteria can be set. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

So, if we are talking about multi-family dwellings, like apartment houses or clusters of condos, these units will be distributed throughout the community. These units will not be placed in one central area like in this situation that you mentioned? (Twiggs, D.)

Project Manager:

- We are discussing multi-family housing today because we have to define the criteria. We have several options.
- We can focus on a single hundred-unit option that will include a green space component. In this scenario, we can assign first, second, third, etc. priority for preferred tracts.
- Another option would be to break up the units into multiple developments so that they don't have to be a hundred units in one place. If the preference is to have three different developments of 30 units or four different developments of 25 units a piece, then we can specify that as well. It is critical that we start to define those preferences over the next few months.
- The preference is to get these units as close to the impacted communities as possible. But, if you don't want the hundred-unit scenario, we can look at smaller and more spread out options. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

My concern and preference is that we not congest all one hundred units in one area just to accommodate the need to meet the 'affordable housing' requirements. Locations of these units need to accommodate the people who will be relocated, particularly if that area has already been identified as single-dwelling housing. (Twiggs, D.)

Project Manager:

One of the things we heard from the CAC early in the process was that they didn't want to see more apartments within the communities. So you may want to open that boundary up a little, especially for one hundred units because they are not going to find a location within the impacted communities for a hundred units. We've already explored that ourselves. There is no green space. So it'll probably end up being somewhere along the river, down the corridor. The census tract is a good approach because we are working with a very small boundary. We can decide which areas are best, taking into consideration school

districts and close proximity to where people work that is also close to where they live now. We can set those priorities. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

They just built a brand new school, Matilda Dunston Elementary School, on Remount Road area. It would be terrible to put an impact on them with the population of the kids feeding into that school with the money that just went into that, as well as clustering too many in one area. I'm glad you mentioned that. I feel better about it. (Twiggs, D.)

Project Team Member:

- This is a springboard for discussions about multi-family housing. It can also be used to review single-family housing. The mapping includes large parcels. Some are in commercial areas, on Rivers, and some in residential areas. The mapping itself was a screening exercise that didn't look at the parcel level, so it didn't look at how suitable an individual piece of land is based on wetlands or other issues such as zoning. Those conversations have to be had before getting into the feasibility of an individual site. But these maps provide a big picture perspective of where the SCHA and SCDOT can focus their efforts.
- Review of parcels of land that have been identified by the project team, from north to south on the map. Vacant and underdeveloped parcels have been given identifying markers (outlined in white). Underdeveloped parcels may have a dilapidated building or a shed with no home on the property.
- Priority is assigned based on a color code, which represents a range from more suitable (green) to less suitable (orange). A portion of Highland Terrace and a portion of Joppa Way, for example, is in the orange range. This is partly due to the lack of connectivity with I-26.
- Parcels that are closer to transit stops (blue dots on map) are more desirable than locations that are further away. This factors in how long it takes to walk from various locations to designated transit stops.
- No property owners have been contacted at this point. This is to demonstrate a high-level tool to help in the identification of these parcels.
- Toward the North, is the Persephone-Moultrie park which is located in an orange area near Baker Street. That was one of the reasons we looked at some of these parcels as we're having conversations about larger apartment complexes. These larger tracks would come into the conversation more than smaller ones.
- If we were talking about maybe a series of duplexes or single-family, that's where more of the individual parcels would come into the conversation. There is a vacant commercial lot on Rivers Avenue and it abuts some areas that are underdeveloped. This is also a one large parcel that has a good portion that is not in use. So it opens the question of whether or not there could be a partial land sale, whether this parcel here could be broken up and perhaps a portion of it acquired for replacement housing.
- There are open parcels close to the railroad track, but they probably have wetlands. The closer we get to the railroad tracks, it likely reduces the desirability of that location.
- Between Remount Road and Sumter, there is a large parcel (3.8 acres) which could have some potential for multi-family housing. There are also larger parcels, which have structures but are listed as vacant. (Sackaroff, A.)

Project Team Member:

If these parcels are not zoned as multi-family parcels, what is the required process of going through the planning commission for zoning changes? That is still a factor to consider. So, this is an initial screening, but procedurally the next step would be coordination and making the appeal for rezoning at the planning commission level. (Derrick, L.)

Project Team Member:

- Thank you for underscoring that point. This is just an exploration exercise to look at the map to see what parcels are currently available.
- Part of the reason why these parcels are showing up a little greener than areas to the South is because of distance to transit. There is also a park in close proximity, so that increased the suitability of this area. There are a good number of open parcels in this area. This might be an area if all three parcels were available, that could offer 1.8 acres for purchase. A lot of additional research and investigation into the parcels is required, but this provides a good snapshot. These parcels are in the Charleston Farms area. (Sackaroff, A.)

Project Team Member:

I want to point out that the reason we did not go further North of that neighborhood is because it is in a different county. We are trying to stay in the same county, with the same or similar school districts, voting districts, etc. (Clements, H.)

Project Team Member:

- Thank you. Based on feedback from the CAC and from residents, the project team is limiting evaluation of parcels to about a mile or a mile and a half from the current neighborhoods.
- There are a number of single-family residential lots open in Russelldale and Ferndale. Again, feasibility of acquisition has not been determined at this point.
- Moving south towards Montague Avenue, there are a number of parcels. Felix-Pinckney Park is in this area, close to schools, etc., so this would increase the suitability or attractiveness in that area. There are also some larger parcels noted.
- As mentioned earlier, we consider SVI which factors in sea-level rise and other constraints. Although these parcels are indicated as suitable, the project team will need to consider proximity to tidal waters.
- As we get closer to the creek, the number of feasible parcels becomes more limited. But, there is another large commercial parcel on Rivers Avenue.
- There is property that has been identified as green, but some parcels may be wetland areas, so we would need to investigate further.
- Towards the southern end of our study area, there are a number of both large tracks and single-family parcels as well.
- Finally, the area known to be a commercial area would not be designated as suitable for relocation housing.
- In the days ahead, if anyone wants to take a tour of the map, we can have a conversation by phone, and I can share my computer screen so that we can take a more detailed look at parcels. (Sackaroff, A.)

CAC Member:

- In reference to concerns about potential congestion associated with multi-family units and determining which neighborhoods like Ferndale are more concerned with single-family than multiple dwelling homes, will replacement housing be new construction?
- In previous meetings, we discussed storm draining, flooding, and hurricanes. Will new construction also consider earthquakes? Reconstruction of schools, for instance, must consider building codes for earthquakes. Will building codes for the new homes consider earthquakes as well as hurricanes and flooding? (Muhammad, E.)

Project Manager:

Any of the housing that we do as a part of this affordable housing initiative will be brand new housing. Everything will be constructed to the building codes and regulations that we have to meet today. It is not within the scope of SCDOT's authority to tell the local municipality what standards to build to. Related to floods, anything we build in a flood zone must meet requirements that probably weren't in place when a lot of the existing homes were built in that area. So the elevation in the first floor would be higher, in some cases five- or six- feet higher than ground elevation, particularly in some areas around Filbin Creek. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

Habitat for Humanity is listed. Will the Project Oversight Committee be dealing with Habitat for Humanity and the other agencies listed to ensure that they are complying with the building codes? (Muhammad, E.)

Project Manager:

- Technically, the project team is focusing on components of the CIEP before addressing the details of our affordable housing initiatives.
- The plan is to secure single-family lots within the four impacted communities. Approximately 12 parcels have been secured.
- SCDOT is continuing to look at lots within those communities and develop a procurement process for partnering with a nonprofit. Habitat for Humanity is just one example.
- Over the next month we are going to try to set up interviews with some of these entities to talk through what they would need from SCDOT in order to assist us. That may not include all of the lots. We are a little uncertain because we have not yet been able to go door-to-door to talk with community members. It is currently unclear how many people are in low income housing and how many are going to need additional support from organizations such as Habitat for Humanity.
- SCDOT can build market-rate homes, but not everyone, especially if they are currently tenants and want to move into home ownership, can take on a mortgage of the size. Building prices are incredibly high right now.
- Habitat for Humanity can build a home for about half of what a market-rate home can be built for because they use a lot of volunteer forces and receive a lot of donations. They have mechanisms that will keep their homes affordable so that a resident living on a lower income can achieve home ownership. That scenario might be more difficult if they are trying to purchase a market-rate home.
- It is currently unclear how many interested and eligible (for relocation) residents will qualify for low-income housing versus market-rate housing. We will be required to develop a procurement program not knowing exactly how many residents will participate and qualify as low income versus market-rate.

- We may have to make a decision at some point to say, "We're going to use these 12 lots for low income, and we're going to reserve these six lots for market-rate, in case we have someone who's market-rate."
- Moving forward, we may be able to include a clause in our agreement with the nonprofit, that if those market-rate lots are not utilized and we have a number of additional participants that are low income, then we'll convert those lots over so that they can be fully utilized.
- Many details will have to be worked out in the contracting method with various levels of oversight. Not all project goals will fall under SCDOT. Building vertical construction is not within SCDOT's wheelhouse, so we don't have the expertise to oversee those projects, but we will have an oversight mechanism in any contract we have to deliver our product. So, it may be that we partner with someone to do that oversight or hire someone to do that oversight, but we will address that when we write our contracts. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

Will the CAC be participating in interviews with nonprofits in reference to the construction? (Muhammad, E.)

Project Manager:

- It will probably be a multi-tiered process. The project team conducted interviews two or three years ago, and we are better knowledgeable now about what we need. We may meet with these entities to bring them up to speed on the project and tell them what we're looking for. After they have had an opportunity to process our feedback, they can determine how they can best contribute to these efforts and put some information together for the CAC. They could even develop presentations to make to the CAC.
- It may be a waste of the CAC's time if we sit you through every interview. When we conducted interviews previously, some entities indicated they were not interested. We can screen some of that out by doing some things beforehand. A lot of times they don't really know what you're looking for. We want to give them a chance to get that information and go back and be able to really put together some meaningful information on how they could be a partner in this process before we sit down with the CAC with that information. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

- Please understand that Ferndale and all these neighborhoods are very concerned. We're very concerned about how things are going to be handled. And, a lot of times things have been handled without the voices of the community. Community members are required to wait until the last moment before everything is finalized, and then the community has to accept whatever these entities have decided to do.
- To change things around, it might be good that the CAC has some participation as far as that is concerned, so we would also learn how to, just like you, just started receiving information and understanding and becoming more proficient in your understanding of how things run.
- Neighborhoods and community residents should be able to go through that same process as well and learn how to do it. I don't think it's going to waste too much of our time, and it's always good for information so that we are not wondering if they are doing things and so that things are not being done without our approval and understanding. Neighborhoods need to have a better understanding of what's going on and to be able to participate and have them understand that neighborhoods need to

have that kind of understanding and feeling of being rest assured that nothing is going to be done without their input. Thank you. (Muhammad, E.)

CAC Member:

Pertaining to Liberty Park and Highland Terrace, regarding the single-family housing lots versus who is going to be displaced, is this number greater than the 12 that I've heard or less than 12 that's going to be relocated? (Bannister, J.)

Project Manager:

Twelve lots just represents what we have right now. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

How many are going to be displaced in Liberty Park based on the bridge coming through? And, also, what's going to happen to Enoch Chapel? Are they're going to get another area for their sanctuary? (Bannister, J.)

Project Manager:

- It's up to Enoch Chapel to decide. We've met with them several times, so I know they're actively looking and thinking about preferred areas. They expressed a preliminary desire to be relocated someplace with more visibility, because a majority of their membership does not currently live in the community in which the churches is currently located. I think they were looking for areas along Rivers Avenue and areas that are a little more visible for their church, but that's up to them.
- I think churches can locate in R1 or R2. Churches have more leeway when it comes to zoning requirements as to where they can locate. I think they have unlimited choices.
- The affordable housing initiative that we are going after is a two-pronged initiative. We do know that of the approximate 90 units that are displaced (a mixture of single-family homes and apartment units), about 80% of those are renters, whether it's a single-family home or apartment unit. So, we need to make sure that we have plenty of rental units available because that's the area where you're really going to struggle to find a comparable affordable unit for a replacement unit in this area. But, we also want to make sure that we have single-family options, and remember, when we first started the CAC, we were trying to buy lots that could be used for multi-family, within the impacted, and single-family lots. And, we heard from the CAC, specifically those lots that could have been used for multi-family, were in the Ferndale area, that they didn't want to see any more apartments built in the Ferndale community.
- If you look at the way the zoning is moving within the city, all of those residential areas, the four neighborhoods that are represented here, plus Charleston Farms, plus Park Circle, all those neighborhoods are moving more to R1, which is single-family homes, not multi-family. So, we went with the strategy of let's go with the housing authority and do 100 rental unit facility with green space, and that's likely, because of the zoning and because of the land requirements for that many units, is going to end up being somewhere around the Rivers Avenue corridor and not necessarily in the residential, single-family home type communities. It'll probably be more of a border to those communities.
- That was one initiative. The other initiative is to continue to secure single-family lots within the four impacted communities, and all the lots we have now are in Ferndale, but we are actively weekly monitoring, something that Hannah helps me with, weekly monitoring those lots that come up for sale to pursue additional lots. Now, we will start probably contacting owners of lots and trying to buy those lots that aren't necessarily listed for sale, but that's slated to begin after we secure the community center lots, which we're actively negotiating right now. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

Will the hotel on Aviation and Rivers Avenue still be designed for seniors? (Bannister, J.)

Project Manager:

- The last thing we heard from the developer was that would be a senior development, and we're in contact with that developer as well. When we advertise our initiative that we're doing with the housing authority, we will reach out to all those developers that have reached out to us previously to let them know that that's going to be coming online, because there's several properties right within the vicinity of this area, that developers own the land, there's actively developing either townhome units or apartment complex units for various different low income or senior housing.
- We will continue to stay in contact with them, whether they do receive the grant and the special funding that we're doing through housing authority or not. We will probably continue to talk with those developers just so we have the ability to reserve units within any new developments coming i
- That is another SCDOT tool. If there's a senior development, let's say it's not a part of this housing authority initiative, but there's a senior development that goes under construction there and starts advertising available units, DOT can go in and reserve 12 units and pay protective rents on it to provide that or preserve that as an option for the relocated displaced families. So, we have a lot of tools in our toolbox that we could use if there are active developments coming online at the time we need them. But so, it's going to not just be one initiative. It's going to be a handful of things that DOT is doing to try to make sure that with each family that we talked that's going to be displaced, I want to have a handful of options to give them that are a long-term affordable options for them to choose from, not just one. (Riley, J.)

Guest Participant:

I'd like to follow up on what Earl Muhammad made mentioned to us, by the way, who is at the drawing board this time, that we take into consideration everything that we feel homeowners would need to have. The many people who should be here cannot be here because they do not know what is needed. That we take into consideration everything that will be needed and see about applying it here for these people. (McClain, E.)

CAC Member:

Joy, I heard you say that the 12 lots that you have secured. All of them are in Ferndale? (Anderson, A.)

Project Manager:

- Yes, that's correct. We've secured a bunch of lots that are kind of clustered together, and that was early on, and it was primarily because we wanted that option for multi-family. But, after receiving comments from members we had representing Ferndale, they didn't want to see any more apartments in that area. You could see the zoning map. Most of that neighborhood is R1. There's really only a small area that's not, so we got that comment. We said, "Okay, we can use these 12 lots as single-family lots." And, the goal is not, I have said, where we'll see all the lots butted against each other, but to use some there and then to also have options for all four communities. It's like, I have one lot in Russelldale that I have I'm trying to pursue now that I may be able to get. And so, I would love to get... There's several that I've evaluated in Highland Terrace but just weren't suitable lots. We're actively going to try to find a handful of lots in every, all four, communities, so that there's options in all communities.
- We are working on those 12 lots in Ferndale now. They are all zoned for multi-family. The property owner that owns the area we need for the Pocket Park and Russelldale, is a developer, and they

weren't willing to sell us that big lot, but they said they might swap us for a portion of that area that we have in Ferndale. That is what we're talking to them about now - swapping, giving them an equivalent size lot in the Ferndale area so that we can get that piece to do the Pocket Park. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

Is that the piece that's part of Rebecca and Rockingham? (Anderson, A.)

Project Manager:

- Yes, because the other lot next to the road has a stipulation on it, that it can only be developed for residential use.
- It's going to be much more difficult for us to try to do a park there. We would have to condemn them, and I'm not sure that the City is going to support doing that. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

So, the one that is on the corner of Rebecca and Twitty one, is that residential? Can you put a single-family home on it? (Anderson, A.)

Project Manager:

Which one? (Riley, J.)

Project Team Member:

The parcel at the end of Rebecca and Twitty. The one that has the stipulation on it. She's saying use that as single-family, if you can acquire it. (Derrick, L.)

Project Manager:

I just don't know if somebody wants to live that close to the railroad tracks. You guys can tell me. One of our goals when I evaluate a single-family lot is to try not to pick a lot that could potentially be impacted by an infrastructure project in the future, whether that's railroad, airport, or highway. We are trying to steer away from lots that are right up against the railroad, right up against the highway. Potential routes. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

I know for a fact that there are one, two, three, four lots vacant on Twitty, that have been abandoned for years. (Anderson, A.)

Project Manager:

- We haven't gotten to that point yet because I have to purchase the community center lots first. As soon as we get the Community Center lots, I'm going to start reaching out to those owners and ask them if they'd be willing to sell.
- We are going to do that, hopefully in the next couple of months, but we're trying to get the Community Center lots secured first. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

Does that mean that we have secured the parcel on the corner of Rebecca and Rockingham for the pocket park? (Anderson, A.)

Project Manager:

That is what we're negotiating right now. (Riley, J.)

Facilitator:

Will you please repeat Ms. Anderson's last comment? (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member:

- The last comment was just confirming whether or not the parcel at the corner of Rebecca and Rockingham had been secured, and Ms. Riley said that they are negotiating that now, in conversation with the property owner now.

In this scenario, stating again, if it wasn't clear, is just that that owner is interested in swapping parcels, their parcel in Russelldale with parcels or a parcel in Ferndale. So, that's where the conversation lies now. (Derrick. L.)

Community History Preservation

Project Team Member:

- This is more for the education of our special guests, as the CAC members are aware of this, but one of the things that we're doing as part of mitigation for the project is implementing a community history preservation program.
- The goal is to document the history and the character of the four impacted communities (Liberty Park, Highland Terrace, Ferndale, and Russelldale) as there has been a series of loss in history because of a series of infrastructure projects.
- We will collect oral histories, do research, and collect historical photos, as well as documenting existing buildings and facilities and organizations, etc.
- The final delivery will be a report as well as recommendations for visual images and cultural displays related to the community, and the residents that can be incorporated into the community centers.
- That is scheduled to kick off today. One of the things we are looking for is stories from CAC members, IMA members, and other residents that have roots or connections in these four communities, to share your stories or recommend residents and other people to our team historian. Our team historian is Professor Damon Fordham. His role is to help us develop a comprehensive history.
- It starts with our residents, our advisory council, the community leadership, and our church leadership, to help us tell those stories. Professor Fordham, a professor of history and a Charleston tour guide, wrote quite a few stories and books about African-American history in South Carolina. Mr. Marquel Coaxum will be our photographer and videographer. He has a BA in Communication Studies and is a public affairs officer with the Air Force Reserves.
- Professor Fordham will be available today. Some of our CAC members have met him, but the goal is to kick off today and to start receiving names of residents who are interested in participating.
- We encourage everyone to come out today and meet with the team to help us frame what this study should and can be. (White, R.)

Project Team Member:

- Ryan mentioned current residents, but former residents are welcome as well. This packet does not have a phone number listed, but we can capture information at the community office. Please call and speak with Mr. Tobin or our community liaisons or encourage others that might know of others who are willing to share their contact information. Call the office so that we can schedule times for them to meet with or be in contact with Marquel and Professor Fordham. (Derrick, L.)

Project Team Member:

- [From the Chat History] Re local oral history programs: I wanted to share with everyone the Center for Heirs' Property Preservation's recent endeavor in this area: Elders' Stories - YouTube. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HL3W-YP08s>) (Sackaroff, A.)

Funding Opportunity: On-the-job Training/Supportive Services

Project Team Member:

- The Federal Highway Administration, South Carolina office, received an opportunity to provide professional and personal development training courses to residents in the potentially impacted communities.
- There's a list of potential ideas listed, we are proposing engaging with the CAC and the community starting today at the Open House to identify persons that might be interested in participating, but also getting an understanding of what types of training opportunities they may be interested in.
- Part of the limitation is that the opportunities will be focused on the transportation industry; however, while that sounds very specific, it's not as limiting as you might think. There are careers in transportation that are not just driving a vehicle, shoveling asphalt on the road, or anything that seems blue collar and labor intensive. If it is that there are accounting positions or other administrative type courses that someone could benefit from, those may be included in the list of eligible courses that they may be able to take.
- If you know of interested persons, please encourage them to reach out to the community office and identify themselves. They may be interested in participating in pending training/courses or they may already be involved in a program of study that might be eligible for assistance. They must be residents, but they don't have to be homeowners. They can be tenants that live in the impacted neighborhoods (Ferndale, Russelldale, Highland Terrace, and Liberty Park). We are still in the planning phase, but we won't be planning for long because the money has to be spent before the end of this current federal fiscal year, September 30th.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please call the office. Many of you have my number. You can text me as well, but through the efforts of Mr. Tobin here at the office and Maximum Consulting, we will be, and SCDOT, managing this opportunity.
- We want to make sure it's a benefit earlier than the opportunity that's listed in the community mitigation plan. This funding opportunity is separate from the mitigation plan. This must be completed in short order. We are appreciative of the Federal Highway Administration looking at this project and because of the impacts, looking at these communities benefiting from them in advance of the implementation of the community mitigation plan. (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member:

In reference to this community impact, will this funding opportunity be available only to the four impacted communities that you just mentioned or will it entail other communities that are along the I-526 Corridor? (Muhammad, E.)

Project Team Member:

It will just be for the four impacted communities. (Derrick, L.)

Facilitator:

For clarification, this training is targeted to be completed by September 2021. Does that mean that funds should be used and training completed by September 2021? (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member :

- Correct.
- I don't want to be too specific to a season, but I think we're looking at as quickly as possible, once a plan, and we'll be presenting a plan to DOT this week, just to make sure we have a process that is vetted, present that back to the CAC as well, and, then, we would encourage the CAC to assist us in getting the word out.
- We will develop some tools that you can share with neighbors and other residents throughout your communities, as well as with the churches through the IMA and the churches specifically situated in the neighborhoods, so that we can leverage as much of our relationships with everyone that's a stakeholder in these communities as possible. (Derrick, L.)

Funding Opportunity: Notice for Funding - Environmental Justice Grants

Project Team Member:

- The project team has been having discussions about organizing and developing some type of community organization. One of the challenges with this is how can this organization be funded. One of the things we wanted to share with the advisory council is a notice for funding opportunity announcing a federal grant opportunity.
- Two types of environmental justice grants from the Environmental Protection Agency literally were recently issued: EJ Collaborative Problem Solving and Corporative Agreement Program and the Environmental Justice Small Grant Programs. They are both targeted to help community organizations address local environmental and or public health issues in their communities.
- The EJ Collaborative Grant is designed for organizations that are pre-established and familiar with operating and dealing with federal grants. The other program is specifically for new organizations. EJ Small Grant Programs are geared towards organizations with smaller staffs and smaller budgets. They may not be used to dealing with federal grants yet, but this is opportunity to empower your organization.
- The key for these grants and particularly the EJ Small Grant Program is to create partnerships within your community to educate the community and develop an understanding of local environmental and public health issues, and identify ways to address these issues.
- We thought this grant opportunity would be enlightening and helpful for you because of this new federal emphasis, or just the emphasis for this particular administration on addressing environmental justice issues.
- There are two grants per region. We are in Southeast Region 4. So we do would have to compete if this is something that as you look to organize would ultimately have to do is compete with other states in the South East, but ideally two grants per region. And this is an annual program as well. So there'll be other opportunities as you all continue to investigate, organizing, developing a timeline for when you all want to do that. Also, how do you want to create partnerships with other organizations that have history managing federal grants and had been established for a while.
- There are focal areas specific to a host of issues: environment justice, low income and minority communities, addressing COVID-19 concerns, climate change impacts and natural disasters, sea-level rise, flooding, resiliency, storm water, etc.

- One of the key areas is assisting communities that work near ports. That's a huge area of emphasis due to air quality issues. That is something to consider and the focus for this grant program is for small nonprofits. As you look to organize, just understand that there are funding opportunities available that fit the specific needs of some of the challenges that you all are dealing with that can help you address some of your community goals.
- We're going to provide some additional information. There's a number of online webinars that are coming up over the next couple of weeks that we can share, just so you all can get more information. That's something you're interested in actually listen, hear from the EPA staff and be able to do some question and answer if this is something you all are interested in.
- But in regards to this particular series of grants, all grant applications have to be submitted for this series by May 7th of this year. And then projects would have to begin by October 1st of this year. There is money available as you look to organize, again, specific to some of the very challenges that you all are dealing with. (White, R.)

Facilitator:

Regarding the small non-profits, is there a stipulation about whether nonprofits who are registered with the state can apply or is there a requirement for 501(c)3 status? (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member:

From what I saw, it was 501(c)3 status, but I'll verify. There's still some additional reading that I need to do to make sure we can provide the right level of information to the advisory council. But again, I'll make sure everyone on the call, we provide the links to the website for the grant application, as well as the dates and times for the webinars. And they are scattered through different times of the day to make sure they're flexible for people who are working a variety of working hours, but a lot of good information. (White, R.)

Project Team Member:

I don't have the EPA grant info in front of me, but I feel like the webinars are coming up pretty quick. Could it be as early as mid next week? (Sackaroff, A.)

Project Team Member:

Yes. March 10th, March 23rd and April 7th. I can drop these dates into the discussion, or I can just follow up with LaTonya and she can send them out in a blast. But March 10th, March 23rd and April 7th. So we'll make sure we get those dates out again, a good opportunity. This is an annual grant. And again, there is a focus on addressing environmental justice community. Some of the issues they're dealing with when it comes to public health, air quality and proximity to port some related to some of the issues that come from ports - traffic, and noise, air quality, and so forth. So great opportunity. And again, we'll provide information with it. (White, R.)

Facilitator:

So with March 10th, right around the corner, does that mean that if the CAC members are interested, that they would need to register (with the state as an organized entity) before hand? Or are you just making them aware of this opportunity so that they can participate in the workshops that are coming up so that they can look into this maybe the next round (next year)? (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member:

- Anybody can participate in the webinars, so they're open to everybody. In regards to a timeframe for the CAC, this is just information and then you all make a determination on how you want to move forward with it.
- I will note that with the larger grant, that's targeted for organizations that are used to dealing with federal grants that are established. And so there may be opportunities in which even if you all aren't able to get established as a 501(c)3 yet, there's an opportunity for a partnership with somebody who currently is. There are some options. You can only win one grant. You can apply for both, but you can only be awarded one. There are quite a few organizations here that you can partner with to benefit from grant programs. (White, R.)

Facilitator:

I want to make sure that the CAC is setting reasonable goals. Based on your feedback, they would not be pursuing either of these grants on their own this year because of the timeline. But, certainly, it sounds like you're encouraging them to try to participate in one or all of the upcoming workshops and that they should still be looking to partner over the next cycle with an established small nonprofit organization. (Ellis, J.)

Project Team Member:

- I'd say investigate whatever opportunities they feel work for them. I'm not putting them on a timeframe, but if you feel like you want to organize, or if this is the motivation to do so, to take advantage.
- One of the things, because we look toward the future consider or partnering with other organizations that have similar goals and see how you all can piggyback on some of the things they're doing, if they're also looking to pursue grant applications like this, again, with a key focus on ports, communities, environmental justice communities that are adjacent to ports and dealing with air quality, flooding and so forth.
- There is a push by this administration to try to, to at least help communities address those issues. There were a couple of, several pilot programs, one in Savannah, also New Orleans as well. So in the Southeast that we can provide information to help see what some of the outcomes were, those pilot projects, just to help the advisory council figure out what they want to do in emphasis as a program that they feel like they can benefit from. (White, R.)

Community Office and Outreach Update

Project Team Member:

- Community Office stats, January 1-February 12, 2021:
 - as the end date. So from the first of the year to the middle of February, you have that there were 19 visitors to the office
 - 41 incoming calls
 - 74 outgoing calls
 - 21 voicemail messages
- Many of the outgoing calls were associated with reminders to the community, to participate in the public comment period and submit the surveys that were due by January 15th.
- There have been other opportunities available through some of the social service organizations that we have listed in your community resource guide, which is being updated and will be shared with you

in the near future. So there were calls made to CAC members, as well as those that we knew were residents of the impacted communities who might be interested in some of the services available.

- Because of this, there was a bigger spike in the numbers of incoming and outgoing calls, as well as voicemails. For the upcoming open house, we used our resources of known phone numbers, those numbers that were provided to us over the life of the project, where those people might be residents of the communities to remind them about the open house.
- You'll see those numbers in the next meeting summary, I wanted to let you know that that effort did occur. We went through all of our phone numbers and tried to reach as many of those that we knew were property owners or residents of the neighborhoods, so that they could be aware if they did not receive a postcard reminder or the appeal letter from the city of North Charleston to participate. (Derrick, L.)

Scholarship Opportunity

Community Liaison:

- Procedurally, we have identified certain vendors to provide training. We're still working and the document is contingent on the interest that we receive today and in the future.
- With that report will be cost, vendor, length of course, and all the particulars related to that.
- Dr. Smith asked me to remind everyone on the call that we're encouraging the residents to call the community office. We are there Monday through Friday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The number, for those who are not familiar, is (843) 258-1135. And that's all that I have to report today. (Lecque, M.)

Project Team Member:

The scholarship opportunity included in your CAC packet explains that there is an opportunity for students in grades five through eight to submit an application for the competitive scholarship offered through 3M. Please make sure you share that information with those that you know. This isn't limited to the impacted neighborhoods, but please share it with as many people as possible, so that those who might not be aware are made aware. (Derrick, L.)

Project Schedule and Milestone Review

Project Team Member:

- We are progressing toward completing the Final Environmental Impact Statement and the Record of Decision. The final EIS includes the final version of the Environmental Justice Community Mitigation Plan. Part of the workshop today, the outcomes, the recommendations from the residents and the CAC and visitors, and the final determination of the recommendations that we're presenting here, as well as other items - housing, community centers, scholarship programs - all those things are going into the final EIS.
- We are on the last push to finalize the mitigation plan. Based on our schedule, December is when it gets approved. There is an approval process that happens, which takes about six months or so of review legal review.
- The goal is to submit the final version of the mitigation plan in mid April. We've still got a lot of work to do with the CAC regarding falling up with SCDOT on the response to the letter you all submitted. We appreciate all your hard work on and continuing to tweak and refine the mitigation plan to a point where we're ready to submit it for SCDOT and federal highway review.
- We are really pushing hard toward finalizing this mitigation plan. We really appreciate all your efforts over the last year. Your patience and your time. We understand there's been a huge commitment, but

we are working to try to address the impacts from the project to your communities. Our next advisory council meeting, we're really going to have to take a hard look at where we are and continue to tweak and push to close out this section, this portion of our efforts. (White, R.)

Project Team Member:

- Today is an open house. We need people at the open house. If you all could ride around and tell the residents that this is their opportunity to speak, and we can't have parking lot committee meetings. We can't have post-decision consultations and concerns, when there is a seat at the table now.
- There was a letter from the City of North Charleston, encouraging participation. There was a postcard from DOT encouraging participation.
- We will have a survey just like the survey that was sent out last year for the entire mitigation plan. But we don't have a lot of time to collect data. So a survey will go out again next week. But the context to that is visually provided today at Ferndale Community Center from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.
- What we don't get today, we encourage you to either have your neighbors call the office and provide feedback.
- If they don't get a survey next week in the mail, come get one. We really need to hear from them in short order, because as Ryan stated, we have to get these decisions before those bodies that provide final review and approval. Timing did not allow us to do this any earlier. We were trying to be respectful of both holidays and COVID, but now is the time to speak.
- If there are other ways that you think we can solicit participation, please let us know in a timely manner, because we are collecting this information until March 27, 2021. So that's not a very long time. But it certainly is ample time for us to at least touch everyone that can contribute because they are a resident or a stakeholder in some way, a property owner, churches represented in the area, etc.
- If you have a calling post or an opportunity to make some phone calls, to encourage people to come out today, it is not raining right now. And we know people don't come out in the rain. So please call them and tell them this is their opportunity. And if they don't, a survey will be hitting mailboxes next week. But after that, we have very little time to frame decisions on the community's behalf. And it's not that we're framing it so much as we're just communicating it as their desires. So we can articulate that only with information from the community. (Derrick, L.)

Project Manager:

I was going to say, we can bring the boards here...[inaudible]. (Riley, J.)

Project Team Member:

Joy was saying that the boards will be here at the office as well. They're on the project's website. There's an electronic version of the same paper version that we will be sending out. So it's not that you have to come to the office. We can create virtual opportunities to provide the information, but if people are because of the proximity to the neighborhoods, if you're comfortable coming to the office, all of the same visuals will be here. But again, we will make it as flexible as possible so that we can get as much feedback as we can. That's why we have the office. We have the liaisons, but we certainly will accommodate as many people as are interested. (Derrick, L.)

Summary and Next Steps

Facilitator:

- I had two points that I didn't want to miss in terms of summarizing today's meeting. And it really goes back to exactly what you, Ryan, and Joy just said. I had a note to go back to Joy's earlier comment,

regarding the importance of going out today for the open house and making comments. My second point for today was that several requests and concerns were expressed that CAC members and community members are allowed to be involved in the decision-making process, and that's including residents at large, so that communities have some level of confidence in community design that have long-term implications for the impacted communities.

- I just wanted to make sure to capture both of those items in the summary of today's meeting, both the concerns that the community members, CAC members have expressed about short and long-term decision-making involvement or engagement, but also just the point that you are making that, right now at this point in the process, it's important that CAC members engage and get others, not just CAC members engaged in that process. (Ellis, J.)

Guest Participant:

- I would like to echo what Mr. Muhammad and Mr. Bannister. It is exceedingly necessary for people involved in these four communities to come together, or to have people in the community, people who are concerned above them to come together and let's speak now. Time is winding up. And when we get things together, it'd be too late to change anything. So I think now is the time when we've got to get together. We've got to speak for these four communities, the things that will be there for a very long time. And I'm just hopeful that we can do this. (McClain, E.)

Project Team Member:

- The next advisory council meeting will not be held on April 3rd. That is Easter weekend. I think previously we talked about this and we said it would be April 17th, but we will follow up with you because what we want to do is not waste your time with a meeting just for the sake of meeting, but we need to get in all of the data from this weekend's event and the weeks to follow and make sure we have a report back to you so that you are clear on what your communities have said to us over the next.
- I put in the chat, Joy wanted me to make sure you all were aware that the discussions that are held on about affordable housing will be brought back to the CAC. The plan of how we're going to do it. So that will be brought back to the advisory council as well.
- I pray that you all have a wonderful day. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Ferndale Community Center. Please, if you know of people that have not participated in the past, but have had some conversation about this project and can certainly be able to provide good information about lighting, sidewalk means, storm water drainage, all the other amenities that Mr. Wray presented earlier, please encourage them to come today. Be safe and stay healthy. (Derrick. L.)

CAC Meeting #17 is scheduled for April 17, 2021 at 10:00 AM.



Community Advisory Council Meeting #16

March 6, 2021

Table of Contents

- Welcome and Administrative Items
- Neighborhood Update
- CIEP Recommendations and Open House Overview
- Replacement Affordable Housing Update
- Community History Preservation Program
- Funding Opportunity: On-the-Job Training / Supportive Services
- Funding Opportunity: Advocacy Organization
- Community Office / Outreach Update
- Project Schedule and Milestone Review
- Summary and Next Steps

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

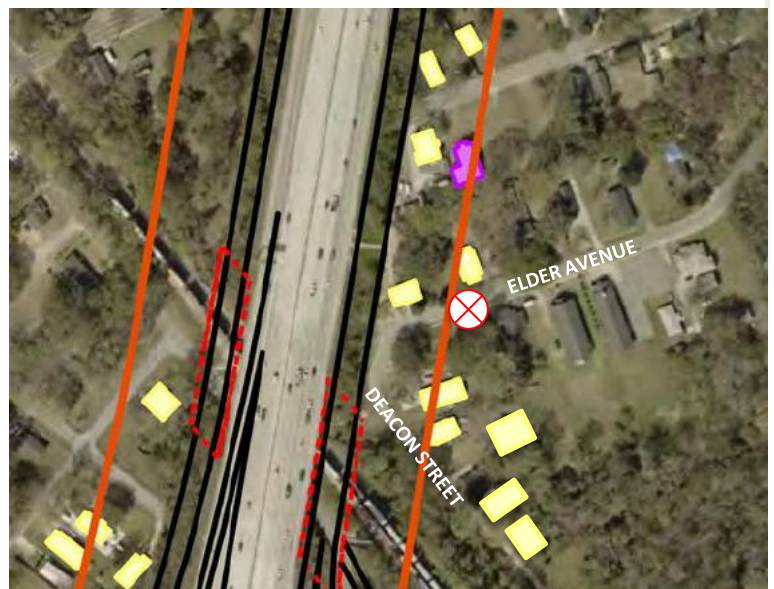
- Ferndale
- Highland Terrace / Joppa Way
- Liberty Park
- Russelldale









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.

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.



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

Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan Open House

Purpose

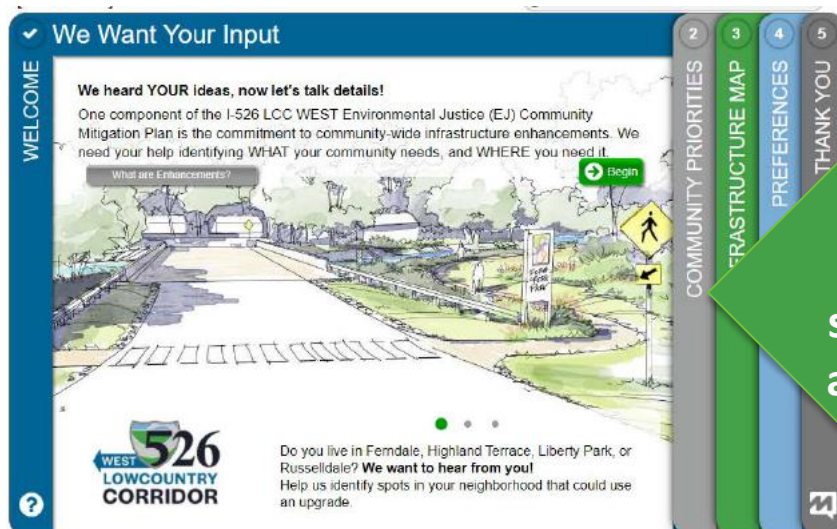
- Identify community infrastructure needs (not otherwise addressed) related to the new & reconstructed community & recreation centers.
- Address concerns identified in the Social Needs Assessment & by the CAC such as bicycle/pedestrian safety, landscaping, lighting, speeding concerns, and stormwater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



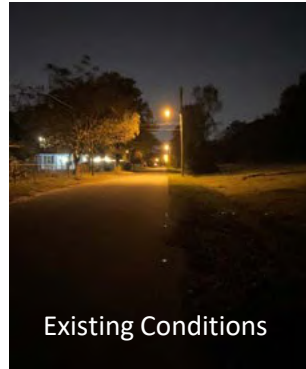
Responses will be captured through an online and paper survey format. Surveys will be accepted until March 27, 2021

Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan (CIEP)

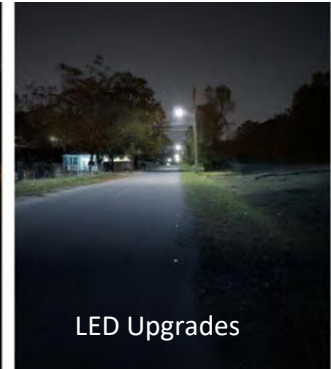
CIEP / Potential Lighting Improvements

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)

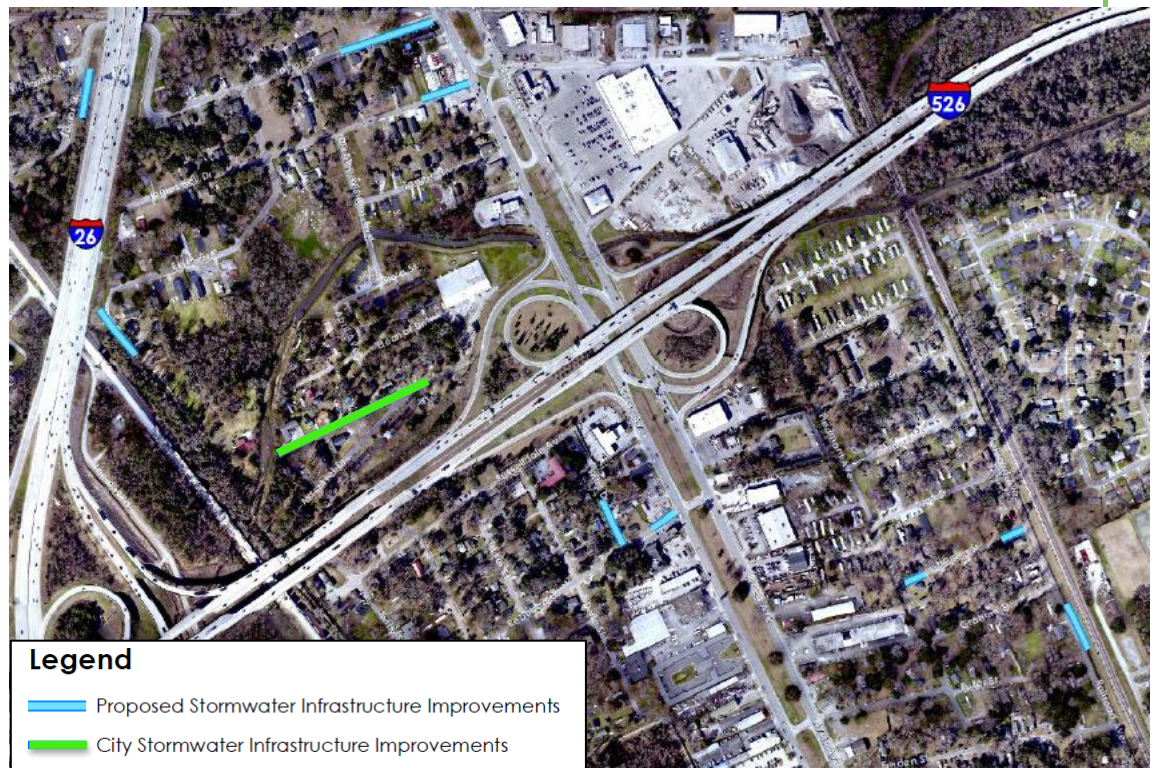
Railroad Avenue in Ferndale between Graham Street and Harper Street



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

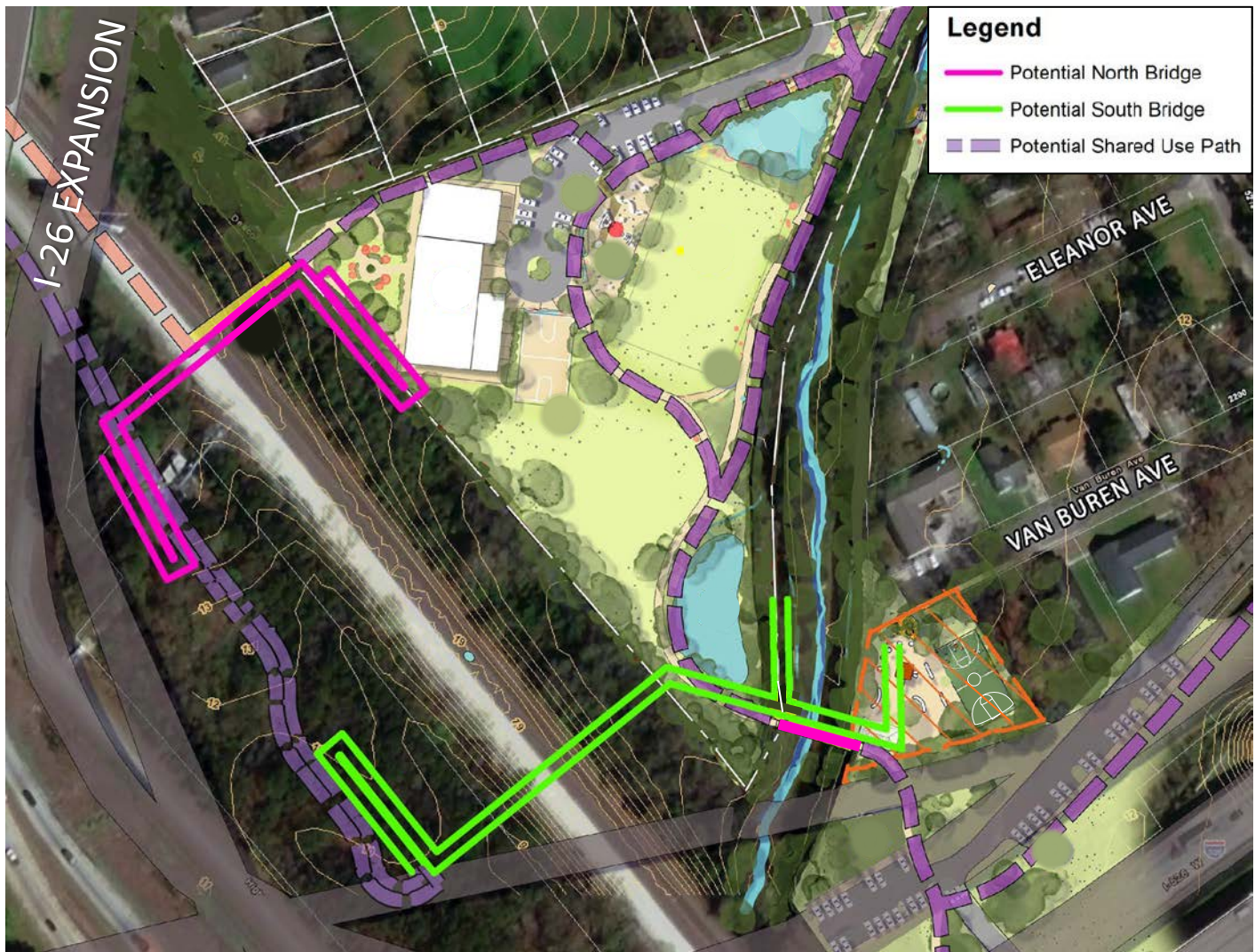
Goal: Increase pedestrian safety and connectivity

- ✓ 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.

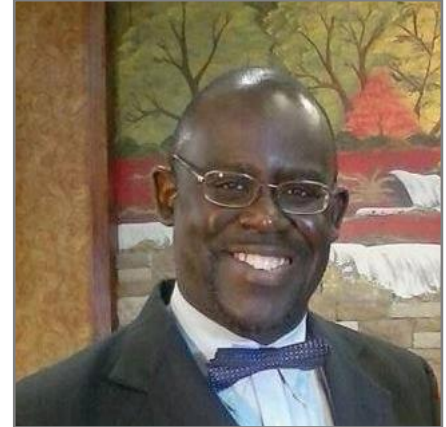
Damon L. Fordham - Historian

➤ 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?

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?

Outreach Update

COMMUNITY OFFICE STATS

(January 2 – February 12, 2021)

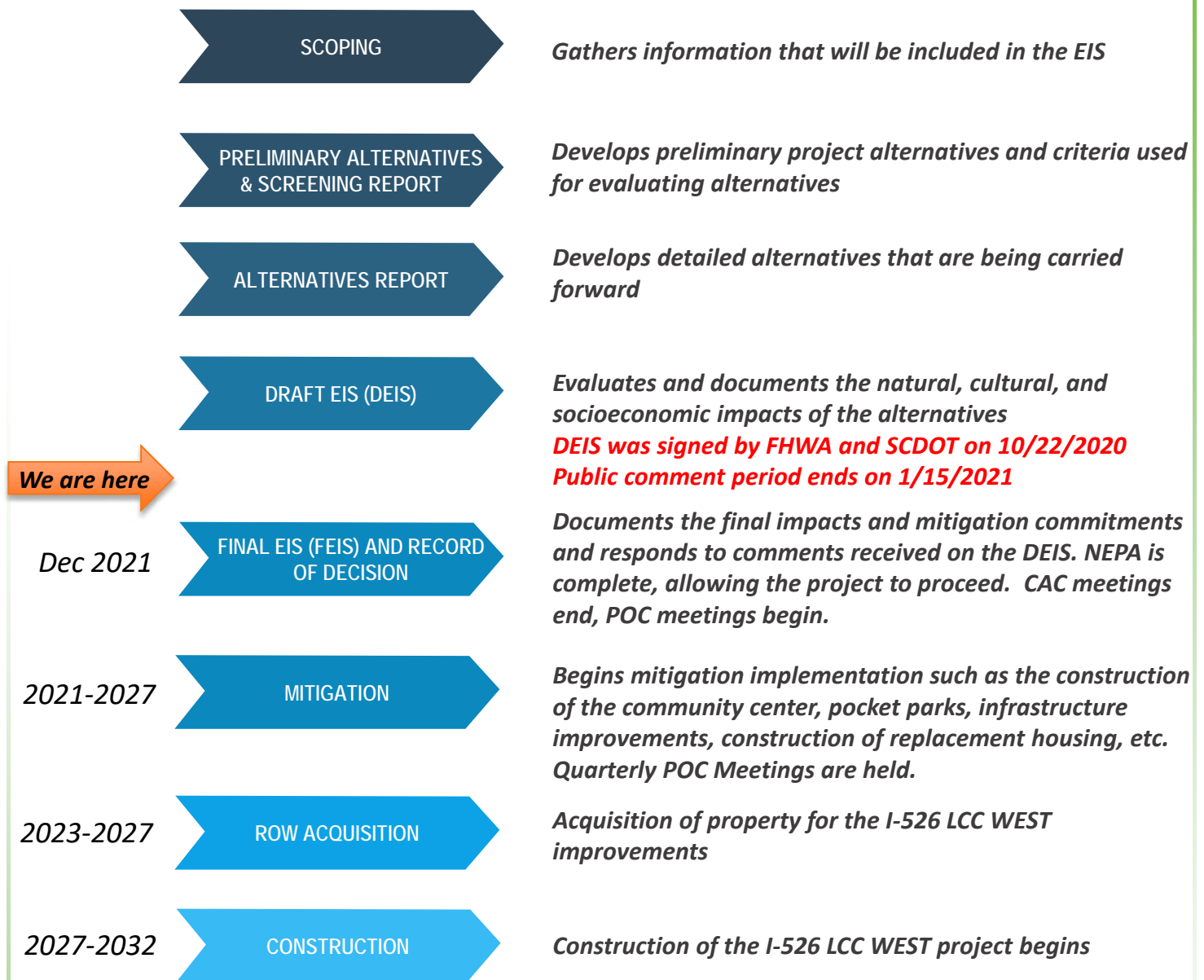
- Visitors: 19
- Incoming Calls: 41
- Outgoing Calls: 74
- Voicemails: 21

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 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

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 17

Date: April 17, 2021

Time: 10:00 am – 12:37 pm

Location: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor Community Office, 5627 Rivers Avenue, N. Charleston, SC; Microsoft Teams (Virtual)

Project Name: I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST

Attendees:

Larenda Baxley, Ferndale
Tina A. Baxley, Ferndale
Earl Muhammad, Ferndale
Tony Grasso, Russelldale
Jeanaris Bannister, Liberty Park
Doris Twiggs, Liberty Park
Joy Riley, SCDOT
Chad Long, SCDOT
Angela Page-Smith, SCDOT
Pamela Foster, FHWA
Yolonda Jordan, FHWA
Maxine Smith, Maximum Consulting

Mattese Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Carolyn Lecque, Maximum Consulting
Gwendolyn Boyd, Maximum Consulting
Clay Middleton, Maximum Consulting
Jamelle Ellis, Empowerment Strategies
Rick Day, Stantec
LaTonya Derrick, Stantec
Amy Sackaroff, Stantec
Michael Wray, Stantec
Hannah Clements, Stantec
Horace Tobin, Stantec (Community Office)

Participant Summary:

Total participants: 23

Ferndale: 3
Highland Terrace/ Joppa Way: 0
Liberty Park: 2
Russelldale: 1
Adjacent affected communities/ agencies: 0

SCDOT: 3
FHWA: 2
Community Liaisons: 5
Stantec: 6
Facilitator: 1

Meeting Summary:

Welcome and Introductions

- Roll call (in-person, online, and phone participants)

Administrative Items

- CAC Meeting 17 hosted using a hybrid approach with participants joining via the Microsoft Teams platform, by phone, and in person.
 - The meeting was recorded solely for accuracy of meeting minutes.
 - LaTonya served as the technical host for participants joining remotely.
 - Meeting etiquette for call-in, in-person, and on-line participants was reviewed.

- CAC Meeting 17 packets were distributed to meeting participants prior to the meeting date, including minutes for CAC Meeting 16.
- CAC Meeting 16 minutes were approved as presented.

Safety briefing: In case of emergency, meeting participants will exit through the front door and meet in the parking lot at the median to the right (upon exiting). In the event the front door is blocked or inaccessible, Mr. Tobin will lead meeting participants through the back door. (Ellis, J.)

Agenda Review

- Welcome and Administrative Items
- Neighborhood Update
- Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan (CIEP) Results and Recommendations
- SCDOT Response to Environmental Justice Community Mitigation Plan (EJCMP) Letter from the CAC/Updated EJCMP
- Community Office/Outreach Update
- Project Schedule and Milestone Review
- Summary and Next Steps

Neighborhood Update

Facilitator:

The project team continues to receive feedback from CAC members on project-related comments from community members, as well as any new insights or feedback from CAC members. Have CAC members spoken with neighbors or members of the community who have questions or comments for the project team? Please note any specific items that your neighbors would like to bring to the project team's attention from any of the four impacted communities. Are there comments from CAC members or any reflections from Maximum Consulting? (Ellis, J.)

CAC Member:

I have spoken with a former military comrade and community member who is trying to locate Mrs. Howard to help with the historical preservation project. She moved away from the area to live with her daughter, but efforts are still being made to contact her. (Bannister, J.)

Project Team Member:

For clarity, Mr. Bannister mentioned some time ago about one of the residents in Liberty Park that lives on Taylor Street named Ms. Howard. So we will share his comment with Professor Fordham who is heading up the community history preservation program because Ms. Howard has a lot of information, a lot of history from the community. If we can get some information from her for the CHPP, then that would be great, but we're still looking. (Derrick, L.)

No additional neighborhood updates provided.

CIEP Results and Recommendations

Project Team Member:

- The CIEP Open House was held on March 6, 2021 at the Ferndale Community Center. There were 77 people in attendance. The CIEP survey was posted online, distributed at the open house, and mailed to residents in the EJ neighborhoods. The public comment period was from March 6 - March 27. We received 85 surveys via paper submission, computer, and mobile device.
- 89% of survey respondents live in the EJ neighborhoods. We received responses across all of the EJ neighborhoods. The survey asked respondents to prioritize the categories in which improvements are recommended. Storm water drainage and traffic calming were the top two selections. Participants also expressed the need for sidewalks, lighting, and security cameras.
- 88% of respondents desire improved lighting in their neighborhoods. The most recommended locations that we received for lighting improvements were Rebecca Street, Elder Avenue, south of James Bell Drive, Taylor Street, and Piedmont Avenue. Some participants also indicated the need for lighting that would be associated with security devices, as well as tree trimming to improve existing lighting. The most popular pedestrian light fixture was the Shepherd's Crook option.
- A map of shared-use path lighting and existing street lights to be upgraded to LED by the City was reviewed. (Wray, M.)

Project Team Member:

Recommendations will be discussed in the next few slides. However, are there any questions or confusion about the maps? (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member:

Will the distance between street lights on Taylor Street be 300 feet? (Bannister, J.)

Project Team Member:

We don't have the details of the exact spacing. We will review the lighting locations recommended as a result of the survey, but further coordination between the Stantec lighting team and Dominion Energy is required. (Wray, M.)

Project Team Member:

We will try to get some details about the City's plans at the next Technical Review Committee (TRC) meeting, specifically for the light posts you noted near the vicinity of your home. We will share your comment on street light spacing on Taylor Street during that meeting. (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member:

The map indicates that additional streetlights are proposed on Elder Street, including at the park entrance. Is the additional lighting intentional because it is the park entrance? (Twiggs, D.)

Project Team Member:

These locations were recommended in our preliminary review for concept lighting. Based on the survey feedback, there were several comments that Elder Street was poorly lit and needed some improvements, so these recommendations came from our lighting experts. (Wray, M.)

CAC Member:

The only concern with the additional lighting in that area is that the homeowners who live in the house near that entrance will go from having no lights in the darkness to having magnified lighting. I want to call attention to that. (Twiggs, D.)

Project Team Member:

That is definitely something we can take back to our staff and see if they have any additional comments or re-evaluation for having two lights there. (Wray, M.)

Project Manager:

It definitely looks like there are some gaps in lighting on Taylor Street. I can understand the placement of the first light and why lighting starts in that location. There are vacant properties and some commercial properties close to Rivers Avenue and you're probably getting some light from Rivers Avenue. But it seems like there should be a few more lights between Taylor Street where the first and second lights are. It looks different from the rest of the neighborhood. (Riley, J.)

Project Team Member:

We will definitely make a note of that. (Wray, M.)

Project Manager:

That is a reasonable request for the City to add some more lights, unless there's a specific reason that the residents are aware of. Not every resident likes a lot of light. (Riley, J.)

Project Team Member:

- Based on previous feedback, pedestrian lighting will be provided on the shared-use pass in the vicinity of the streets shown on the map. Additional lighting will be considered in the vicinity of the Highland Terrace/Liberty Park Community Center and along the new pedestrian bridge over the railroad. Additional lighting recommendations based on the survey feedback include the addition of street lights along Rebecca Street, Elder Avenue, Taylor Street, and Piedmont Avenue.
- Regarding traffic calming improvements, the most popular locations suggested were Taylor Street, Elder Avenue, Piedmont Avenue, Railroad Avenue, and Rebecca Street. Some other comments included the desire for railroad signage at Taylor Street and some questions regarding the future appearance of the Rivers Avenue interchange area. Speed humps were the most preferred measure for traffic calming and multiple locations were noted as needing crosswalks.
- The current traffic calming map shows several additional locations for speed humps in Highland Terrace and Liberty Park, as well as crosswalks to be investigated at multiple intersections. (Wray, M.)

CAC Member:

Rebecca Street is a state road and not a City of North Charleston road. I've been screaming for 25 years for speed bumps on that road because they've killed every animal I own. They race down the street at 80, 90 miles an hour. Is there going to be some hindrance because it's a state road and not operated by North Charleston at getting those speed bumps? (Grasso, T.)

Project Manager:

SCDOT has agreed to do the traffic calming that the community wants as part of this mitigation plan, as long as it's in accordance with our guidelines. There is a revised traffic calming memo that our folks have

been reviewing. We are still coordinating, but I can't remember if this particular location was an issue in the latest comments. (Riley, J.)

Project Team Member:

SCDOT has directed the project team to do further investigation on the feasibility of the crosswalk locations that were suggested. They also wanted us to revisit the speed humps that are shown on Piedmont and Railroad Avenue. There may have been an issue with the speed limit and whether or not that would meet guidelines. Our staff is looking into that and will provide answers soon. (Wray, M.)

CAC Member:

Regarding the speed humps and Taylor Street, I need you all to take a strong look at Taylor Street. Taylor Street is our major thoroughfare in Highland Terrace. The speeding is ridiculous. The stop signs on the corner of Elder and Taylor Streets is no longer acknowledged. I live halfway down Taylor Street and they come in through my area. It makes no sense the way they drive on Taylor Street. There are no cameras to see how to curb the speeding and people not stopping at the stop sign. Drivers very rarely stop at the stop sign. They drive through like they are still on Rivers Avenue. (Bannister, J.)

Project Team Member:

We currently have a speed hump proposed there as shown off Rivers. We will be adding one in Highland Terrace on Taylor Street as well. (Wray, M.)

Community Liaison:

Does that mean that they won't add a speed hump until 2023? When are we looking at the speed hump to be added? (Lecque, C.)

Project Manager:

We are still working through the timing of when different enhancements take place. Once we get the final mitigation plan, we can provide more feedback later this year regarding when certain things will happen. We have to look for the speed humps, see when our next paving cycles are, and make some decisions on things like pedestrian bridges. Those types of projects have to be done with certain phases of the project because it's major bridge work. But with some of the other enhancements, we've got to really look at them as a total picture and decide how to package and deliver them. Once we have all the final decisions on this plan, we will be able to give you feedback. (Riley, J.)

Project Team Member:

- The previously shared traffic calming improvements are shown in the table here. The additional public recommendations include construction of speed humps on Taylor Street and Highland Terrace and on Elder Avenue, south of James Bell Drive. We will also be looking into relocating the proposed speed humps further south on Piedmont Avenue and Railroad Avenue and implementing the crosswalks at the locations identified by the survey participants. We will reevaluate speed humps on Piedmont and Railroad and should have a final determination on that fairly soon.
- The locations that were suggested for pedestrian improvements were fairly widespread throughout the EJ neighborhoods and also included several streets outside of the CIEP focus area. The most recommended areas included Piedmont Avenue, Railroad Avenue, Rebecca Street, Taylor Street, and in the vicinity of the proposed shared use path near Philbin Creek. There was a comment that we received indicating preference for control of access fencing near the Life Changers Church and off I-

526. We also received three comments that were concerned with pedestrian accommodations at the Taylor Street railroad crossing.

- In the March meeting, we shared two pedestrian bridge options for the crossing of the railroad. The northern option was selected based on several comments received in its favor, as well as its proximity to the existing footpaths across the railroad. This option would also include a smaller bridge across Filbin Creek.
- The pedestrian improvements map depicts the two pedestrian bridges in red, the proposed shared-use paths in blue, and the locations for new and improved sidewalks in pink and yellow, respectively.
- The prior recommended pedestrian improvements are shown in the table as well. Additional pedestrian recommendations based on public comments include the extension of the sidewalk on Piedmont Avenue north of Marson Street, and pedestrian improvements at the railroad crossing on Taylor Street.
- The main locations recommended for drainage improvements were Taylor Street, James Bell Drive, Elder Avenue, and Target Street. Other comments noted the frequent flooding of the Life Changers Church parking lot, the necessary maintenance that would be needed for the Filbin Creek drainage pipe, and the usage of stormwater fees that are currently paid by residents. SCDOT is currently investigating the flooding concerns at Life Changers Church. (Wray, M.)

Project Team Member:

- Mr. Bannister had concern about the “location for improvement” comment regarding Target Street.
- He stated there is nothing on the map that indicates there is a potential improvement. We mentioned that there are a number of improvements regarding this location, but there is nothing that shows potential improvements on the map. (Derrick, L.)

Project Team Member:

We will try to note improvement locations on the map based on the comments. (Wray, M.)

CAC Member:

There is a lot of water coming from that area. Coming off of Filbin Creek, Target runs to Filbin, which runs to Dorothy Williams Boulevard. There is a lot of water coming in that area coming from south off of Rivers Avenue, through Taylor, James Bell, onto Target. (Bannister, J.)

Project Team Member:

I'm sure that the residents that commented have specific locations in mind. We can definitely go back and revisit that if the Project Manager approves. (Wray, M.)

Project Manager:

Anywhere we have stormwater issues, we are willing to take a look at it, whether we do it from a maintenance standpoint or during the project. I can't recall specifics, but everywhere we're doing pedestrian accommodations or upgrades, we will automatically address drainage. It doesn't look like we're doing anything on Target Street specifically. I have to go back and look at our notes, whether we evaluated Target Street in our initial field review. (Riley, J.)

Project Team Member:

In looking at the pedestrian improvements and the drainage table, we didn't have comments marked there either. (Wray, M.)

Project Manager: We probably need a little more detail, and we can go out and take a look at it. If there's a lot of water flowing on Target Street, then there may be a need for an additional inlet. But when they do the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project through Rivers Avenue, they will address a lot of drainage issues that are more on the Rivers Avenue side. If there are issues closer to Dorothy Williams and Target, we can take a look at that and see. (Riley, J.)

Project Team Member: The most popular aesthetics improvements based on comments were resident-maintained mini-libraries and the community center mural. Forty-eight percent of the respondents prefer the neighborhood entrance landscaping option that incorporates Saw Palmetto trees, the Crepe Myrtle, Muhly grass, and red mulch. All improved entrances would be maintained by the residents. Additional comments that we received express the desire for seating at neighborhood entrances and lighting for neighborhood signage, improvements for additional entrance locations at James Bell Drive and Target Street at Rivers Avenue, as well as the neighborhood entrance at Joppa Way and beautification between the Life Changers Church and the I-526 westbound ramp. (Wray, M.)

Project Team Member: What exactly does "maintained by the residents" mean for the neighborhood entrances? (Derrick, L.)

Project Manager:

- From our coordination with the City, any of the landscaping-type items are difficult to properly maintain. We have several communities around here where I live where they have landscaped entrances, and resident volunteers are responsible for maintenance of those. The City would probably be willing to address things such as damaged signs or there was a major wipe out of all the landscaping, but as far as planting annuals or pulling weeds or putting down additional mulch, those are items that are going to be difficult for the City to maintain. They are concerned about setting a precedence because they have so many communities within North Charleston, and if they agree to maintain your entrance then they're going to have 100 other neighborhoods asking for that same type of maintenance.
- Most communities have a volunteer-type system where they keep it looking good. We will install it and just like any maintenance and landscaping in your yard, it's going to look great for the first several months. But once weeds start coming in, it's going to need somebody to spend a little time sprucing it up. It's certainly something we can go back to the City with, but they seem to have a pretty strong position because of the precedence it would set for them. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

How possible is it to install concrete instead of mulch and using flowers for beautification with less maintenance instead of mulch? This could eliminate grass and that would be easier to maintain versus going through mulch. There is going to be trash thrown in the area, because it's there now. And my sister-in-law and I are basically the only ones who currently clean the area, at the Taylor Street entrance. (Bannister, J.)

Project Team Member:

Concrete versus mulch. (Derrick, L.)

Project Manager:

I don't think you're going to get plants to grow. If you want concrete, then you could certainly mount a sign on a concrete median, but you're not going to be able to have trees and plants like they have proposed there in the picture. (Riley, J.)

SCDOT Environmental Services Director:

I agree with the maintenance concerns. The project team may want to take a harder look at what is being proposed and make sure that the final entrance design is very low maintenance. Whatever is durable and requires less maintenance over time, may be more desirable. Red mulch may not be the best option. If the team could take a harder look at those items and let's go with a proposal that requires the least amount of maintenance over time, that may be helpful. (Long, C.)

Project Team Member:

That is something we can look into. From the three initial concepts, this one was the most popular, but obviously we can reassess and see if there are more low maintenance options that may be available in the area. (Wray, M.)

Project Team Member:

Ms. Matisse Lecque also mentioned installing a rock bed because concrete could potentially create an impervious surface, contributing to additional flooding. (Derrick, L.)

Project Team Member:

- The personal and professional development responses indicated that residents' main interests are in courses covering computer skills and CPR and first aid. Additional suggestions for course topics included exercise classes and other activities for senior citizens, Spanish language instruction, and cooking.
- SCDOT is proposing to work with CARTA to provide bus shelters at all stops along Rivers Avenue between Taylor Street and Mall Drive. This map depicts the locations of the proposed improvements with red circles. I believe that those intersections include Taylor, Target, Rebecca, Emden, and Mall. Are there any further questions or comments on the bus shelters? (Wray, M.)

CAC Member:

For quite a few years, I've been fighting with the schools. They put their bus stop right in front of my house. If it rains, if it's too cold, if it's a little windy, all the kids are up under my porch, scratching their names into my tables, breaking windows. I've got pictures of all this. Totally destroying my property. Is there any way maybe they could put CARTA and some of the school bus stops together with some kind of shelter for these kids? Because it puts all the responsibility on me to call the police, run them off my property. I mean, it's been ongoing year after. And the old group of kids leave, and the new group comes in and I get the same problem the next year. I just about got in a fistfight with a couple of parents on my street. It's awful. Is there anything that you can do for the school buses at the same time? (Grasso, T.)

Project Manager:

Where is this particular stop? (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

Rebecca Street and Delta Street is where that particular stop has been. And it's every single year I got to fight with the kids, the parents, and the schools. They go up underneath my porches and just tear up my

place, just throw their pit wrappers down, they leave papers and books and break things up and try to pry open the doors. I've had \$2,000 worth of damage to this one house from the schoolkids tearing up my house. I got broken windows and sliding glass doors that they threw bricks through. They threw bricks through the kitchen windows. They busted open the front bedroom windows. And I've all but gone out there and threatened them with every inch of their lives to get off my property. (Grasso, T.)

Project Team Member:

Let's take some of Mr. Grasso's comments since we have a connection with the school district through the community engagement group and Mr. Dennis Muhammad. Because we are getting this feedback at this meeting, we can take those concerns and at least advise him of those and figure out what type of connection we can make in conversation between Charleston County School District and the concerns in the neighborhood. (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member:

The kids need a shelter to wait for a bus somewhere. (Grasso, T.)

Project Team Member:

Are there any further comments on the CIEP results and recommendations before we move on? (Wray, M.)

No additional comments provided.

SCDOT Response to EJCMP Letter from the CAC/Updated EJ Community Mitigation Plan

Project Team Member:

- The CAC provided a response letter to SCDOT based on the various categories in the Draft Environmental Justice Community Mitigation Plan. We took many of these requests and concerns back to the TRC, which is a meeting of representatives from the City of North Charleston, SCDOT, and FHWA.
- The CAC requested that the community center be equipped to serve as an emergency shelter. The CAC requested that the community center have the capacity to provide supplies as the existing sites do. Both Highland Terrace/Liberty Park and Russelldale are currently designated as sites for emergency supply distribution, ensuring that stormwater management is part of the center's design, having more than one point of access (ingress/egress), because of the potential for increased traffic during events, concerns about making sure children are protected from encounters with undesirable animals, specifically alligators from Filbin Creek, making sure that the space is multipurpose, equipped with all types of audiovisual equipment, Wi-Fi access, and partitioning so that it can be diverse in its offerings. (Derrick, L.)

Project Manager:

- In general, the City and DOT were willing to comply with all of the requests from the CAC and from the original mitigation plan. The City does not designate where emergency shelters are located. That would be the emergency response group, but they did participate in coordination. Because our typical emergency in this area would be a hurricane, which always has associated flooding, they would not typically designate a shelter within the flood zone. All of the areas around Filbin Creek are generally

flood prone. This particular community is not likely where they would locate a shelter. We can, however, fully equip the facility to be utilized in the preparations for emergencies, supplies, etc.

- The City noted that they currently have the community centers flagged for that purpose. The new community center will probably be better equipped to do that more efficiently in the future. Everything else - Wi-Fi, all the equipment, etc. - are just elements of design for the community center and will not present a problem.
- Regarding alligators, we will coordinate with DNR to get the latest recommendations, but typically we would not fence around Filbin Creek. We would do more with signs and educational displays because a fence is not generally effective. Also, because of the flood-prone nature of the area, a fence would probably be an eyesore after a period of time and would be difficult to maintain. (Riley, J.)

Project Team Member:

The second bullet requests that the community center include amenities such as solar power, backup generators, ADA-compliant features, and regular general refrigeration capabilities. CAC members want to ensure that in the event some of the supplies needed for emergency purposes needed refrigeration, that there was the capacity to serve and provide those types of items to the community. (Derrick, L.)

Project Manager:

This facility will be built to modern standards. The same types of things that you see at some of the newer North Charleston facilities will be included here. Backup generators is a standard item that are included in newer facilities. I don't know if solar power will be a part of that. I think it'll probably be either/or solar power or backup generator. The City seems to use backup generators at most of their other facilities. But we can certainly look into solar power. That will ultimately be the City's decision. I don't think we would want to force the City to put in one solar power location here where they don't have it anywhere else because then it becomes a maintenance concern. But I think gas-powered backup generators are pretty common at their other facilities. It's something they're familiar with. (Riley, J.)

Project Team Member:

Regarding residential displacement, we continue to hear that single-family housing is the preference versus multifamily dwellings and replacement housing being located near or within the existing neighborhoods. And DOT's response is that they are continuing to acquire parcels near and within the impacted communities. And one of the things we heard was that the advisory council wanted to be, to the extent appropriate, involved in the affordable housing discussion, understanding the process and engaged in understanding how that will be implemented as well. Are there any other questions or concerns about that? (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member:

Can we have an update on the entrance to the park leading off of Elder and Dorothy Williams Boulevard going into the park? I know I had a conversation with Joy about that and a major concern of the residents on Elder concerning that entrance, and I understand where you came from, Joy, in the conversation about that property that runs along the creek, as an entrance coming in there with, what is it, wetland or being able to make that a viable and key entrance coming in there. Have we stopped the discussion on looking at options there? Or are we just going to continue along the lines of using Elder? (Twiggs, D.)

Project Manager:

- I don't think we could accomplish vehicular access along Filbin. We would not be able to get that approved because we would have to go through one property that is owned by someone who is not

open to vehicular access through the back of his property. Since last we talked about moving forward and purchasing your properties and homes along the end there at Deacon Street and your neighbors', and we're already buying the Anderson properties, there could be the potential to have two vehicular accesses on Elder, one at the very end and then one there that's shown on the map, but also making sure that at Dorothy Williams, the access there that connects to the pedestrian trail and down at Margaret where the pedestrian bridge will be located, that there is some parking on the Margaret and Dorothy Williams signs at those access points.

- Someone could park there and come across the pedestrian bridge and be at the community center. Or vice versa, on Dorothy Williams. They would have to walk a little bit on the trail to go through the back of those other properties, but could access the center that way too, so that you have four different locations where a vehicle could actually come in, park, and go to the center. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

Are you thinking that the space on Dorothy Williams will afford enough parking space so that persons attending a high-profile event would be able to park there and come in? (Twiggs, D.)

Project Manager:

I think Margaret Drive's going to be a location where you can get more parking and it'll be a shorter walk to the facility. I think that's probably the location. I think up on Dorothy Williams, you could probably get a few spaces. I don't know how many, it seems at one time, how many spaces do you have up there? Maybe eight, something like that, six or eight? But down on Margaret now, we could do additional parking. It looks to me like it would be a shorter walk from the parking to the actual facility. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

Regarding feedback to interested community members, I can explain that Margaret and Dorothy Williams, will be the designated areas of parking, and people would then walk from there, and entering the park, they would then walk from those two spots into the park, as opposed to just driving in to a designated area in the park? (Twiggs, D.)

Project Manager:

Correct. And we could actually have two accesses on Elder as long as we relocate your properties and your neighbors there. We're going to have to have access and parking at the facility. There will be some people who do not have the ability to walk, but that would at least provide several access points where you're not getting everybody coming into the same area. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

I'm sorry, the areas on Deacon Street then can become and definitely a drive up to as close as possible entrance to the park. (Twiggs, D.)

Project Manager:

Yes. If we end up acquiring all your properties and your neighbors' there, which I think we've decided to go ahead and do, per our last conversation because of the damages that would result in the change of access. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

How many slots could be at the center itself? Versus handicapped. (Bannister, J.)

Project Manager:

- Just keep in mind, this is just a real early conceptual rendering. After we finalize these environmental documents and move forward and actually give some funding to the city to design it, basically what we're giving them is funding and then a list of things that they have to accommodate. And we can certainly change this rendering to reflect or visualize some of those things, but once they get into the design, it's probably not going to look exactly like this because of course you've got to design it and we got to ensure that we can do all the things that we've committed to do on the inside of the building. And then of course, people that know a whole lot more than me about vertical design are going to get in there and start to look at circulation patterns and parking and ADA and all that stuff.
- So the details will come in the future. And as a part of the Project Oversight Committee (POC), there will be communication points when we have draft plans or designs that we can bring back to ensure that the spirit of what the CAC envisioned for this is met through that process. (Riley, J.)

Project Team Member:

I was explaining to Mr. Banister also that as part of most county and city codes, based on capacity of a building, there's usually a designated number of parking spaces for a facility. So that will also be a factor in the number of spaces. (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member:

Would it be possible for the City to establish ongoing process in which CAC members can be engaged in the decision-making process as they work through and finalize the plans? They're looking at the designs because that surely isn't my area of expertise. But as they are looking at the design of this, they can come back to someone on the committee or on the council to have a conversation, even if it's a brief conversation. I just would not want anyone to just assume because they are designing this, that they have cart blanche. I'm afraid of that. And I would hope that they would come back so that the community will not be totally impacted by an event or two that is held at this park, and it becomes distasteful to the residents. We want to embrace this and say, "Hurrah, we're happy to have it," but let's stay on good footing with the residents of the area. (Twiggs, D.)

Project Manager:

We will certainly have those concurrence points in our agreement with the City because DOD has the same concerns as well. We don't want to just write a check and then see what we get. We would much rather be involved at certain concurrence points through the design process to ensure that what the City is proposing meets the spirit of the mitigation plan. Whoever's on the POC... I know you're still going back and forth, how to transition from CAC to POC, but on all these mitigation items, there's going to be coordination through the implementation phase of them with the POC. (Riley, J.)

Project Team Member:

- The College Aid Initiative. Questions that were asked specific to...
 - How was the amount determined? The CAC wanted to make sure that the program was organized and administered equitably and adequately to reflect the demographic of students in the communities.
 - Request to increase the scholarship fund to at least double it to \$100,000,
 - Ensuring that all grade levels have an opportunity to benefit. And the context of that was if there was a student in first grade now, by the time they got out of high school, they would endure every phase of the project's development.

- Students that were relocated because their homes were impacted by the infrastructure improvements, that they remained eligible for the scholarship.
- Ensuring there's some context given to neighboring EJ communities,
 - what did that mean in the draft EIS is version of the mitigation plans language,
 - will the CAC have an opportunity to provide input on the selection process,
- wondering whether this was scholarship money based on needs or academics and merit, will this be for tuition or books and supplies, how will the money be organized and managed and administered, and specifically that no local government entity is given the opportunity to oversee the scholarship fund. SCDOT will respond to those questions and concerns. (Derrick, L.)

SCDOT Environmental Services Director:

- I want to first underscore the importance of the letter we received from the CAC. You really did make a difference. I want to congratulate you on all your hard work. You're moving the needle with this letter, and you pushed SCDOT to address your concerns. So, that kind of relates to all the responses that you're hearing this morning. But regarding college aid, you made an excellent point about the impacts of the project and how long they would occur, and that \$50,000 would not be enough. So, we've increased that aid to a \$100,000. We believe that would provide more benefit during the life of the project. Kudos to the CAC for raising that issue. Relocated residents will still be eligible to participate.
- As far as criteria for scholarship eligibility, we are willing to work with the CAC on kind of defining those parameters for the eligibility of those scholarships. We want to work closely with you and lean on you for what those criteria would be. Regarding the distribution of funds, the SCDOT will need to handle the payment of those scholarship funds. That's what we've done in the past. That would be our plan moving forward. We were likely work with an educational institution to be named, regarding the administration of that program, but SCDOT will be cutting the check. Regarding extending the life of the program by capping the number of scholarships per year, were certainly willing to work with the CAC on that. And it kind of depends on those parameters that the CAC desires. So, that is definitely an opportunity there.
- If there's limited interest in the number of scholarships, we can potentially extend the life of the program by capping the number of scholarships for a year. And then neighboring EJ communities and surrounding areas, again, we're willing to work with the CAC on defining those parameters and which communities would be eligible. You could limit it to those four communities. (Long, C.)

Project Team Member:

- And based on some information Chad shared before and some history that we've benefited from Mr. Tobin's and SCDOT's experience, adding the term "and surrounding areas" was something that was done on other projects because there have been challenges in the past when money has been designated to certain areas to find interested and eligible applicants. So, at least by adding the terms and surrounding areas, it at least extended the benefit to neighboring areas. But in the context here, I think the sentiment of the CAC in preparing this letter was not to be too inclusive and too expansive in that and surrounding areas context. As Chad was saying, it has been deleted from the language, but it may be a consideration that the advisory group and, or the CAC, or however we process the eligibility parameters, that we make sure that's defined and we are as inclusive, but definitely not exclusive. Because again, you may not have enough students to apply.
- You just don't know what your situation will be. I want to talk with Mr. Banister and Ms. Twiggs later, because early in the presentation, we talked about some comments we got from people on Woodburn Avenue and Singing Pines, and particularly where we're sitting now on this side of Rivers Avenue in

north of the railroad tracks, how some of the neighborhoods are characterized. I think some people called this area here right behind the community center part of Liberty Park. So, they got some of the mail-outs, but we can talk about that later, because there were specific comments about improvements, the amenities that we talked about with the CIEP. So, it may be that they're included as well. So, you all can frame that once you start looking at how you develop the criteria for scholarship eligibility as well. (Derrick, L.)

Community Liaison:

We may want to review on an annual basis the criteria so if we see that we're not having enough apply we can expand that. So, it maybe that we start off the exclusive. So, we would need evaluate the criteria on an annual basis or semiannual basis or biannual basis. We can expand if we need to. (Lecque, C.)

Project Team Member:

Let me just restate what you said before you move forward. Ms. Lecque was saying it may be a good idea to revisit annually or at some defined frequency, revisit the eligibility requirements based on responsiveness. So, whatever frequency, if it's annually, biannually, every other year, just at some frequency in response to and in reaction to what you're seeing as applications and successful eligible applicants in her next point. (Derrick, L.)

Community Liaison:

I think we want to start off small and then expand. The other issue was we did bring up an endowment. I don't know if SCDOT has explored the possibility of creating a \$100,000 endowment that would continue to pay indefinitely for the people in those neighborhoods. So, would that be something to be considered? (Lecque, C.)

Project Team Member:

And I think there was a response based on some research by FHWA. Can SCDOT address this? (Derrick, L.)

SCDOT Environmental Services Director:

We reached out to FHWA about the potential for an endowment. There are just some restrictions with the use of federal dollars, regarding that endowment, and kind of extending the life of those funds, just because they're... We'd have to set up some type of monitoring program. And again, the DOD needs to maintain control over use of those funds, just so we can ensure that there's accountability moving forward. So, we explore that idea. I do recognize that there are benefits to it, but based off the feedback I received from FHWA, and even some concerns that our own internal office had regarding project funds and overseeing those project funds, an endowment doesn't look like it's going to be a possibility right now. (Long, C.)

Community Liaison:

Are you saying the money is going to be housed with an account at SCDOT and all of us sitting in this room now, except probably LaTonya and Tony, might not be around for the next 20 years or the life of the program? What happens for succession planning to ensure that the neighborhoods that are impacted still get to oversee or utilize the funds that are set aside? What kind of recordkeeping would be in place to know that this should happen, even when we're not here? (Lecque, M.)

Project Team Member:

The FEIS ROD is essentially a legally binding document that establishes all of that. So, your federal document which is signed by Secretary Hall. I'm certain that maybe Ms. Lawton will still be over federal highways at the time of signature. That creates your initial structure, and then money is allocated. And Chad and Joy can explain this, but I just want to be clear, that first off, once you get a signature on that document, which solidifies all of this and... These documents are either chapters or appendices in the federal document and state document. And that is your first step towards solidifying that you have that coffer of dollars however they're structured internally. Because they do that now with other projects. This wouldn't be the first one nor the only one where they do that or have done it. (Derrick, L.)

Project Manager:

- We have projects like Ravenel Bridge. There're projects that you have mitigation items that are still ongoing after the projects even complete with construction. Before we ever are able to close out those projects, we have to sort of check the box on all those commitments being fulfilled and made. And just so you know, it's not like when we make this commitment and this mitigation plan, we take \$100,000 and put it in an account and sit it over there. That's not the way it works, because we will use federal money. And federal money, you'll have some state money match in there. And so, what we do, we have to spend it and get reimbursed. It's a financial commitment that we track in our system.
- And we're constantly cash-flowing each year. I'll know at the beginning of the year and have to say, "Okay, I think we're going to spend \$5,000 for this particular college age." Whatever you all come up with, you all say it's going to be two scholarships each year. And each one's going to be \$4,000. And I'm going to cashflow \$8,000 for that. But it's not like there's an account where the money is gaining interest and we're... That's not how it works. We spend a lot of money every year on a lot of different projects, and we estimate what those cash flows are going to be at the beginning of the year. If you don't use it, it just rolls over. That commitment is there. We're committed to spending that money. Let's say, nobody applies for your scholarship. You still got the ability to utilize the \$100,000. We're going to pay it when it comes time to pay it. (Riley, J.)

CAC Member:

Revisiting the discussion about the endowment, we were discussing that when we were trying to lay out the criteria. When we were trying to lay out criteria to be suggested for this, the residents and whoever else would be interested in the various communities, establishing an endowment all selves, so that the money would be there for whatever reason. And just like what you were mentioning earlier, about the endowment, we want to put it there. It also lends our involvement, our input as stakeholders, hopefully. The communities will always be a stakeholder in these. By that, I mean they're bought into it. And it's not just what DOT would put in, but it would be an endowment set up on funds that we receive and funds that we could raise and throw in. We visited that idea, and it didn't appear that it was going to happen. And I'm hearing it again today that it will not happen from SCDOT to set up an endowment. The community was concerned with that. And we decided, So, let's look into how can we do it ourselves? And that's where we were with endowment. (Twiggs, D.)

Community Liaison:

Instead of an endowment, obviously, I think what the community can do as a group is set up a nonprofit 501(c)(3) that would allow you to raise monies to add to your scholarship program while they still manage the federal part of the money. So, that would be an answer to that one. (Lecque, M.)

CAC Member:

I said endowment because I think that's what we question here. Could we do it? (Twiggs, D.)

Project Team Member:

- The question in the letter was particularly if... I think as it stated before maybe... We were talking about the context of coastal community foundation. And so, you all asked if there were other organizations because of how they grow the money. Like she said, there's an opportunity, as the CAC transitions to another organization and advocacy group. As you organize, just like we talked about in an organizational training and transition group, becoming a nonprofit, making you eligible for monies that are designated for those types of educational non-profits would give you an opportunity to... Since through federal dollars, you can't put it with an entity that does that has that type of business model. Then maybe you can develop that relationship independently as an advocacy group.
- And just to make sure it's in chat, that Chad said that FHWA requires monitoring of all environmental commitments to ensure that they are fulfilled. That's part of, again, the FEIS ROD document. (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member:

Basically on the lines of what was asked earlier in reference to the continuation and the monitoring of the funds as time goes on, we pray that we all can live forever, but we're not going to. So, are we saying that how we set up this non-profit will ensure that this money is going to be handled the way it's supposed to be, and that the community will have the say as far as this funding is concerned? Is that where we're going? Is that what's being said, or are we going to just leave it out after a certain time that SCDOT is going to be handling everything, and then the community is going to be at the mercy of some other agency? Or will it allow the community to have continuous input as far as having a say as how fund is going to be handled? And I have another question after this as well. (Muhammad, E.)

SCDOT Environmental Services Director:

- As it relates specifically to the scholarship program, I think we're fully committed to working with the CAC on setting up those parameters and also monitoring that program over time, either through the POC, because that's the role that that committee will play, is the monitoring of all environmental commitments. Or if we need a subcommittee that's specific to the scholarship program, we can explore that topic. So, we are meeting kind of on an annual, bi-annual, or semi-annual basis to determine if the program would need to be adjusted at all. But the DOT will need to, I guess, control the use of those funds. I'm talking about the endowment that I didn't mention before. One of the concerns that was raised by FHWA and our own internal office is if we provided those bonds to a third party, a non-profit or some other type of organization, then the DOT loses control over those funds.
- And that non-profit, if something happens and if they cease to exist in the future, then we would be left without those funds potentially. And we're required through the FEIS ROD commitment as LaTonya was saying, to make sure that those funds are utilized in accordance with the plan and with the record of the decision. So, I think we are fully committed to working with the communities in developing some type of monitoring program to ensure that those funds are utilized in the best interest of the communities, and that we're able to adjust the program over time if we're not getting much interest in the scholarship program, if we have to expand it, if we have to increase the amount of the scholarship or decrease the amount of the scholarships, we're completely open to that. And we were completely open to working with the POC, or potentially a subcommittee on the scholarship program moving forward. (Long, C.)

CAC Member:

Will Berkeley County be involved with the POC? Are they connected with this project? (Muhammad, E.)

SCDOT Environmental Services Director:

No. Berkeley County is not involved in this project. (Long, C.)

CAC Member:

I am concerned about the agencies who will serve on the POC. Would they have more influence or the final say on how these funds are going to be distributed or will they work in coordination with the CAC or anticipated nonprofit? Who would have the final say on disbursement of funds? Will the POC or CAC have more influence on determining how funds are spent? (Muhammad, E.)

SCDOT Environmental Services Director:

SCDOT and FHWA will be the final decision makers on how those funds are utilized. But we would not allow other agencies with other interests who are on the oversight committee, whose interest may be outside of the scholarship program to dictate how those funds are utilized. We would be completely reliant on community input, whether that's the membership of the CAC or the POC. We haven't established who that's going to be at this point in time. But I think in general, it would be DOT, FHWA, and members of the community who would dictate how those funds are used. (Long, C.)

Project Manager:

I'll just clarify that the POC, the outside entities other than DOT and the community members that were listed to be a part of the POC, or other parties that we may be contracting with to administer certain components of the mitigation plan...For example, the City...we're contracting with them because they will own and operate the community centers. They are on the POC because of that component, not to have control or authority over any other components for which we have no inter-governmental agreement with them. The housing authority is there because we are partnering with them on some of the housing initiatives. The other parties are only there because we have governmental agreements with them for certain components of the plan. (Riley, J.)

Project Team Member:

- The school-to-work program is designed to provide an opportunity for students to learn more about the transportation industry. There were several questions. DOT's response is that the Summer Transportation Institute Program is going to focus on high school aged students to learn more about the transportation industry and opportunities for employment. It is very diverse. There is also a component with OJT and the Summer Transportation Institute program. Some of these things are part of what the contractor institutes or implements, but there is the allocation of money to make sure that students are being exposed to opportunities to learn more about the transportation industry and a designated coffer of dollars for that to be hosted.
- Is it over a period of time? Maybe it's over a five-year period. There will be a designated amount of time to ensure that students have access to the program.
- Organizational training. You wanted to know how to organize, how you're going to function, and if there was an opportunity for some seed money to help you form and grow into that group. We provided sample bylaws and some other information to start. We are also helping with developing a packet of information so that you'll understand how to form as a 501(C)(3) and the tax implications of that, and securing business licenses and all the other legal and technical documentation and filings associated with that. SCDOT has indicated that seed funding could not be provided, but additional

funding options could be explored. They are still willing to ensure that the community office space is available for the group to meet. (Derrick, L.)

SCDOT Environmental Services Director:

SCDOT is committed to providing organizational training. We are continuing to explore what those training opportunities might be moving forward. (Long, C.)

Project Team Member:

- In the interim, members of the CAC have been providing questions and requests for additional information, even as recent as the past few days. Between the EJ team and Maximum Consulting, we are responding to their requests because that will help populate the list of training opportunities that you requested as well. It's still in development and under construction.
- We provided the Advisory Council with the white paper of what the POC would look like. And what we heard from the CAC's letter is that there may need to be more time to evaluate neighborhood representation, to ensure that those persons that participate in the POC have relevant knowledge, not just the local at, "I am a resident," perspective, but understanding the spirit and tenor of what the mitigation plan was intended to provide to the community.
- If there are opportunities for other neighbors and residents to participate, if CAC members aren't interested in transitioning over to the advocacy group that will support the POC, then making sure those representatives have an opportunity to be identified and get up to speed. Also, the request was made for Dr. Ellis to provide some support since she understands the context of how the plan was developed and because of her relationship over time with interacting with the CAC.
- SCDOT's request was for more understanding of the first bullet. And I might've explained that better now than I did in the past, which is simply to make sure that the residents that become part of the oversight committee, if it is a different group from the advocacy, making sure they understand fully what their role will be on the POC and how to ensure and enforce every component of the mitigation plan. I think I'm relaying what you all shared. And DOT is agreeable to asking Dr. Ellis to facilitate those conversations and those meetings of the POC.
- Noise and air quality. The CAC asked that DOT and fed highways reconsider the decision to not install noise barriers along the perimeter of the impacted neighborhoods. Noise and air quality are important, particularly because the structures are encroaching more so into the neighborhoods and more so in the presence of residents who weren't as close to them before. So, it is important to prioritize noise and air quality concerns. (Derrick, L.)

SCDOT Environmental Services Director:

- I really appreciate the letter once again. It is making a difference, and we have reconsidered the need for noise barriers along I-26. We are continuing to explore barriers on I-526, but you'll notice a slight change in language here. We're calling them mitigation barriers and not noise barriers. That's simply due to how we have access to federal funds. In response to your letter, we've met with upper management, and we have agreed to build mitigation barriers on both sides of I-26. And those mitigation barriers are basically designed to maximize the benefits to the residents from a noise perspective. So those will be included as part of the project. On the I-526 Corridor, we are still in the process of exploring the best option for mitigating noise.
- It is a complex situation there due to the fact that we're going to have four elevated sections of roadway on structure. They're going to be relatively high. So you will not only be experiencing noise coming directly from the pavement and where tires are meeting the pavement, but there is also noise

stemming from the deck joints. And I'm sure you've all heard the cars running over those deck joints. We are looking into how we can mitigate the noise from the deck joints and the noise from the tire pavements, but it's just difficult really due to the height of those structures and the fact that those structures, they cross the railroad twice. Working with the railroad can be very difficult. Any barriers that we would put on structure there, we have to look at the long-term maintenance of those barriers and what happens if they potentially get hit by a truck or a vehicle.

- We are working closely with our district engineers and some of those existing barriers get hit six to ten times per year. From a safety perspective, we have to look at what would happen if we put a barrier on top of the structure, where could that barrier potentially fall? If you're crossing a railroad, the railroad would have major concerns over that. And if it would potentially fall on a roadway, that could be a major issue as well. And there are long-term maintenance costs associated with it. Again, we're committed to building those structures on Interstate 26. [A slide is presented that shows where those barriers would be constructed and some renderings of what they would look like.]
- Again, I want to say thank you to the members of the CAC who wrote that letter. It was very important in pushing the SCDOT to reconsider the need for some type of barrier along I-26, and also to continue to explore options for mitigating noise on I-526. I am working closely with our engineers, the consultant team, and our district to provide some options for upper management to consider on I-526. Again, I want to thank the CAC for putting the letter together and pushing DOT to take a harder look at this, and I can guarantee you that we are taking a very hard look at it. (Long, C.)

Project Team Member:

Traffic and congestion. There were concerns about the additional apartments that will be added on Mall Drive and the impact to traffic and access to I-26, by virtue of the fact that there will no longer be access to I-26 from I-526 if you access I-526 from Rivers Avenue. (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member:

Throw in those 300 units they're building on Mall Drive now, add that to the mix. That's going to be a heck of a lot of traffic, like we used to have in the '80s on Mall Drive. I remember Mall Drive was backed up to Rivers Avenue because there was no access to the Interstate, like we're taking away now. (Grasso, T.)

Project Team Member:

- I will attempt to cover the details and I think there are two fundamental issues.
 - What about this new apartment complex there at Mall Drive? Let's look at the traffic associated with that.
 - Let's take a deep dive in terms of the ramping there at I-526 and Rivers Avenue, and at the proposal that we have before us today.
- I am going to talk about these two things. First, I want to explain how traffic is typically analyzed for apartment complexes and a development like this. This is what we call a traffic impact study. And it's, for a development like this, it is required by the city of North Charleston before they will allow these kinds of developments to be built.
- We went back to the City of North Charleston and asked them to take a look at the traffic impact study that they developed for the 300-apartment unit and where it is and what the impacts are, to make sure I understand it. They have one on file specifically for this development. It was performed by a reputable engineering firm, and we obtained a copy of it. We reviewed it in detail. I would like to give you a quick, fundamental step of how traffic impact studies are evaluated. This is what we use to estimate the type of traffic, the times of the traffic, the routes that the traffic would take to make sure we're not building something that causes a lot of congestion and aggravation to the residents here.

- We first look at the type of development that is proposed. This is a 300-unit apartment complex. So you estimate the number of trips, vehicular trips to be generated or produced, by this development. We look at the number of trips developed not just by the total day, but also by the times of the day, how many, and we just look specifically at the morning rush hour and the afternoon rush hour. That is when most of the trips are really produced by an apartment complex like this. So the way we do that is look at hundreds of other apartment complexes similar to it across the region and the U.S. to help us estimate these numbers of trips. Then we look at where these trips are made. Where are vehicles taking trips throughout the entire day, as well as during the peak conditions.
- They travel to school or to work, to shop or to other recreation trips, or other trips, other social trips. We do our best to estimate how those trips are distributed onto the network. And then we also look at those again, I mentioned the peak hours, the A.M. peak, which is normally 7:00 to 9:00 AM, or the afternoon peak, which is somewhere in the neighborhood of 4:00 to 6:00 PM.
- We want to make sure the streets can accommodate those volumes of traffic during those times, those peak times. Then, we compare the number of trips out there today, as well as this additional traffic load, if you want to think of it that way, to see if those streets and roadways can accommodate the additional load from this development. So we look at existing traffic, we grow the population background and traffic population. We determine the future traffic, and we compare the near road by roadways at the peak hours. Then we determine if we have enough capacity to handle the additional load? (Day, R.)

CAC Member:

I understand the survey on those apartments, but are you mixing that in with the new directed traffic that can no longer go to I-26? (Grasso, T.)

Project Team Member:

- Yes, I am going to address that next. Right now, I am focusing specifically on the apartment complex, but they will interact with each other. That's exactly right. Good point.
- This is a rendering of the location of the 300-apartment complex, as you can see where I-26 and Montague Avenue are, and where the City Hall is, and how it would gain access. The way to gain access, of course, is by way of Mall Drive to Montague and then to points beyond. When you look at the traffic study, it estimates about 75% of the traffic generated by these apartments will be oriented to and from I-26 direction. In other words, they'll be interested in getting out of Mall Drive going onto Montague and be interested in heading one direction or the other toward I-26, either going beyond it or getting on I-26. This is based upon the different types of trips they make.
- Those are the general distribution, what we call distribution of the trips. We do have some on Mall Drive. We do have some on Montague Avenue as it's shown here, but most of it is heading toward, to and from I-26. And this is according to the, so during the trips, during the peak time, during the day, the trips to the apartments equal about 77. Based upon the empirical data, the trips from the apartments, that being leaving the apartments, going somewhere else, is about 50. So, about 75% of those trips are headed toward I-26 and about 25% are headed toward Rivers, and they're headed toward Rivers via either Montague or Mall Drive.
- Assuming that traffic, the numbers of traffic based upon those percentages of where they're oriented to and from, we said, "What does that mean in terms of absolute number of trips out there today?" The traffic study that was done basically assigned those number of vehicular trips to those individual roadways. And then they did what they kind of called a CAT capacity, a highway capacity analysis, where they evaluated based on standard empirical data of how they analyze traffic capacity. Can this

traffic be accommodated, both the existing traffic out there with the 300-apartment complex unit and other associated background traffic growth that's going to grow regardless of whether this is developed or not? And they did find that basically the apartment complex, it amounts to about less than 5% of the traffic on the existing roads.

- And the summary of the traffic study pretty much indicated that they felt it could be accommodated without providing undue congestion onto the adjoining streets for this traffic study. It indicates that they don't anticipate a whole lot of traffic that would come into either Ferndale or Russelldale, unless they were visiting people into those neighborhoods. So most of it would not be oriented to those neighborhoods. Are there questions about the traffic study, the one that was done or our review of it? Or anything that we didn't cover that you'd like to talk about? Any concerns that you had with maybe the assumptions or findings? (Day, R.)

CAC Member:

I have a question. (Muhammad, E.)

Project Team Member:

Yes, sir. (Day, R.)

CAC Member:

I see that you're mentioning I-26. (Muhammad, E.)

Project Team Member:

Yes sir. (Day, R.)

CAC Member:

Did you take into consideration any traffic coming onto I-526? (Muhammad, E.)

Project Team Member:

Some of that traffic that will get on I-26 will probably be distributed, some amount of it, we don't know exactly what it is, will get on I-26 and then it will eventually get onto I-526. And some of it will continue on beyond that going towards Summerville. And some of it will be heading down toward Charleston. I don't have those numbers right now, but they have been included in the overall traffic study. (Day, R.)

CAC Member:

All right, because obviously we know that the population is growing. (Muhammad, E.)

Project Team Member:

Yes, sir. (Day, R.)

CAC Member:

I am thinking about people coming to Mall Drive. A lot of people come from the Mount Pleasant area or Daniel Island or Clements Ferry. And it has been increasing, I'm sure you know the population has been increasing as far as Charleston, North Charleston, is concerned. Did you take into consideration the in-coming and outgoing traffic from I-526? (Muhammad, E.)

Project Team Member:

- Yes. When we did our traffic modeling and estimation work for the entire project to I-526, we looked at the regional travel demand models for the whole region. And that is driven based upon a number of homes, a number of apartments, number of retail, commercial, office developments that are projected between now and the year 2050. We actually forecasted growth between today's traffic all the way out to year 2050 to make sure that we had enough capacity to satisfy our design. And that's what we are trying to make sure that our traffic analysis includes, an adequate level of service through the year 2050. And it does. So yes, sir, most definitely. We've included allotted growth on Daniel Island, of course, north in the Cainhoy area, North Charleston, Summerville, so forth. There is a lot of growth through this region. Our future traffic numbers in the models reflect that growth above today's numbers. (Day, R.)

CAC Member:

I think I understand your study about the apartments, and I think I'm understanding more so that you're blending it all in as one. (Grasso, T.)

Project Team Member:

Yes, sir. (Day, R.)

CAC Member:

- I remember when I moved here in 1983, Mall Drive was a cluster. It was awful and that was long before we had Walmart, Sam's Wholesale, and that entire Centre Pointe on the other side. That was long before we had I-526. In fact, I-526 was a mound of dirt that they were starting to put together.
- I'm not trying to be disagreeable, but I just see a cluster coming up with all those roads, particularly with Mall Drive and Remount Road, where people are going to divert to go that direction because they did not incorporate some kind of access on these major highways to get to the major highways like they are now. You know, I-26 could go either way.
- You just mentioned you still have traffic coming from Mount Pleasant. I forgot all about that. Coming down the interstate from I-526, they have to get off at Rivers Avenue and maneuver over to Mall Drive and Remount Road now. (Grasso, T.)

Project Team Member:

If I were from Daniel Island and I wanted to go these apartment complex, I would probably do that. I'd probably get on I-526 and get off at Rivers and then come back to Mall or Montague, right? (Day, R.)

CAC Member:

That's exactly what I'm telling you. (Grasso, T.)

Project Team Member:

According to the traffic study, that represents 25% that would be oriented to and from Rivers. (Day, R.)

CAC Member:

I hope it works out. But I just remember what 1983 looked like when I first moved here, and it was awful. (Grasso, T.)

Project Team Member:

I remember that because I was living there as well, but that was when they had an actual mall there, and that's why they call it Mall Drive, right? (Day, R.)

CAC Member:

Yes sir. (Grasso, T.)

Project Team Member:

So that whole land use area in that area has been reconfigured. And, of course, the travel demands differ quite a bit from back in those days when they had the mall there versus today. But we've looked at it and I'd be happy to go back and actually meet you on the street corner one day out there. And let's look at it together if we need to. (Day, R.)

CAC Member:

I'm okay with what you're saying. I just hope there's some real hard consideration, considering the Centre Pointe is a well-traveled area. (Grasso, T.)

Project Team Member:

It is. It's a retail hub for the region. (Day, R.)

CAC Member:

And I've never understood why they didn't take Mall Drive and just go right over the interstate right into Centre Pointe, because that could have been a really good access for all people concerned. (Grasso, T.)

Project Team Member:

I don't disagree with you at all. I think that our office is right over there off of Centre Pointe, and I think that would be a fabulous project one day. (Day, R.)

CAC Member:

Yes, sir. All right, well, thank you, appreciate it. (Grasso, T.)

Project Team Member:

But I think that's a great point to accommodate those trips between Centre Pointe and Mall Drive area without having to get on Montague or 526. (Day, R.)

CAC Member:

I have another question. (Muhammad, E.)

Project Team Member:

Yes, sir? (Day, R.)

CAC Member:

I have I-526 coming off on Rivers when you're going to, I guess, north or south. That's basically going to be taken away. So if you're coming from, so if I want to go like to Trident or some places in the little shopping area on Rivers...Or churches or other places on Rivers, Gerald's on Rivers. I can go there based off me coming off of I-526 and getting onto Rivers. Are you saying I cannot do that anymore? I would have to find

another way, another route to come off I-526 to get to Rivers instead of coming off of 526 to get onto Rivers directly? So those two entrances and exits will be taken away? (Muhammad, E.)

Project Team Member:

No, sir. Let me try to articulate the difference a little bit. And I'll try to verbalize this, but please make sure I do it correctly and we all understand. So today you can go really from, let's say, Daniel Island to get off at Rivers and go up to Gerald's or down to Mall Drive, right? And you will continue to be able to do that. And let's say you're at International and you want to go toward Rivers Avenue and get off at Rivers Avenue and go to Gerald's or Mall Drive, you will still be able to do that in the future. (Day, R.)

CAC Member:

Okay. (Muhammad, E.)

Project Team Member:

- The only difference is today you can go from Rivers Avenue to I-26 by way of 526.
- And if you remember, it's a very short, what I call a weaving section where traffic merges on and other traffic merges off, today. And that's the problem. We are proposing not to allow that maneuver, to go from I-26 to Rivers or from Rivers to I-26 at I-526. It's just so close together. Now you could still go up to Remount or you could go up to Aviation or you go back to Phosphate, whatever, and jump over. Or down south, you could go to Mall Drive or Montague and jump over and get on to I-26. So let's, if we can, I'd like to talk about that a little bit with the graphics that are up here, Brother Muhammad, is that okay? And make sure I get it straight.
- Okay, so right now we have two, we looked at two alternatives. Well we really looked at more than that, but the primary two alternatives are what we call Alternative Two and Alternative Two-A. Now, Alternative Two allows you to go from Rivers, and if you want to go west on 526, you can continue to get on west on 526 and go to International or Dorchester or Montague or all the way over to Savannah Highway from Rivers Avenue.
- But we are not proposing to allow you to get from Rivers Avenue and get right back off at I-26, just because it's too tight a distance in there, to merge on and merge right off. Under Alternative Two, that is not allowed. It allows you, as you can see, today you can get on just like you can always, will still be allowed. You come under that little ramp right where the cursor is, and you merge right onto 526 and you head west. (Day, R.)

CAC Member:

Right. (Muhammad, E.)

Project Team Member:

- Right? But it won't allow you that red ramp there as it's shown where the cursor is taken out. That red is erased but allows you to continue on straight through the interchange. Not there, but down to the interchange, straight west of West Ashley. There you go, it allows you that way, but it doesn't allow you to get onto I-26. This is Alternate Two, right? It allows you equally to come from West Ashley to get off at Rivers just as you do today, in terms of getting off right there, at the location there.
- come straight through the cursor, right through there, and there's a loop ramp right at Rivers. Keep going down to Rivers if you would with the cursor, to Rivers. And see that loop ramp right there? Keep going a little bit further. It's still, right there, that's what I'm looking at, right there. It still allows you to get off there. And it allows you to get on and keep going toward. So that's still allowed. You can still go

to and from West Ashley and also to and from Daniel Island from Rivers. Brother Muhammad, does that make sense? Under Alternate Two. (Day, R.)

Project Team Member:

You just can't get on 26.

Project Team Member:

- You just can't go from 26 to Rivers by way of 526. Now, but you can do other, you can jump to other connector roads, north or south of 526. Now let me show you Alternate Two-A. Two-A was one we looked at to try to allow that maneuver to happen. We said, "We really want to show an alternative where we still can do that maneuver, where you can get on at Rivers and get off at I-26. And likewise, the return movement." Okay, so coming from I-26 and get off at Rivers, but it does some things to it that we don't like. From traffic, as well as impact to the community, you can see where the new road is and how it eats into that neighborhood a little bit more, with that new road, compared to the other one. So the issue is, what I call the area that the traffic weaves in. Whereas under the top-
- The traffic weaves in, whereas under the top one that says Alternate 2A that allows that maneuver to go from Rivers to I-26, it allows people to merge in and merge back out to go. They have to... That's a lot of traffic that gets mixed in that reasonably short period of route there. That is essentially the same problem we have out there today that causes a lot of that congestion on 526.
- We're saying if you do Alternate A, Alternate 2 down at the bottom shows that is not allowed. You still can get on the main line I-26, I-526 to go to West Ashley, but it does not allow you to get on I-26 in the future. Alternate 2 from a traffic perspective allows a greater free flow of traffic, both directions, eastbound, westbound so you can continue to go traveling at a good speed, but if you have Alternate 2A, you will basically be as shown on the top with the short weaving section, a very bumper to bumper traffic, basically 15 miles an hour during the day time or even less. It will cause congestion back to Rivers Avenue on that ramping system, simply because of the amount of traffic out there.
- Now, what also that does to the communities, both north and south of 526, you'll find, I think, you'll have more noise if you have traffic standing still out there during the peak time. You'll also have air quality if you have traffic standing out there during those peak times. We believe not just for the operation of the road, but also for the adjacent communities that because of the congestion out there with the weaving of Alternate 2A, it would be preferred from an operational standpoint and the air quality and noise that Alternate 2A would be a better alternative as one topic.
- Why do we think Alternate 2A was not the right one to carry forward? Why was it eliminated? Because we talked about the amount of traffic growth out there today, where we have congestion out there today, where people are trying to get on and off, you know, that weaving section today on 526. People trying to get on Rivers and get off at I26. We're going to have 35% more trucks out there and probably 65% more vehicles out there that will make that maneuver, and it'll actually be a worse situation out there than we find ourselves today in, with the additional traffic growth. (Day, R.)

Project Team Member:

This part of the presentation wasn't in the packet. (Derrick, L.)

Project Team Member:

- We do have a few more lanes out there but still have that weaving section that's problematic today and will remain problematic with us if we keep 2A. That's why we decided Alternate 2 was better than 2A.

- The other thing that we talked about is if you did try to develop Alternate 2A versus Alternate 2, and 2A again allows that maneuver, right? That you saw the ramp, the ramping system before, when we looked at it. It basically went into the neighborhoods more. It edged into the neighborhoods slightly more than the Alternate 2. Alternate 2, which eliminates that maneuver, it does show an impact to the single-family homes of being about 16, but with Alternate 2 the additional ramping it eats further into the neighborhood. It goes from 16 to 21. We do have more homes taken. We have more mobile homes taken, and you can see the differences here.
- We have one resident to duplex, additional residential duplex taken, and we also have two churches, one church and one commercial center that are impacted. That's Life Changers Church in the way of making that happen, as well as the Roper St. Francis building there at the south side at corner of Rivers.
- Because of those kinds of impacts, as well as the overall traffic flow and the better air quality, better noise levels, we felt that Alternate 2 was the better alternative that not only helped the traffic operate better, but also helped the neighborhood out.
- How do I get there if you do take this maneuver away from me? If I can't get there from where I am today, how will I get there from Rivers to I-26? These are some of your immediate options, okay, because Rivers kind of parallels I-26, but you could go from Rivers Avenue up to Remount, which is the next one north. If you want to, you could go to Aviation or you can really even go further north than that and go all the way to either past your Phosphate, or if you wanted to continue on, you could go up there near the Highway 78, thereby Charleston Southern. There's a number of different options of how you could move from Rivers over to I-26, heading north. In the south it's similar. You would probably the first two you come to would be either Mall Drive or Montague Avenue.
- These are options that we feel are very reasonable, and it probably would take you a whole lot more time, anyway, if you did have that level of congestion on that short weaving section, that it probably is just as quick to take the routes during those peak times.
- These are just some graphics that we can run through if you want to, that shows you the location in your neighborhoods from Ferndale Liberty Park, Russell Dale, you know, how you would get to either Remount. This is a view of Aviation, heading south. You could come down to Montague shown in these routes with the blue arrows, or one more shows you to a Mall Drive, how you get Mall Drive down. These are just some of the options that we said you could reroute some traffic to these and not have the impacts into the community under the Alternate 2.
- Now, let me pause. I'll do a real quick summary, and then we'll take questions. How about that? The findings say the new apartments it would add traffic to those neighborhoods, streets of Montague and Mall Drive. Most of them would be oriented toward I-26, excuse me, I-26, but it wouldn't significantly increase traffic on the roads where the capacity couldn't handle. We also feel that there'd be very, very minor if any impact into the neighborhoods we're talking about.
- Just a note that we've mentioned in the presentation earlier is that we do have a traffic model that projects traffic out in the future. It does include growth in those traffic numbers that we're designing our highway to, and things like this apartment complex are included in our growth projections already. Then the last two bullets here for the summary is we looked at Alternate 2, demonstrates a better traffic performance. In other words, it moves traffic better and therefore equates to less noise and better air quality in those adjacent neighborhoods, as well as Alternate 2 has fewer residential commercial and church right-of-way impacts in the communities than Alternate 2A.
- Those are hopefully articulate some of our logic in terms of how we thought Alternate 2 was a better alternative all around than the Alternate 2A with that connection. Now let me pause and see if I can help answer any questions or respond to any comments. (Day, R.)

CAC Member:

Is there a Plan B if what I'm predicting is going to be a traffic cluster at those other two or something else the highway department could put into perspective five years after all this is completed? (Grasso, T.)

Project Team Member:

Would be hard to do that, Mr. Grasso, to be honest. I think the Plan B if it would be, it would be to go to those alternate routes and look at other additional improvements to make those connections. That would be plan B. (Day, R.)

CAC Member:

Well, I mean, I see the plan that which you have done do eliminate traffic coming off of a 526, but like Mr. Grasso said, and I'm right in the next community from him. It takes me back to the beginning of time now because I have to go to Mall Drive once before, you know, to get to where I'm going. It was an easy access right at 526 and I-26 to go there on time or go west to the Ashley. Now I'm having to revert back to the beginning or go a mile from me to get back on the interstate. I understand both ways. It's just at a late age, in my life, it was adjustment. (Bannister, J.)

Project Team Member:

It's unfortunate, but the growth is so large here, the traffic growth, background growth. It does make quite an impact with not allowing that because we always like the most direct route, but it's just no real reasonable way to make that connection from Rivers to I-526, I mean, via 526 to I-26 and make it work. (Day, R.)

Project Team Member:

No other questions online or by phone? What we will do is to make sure, because this part of the presentation was not part of your packet, we will get this information to you all so that if there are other questions that you receive from your neighbors, then you're able to at least demonstrate with some of the mapping and the tables how the additional impacts would have had to have been factored into the decision matrix of which alternative to select. (Derrick, L.)

Community Office and Outreach UpdateProject Team Member:

- An outreach update, we had a good bit of traffic between February and the middle of this month. We had a number of visitors. We've had some right-of-way appointments as well. We made a lot of calls to encourage residents to attend the community infrastructure enhancement plan open house. We received a number of calls as well, and we continued to be very responsive to the voicemails that are left either during the week while we're fielding other calls, as well as those received over the weekend.
- The Community Liaisons continue to identify resources that are helpful to both you and your neighbors. We continue to send emails to you about opportunities to either engage some of the community resources that they continue to identify to provide support to you and your neighbors as well as events that are occurring locally, like Change before Character?
- The event today with the Women of Change and Character cleaning up the Ferndale Community, and that will be in, I think Dee's Hill next month. Then other neighborhoods upcoming in the area, but mental health tips and resources included in your packet. We'll continue to share that information with you by phone and by email.

- Summary and next steps, we are continuing to assemble and update the narrative for that was included in the draft Environmental Impact Statement so that we can finalize the final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision. We hope to have that signed and, it's including all the responses that we've shared with you today and any other feedback we've received from other stakeholders and partnering agencies. The timeline is included in your packet as well. (Derrick, L.)

Project Schedule and Milestone Review

Project Team Member:

If you ever have a question about any of that, particularly as your neighbors ask you questions about those years for mitigation, right-of-way acquisition and construction, please send those to us so that we can help you answer questions. The next, the common question from the, to use your phrase, Mr. Banister, since the beginning of time and the beginning of time on this project is either when are you going to start construction, or when will I have to move? Just make sure you have the year range, not necessarily committed to memory, but if you don't push them to the project website, then you have in your packet the schedule. You'll be able to remind them that no, you don't have to move tomorrow, but you will be contacted about if you are required to move. You will be contacted in that range of time that's identified in the schedule and milestone review. (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member:

For acquisition, we enter '23 now. (Twiggs, D.)

Project Team Member:

Right. Some of the right-of-way acquisition is necessary for construction of the replacement community center in particular. (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member:

It should be before 2023 for our little close-knit crew that's close to that big community center that's going to acquire Anderson. (Twiggs, D.)

Project Team Member:

Yes. Joy, do you want to respond for the Deacon Street impact in particular coming from Elder all the way down, including the Anderson Family? (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member:

I think that rental, people who were renting just let them know. (Twiggs, D.)

Project Team Member:

Right. Ms. Twiggs is wondering if it's going to happen any earlier than 2023 because many of those units or those parcels are rental units, and they would want to at least be in contact with their tenants. Keep in mind the tenants have rights, too. (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member:

Are we ever going to be able to visit the site? (Bannister, J.)

Project Team Member:

Mr. Bannister's question is, are we ever going to be able to visit the site? You mean the side of the replacement community center? You mean after it's acquired from the Anderson family? (Derrick, L.)

CAC Member:

Yes. (Bannister, J.)

Project Manager:

The schedules are currently under development. We will release/publish something more definitive either late this year or early next year. We are going through those exercises now of understanding when we're going to do certain things. That will be coming. As far as the replacement community center site, we are still working with the Anderson family to help relocate them and to finalize that purchase deal. Because of the real estate market and what it is right now, it is going to take some time for that process to happen. I think those are things that we can address in the future, but right now it is in limbo. (Riley, J.)

Project Team Member:

- Particularly from the environmental services office perspective in the EJ community mitigation plan, some of his takeaways were that we need to allow for additional community involvement during the development and design of the community center, allow for periodic and continual monitoring of scholarship program with the affected communities and not just the POC, and identify low maintenance options for landscaping at the community entrances.
- One of the things I noted was trying to get some more information to Mr. Grasso about school bus stops in coordination with the Charleston County School District. There was a concern about the number of parking spaces at the community center once it's designed or design starts taking place.
- Ms. Twiggs is concerned about not impacting residents on Elder Street and ensure that there's some community engagement on design and access so that they're not additionally burdened from the construction.
- Chad noted that the tracking with the scholarship and eligibility requirements was noted by Ms. Carolyn Lecque about revisiting those at some frequency once that scholarship is being implemented.
- We are going to send the presentation that Rick prepared to the advisory council members. We'll let Professor Fordham update him on the status of maybe connecting with Ms. Howard.
- Follow up on the City's plan on repairing and replacing lights, particularly on Taylor Street, the lights at the entrance of park.
- Ms. Twiggs had a question about whether that was intentional. I think we addressed that.
- Storm water and pedestrian amenities on Target Street. Joy mentioned that anywhere we do pedestrian upgrades, we also do stormwater upgrades, but there was no distinction or identification of any of that on the mapping. So we'll definitely revisit that. (Derrick, L.)

Facilitator:

- You captured most of the comments that I had. I want to encourage CAC members to continue to take time to review and understand the survey results from the CIEP survey and understanding some of the nuances that were discussed in terms of the maintenance requirements at the entrances. That would be something that the residents would be responsible for, and they need to understand what that means and looks like for the community.
- The other thing is making a mental note of the change in terminology from noise barrier to mitigation barrier so there's no confusion moving forward in future discussions about the mitigation barriers.

- CAC members should continue to understand and ask questions about the parameters regarding the right-of-way and relocation packages. Those were my primary comments. (Ellis, J.)

Community Liaison:

I want to add to the minutes that in addition to Mr. Grasso's mention of issues with the school buses, Mr. Muhammad also made a request for resource information that would be available through the Greek Organizations in North Charleston. We will be following up with that as well. (Smith, M.)

Project Team Member:

That's part of what I was mentioning about the organizational training and transition subcommittee receiving some comments, even as recent as the past couple of days that I had not reported to DOT yet. We're still assembling that list for DOT as we provide the continued support to that component of the CAC. (Derrick, L.)

Community Liaison:

- Maximum Consulting team and CAC members can engage in door-to-door canvassing, visiting with the neighbors and residents in those four neighborhoods.
- Also, we want to talk about the history project. We want to make sure that we kept to the culture and history of the four communities. What we're doing now is collecting local interest spots that Mrs. Twiggs gave us.
- Earlier this week, we may ask CAC members to stand in front of a place in Ferndale, maybe on Iron Street, where the community center used to be and share some memory that they have of that community center. We'll be picking two spots out of each community.
- What we want to do is get people to talk about what their culture and their history looked like during the time when they were growing up in those communities to give us a perspective of what that community was, what it looked like before the interruption of I-526 and I-26. If you have pictures or mementos or anything we could use, that would be great. We'll take pictures of those, and we'll use those for part of the history exhibit at the new center. (Lecque, M.)

Summary and Next Steps

Project Team Member:

- In the upcoming meetings, we will have Professor Fordham and his support group present the plan for the community history preservation plan, which as you remember, is an initiative in the community mitigation plan. As those different initiatives are further developed, we will continue to report those plans and ongoing efforts or developing then ongoing efforts to the advisory council. Right now, I don't think we have very specific content for the next CAC meeting. However, again, we have discussed internally having Professor Fordham and the rest of the community history preservation team come before the CAC to start giving you information about their plan and make appeals as Ms. Lecque did so that you'll have an idea of how your neighborhood can participate more in depth and thoroughly in that effort.
- As of now, if we return to schedule, the next advisory council meeting is scheduled for May 1st. If you all have any conflicts with that date, please let us know because we will need to start assembling content, but I think there is an opportunity at that meeting, if not attended by DOT and Fed Highways, then definitely the advisory council talking about how we plan to move forward, the transition part of the organizational training and transitioning committee, getting some of your ideas on further

delineated about the scholarship program and any other concerns you have with, as we are presenting narrative to DOT for finalization of this environmental document. How we make sure we're tracking where monitoring and we're developing these initiatives; the steps to actually implement them consistent with what you requested for your mitigation plan.

- SCDOT and FHWA, would you like to leave any closing comments? (Derrick, L.)

SCDOT Environmental Services Director:

I just want to thank everyone for your participation today, and it's excellent feedback. We couldn't do this without you, so I really appreciate your time and hope you enjoy the pretty weather out there today. (Long, C.)

FHWA:

This is Pam from Federal Highway. I really want to thank the CAC for their involvement in and the participation with the letter. I think that has made a big difference, and I want to really express appreciation from Federal Highway for your submittal and the information that you had in that letter. This was a very informative meeting. Thank you very much for your participation in this meeting. Have a good weekend. Thank you. (Foster, P.)

Project Team Member:

We appreciate your continued calls to the office with your questions and concerns as well as your calls to us individually. Enjoy your weekend and thank you for obliging us to extend over time. (Derrick, L.)

Project Manager:

Thank you. (Riley, J.)

CAC Meeting #18 is scheduled for May 1, 2021 at 10:00 AM.



Community Advisory Council Meeting #17

April 17, 2021

Table of Contents

- Welcome and Administrative Items
- Neighborhood Update
- CIEP Results and Recommendations
- SCDOT Response to EJCMP Letter from the CAC/Updated EJ Community Mitigation Plan
- Community Office / Outreach Update
- Project Schedule and Milestone Review
- Summary and Next Steps

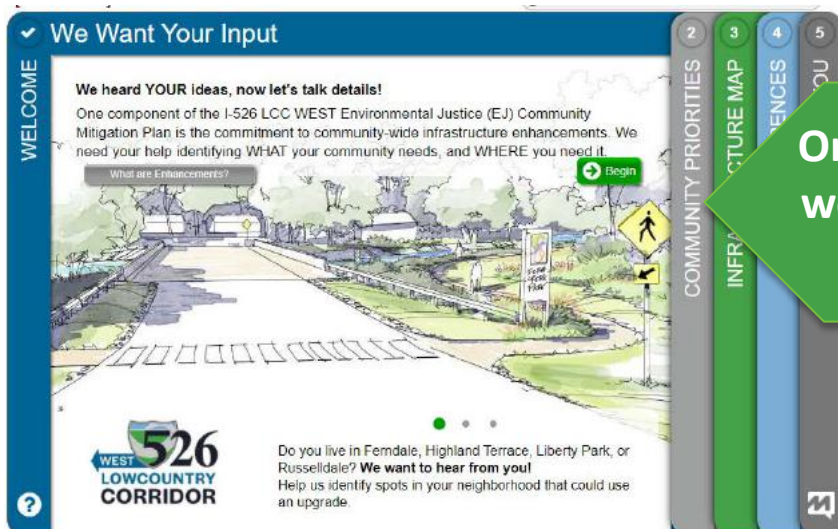
Neighborhood Update

- 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.

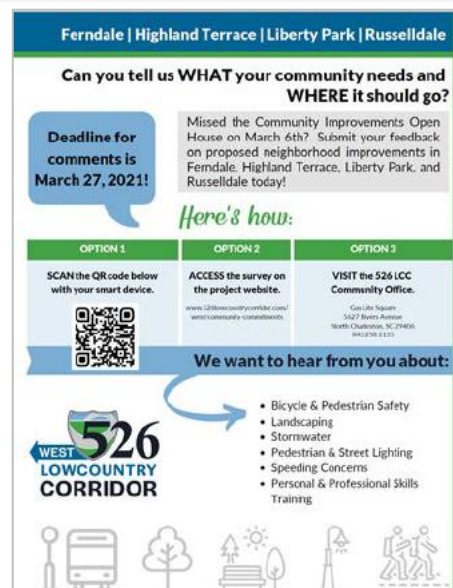
Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan (CIEP) Survey



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

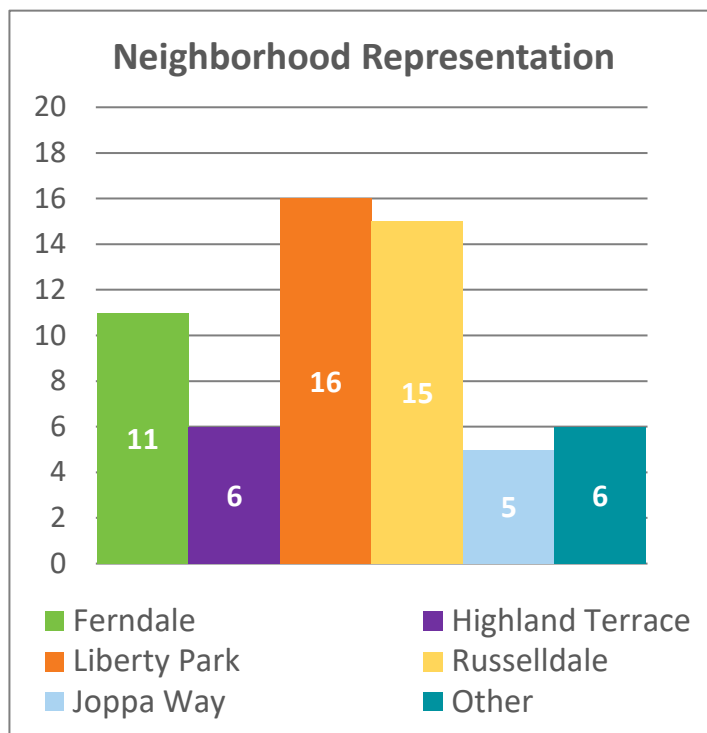
Outreach

- 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.



Priority Ranking

1. Stormwater Drainage
2. Traffic Calming
3. Sidewalks
4. Lighting
5. Security Cameras

89% of respondents live in EJ Neighborhoods

CIEP Results / Recommendations

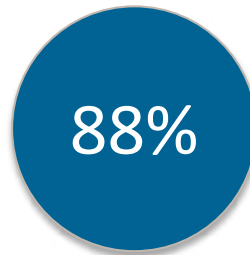
What We Heard / *Lighting*

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*



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



62%

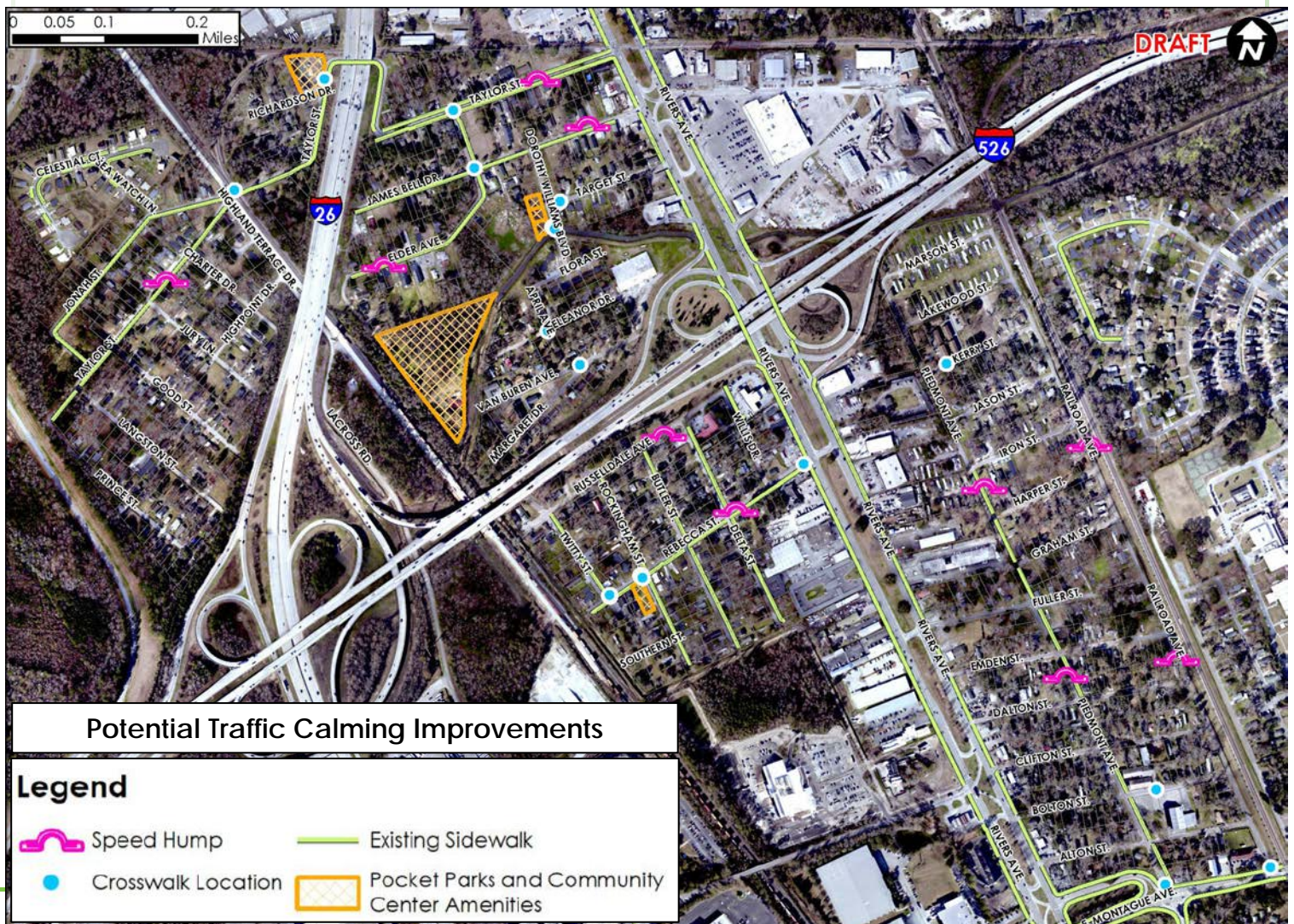
of survey participants prefer speed humps for traffic calming

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

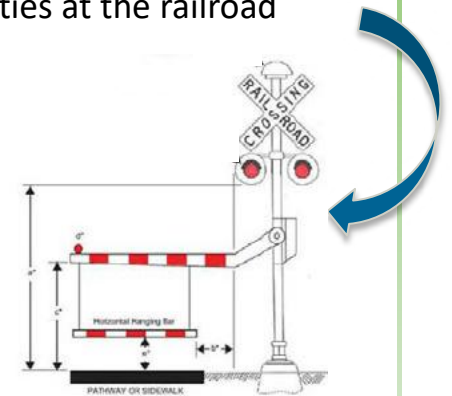
What We Heard / *Pedestrian Improvements*

Public comments

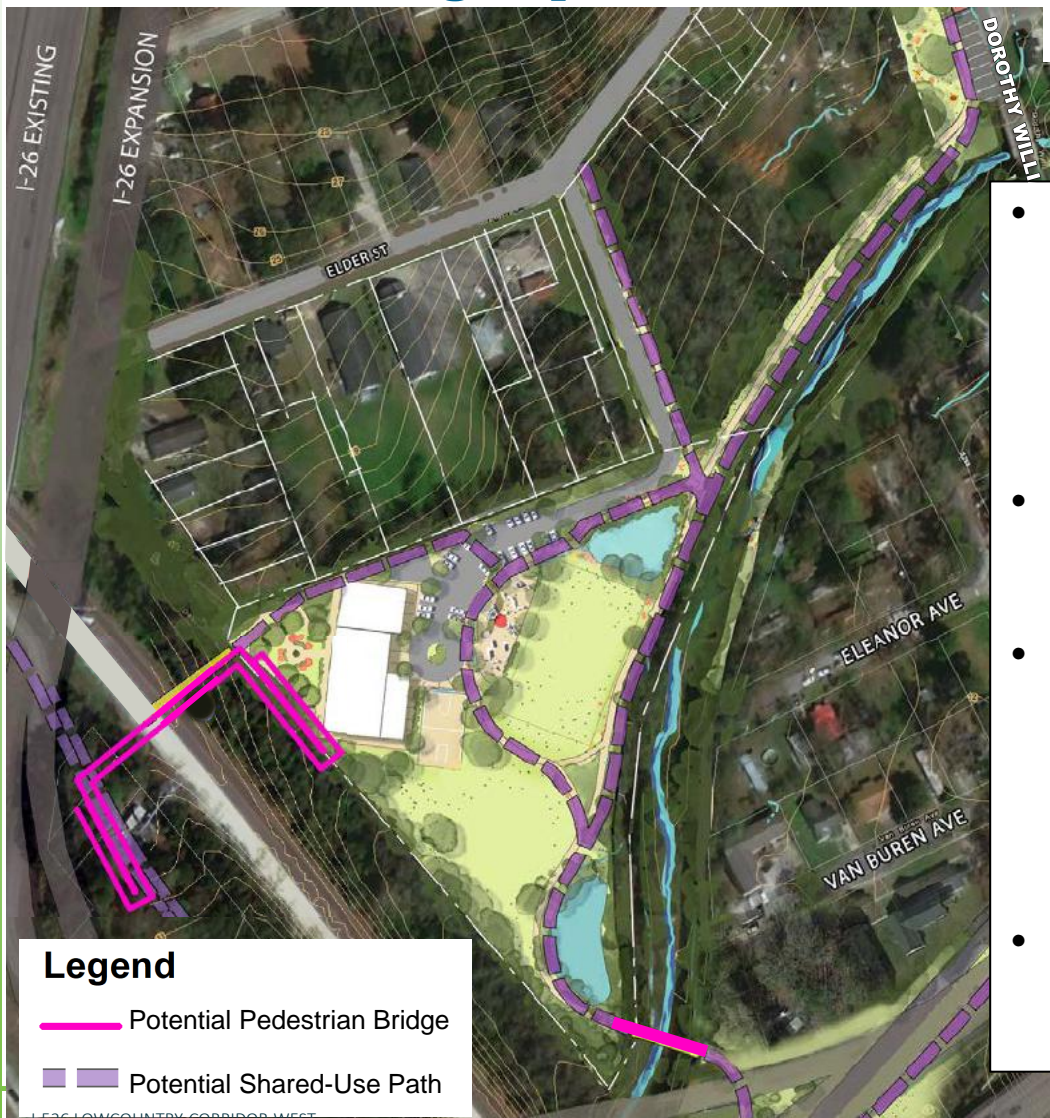
- Two comments that opposed a Shared-Use Path (SUP) adjacent to Life Changers because of potential for loitering and criminal activity
 - Instead of a SUP near Eleanor Drive, create a new point of entry into the community that connects to Eleanor
- One comment that prefers to have a fence vs open area 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 | 3. Piedmont Avenue |
| 2. Railroad Avenue | 4. Taylor Street |



Pedestrian Bridge Update



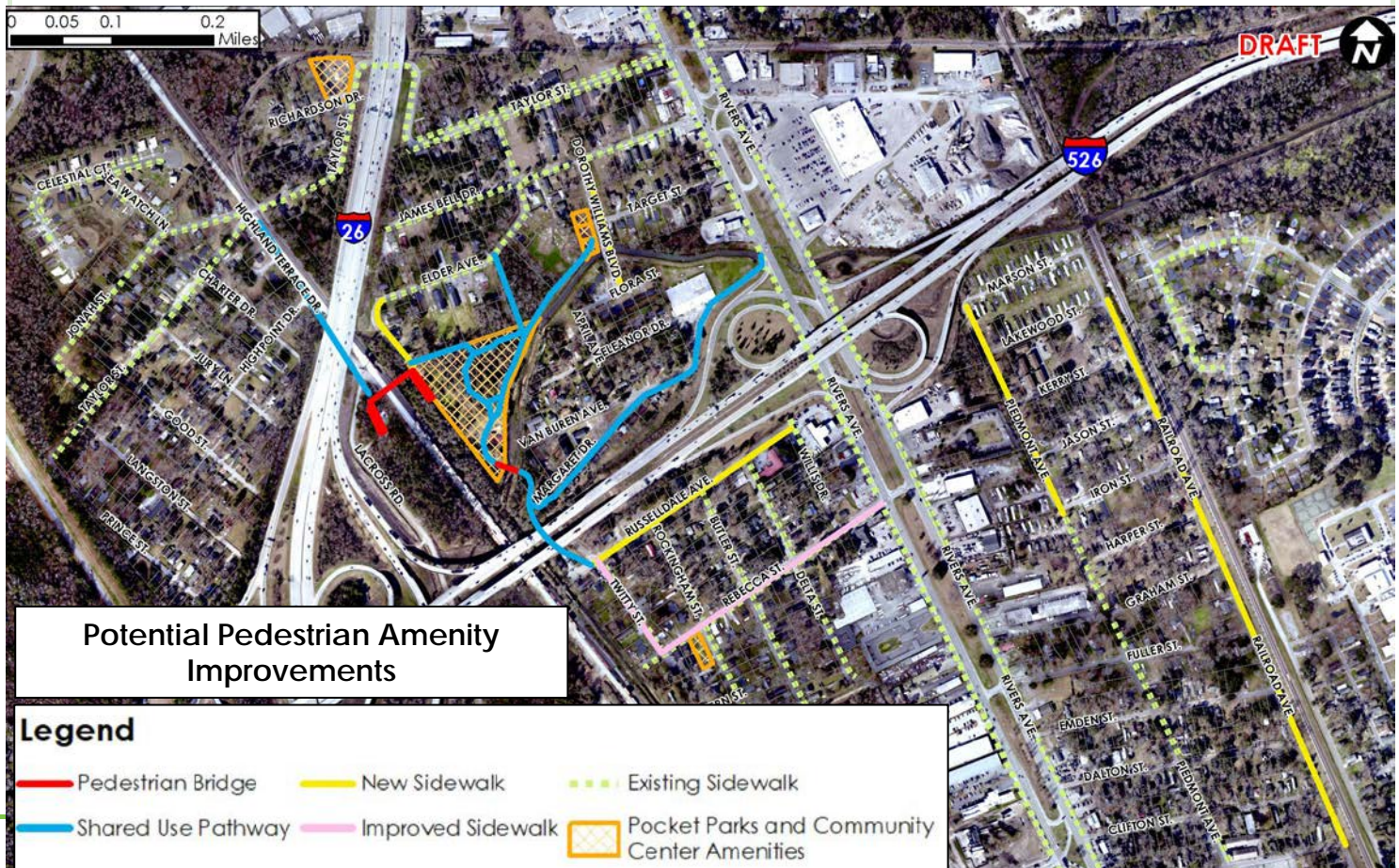
- Gives residents in Highland Terrace and Joppa Way more direct access to the replacement community center and recreational facilities
- Includes a small bridge over Filbin Creek for connectivity to Russelldale
- Located near existing footpaths across the railroad tracks to help prevent trespassing and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





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



48%

of survey participants
chose this rendering as
their preferred
neighborhood entrance

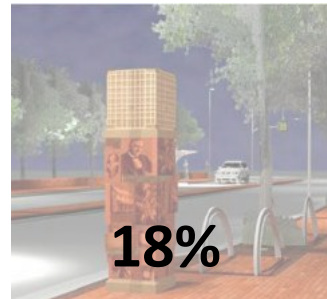
This includes landscaping options such as Saw Palmetto Trees, Crepe Myrtle, Muhly Grass and red mulch. All improved entrances must be maintained by the residents.



*Resident maintained
mini-libraries*



*Community center
mural*



*Community history
art*



*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

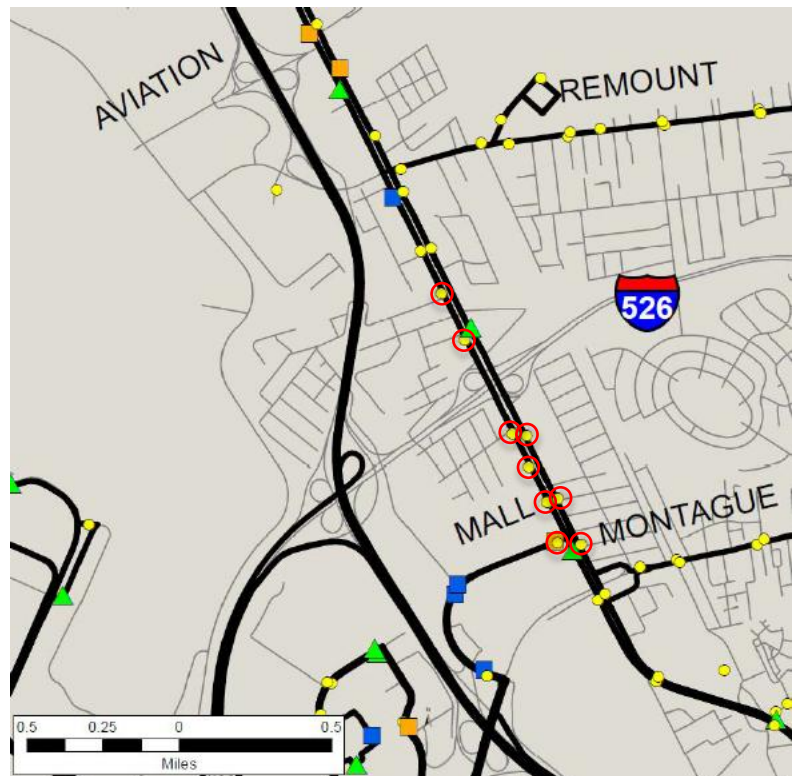
1. Computer Skills (29 votes)
2. CPR First Aid (21)
3. Business Management (12)
4. Financial Planning (12)
5. Trade Certifications (11)
6. Transportation Industry (11)
7. Resume Writing / Job Skills (11)
8. Construction Industry (9)

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

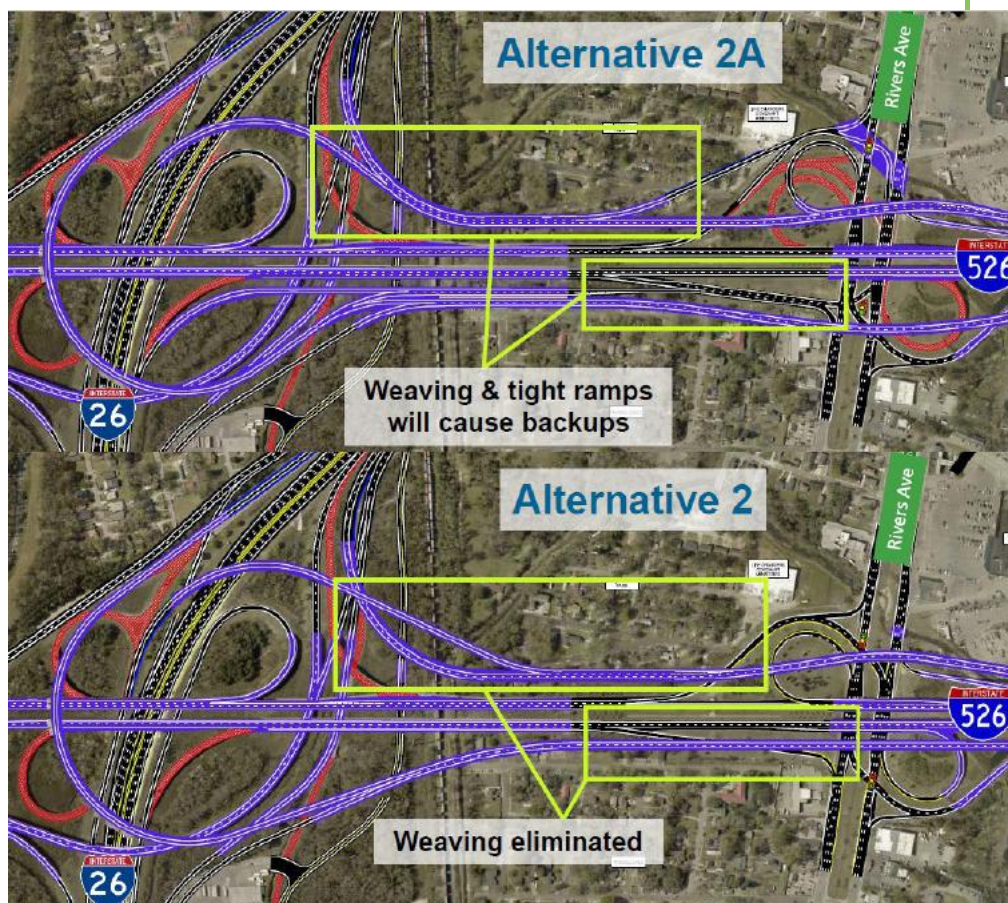
Why was Alt 2 Chosen?

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

Life Changers Church/ Roper St. Francis Building

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)

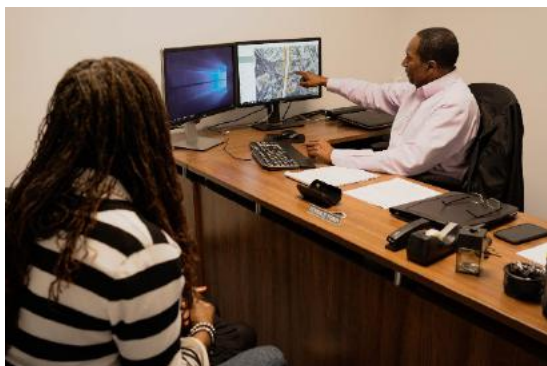
SCDOT will continue to support the CAC throughout the remainder of the I-526 LCC WEST project development phase and publishing of the FEIS/ROD by facilitating their regularly scheduled monthly meetings and providing logistical and administrative support, as needed. Once the FEIS/ROD is approved, the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

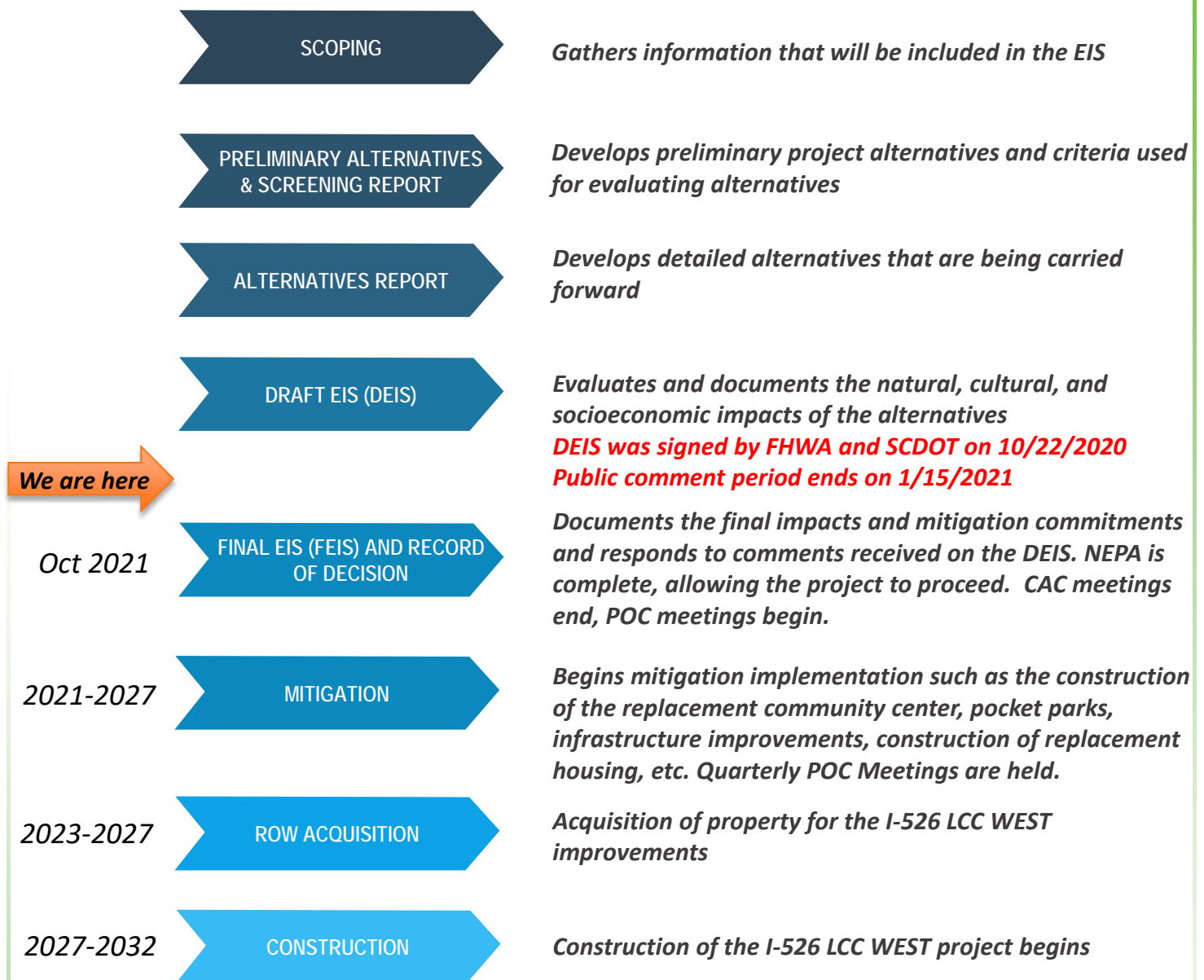
Office Locations

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

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

www.charlestdorchestertermhc.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?**

Placeholder for CAC Meeting #18 Summary

Minutes are still being reviewed and have not been formally approved.



Community Advisory Council Meeting #18

September 18, 2021

Table of Contents

- Welcome and Administrative Items
- Neighborhood Update
- Final EJ Community Mitigation Plan Components
- Proposed Mitigation Schedule
- Final Thoughts on Mitigation Plan Components
- Project Oversight Committee Recruitment
- Outreach Update
- Project Schedule and Milestone Review
- Community Office Update
- Summary and Next Steps

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.

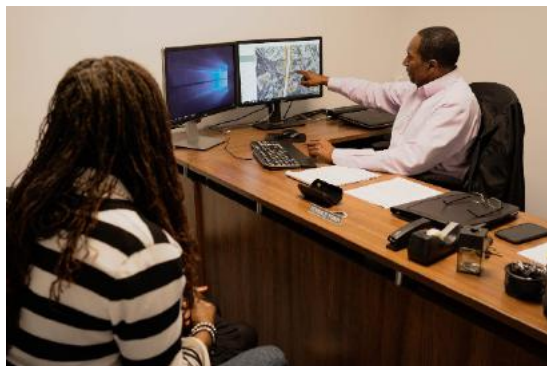
Final EJ Community Mitigation Plan Components



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. When the project transitions from the project development phase (which includes development of the Environmental Justice Community Mitigation Plan) to the design phase, a Project Oversight Committee (POC) tasked with overseeing the implementation of the various EJ mitigation commitments will be initiated. [See the POC section for additional details on the composition and role of the POC.](#)



Community Office

SCDOT will continue to operate and maintain a Community Office for the remainder of the project development phase and throughout both the final design and right-of-way phases of the project. The Community Office will continue to be staffed with a full-time Office Manager, Community Liaisons/Outreach Specialists, and part-time Right-of-Way Specialists who will be available to provide community residents with real-time project, [relocation](#), and property acquisition information. [“Once the FEIS/ROD is approved, the Community Office will serve as a location for residents to receive information related to the implementation of the items identified in this EJ Community Mitigation Plan and the meeting place for the POC.”](#) Additionally, the Community Office will be available to serve as a meeting space for [community advocacy groups](#) and other stakeholders with an interest in the I-526 LCC WEST project.

Final EJ Community Mitigation Plan Components



Organizational Training

SCDOT will provide organizational training for the CAC and community members interested in creating a community advocacy group. The Community Office and its staff will be available to provide support and identify resources that support, at a minimum, the new group's administrative and leadership development and strategic and community planning. The organizational training will be provided until 2024.



Community Resource Guide

SCDOT will work with the CAC, Community Liaisons, and local non-profit organizations to develop a Community Resource Guide for EJ neighborhood residents. The purpose of the guide is to help sustain livability within affected EJ neighborhoods by increasing residents' awareness of 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. The Community Resource Guide will be made available to residents of the EJ neighborhoods within six months of the approval of the FEIS/ROD. It will be updated yearly throughout the construction of the project.



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, and
- Serve as a liaison between the communities and project staff during the final design and construction phases.

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

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 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.



Final EJ Community Mitigation Plan Components



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 within the impacted EJ neighborhoods. 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 are 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.*



Final EJ Community Mitigation Plan Components



WEST 526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR

MODERN REPLACEMENT COMMUNITY CENTER

BUILDING BREAKDOWN

GYM 130 X 75 - 9750 SF

OFFICE 60 X 75 - 4500 SF

CLASS 40 X 90 - 3600 SF

- 1 ACCESS DRIVE
 - 2 COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING
 - 3 OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURT
 - 4 RAIN GARDEN
 - 5 5000 SF PLAYGROUND
 - 6 120X210 MULTI USE FIELD
 - 7 EDUCATIONAL WETLAND
 - 8 FITNESS LOOP
 - 9 PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
 - 10 TRAILHEAD SIGNAGE
 - 11 DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE
 - 12 CONNECTION TO RUSSELDALE
 - 13 POTENTIAL CONNECTION
 - 14 POLLINATOR LOOP
 - 15 ON STREET PARKING
- *FINAL PARKING LOCATIONS TO BE DETERMINED

PATH LEGEND

- POTENTIAL NEW/ IMPROVED SIDEWALK INFRASTRUCTURE
- POTENTIAL PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE/ OVERPASS
- POTENTIAL SHARED USE PATHWAY

HIGHLAND TERRACE COMMUNITY POCKET PARK

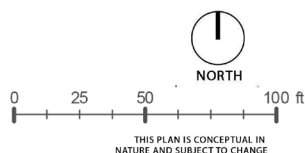
- 1 ON STREET PARKING
- 2 WOOD BENCHES
- 3 FULL COURT BASKETBALL
- 4 HALF COURT BASKETBALL
- 5 25 X25 OPEN AIR PAVILION
- 6 5000SF PLAYGROUND
- 7 SIDEWALK CONNECTION
- 8 IMPROVE CROSS WALKS



Final EJ Community Mitigation Plan Components

Russelldale Pocket Park Property Status & Options – Most Suitable Parcels

1. Southwest corner of Twitty St./Russelldale Ave in Russelldale
- Close to proposed right-of-way for I-526
- Similar size to the Rebecca St parcel – ability to fit similar amenities
- Property is currently for sale (owners willing to work with SCDOT)
- Near railroad



2. Margaret Drive in Liberty Park
- Within proposed right-of-way
- Easier to secure since this parcel will be acquired as a part of project construction
- Not in Russelldale neighborhood
- Larger size than Rebecca St parcel
- Direct connectivity with Community Center
- Near Filbin Creek

Notes:

Final EJ Community Mitigation Plan Components



Replacement Housing

Due to the subsequent challenges residents may face resulting from relocations related to the transportation improvements associated with 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. Both programs will be completed prior to the completion of the right-of-way acquisition phase, which is projected to begin in 2023 and last until 2027. These dates are based on approval of the environmental documentation without legal challenge and are subject to change.

Single-Family Affordable Replacement Housing Program

SCDOT will work to secure 20 vacant lots within the EJ communities and partner with a local non-profit that specializes in developing or constructing affordable housing to implement a Single-Family Affordable Replacement Housing Program. If SCDOT is unable to acquire all 20 lots within the EJ communities, additional lots for the program will be purchased in adjacent communities. At a minimum, the program should include the following components:

- SCDOT will secure vacant lots, zoned for single-family or duplex homes, in each of the four impacted EJ communities for the purpose of constructing housing for displaced residents who would like to remain in their community. Some of these lots will be preserved for the construction of replacement market rate homes for displaced families that do not fall into the low-income category.
- A majority of the lots would be utilized for low-income affordable replacement Single Family Home Housing Development.
- SCDOT will allocate funds for program administration as well as for the purchase of land/lots.
- SCDOT will engage non-profits to arrange interviews in order to learn more information on what organizations may be interested in and what resources would be required to execute an affordable housing home ownership program for interested families that will be displaced by the I-526 LCC West Project.
- The program would give priority to displaced families but could be opened to other EJ community residents currently renting if there are remaining lots once all families are relocated.
- SCDOT will issue a Notice of Interest in 2022 and implement an interview and selection process to identify a partnering non-profit organization. During this process, SCDOT will conduct interviews, review qualifications and proposals, and select a non-profit organization that has the capability to develop the replacement homes and administer this program.
- SCDOT and Community Office staff will work with the selected non-profit to assist in identifying qualified families and coordinate throughout the application process.

Final EJ Community Mitigation Plan Components



Replacement Housing

Developer Incentive Affordable Multi-Family Housing Program

SCDOT will partner with the South Carolina State Housing and Finance and Development Authority (SC Housing) to implement the program which will be funded by \$1.5M in SCDOT grant funding, SC Housing low-income tax credits, and bond financing. *The program will create a funding/finance opportunity for an affordable housing developer to submit a housing proposal that will meet housing priorities based on input from the CAC, SCDOT, POC and SC Housing.* At a minimum, the program should include the following components:

- Construction of 100 affordable housing units with a mixture of unit sizes (1 – 3 bedrooms) for the lowest income level category.
- Developments must include green space or a recreational area component.
- Development must be located in close proximity to the impacted communities; the closest developments will be given first priority, but proposed developments must be located, at a minimum, within the City of North Charleston.

Financial Literacy and First Time Home Buyer Counseling

SCDOT will develop partnerships with local organizations to provide financial literacy and first-time home buyer *workshops and* counseling to residents of the *impacted EJ communities.* *This educational offering is intended to assist participants as they attempt to secure residential loans and transition from renters to homeowners. The counseling will continue until the projected completion of the right-of-way phase in 2027.*

Final EJ Community Mitigation Plan Components



Employment/Economic Opportunities

School-to-Work Program

SCDOT will develop partnerships with **organizations** 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 phases, SCDOT will seek to hire up to ten (10) high school students, college students, or young adults 25 years of age and younger from the impacted neighborhoods to work as summer interns. High school and college students from the EJ neighborhoods that will be displaced and relocated by the proposed project would remain eligible for participation in the School-to-Work program. **The School-to-Work Program will begin in 2023 and end once ten (10) students have participated in the program.**

College Aid Initiative

SCDOT will establish **and manage** a scholarship fund of up to **\$100,000**. High school and college students from the impacted EJ communities that intend to or are currently attending institutions of higher education will be eligible for the scholarship. Residents of the EJ neighborhoods that will be displaced and relocated by the proposed project would remain eligible for the scholarship program. **Members of the CAC will assist in the development of the selection criteria and members of the POC will assist in the selection of the scholarship recipients. The College Aid Initiative will begin in 2023 and funds will be available through construction or until all scholarship funds have been awarded.**



Pre-Employment Training

During the right-of-way phases of the project, SCDOT will identify and provide financial support for pre-employment training opportunities that encourage career placement in the transportation industry. The program **will be administered through the Community Office and offered to residents of the impacted EJ communities prior to construction of the interstate improvements. Participants who successfully acquire relevant job readiness skills will be considered for the On-The-Job Training (OJT) Program implemented by the contractor selected to construct the project.**



Summer Transportation Institute Program

SCDOT will provide skill building programs to create awareness of and expose high school students to career opportunities in the transportation industry. **The Summer Transportation Institute Program will begin in 2023 and will provide two Summer Transportation Institute Programs that accommodate 15-20 students per program.**

Final EJ Community Mitigation Plan Components



Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan

SCDOT will implement the final Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan (CIEP), which is a subset of improvements that will address infrastructure issues associated with bicycle and pedestrian safety, access to the community center/park amenities, neighborhood entrance aesthetics, stormwater improvements, lack of bus shelter amenities, and traffic calming measures that would be implemented as part of the project.

Field evaluations were conducted to quantify the specific needs identified by the CAC and planning and design studies were conducted to develop recommendations for addressing the deficiencies. Once the recommendations were reviewed with City of North Charleston Planning and Public Works Department staff, outreach efforts were conducted to receive input from residents.

Upon closure of the CIEP comment period, 85 completed surveys were received: 49 by paper, 27 on a mobile device, and nine via a computer. A detailed summary of the comments received on the CIEP is included in the Public Involvement Plans and Meeting Summaries (FEIS Appendix U). After public comments were received, the final set of infrastructure needs to be addressed by the CIEP were developed to include the following:



Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity and Safety Improvements

SCDOT will fund shared-use pathways to provide connectivity to the community center, a pedestrian bridge over the **Norfolk Southern** railroad tracks connecting **Lacross Road to the new community center**, and a pedestrian bridge over Filbin Creek **connecting the replacement community center to Russelldale**. Sidewalks will be improved along Rebecca Street and Twitty Street, and new sidewalks will be constructed along Russelldale Avenue, Elder Avenue, Piedmont Avenue, Dorothy Williams Boulevard (from the shared use path 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 impacted EJ 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 and on Taylor Street, Elder Street, Rebecca Street, and/or Piedmont Avenue.

Final EJ Community Mitigation Plan Components



Traffic Calming Measures

SCDOT will conduct traffic studies to determine if the speed limits on Taylor Street, James Bell Drive, Dorothy Williams Boulevard, Elder Avenue, Rebecca Street, Russelldale Avenue, Piedmont Avenue, and Railroad Avenue can be reduced to 25 miles per hour. If speed limits are reduced, SCDOT will fund and install traffic calming measures on these streets. Additionally, crosswalks at identified locations will also be implemented.



Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements

SCDOT will fund stormwater management improvements 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 wayfinding signs will also be implemented.

The majority of the CIEP components will be completed prior to the construction of the I-526 LCC WEST improvements. However, the schedule for construction of components such as the shared use path along Margaret Drive and the pedestrian bridges will be dictated by the acquisition of right-of-way for the I-526 LCC WEST Project.



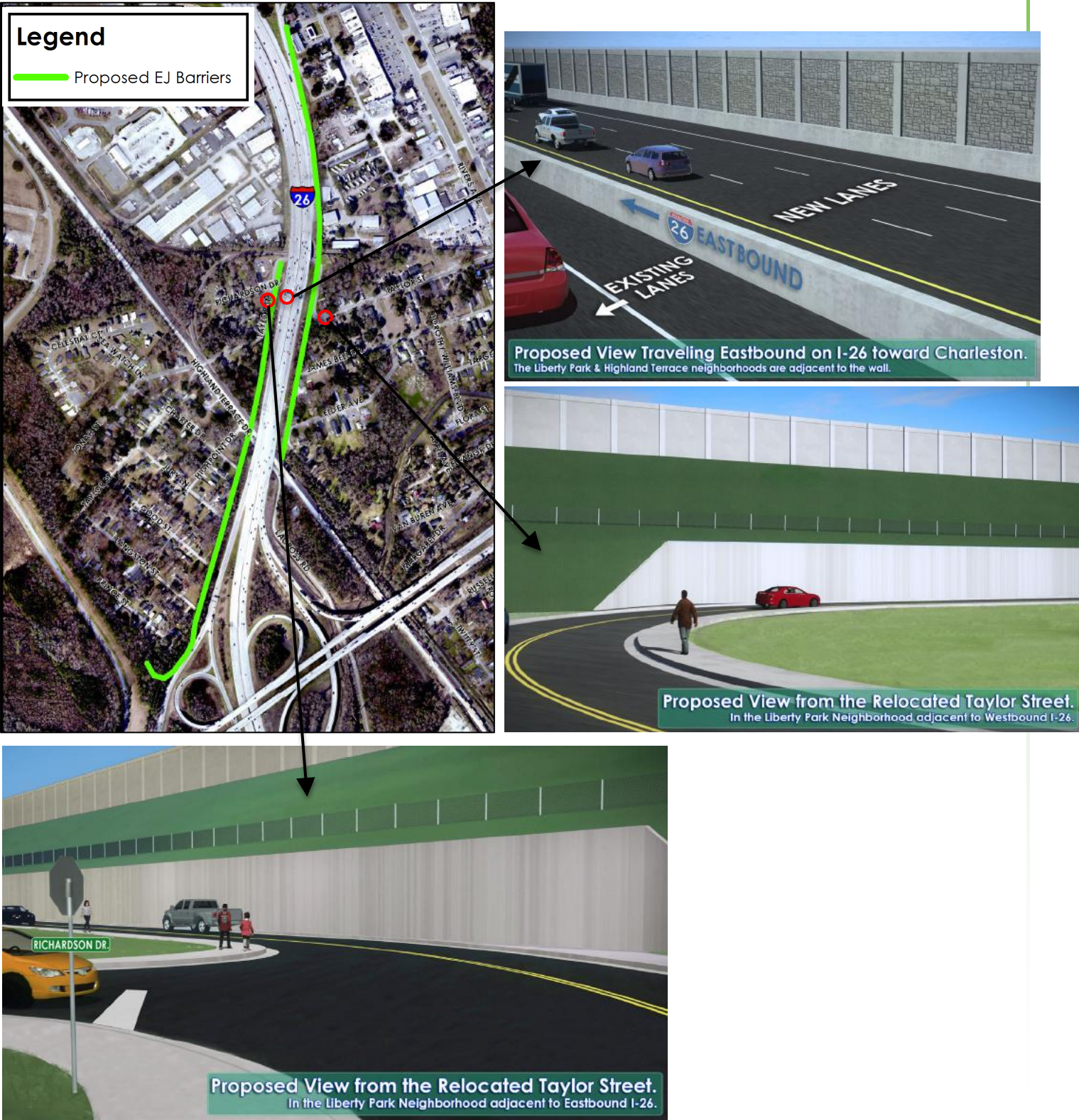
Mitigation Barriers

Mitigation barriers are walls constructed along a highway to protect sensitive land-uses from visual impacts associated with transportation projects. SCDOT will construct mitigation barriers along the eastbound and westbound sides of I-26 between the I-526 and Remount Road interchanges to benefit the residents of the Highland Terrace and Liberty Park communities.

SCDOT will require the contractor to submit a design for the I-526 bridges that reduces the anticipated noise levels for receptors within the Liberty Park, Russelldale, and Ferndale communities.

Final EJ Community Mitigation Plan Components

Proposed renderings of Mitigation Barriers



Final EJ Community Mitigation Plan Components



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 community center. The Community History Preservation Program will be completed within two years of the approval of the FEIS/ROD. However, the visual imagery will be implemented as part of the construction of the replacement community center and pocket parks.

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

- Conducting oral history interviews with current and past residents,
- Performing 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,
- Developing 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,
- Developing history banners and recommendations for visual imagery that can be incorporated into the replacement community center.

Additional items may be incorporated in the scope as determined by the POC.

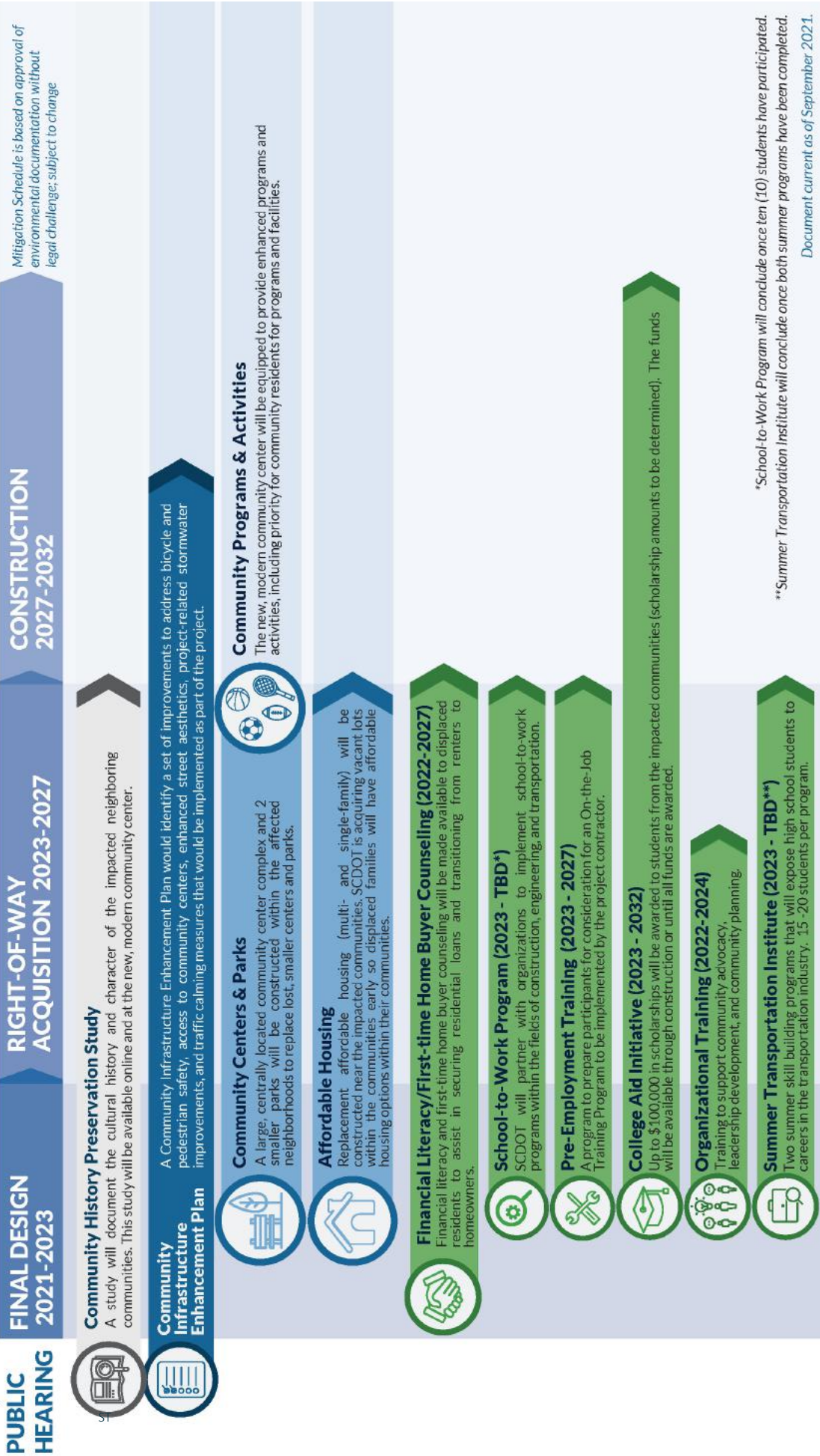


Community History Preservation Plan logo chosen through a voting process by the CAC and approved by SCDOT.

Proposed Mitigation Schedule

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

WHAT IS PROPOSED TO BENEFIT MY COMMUNITY? And When?



*School-to-Work Program will conclude once ten (10) students have participated.
 **Summer Transportation Institute will conclude once both summer programs have been completed.
 Document current as of September 2021.

Final EJ Community Mitigation Plan Components

Any final thoughts?

Your input has been vital to the creation of the Environmental Justice Community Mitigation Plan for the I-526 LCC WEST project. The mitigation components presented in this packet have been submitted to Federal Highway Administration for review and approval.

In addition to the final mitigation components, please review the ***SCDOT Mitigation Response Letter*** that was provided to you via email on August 18, 2021, to address your concerns regarding the DRAFT EJ Community Mitigation Plan.

Please provide any final thoughts regarding the proposed mitigation in the space below to share during CAC Meeting #18.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Project Oversight Committee Recruitment

The Project Oversight Committee (POC) is a group of EJ neighborhood residents, various Agency representatives (such as SCDOT, FHWA, City of North Charleston, North Charleston Housing Authority), and other stakeholders that will meet during the implementation of the EJ Community Mitigation Plan to discuss mitigation-related schedule, issues, and concerns.

The POC will meet in Spring 2022 and continue to meet quarterly until 2031 or when construction is expected to be completed. Individual POC members are **not** expected to serve for the complete 10-year duration. POC members can step down from the committee when they are no longer able to fulfill their commitment. A replacement will be selected before POC members step down to ensure each neighborhood retains representation on the POC.

The proposed structure of community representation includes a former CAC member and an alternate from each EJ neighborhood (ideally 4 representatives and 4 alternates).

POC EJ Community Member Roles

- Facilitating accountability and oversight in the EJ mitigation implementation
- Giving other EJ neighborhood residents a voice in the mitigation implementation process

POC EJ Community Member Responsibilities

- Consistently attend quarterly meetings starting in 2022
- Share individual knowledge, experiences, and perspectives with other members of the POC
- Communicate with the project team if any responsibilities cannot be met

Ideal POC EJ Community Member Qualities

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| • Neighborhood advocate | • Any other ideal qualities to note? |
| • Interested in the I-526 LCC project | _____ |
| • Available to attend quarterly meetings | _____ |

For CAC recruitment, the project team contacted local churches and schools to find potential candidates. Community meetings and other project outreach events also gave the team an opportunity to identify interested residents.

Do you have any ideas or suggestions on how to best recruit interested EJ community members for the POC?

Outreach Update

The I-526 LCC WEST project team is hosting informational sessions to provide useful resources to the CAC and residents of the impacted EJ neighborhoods, emphasize the role of the Community Office as a support tool for the impacted EJ neighborhoods, and increase the traffic (phone calls and visits) to the Community Office. The following sessions have occurred or will take place:

1. Let's Talk about Public Safety! | Occurred on Monday, August 23, 2021, 13 total attendees

Pfc. Paiam "Pi" Etminan #201, Crime Prevention Officer, North Charleston Police Department

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unrest in our work and personal lives. Random gun violence has also plagued many of our communities. Public safety professionals are the only persons who can provide information to address the issues of safety being experienced by so many.

2. Let's Put Your Financial House in Order! | Monday, September 27, 2021

Debra Stewart, VP, First Citizens Bank

Putting one's financial house in order means paying bills on time and also saving for unexpected expenses or buying a home.

3. White Coat Fright (Are you afraid to visit a doctor)? | Monday, October 25, 2021

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.

4. What's the Difference in Trusts Versus Wills? | Monday, November 8, 2021

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.

5. What is PTSD (Personal Traumatic Stress Disorder)? | Monday, December 6, 2021

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.

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU: Participate in these sessions and spread the word to your neighbors! (yard signs and flyers to be provided)

Outreach Update

Free Information Sessions at Community Office

As noted on the previous page, the project team is hosting free information sessions as a resource for the CAC and residents of the impacted EJ neighborhoods. Given the current constraints on in-person participation (6 people per class to ensure social distancing guidelines), the project team would like to offer a virtual option to increase opportunities for resident participation. Which virtual platform (Zoom, Teams, Google Meet, etc.) do you think would work best for your community? Please share your thoughts below:

CAC Appreciation Event

The project team would like to host an in-person appreciation event for CAC members to express gratitude for your willingness to invest in your community, participate in project discussions, and consistently attend meetings. While originally planned for Fall 2021, the project team would like your opinion on timing and comfort level given the current uptick in COVID-19 cases. Please share your thoughts below:

Community History Preservation Program Open House

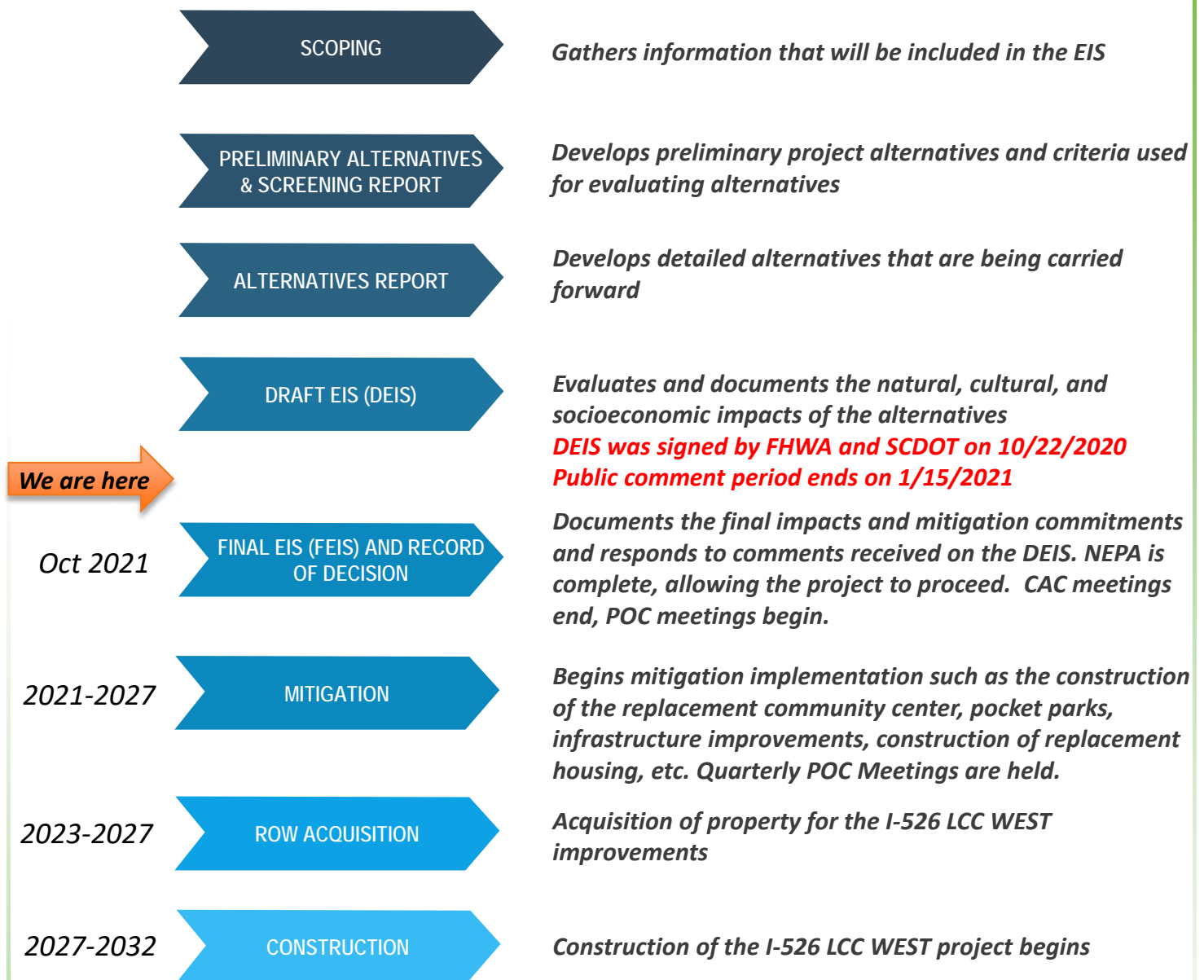
The CHPP team plans to host an open house to give current and former EJ neighborhood residents an opportunity to participate in interviews, share historic images, and provide information to document the unique historic and cultural elements of the EJ communities. While originally planned for Fall 2021, the project team would like your opinion on timing and comfort level given the current uptick in COVID-19 cases. Please share your thoughts below:

Community Office Stats

(April 12 – August 13, 2021)

- Visitors: 176
- Incoming Calls: 139
- Voicemails: 14
- ROW Appointments: 42
- Outgoing Calls: 207

Project Schedule / Milestone Review



Summary and Next Steps

- Action Items
- CAC Meeting #20 – October 9, 2021

Placeholder for CAC Meeting #19 Summary

Minutes are still being reviewed and have not been formally approved.



Community Advisory Council Meeting #19

October 9, 2021

Table of Contents

- Welcome and Administrative Items
- Neighborhood Update
- Action Items from Meeting #18
 - Commitment Revisions
 - Update on Russelldale Pocket Park
- I-526 LCC EAST Project Update
- CAC Best Practices Review Survey
- Outreach Update
- Project Schedule and Milestone Review
- Summary and Next Steps

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.*

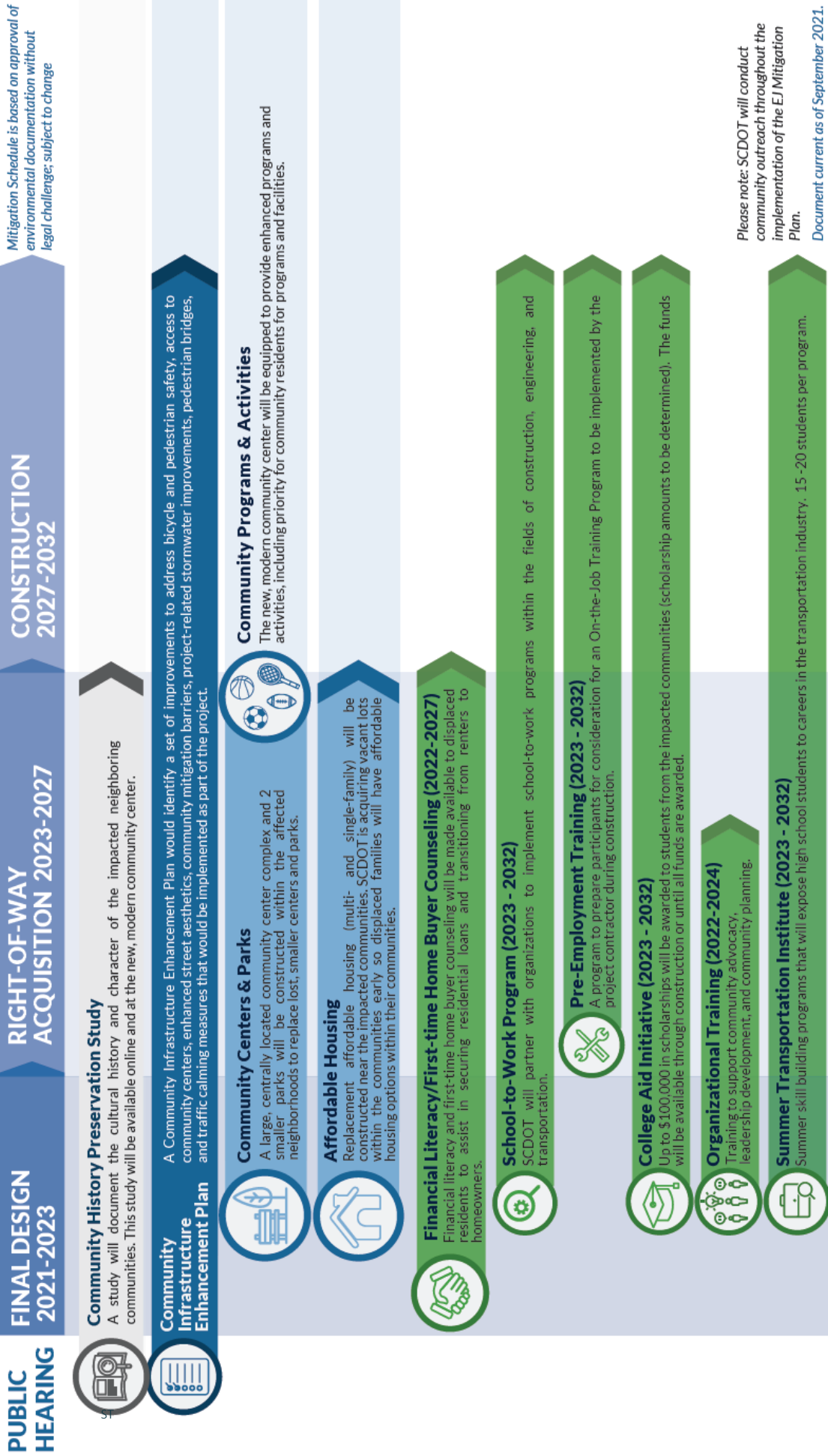
*****Section 6(f)** refers to the original Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act that provides protection for federal investment in public outdoor recreation. The primary protection is a requirement to replace any LWCF outdoor recreation property with property of equal or greater economic and recreational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

Commitment Revisions



PROPOSED SCHEDULE

WHAT IS PROPOSED TO BENEFIT MY COMMUNITY? And When?

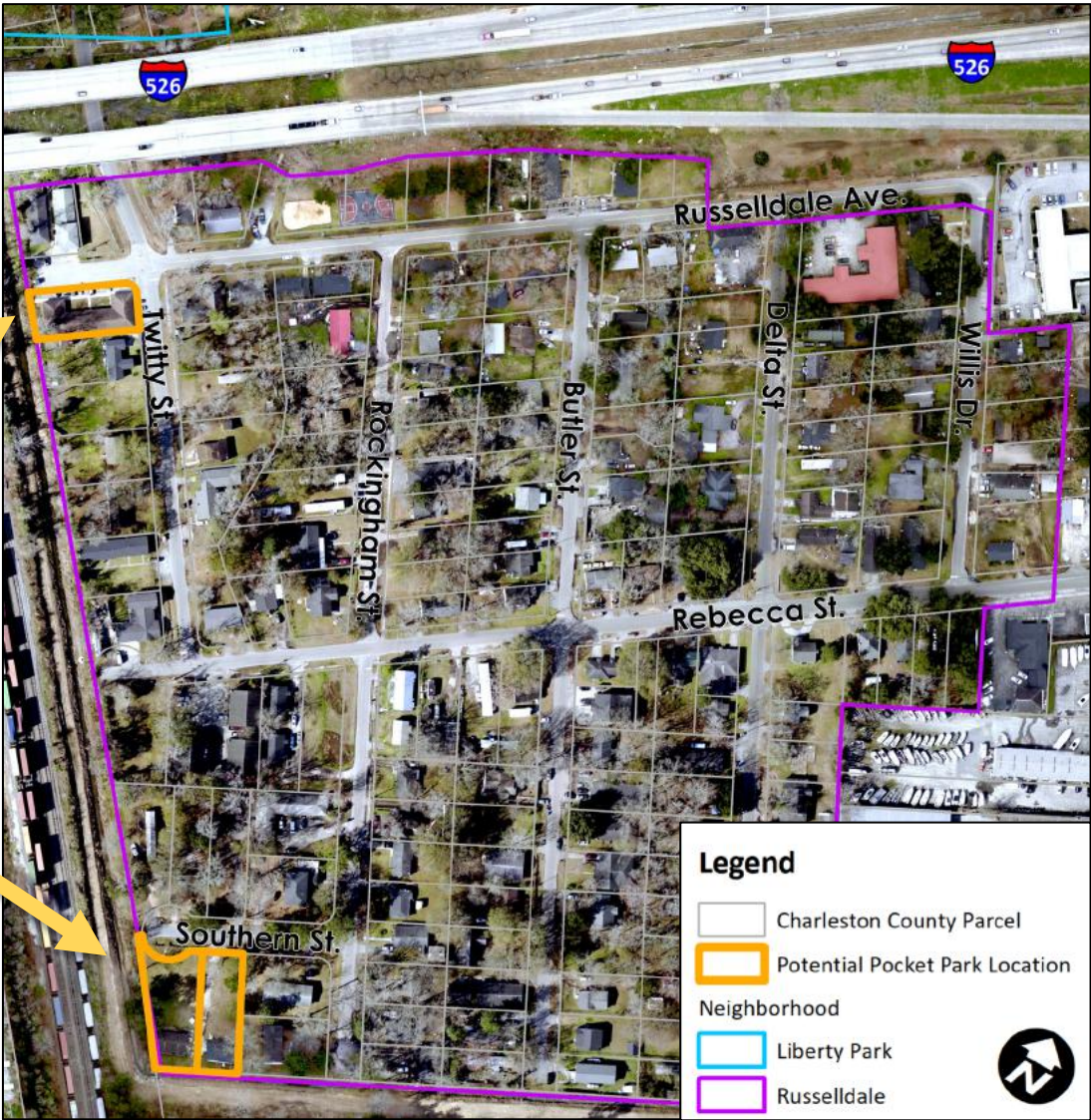


Mitigation Schedule is based on approval of environmental documentation without legal challenge; subject to change

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**

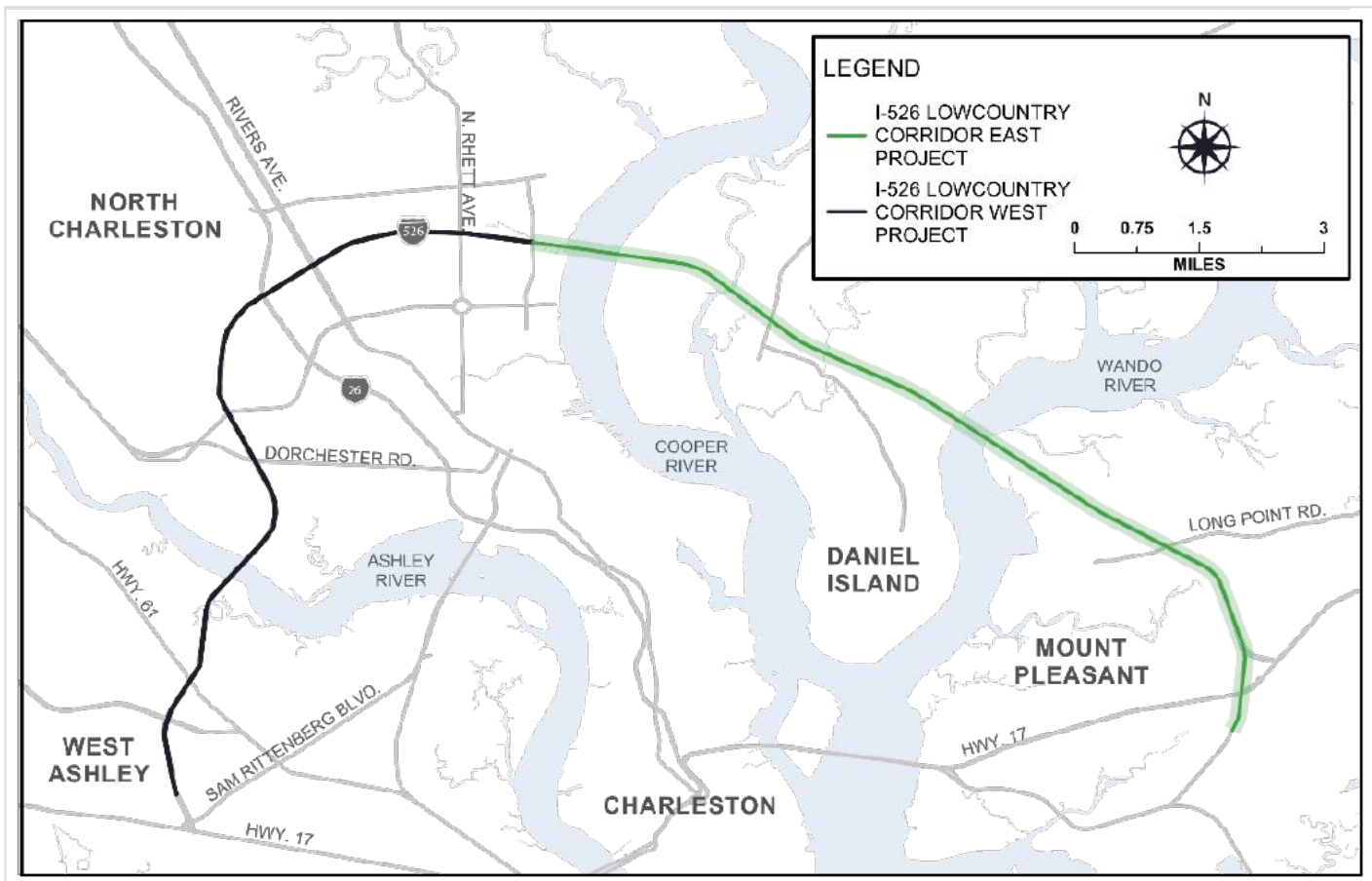
Virginia Avenue to US 17

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

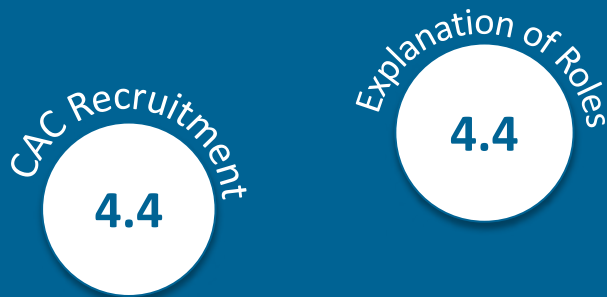
Joy Riley, PE, PMP, CPM, DBIA
SC Department of Transportation
Post Office Box 191
955 Park Street, Room 401
Columbia, SC 29202-0191

CAC Best Practices Review Survey

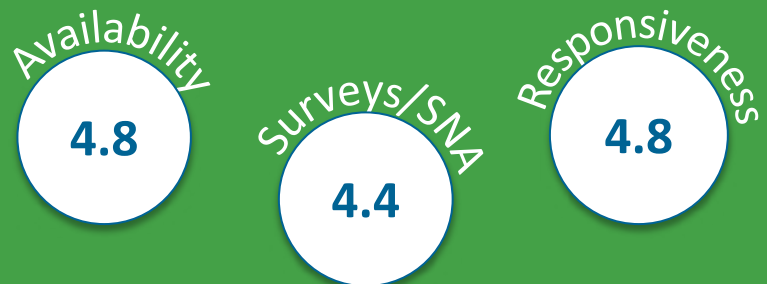
As we approach the end of 2021, the Project Team would like your feedback on the CAC process to determine if our approach, procedures, materials, etc. should be **sustained** or if they need to be **improved**. You were recently sent a survey with these topics and an opportunity to provide input and 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



2. Communication with the Project Team



3. Community Office



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

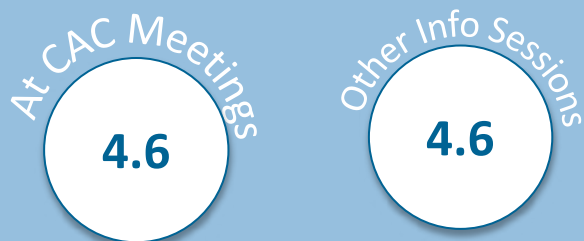
CAC Best Practices Review Survey

“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.”

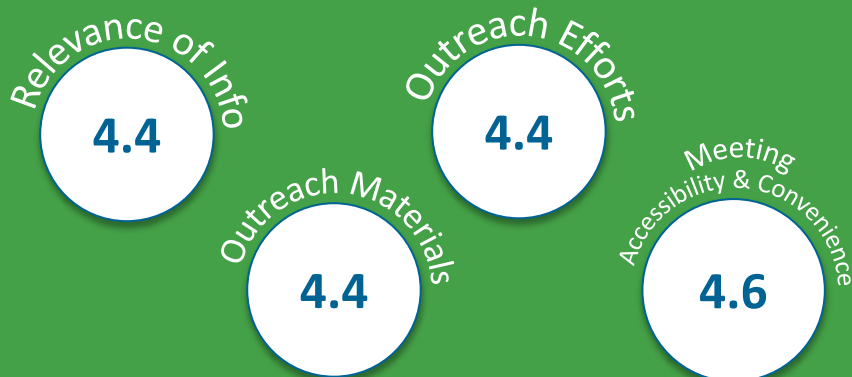
“Great job in this area...”

6. Adjustments Due to COVID-19 Pandemic



CAC Best Practices Review Survey

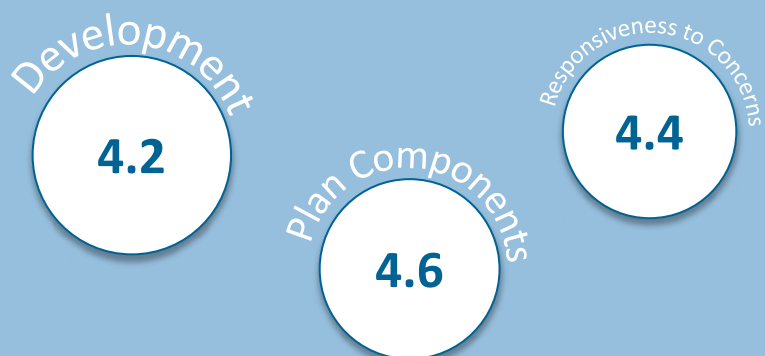
7. Community Outreach & Engagement



“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.

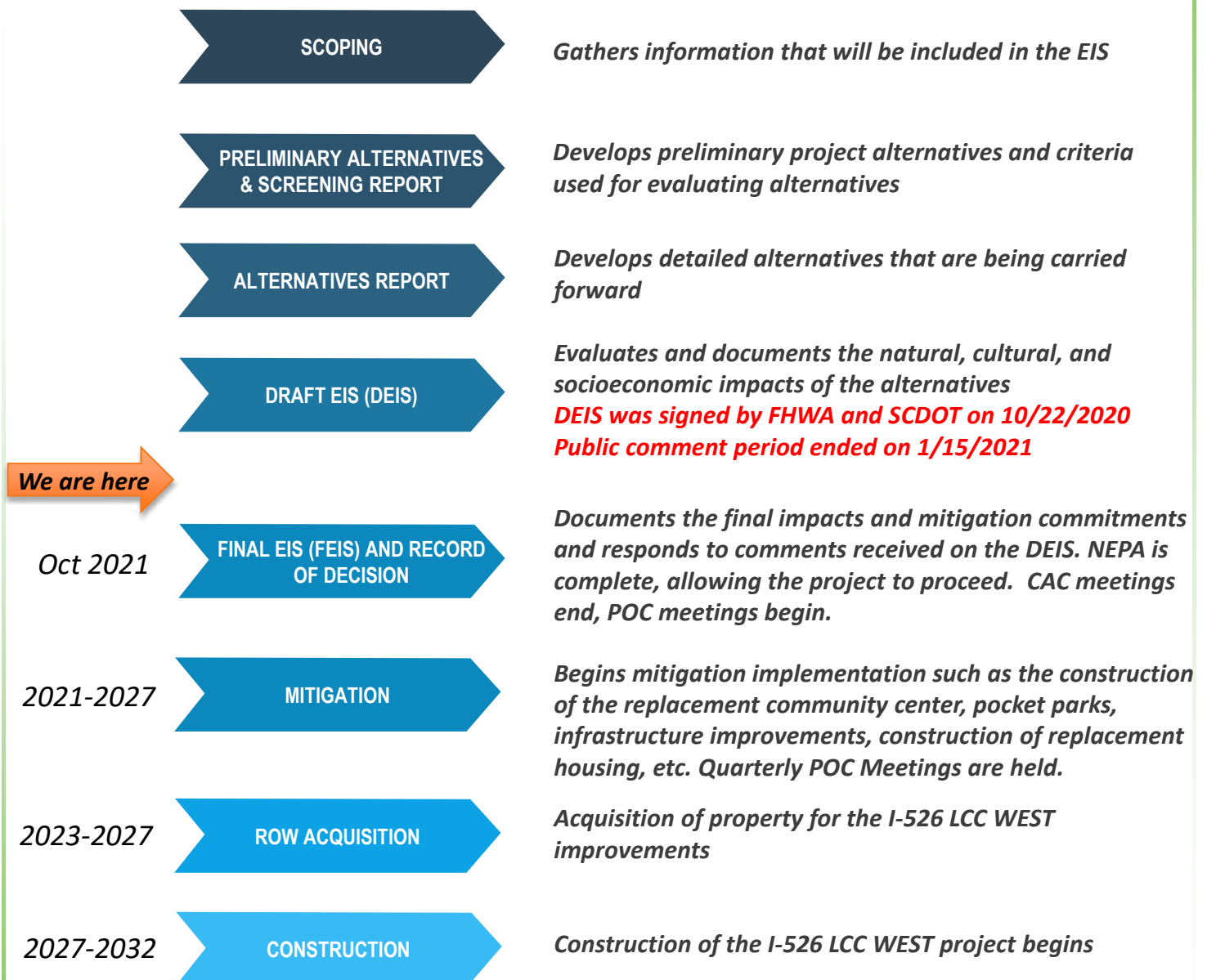
Call the office if you would like flyers or yard signs!

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

Placeholder for CAC Meeting #20 Summary

Minutes are still being reviewed and have not been formally approved.



Community Advisory Council Meeting #20

May 7, 2022

Table of Contents

- Welcome and Administrative Items
- Neighborhood Update
- Proposed CAC Meeting Dates Review
- Project & Mitigation Plan Updates
- EJ Community Outreach Update
- Community Resource Guide Content Review
- Project Schedule/Milestone Review
- Summary and Next Steps



Neighborhood Update

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| ■ Ferndale | ■ Liberty Park |
| ■ Highland Terrace / Joppa Way | ■ 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.

Proposed CAC Meeting Dates Review

- June 4, 2022
- July 2, 2022 or July 9, 2022
- August 6, 2022
- September 3, 2022 or September 10, 2022



Two Projects under development along the exiting I-526 Corridor:

West: Paul Cantrell to Virginia Ave, includes reconstruction of the I-26 and I-526 System to System Interchange

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
Anticipated Decision Late 2022

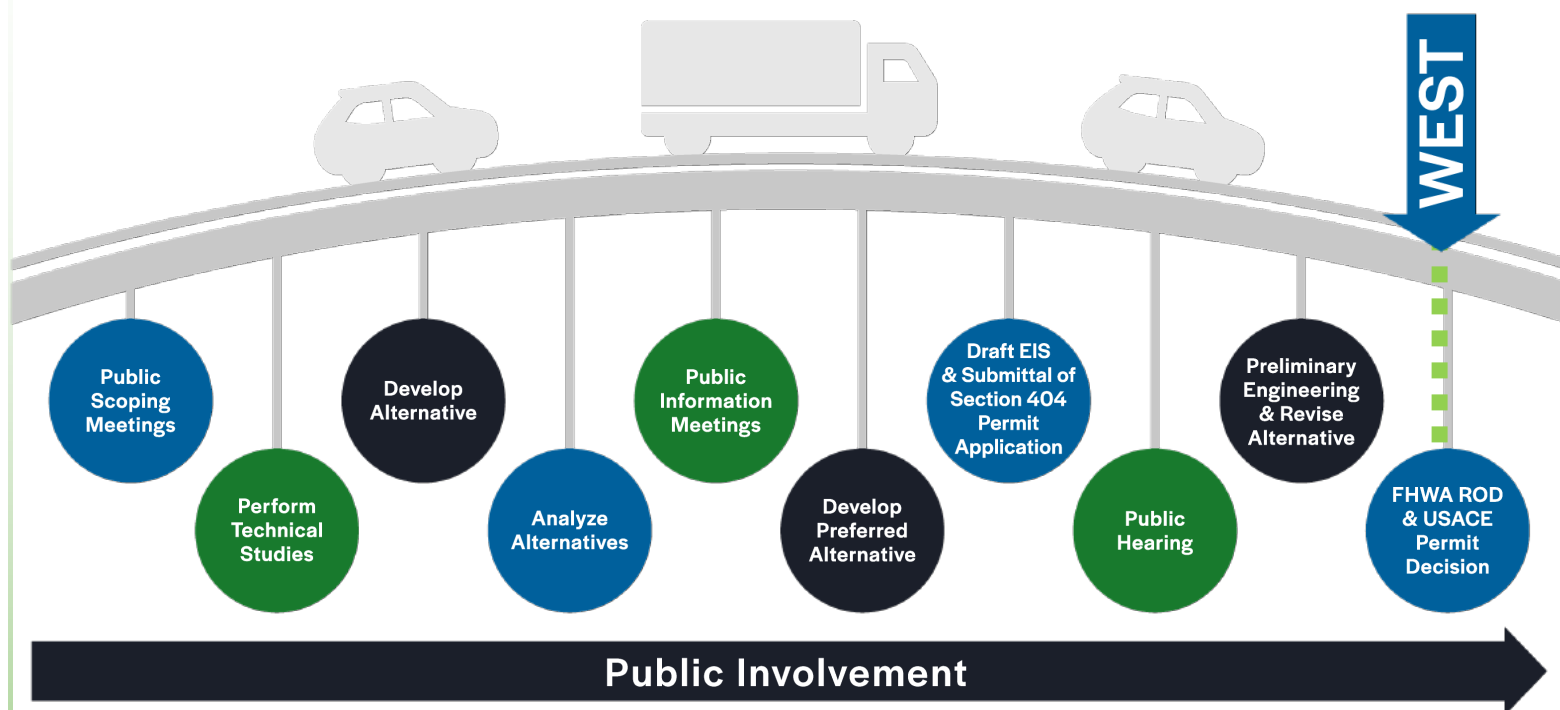
East: Virginia Ave to US 17 in Mount Pleasant
PLANNING PHASE of WORK

Planning & Environmental Linkages
PEL STUDY complete Summer 2022

NEPA Project Development Process

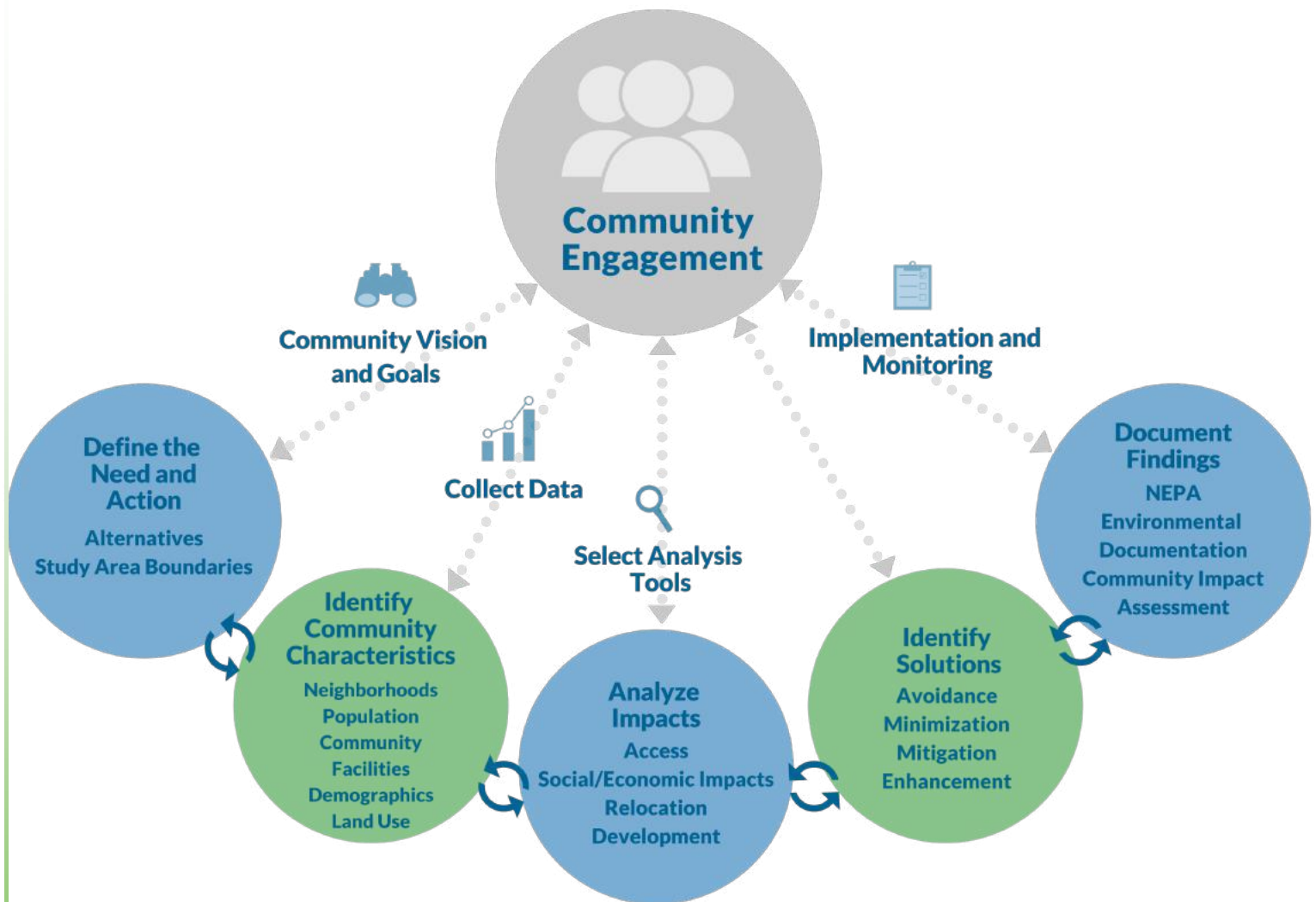
National Environmental Policy Act Process

I-526 LCC WEST Environmental Impact Statement



Community Mitigation Plan

Effectively mitigate direct, indirect, and cumulative (recurring) impacts on EJ communities by **establishing relationships, building trust, and gathering feedback that will inform decisions** on mitigative measures and other aspects of project development



Additional Changes Coming Soon

- Coordination ongoing with FHWA
- Additional items being considered to increase benefits
- Geared towards increasing the **quality of life** of the community residents and providing opportunities to increase their **generational wealth**
- Community Meetings this Summer to reveal revised mitigation plan

Your
Comments
Made a
Difference!

ADVANCE MITIGATION IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

PROPOSED
SCHEDULE



PUBLIC
HEARING

FINAL DESIGN
2021 2023

RIGHT OF WAY
ACQUISITION 2023 2027

CONSTRUCTION
2028 2038

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



Community History Preservation Study



Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan & Mitigation Barriers



Community Centers & Parks



Community Programs & Activities



Affordable Housing & First
Time Home Buyer Program



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



Enhanced ROW Advisory
Services & Acquisition Fairness
Program (2023 - 2027)



Pre-Employment & On the Job Training (2023 - 2038)



School to Work Program & College Aid Initiative (2023 - 2038)



Small Business Development & DBE Recruitment Program (2023-2038)



Careers in Transportation Education Program (2023 - 2038)



Community Mitigation Implementation Schedule

Community Mitigation Schedule Commitment

SCDOT will commit to implementation of all the community mitigation items, with a few exceptions below, PRIOR to the interstate project going to construction.

- Mitigation Barriers – constructing barriers prior to construction would expand the footprint of the project and result in additional ROW impacts.
- Railroad Crossing Upgrades in Highland Terrace
- Pedestrian Bridge over the Railroad – Construction of these railroad facilities will require Railroad approval and flagging operations, which may not be feasible to obtain prior to interstate project construction.

Organizational Training

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



Enhanced Right of Way Services

Enhanced Advisory Services

- SCDOT ROW Liaison
- Provide advisory services to resident
- Home Buyer Assistance
- Section 8 Coordination
- Affordable Housing Coordination
- Transportation for viewing replacement properties
- Conflict Resolution

Acquisition Fairness Program

- Independent Appraisals Paid by SCDOT for second opinion of value
- Review appraisals to ensure values are not decreased due to conditions caused by previous public acquisitions
- Set highest and best use of properties to the advantage of the property owner to eliminate disparities in zoning changes



Enhanced Rental Assistance Program



Enhanced Rental Assistance Program

- Additional supplemental rental assistance benefits to exceed supplemental payments usually received through last resort housing funds for 42 months will be increased to a minimum of **60 months** for displaced businesses and tenants in the impacted EJ communities.

Example Scenario to demonstrate this change:

Average Rent (2 BR apartment) w/ Utilities = \$1967 /month

Average incomes in EJ Communities (per census data) = \$20,695 per year

30% of income for affordable housing costs for this individual = **\$517**

Calculation of monthly rent supplement = \$1967 - \$517 = **\$1450**

42 months of supplemental rents = \$60,884

60 months of supplemental rents = \$86,977

* Actual rent supplements based on each individuals specific income & rent

Focused Community Outreach

Community Advisory Council (CAC)

SCDOT will continue to support the CAC through publishing of the FEIS/ROD by:

- Facilitating regularly scheduled monthly meetings
- Providing logistical and administrative support, as needed.

Project Oversight Committee (POC)

SCDOT will assist in the creation of a POC for ensuring adherence to the commitments in the Final EJCMP:

- Coordinate with technical staff
- Serve as a liaison between the communities and project staff

Organizational Training

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



Focused Community Outreach

Community Office

- Maintained throughout the project development, final design, and right-of-way acquisition phases
- Staffed with a full-time Office Manager, Community Liaisons/Outreach Specialists, and part-time Right-of-Way Specialists
- Meeting space for the CAC, the POC, and other stakeholders with an interest in the project



Community Resource Guide & Community Workshops

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 & Wellness
- Home Repair
- Financial Assistance
- Minority-owned Businesses
- Referral agencies

Affordable Housing for Residential Displacements

Affordable Housing

- SCDOT is partnering with the South Carolina State Housing, Finance & Development Authority to **BUILD** 100 new affordable housing units as close to the impacted communities as possible
- Replacement housing will be located within or in proximity to the impacted communities
- SCDOT will partner with a local non-profit who specializes in affordable housing to implement a Single-Family Affordable Replacement Housing Program on ~~20~~45 residential lots in community
- Developments must have direct access to transit and convenient access to the proposed Lowcountry Bus Rapid Transit System (LCRT)
- Developments that are in compliance with the BCDCOG LCRT Transit Oriented development will be given priority.
- Relocated Residents in the EJ Communities will get first priority
- Remaining Units will be opened to other residents in the EJ Communities



To be completed prior to the start of construction of the I-526 LCC WEST improvements

First Time Home Buyer Program

Financial Literacy and First Time Home Buyer Counseling

- Provide financial literacy and first-time home buyer counseling to displaced residents
- Partnerships with local organizations such as the Trident Urban League
- Assist residents in securing residential loans and transitioning from renters to homeowners
- ***Counseling will occur in group & individual classes; start in 2022***

First Time Home Buyer Grant Program

- Provide financial grants for down payment assistance
- Partnership with SC Housing or another agency to administer program
- Working out the program details to reflect the criteria for this program




To be completed prior to the start of construction of the I-526 LCC WEST improvements

Community Recreational Amenities

Community Center Facilities and Amenities

Partner with the City of North Charleston to fund the construction of one replacement community center, two pocket parks, and associated infrastructure that could potentially include:

- Flexible space/classrooms
- Basketball courts
- Wi-Fi & internet access
- Emergency generators & refrigerators
- **Solar Power** 
- Facility approaches to be well-lit
- Multi-use path
- Crosswalks/traffic calming
- Multiple pedestrian access points
- Walkways, common spaces to be user-friendly
- Wayfarer/directional signs to help guide residents to new facilities
- A community garden
- An educational wetland
- Covered shelters/grills
- Audio/visual equipment
- Mural in the community center
- Satellite parking for the community center near SUP trail heads



To be completed prior to the start of construction of the I-526 LCC WEST improvements

Community Recreational Amenities



Programs and Activities

Partner with the City of North Charleston to develop programs, services, & arrangements for long-term operation & maintenance of the replacement community center and amenities.

- Priority will be given to residents of the 4 EJ communities
- The City will encourage residents of the 4 EJ communities to apply for jobs at the replacement community center
- Potential programs and activities could include:
 - Senior/youth-focused programs & activities
 - A yearly calendar of community center events focusing on fostering community cohesion
 - Programming that provides access to educational and financial resources for community advocacy and self-advocacy
 - Inclusion of a community garden to serve as both an educational program and effort to mitigate neighborhoods' location in known food desert
 - Maintenance of stormwater detention for educational purposes during summer programs

To be completed prior to the start of construction of the I-526 LCC WEST improvements

Educational & Employment Opportunities

Expanded all programs to be available throughout the right of way and construction phases of the project!

College Aid Initiative

- **Increased fund to \$500,000**
- Relocated residents would still be eligible
- CAC will develop the criteria for eligibility
- SCDOT will distribute the funds



Pre-Employment Training

- Provide training and job readiness skills to individuals from the impacted EJ communities

Summer Transportation Institute Program

- Provide a skill-building program to create awareness and expose high school students to career opportunities in transportation
- **Give priority to students from Impacted Communities for up to 50% of the slots/year**

School-to-Work Program

- Partner with local industries and businesses
- Goal of enhancing employment opportunities within the fields of transportation
- During ROW phase, an internship program will be funded by SCDOT to provide up to ~~40~~ **20** high school or college internships in the transportation sector for students within the impacted EJ communities

Internships start this Summer!

Summer 2022 School to Work Opportunities

- One intern to work in the Community Office and assist with community outreach
- One internship available at the local SCDOT Charleston office to learn about construction and maintenance careers
- Summer Transportation Institute will be held at Benedict College and EJ community residents will be prioritized but this program is open to all students
- CDL Training continues to be available for those that are 18+



ATTENTION Students!

INTERESTED IN A SUMMER INTERNSHIP?

The following **PAID** transportation-focused internships are available through the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) in Charleston, SC for those 16+:

- **I-526 Lowcountry Corridor Community Office Internship**
- **SCDOT Charleston Office Internship**

OTHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Summer Transportation Institute (STI)**
A 4-week program this summer to introduce high school students to careers in the transportation industry. Learn how to apply today (843.258.1135)! Must have a minimum 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.
- **CDL Training (18+)**
Both a CDL Permit Preparation Class and CDL Full License Program will be offered.

WEST 526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR

Training and internships sponsored by the South Carolina Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.

SCDOT
South Carolina Department of Transportation

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Contact the I-526 LCC Community Office Today to Learn More!
843.258.1135
info@526LowcountryCorridor.com

Apply Today!

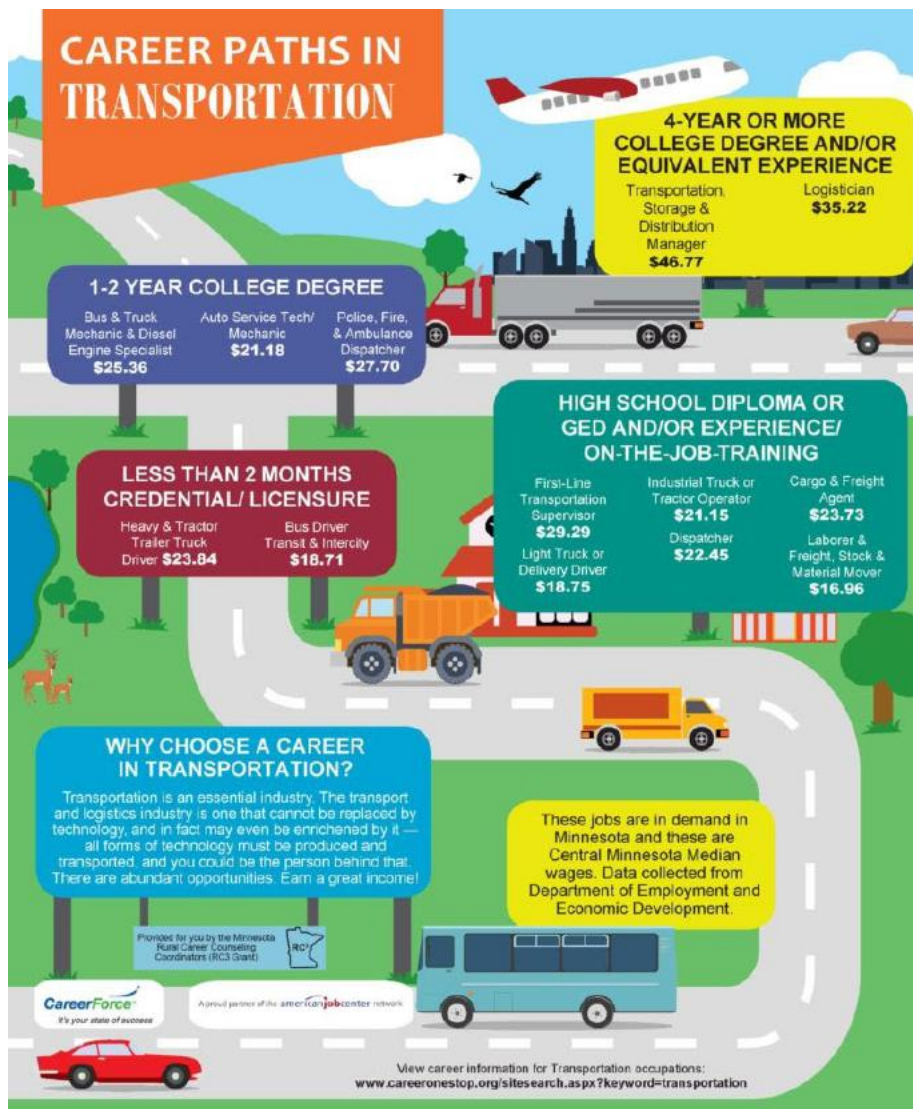
Educational & Employment Opportunities

Expanded all programs to be available throughout the right of way and construction phases of the project!

Careers in Transportation Education Program



- Provide awareness, skill building and expose students and young adults to career opportunities in transportation
- Transportation Technology Education



Community Enhancement Initiatives

Small Business Development Program



- SCDOT will develop an educational program to bring awareness to the generational wealth benefits of entrepreneurship
- SCDOT will partner with organizations and other disadvantaged business enterprises (DBE) in the state to develop and deliver an educational program that empowers those interested in learning more about starting a small business enterprise (SBE).
- Awareness to small business resources and orientation to the benefits and programs offered
- DBE information sessions & Recruitment for opportunities to work on the I-526 LCC projects



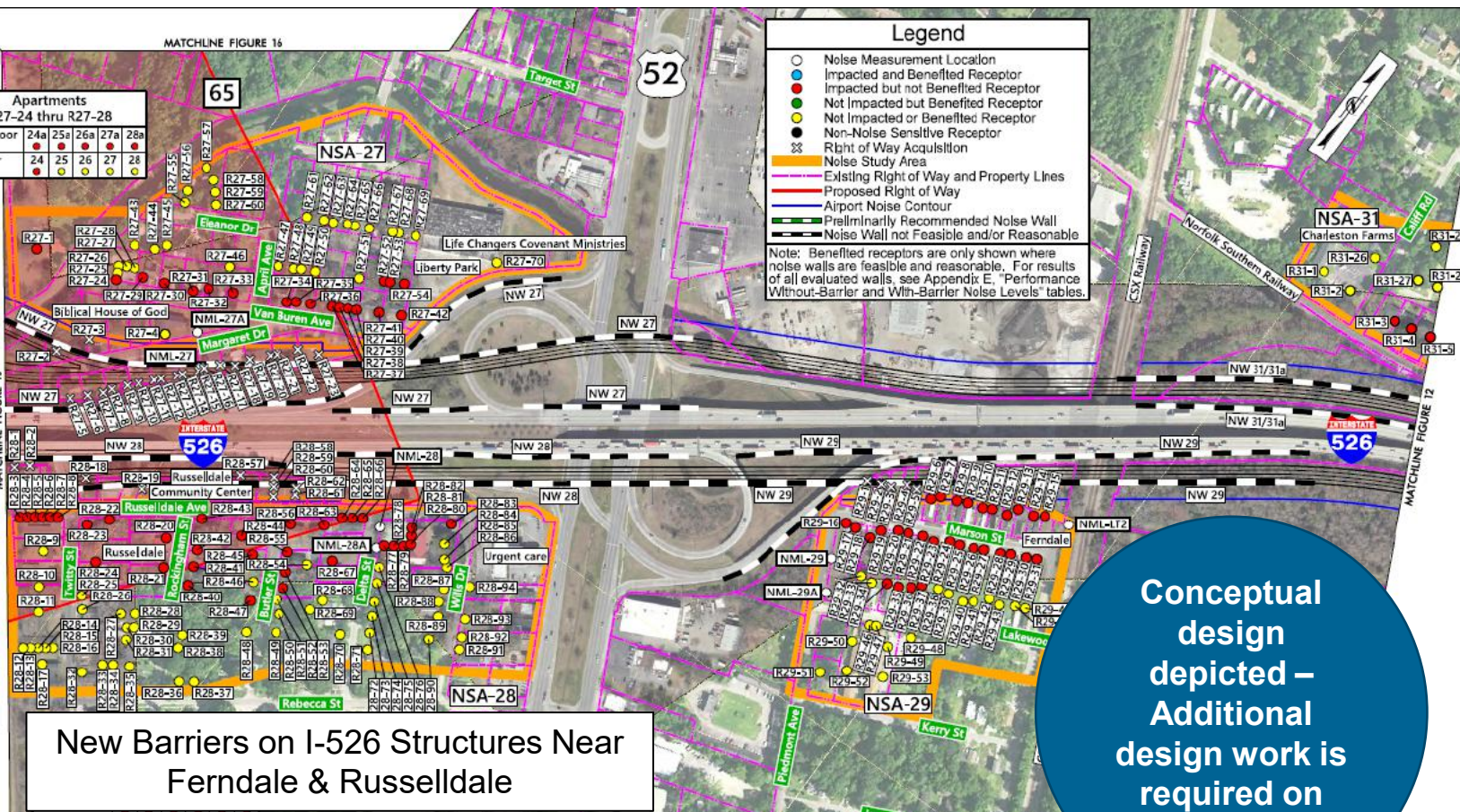
Community History Preservation Study

- Document the cultural history and character of the impacted EJ communities
- Began collecting interested participant contact information
interviews began April 2021

Community Enhancement Initiatives

Mitigation Barriers

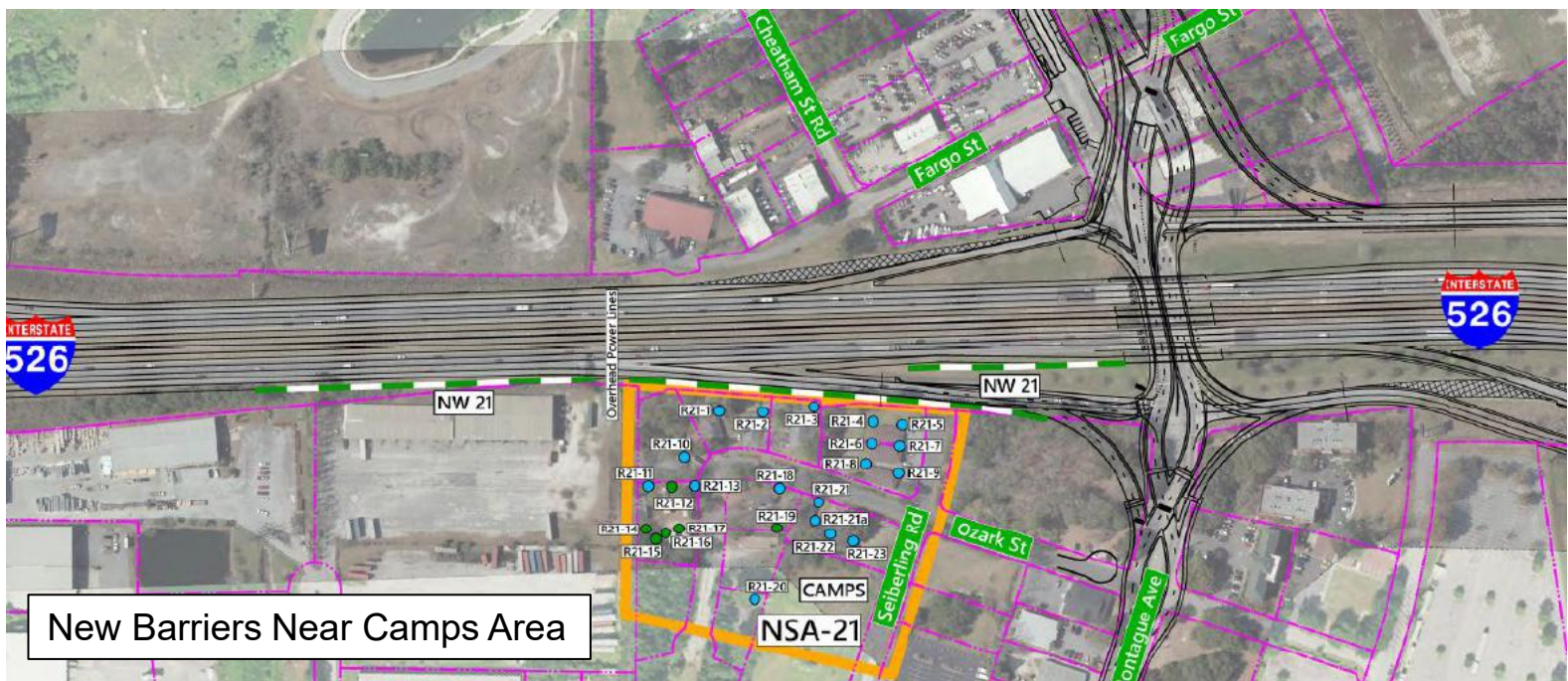
- To be built on along the I-26 and I-526 corridor bordering the impacted EJ communities
- Exploring additional options for further reducing noise along I-526 using technology to reduce noise from pavement and bridge deck joints.



Community Enhancement Initiatives

Mitigation Barriers

- Added mitigation barriers to the Montague Interchange ramp to mitigate cumulative impacts to the Camps EJ area east of I-526



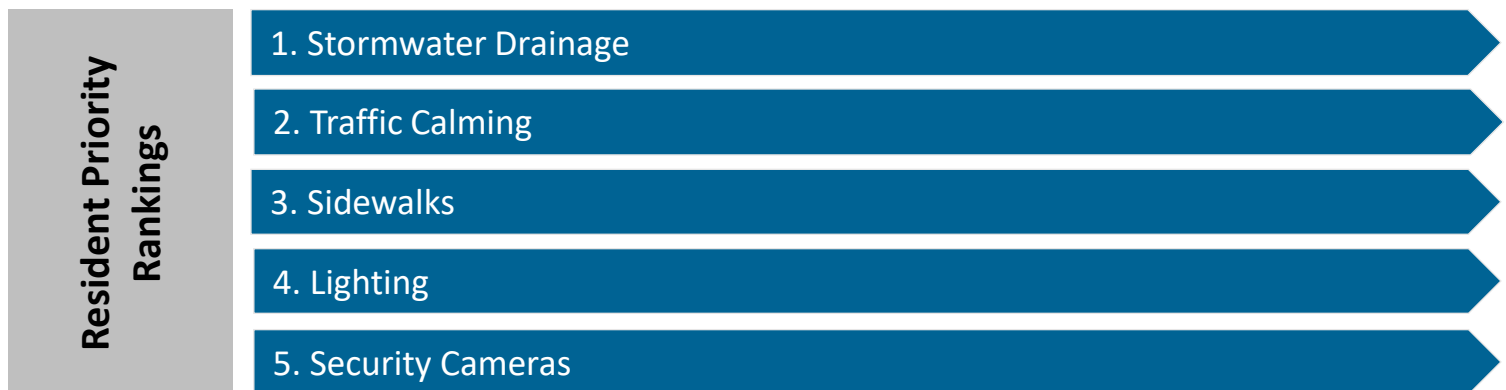
Community Enhancement Initiatives

Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan (CIEP)

Improvements to:

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity and Safety
- Bus Shelter Amenities
- Pedestrian Lighting
- Traffic Calming Measures
- Stormwater Infrastructure
- Landscaping and Aesthetics
- Railroad Crossing Upgrades
- Pedestrian Bridges

Locations for improvements were identified by CIEP survey participants, CIEP Open House attendees & CAC members



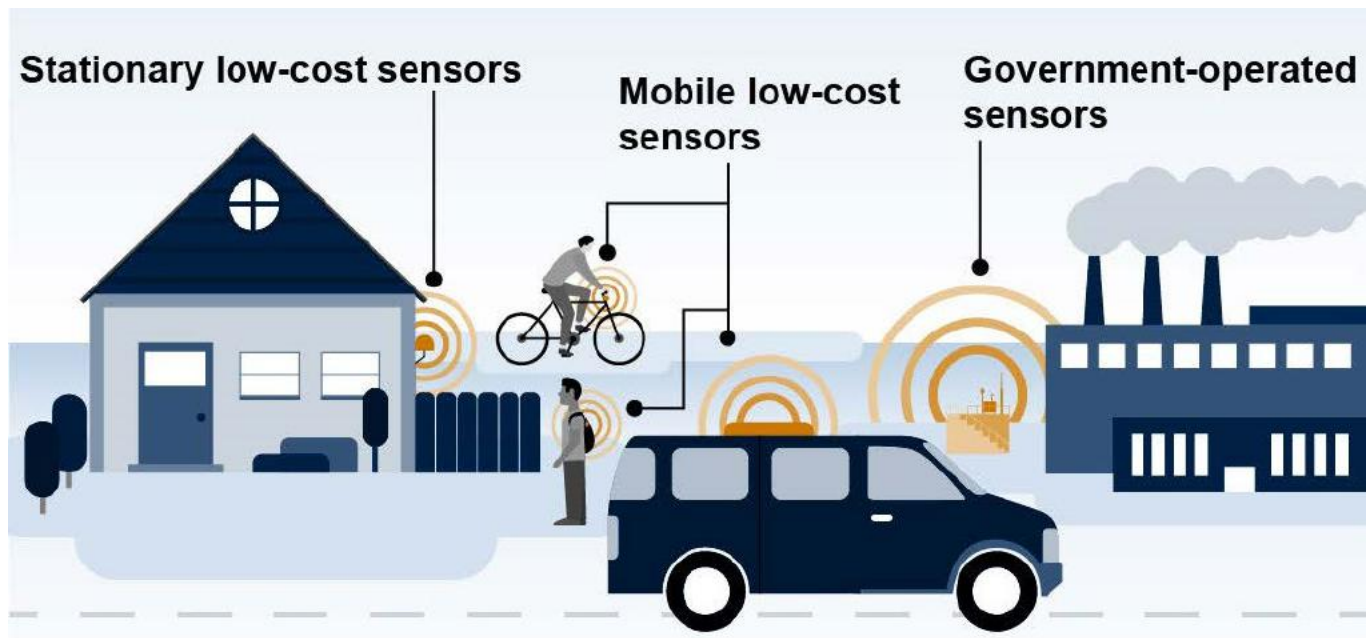
89% of survey respondents live in impacted EJ Neighborhoods

Community Air Quality Monitoring Program

NEW

Community Air Quality Monitoring Program

- SCDOT will fund the purchase and installation of Particulate Matter 2.5 Sensors
- Sensors will be placed in each of the 4 impacted EJ communities
- Sensors provide real time data to a website
- Website for results will be linked to Project Website
- Sensors will be in place during construction
- SCDOT will develop an implementation plan
- SCDOT will develop a response plan for elevated levels

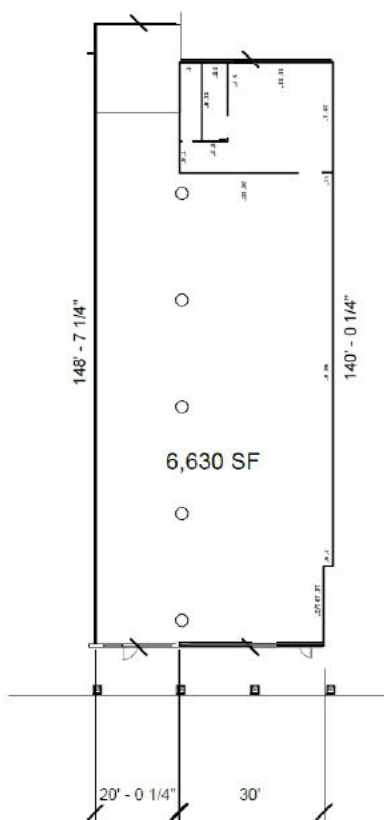




Larger Community Office?

Gas Lite Square
5605 Rivers Avenue
North Charleston

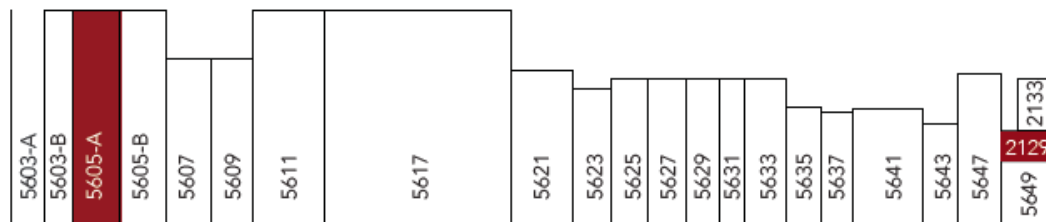
- Larger Space
- Same Convenient Location
- 2-3 Bathrooms
- More Offices
- Larger Meeting Space



Gas Lite Square Shopping Center

5601 Rivers Avenue, North Charleston, SC 29406

**RETAIL SPACE
FOR LEASE**



SUITE TENANTS

5603-A Charleston Imaging
5603-B Kasada Beauty Supply
5605-A AVAILABLE - 4,130 SF
5605-B LaundroLab
5607 Salon Zoë
5609 Geico
5611 Alamo
5617 Home Decor Outlets

5621 Dolphin Dental Group
5623 Oriental Cuisine
5625 Cora Physical Therapy
5627 SCDOT
5629 Seafood Pot
5631 Blades
5633 Spine Pain Center
5635 Americash Cash Loans

5637 All Nails
5641 West Marine
5643 Gas Lite Liquors
5647 Ginza Sushi
5649 Boost
2129 AVAILABLE - 570 SF
2133 Enterprise

EJ Community Outreach Update

- Local Events and Pop-Up Meetings
- Coordination with Religious and Faith-Based Organizations
- Flyer Box Initiative
- Community Workshops & Information Sessions
- Community History Preservation Program (CHPP) w/ Community Event
- Community Resource Guide (CRG)
- Organizational Training
- Small Business Development Program (SBDP)
- Summer Transportation Institute/School-To-Work-Program

Community Resource Guide Content Review



WE ARE HIRING!

AT CHARLESTON COUNTY PARKS

Seasonal & Full-Time Park,
Waterpark, and Beach Jobs



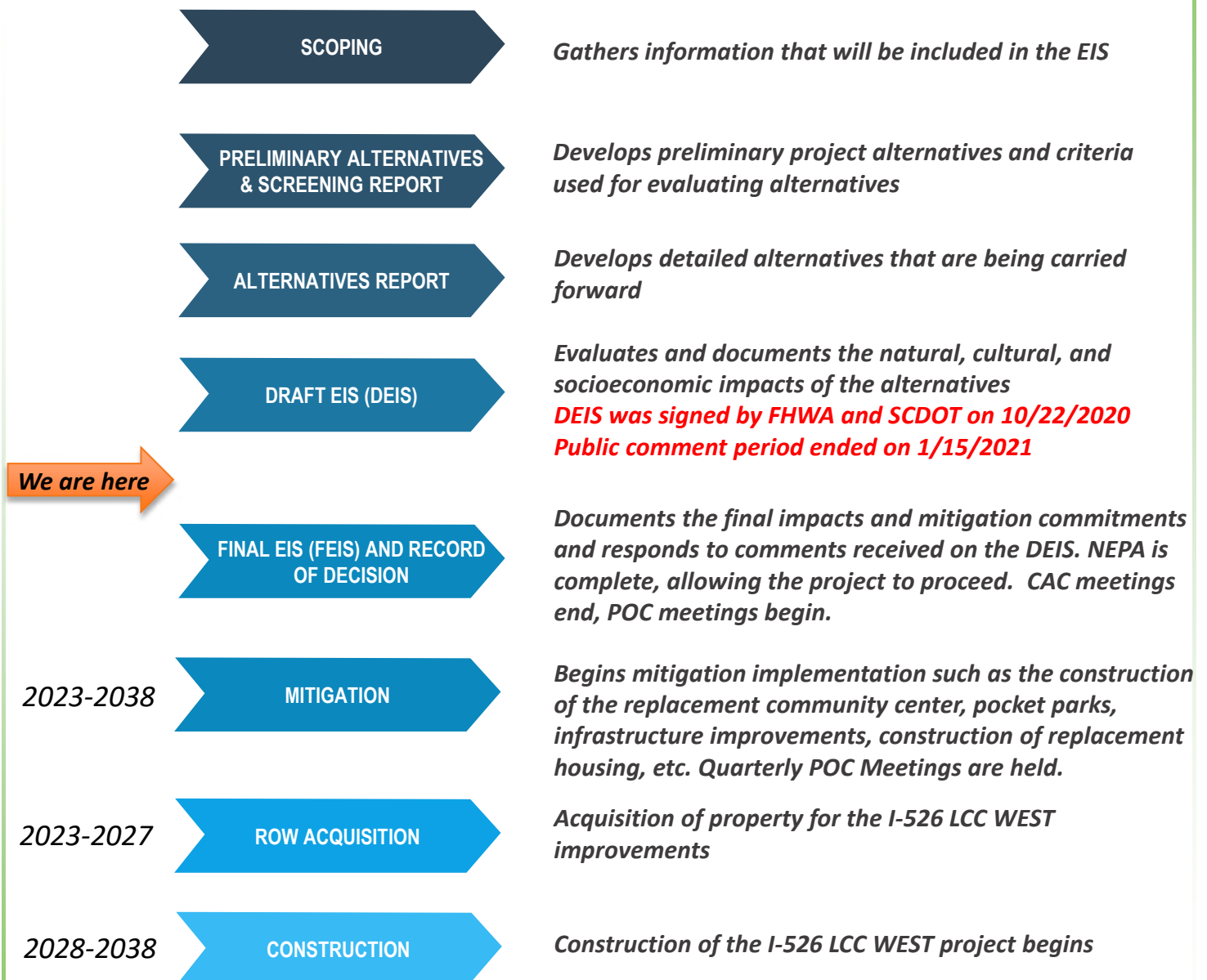
CHARLESTONCOUNTYPARKS.COM

Project Schedule / Milestone Review

Community Office Stats

(April 2022)

- Visitors: 10
- Incoming Calls: 7
- Voicemails: 0
- ROW Appointments: 1
- Outgoing Calls: 5



Summary and Next Steps

- Action Items
- CAC Meeting #21 – June 4, 2022

Placeholder for CAC Meeting #21 Summary

Minutes are still being reviewed and have not been formally approved.



Community Advisory Council Meeting #21

To connect by phone or if you have problems with your online access, please use the following information:

Toll-free Number: (833) 436-6264

Conference ID: 947 737 651#

June 4, 2022

Table of Contents

- Welcome and Administrative Items
- Neighborhood Update
- Community Office Update / Report from Maximum Consulting
- Feedback: Enhanced EJ Community Mitigation Plan
- Committee Discussions
- Upcoming EJ Community Outreach
- Project Schedule/Milestone Review
- Summary and Next Steps



Neighborhood Update

- Ferndale
- Liberty Park
- Highland Terrace / Joppa Way
- 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 Office Stats

(May 2022)

- Visitors: 3
- Incoming Calls: 9
- Voicemails: 2
- ROW Appointments: 1
- Outgoing Calls: 17

Report from Maximum Consulting

Feedback: Enhanced EJ Community Mitigation Plan

MITIGATION OVERSIGHT

- *Community Mitigation Schedule Commitment*
- *Community Meetings*
- *Community Mitigation Implementation Plan*
- *Project Oversight Committee*

ENHANCED RIGHT OF WAY SERVICES

- *Enhanced Advisory Services*
- *Acquisition Fairness Program*
- *Enhanced Rental Assistance Program*

FOCUSED COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- *Community Advisory Council*
- *Organizational Training*
- *Community Office*
- *Community Resource Guide & Community Workshops*

Tell us what you think!

Feedback: Enhanced EJ Community Mitigation Plan

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- *Single-Family Affordable Housing*
- *Multi-Family Affordable Housing*
- *Financial Literacy and First Time Home Buyer Counseling*
- *First Time Home Buyer Grant Program*

COMMUNITY RECREATION

- *Community Center Facilities and Amenities*
- *Community Center Programs and Activities*

EDUCATIONAL & EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- *College Aid Initiative*
- *Pre-Employment Training*
- *Summer Transportation Institute Program*
- *School-to-Work Program*
- *Careers in Transportation Education Program*

Tell us what you think!

Feedback: Enhanced EJ Community Mitigation Plan

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVES

- *Small Business Development Program*
- *Community History Preservation Study*
- *Mitigation Barriers*
- *Community Infrastructure Enhancement Plan (CIEP)*
- *Community Air Quality Monitoring Program*
- *Larger Community Office?*

Tell us what you think!

Committee Discussions

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- *Structuring the College Aid Initiative (scholarship)*

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY GROUP COMMITTEE

- *Moving forward and organizing*

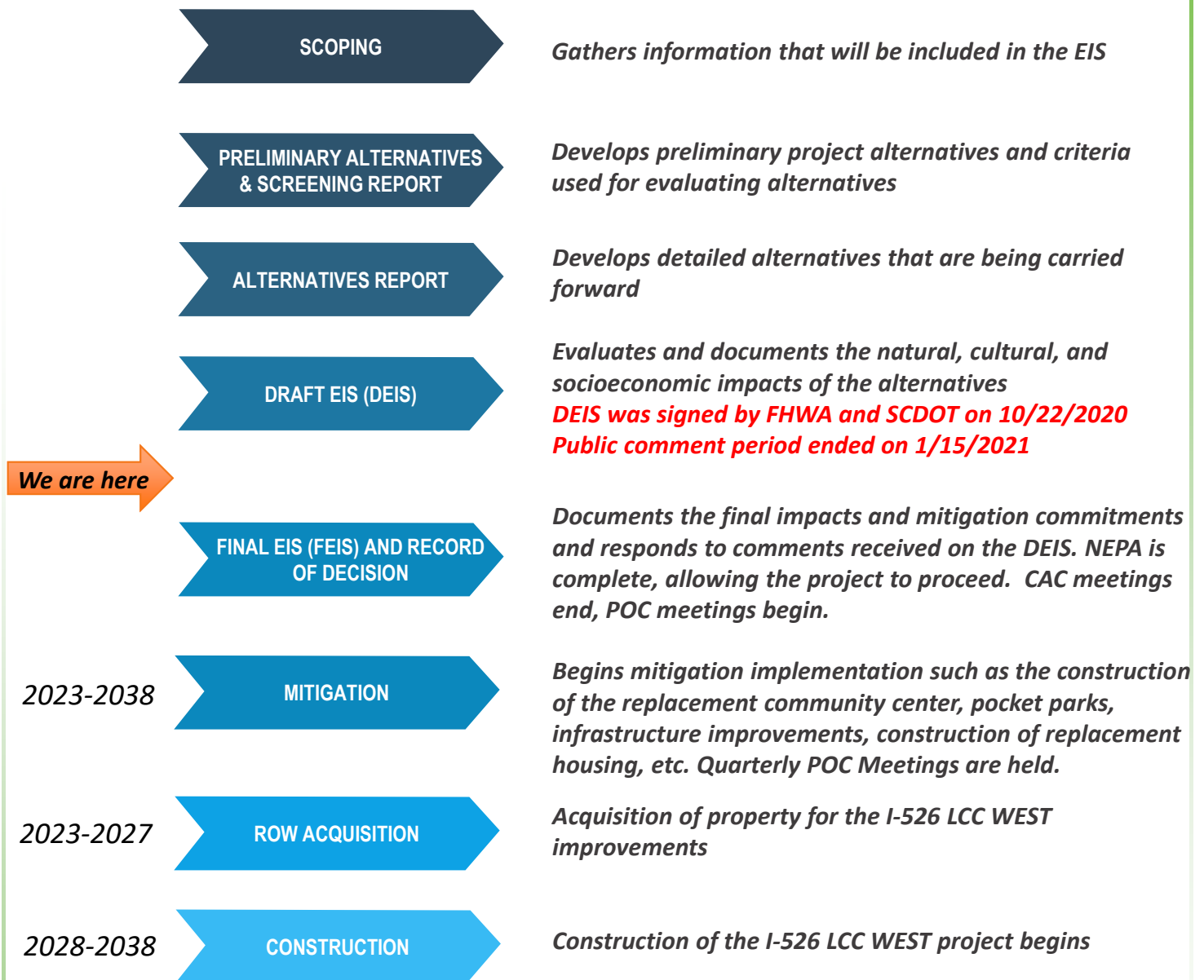
Notes:

Upcoming EJ Community Outreach

COMMUNITY EVENT

- *Potential Location: Life Changers Covenant Ministries*
- *Potential Date: July 9, 2022*
- *Goals*
 - *Update the potentially impacted communities on what is in the final EJ community mitigation plan, highlighting changes since the public hearing outreach*
 - *Answer previous community questions related to the timing and potential phasing of mitigation items*
 - *Continue to establish the Community Office, and its staff, as the source of information related to the project and build stronger ties to the community*

Project Schedule / Milestone Review



Summary and Next Steps

- Action Items
- CAC Meeting #22 – July 2, 2022