



## Appendix W

# Informational Pop-up Meeting Outreach Summary





# INFORMATIONAL POP-UP MEETING OUTREACH SUMMARY

INTERSTATE 526 (I-526)  
FROM PAUL CANTRELL BOULEVARD TO VIRGINIA AVENUE  
NORTH CHARLESTON AND CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA



SUBMITTED TO SCDOT: APRIL 2021

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# 1.0 WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?

Environmental Justice (EJ) is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

Fair-treatment means that no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.

Meaningful involvement is created when decision-makers seek out and facilitate the involvement of potentially affected communities so they can participate in the process, help identify community concerns, and influence decisions about activities that may affect their environment and health.

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) is committed to providing a safe and reliable transportation network while balancing impacts to the natural and human environment. As part of the project development process for the I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST (I-526 LCC WEST), the agency will incorporate EJ considerations into the evaluation of the project scope and alternatives. SCDOT’s goal is to actively engage the community in the project planning and decision-making processes in order to prevent any community from bearing a disproportionate burden as a result of the project. Figure 1.1 below presents steps in the Environmental Justice Process to ensure fair treatment and meaningful involvement with regard to transportation projects.

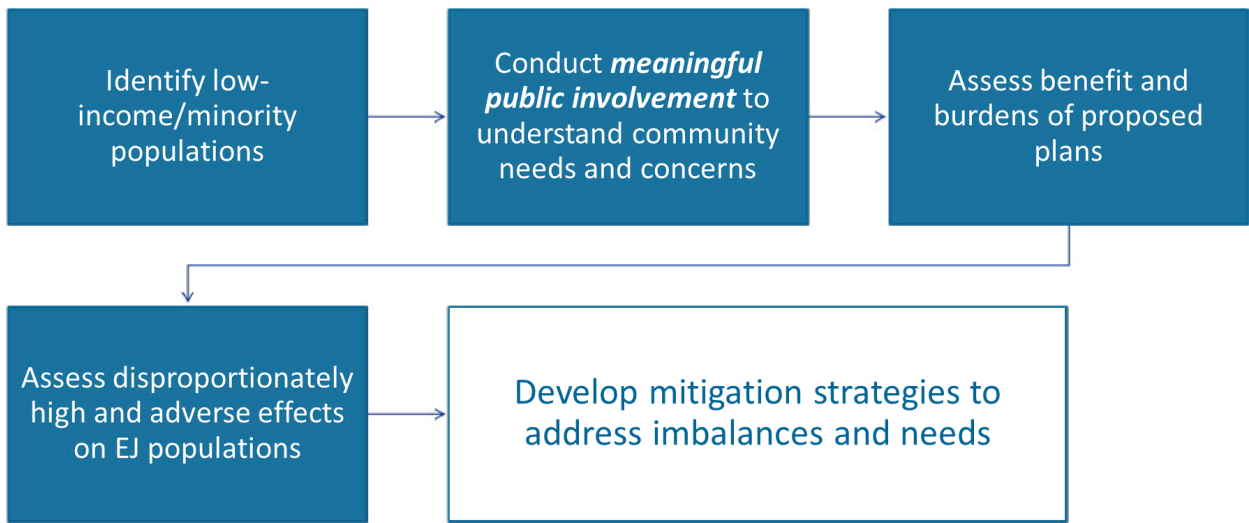
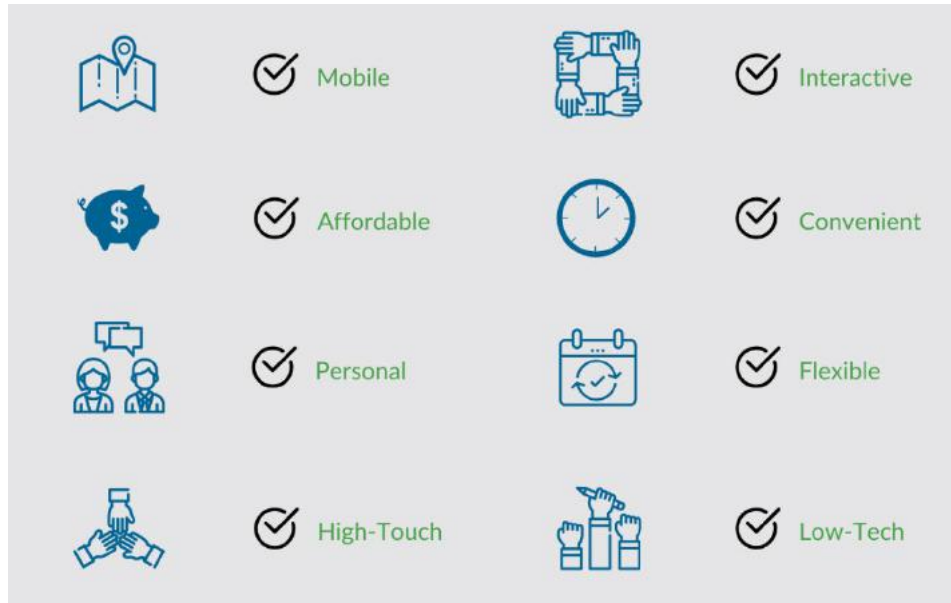


Figure 1.1: US Department of Transportation Environmental Justice Process

## 2.0 WHAT IS A POP-UP MEETING?

A pop-up meeting is a mobile booth set up in various locations to engage residents who frequent the area. They can be held at any time of the day thereby allowing hosts to target busier periods, such as evening or weekend timeframes, to increase local participation and overall facetime in the community. Several additional benefits of pop-up events are identified in graphic below.



Engaging the community and providing access to the project team are not only important tenets of public involvement but are integral components of the Environmental Justice Outreach Strategy developed for the I-526 LCC WEST Project. Pop-up meetings present a unique opportunity to interact with residents and business owners within and near the EJ communities identified as potentially impacted by the project: Ferndale, Liberty Park, Russelldale, and Highland Terrace. Selection criteria for each pop-up meeting host site included proximity to the EJ communities, accessibility to foot and vehicle traffic, and personnel and citizen safety (see Figure 2.1). Informational flyers (English and Spanish), current newsletters (English and Spanish), and business cards including project contact resources were distributed (see Appendix B). Community members were encouraged to sign up for project updates by providing their name and preferred method of contact (email and/or postal mailing addresses). The project team also encouraged all with which they interacted to share the project information with a neighbor or friend. Simple details about each pop-up meeting in 2019 are highlighted in Table 2.1 with a greater description for each event starting on page 6.

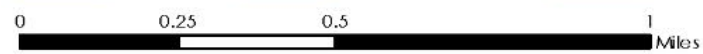




**Legend**

- |   |   |   |  |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| <b>1</b> Caribbean Jerk Festival (7/20; 6-11pm) | <b>4</b> North Charleston HS Football Game (9/20; 6-10pm) | <b>6</b> Biblical House of God (9/28; 11-2pm)             | <b>8</b> Roper St. Francis Clinic (10/12; 12-5pm)                            | <b>10</b> North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary School (10/29; 5-7pm) | <b>12</b> North Charleston City Hall (11/7; 11am-3:30pm) |
| <b>2</b> Harvest Pointe Church (8/17; 7-12pm)   | <b>5</b> Bethel Pentecostal Holiness (9/22; 11-2:30pm)    | <b>7</b> Russelldale Community Center (10/3; 2:30-5:30pm) | <b>9</b> Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Community Center (10/24; 2:30-5:30pm) | <b>11</b> Ferndale Community Center (10/31; 2:30-5:30pm)                  |  |

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <span style="border: 1px solid yellow; padding: 2px;"> </span> Ferndale | <span style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px;"> </span> Highland Terrace | <span style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px;"> </span> Liberty Park | <span style="border: 1px solid purple; padding: 2px;"> </span> Russelldale |
|---|--|---|--|



**Pop-Up Meetings**

I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST  
Charleston County  
Revised by HAC: 12/12/2019

Figure 2.1: Map depicting the location of each I-526 LCC WEST Pop-Up Meeting in 2019



Table 2.1: Pop-up meetings for the I-526 LCC WEST project in 2019

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Name</i>  | <i>Address</i>       | <i>Time</i>                        | <i>Estimated Number of Participants</i> | <i>Requesting Project Updates</i> |
|-------------|--|----------------------|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 7/20        | Charleston Caribbean Jerk Festival   | 1061 Everglades Ave  | 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM                 | 50                                      | 4                                 |
| 8/17        | Harvest Pointe Church: Community Yard Sale                                     | 4870 Piedmont Ave    | 7:00 AM – 12:00 PM                 | 50                                      | 3                                 |
| 9/15        | PPG Paint Store – Parking Lot  | 5280 Rivers Ave      | 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM                 | 15                                      | 6                                 |
| 9/20        | North Charleston HS Football Game<br>Hibbie Ayoub Stadium<br>@ Garrett Academy | 2731 Gordon St       | 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM                 | 2                                       | 0                                 |
| 9/22        | Bethel Pentecostal Holiness  | 2331 Elder Ave       | Sunday Worship Service<br>12:00 PM | 50                                      | 2                                 |
| 9/28        | Biblical House of God  | 2205 Van Buren Ave   | 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM                 | 15                                      | 16                                |
| 10/3        | Russelldale Community Center   | 2248 Russelldale Ave | 2:30 PM – 5:30 PM                  | 10                                      | 3                                 |
| 10/12       | Roper St. Francis Clinic   | 5133 Rivers Ave      | 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM                 | 3                                       | 0                                 |
| 10/24       | Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Community Center                                 | 2401 Richardson Dr   | 2:30 PM – 5:30 PM                  | 10                                      | 3                                 |
| 10/29       | North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary School                               | 5200 Lackawanna Blvd | 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM                  | 15                                      | 0                                 |
| 10/31       | Ferndale Community Center  | 1995 Bolton St       | 2:30 PM – 5:30 PM                  | 3                                       | 0                                 |
| 11/7        | North Charleston City Hall   | 2500 City Hall Ln    | 11:00 AM – 3:30 PM                 | 42                                      | 1                                 |



## 2.1 POP-UP MEETING OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the I-526 LCC WEST EJ Community-focused pop-up meetings include:

- **Promoting** project awareness
- **Sharing** official information about the project development process (including signing residents up for the project email list for future information distribution)
- **Providing** access to information that is available electronically
- **Encouraging** attendance at upcoming Community Drop-Ins
- **Soliciting** feedback about the project's potential impacts to individuals as well as to the community at large
- **Gathering** suggestions on preferred mitigation options

The I-526 LCC WEST Public Information Meeting (PIM) was held on November 21, 2019. SCDOT favored sharing the potential impacts of the project with the communities who might bear those impacts FIRST before bringing it to the general public. Consequently, five (5) Community Drop-ins were also scheduled prior to the PIM. In an effort to increase project awareness as well as provide notice of the upcoming meeting opportunities, the project team aimed to schedule and host as many weekly pop-up meeting opportunities as possible prior to the Community Drop-ins and PIM. Ultimately, 12 pop-up meetings were successfully held in 2019.

All scheduled pop-up meetings in 2020 were cancelled or postponed in response to the ongoing 2020 public health concerns and the mandatory stay-at-home order issued by South Carolina's Governor in Spring of 2020. To that end, the project team developed creative approaches to achieve continued outreach including:

- Utilizing opportunities with partners providing community support services to safely disseminate project literature
- Encouraging participation in the public comment period
- Obtaining feedback on the DRAFT EJ Community Mitigation Plan

## 2.2 AUDIENCE

The locations of the pop-up meetings were strategically planned to provide additional outreach in areas throughout the potentially impacted communities. Attendees included those members of the public using or driving by nearby facilities or businesses where the pop-up meetings were held. To ensure that the Spanish-speaking communities were adequately reached, translated documents were also made available.

## 2.3 SAFETY AND SECURITY

The project team followed a safety protocol by reviewing a *Safety and Security Plan* for each meeting. See Appendix A for a blank version of this form. To encourage safe working conditions, each pop-up meeting was attended by minimum of three members of the project team.

## 3.0 I-526 LCC WEST POP-UP MEETINGS

### 3.1 2019 MEETINGS

#### 3.1.1 Charleston Caribbean Jerk Festival (July 20, 2019)

The project team set up a pop-up meeting at the Charleston Caribbean Jerk Festival on July 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm to 11:00pm. Located at the Riverfront Park (1061 Everglades Avenue), this popular festival celebrates Jamaican food, culture and music. Although not located within the EJ neighborhoods, the large crowds drawn to this festival made it an ideal place to distribute project information. The project team estimates that approximately 5,000 people attended the festival and nearly 50 people actively engaged with the booth staff by asking questions, taking an informational handout or signing up for project updates (4 contacts added). A key



Figure 3.1: The Project Team speaking with Charleston-area residents at the Caribbean Jerk Festival

takeaway from this event was the public's overall confusion between a closely related project (Mark Clark Extension) and the I-526 LCC WEST project. It was also noted that booths associated with food or giveaways were better attended than those with informational handouts only. The project team would recommend attending this event in 2020 and sharing, at a minimum, information about mitigation in the EJ communities.

#### 3.1.2 Harvest Pointe Church Community Yard Sale (August 17, 2019)

The project team set up a pop-up meeting at a yard sale event in the parking lot of Harvest Pointe Church (4870 Piedmont Avenue) on August 17<sup>th</sup> from 7:00am to 11:15am. The original end time was set for 12:00pm, but weather resulted in the event ending early. In addition to members of the church, several community residents walked to the Community Yard Sale from their homes in the Ferndale neighborhood. Most of those who visited from the surrounding community were Hispanic with limited English proficiency. This experience emphasized the need for Spanish translation services at the larger community meeting in Ferndale. This event was a great opportunity to interact with approximately 50 people, mostly residents of the neighborhood, by answering questions, providing the most recent project newsletter, and signing attendees up for project updates (3 contacts added).



Figure 3.2: A member of the Project Team speaking with a local driver in the PPG Paint Store parking lot

### 3.1.3 PPG Paint Store (September 15, 2019)

The project team hosted a pop-up meeting in the parking lot of the PPG Paint Store (5280 Rivers Avenue) from 12:00pm to 5:00pm on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. This location was ideal because of its proximity to the four EJ communities. The project tent was a great way to capture the attention of travelers on Rivers Avenue, particularly those exiting from I-526 West. Local residents and patrons of the nearby stores visited the tent by foot and by car. The overall sentiment expressed was anxiety regarding the potential displacements and community impacts. The

project team estimates that approximately 15 people actively engaged with the booth staff by asking questions, taking an informational handout or signing up for project updates (6 contacts added).

### 3.1.4 North Charleston High School Football Game (September 20, 2019)

Although highly anticipated as a successful night of engagement, the pop-up meeting at the North Charleston High School football game (2731 Gordon Street) on September 20<sup>th</sup> did not result in significant interaction with residents of the potentially impacted EJ communities. Consequently, a second pop-up meeting scheduled for a football game later in the season was canceled.

Located at the Garrett Academy of Technology, in the Hibbie Ayoub Stadium, the project team was stationed close to the ticket booth with full exposure to a large amount of people. Unfortunately, however, engagement was still low. From 7:30pm to 9:30pm, the project team spoke with two people and noted that a giveaway may be useful in the future to spark curiosity about the project handouts.



Figure 3.3: Project Team members at the Pop-Up Meeting at the North Charleston High School football game



### 3.1.5 Bethel Pentecostal Holiness (September 22, 2019)

Members of the project team attended Sunday Worship Service at Bethel Pentecostal Holiness Church (2331 Elder Avenue) on September 22<sup>nd</sup> to inform the congregation about the upcoming community drop-ins and answer questions about potential project impacts. City of North Charleston District 6 Councilwoman Dorothy Williams, as well as members of the surrounding Liberty Park and Highland Terrace communities, also attended the end of service conversation to receive project information. Overall, members of the community were most concerned about the potential relocations, loss of property, community impacts, project schedule and sources of misinformation. Approximately 50 people actively engaged by asking questions, taking an informational handout or signing up for project updates (2 contacts added). Residents expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to interact with the project team and ask questions designed to validate the accuracy of information being shared by local activists campaigning for elected positions.



Figure 3.4: A member of the Project Team speaking to the congregation at Bethel Pentecostal Holiness

### 3.1.6 Biblical House of God (September 28, 2019)

The project team held a pop-up meeting in front of the Biblical House of God (2205 Van Buren Avenue) on September 28<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am to 2:00pm. In addition to promoting project awareness, the project team gathered information from residents and encouraged attendance at the future Community Drop-Ins and Public Information Meeting. Holding the meeting in the middle of the community (near Liberty Park and Russelldale) gave the project team the ability to reach people who were precisely in the potentially impacted communities. With the church's parking lot as a backdrop, the project team was afforded direct accessibility to those potentially impacted and more importantly "humanized" the project team by presenting them in a less intimidating environment. As such, the sincere efforts to interact and



Figure 3.5: Liberty Park and Russelldale residents talking with the Project Team at the Biblical House of God

inform the community were hopefully validated. Visitors shared descriptions of the community before I-526 was constructed and "before all the changes," referring to developments such as new hotels and restaurants. The project team gained greater perspective and understanding from longtime residents of the cohesion that once existed in the area. Many people did not think the improvements to the interstate would help the traffic issues and others noted that the interchanges at Rivers Avenue were horrible. One visitor mentioned the possibility of implementing Multimodal Transit such as buses and rail systems. She

once lived in the northeastern United States and thought that Charleston would benefit from more transit options. Overall, 15 people actively engaged with the staff at the pop-up meeting with 16 signing up for project updates.

### 3.1.7 Russelldale Community Center (October 3, 2019)

Members of the project team held a pop-up meeting at the Russelldale Community Center (2248 Russelldale Avenue) on October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2:30pm to 5:00pm. A primary goal of this meeting was to interact with Russelldale residents and the parents whose children attended the community center's after school program. The project team encouraged attendance at upcoming meetings and gathered information about the concerns and needs of those that frequent the Russelldale Community Center. Approximately 10 people actively participated in the meeting by asking questions, taking an informational handout or signing up for project updates (3 contacts added). While only having interacted with 10 people, the project team was able to gauge residents' concerns and needs from those that participated.



Figure 3.6: Project team members signing residents up for the project update email list

A key takeaway from this pop-up meeting was the amount of misinformation being distributed from different members of the community regarding this project. The project team was advised that other people/organizations had hosted meetings, and some became frustrated when asked to leave when they shared information received from the project team. The project team also noted that an activity or treat would have been a nice addition so that the younger visitors to the booth remained entertained and engaged.



Figure 3.7: The Pop-Up meeting set up in front of Roper St. Francis Clinic

### 3.1.8 Roper St. Francis Clinic (October 12, 2019)

The project team hosted a pop-up meeting in the front parking lot of the Roper St. Francis Clinic (5133 Rivers Avenue) on October 12<sup>th</sup> from 12:00pm to 5:00pm. Due to its proximity to the I-526/Rivers Avenue interchange and location near the Russelldale community, the project team anticipated significant attendance. Despite being visible and accessible, this location did not yield any vehicular traffic. The project team was able to briefly interact with three, gentlemen who either walked or cycled past the booth but were less interested in the project and the potential impacts. The project team noted that the clinic being closed, and the high speed of traffic along Rivers



Avenue, likely led to the lack of participation from the passing traffic. The clinic did not share a parking lot with any other businesses, so there were no other patrons from which to pull. This meeting proved to be a great lesson learned regarding the criteria for choosing future locations.

### 3.1.9 Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Community Center (October 24, 2019)

Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Community Center hosted a pop-up meeting on October 24<sup>th</sup> from 2:30pm to 5:30pm. Similar to the meeting at the Russelldale Community Center, the project team hoped to engage residents in the Highland Terrace and Liberty Park communities as well as those parents who utilize the community center’s after school care program. One objective was to encourage attendance at the Community Drop-Ins, with the first event scheduled for less than 1½ weeks from that day. Fewer than 10 individuals visited the booth. They asked questions about the project schedule and potential community impacts. The project information handout was provided, and three (3) individuals signed up for project updates. Although this event was set to focus on a specific (after-school) audience, the project team felt it could have been more effective if the time was adjusted to start around 4:00pm to accommodate those that work past 5:00pm.



Figure 3.8: A project team member speaking with a member of the Highland Terrace or Liberty Park community about potential project impacts

### 3.1.10 North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary School (October 29, 2019)

The project team hosted a pop-up booth as a part of the North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary School’s Career and Wellness Family Vision Night. Holiday candy and manipulatives like slime, a working traffic signal, and toy cars attracted and engaged the kids while parents received the I-526 LCC WEST project-related information. Approximately 15 families living within the potentially impacted communities were reached with many more families expressing an interest in the project. Additionally, flyers were provided to vendors and small business owners in attendance who work and/or live in the potentially impacted communities. Feedback from participants centered around concerns about right-of-way impacts to homes and the length of the project schedule. Overall, this was a successful pop-up meeting because of the high-touch techniques employed and attentive audience.



Figure 3.9: The Project Team engaging with attendees of the North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary School Vision Night, which is located at 5200 Lackawanna Boulevard



### 3.1.11 Ferndale Community Center (October 31, 2019)

The project team held a pop-up meeting at the Ferndale Community Center (1995 Bolton Street) on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 2:30pm to 5:30pm. Similar to the meetings held at the Russelldale and Highland Terrace-Liberty Park Community Centers, the project team hoped to engage parents of children participating in the center's afterschool program who might also be residents of the surrounding communities. The concerns expressed by the three (3) residents with which the project team was able to engage include the potential right-of-way impacts to homes and recreational facilities and the status of the project schedule. No one signed up to receive project updates. While attempting to engage passers-by, many indicated that they retrieved the informational flyer from a brochure box at either a bus stop or a nearby business and that they were aware of the upcoming Community Drop-ins.



Figure 3.10: Resident of North Charleston learning about the I-526 LCC WEST project in front of the North Charleston City Hall

### 3.1.12 North Charleston City Hall (November 7, 2019)

Members of the project team hosted a pop-up meeting outside of the North Charleston City Hall (2500 City Hall Lane) to inform the public of the I-526 LCC WEST project and encourage attendance at both the community drop-ins and public information meeting in November. This meeting was held on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am to 3:30pm. Largely successful in engagement, the project team estimates approximately 42 people actively participated in the event by asking questions and taking an informational handout. One (1) individual signed up to receive project updates. Residents were primarily concerned with the potential right-of-way impacts to homes, potential for multimodal transit and status of the project schedule. The project team noted that the event went very well and reception from the public was overall positive.

## 3.2 2020 EVENTS

To ensure the active, meaningful engagement during the DEIS Public Comment period and to both ensure awareness of and resident participation in developing the EJ Community Mitigation Plan initiatives, several pop-up events were planned for 2020. Regrettably, the events were cancelled or postponed in response to the ongoing 2020 public health concerns and the mandatory stay-at-home order issued by South Carolina's Governor in Spring of 2020. To that end, the project team developed creative approaches to outreach and utilized opportunities with partners providing community support services to safely disseminate project literature, encourage participation in the public comment period, and obtain feedback on the EJ Community Mitigation Plan. These outreach approaches are outlined on the next pages.

### 3.2.1 Senior Food and Care Package Distribution (Summer 2020 to Present)

The goal of this initiative is to distribute “Care Packages” with food bundles received from Lowcountry Street Grocery consisting of farm fresh vegetables and fruit to senior citizens and the disabled living in the potentially impacted neighborhoods of Ferndale, Highland Terrace, Liberty Park and Russelldale. Additionally, this event was intended to familiarize residents with the Community Liaisons and build trust. Recipients were recommended by the CAC members and Lowcountry Street Grocery, and they began receiving packages at their doors during the summer of 2020.

### 3.2.2 Back-To-School Giveaway (September 3, 2020)

The project team partnered with Origin SC, Lowcountry Street Grocery, The A. Phillip Randolph Institute, and the Humanities Foundation to provide 320 bags of back-to-school supplies and 33,000 pounds of food to families and children living in the EJ neighborhoods. The event, which was hosted at two (2) locations on Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, was designed as a drive-thru and walk-by activity so attendees could pick items up while maintaining the social distancing requirements mandated by the Governor of South Carolina. Project literature was distributed to the 160 adults and children that attended. Of those participating, 29 were Latino or Hispanic.



Figure 3.11: Senior Food and Care Package Distribution event

- Ferndale Community Center | 1995 Bolton St., North Charleston
  - 1:00 – 3:00pm
  - Attendance: 41 adults and 46 children
- Biblical House of God | 2205 Van Buren St., North Charleston
  - 4:00 – 6:00pm
  - Attendance: 42 adults and 31 children



Figure 3.12: Advertisement for the Palmetto CAP Drive Up Event

### 3.2.3 Palmetto Community Action Partnership (CAP) Drive-Up Event<sup>1</sup> (November 20, 2020)

The project team partnered with Palmetto CAP during its drive-up event designed to educate community members on opportunities for utility bill assistance, rental assistance, tax preparation and home mortgage assistance. The 4-hour event was held at Joshua Baptist Church located at 2482 Faber Road in North Charleston on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. The project team safely interacted with 90 attendees and successfully connected with 26 people who were interested in learning more about the I-526 LCC WEST project.

<sup>1</sup> Palmetto CAP Drive-up Event. <https://www.facebook.com/events/694473268149348>



Figure 3.13: Resident driving up to participate in the Pre-Thanksgiving Food Giveaway

### 3.2.4 Pre-Thanksgiving Food Giveaway (November 21, 2020)

Molina Healthcare and Doscher's IGA allowed the I-526 LCC WEST Community Liaisons to join their team while hosting Thanksgiving Meal Drive-thru on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. During the 2-hour event that began at 11:00am, food items were provided to 200 participants at Harvest Pointe Church located in the Ferndale neighborhood at 4870 Piedmont Avenue. The project team was able to connect with 36 people who were interested in learning more about the I-526 LCC WEST project.

### 3.2.5 Vida Nueva Church with Pastor Valles (November 22, 2020)

At the invitation of Pastor Carlos Valles, the project team attended the 12:00pm worship service of Vida Nueva Church on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> and shared project information with the assistance of a translator. The congregation meets at Enoch Chapel United Methodist Church (2355 James Bell Drive), which is located in the Liberty Park neighborhood. Project information flyers translated in Spanish were distributed to the 52 total congregants (16 of which were children) and many questions were answered.



Figure 3.14: A project team member participating in the Vida Nueva Church service

### 3.2.6 Day of Thanks and Giving Turkey Giveaway (November 23, 2020)<sup>2</sup>

In partnership with Healthy Blue SC (Blue Cross/Blue Shield) and local radio stations Z93 Jamz & Magic 107.3, the project team was able to distribute project literature to over 175 participants at their pre-Thanksgiving event hosted at Danny Jones Community Center. During the 2-hour event that began at 5:00pm, a project team member was able to connect with 21 individuals that were interested in future project updates.

### 3.2.7 Pandemic-Relief Food Pantry Events (December 3, 10 & 17, 2020)

For three (3) consecutive Thursdays prior to the week of Christmas, Harvest Pointe Church and the Lowcountry Food Bank of Charleston hosted a drive-thru food giveaway in the church's parking lot. Each week, boxes of food along with I-526 LCC WEST project literature were delivered to not less than 100

<sup>2</sup> Healthy Blue SC. Day of Thanks and Giving Turkey Giveaway. <https://twitter.com/HealthyBlueSC/status/1064980414899646465>



families. When possible, the project team assisted the participants with completing the EJ Community Mitigation Plan survey. Nearly 60 individuals were interested in receiving future project updates.

### 3.2.8 SCDHEC COVID-19 Testing and Food Distribution (December 18, 2020)

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) offered COVID-19 testing on Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> in the Ferndale Community Center parking lot. During this event, the A. Philip Randolph Institute and several of its partners allowed the I-526 Community Liaisons to assist with distributing food boxes (including fresh produce), holiday gift bags and other surprise gifts to senior citizens and children who live in the EJ neighborhoods. The event was advertised to residents of the project's EJ neighborhoods with a customized flyer to encourage participation. The 3-hour giveaway began at 2:00pm and was limited to 100 participants. The project team was able to obtain completed EJ Community Mitigation Plan surveys from 30 residents along with their mailing addresses and phone numbers to ensure they received future project updates.

The flyer features three logos at the top: SCDHEC, The Links, Incorporated, and the A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI) Greater Charleston Chapter. The main text reads: "Holiday Gathering! Friday, December 18, 2020 2:00-5:00pm Ferndale Community Center (parking lot) 1995 Bolton Avenue, North Charleston, SC". It is sponsored by SCDHEC, The Charleston, SC Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, and the A. Philip Randolph Institute - Greater Charleston Chapter. A note states that residents in Ferndale, Highland Terrace, Liberty Park, and Russelldale attending a drive-thru holiday gathering will receive items from local organizations. A bulleted list includes: Grocery boxes with fresh produce (First come, first served!), Gift bags for senior citizens, Gift bags for children, And other surprises!, and Free COVID-19 testing (by the SCDHEC). The flyer ends with three asterisks (\*\*\*)

Figure 3.15: Advertisement for the SCDHEC COVID-19 Testing and Food Distribution event

## 3.3 FUTURE PLANNED EVENTS

In 2022, the project team identified six (6) local events in the surrounding Charleston area that provide opportunities to safely disseminate project literature and to obtain feedback on new community mitigation commitments. These events include local farmer's markets, along with the City of North Charleston Summer Break Café Program. Additionally, the project team will host monthly pop-ups at the Ferndale Community Center in the Ferndale neighborhood to increase team accessibility.

Coordination with religious and faith-based organizations has provided numerous opportunities for the project team to engage with the public and disseminate project literature through community drop-in meetings held at these locations as well as attending Sunday service and speaking with the congregation. "Sunday Refresh" is a new 2022 initiative in which project team members will attend worship service at local churches, including Bethel Pentecostal Holiness Church, Biblical House of God, Enoch Chapel UMC, Pilgrim Baptist Church, and Radiant Church, to host a post-worship light snack or cool treat while providing project updates, encouraging visits with the ROW Liaisons & Relocation Specialist, and gathering information from potentially impacted residents.

## 4.0 POP-UP MEETING SURVEY

While the 2020 Pop-Up events were primarily utilized to spread project awareness and engage with the impacted community, the 2019 Pop-Up meetings were less restrictive and gave the project team a platform to ask relevant questions to gain a better understanding of community needs. By engaging with residents in this fashion, important data could be collected to help shape the overall project mitigation plan. This was a precursor to the eventual Social Needs Assessment that was conducted at the Community Drop-Ins and the Public Information Meeting.

### SURVEY QUESTIONS

**Responses to the following questions should be collected in a tactful and discreet manner through casual engagement.**

1. Do you live in any of the following neighborhoods? If not, "Other."

- Ferndale
- Russelldale
- Liberty Park
- Highland Terrace
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

2. How long have you lived there?

3. Are you a homeowner or do you rent?

4. What is the make-up of your household (number of residents)?

\_\_\_\_\_ Adult Seniors (65+) \_\_\_\_\_ Adults (18-64) \_\_\_\_\_ Youth (Under 18)

5. Do you have family members outside of your household that live in the neighborhoods listed above?


6. What are your community-related issues and priorities? Please rank any that apply.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Access to jobs/ability to start small business
- \_\_\_\_\_ Access to education / social services
- \_\_\_\_\_ Historic preservation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Quality, affordable housing
- \_\_\_\_\_ Friendly, safe neighborhoods
- \_\_\_\_\_ Environmental (air quality, stormwater/flooding)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Public transportation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sidewalks/bicycle facilities
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Are there any specific community organizations you feel should be engaged during public outreach?

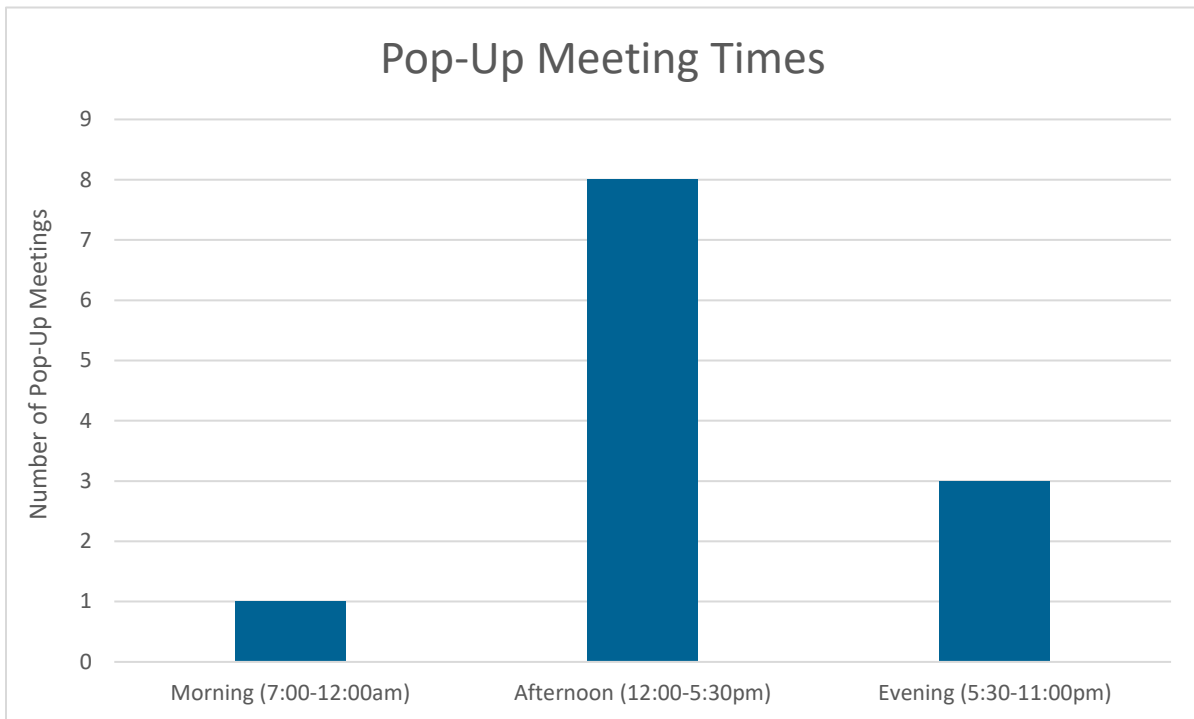
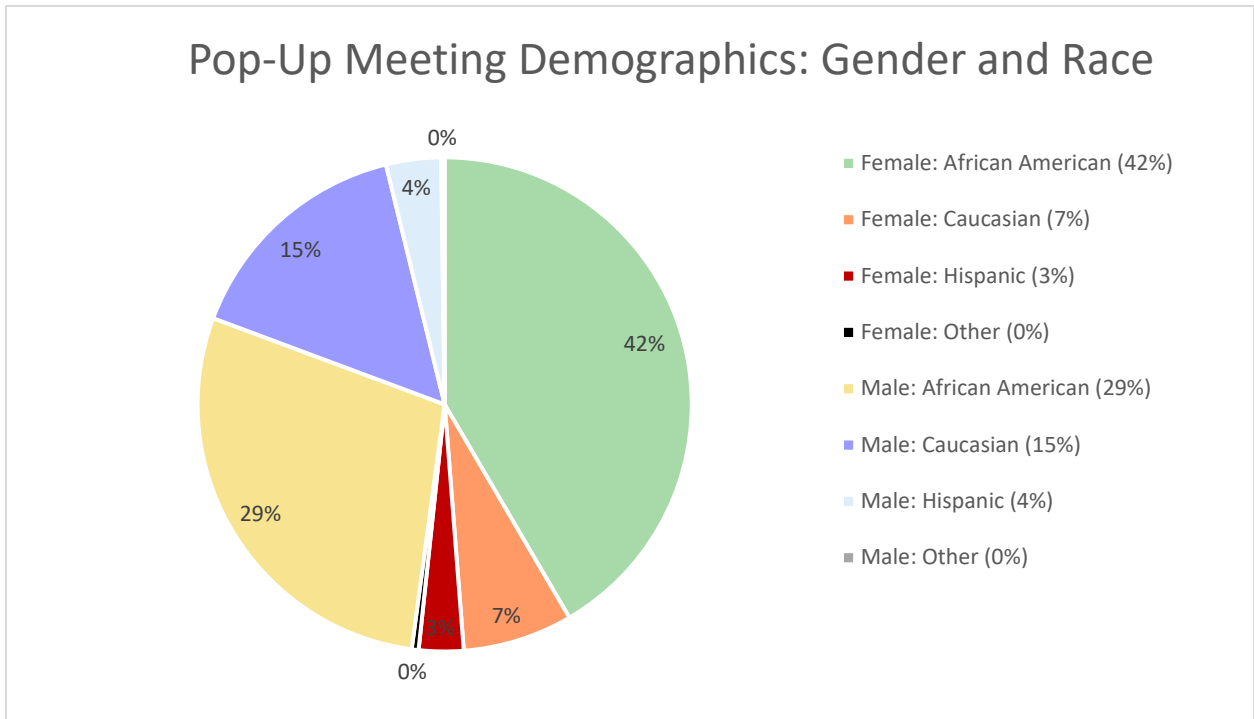
8. If you would like to receive project updates, please provide the best way to contact you on the Sign-up Sheet.

## 5.0 LESSONS LEARNED FOR FUTURE OUTREACH

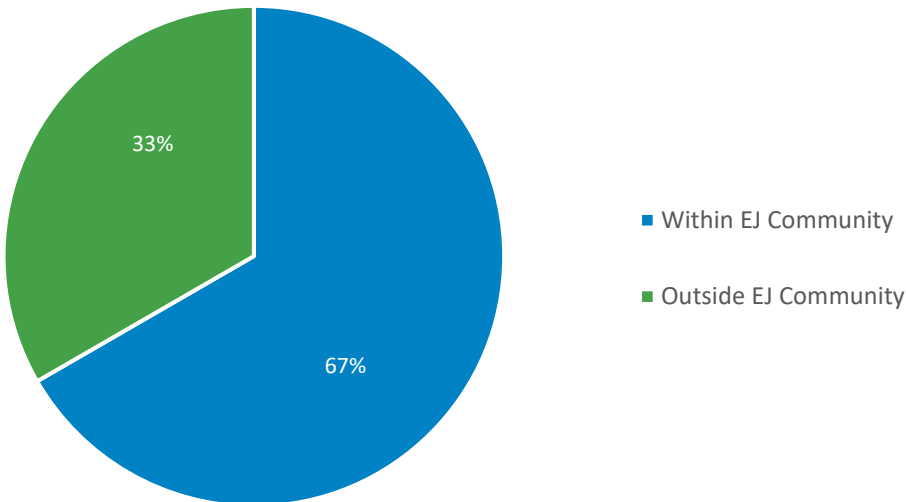
- 
- 1. Include Spanish translator at the larger meetings in the Ferndale neighborhood to accommodate the large concentration of Spanish speaking populations.
  - 2. Provide an activity or treat for the kids that attend meetings to keep everyone entertained and engaged at meetings.
  - 3. A giveaway for all ages may be useful to spark curiosity about the project.
  - 4. The Project Flyer Distribution Sites were proven effective as many from the community advised the Pop up Meeting staff that the project information sheet had already been retrieved from exterior brochure boxes or an interior display stand.
  - 5. Create smaller information sheets with essential information only (website and meeting dates). Many people did not want the whole booklet of information we provided.
  - 6. Utilize visuals at the pop up meetings to describe the project impacts in the impacted areas. Visitors are interested in details, not invitations.



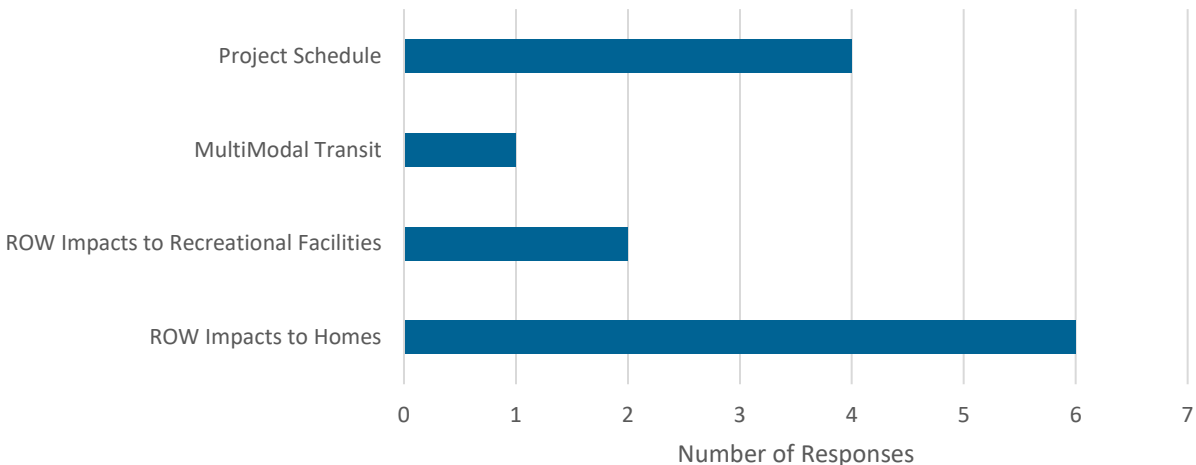
# 6.0 POP-UP MEETING STATISTICS (2019)



### Pop-Up Meeting Location



### Key Issues Raised



# APPENDIX A: SAFETY AND SECURITY



## Meeting Safety and Security Checklist

*Purpose: The I-526 LCC West project team is conducting a number of public outreach meetings and events in a variety of environments. This form is a field-level risk assessment checklist that should be utilized for each meeting.*

*Responsibility: The onsite team lead (as designated by the Project Manager) will be responsible for preparing the form prior to each meeting and reviewing the checklist in the field immediately prior to the event. Team members will sign each form and an electronic copy saved in the project directory.*

### PROJECT TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION

|                               | Name                            | Company                         | Phone Number        |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Project Manager (Client)      | <i>Click here to enter text</i> | <i>Click here to enter text</i> | <i>Phone Number</i> |
| Project Manager (Consultant)  | <i>Click here to enter text</i> | <i>Click here to enter text</i> | <i>Phone Number</i> |
| Onsite Team Lead (Consultant) | <i>Click here to enter text</i> | <i>Click here to enter text</i> | <i>Phone Number</i> |

### MEETING INFORMATION

|                            |  |                        |  |
|----------------------------|--|------------------------|--|
| Meeting Type:              | <i>Click or tap here to enter text</i> | Project ID Number:     | <i>Click or tap here to enter text</i> |
| Meeting Location:          | <i>Click here to enter text</i>        | Address:               | <i>Click here to enter text</i>        |
| Meeting Date:              | <i>Click here to enter text</i>        | Meeting Time:          | <i>Click here to enter text</i>        |
| Facility Point of Contact: | <i>Click here to enter text</i>        | Facility Phone Number: | <i>Click here to enter text</i>        |



**SAFETY AND SECURITY REVIEW**

| <b>Work Practices: Are any of these work practices carried out during the meeting? Certain work processes, situations and interactions can put people at risk from workplace violence:</b> |                                      | <b>YES</b>               | <b>NO</b>                           |                                     |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Work with the public?  |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                                     |
| Work with unstable or violent persons?   |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                                     |
| Work alone or in small numbers?  |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                                     |
| Work in community-based settings?  |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                                     |
| Work during normal business hours  |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                                     |
| Work during the late evening or early morning hours?   |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                                     |
| <b>Location Details:</b>   | <i>Describe the meeting location</i> |                          |                                     |                                     |
| <b>Parking Lot and Area Immediately Outside the Meeting Location</b>   |                                      | <b>YES</b>               | <b>NO</b>                           | <b>N/A</b>                          |
| Are the entrances and exits well marked?   |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Does the lot have signs with security reminders? (e.g., "lock your car," "security patrolled")   |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Is there enough lighting?  |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Have vehicles been stolen from the parking lot or broken in to?  |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Are there objects that obstruct the view of drivers entering/leaving the parking lot?  |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Notes:   |                                      |                          |                                     |                                     |
| <b>Outside of Meeting Location (Vicinity)</b>  |                                      |                          |                                     |                                     |
| Is your meeting near any buildings or businesses that are at risk from violent crime? (e.g., bars, banks, convenience stores)  |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                                     |
| Is your building located in a high-crime area?   |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                                     |
| Are there signs of vandalism or graffiti?  |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                                     |
| Are you isolated from other buildings?   |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                                     |
| Is the building entrance well lit?   |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                                     |
| Is the entrance easily seen from the street?   |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                                     |
| Notes:   |                                      |                          |                                     |                                     |
| <b>Location Access</b>   |                                      | <b>YES</b>               | <b>NO</b>                           | <b>N/A</b>                          |
| Is the location shared with other businesses?  |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Is there a system to alert employees if intruders enter?   |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Notes:   |                                      |                          |                                     |                                     |

| <b>Protestors or Community Activists Concerns</b>                           | <b>YES</b>                          | <b>NO</b>                | <b>N/A</b> |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Has there been documented protests, noted controversy, or hostile behavior? | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |            |
| Has there been any previous threats of violence?                            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |            |
| If yes, was it reported to the proper authorities?                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |            |
| Notes:  |                                     |                          |            |
| Has there been any previous threats of violence?                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |            |
| If yes, was it reported to the proper authorities?                          | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |            |
| Notes:  |                                     |                          |            |
| Is security support recommended for the meeting                             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |            |
| • Client concurs with recommendation?                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |            |
| Notes:  |                                     |                          |            |

| <b>EMERGENCY RESOURCES</b>                                |   |                                 |                          |
|---|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Law Enforcement or Security Service</b>                |   | <b>YES</b>                      | <b>NO</b>                |
| Law Enforcement or Security Services Requested            |   | <input type="checkbox"/>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Service Provider</b>                                   | <i>enter name and contact information of service provider contacted</i> |                                 |                          |
| <b>Services confirmed?</b>                                | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>        |                          |
| <b>Onsite Security Point of Contact Information</b>       |   |                                 |                          |
| <b>Title</b>  | <b>Name</b>   | <b>Company/Organization</b>     | <b>Phone Number</b>      |
| <i>Click here to enter text</i>                           | <i>Click here to enter text</i>   | <i>Click here to enter text</i> | <i>Phone Number</i>      |
| <b>Other Emergency / Safety Information</b>               |   |                                 |                          |
| <b>Site emergency number:</b>                             | <i>Click here to enter text</i>   | <b>Fire Department:</b>         | 911                      |
| <b>Ambulance:</b>   | 911   | <b>Police:</b>                  | 911                      |
| <b>Onsite First Aid Equipment facilities are located:</b> |   |                                 |                          |
| <i>Click here to enter text</i>                           |   |                                 |                          |
| <b>First aiders on site:</b>                              |   |                                 |                          |
| <i>Click here to enter text</i>                           |   |                                 |                          |
| <b>Fire extinguisher are located:</b>                     |   |                                 |                          |
| <i>Click here to enter text</i>                           |   |                                 |                          |
| <b>Nearest medical clinic or hospital:</b>                |   |                                 |                          |
| <i>Click here to enter text</i>                           |   |                                 |                          |

**Approvals**

By signing this approval, the Project Manager is acknowledging that (s)he has assessed the safety and security concerns and communicated them to the employees working on this project. It also indicates that the Project Manager has communicated with the client and received client approval on the to determine the proper level

|                                   |                                  |                                    |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Prepared by:                      | <i>Click here to enter text.</i> | <i>Click here to enter a date.</i> |
|                                   | _____<br>Print Name              | _____<br>Signature                 |
|                                   |                                  | _____<br>Date                      |
| Reviewed by:<br>(Project Manager) | <i>Click here to enter text.</i> | <i>Click here to enter a date.</i> |
|                                   | _____<br>Print Name              | _____<br>Signature                 |
|                                   |                                  | _____<br>Date                      |
| Approved by PM<br>(Client):       | <i>Click here to enter text.</i> | <i>Click here to enter a date.</i> |
|                                   | _____<br>Print Name              | _____<br>Signature                 |
|                                   |                                  | _____<br>Date                      |

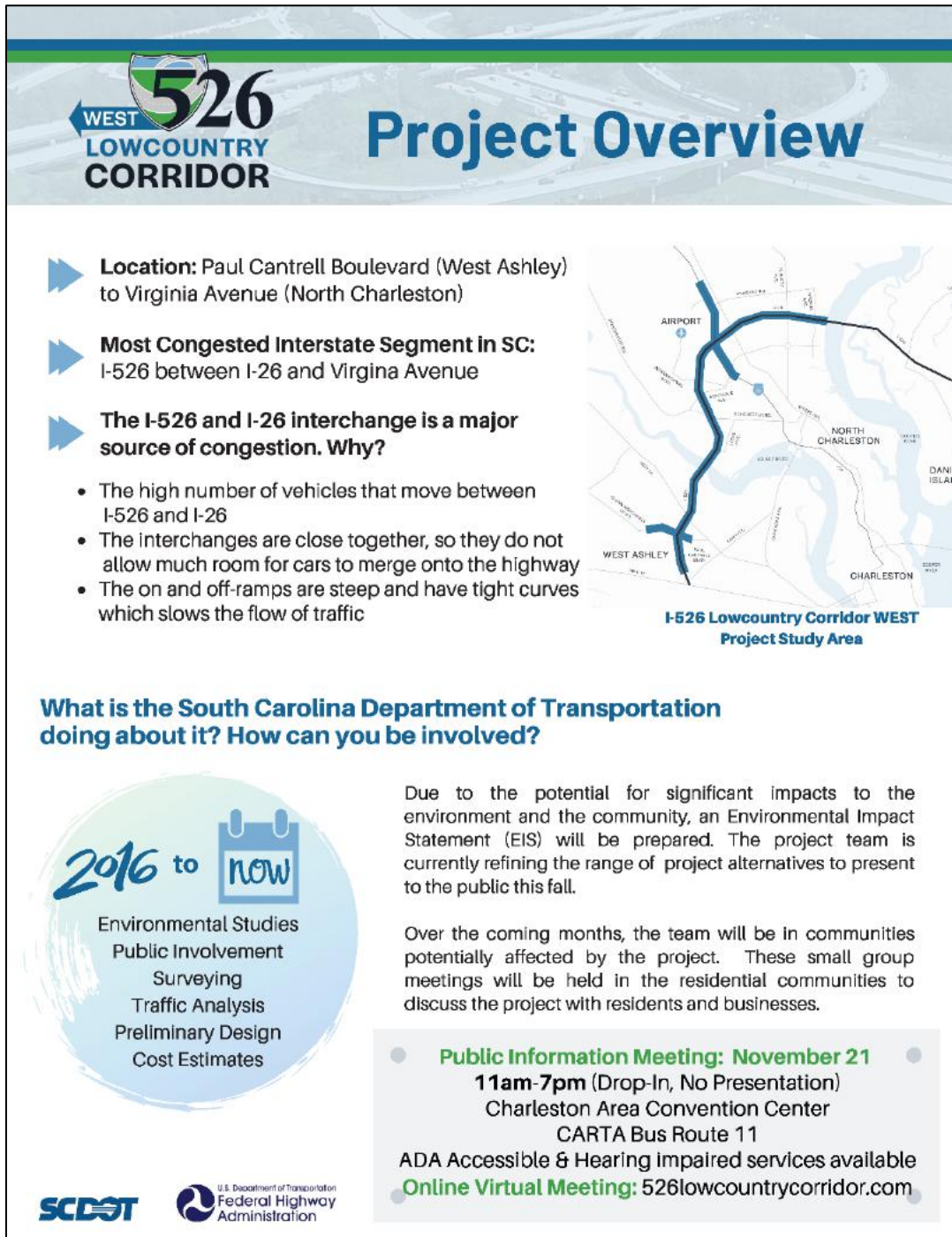
**Staff Review**

|                                  |                    |                                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Click here to enter text.</i> |                    | <i>Click here to enter a date.</i> |
| _____<br>Print Name              | _____<br>Signature | _____<br>Date                      |
| <i>Click here to enter text.</i> |                    | <i>Click here to enter a date.</i> |
| _____<br>Print Name              | _____<br>Signature | _____<br>Date                      |
| <i>Click here to enter text.</i> |                    | <i>Click here to enter a date.</i> |
| _____<br>Print Name              | _____<br>Signature | _____<br>Date                      |
| <i>Click here to enter text.</i> |                    | <i>Click here to enter a date.</i> |
| _____<br>Print Name              | _____<br>Signature | _____<br>Date                      |
| <i>Click here to enter text.</i> |                    | <i>Click here to enter a date.</i> |
| _____<br>Print Name              | _____<br>Signature | _____<br>Date                      |



# APPENDIX B: MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED


## B.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW HANDOUT



**WEST 526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR**


# Project Overview


- ▶ **Location:** Paul Cantrell Boulevard (West Ashley) to Virginia Avenue (North Charleston)
- ▶ **Most Congested Interstate Segment in SC:** I-526 between I-26 and Virginia Avenue
- ▶ **The I-526 and I-26 interchange is a major source of congestion. Why?**
  - The high number of vehicles that move between I-526 and I-26
  - The interchanges are close together, so they do not allow much room for cars to merge onto the highway
  - The on and off-ramps are steep and have tight curves which slows the flow of traffic



**I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST Project Study Area**

### What is the South Carolina Department of Transportation doing about it? How can you be involved?





2016 to  NOW

- Environmental Studies
- Public Involvement
- Surveying
- Traffic Analysis
- Preliminary Design
- Cost Estimates

Due to the potential for significant impacts to the environment and the community, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared. The project team is currently refining the range of project alternatives to present to the public this fall.

Over the coming months, the team will be in communities potentially affected by the project. These small group meetings will be held in the residential communities to discuss the project with residents and businesses.

- **Public Information Meeting: November 21**
- **11am-7pm** (Drop-In, No Presentation)
- Charleston Area Convention Center
- CARTA Bus Route 11
- ADA Accessible & Hearing impaired services available
- **Online Virtual Meeting:** [526lowcountrycorridor.com](http://526lowcountrycorridor.com)





# Community Involvement

## COMMUNITY Project Advisory Council

The I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST proposed project improvements are anticipated to impact several residential communities in close proximity to the I-526 and I-26 interchange. These communities have been identified as Environmental Justice (EJ) communities. SCDOT, in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is seeking input from those who reside in these communities **to understand the full extent of potential project impacts to the community, the needs of the communities, and the desires of the community in the development of potential community mitigation.**

A community project office will be established in the area to provide information and accessibility to our project team. SCDOT is also seeking to identify residents in the Russelldale, Ferndale, Liberty Park and Highland Terrace neighborhoods that are willing and available to serve as community liaisons on a Community Project Advisory Council. The council will meet regularly to provide input on the project and help guide the process to formulate an EJ Community Mitigation Plan. The council will also help inform other residents on how they can get involved and have a voice in the project decision-making process.



### Community Meetings

Small groups in potentially affected communities  
**Early November**

### Public Information Meeting

Larger Meeting; Drop-in, informal style; Project team available to answer questions and hear concerns  
**November 21, 2019 | 11am-7pm**  
Charleston Area Convention Center



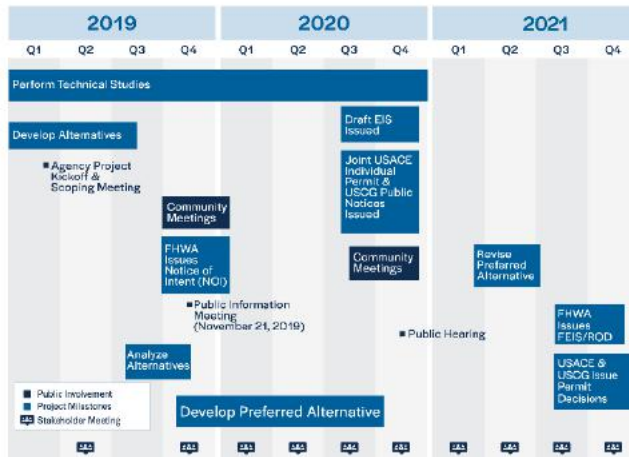
### Virtual Meeting

Unable to attend in person? Join us online.

**Nov 21 - Dec 21, 2019**  
[www.526lowcountrycorridor.com](http://www.526lowcountrycorridor.com)

**Your input is important to the success of this project, and we encourage you to attend one of the meetings or reach out directly to the project team.**

## I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST Project Schedule



**We value your input!**

[526LowcountryCorridor.com](http://526LowcountryCorridor.com)  
[526distribution@SCDOT.org](mailto:526distribution@SCDOT.org)

866.632.5262  
526Corridor  
@526Corridor

*Project Office Coming Soon!*



## B.2 I-526 LCC WEST BUSINESS CARD



526Corridor



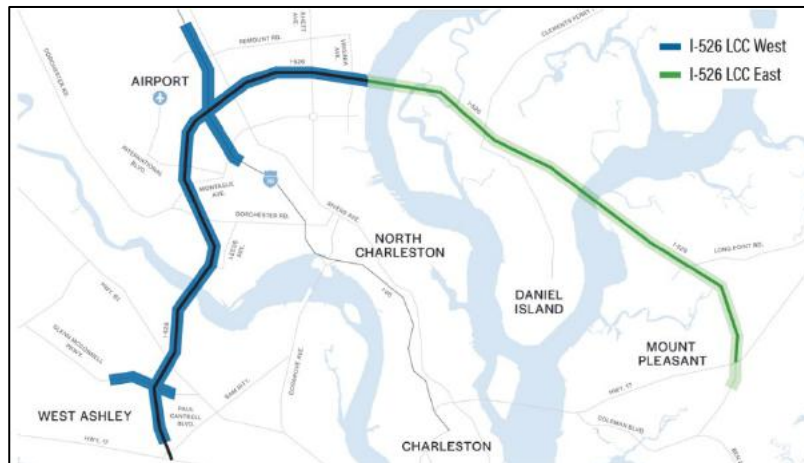
@526Corridor

SCDOT Project Manager  
Joy Riley, PE, PMP, CPM, DBIA  
5627 Rivers Avenue  
Gas Lite Square  
North Charleston, SC 29406  
866.632.5262  
info@526LowcountryCorridor.com



**LOWCOUNTRY  
CORRIDOR**

[www.526LowcountryCorridor.com](http://www.526LowcountryCorridor.com)





## I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST: Where We've Been

WEST



Left: Joy Riley presents at a speakers bureau event in summer of 2017. Right: Check-in table at a Community Meeting.

The I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST (I-526 LCC WEST) will host a public information meeting on November 21, 2019 at the Charleston Area Convention Center. As we look ahead to this meeting in which alternatives will be presented to the public, we thought a look back at how we arrived at this point was important.

The I-526 LCC WEST project was born out of a 2013 planning study—the I-526 Lowcountry Corridor Analysis project. The purpose of this study was to evaluate potential approaches for improving traffic flow through the corridor. While this report included conceptual interchange and road widening alternatives, these were only evaluated from a traffic analysis standpoint.

Enter the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. In January 2016, the I-526 LCC WEST, initially called the 526 Lowcountry Corridor (Phase I), began the NEPA process to conduct an

Environmental Assessment along existing I-526 between Paul Cantrell Boulevard in West Ashley to Rivers Avenue in North Charleston.

Shortly thereafter, the newsletter, website, and social media were launched, and the first round of community, stakeholder, and local business meetings were held (July, October 2016).



Above: Community members engage in dialogue at a West Ashley Community Meeting.

Key issues raised included congestion and safety. Additional analysis conducted during this time included: traffic

studies; a survey for historic buildings and archeological sites; environmental studies; a hazardous materials study; and a topographical conditions study.

Following this initial level of analysis, the public was invited to participate in a virtual public meeting (October 2016.) During this time, several other local and regional planning efforts were underway, such as the I-26 Corridor Management Plan which includes consideration of managed lanes along I-526. Since these studies were in various stages of completion, the I-526 LCC WEST project's schedule was revised so the results of these transportation planning efforts could be part of the alternatives development and the NEPA documentation processes.

In the spring of 2018, the I-526 Lowcountry Corridor EAST project (formerly known as Phase II) was announced, extending along existing I-526, east from the Rivers Avenue interchange to US 17 in Mount Pleasant.

**I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST: Where We've Been (Continued)**

Initial studies showed severe congestion and safety concerns around the N. Rhett/Virginia Avenue interchange resulting in revisions to both projects' limits to ensure the areas with the greatest challenges would be prioritized. I-526 LCC WEST would now extend from Paul Cantrell Boulevard in West Ashley to Virginia Avenue in North Charleston (as opposed to Rivers Avenue), and the I-526 LCC EAST project would pick up there instead. Additionally, the I-526 LCC WEST project was elevated to an Environmental Impact Statement. The project purpose was refined: to increase capacity and improve operations at the I-26/I-526 interchange and along the I-526 mainline from Paul Cantrell Boulevard to Virginia Avenue.

The upcoming public information meeting will provide the results of this extensive work to date and ask for your feedback on the purpose and need, the roadway improvement concepts (draft reasonable alternatives), community impacts, and more.



Above: Joy Riley speaks at a West Ashley Community Meeting.

**Upcoming I-526 LCC WEST Public Information Meetings:**

- ▶ **November 21, 2019 from 11-7 PM at the North Charleston Coliseum**
- ▶ **Virtual Online Public Information Meeting will be available until December 21, 2019**

**I-526 LCC West Timeline**



\* Current Schedule. Subject To Change.