

TOWN COUNCIL
Workshop Meeting
Kiawah Island Municipal Center
Council Chambers Meeting Room
October 3, 2017; 11:00 AM

Minutes

I. Call to Order: Mr. Wilson welcomed all the attendees and called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

Present at the meeting: Craig Weaver, Mayor
John R. Wilson
Diana Mezzanotte
Jack Koach

Absent: Chris Widuch

Also Present: Stephanie Monroe Tillerson, Town Administrator
Petra Reynolds, Town Clerk

II. New Business:

A. Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments - Long Range Transportation Planning (LTRP) Roads Presentation

Ms. Basha and Ms. Hollis, both with the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments, gave a PowerPoint presentation of the CHATS (Charleston Area Transportation Study) 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). She stated that plan was mandated by federal highways to guide how the funding our region receives is spent and is updated every five years. The transportation planning process:

- Summarizes goals and performance targets system wide
- Assesses current system performance
- Inventories future challenges and needs
- Analyzes and proposes an investment strategy to be funded over the next 20 years or more
- Prioritizes projects under fiscal constraint
- Establishes basis for other planning and programming of projects (TIP)

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is responsible for carrying out the urban transportation planning process for CHATS. The study areas includes the 2010 census-defined urbanized areas plus areas expected to be urbanized in the next 20 years. Transportation planning outside CHATS study area is under purview of SCDOT.

The LRTP is comprehensive and multimodal and addresses system performance, identifies strategies that can be employed to address issues, addresses all modes of transportation – transit, freight, non-motorized, and the resiliency of the system. It also takes into account each of the jurisdictions’ transportation elements/plans and related studies.

The LRTP update process includes five stages, and at the time entering Stage III, projects have been identified but not prioritized. Work continues to identify hot spot issues and gather public input.

The Project Timeline includes public symposiums, meetings with individual groups requesting presentations, stakeholder interviews, and outreach to the general public. Following the data collection and analysis, project identification and evaluations, the process continues with a draft of the Plan being presented in December with adoption by CHATS in January.

The input from symposiums have shown a common theme in regional improvements:

- Need for multi-modal approach
- (Downtown) Emphasis on Walking
- Infrastructure Alignment with Growth (or not)
- Affordable Housing/Development as Major Challenges
- Developer Roles in solutions
- Intersection Design/Signals is “Biggest Problem”

Ms. Hollis reviewed the regional transit initiatives underway:

- **Lowcountry Rapid Transit**
 - Bus Rapid Transit Connecting Summerville, North Charleston, & Charleston via US 78 & Rivers Avenue
 - NEPA/Project Development (2018-2020)
 - Engineering/Permitting (2021-2023)
 - Construction (2023-2025)
 - Website: Lowcountryrapidtransit.com
- **Regional Transit Framework Plan**
 - Long range vision and fiscally constrained transit plan
 - Fall 2017 – Spring 2018
- **Park & Ride Study**
 - Site identification and capital investment program
 - Fall 2017-Spring 2018
- **Hospitality Worker Shuttles**
 - Ongoing effort – taskforce has been formed to identify vehicles and funding
 - Need identified for Peninsula, Mt. Pleasant, & Kiawah

Ms. Basha stated that the purpose of the Board Exercise was for the attendees to identify key intersections and corridors or “hot spots” they felt needed to be addressed, mark intersections and corridors and to note suggested solutions, concluding with a summary of the table’s key points and sharing the points with the other tables.

Dr. Roberts gave an overview of the study work done by BCDCOGS which included several future models of the traffic paths on and off the Island. The reviewed diagrams which included the ability to predict the amount of vehicles using a specific link in the model in different scenarios. In the four specific scenarios he discussed, the data showed the model with the inclusion of the Cross-Island Parkway was the best scenario. Dr. Roberts discussed the history of past design proposals and the LPA study, which was not completed, but concluded a solution was to widen Bohicket and River Road or to build a new road. The study indicated the proposed path of the parkway across the Island would be the best and most economical option, but was not supported. Mr. Roberts presented a comparison of the most relevant alternatives and noted the number of parcels, grand

trees, and existing homes that would be impacted was dramatically less in the with the parkway than proposed alternatives.

Attendees briefly discussed the Table Exercise and the maps of Johns Island located on each table. Ms. Basha indicated there were markers and colored dots which could be used to draw new roads or to indicate intersections or areas of concern along with possible solutions.

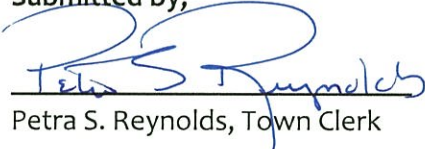
Mr. Wilson asked Ms. Basha to give an update on any projects designated for Johns Island. She stated that while compiling information for the meeting she found projects which shows a widening and flyover project at Main Road and Hwy 17 and similarly shows a project to widen Main Road and Bohicket to toward Kiawah. Also discussed was the pitchfork project which is in progress on Maybank Hwy at the foot of the Stono Bridge, why the proposed parkway across the Island failed many years ago, and funding designated for roads.

Following the attendees working on the maps to locate individual areas of concern and potential suggestions, each table reported their results which initiated in an in-depth discussion of various, ideas, concepts, apprehensions, and recommendations.

III. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:47

Submitted by,


Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

11-7-2017
Date