

**BEAUFORT COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING ON JUNE 22, 2016**

A special meeting of the Beaufort County Transportation Committee (BCTC) was held on June 22, 2016 in the Executive Conference Room of the Beaufort County Administrative Complex located at 100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, South Carolina.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kraig Gordon, Bob Arundell, Craig Forrest, Mark McCain, James Morrall

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joe DeVito, Steve Miller, Joseph Stroman, Paul Runko, Stephen Wilson, Vacant District 7

OTHERS PRESENT: South Carolina State Senator Tom Davis
Rob McFee, Beaufort County Division Director for Construction, Engineering & Facilities
Wendell Mulligan, SCDOT Resident Maintenance Engineer
Darrin Shoemaker, Town of Hilton Head Traffic Engineer
Robert Semmler, Chairman, Beaufort County Planning Commission
David Spisso, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Hardeeville

Notification. An audio recording of this meeting is available from the Beaufort County Engineering Department. Please contact the department at 843 255-2700 and request an audio copy.

1. **Call to Order & Members Roll Call.** Meeting was called to order at approximately 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Gordon and an attendance roll call was taken.
2. **Chairman's Opening Comments.** Chairman Gordon thanked everyone for attending today's special BCTC meeting with Senator Davis. The Chairman briefly reviewed the funding worksheet from 2015-2019 Transportation Improvement Program – Lowcountry Area Transportation Study. Funds are committed that the MPO has been given and cover US 17 widening. GA built 2 lanes of the 4 lane bridge. SC has not built the other 2 lanes of the bridge or the 4 lane roadway going up 4 miles of US 17 which leads to the terminus for the Jasper County Port. Today's discussion will cover the widening of US 17, the Jasper Ocean Terminal and their status.
3. **US 17 MPO Project Update.** Mr. McFee reviewed the US 17 Widening Project update provided by SCDOT. US 17 widening project in Jasper County includes widening improvements of US 17 for approximately 4 miles from a 2 lane highway to a 4 lane highway. The purpose of this project is to improve capacity and reduce congestion. Cost estimate for the project is approximately \$54 million from LCOG/LATS MPO funding. The \$54 million does not include the estimated cost of \$8 million for the SC side of the new bridge. The SCDOT June 2, 2016 status report is attached.
4. **Future Transportation Funding Plans and the Jasper Ocean Terminal Status.** Senator Davis, the BCTC members and staff discussed the future funding components for transportation in SC, realignment of SCDOT infrastructure, US 17 widening and the Jasper Ocean Terminal status. Senator Davis indicated that there appears to be a serious commitment to devolve down to localities portions of SCDOT roadway infrastructure that is not intrigue to the state roadway system. The necessary component is the funding for the devolved roadways. Senator Davis feels there will be a recommendation to revisit increasing the state gas tax especially since Secretary Hall is now in charge of SCDOT and has made some in road steps with General Assembly.

The MPO portion of the US 17 widening does not include the 8 to 10 miles of roadway needed to connect to I-95 and the intersection improvements for Exit 3. Senator Davis is working with Governor's Office for recurring funds to be set aside for Jasper Ocean Terminal capital funding.

SC will need to have the transportation infrastructure funding in place and assurance of its construction in order to interest private sector response to the Jasper Ocean Terminal project. He estimated that the State has 4 to 5 years to accomplish the funding setup.

One of the topics that Chairman Gordon also feels the MPO should look at for Beaufort County is the improvements to the Hilton Head Bridges now that the Bluffton Parkway will be completed soon.

Senator Davis stated that SCDOT has new recurring funds of \$200 million lined up for repairs to deficient bridges and upgrades to interstate roads.

In closing, Senator Davis indicated that the first, most important step for building a case for funding is getting a specific description of the infrastructure needed for the Jasper Ocean Terminal and its cost. Then take steps to figure out how to meet the funding needs and obligations.

5. **Chairman's Closing Comments.** Chairman Gordon thanked Senator Davis for attending this meeting and discussing transportation needs, funding and the Jasper Ocean Terminal. The goal of the BCTC is to make a difference in the community in the direction of transportation.

6. **Meeting Adjourned.** The next regular meeting is scheduled for on Wednesday, July 20, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. Both meetings will be held in the Executive Conference Room, County Administration Building, Robert Smalls Complex, Beaufort, SC.

**Significant Project Update
US 17 Widening Project
Jasper County
June 2, 2016**

Scope

The US 17 Widening Project entails widening US 17 for approximately 4 miles, 2 lanes to 4 lanes divided by a grassed median, from SC 315 to the Georgia State Line. This project also includes intersection improvements at SC 315 and US 17 that will improve safety and operations at this location. The purpose and need for this project is to improve capacity and reduce congestion.

Approvals:

Following is a summary of necessary approvals, permits, and documents:

- FHWA Environmental Assessment (EA) – Anticipated FONSI December 2016
- US Army Corp of Engineers Individual Permit – Anticipated Approval September 2017

Cost Estimate and Funding:

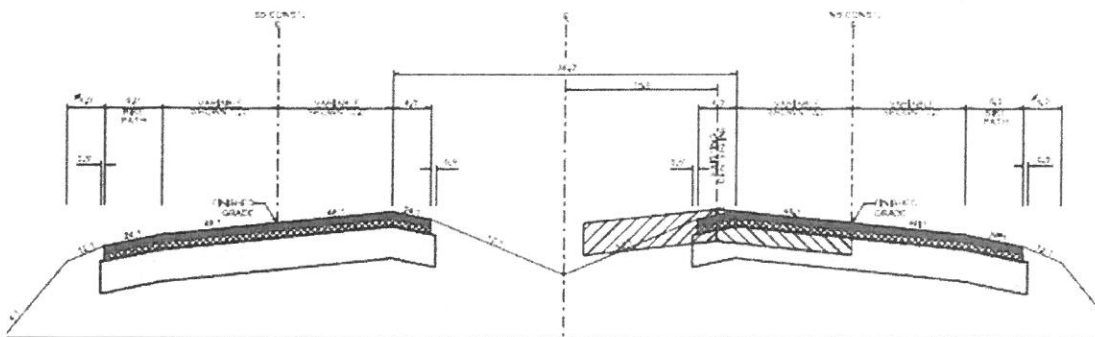
The total project cost is currently estimated at \$54M. The project is currently funded using Lowcountry COG guideshare funding and LATs MPO funding.

Status:

The project is being managed by SCDOT. Preliminary ROW plans have been developed and all changes from the Value Engineering study have been incorporated into the design. Extensive Geotechnical ground modifications will be necessary on this project and Deep Soil Mixing has been selected as the most cost effective approach. Bike lanes have been added to the typical section upon the request of the project sponsor. The environmental document for the project is being completed and we anticipate a public hearing later this year. Advance Utility coordination has been initiated on this project and there is currently only one utility (overhead electric) identified with prior rights (costs to the project). Maintenance is planning some minor maintenance repairs on the existing roadway this year in order to improve the condition of the roadway. We anticipate initiating ROW acquisition early 2017.

Anticipated Schedule

- Public Hearing – November 2016
- ROW Acquisition – January 2017
- Construction – Spring 2018



Point of Contact: Joy Riley, P.E.
Program Manager - Lowcountry
rileyj@scdot.org (803) 737-1346