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## 10 Public Involvement and Outreach

This section presents the public involvement and outreach efforts for the LCRT project.

### 10.1 Stakeholder Forum

To introduce the next phase of the project to stakeholders, the project team organized a stakeholder forum on January 8, 2019. Mailed invitations were sent to 200 stakeholders in the region inviting them to the all-day forum.

The format of the stakeholder forum included a general session which began at 9:00 a.m. and welcome and opening remarks from BCDCOG Project Manager Sharon Hollis, CARTA Chairman Mike Seekings and SCDOT Director of Intermodal & Freight Programs Doug Frate. Ms. Hollis and Mr. Seekings gave a presentation on the LCRT. A keynote address followed, which focused on a case study titled “How Transit Can Transform Communities,” written by former Portland Mayor Charlie Hales. A discussion panel followed with facilitated Q&A from the audience. Panelists included Mr. Seekings; Mr. Hales; Doug Frate, SCDOT Director of Intermodal & Freight Programs; Katharine Ange, President of Renaissance Planning; and David Vozzolo, VP of Transit Planning and Development at HDR.

Following the general session, attendees who were invited to participate on stakeholder committees joined breakout sessions focused on establishing a charter for each of the three stakeholder committees. The findings from these discussions were reported to the larger group later in the day. The remaining attendees were invited to participate in a riding tour of the proposed project corridor to identify opportunities and issues the project may face. The details of the forum are provided in the table below.

**Table 10.1 Stakeholder Forum Details**

Forum date	Forum location	Attendance
January 8, 2019	College Center at Trident Technical College 7000 Rivers Ave, North Charleston	69

### 10.2 Community Meetings

Three public community workshops were held for this project from January 29 through January 31 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Each of the workshops was held at a key area along the proposed corridor to ensure greater participation among key communities, stakeholders, and neighborhoods. The purpose was to introduce the next phase of the project and provide an opportunity for the public to weigh in on the vision for the system.

The topics covered at these meetings included:

- Study overview and background
- Introduction to bus rapid transit systems
- Steps in the project process
- Public involvement opportunities

- Visioning workshop

Each of the workshops had an identical format. Upon arrival, attendees signed into the workshop and received a project handout along with an explanation of the workshop’s agenda. Attendees were then assigned to a numbered table with a project team facilitator who guided them through exercises. A presentation began at 6:05 p.m. to explain the format of the workshop, introduce bus rapid transit, and provide the background of the project. The visioning workshop then took place for the remaining time.

Facilitated visioning exercises were included to collect feedback from the public and engage them early on in the design process. Project team members worked with attendees at their assigned tables and led group discussions to identify key themes or ideas that would help guide the vision of the system. Attendees were asked to answer three main questions related to themes and values:

- What do you celebrate about our culture and history?
- What do you love most about living here today?
- What do you want to see this community celebrate in the future?

Following the facilitated exercise, an open house session began where attendees were encouraged to interact with project team members by asking questions, viewing project boards, and submitting public comments on the forms provided. The following table provides information on workshop locations, dates and number of attendees.

**Table 10.2 Community Workshop Details**

Meeting date	Meeting location	Attendance
January 29, 2019	International Longshoreman’s Building 1142 Morrison Dr, Charleston	83
January 30, 2019	Alston-Bailey Elementary School 820 W 5 <sup>th</sup> St, Summerville	59
January 31, 2019	College Center at Trident Technical College 7000 Rivers Ave, North Charleston	36
Total		<b>178</b>

**10.2.1 Online Meeting**

To supplement the community workshops and reach a greater audience, an online meeting launched January 29, 2019, at [www.lowcountryrapidtransit.com/onlinemeeting](http://www.lowcountryrapidtransit.com/onlinemeeting) and was available for public comment through February 28, 2019. The online meeting provided individuals unable to attend the in-person workshops the same information and opportunities to participate in and comment on the project. The online meeting was available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Over 1,000 people viewed the online meeting.

**10.2.2 Outreach to Date**

The methods of outreach for the community workshops and online meeting are summarized below.

- **Project website:** A redesigned website launched prior to the community workshops providing project information, scheduling, links to project resources, and promotion of the online meeting. [www.lowcountryrapidtransit.com](http://www.lowcountryrapidtransit.com)
- **Legal advertisements:** Public notices and legal advertisements were placed in multiple newspapers to alert the public and increase participation. Legal advertisements ran in *The Post & Courier* on January 14, 2019, *The Summerville Journal Scene* and the *Berkeley Independent* on January 16, 2019 and *The Gazette* on January 17, 2019.
- **E-mail notifications:** Two email notifications were sent to 728 stakeholders and contacts in the project database to promote the workshops and online meeting and encourage them to share with their networks.
- **Project flyers:** A flyer was designed and distributed in the community to raise awareness and promote the upcoming workshops and online meeting.
- **Social media:** The project team developed several social media posts that were posted on multiple platforms to raise awareness and promote the workshops and public meeting.
- **Stakeholder mailings:** Letters were mailed to 90 stakeholders in the community to promote the workshops and online meeting, encouraging them to participate in the workshops and online meeting and to share the information with their network.
- **Media coordination:** Press releases and media interviews were conducted in the weeks prior to the events, during, and afterwards to promote the workshops and online meeting.

### 10.3 Stakeholder Coordination

The project team identified and engaged key stakeholders throughout the region early in the project. In total, the project team met with 10 key stakeholder groups or organizations prior to the public workshops. Details of those early stakeholder coordination meetings are provided in Table 10.3.

**Table 10.3 Stakeholder Coordination Meetings**

Meeting date	Stakeholders/organizations	Summary
November 20, 2018	Charleston County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of the project team and project, potential design criteria, conceptual alternative alignments, and NEPA determination.</li> <li>• Overview of the public involvement and outreach strategy, stakeholder forum, and community workshops.</li> <li>• Discussions on funding, affordable housing, coordination with existing projects, and engaging key stakeholders.</li> </ul>
November 26, 2018	City of North Charleston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of the project team and project, potential design criteria, conceptual alternative alignments, and NEPA determination.</li> <li>• Overview of the public involvement and outreach strategy, stakeholder forum, and community workshops.</li> <li>• Goals for the city of North Charleston and potential for phasing the project.</li> </ul>

Meeting date	Stakeholders/organizations	Summary
November 28, 2018	CARTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of the project team and project, potential design criteria, conceptual alternative alignments, and NEPA determination.</li> <li>• Overview of the public involvement and outreach strategy, stakeholder forum, and community workshops.</li> <li>• Discussions on zoning and density, station/line end points and southern end point route.</li> </ul>
November 30, 2018	Town of Summerville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of the project team and project, potential design criteria, conceptual alternative alignments and NEPA determination.</li> <li>• Overview of the public involvement and outreach strategy, stakeholder forum, and community workshops.</li> <li>• Improvements to the current park-and-ride location at Berlin G Meyer and 6<sup>th</sup> Street.</li> </ul>
December 3, 2018	SCDOT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of the project team and project, potential design criteria, conceptual alternative alignments, and NEPA determination.</li> <li>• Overview of the public involvement and outreach strategy, stakeholder forum, and community workshops.</li> <li>• Support of SCDOT leadership, education on BRT systems and features, defining ownership, and maintenance responsibilities.</li> <li>• Early involvement of SCDOT and FTA.</li> </ul>
December 10, 2018	Charleston Moves, Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities, Metanoia, and Coastal Conservation League	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of the project team and project.</li> <li>• Overview of the public involvement and outreach strategy, stakeholder forum, and community workshops.</li> <li>• Discussions on funding and county support, project study area, federal opportunity zones.</li> </ul>
December 14, 2018	City of Charleston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of the project team and project.</li> <li>• Discussions on station locations, proposed system line, and support for the system.</li> <li>• Coordination between agencies, stakeholders and project team.</li> </ul>
December 17, 2018	Representative JA Moore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of the project team and project.</li> <li>• Overview of the public involvement strategy, project schedule, project study area and potential interim bus stop improvements.</li> </ul>
December 18, 2018	Senator Marlon Kimpson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of the project team and project.</li> <li>• Discussions on state support, relevant legislation, and project budget and funding.</li> <li>• Engaging local advocates and organizations in the project.</li> </ul>
January 2, 2019	Representative Marvin Pendarvis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of the project team and project.</li> <li>• Overview of the stakeholder forum and community workshops.</li> <li>• Discussions on transit-oriented development and affordable house and stable workforce.</li> <li>• Charleston County Affordable Housing Committee.</li> <li>• Engaging North Charleston and Lincolville communities.</li> </ul>
February 12, 2019	Lowcountry Lowline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of the project team and project.</li> <li>• Discussions on coordination between project team and Lowcountry Lowline efforts.</li> </ul>

## 10.4 Project Stakeholder Committees

### 10.4.1 Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is composed of a cross-section of stakeholders representing utilities, counties, municipalities, and SCDOT advisors who will set the overall direction of the project and approve its technical strategy. The Steering Committee will meet monthly, or as needed, to discuss and approve key project elements. Specifically, the committee includes representatives from:

- BCDCOG
- Berkeley County
- CARTA
- Charleston County
- City of Charleston
- City of North Charleston
- Dorchester County
- Federal Transit Administration
- Palmetto Railways
- SCDOT
- South Carolina Ports Authority
- Town of Summerville

### 10.4.2 Strategic Partnerships Committee

The Strategic Partnerships Committee will help to guide project development from a tactical perspective by advising on funding opportunities from a local and national perspective. Its members will represent civic-minded organizations including key decision makers and leaders from large employers along the corridor, business and economic groups, and other private sector entities who have the potential to provide or help secure funding for the project. The committee will hold bi-annual meetings under the leadership of the project management team, whose members will present study progress and receive ongoing input from the private sector. The Strategic Partnerships Committee includes representatives from the following organizations:

- AT&T
- BB&T
- Berkeley Chamber of Commerce
- Berkeley County Economic Development
- Boeing
- Boomtown
- Charleston Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Charleston Area Hospitality Association
- Charleston County Aviation Authority
- Charleston County Economic Development
- Charleston Digital Corridor
- Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce
- Charleston Regional Development Alliance

- CSU
- City of North Charleston Economic Development
- College of Charleston
- Dominion Energy
- Dorchester County Economic Development
- Evening Post Industries
- Google
- Gramling Brothers Real Estate and Development
- Greater Summerville-Dorchester County Chamber of Commerce
- Joint Base Charleston
- Medical University of South Carolina
- Mercedes-Benz
- Nexsen Pruet
- One Region
- Roper St. Francis Healthcare
- South Carolina Federal Credit Union
- South Carolina Research Authority
- SunTrust Bank
- The Citadel
- The Intertech Group
- Trident CEO Council
- Trident Health System
- Trident Technical College
- Volvo Cars

#### 10.4.3 Corridor Advocacy Committee

The Corridor Advocacy Committee is comprised of representatives from community organizations, non-profits, BCDCOG Mass Transit Advocacy Committee, CARTA's Transit Rider Advocacy Committee, and others along the corridor. Members will meet quarterly to provide insight and feedback during the planning process on issues ranging from equity, affordable housing, socio-economic opportunities, customer experience, and disability access. The Corridor Advocacy Committee includes representatives from the following organizations:

- BCDCOG
- CARTA
- CARTA TRAC & PARA-TRAC
- Charleston Moves
- Charleston Trident Association of Realtors
- Coastal Community Foundation
- Coastal Conservation League
- Fresh Future Farm
- Greater Charleston Restaurant Association
- Historic Charleston Foundation
- Lanxess Community (Solvay Action Committee)
- Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities



- Lowcountry Local First
- Lowcountry Lowline
- Mass Transit Advocacy Committee
- Metanoia
- South Carolina Community Loan Fund
- Summerville Dream
- Urban Land Institute

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