

# Project Update as of January 28, 2021

## Project Contact Information

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The Lowcountry Rapid Transit project is moving full speed ahead in 2021 starting off with public outreach to stakeholders along the corridor. Municipal coordination is ongoing as we prepare for more neighborhood meetings and continued outreach with organizations throughout the region.

Outreach in 2021 will include public meetings, sit-downs with businesses and neighborhoods along the corridor, pop-up events and more.

This work will include a mixture of in-person (as appropriate) and virtual engagement.

And it means existing relationships will be deepened and new connections will be established.

Here's a few examples:

- A virtual public meeting launch in Q1 2021. LCRT station designs will be unveiled and you can explore how the project operates along the recommended route.
- Get "Onboard with LCRT" as we travel to different locations along the corridor and engage with business owners and neighborhood leaders in a unique pop-up setting.
- Weekly Virtual Rush Hours will set time for people to have conversations with members of our project team.

These plans align with our coordination with partner organizations and municipalities to increase project awareness in our community.

## LCRT by the Numbers

**21.5** miles,  
one way

**2M+**  
yearly riders

**20**  
stations

**6,800+** daily trips  
on the line

**20 sec.**  
stops at each station

Service every **10 min.** for most of the day

**19**  
vehicles

**1 hour**  
from end to end

**20+ hours** of daily operation



## 2020 Key Highlights

- 145 engagements held throughout 2020.
- Alignment refined with foundational route set from the Ladson Exchange Park Fairgrounds to WestEdge & Line St. downtown.
- Updates presented to the Steering Committee, Strategic Partnerships Committee, Corridor Advocacy Committee, and TOD Subcommittees throughout the year both in-person and virtually.
- Design exceptions and alignment refinement proposed and approved by stakeholders.
- Positioned the project to receive a medium rating and compete for federal funding.
- Completion of CIG analysis memo.

## December/January Meetings & Community Events

Date	Meeting	Parties Involved
12/3	TOD Coordination	City of Charleston
12/8	Engagement Coordination	Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce
12/14	Wannamaker Park Impact Discussion	Charleston County Parks and Recreation
12/14	Fairground Park-and-Ride Discussion	Exchange Club
12/16	CMDAG Coordination Meeting	CMDAG
12/17	SCDOT Coordination Meeting	SCDOT
12/17	TOD Coordination	Charleston Housing Authority
12/21	TOD Coordination	City of Charleston
1/7	SCDOT Coordination Meeting	SCDOT
1/8	NEPA Monthly Meeting	FTA
1/12	Shipwatch Site Coordination Meeting	City of North Charleston
1/13	Municipal Coordination Meeting	City of North Charleston
1/14	Shipwatch Square Coordination Meeting	Charleston County
1/15	Station Location Coordination Meeting	Roper St Francis
1/18	Neighborhood Meeting	WTNA
1/19	TOD Subcommittee Meeting	TOD Subcommittee
1/19	Neighborhood Meeting	Accabee
1/20	CARTA Meeting	CARTA Board Members
1/21	LAMC Coordination Meeting	LAMC
1/25	BCDCOG Presentation	BCDCOG Board
1/26	HQ Monthly Meeting	FTA
1/28	Shipwatch Site Coordination Meeting	Charleston County
1/28	Municipal Coordination Meeting	City of Charleston
1/28	Charleston County Council Presentation	Charleston County

## 2021 Upcoming Priorities

- FTA to Assign Project Management Oversight Consultant
- Coordination with FTA on Ridership Methodology
- Develop 3rd Party Agreements
- Monthly FTA Coordination Meetings
- Public Meetings in early 2021 focused on neighborhood and business outreach along the corridor.
- Coordination with municipalities, utilities, elected officials, SCDOT and other stakeholders.
- Delivery of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation for defined project.
- Delivery of 30% project design.
- Refinement of capital cost estimates, run time assumptions, ridership forecasts.
- Vehicle selection and Operations Plan development.
- Completion of Final Traffic Report and Station Area Plans.

## TOD Study



The Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Study is moving forward thanks to coordination with municipal staff and stakeholders in Summerville, North Charleston and Charleston. Additional contact with policy makers focused on affordable housing, business development, multi-modal integration and regional growth took place throughout the year. Moving into next year further community outreach will shape the policy recommendations for the station areas identified leading towards a regional approach for success.

**Do your constituents have questions about the Lowcountry Rapid Transit project? Encourage them to reach out!**

## Community Engagement Contact Information

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## Scope & Schedule

**LCRT is competitive for federal funding.** Funding is a critical piece of the puzzle in identifying a successful system for implementation. The keys to success in qualifying for federal funding in the CIG program are the project's overall cost and ridership.

**The team's number one goal today is to deliver a competitive project and secure federal funding, which is needed to ensure LCRT becomes a reality.**

## Project Programming

2016-2019

- ★ Bus Rapid Transit Preferred Alternative Identified
- Half-cent sales tax referendum passed in Charleston County (2016)
- Agency Coordination
- Informal Scoping & NEPA Checklist
- Identify Funding & Schedule (LRTP)
- Existing Conditions Evaluation & Conceptual Design (10%)
- NEPA Class of Action & Initiate NEPA Scoping\*
- Request Entry into Project Development\*

## Capital Investment Grants Program

2019-2023

**We Are Here**

- ★ Project Development
  - FTA Project Development NTP
  - Cultural resources report
  - Define optimal alignment
  - Public meetings for refined alternative, station locations
  - Complete Section 106 consultation
  - Obtain commitment of >30% non-CIG funding
  - Public meetings for the NEPA alternative
  - Submit Draft Categorical Exclusion to FTA

CURRENT PHASE

- Complete NEPA
- Adopt a Locally Preferred Alternative
- Complete 30% Design
- **Must Receive Medium Rating for Project Justification & Financial Commitment Criteria\* – September 2021**
- ★ Engineering
  - Significant Progress with Engineering
  - Recommended for Construction Grant Agreement

## Construction

2023-2026

- ★ Major Milestones
  - \*Federal Transit Administration decision point
- Project timeline is estimated under the New Starts Capital Investment Grant program guidelines.

**LCRT** | **Lowcountry Rapid Transit**

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