

# Project Update as of August 1, 2020

## Project Contact Information

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## Project Management

### Key Highlights

- 62 stakeholder & community events held so far in Phase 2, January - July 2020
- Six coordination meetings with FTA to date in Phase 2
- Morgan Grimes has been hired as BCDCOG's Communications & Outreach Specialist to lead on-corridor business and community engagement
- Approval of recommended alignment by BCDCOG Board of Directors (6/29)
- Virtual public meeting on recommended alternative and station areas (6/10-7/11)
  - 6,700 visitors and 140 comments
- Design Exception coordination with SCDOT, Signal Warrant coordination with SCDOT, TOD Study Workshops with Municipalities, Station Refinement Analysis, Preliminary Capital Improvement Grants Rating Memo, Medical District Routing, Utility Coordination Kickoff

### Upcoming Priorities

- Begin developing corridor visuals for the public
- Station locations will be finalized late summer
- Transit Signal Priority Subcommittee Workshop (8/3)
- Transit Oriented Development Subcommittee (8/4) on updated station areas & redevelopment opportunities
- Steering Committee (8/26) to approve refined station areas and station architecture
- Initiation of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation for defined project
- Refinement of capital cost estimates, run time assumptions, ridership forecasts
- Completion of Design Exception Report, Design Criteria Update, Station Location Analysis Memo, Capital Investment Grants (CIG) Project Definition
- Initiate Route Optimization study
- Finalize railroad agreements
- STOPS Model Report
- Operating Plan Report

## Engagement & Outreach

Planning and coordination with multiple jurisdictions and agencies is happening right now.

### May - July 2020 | Stakeholder Meetings

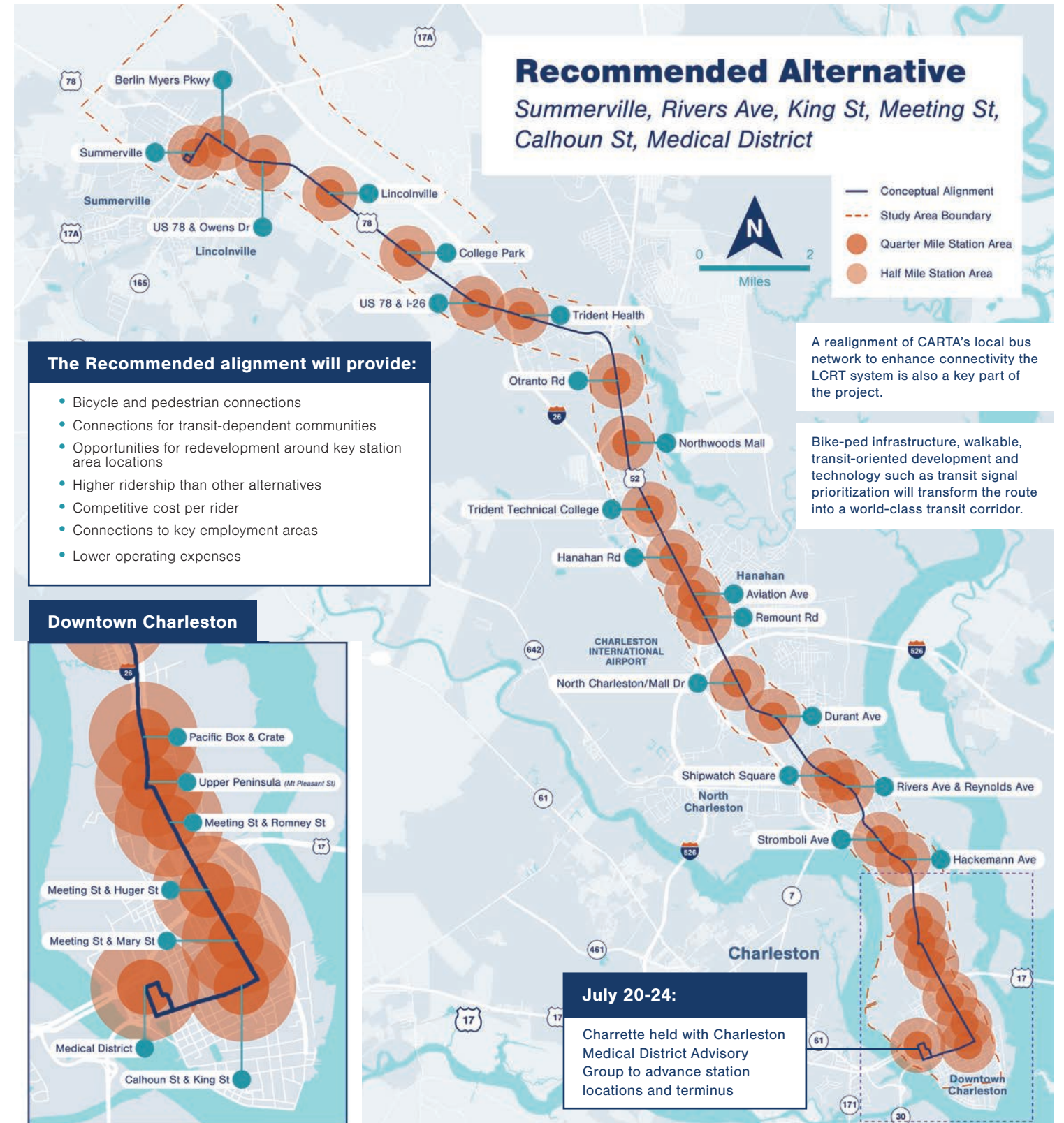
Date	Meeting	Parties Involved	Topic(s) of Discussion
5/01	Charleston Medical District Advisory Group Charrette Planning	Charleston Medical District	Routing options through the Medical District
5/07	I-526 Coordination Meeting	SCDOT I-526 Project Team	Project coordination
5/14	Affordability Roundtable	City staff, developers & non-profit leaders	Affordable housing opportunities
5/14	Transit Signal Prioritization Workshop	BCDCOG ITS Subcommittee	Transit signal planning
5/15	Affordability Roundtable	City staff, developers & non-profit leaders	Affordable housing opportunities
5/20	Affordability Roundtable	City staff, developers & non-profit leaders	Affordable housing opportunities
5/26	Charleston County Coordination Meeting	Cal Oyer	Project coordination
5/27	Affordability Roundtable	City staff, developers & non-profit leaders	Affordable housing opportunities
5/27	Steering Committee Meeting	Steering Committee Members	Concurrence on recommended alignment
5/28	Affordability Roundtable	City staff, developers & non-profit leaders	Affordable housing opportunities
5/28	Charleston Southern University	Leadership	Coordination and project introduction
5/29	Charleston Medical District Advisory Group Coordination Meeting	Charleston Medical District	Coordinating on master planning efforts
6/1	Strategic Partnerships Committee	Committee Members	Pre-virtual meeting launch, recommended alternative
6/3	Transit Oriented Development Subcommittee	Subcommittee Members	Pre-virtual meeting launch, station areas
6/4	Corridor Advocacy Committee	Committee Members	Pre-virtual meeting launch, recommended alignment
6/4	I-526 Coordination	SCDOT I-526 Project Team	Project coordination
6/8	Medical District Routing Discussion	Jennifer Bihl	Routing and master plans
6/9	Coastal Conservation League	Staff	Feedback on alternatives and features
6/11	SCDOT Coordination Meeting	SCDOT Staff	Project coordination
6/12	Transit Signal Prioritization Workshop	SCDOT Staff	Transit signal planning
6/16	Charleston Moves	Leadership	Recommended alignment and bike/ped opportunities
6/17	SC Housing Coordination Meeting	Bryan Grady	SC Housing programs
6/18	City of Charleston	Staff	Design
6/18	City of Charleston Design Review Committee	Committee Members & City of North Charleston staff	Presentation of station architecture
6/18	Charleston County Council	County Council	Recommended alignment
6/23	CARTA Hub Coordination Meeting	Charleston County	Shipwatch Square
6/24	City of Charleston Bike/Ped Committee	Committee Members	Bicycle and pedestrian features in the project
6/25	Transit Oriented Development Station Area Workshop	City of North Charleston	Station areas
6/26	Transit Oriented Development Station Area Workshop	Town of Summerville	Project update, station areas
6/29	Pacific Box & Crate	Site developers	Station area
6/30	Transit Oriented Development Station Area Workshop	City of Charleston Planning	Station areas
7/8	Signal Warrant Discussion	SCDOT staff	Roadway designs
7/13	Meeting with Mayor Summey	North Charleston	Business engagement strategy along Rivers Avenue
7/15	Engagement and Outreach	Keith Benjamin	Introduction with Morgan Grimes
7/16	I-526 Coordination Meeting	SCDOT I-526 Project Team	Coordination

### May - July 2020 | Community Events

Date	Meeting	Parties Involved	Topic(s) of Discussion
5/20	Summerville Chamber of Commerce	Local businesses and chamber members	Speakers bureau presentation to chamber membership
6/5	Outreach Coordination with Hispanic Community	Lydia Cotton	Project update, outreach to local Hispanic communities
6/8	Media Day	Local Media Outlets	Promoting the virtual public meeting and project to local journalists
6/24	Charleston Moves Livestream	Facebook Live	Community needs, bike and ped
7/1	Urban Land Institute Forum	ULI members	Areas with redevelopment potential
7/8	Business Outreach Discussion	City of North Charleston	Business outreach efforts in North Charleston
7/15	Business Outreach Discussion	City of North Charleston	Business outreach efforts in North Charleston
7/17	Richmond Pulse BRT	Communications staff	Outreach and engagement efforts
7/20, 7/24	Charleston Medical District Advisory Group	Charleston Medical District	Virtual charrette master planning
7/20	Urban Land Institute	Amy Barrett	Outreach and engagement
7/29	Demystifying BCDCOG Webinar	Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce	Membership update on LCRT and other BCDCOG initiatives
7/31	Quintin's Close-Ups	Quintin Washington	Latest on LCRT

### Business Coordination Meetings

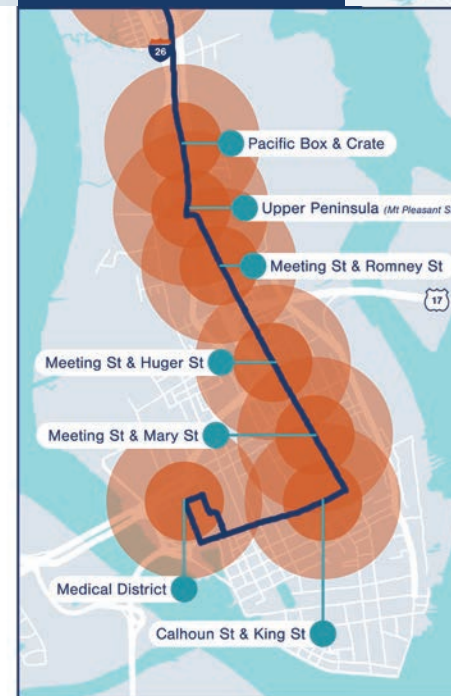
- Strategy being developed to engage on-corridor businesses about potential impacts, access, station locations
- Two coordination meetings have been held with the City of N. Charleston to initiate strategy to reach businesses at key intersections and launch door-to-door outreach late summer



#### The Recommended alignment will provide:

- Bicycle and pedestrian connections
- Connections for transit-dependent communities
- Opportunities for redevelopment around key station area locations
- Higher ridership than other alternatives
- Competitive cost per rider
- Connections to key employment areas
- Lower operating expenses

#### Downtown Charleston



#### Corridor Opportunities

##### Summerville/US-78

- Serves established areas
- Opportunities for expansion and improvement
- Park-and-ride opportunities

##### US-78/US-52 (Rivers Avenue)

- Ample right-of-way
- Established transit service
- Center median allows for dedicated BRT

- Mix of businesses and residences
- Development potential
- BRT enhancements would add to the corridor's safety
- Improvements to un-signalized lefts and u-turns

##### King Street Extension

- One at-grade railroad crossing
- Low impact to project schedule and NEPA
- Local community support

- Future grants/funding can improve user mobility

##### Meeting Street - Calhoun Street

- More redevelopment potential
- Established fixed-route transit
- City has requested the Lowline be preserved as bicycle/pedestrian corridor

#### July 20-24:

Charrette held with Charleston Medical District Advisory Group to advance station locations and terminus

We are at the halfway mark of a 12-year process to build the nation's largest bus rapid transit system. In late 2019, LCRT and BCDCOG were accepted into the federal Capital Investment Grants program. The prep work put in over the previous years allowed us to qualify and we are following a clearly defined, step-by-step process that cannot be avoided. The current phase is 24 months and ends in September 2021.

## CIG Program Comparison

	FHWA	FTA CIG
<b>PHASE 1</b>	<b>3 YEARS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning &amp; Programming</li> <li>• Alternatives Analysis</li> </ul>	<b>3 YEARS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning &amp; Programming</li> <li>• Alternatives Analysis</li> </ul>
<b>PHASE 2</b>	<b>7 YEARS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NEPA</li> <li>• Engineering &amp; Final Design</li> </ul>	<b>2 YEARS*</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NEPA</li> <li>• 30% Engineering</li> <li>• CIG Rating</li> </ul>
<b>PHASE 3</b>	<b>3 YEARS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction</li> </ul>	<b>2 YEARS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Engineering</li> <li>• CIG Rating</li> </ul>
<b>PHASE 4</b>		<b>3 YEARS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction</li> </ul>

\*The legally required 2-year clock for the project development phase began in September 2019.

# LCRT | Lowcountry Rapid Transit



## Scope & Schedule

### Schedule Update

The FTA/CIG Rating process is a multi-year, multi-step process that includes the submission of a project rating and evaluation package to FTA. This package includes the final project scope, schedule and cost estimate, project delivery method and procurement documents, a commitment of all non-CIG funds, complete third party agreements and a completed project rating and readiness review.

The project is then evaluated on criteria including mobility improvements, environmental benefits, congestion relief, economic development, land use or capacity needs, current conditions, commitment of fund, and reliability/capacity. The project must receive at least a "medium" rating in order to receive funding.

The schedule below is mandated by the FTA New Starts process and a requirement for funding eligibility, a project construction start in 2023, and an opening in 2026.

### 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

- ★ Project Development We Are Here
- 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.