

# Project Update as of November 1, 2020

## Project Contact Information

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## Project Management

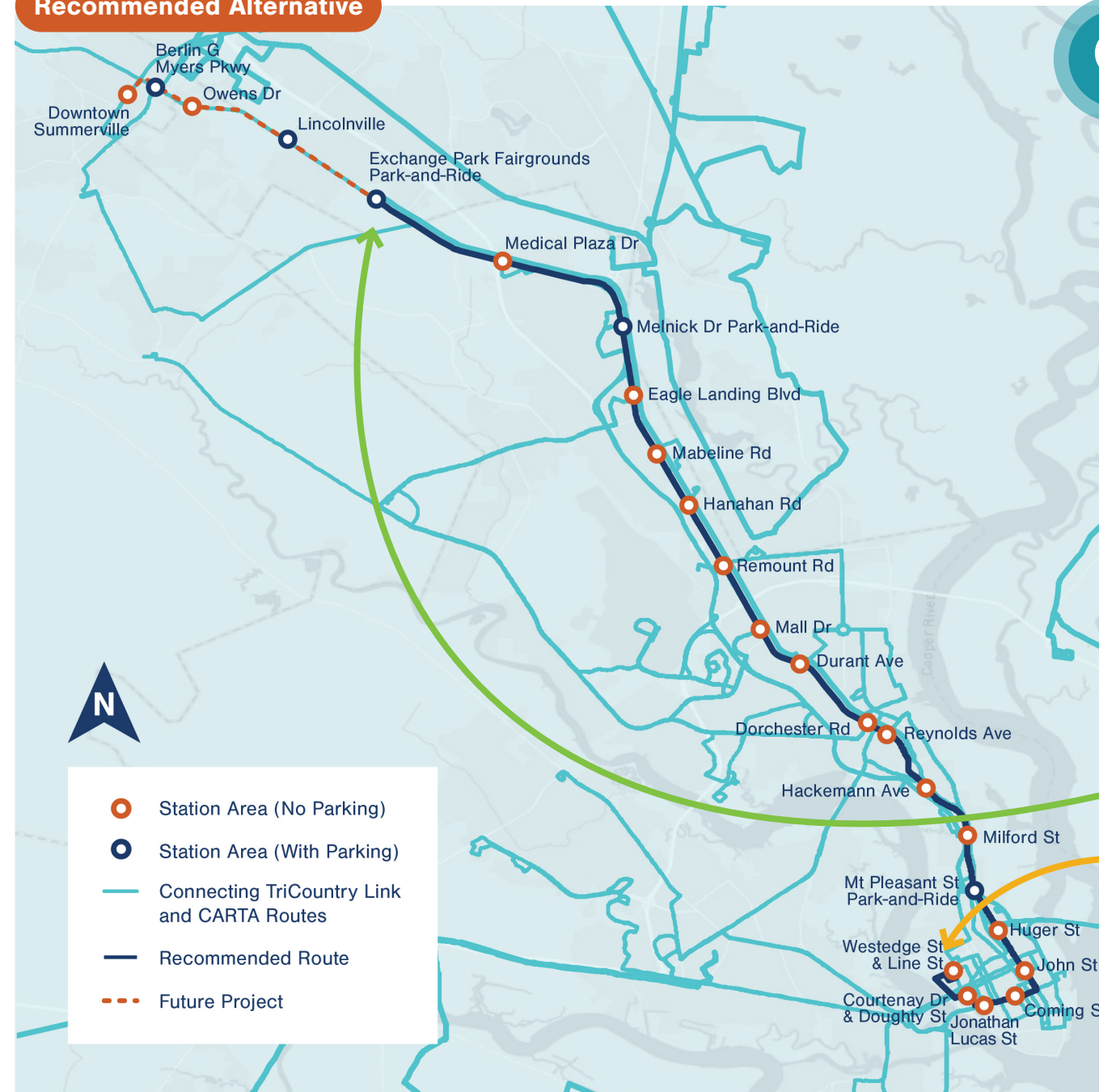
### Key Highlights

- 115 engagements held as of October 31, 2020
- Initiated development of corridor visualizations for LCRT stations and operations
- Steering Committee meeting on October 7 to present the refined alignment, station locations and project definition
- Updates presented to Strategic Partnerships Committee, Corridor Advocacy Committee, and TOD Subcommittees on October 27 and 29 on the refined alignment
- Advanced the local bus modification report, LCRT operating plans, and bike and pedestrian recommendations

### Upcoming Priorities

- Continue coordination meetings with City of North Charleston and City of Charleston to identify priorities in design and station area planning and affordable housing coordination around key station areas
- Public Meetings in January 2021
- Follow up meeting with the City of Charleston's Design Review Committee to finalize station architecture design intent
- Continuation of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation for defined project
- Refinement of capital cost estimates, run time assumptions, ridership forecasts
- SCDOT Coordination on project details and updates
- Coordination with stakeholders at WestEdge and the Fairgrounds to determine end of line station locations

## Recommended Alternative



**The LCRT alignment has been refined within Charleston County to deliver a project that will secure federal funding. LCRT will set the foundation for future mass transit lines to come.**

The project team has refined the system to identify the best termini and station locations that will maximize the system's ridership and enhance the system's reliability and ultimately qualify the system to be competitive for federal funds.

The project team's proposed foundation still means attention will be given to developing robust station area plans along the spine of the route, including into Summerville where future projects may connect later. In the interim, bus connections will be provided to connect Summerville into the Exchange Park Fairgrounds Park & Ride.

By applying the federal program requirements, we identified the need to move the northern end of line from downtown Summerville to the Fairgrounds in Ladson.

In addition, through coordination with the Charleston Medical District a new end of line was identified at the WestEdge mixed-use development.

With positive response following stakeholder meetings in October, the LCRT project team is working to target communities along the corridor to further connect them to the project and how to stay updated.

Engagement & Outreach

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

October 2020 | Stakeholder Meetings

Date	Meeting	Parties Involved	Topic(s) of Discussion
10/5	Town of Summerville Update Meeting	Town of Summerville	Alignment, CIG requirements, project terminus, TOD study/station area planning, next steps
10/5	FTA NEPA Monthly Call	FTA	Project coordination
10/6	Town of Summerville Coordination Meeting	Town of Summerville	Alignment, CIG requirements, proposed terminus, TOD placetype allocations, station areas, next steps
10/7	Steering Committee Meeting	Committee Members	Project update, CIG process, project definition, alignment, next steps
10/8	SCDOT Coordination Meeting	SCDOT Staff	Project coordination, ROW acquisition, Access Management, next steps
10/15	Coastal Conservation League Coordination Meeting	CCL Staff	Project update, CIG process, project definition, alignment, next steps
10/15	Project Overview with Rev. Benton	Mount Moriah Baptist Church	Project overview, alignment, station locations, outreach, next steps
10/15	City of North Charleston Coordination for Shipwatch Square	City of North Charleston	Shipwatch Square coordination, public safety space requirements, next steps
10/21	Town of Summerville Coordination Meeting	Town of Summerville	Alignment, station locations, next steps
10/22	City of Charleston Mayoral Briefing	City of Charleston	Project update, CIG process, alignment, project coordination, next steps
10/26	City of Charleston Coordination Meeting	City of Charleston	Downtown alignment, CIG process, project update, next steps
10/26	Senator Kimpson Project Update	Senator Kimpson	Project overview, alignment, guideway treatments, station elements, TOD, next steps
10/27	Virtual Stakeholder Session	Committee Members	Project update, CIG process, project definition, alignment, next steps
10/28	Charleston County Coordination Meeting – Shipwatch Square	Charleston County	Project coordination, station architecture, next steps
10/29	Virtual Stakeholder Session	Committee Members	Project update, CIG process, project definition, alignment, next steps
10/29	Charleston County Coordination Meeting – Shipwatch Square	Charleston County	Project coordination, station architecture, next steps
10/30	Project Update with Secretary Hall	SCDOT	Project update

October 2020 | Community Events

Date	Meeting	Parties Involved	Topic(s) of Discussion
10/3	Coastal Carolina Flea Market	General Public	Project overview
10/13	Library Event	Charleston County Library	Project overview
10/15	North Charleston Farmers Market	General Public	Project overview
10/27	ULI Webinar	ULI members in the Carolinas	Bus rapid transit in Cleveland, OH
10/29	Lowcountry Lowline & Charleston Moves Live Webinar	Charleston Moves, Lowcountry Lowline, General Public	Downtown Alignment, Bike/Ped considerations & station locations



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

Schedule Update

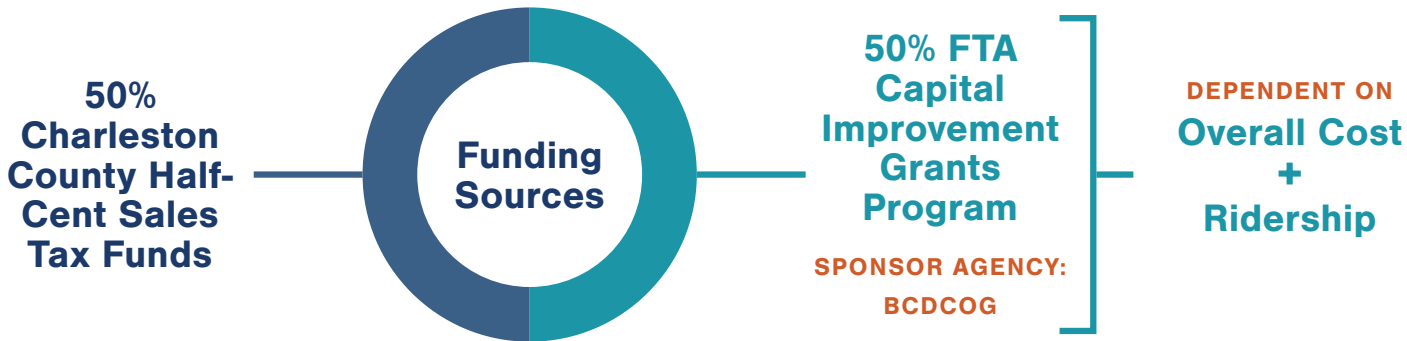
**LCRT is competitive for federal funding.** Funding is a critical piece of the puzzle in identifying a successful system for implementation – 50% of the funding was identified in the 2016 Charleston County Sales Tax Referendum and the project team is currently positioning LCRT to secure a 50% funding match through Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds, also known as the Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program.

The keys to success in qualifying for federal funding in the CIG program are the project's overall cost and ridership.

**But, the clock is ticking to obtain the federal funds.** LCRT is working under a prescribed timeline and there is a deadline that must be met. By Summer 2021, the project team must submit a plan to FTA that includes a completed environmental document and 30% design for the recommended preferred alternative.

**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 Funding



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

  - 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
- 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.