

Project Update as of October 1, 2020

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Project Management

Key Highlights

- 100 engagements held to date so far; 3 letters of support received from the Medical District
- Conducted two-day design charrettes each with the City of North Charleston and City of Charleston, and one, half-day charrette with Charleston County
- Completion of Draft Preliminary Capital Investment Grants (CIG) Analysis Memo

Upcoming Critical Path

OCTOBER 2020

- Refinement of physical station locations, including park and rides
- SHPO submittal of station architecture concept
- Complete environmental studies and begin drafting NEPA document

Upcoming Priorities

- Continue coordination meetings with City of North Charleston and City of Charleston to identify priorities in design and station area planning
- Steering Committee meeting to present an update on the federal grants process and project definition
- TOD Station Area Workshops in November and Public Meetings in January
- Begin developing corridor visuals for the public
- Finalize Station Architecture design intent
- Initiation of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation for defined project
- Refinement of capital cost estimates, run time assumptions, ridership forecasts

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.

Since the last public meetings in June, 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.

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.

This alignment was presented to elected officials and key stakeholders in late September and to the LCRT Steering Committee on October 7.

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

September 2020 | Stakeholder Meetings

Date	Meeting	Parties Involved	Topic(s) of Discussion
9/2	Railroad Agreements Discussion	SCDOT	Rail road agreements along LCRT corridor
9/2	Shipwatch Square Discussion	City of North Charleston	Discussion on police department needs at Shipwatch Square development
9/4	Signal Coordination Meeting	Charleston County, WEECO	Discussion on signals at new social services campus
9/8	NEPA Coordination Meeting	FTA, SCDOT	NEPA coordination on LCRT
9/8	Mayor Summey Meeting	City of North Charleston	Project coordination
9/9	Mayor Tecklenburg Meeting	City of Charleston	Project coordination
9/9	Councilman Sass Meeting	Charleston County	Project Coordination
9/10	WestEdge Coordination	WestEdge	Project update and coordination
9/14	City of Charleston Charrette Day 1	City of Charleston	Workshop on proposed route, station locations and project coordination
9/15	City of North Charleston Charrette Day 1	City of North Charleston	Workshop on proposed route, station locations and project coordination
9/16	Bike/Ped Accommodations Discussion	City of Charleston	Discussion on bike/ped accommodations and project coordination
9/16	Development Opportunity Sites Discussion	City of Charleston	Discussion on development opportunity sites in Downtown Charleston
9/16	Hagood Extension & Meeting/Calhoun Discussion	City of Charleston	Discussion on the potential extension of Hagood Avenue and the alignment along Calhoun & Meeting streets
9/17	Development Opportunity Sites Discussion Follow Up	City of Charleston	Further discussions on development opportunity sites in Downtown Charleston
9/18	City of Charleston Charrette Day 2	City of Charleston	Report out on charrette activities and discussions from the week
9/18	City of North Charleston Charrette Day 2	City of North Charleston	Report out on charrette activities and discussions from the week
9/21	City of Charleston Coordination Meeting	City of Charleston	Discussion on coordination efforts moving forward
9/21	Charleston County Workshop	Charleston County	Facilitated workshops on project development to discuss feedback from municipal charrettes and collect feedback from county staff
9/22	FTA Coordination Call	FTA	Monthly call to discuss project coordination
9/24	Signals Considerations Meeting	SCDOT	Additional signal considerations and concepts, project coordination
9/25	CARTA Hub Design Workshop	Charleston County	Updates on designs for Shipwatch Square development and project coordination
9/28	Charrette Design Follow Up Discussion	City of North Charleston	Follow up to design charrette, discussion on comments provided and project next steps
9/29	Fairgrounds Coordination Meeting	Ladson Fairgrounds	Project coordination and updates on route along Highway 78 and station locations
9/30	North Charleston TOD Planning Workshop	City of North Charleston	Facilitated workshop to discuss TOD planning opportunities in North Charleston

September 2020 | Community Events

Date	Meeting	Parties Involved	Topic(s) of Discussion
9/1	Urban Land Institute Webinar	ULI members in the Carolinas	Project update and discussions
9/22	Charleston Moves & Lowline Coordination Call	Charleston Moves, Lowcountry Lowline	Coordination on a virtual event for October
9/24	Leadership Charleston	Chamber members	LCRT updates, proposed route and riding tour
9/28	American Subcontractors Association of the Carolina's Presentation	ASA members in the Carolinas	Speakers bureau presentation

Scope & Schedule

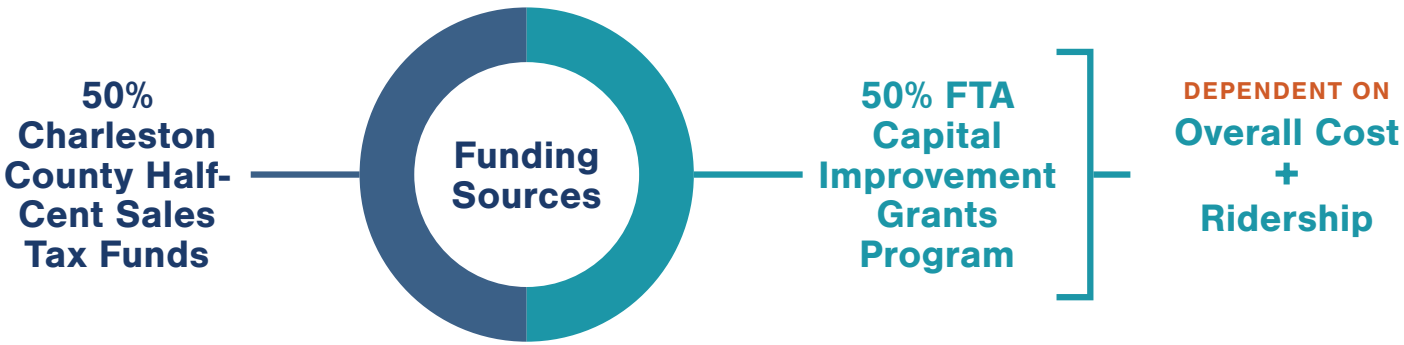
Schedule Update

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

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.

We Are Here