ENGAGEMENT GUIDE

Fall 2026

LOWCOUNTRY RAPID TRANSIT | BCDCOG

Rivers & Remount
TO DOWNTOWN CHARLESTON
LCRT
ONLY

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

LCRT is a modern bus rapid transit system that will connect communities in our region like never before.

Operating mostly in dedicated lanes, LCRT will provide a safe, reliable, and low-cost connections between Ladson, North Charleston, and Downtown Charleston. LCRT is a program of the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments.

21.3 MILES, ONE WAY

21 HOURS OF SERVICE ON WEEKDAYS

10 MINUTE PEAK & DAYTIME SERVICE FREQUENCY

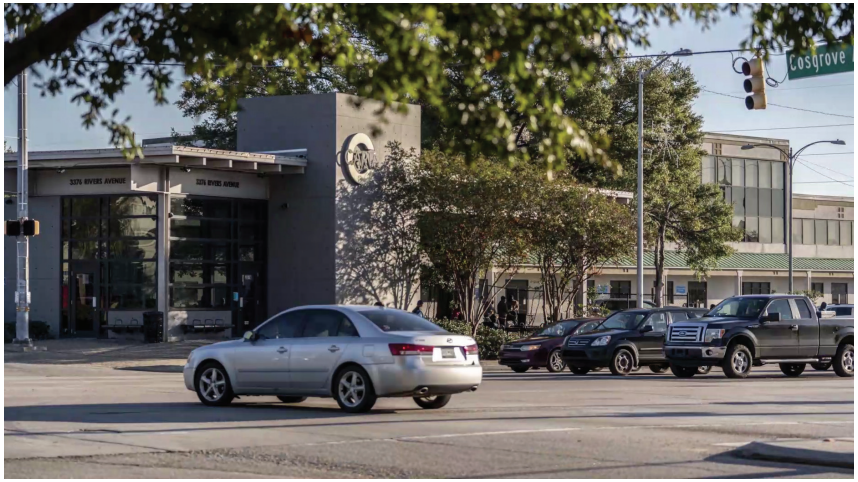
60 FOOT DEDICATED ARTICULATED BUSES

20 MODERN STATIONS

1.6M+ ANNUAL TRIPS IN YEAR 2040

Project Map

US-78 & Commerce Center
University & BUC Club
University Blvd
Rivers & Melnick
Rivers & Eagle Landing
Rivers & Mabeline
Rivers & Hanahan
Rivers Ave
Rivers & Remount
Rivers & Mall
(Future) Rivers and Durant
Rivers & Helm
Rivers & Dorchester
Rivers & Reynolds
King & Hackemann
King & Hagood
Meeting & Mt. Pleasant
King St Ext
Meeting & Lee
Meeting St
Meeting & John
Calhoun & Coming
Calhoun & Jonathan Lucas
Courtenay & Doughty
Line & Westedge
LADSON
NORTH CHARLESTON
CHARLESTON
St James Ave
Dorchester Rd
Cooper River
Ashley River
Wando River
26
526
LCRT Route
Dedicated Bus Rapid Transit Lanes
Station
Station (future)
Station with Park & Ride (proposed)
Station with Park & Ride (existing)
Station with Park & Ride (future project)
N
0 Mile 1



Who is BCDCOG?

The Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments (BCDCOG) is a regional agency that serves a three-county area in South Carolina. BCDCOG offers a wide variety of planning, economic development, and social services to aid in the orderly growth and development of the area. BCDCOG also manages CARTA and TriCounty Link, the region's local transit services.

A Quick Look Back

The South Carolina Lowcountry has long been one of America's premier destinations and is growing at three times the national average. More people means more diversity, community vibrancy and economic opportunity.

In response to a clear need, BCDCOG conducted an analysis to identify a transit alternative that would improve mobility for our region. After examining many options and considering all available data, including regional constraints, projected ridership, and funding, the I-26ALT study (2016) concluded that a bus rapid transit system running parallel to I-26 would be the best regional solution.

THE FUTURE OF RAPID TRANSIT

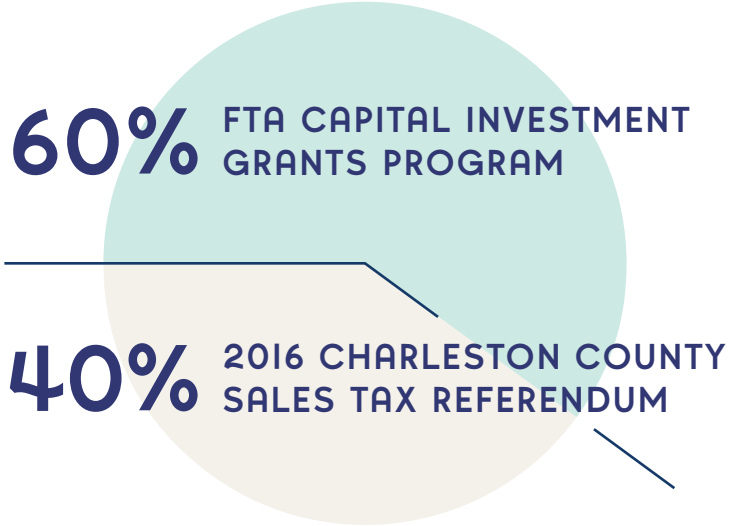
High Capacity Transit Corridors

BCDCOG has identified a network of potential rapid transit corridors to serve the TriCounty region. The Regional Transit Framework Plan identified seven additional rapid transit lines connecting downtown Charleston with:

- A Ridgeville-Airport (I-26)
- C Moncks Corner (Hwy 52)
- E Summerville (Dorchester Rd)
- G Mt. Pleasant-West Ashley (I-526)
- K West Ashley (Glen McConnell/Hwy 17)
- M James Island (Folly Rd)
- N Mt. Pleasant (Hwy 17)

How are we paying for it?

Funding is a critical piece of the puzzle for implementing a successful bus rapid transit system. 40% of the funding for this project has been secured through the 2016 Charleston County Sales Tax Referendum. Additionally, the project team is currently positioning the project to secure a 60% federal funding match through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Capital Investment Grants program.



What's the process and timeline?

LOCAL PLANNING
Completed 2016
Pre-Project Development, Operational Analysis, Alternatives Analysis, Travel Demand Forecasting

PROJECT PROGRAMMING
Completed 2019
Preferred Alternative Identified, Agency Coordination, Scoping and NEPA, Funding and Schedule, Existing Conditions Evaluation, Conceptual Design (10%)

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT
Completed 2022
Complete NEPA, Complete 30% Design, Adopt a Locally Preferred Alternative, Refine Project Schedule and Budget, Financial Plan, FTA Rating and Readiness Review

ENGINEERING
We Are Here!
Complete Design and Engineering, FTA Rating and Readiness Evaluation, Full Funding Grant Agreement

CONSTRUCTION
Est. 2027–2030
Construction Procurement, Construction, Standard Operating Procedures, Systems Testing, Safety Certification, Operations Training, System Opening

*Project timeline is estimated under the New Starts Capital Investment Grants program guidelines and is subject to change.

YOUR VOICE IN THE FUTURE OF TRANSPORTATION

Our Engagement Goals

- Bring the public and stakeholders along in the decision-making process
- Encourage open communication across diverse audiences
- Ensure that traditionally underrepresented populations have equal opportunities in the engagement process
- Manage expectations on how input will be used

Diversity & Inclusion

To comply with Title VI requirements, BCDCOG has identified specific Environmental Justice and Limited English Proficiency communities to solicit and collect input and encourage their participation in the project. Bilingual outreach materials are developed and distributed in these areas to allow members of these communities to engage in the participation process. Additionally, materials are designed to be accessible in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards and best practices.

LCRT by the Numbers

The project team is committed to engaging cross-sectionally, with municipalities, counties, agencies, utilities, community groups, and NGOs to review project decisions. Organizations that have been involved in standing committees are identified to the right. Additional outreach and engagement metrics are described below.

180+ STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

8 ROUNDS OF PUBLIC AND VIRTUAL MEETINGS

1,700+ EVENTS AND TOUCH POINTS WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND BUSINESSES

1,600+ COMMENTS RECEIVED

66,000 DIRECT MAILINGS

3,600+ EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS

35+ E-NEWSLETTERS DELIVERED

6,600+ SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

125,000+ WEBSITE VISITORS

Key Community & Organizational Partners

BERKELEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BERKELEY COUNTY

CHARLESTON AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

CHARLESTON AREA CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU & HOSPITALITY ASSOCIATION

CHARLESTON COUNTY

CHARLESTON COUNTY AVIATION AUTHORITY

CHARLESTON METRO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CHARLESTON MOVES

CHARLESTON TRIDENT ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

CITY OF CHARLESTON

CITY OF GOOSE CREEK

CITY OF HANAHAN

CITY OF NORTH CHARLESTON

COASTAL CONSERVATION LEAGUE

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

DOMINION ENERGY

DORCHESTER COUNTY

GREATER SUMMERVILLE-DORCHESTER COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

JOINT BASE CHARLESTON

LOWCOUNTRY ALLIANCE FOR MODEL COMMUNITIES

MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

METANOIA

OFFICE OF REP. NANCY MACE

ROPER ST. FRANCIS HEALTHCARE

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SUMMERVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

TOWN OF LINCOLNVILLE

TOWN OF SUMMERVILLE

TRIDENT HEALTH SYSTEM

TRIDENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

URBAN LAND INSTITUTE

VETERAN'S AFFAIRS HOSPITAL

ENGAGE WITH US

Stakeholder Committee

Represents the interests of local businesses and organizations, on-corridor communities, schools, and neighborhoods, and agencies to provide feedback on design decisions and to champion LCRT as the project moves forward into construction and operations.

One-On-One Stakeholder Meetings

Occur as needed and with target audiences, elected officials and key stakeholders.

Public Meetings & Workshops

Held at major milestones to reach broader audiences with a drop-in style format.

Virtual Public Meetings

Held to complement in-person public meetings and as stand-alone online meetings to present major updates.

Riding Tours

Utilized as needed to showcase opportunities along the proposed corridor.

Pop-up Events and Festivals

Taking information to where people already are, whether farmers markets, church programs or community events.

Targeted Neighborhood Meetings

Taking the message to corridor-adjacent communities at their standing or ad-hoc meetings.

On-Corridor Business Outreach

Door-to-door business outreach to discuss proposed design changes and business impacts.

Speakers Bureau

Request an update or overview of the project at your next event.

Videos and Visualizations

Available on our website, these resources take a closer look at the proposed project, including bike and pedestrian enhancements, station design and roadway improvements.

CONNECT WITH THE PROJECT TEAM

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Stay Up to Date on LCRT:

- Visit LowcountryRapidTransit.com and sign up for our bi-monthly e-newsletter.
- Call the Project Hotline at 843-729-1413 to ask a question or leave a comment.
- Send us an email at info@LowcountryRapidTransit.com.
- Look out for our mailings. Letters and postcards are sent to residents in the project area.
- Read our flyers, which are placed at community centers in areas of interest across the region.

Business Resource Packet

Resources are available for local businesses, including:

- Project handouts
- Window clings
- Optional Market Assessment, Value Capture and Affordable Housing inserts created following the Transit Oriented Development study

Community Outreach Materials

The following materials are available for individuals and communities wanting to engage with LCRT.

- Project handouts
- Kids activity book
- Posters and flyers
- Contact card

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Find us on social media or at
LowcountryRapidTransit.com