



ENGAGEMENT GUIDE

Fall 2023

LOWCOUNTRY
RAPID TRANSIT





Remount Rd

Tickets

RTD

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 connection 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

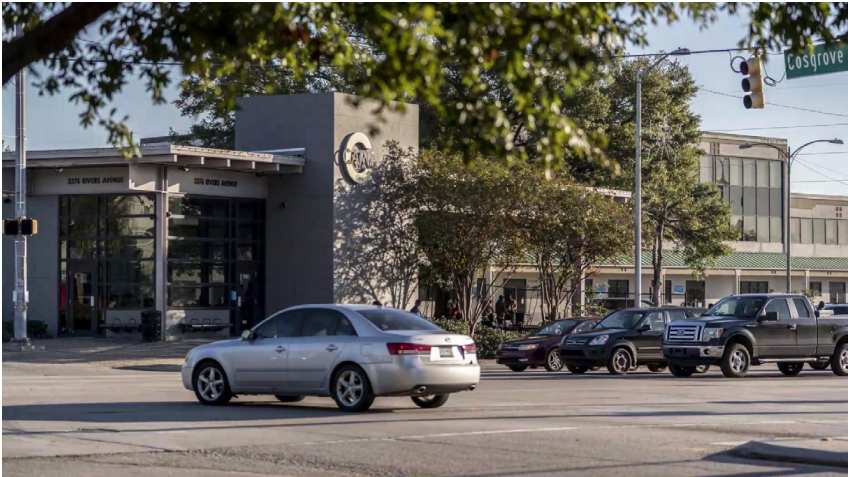
19 ELECTRIC
BUSES

20 MODERN
STATIONS

2,255,000 ANNUAL TRIPS
IN YEAR 2040

Project Map





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

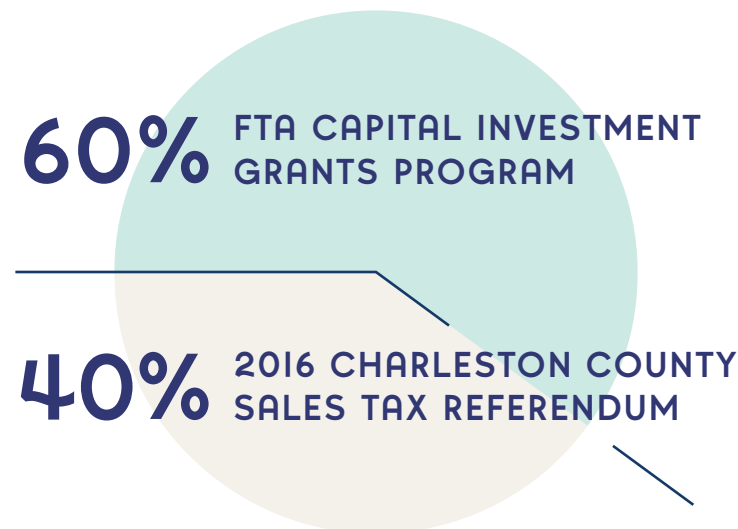
BCDCOG has identified a network of potential rapid transit corridors to serve the TriCounty region. The Regional Transit Framework Plan identified seven additional rapid transit lines connecting downtown Charleston with:

- 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?



*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 | **4** ROUNDS OF PUBLIC AND VIRTUAL MEETINGS

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

1,400+ COMMENTS RECEIVED | **66,000** DIRECT MAILINGS

3,800+ PEOPLE ON OUR EMAIL LIST | **30+** E-NEWSLETTERS DELIVERED



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

Strategic Partnerships Committee

Assists with guiding project development from a tactical perspective and represented by large employers, business leaders, and chambers.

Corridor Advocacy Committee

Represents the interested community organizations, neighborhoods, and on-corridor businesses.

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 reunions.

Office Hours

Conveniently held during on-and-off peak hours along the corridor, drop-in style or by appointment with the project team.

Targeted Neighborhood Meetings

These meetings take the message to the audience at standing or ad-hoc meetings, rather than asking them to come to us.

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 **843-303-9698** 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 study 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



Find us on social media or at
LowcountryRapidTransit.com