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# Appendix A – Steering Committee Minutes

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# Meeting Minutes

Date: June 18, 2019

For: US 17 Georgetown County Corridor Study Kick Off Meeting Project

From: Bill Jordan (803) 400-0018

Subject: Meeting Minutes from the US 17 Georgetown County Corridor Study Kick Off meeting held at the Waccamaw COG Office, 1230 Highmarket St, Georgetown, SC 29440

Attendees:

Name	Organization
Kevin Parks	Coast RTA
Mark Hoeweler	Waccamaw COG
Tom Britton	Waccamaw COG
Daniel Newquist	Waccamaw COG
Holly Richardson	Georgetown County Planning
Boyd Johnson	Georgetown County Planning
Crystal McCutcheon	SCDOT - Planning
Stacey Johnson	SCDOT - Assistant Program Manager
Joey Skipper	SCDOT - District 5
Patrick Tyndall	AECOM
Bill Jordan	AECOM
Jennifer Bragg	J. Bragg Consulting
Alicia Brown	J. Bragg Consulting
Erin Pate	Coastal Conservation League
John Sands	Citizen
Tom Stickler	Citizen – President of HEPOA & WNCPOA
David Gundling	Citizen – Pawleys Island Litchfield Business Assn.
Greg Farmer	Citizen
Elizabeth Tucker	Waccamaw COG

**Presentation:**

- The meeting began at 1:30 pm with Patrick Tyndall and Mark Hoeweler giving a project overview.
- Patrick provided information about the project team and their roles with the project.
- Patrick provided information about some of the data that will be gathered by the project team including peak hour traffic counts, accident crash data and approximately 20 intersections to be studied.
- Jennifer Bragg provided information on the public involvement process to be used in the study.
- Bill Jordan provided information on the project WikiMap including the website URL and asked the various municipalities to please share on their websites, social media sites, HOA newsletters, etc.. A press release will be provided for entities to advertise it as well.
- Patrick also provided a project schedule along with next steps.

**Discussion:**

- Discussions within the group ensued concerning speeding throughout the corridor. Several members indicated some speeders exceed 10 mph over the speed limit while others indicated they observe most motorists driving to condition and environment. Mr. Stickler specifically noted an 8 mile stretch between the Prince George Community and Sandy Island Road with a 45 mph speed limit that has speeding issues causing him considerable concern. Most agreed enforcement

was a key issue. Mr. Stickler also prepared a letter report of his on-site review documenting traffic conflicts in the 45 mph stretch. That report can be found below on pages 4 and 5.

- Discussions occurred concerning the Georgetown County Companion Study being conducted by Stantec and the need to have coordination between the two studies. The Steering Committee for the Companion Study has an early July meeting planned. Mark Hoeweler indicated efforts are underway to have joint meetings with the two studies.
  - Georgetown County Planning offered to share their Bike Pedestrian Plan.
  - Discussions ensued concerning intersections in the corridor around Pawleys Island. Specifically the Hwy. 17 at Professional, Hwy. 17 at Tiller and Hwy. 17 at Parkersville intersections leading to the interior of Pawley's Island potentially needing to be studied. Mark Hoeweler cautioned we may need to lose access points not add to them.
  - The Petigru at Waverly intersection was noted as being a potential roundabout candidate and would likely need counts as well.
  - Mark Hoeweler elaborated on the 2003 study noting it was a reaction to Long Range Transportation Plan recommendation to widen US 17 to 6 lanes. It focused on efforts to not surrender to a 6 lane rather preserve current capacity and continue efforts to have it function more efficiently. The 2003 Study also included short term, mid-term and long term projects.
  - Patrick indicated part of the project scope will include a review of the 2003 study to see what has been implemented and changed since its completion.
  - Mark Hoeweler stated the GSATS Guideshare amount is 7.6 million per year at this time and he does not know how much any increase may be after the next census.
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- To wrap up the meeting Patrick Tyndall asked everyone in attendance to state what they felt would be the most important parts of the study. Those responses are below:
    - 45 mph zone for 8 miles and 10 signalized intersections – speeding and dangerous driving problems.
    - Preserving capacity – avoid increasing US 17 to 6 lane.
    - Rezoning information could be aided with transportation study. Coordinate with Stantec Companion Study.
    - Macro traffic volume issue – coordinate with Stantec Companion Study and knitting the two together.
    - Complete streets, transit, enhance bike pedestrian facilities, address safety performance measures.
    - Every signal light slows public transit. Bike pedestrian enhancements to help buses operate smoother.
    - Connectivity to road network off US 17. Make better use of existing signals.
    - Data should help study in identifying needs.....will study do a cost benefit analysis?
    - Was previous count showing bubble in Pawleys Island - Litchfield an anomaly?
    - Can't use "big box" intersection throughout the corridor – must think outside box.
    - Consider environmental impacts – especially alternates and parallel routes. Bike pedestrian components very important
    - Drainage from a safety perspective.

- Pods of communities with walkability to retail, community centers, etc.
- Capacity, safety, interconnectivity, access management.
- Bike pedestrian and making efficient use of current capacity.
- Desire for data to point out problem areas.
- NCDOT has gone away from 5 lane cross section - we should consider doing the same.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Date: March 3, 2020

For: US 17 Georgetown County Corridor Study Steering Committee Meeting

From: Bill Jordan (803) 400-0018

Subject: Meeting Minutes from February 26, 2020 US 17 Georgetown County Corridor Study Steering Committee meeting held at the Waccamaw COG Office, 1230 Highmarket St, Georgetown, SC 29440

Attendees:

Name	Organization
Mark Hoeweler	Waccamaw COG
Daniel Newquist	Waccamaw COG
Holly Richardson	Georgetown County Planning
Boyd Johnson	Georgetown County Planning
Philip Bethea	SCDOT – District 5
Stacey Johnson (phone in)	SCDOT – HQ Program Managers Office
Joey Skipper	SCDOT - District 5
Patrick Tyndall	AECOM
Bill Jordan	AECOM
Ryan Eckenrode	AECOM
John Sands	Citizen
Tom Stickler	Citizen – President of HEPOA & WNCPOA
Greg Farmer	Citizen

**Presentation:**

- The meeting began at 1:00 pm with Patrick Tyndall giving a project overview.
- Patrick provided information about the meeting agenda and a brief update on the progress of the project.
- Patrick provided information on the September 17, 2019 Public Information Meeting. He stated the meeting had approximately 108 attendees and 27 comments were submitted.
- Bill Jordan provided information on the project WikiMap. He stated the site was live from June 13, 2019 thru January 17, 2020 and had over 400 visits and 235 comments. He also discussed common themes received from comments including intersection issues, excessive speeding, traffic signal issues, disapprove current medians, extending bypass SC 31/ US 701 around the study area, median foliage needs pruning and the need to stop additional development.
- Bill discussed the Bicycle/ Pedestrian component of the study including network standards that should be considered. These included Shared use paths and greenways should be a minimum of 10-feet of paved surface, all paths should be ADA compliant, Vehicular warning signs should be posted at all travel routes and a robust wayfinding system should be in place to include mile marker and local directional signs.
- Bill discussed the transit component elements including information on Route 16 and Route 16 Express. These routes provide approximately 50,000 annual trips each. He also indicated there are 40 bus stops in the corridor only 5 of which are served by sidewalks.
- Ryan Eckenrode provided information on the draft design recommendations. He stated between 1-1-16 and 12-31-18 (3 years) there were 1,133 crashes in the study area corridor. Among these were 7 fatalities and 27% resulting in injury. 50% were rear-end collisions and 28% were angle collisions.

- Ryan provided information on the June 2019 average daily traffic volumes as well as the projected June 2040 average daily traffic volumes. He also provided an existing and no-build 2040 level of service summary at 22 intersections in the corridor. The intersection failure year at 8 of the intersections was also provided.
- Ryan provided a summary of corridor wide vehicular traffic improvement draft recommendations. These include signal and signal upgrades, access management, geometric and intersection improvements and widening. These draft recommendations were broken into short, mid and long term. They were as follows:

Signal and Signal Upgrades (Short / Mid Term)

Expand existing 7 signal adaptive system to include entire study corridor

Install New Signals at 3 locations

Access Management (Short Term)

Close existing medians at 12 locations

Install raised median (1.5 Miles)

Geometric and Intersection Improvements (Short / Mid Term)

4 Roundabout's

4 Signalized Reduced Conflict Intersections

6 Unsignalized Reduced Conflict Intersections

12 Intersection Modifications (add turn lanes, realignments, etc.)

Widening (Long Term)

Widen US 17 to six (6) lane divided section from N. Causeway Rd to Bellamy Ave (9.5 Miles)

Widen US 17 to six (6) lane divided section from Bellamy Ave to Horry County Line (1 Mile)

- Ryan provided specific information on the draft recommendations of Litchfield Drive/ Country Club Rd signalized RCI as well as modified quadrant left intersection (US 17 and Burgess Rd/ Sunnyside Avenue).
- Patrick concluded the presentation by providing a schedule overview including next steps.

**Discussions:**

- The public meeting / final report should include maps (visuals) of the pedestrian recommendations
- Discussions within the group ensued concerning the transit component of the presentation. Mark Hoeweler stated it may be beneficial to have talks with COAST RTA concerning the possibility of working with private development (parking lots) to get some of the current bus stops off US 17.
- Joey Skipper stated he agreed and thought this would be an idea worth exploring.
- Mark stated there are different transit funding streams (urban vs rural) for transit and the urban area barely touches into Georgetown County.
- Discussions occurred next concerning the design recommendations.
- John Sands inquired into whether the crash data before vs. after the medians were installed had been reviewed. It was determined SCDOT Safety Office could be contacted before releasing this data.
- Tom Stickler asked if the Google Earth maps could be sent to the Steering Committee members. Ryan indicated he would send them. (post Steering Committee meeting discussions with the SCDOT Safety Office revealed that SCDOT feels it would be the best practice for interested parties to contact DOT directly to request this information).

- Mark has reservations dealing with the recommendation at Waverly and Kings River Rd. because of school traffic issues. Ryan indicated these were draft recommendations and the school volumes could be collected before moving forward with a roundabout.
- Mark stated during the previous study several new locations were identified and asked if these were still viable. Ryan stated they yes and they would be identified as such in the final report.
- Mark indicated the need to package the projects by segment, logical termini, sequence or cost.
- Ryan stated there are at least 10 projects we could condense as part of the packaging effort.
- Mark stated for instance “median consolidation” could be a corridor wide project.
- Discussions ensued on the land use recommendations and coordination with the transportation study. John Sands stressed the need for coordination between the two studies.
- Mark indicated the roundabout recommendation can be removed from the intersection of Murrells Inlet Road at Macklin Avenue.
- To wrap up the meeting discussions ensued concerning next steps. Mark indicated the draft recommendations should be forwarded to Stantec for their review. Patrick stated we will also schedule a call with them to begin talks on scheduling the second public information meeting. Mark indicated he would like to be included on the call.
- Mark also stated the committee would be given two additional weeks to submit comments on the "Draft" report. He asked the steering committee to provide any additional comments on or before March 11. He will forward any additional comments to AECOM.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.