



Steering Committee Meeting Video Conference

**Minutes
March 1, 2023
3:00 PM**

- I. **Welcome** – Councilmember Honeycutt
- II. **Previous Meeting Minutes** – Councilmember Honeycutt
Minutes from December 14, 2022, Steering Committee meeting were approved unanimously.
- III. **Phase 1 Project Update** – Sheila Parker
Phase I plans have been approved by SCDOT and DHEC; leaving the DOT encroachment permit as the last one pending approval. The utility report is complete and now with DOT for approval. The maintenance agreement between DOT, Town, City, County, CARTA is ready and will be sent around for signatures soon. ROW acquisition is still ongoing; previously anticipated completion in March but now it is expected to be completed in May.

Mayor Woolsey asked if there was an estimated time for the project to go out for bid. Ms. Parker stated that the bid can't move forward until the ROW acquisition is completed. If that stays on schedule for completion in May, and with a 6-week procurement and advertising period, that would put the bid award sometime in late June if all stays on track. Mayor Woolsey asked about when construction may begin. Ms. Parker said that with the scheduling falling during the summer months, that could affect the schedule because of traffic issues. Ms. Parker said that the awarded contractor would be given one year to build the project, which by allowing extra time for construction, they have seen that makes the bid more attractive to contractors.
- IV. **Mobility Month ReThink Folly Road Event** – Katie Zimmerman
Charleston Moves has previously used National Bike Month which falls in May as a time to locally celebrate Mobility Month so that they are also bringing attention to other modes of transportation (walking, running, transit usage, etc.), and in promoting this, they try to put together a few events every May. Charleston Moves thought that this year would offer a great opportunity to highlight the ReThink Folly Road initiative. This event will be similar to the community event held two years ago at Martin's BBQ, where members can gather together, get public input and talk with the community. Ms. Zimmerman requested that if the committee is interested, they would like to list the



ReThink Folly Road Steering Committee as a partner in this event. Councilwoman Honeycutt said she was definitely in support, however wanted the committee to weigh in on their ability to participate since there is no longer a consultant to lead the effort. Ms. Zimmerman added that they would be handling the outreach materials for the event, and also have a meeting scheduled with the RFR staff members to discuss logistics and their ability to each host a table.

Mayor Woolsey stated the Town's support and suggested that the most important piece would be that Charleston County Transportation be able to participate to provide updates on progress of the Phase I project. While no real motion is required, Councilwoman Honeycutt offered support and endorsement on behalf of the ReThink Folly Road Steering Committee.

V. Beach Shuttle Survey Results – Flannery Antinoro

Ms. Antinoro said she would provide a document to the committee containing all of the results, but to briefly touch on a few items, she said that there were about 400 responses collected overall, which is a good number for this type of survey.

Some of the more prominent questions included:

- Would you use a beach shuttle between James Island and Folly Beach? 23% of respondents answered no, 77% said yes.
- Would you be willing to travel to a park-and-ride location on James Island and then ride the shuttle to Folly Beach? 25% said no, 75% said yes.
- Would you use the beach shuttle if it was a 10-minute ride using a dedicated lane that bypassed traffic? 14% said no, 86% said yes.
- Would you use a beach shuttle if it was a 45-minute ride using the same lanes as existing traffic? 81% said no, 19% said yes.
- Some of the common free response questions included (listed in order of highest number of responses)
 - What places would you visit most on Center Street? Restaurants and shops, beach, County Park, Pier, Washout, Lighthouse, visiting friends/family, work, other (library, City Hall, church, playgrounds), and hotels/motels.
 - Where do you live? James Island, West Ashley, Downtown, Johns Island, Summerville, Folly Beach, North Charleston, Goose Creek, Mt. Pleasant, Hanahan, Wadmalaw, Ravenel, Daniel Island, Ridgeville, Meggett, Cottageville, Eutawville, and out of state.
 - Questions, comments, concerns: loved idea of designated lane, option would have to save time in traffic to use it, interested in eco/micro-options, would need to be able to bring items on shuttle, pedestrian/bike lane improvements high on importance, price, frequency, route options, 26 said it's a bad idea, 9 would never use.



Councilwoman Honeycutt said this was great information; Ms. Zimmerman stated that the results are very useful and good information to keep in mind when looking at new opportunities. Honeycutt added that its also a good indication of shifts in people's perspective on using alternative traffic methods.

VI. Charleston County TST Application for Phase II – Niki Grimball

Ms. Grimball thanks Kyle James and other staff at the BCDCOG for all of their help in getting this application together. Toole Design was able to provide a framework for the application before they finished up in December 2022, however, the BCDCOG's input and cost estimating was really the only way this was all able to come together for submittal.

Ms. Grimball stated that the TST application was for design and construction of Phase II of the corridor, which falls along Folly Road between George Griffith Blvd. and South Grimball Road, accounting for another 1.5 miles of multi-use path, connecting to Phase I. This application also included intersection improvements for ADA accessibility, a buffer area between eh path and traffic, and CARTA shelters. The cost estimate came in around \$482,000. The application was submitted to Charleston County for review and was hopeful that the City of Charleston added this project to their list of requests for TST funding.

Kyle James of the BCDCOG shared an upcoming opportunity through the BCDCOG and CHATS – new subset of funding from these programs would be a new opportunity. While the COG is still determining the award amount, they are estimating about \$800,000-900,000. If an application was made to CHATS and not get funding, the application would then move to SCDOT to be funded, which is a change in their process.

Councilwoman Honeycutt mentioned that the County and the City were looking at some projects that would provide connectivity off the corridor that would be shared with the group soon. She also explained that because Town Council did not support the Steering Committee's TS application that the county and City were looking at how to proceed. Councilwoman Parker added that Mr. Sommerville of the City indicated that the project would be added to the City's project request. Ms. Grimball and Mayor Woolsey further clarified that the request to Town Council did not include a Town-funded match amount, and that Council was more concerned with the potential for competing application request to fund the Dills Bluff Phase IV sidewalk project. Councilwoman Honeycutt was working with the county staff to further clarify how this process works with multi-agency projects.

VII. Jurisdictional Updates – Various

Town of James Island – Kristen Crane

- Jacks Cosmic Dogs is going into the space that was formerly Sweetwater Café.



- Jimmy Johns was approved by the BZA to go in at 889 Folly Road (existing car wash near the intersection of Folly and Camp). The BZA added several conditions which the applicant will work through.

City of Charleston – Jim Hemphill

- 1471 Folly Road: will be a small office and small storage use; just submitted to TRC for review.
- Mobility Month Event: He will definitely be there and offer anything that he can to the effort.

BCDCOG/CARTA – Belen Vitello

- Bus stop at Wal-Mart: as one of most-used stops on James Island, a bench was donated for this stop and while they are awaiting a shelter for that location.

City of Folly Beach – Jenna Stephens

- No updates.

Charleston County – Emily Pigott

- No updates.

Councilwoman Parker asked Mr. James who could be the applicant when pursuing the new funding offered by CHATS. Councilwoman Honeycutt said that this is something that the City and county need to work through to find the best way to get this application submitted.

A reminder was mentioned for all to attend the Mobility Month event at Martin's BBQ on May 10.

VIII. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned