



Steering Committee Meeting Video Conference

MINUTES
June 23, 2021
3:30PM – 4:30PM

I. Welcome – Mayor Woolsey

Mayor Woolsey welcomed everyone.

II. Previous Meeting Minutes – Mayor Woolsey

Minutes from the April 28, 2021 Steering Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

III. Phase 1 Project Update – Sheila Sororian

As part of the NEPA process for federal funding, the Categorical Exclusion (CatX) has been completed to demonstrate the project will result in no significant environmental impacts; the CatX is currently under SCDOT review. The maintenance agreement is being finalized; per the SCDOT's new Complete Streets Policy, it has been requested for SCDOT to maintain the sidewalks, taking this burden off of the local governments. As previously mentioned, SCDOT has agreed to allow Charleston County to begin right-of-way acquisition once the CatX is approved.

Councilmember Jackson asked if it would be possible to begin providing communications to property owners regarding property acquisition prior to the approval of the CatX. Shelia Sororian said that might be possible, but she would need to check and report back. Steering Committee members are willing to help with these communications as appropriate.

Sarah Cox with the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments (BCDCOG) mentioned that with construction stretching into 2022, there would be a need to reprogram the federal funding to match this timeline. Charleston County will coordinate with BCDCOG on this.

IV. NPS Technical Assistance Opportunity – Katie Zimmerman

The National Parks Service (NPS) offers the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA). RTCA planning professionals assist local communities in turning their vision and goals into reality. This is an annual program with potential extensions based on mutual agreement; it is not a monetary grant, only technical assistance. The application deadline is usually in March. If the Steering Committee is interested in applying, it could be for inventory mapping of community resources, concept planning, and/or the development of action plans; the RTCA does not provide engineering.

The proposed project idea for the RTCA grant is to study land use opportunities on both sides the Wappoo Cut Bridge to determine safe biking and walking access between Folly Road, McLeod Plantation, James Island County Park, and other green and blue spaces. Such an initiative would dovetail nicely with the Rethink Folly Road Plan.

If pursued, the application would require support of community partners, a site location map, and minimum of three commitment letters that describe the role and contribution of each partner. Roles do not need to be monetary but each partner would need to tangibly contribute time and resources. Having the Rethink Folly Road Steering Committee as the applicant or as a partner would be tremendous. Charleston Moves is willing to drive the writing of the application. BCDCOG expressed their support and willingness to be a partner in the application.

Motion for the Rethink Folly Road Steering Committee to be an active participant in the submission of an application for an NPS-RTCA grant; the exact role of the Steering Committee will be determined as the application progresses. Motion carried.

V. Property and Business Owners Group Update – Toole Design

Since our last meeting, a working group has been established to shepherd the formation of the Property and Business Owners Group. The working group is composed of both Steering Committee members and staff. Representatives from the Steering Committees are Lauren Gellatly and Joe Walters. Staff serving on the working group are Flannery Wood (Town of James Island), Jim Hemphill (City of Charleston), Niki Grimball (Charleston County), and Katie Gerling (City of Folly Beach). The working group will begin by having a brainstorming session to compile an invitee list and to determine the agenda for the first Property and Business Owners Group meeting.

VI. Elected Officials Educational Session – Toole Design

At the April 28, 2021 Steering Committee meeting, the idea of providing an educational session regarding Rethink Folly Road to elected officials was mentioned. We are now planning to provide such a session as part of an upcoming Intergovernmental Council meeting. The session will provide an overview of Rethink Folly Road, explaining the purpose and timeline and allowing for questions. Mayor Woolsey recommended that Steering Committee members try to attend the Intergovernmental Council meeting when this educational session is provided.

VII. State of the Plan Event Updates – Toole Design/Town of James Island

It is recommended that we continue to hold on having the State of Plan Event to coordinate with the groundbreaking of Brantley Park in Fall 2021. James Island Town Council voted to move forward with Phase 1 of Brantley Park with an amendment to change the parking. The current plan has five (5) parking spaces which will be revised to one (1) ADA parking space. Council also approved getting the existing dock permitted as a public dock prior to its demolition. It is anticipated that everything should be ready to move forward by the fall.

VIII. Jurisdictional Updates - Various

Brief updates regarding development along Folly Road were provided from various jurisdictions.

City of Charleston – Jim Hemphill

- 334 Folly Road – Refuel gas station continues to go through DRB process; has not resubmitted to TRC. It has the twelve-foot multi-use path incorporated.

Charleston County – Niki Grimball

- No updates to report.

City of Folly Beach – Katie Faith

- Working with Bowens Island Restaurant to move sign out of the marsh.
- No major construction to report.

Town of James Island – Kristen Crane

- Chase Bank at Folly and Camp – Demolition of the old Subway and Pizza Hut is complete; Chase Bank will begin construction soon.
- 945 Folly Road – Freestanding ER beginning to move forward.
- 869 Folly Road – Remodeling former Hen and Goat into the Tropical Smoothy Café.
- New health food store, James Island Nutrition, just opened in the Walgreen’s shopping center.

IX. Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned.