



Project Status Report – December 2012

It has been four months since the Kick-off Meeting was held for the South Carolina Multimodal Transportation Plan at the Colonial Life Center in Columbia on July 31, 2012. What has the study team been doing since then?

CURRENT PLANS, CONDITIONS AND FACTORS

Numerous multimodal plans and studies were reviewed to document the status of previous statewide transportation planning efforts. This report, called *Review of Current Plans*, is available on the Plan website.

Safety and Security – The study team has been coordinating with SCDOT safety staff regarding new highway safety emphasis areas for the proposed updated South Carolina Strategic Highway Safety Plan. The Strategic Highway Safety Plan is being developed by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety in coordination with SCDOT staff and will be finalized in the Spring of 2013.

PUBLIC AND PARTNER PARTICIPATION

The study team launched the South Carolina Multimodal Transportation Plan website in October and it is available at www.scdot.org/multimodal. The website is updated monthly and it provides information on status, planned activities and downloadable reports, as well as an opportunity to provide input.

VISION, GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

During September, October, and November, the study team worked with executive leadership team to develop the South Carolina Multimodal Transportation Plan vision and goals. The vision and goals are aligned to the Department's Strategic Plan, as well as the 2030 Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan and MAP-21 national goals. The following vision and goals was reviewed and approved by the executive leadership team on November 13, 2012.

Vision:

Safe, reliable surface transportation and infrastructure that effectively supports a healthy economy for South Carolina.

Goals:

Mobility and System Reliability – Provide surface transportation infrastructure and services that will advance the efficient and reliable movement of people and goods throughout the state.

Safety – Improve the safety of the transportation system by implementing transportation improvements that reduce fatalities and serious injuries as well as enabling effective emergency management operations.

Infrastructure Condition – Maintain surface transportation infrastructure assets in a state of good repair.

Economic and Community Vitality – Provide an efficient and effective interconnected transportation system that is coordinated with state and local planning efforts to support thriving communities and South Carolina’s economic competitiveness in global markets.

Environment – Partner to sustain South Carolina’s natural and cultural resources by minimizing and mitigating the impacts of state transportation improvements.

Equity – Manage a transportation system that recognizes the diversity of the state and strives to accommodate the mobility needs of all of South Carolina’s citizens.

EXISTING MULTIMODAL CONDITIONS

As we look to the future it is important to have a thorough understanding of where we are now. Data have been gathered on all modes of transportation to assess the status of existing conditions. These efforts have been documented in a report that will be available on the website in January 2013. The report addresses socioeconomic conditions, highways/bridges, aviation, rail, ports, and public transportation, as well as bicycle and pedestrian modes.

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN CONSIDERATIONS

Stakeholder interviews were conducted with over 20 MPO, municipal, and council of government staff from around the state to obtain information about issues and opportunities regarding bicycle and pedestrian transportation at the local and statewide levels. The executive director of the Palmetto Cycling Coalition, a statewide bicycle advocacy group, was also interviewed.

The study team met with the SCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator to identify additional statewide bicycle and pedestrian expansion, modernization, and preservation needs.

INTERSTATE PLAN

To anchor the Interstate Plan on a solid foundation of reliable, up-to-date information, research has been conducted in coordination with SCDOT staff on available data sources, including: INRIX – a commercial provider of traffic information and SCDOT’s Interstate Interchange Management System (IIMS).

STRATEGIC CORRIDOR PLAN

To supplement the Interstate Plan, the Strategic Corridor Plan focuses on non-interstate corridors important to the state’s economy. The study team has reviewed the existing strategic corridors and over the next month will be evaluating these routes to see if any changes are needed due to MAP-21 rural freight corridor requirements.

PUBLIC TRANSIT AND COORDINATION PLAN

The study team reviewed the 2008 Statewide Transit Plan, the ten Regional Transit Plans, as well as the ten Regional Human Services Transportation Coordination Plans. The study team also attended and presented at the South Carolina Interagency Transportation Coordination Council meeting in Columbia on September 27, 2012. Most of the work over the last couple of months has centered on documenting the existing public transportation conditions in the state, which is included in the Existing Multimodal Conditions Report that will be available in January 2013.

FREIGHT PLAN

The study team has been coordinating with SCDOT staff and the New Carolina's Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics (TDL) Council on outreach activities that will engage the statewide freight stakeholders. The study team developed a web-based freight stakeholder survey that was provided to the TDL Council, SC Maritime Association, State Chamber of Commerce, SC Economic Developers Association, SC Manufacturers Alliance, and Palmetto Agribusiness Council to distribute to its members.

The study team will be conducting regional freight listening sessions in Columbia, Greenville/Spartanburg, Rock Hill, Florence, and Charleston in January 2013 to engage the private sector. The purpose of these listening sessions is to understand statewide freight needs that can reduce freight bottlenecks and improve freight efficiency on the Interstate and the strategic freight corridors. Information on meeting logistics will be finalized and announced later this month.

RAIL PLAN

The study team coordinated with SCDOT staff on potential impacts of the Federal Railroad Administration's Proposed Guidance on State Rail Plans issued in August 2012. The study team also began work on the preparation of a State Rail Plan consistent with the requirements of the 2008 Passenger and Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA).

WHAT'S NEXT?

December: A survey will be emailed to Freight stakeholders in December.

January: A series of five regional freight listening sessions will be held during January. Watch the website and your email inbox for details on dates and locations.

Upcoming Webinars: We will be conducting stakeholder webinars in the Spring of 2013 to discuss performance measures and multimodal needs. Watch the project website at www.scdot.org/multimodal for regular updates on progress, draft reports, upcoming events, and opportunities for participation.