



Memorandum

TO: All Members of the CMCOG **Transportation Subcommittee**

FROM: Paul Livingston, Chairperson

DATE: August 3, 2023

SUBJECT: **Next Meeting: August 10, 2023**

Please be advised that the business of the CMCOG Transportation Subcommittee will be conducted on **Thursday, August 10th, at 12:15 p.m.** in the CMCOG Virtual Conference Room. Enclosed, please find an agenda and support materials for your review.

Please note that this meeting will be held virtually using a Zoom platform. The zoom link can be found on the attached agenda.

Please be advised that in order for the Subcommittee to conduct business, a quorum of three (3) out of the six (6) local governments or appointed members must be present. Delays in conducting business may result in delays to the flow of funding to CMCOG for carrying out transportation planning activities, so please don't forget to mark your calendars.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Reginald Simmons of the CMCOG staff. Reginald can be reached at 803-744-5133 or by email at rsimmons@centralmidlands.org. Thank you for your time, dedication, and service as I look forward to seeing each of you on **August 10th**.

Enclosures

AGENDA

TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2023

SPECIAL MEETING TIME: 12:15 PM TO 1:15 PM

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82241579269?pwd=aHR2eVV2N09rMmxzN2JWMWI1U3gxZz09

Meeting ID: 822 4157 9269 ♦ Passcode: 940228 ♦ Dial-In Number (646) 558 8656

OVERALL AGENDA

- 1. Welcome, Introductions, and Call to Order Paul Livingston
- 2. Invocation..... Open
- 3. Determination of a Quorum Entire Group

ACTION

- 4. Approval of the June 8, 2023 Meeting MinutesEntire Group (Enclosure 1)

ACTION

- 5. 2020 – 2027 TIP Amendment – Assembly Street Railroad Project..... R. Simmons
The City of Columbia is working in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Transportation to bring the Assembly Street Railroad Separation Project to design and construction. The CMCOG/COATS MPO 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan proposes a railroad bridge over Assembly Street near Whaley Street which would remove five grade crossings. The comprehensive Assembly Street project will eliminate 15 grade crossings. Currently, funding totals \$40 million via Federal, State and City funds. The city is requesting this project be placed in the 2020 – 2027 TIP to continue their development efforts and strengthen their ability to build a more robust funding package. (Enclosure 2)

- 6. Update on the Columbia East Traffic Improvement Area Plan R. Simmons
The Columbia East Traffic Improvement Area Plan is a Land Use and Transportation Plan (“Plan”) that will evaluate existing land uses and potential transportation alternatives to address the long-term, multi-modal transportation improvements required to accommodate a potentially significant level of development within and adjacent to the project area. The primary goal of this Plan is to find the most cost-effective transportation solutions that will coordinate with and support planned development in the area in a compact, pedestrian-friendly, and mixed-use manner. (Enclosure 3)

- 7. Update on SCDOT Managed Transportation Planning Projects..... Jim Walden
SCDOT staff will provide an update on SCDOT managed transportation planning projects in the COATS MPO Area. Updates on the US 76 Corridor Feasibility Study, Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plans, and Congestion Management Plan will be discussed.

- 8. Old/New Business.....Paul Livingston
 - a. FY 2024 & FY 2025 Meeting Dates (Enclosure 4)

- 9. Public Comments Open

- 10. Adjourn..... Paul Livingston

MEETING SUMMARY

Transportation Subcommittee

June 8, 2023

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Others Attending</u>
Richland County:	Paul Livingston (Chair)	
Lexington County:	Charli Wessinger	
Town of Lexington:	Steve MacDougal	
City of Cayce:	Elise Partin	Tracy Hegler
ABLESC:	Brittany Terry	
CMRTA:	Jackie Bowers	Michelle Ransom
SCDOT:		Diane Lackey Jim Walden Joey McIntyre Darren Ledbetter
FHWA:		Shantrise Harris
CMCOG Staff:		Reginald Simmons
Guest:		Roland Bart

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Call to Order

Paul Livingston welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

2. Invocation

Steve MacDougal gave the invocation.

3. Determination of a Quorum

It was determined that a quorum was present.

4. Approval of the May 11, 2023, Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Charli Wessinger to approve the minutes of May 11, 2023. The motion was seconded Elise Partin. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

5. 2020 – 2027 TIP Amendment – SC 6 Corridor Study

Reginald Simmons requested approval to amend the 2020 – 2027 Transportation Improvement Program to add \$100K to the SC 6 Corridor Feasibility Study. As part of implementation of the 2045 LRTP, SCDOT requires a feasibility analysis for any project that is to be considered for future funding. Last year as part of the US 76/176 Corridor Feasibility Study discussion, the SC 6 Corridor was approved for funding to conduct a feasibility study from US 76 to the Lake Murray Dam. The funding for this analysis was set at \$150K.

The characteristics of the SC 6 corridor include:

- Approximately 4.5 miles long
- Also know Dreher Shoals Road and North Lake Drive
- Heavily residential corridor with limited commercial along the corridor which includes churches, grocery store, gas stations, and a pharmacy.
- Is buffered by Lake Murray, which allows access to most homes only from SC 6.
- Traffic counts along the corridor average 14,300 per year

The cost of corridor studies has averaged approximately \$250K. This request will add \$100K to the current budget to increase it to \$250K.

MOTION, approved

At this time, a motion was made by Charli Wessinger to amend the 2020 – 2027 Transportation Improvement Program to add \$100K to the SC 6 Corridor Feasibility Study. The motion was seconded by Elise Partin. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

6. 2020 – 2027 TIP Amendment – Section 5310 Projects

Reginald Simmons requested a recommendation of approval to add Section 5310 Projects to the 2020 - 2027 TIP and the Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan. CMCOG is the designated recipient for the Section 5310 Program. The goal of the program is to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation services. The grant funds can be used for several functions which include capital needs, operating assistance, and mobility management.

In the past year, CMCOG has solicited a call for projects. On May 11th, CMCOG released the call for projects for the FFY 2021 funding cycle. CMCOG received four (4) applications that requested a total of five (5) vehicles and one purchase of service. All six projects were determined to be eligible to receive federal funds. With the inclusion of project administration, the following allocations were made:

	Federal	Local	Total
Senior Resources (1 vehicle)	\$88,000	\$22,000	\$110,000
Babcock Center(2 vehicles)	\$79,382	\$19,846	\$99,228
Transitions (2 vehicles)	\$175,319	\$43,830	\$219,149
CMRTA Purchase of Service	\$167,292	\$41,823	\$209,115
Total	\$509,993	\$127,499	\$637,492

A brief discussion took place.

MOTION, approved

At this time, a motion was made by Steve MacDougal to amend the 2020 – 2027 TIP and Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan to add FY 2024 Section 5310 Projects. The motion was seconded by Elise Partin. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

7. Census 2020 – New MPO Boundary

Reginald Simmons requested a recommendation of approval to adopt a new MPO Boundary based on the 2020 Census. On Thursday, December 29, 2022, the US Census Bureau released their new 2020 Urbanized Areas. The release of these new urbanized areas denoted that per federal requirements, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) such as the Columbia Area Transportation Study (COATS) will have to adjust their metropolitan planning area boundary to encompass the contiguous census designated urbanized area and the area projected to be urbanized over the next 20 years. Federal requirements also denoted that the COATS MPO may consider adjusting its Policy Committee composition to ensure that adequate representation for all necessary jurisdictions has been addressed.

The 2020 US Census produced a new census designated urbanized area that receded the existing COATS MPO Boundary in three (3) locations. The nearby municipalities in these reduced areas were the Town of Chapin in Lexington and Newberry Counties, Town of Swansea in Lexington County, and the Lugoff/Elgin Area in Kershaw County. Please be advised that the Lugoff/Elgin area was designated by the Census Bureau as an urban cluster and was not included as part of the census designated urbanized area for Columbia.

The SCDOT Planning Office has been working with all the MPOs to discuss changes to the urbanized areas and any resulting changes to the study boundaries. SCDOT has provided a schedule to all COGs and MPOs which outlined SCDOT's accelerated schedule for receiving updates resulting from the 2020 Census. This accelerated schedule will allow the next Regional Mobility Program (RMP) allocation increase to be based on the 2020 Census population rather than the 2010 population numbers.

The COATS MPO has created an updated MPO Boundary based on the 2020 Census for review and approval.

At this time, a motion was made by Steve MacDougal to adopt a new MPO Boundary based on the 2020 Census. The motion was seconded by Charli Wessinger. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

8. Old/New Business

- Mr. Simmons reviewed the Eastern Federal Lands Access Program Call for Projects

9. Public Comments

There were none.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

Engineering Division
PO Box 147 | Columbia, SC 29217 | (803) 545-3300

August 3, 2023

Mr. Reginald Simmons
Central Midlands Council of Governments
236 Stoneridge Drive
Columbia, SC 29210

RE: Request to place Assembly Street Rail Separation Project in the 2020 – 2027 Transportation Improvement Program

Dear Mr. Simmons,

The City of Columbia is working in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Transportation to bring the Assembly Street Railroad Separation Project to design and construction. The CMCOG/COATS MPO 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan proposes a railroad bridge over Assembly Street near Whaley Street which would remove five grade crossings. The comprehensive Assembly Street project will eliminate 15 grade crossings. Currently, funding totals \$40 million via Federal, State and City funds. The City is requesting this project be placed in the 2020 – 2027 TIP in order to continue our development efforts and strengthen our ability to build a more robust funding package. Our financial breakdown and project components are listed below:

The current funding package is as follows:

- \$5 million - Repurposed Assembly Street Railroad Consolidation ISTEAA Authorization 1991, 2003 Appropriations Act, 2004 Appropriations Act and 2006 Appropriations Act.
- \$5 million - City of Columbia
- \$30 million - South Carolina Department of Commerce

The city is requesting for this project to be included in the 2020 -2027 TIP with funding for the following phases:

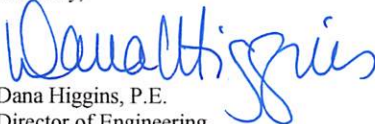
- PE – 2023 – \$5 million
- PE – 2024 – \$18 million
- ROW – 2024 – \$17 million

Preliminary engineering has already begun through the repurposed earmarks. The environmental analysis is currently being conducted with a Finding of No Significant Impact expected by spring of 2024.

Once that has been received, the city intends to begin surveying and engineering design plans in FY 2024. Once finalized, right of way acquisition will begin. We currently do not have enough funding to complete the construction phase but with this inclusion into TIP, it will strengthen our opportunities to increase our funding package.

Please let us know if you would like to review this project in greater detail. Any questions or comments should be directed to me at 803-545-3285.

Sincerely,



Dana Higgins, P.E.
Director of Engineering
City of Columbia

cc: Teresa Wilson, City Manager
Jeff Palen, Assistant City Manager
Clint Shealy, PE, Assistant City Manager
Missy Gentry, PE Assistant City Manager
Joey McIntyre, PE SCDOT



Assembly St. Railroad Separation Project



ASSEMBLY STREET RAILROAD SEPARATION PROJECT

Information Packet:

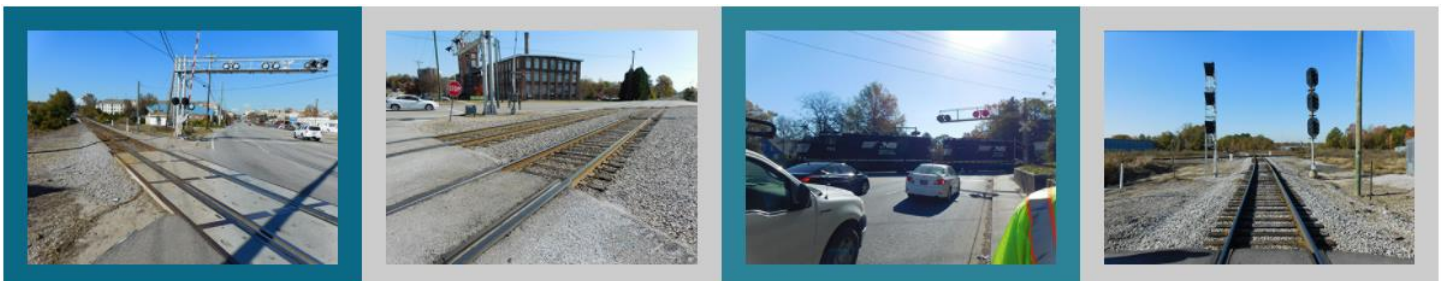
Purpose

Components

Status

Potential Funding Sources

07/28/23





Assembly St. Railroad Separation Project

Purpose

Columbia is the crossroads of the state of South Carolina with government, industry and education all coming together in the Capital City. Thousands of people go to work here, attend college here, and serve the people of South Carolina here in various capacities. With that comes thousands of commuters coming to the City daily, and thousands more on the weekends for conventions and events. Assembly Street is a heavily traveled artery and the combination of increased vehicular traffic congestion, freight rail volume and slow train traffic speeds results in unacceptable delays (both to vehicles and trains), increased air and noise pollution, and increased danger to pedestrians.



The Assembly Street Railroad Separation Project and Huger Street Connector seeks to address one of the state's highest profile traffic areas where both vehicle and train traffic meet on a daily basis. Located adjacent to Williams Brice Stadium and minutes from the State House, this project will separate train and vehicular traffic permanently, allowing both to move freely through Columbia.

Project Components

Although the preferred alternative has not been selected, the below description focuses on one of the leading alternatives. A map of this option is on the next page of this flyer.

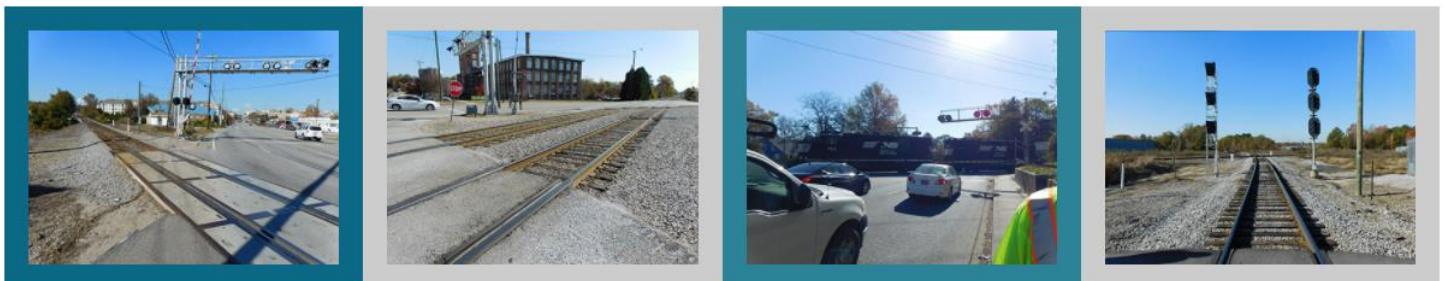
Alternative A (Formerly 320): Eliminates 15 grade crossings (6 via horizontal; 9 via raised profile). Assembly Street would be lowered and the rail tracks would be elevated at Catawba and Whaley Streets. The existing at grade crossings at Dreyfuss and Assembly (near Capital City Stadium) and Rosewood and Assembly (near the Fairgrounds) would be removed. Road closures would occur for Lincoln and Flora Streets. The rail line crossing Assembly Street near the California Dreaming Restaurant (400 block of Assembly Street) will remain – the low volume of train traffic has minimal impact on vehicular congestion.

Huger Street Connector:

As part of the project, a proposed new vehicular road with bridge over the current rail line would be built connecting Huger Street with Wayne Street. The at grade crossing at Huger Street would remain for local traffic.

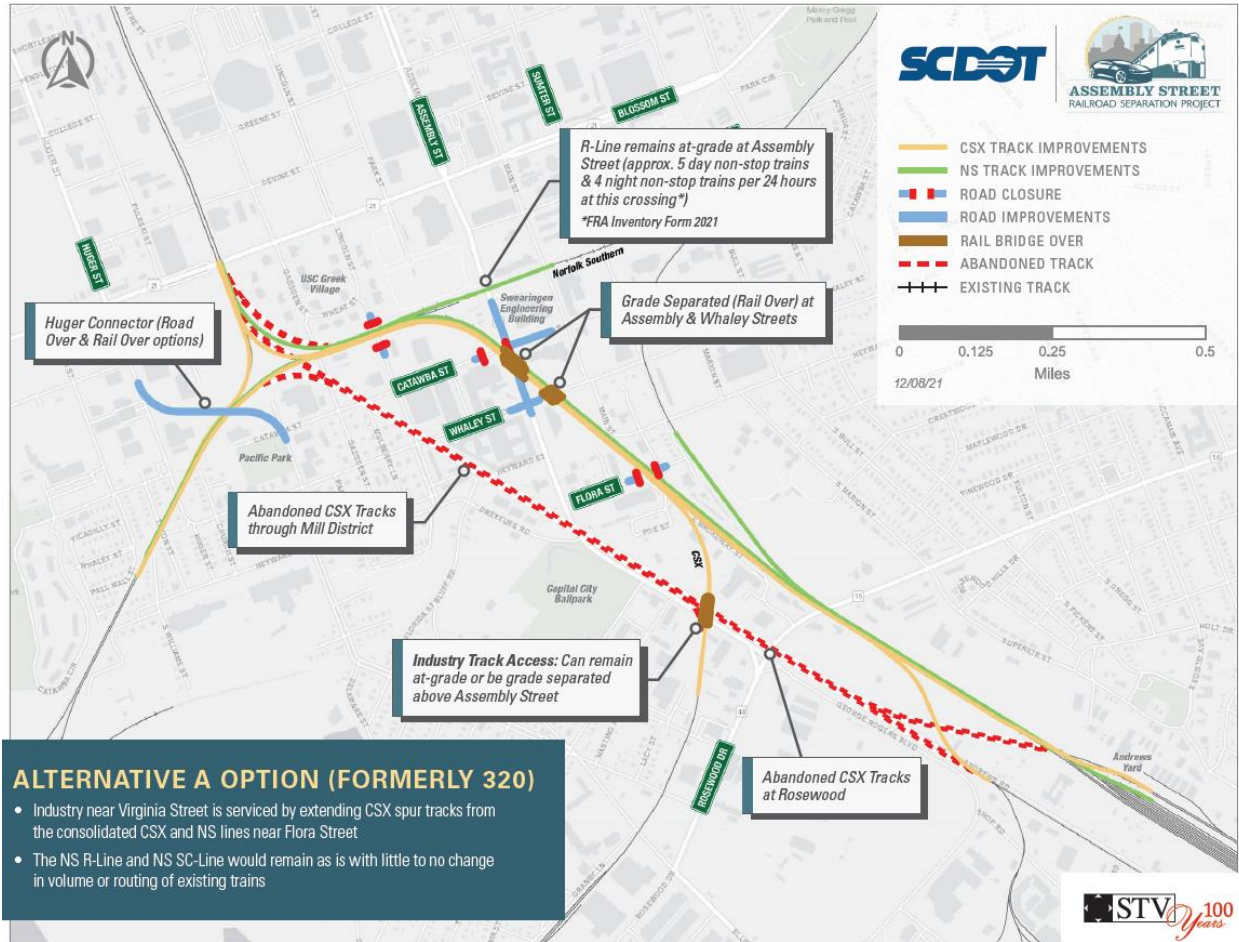
Status

The City of Columbia and the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) are collaborating to advance the project forward while securing funding for the next steps. Preliminary Engineering Agreements have been established with CSX and Norfolk Southern. The railroads have provided comments to alternatives and SCDOT reviewing them internally. The EA (Environmental Assessment) and the FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact) are expected to be complete by 2nd quarter 2024. Because of the preliminary status of the project, a final project cost estimate has not yet been determined. However, the current estimated range as provided by the SCDOT is \$ – \$3 million for the entire project.





Assembly St. Railroad Separation Project

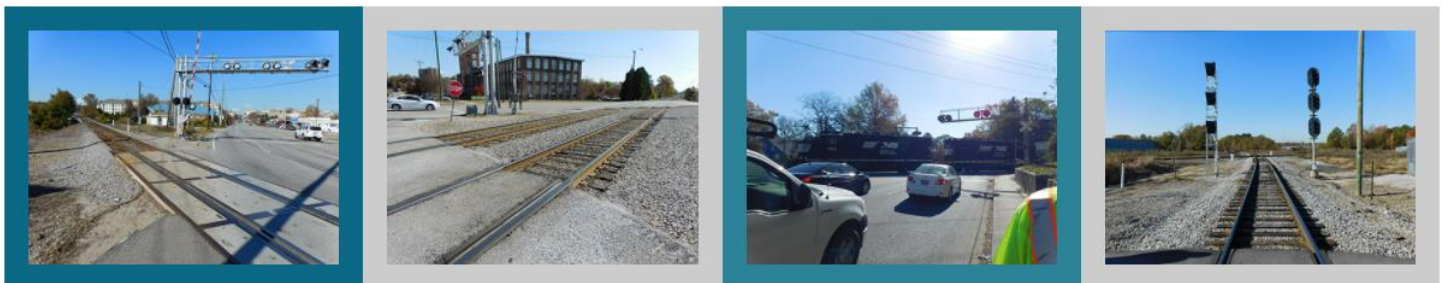


A larger map can be found at

www.assemblystreetrailproject.com.

More Information

The South Carolina Department of Transportation has created a website where citizens can provide input and learn more about the project. It is at www.assemblystreetrailproject.com.





Assembly St. Railroad Separation Project

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

The \$1.2 Trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), signed into law in November 2021, includes \$550 billion in new funding to rebuild roads and bridges, water infrastructure, resilience, internet, and more. Congress intends the competitive grant programs to fund transformational and generational projects.

The Assembly Street Project falls squarely in this category. It also meets most, if not all, of the Administration's equity, climate, and state of good repair goals and is a project of regional significance with broad community and regional support across a diverse group of stakeholders.

Competitive Transportation Grant Programs

IIJA provides funding over five years (FY 2022-FY 2026) as follows.

- Mega Projects: \$1 billion per year for FY 2022-FY 2026 (total of \$5 billion over 5 years)
- INFRA: \$1.64 billion per year for FY 2022-FY 2024 and \$1.54 billion per year for FY 2025 and FY 2026 (total of \$8 billion over 5 years)
- CRISI: \$1 billion per year FY 2022-FY 2026 (total of \$5 billion over 5 years)
- Railroad Grade Crossing Discretionary: \$600 million per FY 2022-FY 2026 (total of \$3 billion over 5 years)

Note that these funds are either Highway Trust Fund contract authority or General Fund advance appropriations provided by IIJA. Congress could choose to provide additional funding for any of these programs in any given fiscal year, similar to how they provided an additional \$775 million for RAISE this year.

Potential Grant Opportunity Schedule

202	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
FONSI		Finding of No Significant Impact (expected completion 2Q Spring 2024)									
INFRA/Mega											
CRISI											
SCTIB		Ongoing									

Funding Options

Mega/INFRA is the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America funding opportunity made available through the U.S. Department of Transportation for highway and rail projects.

1. Application due by [redacted], 2022 with request of \$1 [redacted] million
2. Match requirement: 40% (\$ [redacted] million)

CRISI is the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Grant funding opportunity made available through the Federal Railroad Administration.

1. Application submitted December 1, 2022
2. 20% match required, 50% preferred
3. Can be phased (PE/NEPA – 30% design)

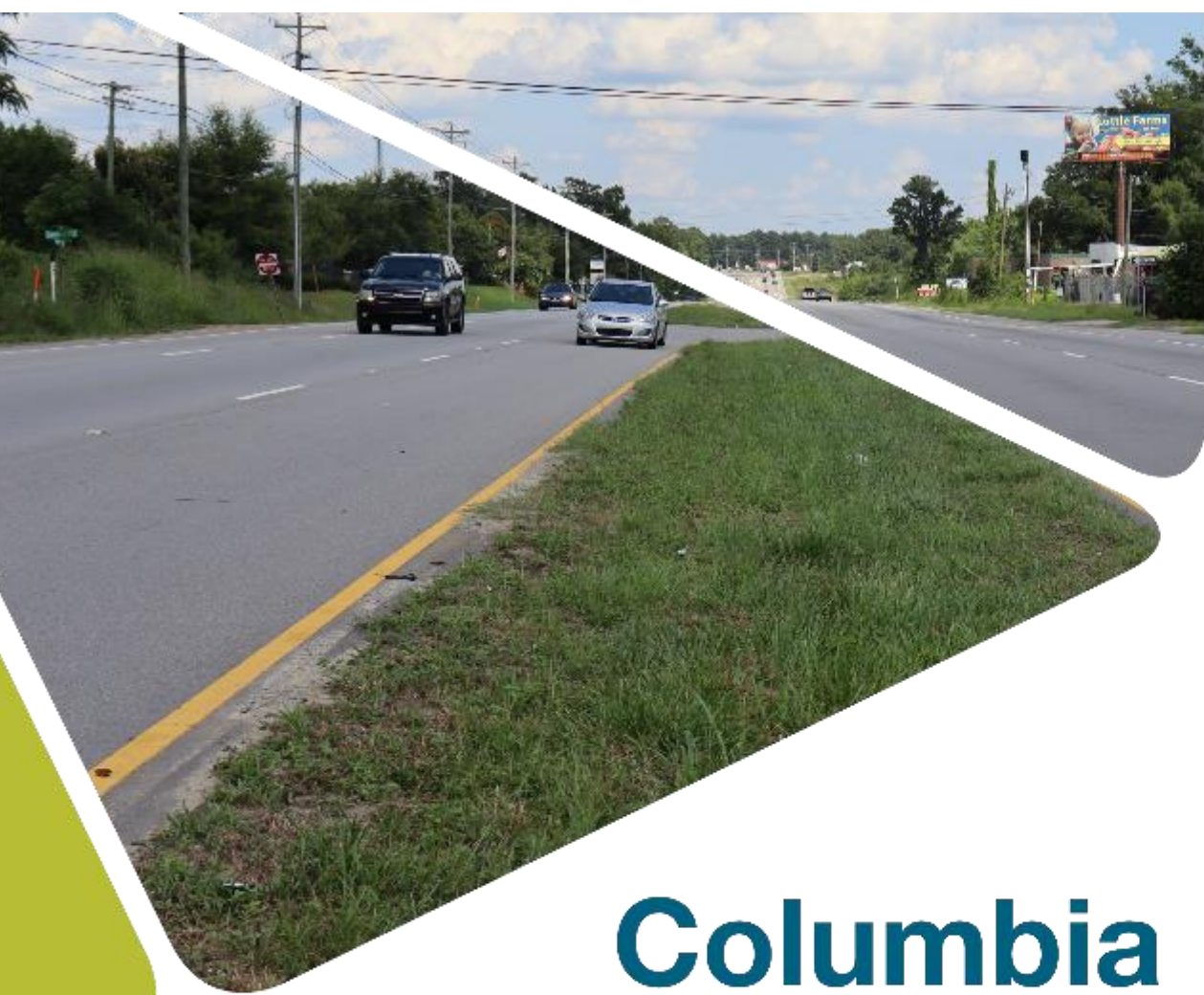
SCTIB is the South Carolina Transportation Infrastructure Bank funding opportunity made available through the South Carolina State Government.

1. Due – No date posted
2. 25% match required
3. Match funds can be federal or local

Railroad Grade Crossing Elimination is a funding opportunity made available through the Federal Railroad Administration.

1. Application submitted October 4, 2022
2. Match requirement: 20%



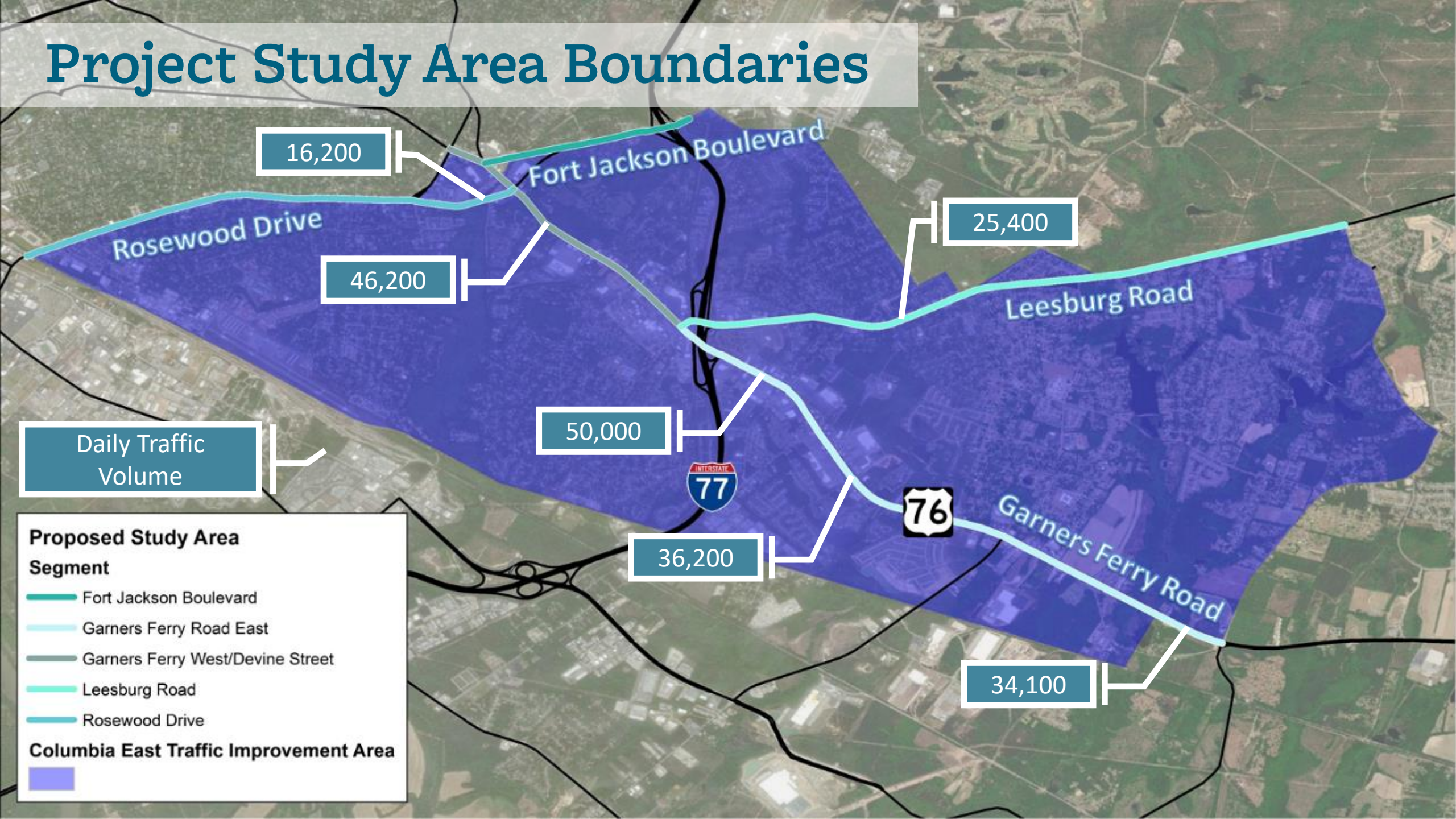


Columbia East Traffic Improvement Area Plan

Project Team

- Central Midlands Council of Governments (CMCOG) – Project Manager
- Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. – Consultant Project Manager
 - The Boudreaux Group – Land Use and Visioning
 - Three Oaks Engineering – Environmental Assessment
 - DAD N Associates – Data Collection

Project Study Area Boundaries



Daily Traffic Volume

Proposed Study Area Segment

- Fort Jackson Boulevard
- Garners Ferry Road East
- Garners Ferry West/Devine Street
- Leesburg Road
- Rosewood Drive

Columbia East Traffic Improvement Area

-

Contact:

Joe Robertson

Kimley-Horn

Joseph.Robertson@kimley-horn.com

803-403-8557

**TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE MONTHLY MEETING
CMCOG CONFERENCE ROOM
MEETINGS BEGIN AT 12 P.M.**

Calendar Year 2023

August 10, 2023
September 14, 2023
October 12, 2023
November 9, 2023
December 7, 2023

Calendar Year 2025

January 9, 2025
February 13, 2025
March 13, 2025
April 10, 2025
May 8, 2025
June 12, 2025

Calendar Year 2024

January 11, 2024
February 8, 2024
March 14, 2024
April 11, 2024
May 9, 2024
June 13, 2024
July 11, 2024
August 8, 2024
September 12, 2024
October 10, 2024
November 14, 2024
December 5, 2024

***Special Start Time 12:15 p.m.**

Please be advised that the Transportation Subcommittee meets on the second Thursday of each month except for December. The December meeting is typically scheduled for the first Thursday of that month. Also, please note that if a meeting is the same day as a holiday, then the chair of the subcommittee may decide to re-schedule that meeting. Please note that if the subcommittee does not meet, a cancellation notice will be sent.