

**Richland-Lexington Airport District
Commission Meeting
Draft Minutes
March 15, 2021 @ 4 p.m. Carolina Room**

Commissioner Attendance

Dan Bell, Chair; Carol Fowler, Vice Chair; Hazel Bennett (Zoom); DJ Carson (Zoom); Duane Cooper (Zoom); David Jordan; Hank Jibaja; Breon Walker; James Whitmire; Jim Wellman; Pat Smith

Commissioners Absent

Bill Dukes

Staff Attendance

Mike Gula, Ryan Kreulen, Frank Murray, Gregg Hornsby, Joel Livingston, Kim Jamieson, Chappelle Stevenson, Eddie Martin, Bri Ferguson, Nicole Huffman, Tamie Head, Josh Davis, Lindsay Copelan, John Fisher

Other Attendees

Will Schenk (Engenuity SC), Dave Carpenter (FOTH), Terry Macaluso (WK Dickson), Robert Moore (Mead & Hunt), Dave McMahon (TSA)

1. Invocation

Mr. Whitmire offered the invocation.

2. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Jordan made the motion to approve the Agenda. Mr. Wellman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Commission Minutes of February 15, 2021

Mr. Jordan made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. TSA Annual Update—Dave McMahon, Federal Security Director

Mr. McMahon began his presentation by extending gratitude for Mr. Gula and the CAE staff. TSA experienced impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which began 1 year ago this week (which also marks when TSA stopped hiring).

Over the last year, TSA used the downturn to implement some new technology upgrades. These include a CT X-RAY through the checkpoint, allowing items to stay in bags unless they need to be inspected, and thus minimizing points of contact. Similarly, a new Ticket Documentation System streamlines the ID process at the checkpoint, and minimizes need for a point of contact (i.e., ID and Boarding Pass do not get touched by the agents).

The protective plexiglas barriers are likely to stay in place through the end of the year, potentially longer. TSA has also already informed their staff members that masks are to be worn throughout the duration of 2021, and there is still potential for this policy to be extended.

Mr. McMahon reported that the return of travel ebbs and flows, but the return of military travel is helping CAE. He also mentioned that no cases of COVID-19 originated in the workplace for TSA at CAE. TSA is now hiring again, and by June they plan to be fully-staffed (~60 employees). The CAE TSA are excited and appreciative of the CBIS/CBRA project that is currently under construction, and they are exploring the idea of multiple CT scanners to test this workflow model. CAE would be one of the first airports to have this technology.

Mr. Jordan expressed his gratitude for the service that the TSA provides, and asked for clarification on the deadline related to the SC Real ID. Mr. McMahon explained that the planned date is currently for October 2021 (which is pushed from earlier in the pandemic). However, he also mentioned that the United States has a new Secretary of Transportation—and he is considering moving that deadline again (though it is not official as of yet). Mr. McMahon also reported that South Carolina is on track to have 42% of its population with Real ID's in hand by October, and this is 8% ahead of the national average.

Chairman Bell expressed that attitude and friendliness matter to the general traveling public, and that he hears great things about the TSA staff at CAE. He inquired about new technologies and the future of airports. Mr. McMahon expressed that he believes that facial recognition technology will be integrated into airport workflows over the next 5-10+ year period. Furthermore, Automated Screening Lanes and replacements for the AIT Metal Detectors. He also stated that the goal for TSA in South Carolina is to perform "Security with Southern Hospitality".

Mr. Whitmire asked who the manufacturers are of these various technological systems. Mr. McMahon responded that the CT X-RAY machines are produced by Smiths-Hyman, AIT's are produced by an L3 company, and Walkthrough Metal Detectors are produced by CEIA. Mr. Wellman asked if the technology has gotten more sophisticated over time, citing personal experiences with metal detectors while flying. Mr. McMahon explained that the technology has gotten more sophisticated over time, especially the metal detectors.

Mr. McMahon finished his update by mentioning that the resort destinations (MYR and CHS) are picking up, indicating that leisure travel is on the rebound. Nationwide, we are in need of business travel to come back.

5. HWY 302 Beautification Project—Will Schenk, Engenuity SC

Mr. Schenk begins his presentation by explaining that Engenuity SC is a group focused on facilitating regional cooperation. He provided some background information on the Midlands Business Leadership Group (MBLG), which is summarized in the attached handout that he provided. He expresses that governmental cooperation is a priority initiative, and provides more detail about the HWY 302 Beautification Project.

Currently, the project is in the planning and fundraising stage. The workflow is to develop a unified plan for design, signage, landscaping, etc. This design will be implemented for the beautification of 8 identified corridors all over the midlands, with HWY 302 being the top priority and the first to go under construction.

Each government council impacted by these projects has submitted an endorsement, and a draft IGA is in process to establish/outline project responsibilities and details. A fundraising campaign has been launched, with the goal of raising \$2.6M. So far, \$1M has been raised, thanks to various public and private sponsors around the Midlands (First Citizens Bank, Nephron, Lexington County, to name a few). Another \$500K donation to the fundraiser is in the works, but is not public yet. The Central Midlands Council of Governments (CMCOG) is the funnel for the fundraising.

Mr. Schenk took the time to explain some of the other projects that are happening throughout the midlands to improve the region.

Mr. Jordan asked about the ground-break date for the HWY 302 project, which Mr. Schenk explained is yet to be determined because the project is still being permitted. Ms. Bennett asked if a portion of the fundraising was being turned over to the CMCOG, and Mr. Schenk explained that was not the case, but simply that the CMCOG is helping to streamline and organize the fundraising. Ms. Bennett followed up and asked if most of the fundraising has been through private sources, and Mr. Schenk confirmed.

Mr. Whitmire asked specifically about an initiative that is rooted in bringing more diversity to various commissions and councils throughout the region. He wanted to better understand what kind of diversity was being targeted. Mr. Schenk explained that the initiative is to make sure that the midlands are tapping into their full talent pool—including people from diverse backgrounds, women, people of color, and those under 45. Mr. Whitmire followed up by asking who/what entity would be making those determinations. Mr. Schenk explained that the initiative is currently in its infancy, but that Ms. Kim Jamieson is one of the tri-chairs. It has been determined that the initiative will utilize a leadership program through United Way and through the other non-profits. Ultimately, it will be up to those boards.

Mr. Wellman asked if this would function similarly to Lead Lexington, and Mr. Schenk mentioned that there are some similarities between the two initiatives. Ms. Bennett

asked for him to repeat the name, and Mr. Schenk said that it doesn't currently have an official title, but it is being referred to as the "Board Diversity Initiative".

6. February Financial Report—Gregg Hornsby, CPA

Mr. Hornsby began by reporting that RLAD currently has 336 days of cash on-hand, which is a 6 day increase from the previous month. He also expressed that we are working towards having 365 days cash on-hand, which was a goal previously set by the commission and executive staff. Mr. Hornsby reported to expect to see loan draws related to the CBIS/CBRA project funding. He specifically mentioned that these will be highlighted on Lines 7, 8 and 9 of the Dashboard. The loan amount is shown on the Balance Sheet in line item 23 "Bonds Payable".

Mr. Hornsby presented that the monthly income continues to stay well below pre-pandemic income. He points out Line 3 of the Income Statement, and reported on parking, which is above budget. Mr. Hornsby presents that his analysis of an average rolling week of parking revenue show improvement through the end of February and beginning of March. This trend should continue into March, April, and May.

Parking revenues for the budget were calculated at \$7.06/ enplanement, but in reality are closer to \$8.82/enplanement. Chairman Bell asked if this was related to MAG, and Mr. Hornsby confirmed that it is likely due to a combination of: MAG Parking Systems, the Parking Guidance System, and increased likelihood that people are taking their own cars rather than TNC's (Uber, Lyft, etc.). Mr. Jordan asked if Mr. Hornsby has considered looking at the net parking revenue divided by the number of cars parked. Mr. Hornsby has considered this calculation in the past, and plans to revisit.

He also points out that Line 28 shows that our Operating Expenses are down and below budget.

Ms. Bennett noticed that we were under budget on salaries/benefits and expenses. Mr. Hornsby and Ms. Stevenson explained that this is due to 2 staff vacancies, 1 in Public Safety and 1 in Operations.

7. Staff Reports

a. Chairman's Report—Commission Chairman Dan Bell

Chairman Bell began his report by mentioning that Mr. Murray gave a good presentation at the SCAA Conference. A copy is available for anyone who may want to review it.

The commission retreat will be on May 14 this year, beginning at 11am. The day's events are to include AAP Review, a presentation from Mr. Fisher, a working lunch and presentation by Mr. Ron Harvey, some time for staff and the

commission to network, and the May commission meeting will conclude the day (to begin at 4pm). He urges all commissioners to attend this event.

b. Director's Report—Mike Gula, AAE

Mr. Gula reports that business is going as usual. Our enplanements/numbers are improving, and we even had 1200 people through the checkpoint on Sunday March 14, 2021. The DCA and Philadelphia flights have returned.

Mr. Gula will be attending an upcoming conference/panel in person in Savannah. On the same day, Ms. Jamieson will be at an in-person roundtable discussion with the airlines. Mr. Gula is tentatively encouraged by the scheduling of in-person events, as this has not happened over the past year.

8. Discussion and Suggestions

Chairman Bell welcomed the public and thanked them for their attendance at this meeting. He opened the floor to the public for discussion/comments, but there were none.

9. Executive Session to Discuss Contractual Matters

Mr. Jordan made the motion to move into Executive Session to discuss some contractual matters. Mr. Whitmire seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Executive Session yielded no actionable items.

10. Next Meeting is April 19, 2021 @ 4 p.m.

11. Adjournment

Chairman Bell adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brianna Ferguson, Commission Secretary



Regional Gateways Project

Background

The Midlands Business Leadership Group (MBLG) is a coalition of more than 50+ CEOs and senior executives from our region's largest employers who regularly convene and work on issues that are important to the Columbia, SC region. Since January of 2017, the MBLG has been leading a collaborative effort focused on enhancing regional competitiveness, prosperity and growth.

This effort has included the Governmental Cooperation initiative, formally launched in May 2019, focused on encouraging local governments to work together through regional projects that benefit all. During the first meeting, local governments were asked to share their top priority projects and quickly settled on one: beautifying eight key regional gateways, beginning with the airport corridor along Highway 302 and continuing with the gateway to Fort Jackson at Interstate 77 and Forrest Drive.

Each highly-trafficked and located within ten miles of the South Carolina State House, these eight gateways welcome tens of thousands of military personnel and their family and friends each year, as well as other visitors driving through or flying into Columbia, S.C.

Participants in the regional gateway beautification project include elected officials and top administrators from Lexington County, Richland County, City of Columbia, City of Cayce, City of West Columbia and Town of Springdale.

Sites

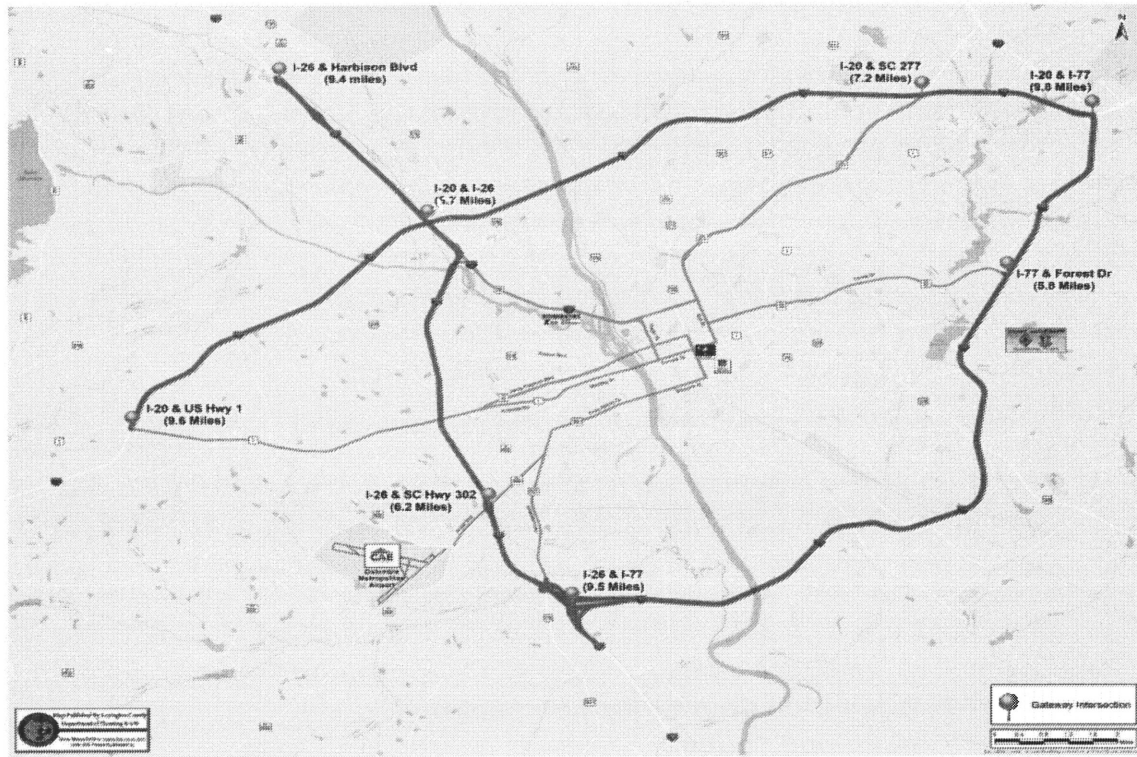
- Airport Boulevard Gateway: A one-mile stretch beginning at I-26 & S.C. 302 continuing to the Airport Expressway **(City of Cayce, Town of Springdale)**
- Fort Jackson Gateway: I-77 & Forest Dr. **(City of Columbia)**
- Lexington Gateway: I-20 & U.S. 1 **(Lexington County)**
- Harbison Gateway: I-26 & Harbison Blvd. **(City of Columbia)**
- Downtown Connector Gateway: I-20 & S.C. 277 **(Richland County)**
- I-20 & I-26 **(Lexington County, Richland County)**
- I-20 & I-77 **(Richland County)**
- I-77 & I-26 **(City of Cayce)**

Designs

Landscape architect John Long was hired to develop a common design that can be adapted for each site and that uses native plants compatible with South Carolina Department of Transportation guidelines to create a welcoming environment for visitors and residents alike. Critically, the landscapes are also designed to minimize long-term maintenance needs, requiring little water to maintain a vibrant, tidy appearance year-round.

Construction & Maintenance

In partnership with the Central Midlands Council of Governments, an intergovernmental agreement is being developed to facilitate the construction and maintenance of the sites. The project's costs will be shared by the public and private sectors, with the MBLG taking the lead to fundraise an estimated \$2.5M in construction costs at full build-out and the participating governments equitably sharing maintenance costs. The CMCOG will oversee procurement and contracts for both construction and maintenance. It is anticipated that fundraising and construction will take place over a multi-year period.



Shown above are the locations selected for the MBLG Regional Gateways project.