

# CHARLESTON AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

## ***WHAT IS CHATS?***

CHATS, the Charleston Area Transportation Study, is the ongoing process of monitoring and reviewing the Charleston urbanized area's transportation system, and the planning of facilities and services to meet the area's transportation needs for years to come.

The process is based on a plan developed between 1965 and 1968 following a detailed study of the transportation needs of the area. The plan was updated in 1975 and again in the fall of 1983 to carry it forward to the year 2000. Activities have been underway the last several years to evaluate and update the plan for all transportation modes (highway, bicycle, pedestrian and public transit).

## ***WHAT AREA DOES CHATS COVER?***

Presently, CHATS covers about 800 square miles. Generally, the area includes all of the land expected to be urbanized within twenty years. Portions of Dorchester County (Summerville and the surrounding area), Berkeley County (the Goose Creek/Hanahan area and Daniel Island) and Charleston County (from Mt. Pleasant south to Wadmalaw Island) are included.

## ***HOW IS CHATS ORGANIZED?***

In 1977, Governor James B. Edwards (according to joint FHWA-UMTA regulations) designated the CHATS Policy Committee as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester urban area. At the same time, the Governor decided that the technical programming and planning functions of the CHATS MPO would be performed by the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments, in cooperation with the S.C. Department of Transportation. In 1979, Governor Richard W. Riley designated the City of Charleston as the recipient of Federal Transit Administration capital funds for the CHATS MPO.

## ***WHAT IS THE CHATS POLICY COMMITTEE?***

The CHATS Policy Committee is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester urban area and is the forum for local decision making concerning transportation policies and priorities. It is composed principally of elected officials from the governments within the study area. The Policy Committee is responsible for the continuing review of the CHATS program and for ensuring that the transportation plan is functionally sound, financially feasible, and in conformance with the goals and objectives of the state, regional, and local communities. The Policy Committee also provides the direction and leadership necessary to implement the plan.

*The following information is current as of **March 2026**.  
However, the information changes throughout the year. For the most current list of members, please refer to the list posted on our website.*

**OFFICERS**

**CHAIRWOMAN:** CHRISTIE RAINWATER

**VICE CHAIRMAN:** RUSS TOUCHBERRY

**BERKELEY COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

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**BERKELEY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION**

- **Rep. Sylleste Davis**  
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- **Kylon Jerome Middleton**  
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- **Rep. Tom Hartnett**  
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- **Sen. Chip Campsen**  
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- **Sen. Larry Grooms**  
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**DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL**

- **C. David Chinnis**  
500 N. Main Street - Suite 2  
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- **Sunshine Trakas (non-voting)**  
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**DORCHESTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION**

- **Sen. Sean Bennett**  
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- **Rep. Gary Brewer**  
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**SC PORTS AUTHORITY**

- **Phil Padgett**  
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**CHARLESTON COUNTY AVIATION AUTHORITY**

- **Hernan Pena**  
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**CHARLESTON AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (CARTA)**

- **Mike Seekings**  
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**JOINT BASE CHARLESTON**

- **Todd Martin**  
628th Civil Engineering Squadron  
210 West Stewart Avenue  
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**SC TRUCKING ASSOCIATION**

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**NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILROAD**

- **Vacant**

**BERKELEY COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

- **Vacant**

**CHARLESTON COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

- **Eric Adams (non-voting)**  
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**DORCHESTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

- **Vacant**

**FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**

- **Cong. Nancy Mace**  
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**SC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

- **T.J. Johnson**  
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**CITY OF CHARLESTON**

- **Mayor William Cogswell**  
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**TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND**

- **Mayor Brook Lyon**  
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