



Steering Committee Meeting Agenda
In-Person Meeting at James Island Town Hall
1122 Dills Bluff Rd, Charleston, SC 29412
[Live Stream Link](#)
09/09/2026 AT 3:00 PM

- I. Welcome and Call to Order – Chair Leslie Skardon
- II. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance – Chair Leslie Skardon
- III. Approval of Minutes – Chair Leslie Skardon
- IV. New Steering Committee Representatives
 - a. Hailey Cooksey (business, Folly Beach/Conservation Area)
- V. “State of the Plan” (progress made in 2026)
 - a. Town of James Island
 - b. Charleston County
 - c. City of Charleston
 - d. City of Folly Beach
- VI. Public Comments
- VII. Old Business
 - a. Work Plan Progress
 - i. SCDOT Road Safety Assessment – status update
 - ii. Rethink Folly Road, Phase II – area of focus and funding opportunities
- VIII. Jurisdictional Updates
 - a. CARTA
 - b. Charleston County
 - c. City of Charleston
 - d. City of Folly Beach
 - e. James Island Public Service District
 - f. Town of James Island
 - g. SCDOT
- IX. New Business
 - a. Clemson Urban Design
- X. Next Meeting – November 18, 2026
- XI. Adjourn



Steering Committee Meeting Notes
In-Person Meeting at James Island Town Hall
1122 Dills Bluff Road
July 8, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.

In Attendance: Chair Leslie Skardon (Charleston City Councilmember); Vice Chair Julia Drayton-Crumblin (James Island Town Councilmember); Katie Zimmerman (Charleston Moves); Brook Lyon (James Island Mayor); Fred Whittle (Business/Property Owner Representative); Beth Saunders (Citizen Representative for Folly Beach); Logan McVey (Citizen Representative for Charleston County); Kyle James (BCDCOG); Belen Vitello (BCDCOG); Marissa Cottrell (BCDCOG); Scott Baker (Stantec); James Wallace (City of Charleston); Katherine Houghton (Folly Beach); Caval Temple; Christine Kitch; Isabel Santos (Charleston County); Monica Eustele (Charleston County); Shelia Parker (Charleston County); Jennifer Dantzler (BCDCOG)

I. Call to Order

Chair Leslie Skardon called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. with a welcome and member introductions.

II. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Skardon called for a moment of silence followed by the pledge.

III. Approval of Minutes: May 13, 2026

Mr. Fred Whittle made a motion to approve May 13, 2026, meeting minutes with an amendment to accommodating meeting schedules. Mr. Logan McVey seconded the motion. Councilmember Julia Drayton-Crumblin proposed an edit to the meeting minutes to remove "Vice-chair Drayton-Crumblin agreed with Beth Saunders and Mayor Lyon and also would consider changing the steering committee meeting time to accommodate people." The motion was unanimously **approved** with the proposed edits incorporated.

IV. Public Comments

There were no public comments.



V. Old Business

a) SCDOT Road Safety Assessment – Scott Baker (Stantec)

Mr. Scott Baker, a project manager at Stantec, provided a presentation on behalf of Mr. Shawn Salley of SCDOT on updates to the SC-171 Road Safety Assessment (RSA) project. The presentation illustrated and listed the proposed changes to the project's conceptual design drawings, including removal of all SCDOT-funded safety countermeasures between the James Island Expressway and 350 feet north of Westway Drive. Mr. Baker shared that these changes were made in response to the Town of James Island voting to not provide municipal consent for the previously proposed medians along the north end of the Folly Road corridor.

Chair Leslie Skardon asked Mayor Brook Lyon if the Town of James Island would pursue funding independent of SCDOT's RSA project for some of the removed safety countermeasures, such as sidewalks, crosswalks, pavement maintenance, and changes to traffic control devices.

Mayor Lyon stated that the Town of James Island only opposed the inclusion of additional concrete medians along the north end of Folly Road and reiterated the Town's support for the other previously proposed safety countermeasures. Mayor Lyon stated Town Council is concerned with potential safety impacts to parallel streets that may result from the construction of the medians.

Vice-chair Julia Drayton-Crumblin stated it was the Town's understanding that SCDOT would keep the other previously proposed safety countermeasures within the conceptual design drawings.

The committee discussed SCDOT's position on inclusion of the concrete medians, the public comment process to-date for the RSA, and highlighted that some of the parcels now excluded from the RSA project are within the City of Charleston or Charleston County boundaries.

Both Mayor Lyon and Vice-chair Drayton-Crumblin expressed a desire to continue conversations with SCDOT to identify a more agreeable resolution. Mr. Scott Baker confirmed that he would share these concerns with SCDOT.



b) Steering Committee Neighborhood Updates

Mr. Joe Walters previously suggested the addition of resident or business owner representatives on the Rethink Folly Road steering committee to cover all five segments of the corridor identified within the 2016 *Rethink Folly Road Corridor Study*. Chair Leslie Skardon shared that she has been setting up meetings with potential candidates and will provide an update at the next steering committee meeting.

c) Meeting Date and Time

Chair Leslie Skardon shared a summary of the results of the committee's recent survey to identify preferred meeting dates and times for meetings in 2027. Chair Skardon stated that the majority of survey respondents voted for the third Monday of each month at 4:00 PM, and that this change would be incorporated into an updated Operating Agreement for the committee.

d) Update Municipal Webpages to Cross-Reference new BCDCOG Page

During the previous meeting, BCDCOG staff requested that municipal and Charleston Moves staff cross-reference the new Rethink Folly Road webpage (bcdcogconnects.com/rethinkfolly) on their individual webpages related to Rethink Folly Road. Charleston County's "[Folly Road Bike and Pedestrian Improvements](#)" webpage was identified as the last remaining webpage without a cross-reference. Ms. Shiela Parker stated that she would work with Charleston County's IT staff to update the webpage.

VI. Jurisdictional Updates for Folly Road

a) SCDOT

Chair Leslie Skardon reached out to District 6 SCDOT to get status updates on outstanding maintenance issues, including street sweeping, vegetation control, clean-up of storm drains, and pavement repair of a short northbound section of Folly Road along the bridge over Ellis Creek. Chair Leslie Skardon stated that she would be persistent with her reminders to SCDOT regarding these topics. Katie Zimmerman with Charleston Moves asked Chair Skardon if it is possible to establish in writing with SCDOT a commitment to provide this maintenance on quarterly basis. If documented, Ms. Zimmerman proposed adding the document to the project webpage at bcdcogconnects.com/rethinkfolly.



b) Charleston County

Ms. Monica Eustele with Charleston County informed the committee that Charleston County's Historic Preservation Commission approved a Certificate of Historic Appropriateness (COA) on June 17, 2026 for the property at 1765 Folly Road, which would like to convert an existing single-family dwelling unit into an office use. The proposed changes to the property included pedestrian access and ADA improvements to county requirements.

Ms. Sheila Parker reminded the committee that the Rethink Folly Road pedestrian/bike project was divided into different phases. Ms. Parker shared that Charleston County identified a contractor for constructing Phase I, which will include a 7-8 sidewalk on the west side of Folly Road and widening the existing on-street bicycle lanes to 5 feet. Charleston County staff will seek approval from Charleston County Council on August 20, 2026 to enter into a contract with the identified contractor. Ms. Parker stated that her colleague Isabel Santos will be managing the construction phase for the project. Katie Zimmerman asked if there will be a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate this project milestone, and Ms. Parker replied that there would likely be a groundbreaking ceremony.

Phase I was Federal funded, phase two, three, and four all the way to Folly Beach, essentially. We're looking to fund that with the future sales tax. That was the plan to connect phase one. Sheila was excited to share with the Committee that they are now moving forward with phase one. They do have a contractor, and they just officially need to take it to council next month on August 20, 2026, agenda where they will request approval. Once approved they will be able to provide us will construction updates.

c) CARTA

Ms. Belén Vitello, a transit planner at BCDCOG, shared that CARTA is currently working on a Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) that includes changes to CARTA Route 31 along Folly Road. Ms. Vitello noted that she would provide additional information about the proposed changes from the COA and a recent study of TriCounty Link operations during her presentation scheduled under the New Business agenda item.



d) City of Charleston

Mr. James Wallace, a traffic engineer for the City of Charleston, stated that the City of Charleston's sidewalk project along the east side of Folly Road between Country Club Dr and Tatum Street recently completed a pre-construction meeting. Mr. Wallace expects the project to break ground soon.

Mr. Wallace shared that SCDOT agreed to install a new left-turn signal head at the westbound approach at the intersection of Folly Road and Fort Johnson Road. Installation of this signal head is expected to take place soon.

Mr. Wallace noted that City staff will work with SCDOT, as part of SCDOT's RSA project, on changes to turn lanes near schools and the public library.

Mr. Wallace stated that the City will be conducting a traffic study at the intersection of Folly Road and Battery Island Drive in Fall 2026. The study will revisit turning movements to see if the location warrants installation of a traffic signal or other changes.

e) Town of James Island – Mayor Brook Lyon

Mayor Brook Lyon shared with the committee that Town Council voted unanimously at its May 2026 meeting not to sign the municipal consent agreement with SCDOT regarding the proposed concrete medians along Folly Road as part of SCDOT's RSA project. Town Council worried that the medians would create new safety issues along parallel routes in surrounding neighborhoods and would negatively impact businesses along Folly Road. Mayor Lyon shared that the Town continued to support the proposed sidewalks and crosswalks included in SCDOT's list of RSA safety countermeasures.

Mayor Lyon noted the following changes to business along Folly Road:

- Three Monkeys Ice Cream at 915 Folly Road, Unit P, received its certificate of occupancy earlier that day.
- Gullah Gourmet recently closed.
- Island Twist Athletics will open a location on James Island near Locals (798 Folly Road Unit B).
- Roper St. Francis will construct an emergency center at the old ropes course near Martin's Barbecue. The location will provide emergency services and blood drawing.



Mayor Lyon shared that the following event updates:

- The Town will host an open mic night on July 22nd at 7:00 p.m. at James Island Town Hall. The event will include refreshments, readings and music.
- John Fryson will return to Town farmers market on September 4, 2026.

f) City of Folly Beach

Beth Saunders, provided an updated on behalf of Aaron Pope at the City of Folly Beach. Ms. Saunders shared that the Center Street water line project will continue through August, with substantial completed targeted for August 1, 2026. The City provides progress updates through its website (https://cityoffollybeach.com/departments/public_works/center_street_stormwater_in_frastructure.php).

Ms. Saunders stated that the City of Folly Beach included a line item in its budget to study raising the Folly Road causeway to mitigate adapt to current high-tide flooding events and projected sea level rise.

VII. Work Plan Progress Updates

a) Codify Updated Governance Proposals and Amendments – Chair Skardon

Chair Leslie Skardon shared that the edits discussed during the previous Rethink Folly Road steering committee were incorporated into an updated Operating Agreement for the Rethink Folly Road steering committee. Chair Skardon stated the first edit was to keep six total meetings per year but to have the option to cancel up to two non-consecutive meetings. The second edit was to move the meeting to Monday so that state representatives for the area would be able to attend the meetings. Chair Skardon stated that these changes would take effect with the committee's first meeting in 2027.

Vice-chair Julia Drayton-Crumblin asked Chair Skardon if the Operating Agreement stated the process for approval of agendas and meeting minutes. Chair Skardon shared that the existing program management plan has BCDCOG sharing the draft agendas and draft meeting minutes with the committee chair and vice-chair for review prior to sharing the finalized agenda and draft meeting minutes with the full committee.

Vice-chair Drayton-Crumblin asked if the Operating Agreement stated the process for amending the Operating Agreement. Chair Skardon noted that the Operating Agreement requires the committee to revisit the language every two years and modified as necessary.



Vice-chair Drayton-Crumblin if the Operating Agreement establishes a quorum threshold for votes by the committee. The committee discussed difficulty in the past at encouraging meeting attendance. Mr. Fred Whittle reminded the committee that it is only advisory, and that the committee did not previously establish quorum requirements because it can only recommend action to individual governing bodies.

Approval of Codifying Updated Governance Proposals and Amendments

Mr. Logan McVey made a motion to approve Codify Updated Governance Proposals and Amendments Mr. Fred Whittle Second. The motion was unanimously **approved**.

b) Rethink Folly Road, Phase II Extent

Mr. Kyle James, a regional planner at BCDCOG, shared a presentation on how the overlapping projects along Folly Road mesh together. Mr. James shared consolidated maps illustrating the overlapping projects, including SCDOT's updated recommendations for the SC-171 RSA project. Mr. James also offered to share a detailed database with the status of individual parcels along the corridor. Overall, Mr. James noted that there is 5.31 miles (31.6%) of existing or funded walkways along the corridor, with 0.80 miles (4.7%) of walkway constructed through the zoning overlay over the last 10 years. This leaves 68.4% remaining, and with the selection of qualified bidder by Charleston County for Rethink Folly Road, Phase I, it is now time for the committee to identify priorities for Phase II. Potential options include (1) closing gaps that were previously proposed as part of SCDOT's RSA, ensuring there are walkways on both sides of the street on the northern half of Folly Road, or (3) continuing further south with the construction of a walkway on one side of Folly Road.

c) CARTA Bus Stop Priorities

Mrs. Belén Vitello shared a presentation on the ongoing CARTA Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) and the recent TriCounty Link study. Currently, the project recommendations include the elimination of an existing route deviation along CARTA Route 31 to make the route more efficient, increased frequency along Route 31, on-demand zone for James Island, and bus stop priorities.

VIII. Next Meeting - Wednesday, September9, 2026

- IX. With no further business to discuss Chair Skardon thanked everyone for attending today 's meeting and made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:27 p.m.**



Rethink Folly Road

Phase II, Walkway Options



1

Causeway

Description

Elevate the Causeway between Folly Island and Battery Island Dr above flood, tide, and storm surge levels to prevent routine washout and maintain community access. Construct a multi-use path parallel to the Causeway to accommodate bi-directional traffic from pedestrians and bicyclists.

Cost

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2

Bur Clare Dr to Battery Island Dr

Description

Extend the walkway network on one side of Folly Road between Battery Island Dr and Bur Clare Dr (the end of SCDOT's road safety assessment recommendations).

WEST SIDE

- 39 total parcels
- 1.0 mi of gaps in walkway network
- Upgrade to hi-viz crosswalks at 1 intersection
- Overhead Utilities: Transmission Lines

EAST SIDE

- 39 total parcels
- 1.2 mi of gaps in walkway network
- 0.2 mi fronting undevelopable land
- Upgrade to hi-viz crosswalks at 2 intersections
- Overhead Utilities: Distribution Lines

Cost

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3

WEST SIDE Maybank Hwy to Signal Point Rd

Description

Following implementation of funded SCDOT, Charleston County, and City of Charleston projects, fill in gaps in the existing walkway network along the west side of Folly Road between Maybank Hwy and Signal Point Rd.

WEST SIDE

- 48 total parcels
- 1.8 mi of gaps in walkway network (including 340 ft of walkway previously proposed in SCDOT's RSA)
- Upgrade to high-viz crosswalks at 6 intersections and 2 driveways (previously proposed in SCDOT's RSA)

Cost

\$\$\$

** dependent on ongoing negotiations regarding SCDOT's SC-171 Road Safety Assessment **

4

EAST SIDE Country Club Dr to near Westway Dr

Description

Following implementation of funded SCDOT, Charleston County, and City of Charleston projects, fill in gaps in the existing walkway network along the east side of Folly Road between Country Club Dr and Bur Clare Dr.

EAST SIDE

- 47 total parcels
- 1.1 mi of gaps in walkway network (including 0.4 mi of walkway previously proposed in SCDOT's RSA)
- Upgrade to high-viz crosswalks at 7 intersections (previously proposed in SCDOT's RSA)

Cost

\$\$\$

** dependent on ongoing negotiations regarding SCDOT's SC-171 Road Safety Assessment **