

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

August 19, 2025

A meeting of the Traffic and Transportation Committee was held on this date, beginning at 3:32 p.m. in person in the Council Chambers at 80 Broad Street and over Zoom.

Committee Members: Councilmember Michael Seekings (Chair), Councilmember Karl Brady (Vice-Chair), Councilmember Boyd Gregg, Councilmember Jim McBride, Councilmember Gregorie, and Mayor William S. Cogswell

Also Present: Michael Mathis, Robert Somerville, Melissa Cruthirds, Josh Martin, Magalie Creech, Elizabeth Dieck, Julia Copeland, Jason Kronsberg, Katie Dahlheim, Philip Clapper, and Donna Constance

Chair Seekings called the meeting to order

Invocation

The meeting was opened with a moment of silence led by Chair Seekings.

Approval of the July 15, 2025 , minutes

On a motion by Mayor Cogswell, seconded by Councilmember Gregg, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the July 15, 2025, Traffic and Transportation meeting minutes.

Request approval of Lime Bikes Contract Amendment

Ms. Dahlheim did a presentation on the Lime Bikes Contract Amendment (Lost audio)

Chair Seekings said that this was an extension of the contract, which was on a month-to-month basis. They had several recent meetings with Lime, including in person. Constituents had been raising questions about the program because of challenges in managing it and the need for boots on the ground. They were assured that Lime would improve their performance. They were on a month-to-month agreement and had the cooperation of MUSC. An RFP will be issued this year to see if anyone else is interested in providing bike service in Charleston.

Councilmember Gregorie asked if many of the bikes had been stolen.

Ms. Dahlheim said they did not have data that showed that happening.

Chair Seekings said they were locked and useless if they were taken out of the zone.

Councilmember Gregorie said that at their neighborhood meeting, Lime bikes were being stolen, stripped, and thrown into the marsh.

Chair Seekings said they would check with Lime to confirm that.

On a motion by Mayor Cogswell, seconded by Councilmember Gregorie, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the Lime Bikes Contract Amendment.

Ashley River Crossing Update

Mr. Martin said that the project was progressing rapidly. They installed 840 linear feet of Perma Trak boardwalk on the West Marsh. Additional piles had been driven from bent 24-20, and concrete caps were poured for bent 24-23. River work continued, and the contractor was prepared to pour a drill shaft at bent 47. The West Marsh contractor kept working, relocating and flipping the crane pad and installing the boardwalk system. The contractor handling the river work would continue pouring drilled shafts on both the west and east sides of the river.

Lowline Update

Mr. Martin said their focus was on the parking lots on Huger Street South and Shepard Street South. Both Huger Street North and South will be completed within the next day or so, along with Shepard Street. They finalized their parking management services RFP, which is for a third-party company to manage the parking lots. They received nine proposals and are organizing a selection committee. They are three days away from finalizing the project's pricing.

There was an issue with the plantation mix on the first pour for Huger Street. When it cured, it was sand-like instead of gravel, so they planned to pull it back up and refill it to ensure they had a quality product. The Shepard Street South was more of a lift because the lot was in poor condition, but they were able to secure it through fencing.

Chair Seekings asked how many lots they expected to receive from this.

Mr. Martin said 125.

Discussion regarding Riverland Drive and Maybank Highway

Mr. Somerville said they communicated with DOT, the county, and the Police Department. The DOT is working with them to install speed advisory signage that would help direct motorists to use caution along Maybank Highway. They examined the existing lane widths and considered what other improvements could be made. They discussed a tree canopy and other signage that would need to be evaluated if additional signage were to be installed. They will continue working with the DOT and the county to ensure the intersection is made safer and improved in the best way possible. They advertised the HAWK signal and went out to bid. September 19th was the closing date.

Councilmember McBride asked if they could give them an update at the next Traffic and Transportation meeting.

Chair Seekings asked when Central Road would reopen.

Mr. Mathis said this was a three-to-five-month project. They were in month three, and would check for a status.

Approval of Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey Wagner

Mr. Wagner said he is a retired police officer and has lived in the City of Charleston for nine years. They have a son serving in the Navy.

Chair Seekings asked what he would be doing.

Mr. Wagner said permitting and code enforcement for public transportation and pedicabs.

On a motion by Councilmember Gregg, seconded by Mayor Cogswell, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the position of Code Enforcement Officer to Mr. Wagner.

With there being no further business, the Committee adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Clerk of Council's Office

Donna Constance