

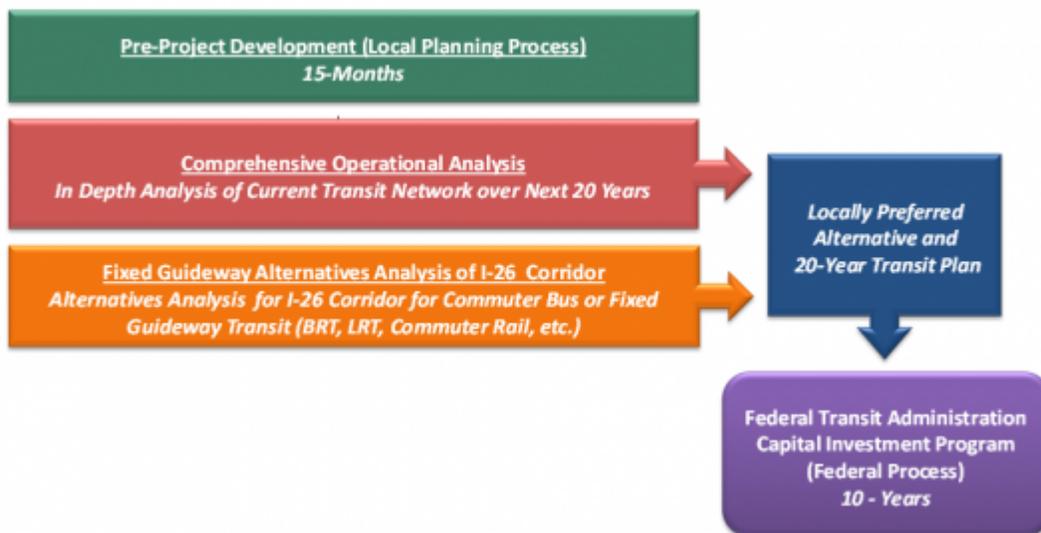
i-26ALT Update

Issue 2 | November 2014

Where Will Transit Take You Over the Next 20 Years?

The Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments (BCDCOG) initiated the I-26 Regional Fixed Guideway Transit Alternatives Analysis (I-26ALT) to answer this question. I-26ALT is the next step toward identifying and establishing a long term transit solution for the Charleston region along the I-26 Corridor between Summerville and Charleston. The purpose of this 15-month study is to identify transit modes, such as bus rapid transit (BRT), light rail, or commuter rail, and alignments that will manage transportation demand, support the regional economy, and create livable communities within the study area.

Successful results from the I-26ALT project will rely heavily on public input from across the region. Combined with information from a comprehensive assessment of the existing CARTA transit system, a 20-year strategic plan to develop fixed guideway service along the I-26 corridor will be established. This plan is required by the Federal Transit Authority to be in place as a major component of any future funding requests the region submits to fund development of the fixed guideway service.



Why a Transit Alternative and Why Now?

With anticipation that the region's population will approach one million residents within the next 20 years, the I-26 corridor will experience even greater congestion than exists today. Thus we are focused not only on improving transit service for today's residents of and visitors to Charleston, but also on defining and constructing the most effective and sustainable transit system that will serve our future residents. The I-26 Regional Fixed Guideway Transit Alternatives Analysis is the next step toward identifying and establishing a long term transit solution for the Charleston region along the I-26 Corridor between Summerville and Charleston.

What Transit Alternatives Will be Considered for the I-26 Corridor?

The I-26 Corridor from Summerville to Charleston is a critical route for commuters, visitors, and industry. *I-26ALT* will take a closer look at [alternatives for Commuter Rail, Light Rail and Bus Rapid Transit](#), and other options for transit along the 22-mile corridor. Other fixed guideway options that may be considered are express bus, personal rapid transit, ferry boats, heavy rail, monorail, and people movers.

Who Will Pay for a Regional Transit System?

I-26ALT will begin the region's dialogue on how a regional fixed guideway transit solution along the I-26 corridor can be funded. Although *this study* will follow the guidelines for the [Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Grant Program for New Starts/Small Starts projects](#), there are no guarantees whether and how much federal funding can be secured. This is a very competitive federal grant program and one criterion that will be evaluated in any funding request, will include the certainty of local funding committed to leverage federal dollars that are requested. *I-26ALT* will also identify potential funding options for the constructing and operating the preferred transit alternative selected during the study.

We Need Your Input!

The public is encouraged to attend one of the project meetings on the dates listed below. At each meeting, details will be shared regarding the study's strategic process and timeline, the project study area, and the various transit options available for consideration. More importantly, the

project team will be gathering the public's input on whether and how it uses transit today, and what improvements in the system would prompt residents to use transit in the future. A project website has been launched and is maintained to ensure opportunity for everyone to access information on the I-26 Alternatives Analysis as it proceeds – www.i26ALT.org

Monday, November 17, 2014- 6PM- 8PM:

Charleston Progressive Academy, 382 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC 29403

Tuesday, November 18, 2014- 7PM-9PM:

Rollings Middle School of the Arts, 815 S Main St, Summerville, SC 29483

Wednesday, November 19, 2014- 6PM-8PM:

North Charleston High School, 1087 E Montague Ave, North Charleston, SC 29405

We invite you and your friends, neighbors and co-workers to join us in deciding how transit can best serve your needs over the next 20 years!



i-26ALT