



Town of Hilton Head Island
Our Plan Infrastructure Work Group

Friday, July 26, 2019 at 10:00 AM

The Living Lab at Town Hall

MEETING NOTES

Work Group:

Innovative Approach to Create 'Right-Sized' Infrastructure

Present from Work Group: Steve Alfred, Mike Allen, Michael Cole, Paul Crunkleton, Kristin Keller, David White

Present from Town Staff: Anne Cyran, Taylor Ladd

- The meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM.
- Michael Cole introduced himself and explained his role at Hargray as the General Manager for Hilton Head Island. Hargray is in the process of upgrading all of their copper wire to fiber optics. Their goal is to upgrade all of the homes by the end of 2020. Fiber optics will greatly increase the speed of data, even beyond our current needs, but it will provide consistent service for the increasing number of devices in homes today. Someone asked what will be the state of the art technology in 2030. Fiber will support 5G which is the newest technology, but it will remain relevant because it will provide the most reliable service.
- Reviewed notes from Development Team Meeting on July 15, 2019.
- Reviewed SOAR results. Topics discussed:
 1. None of the items in the SOAR addressed business. There is an insensitivity to anything economic.
 2. Nothing addressed the tourist industry.
 3. If people want to telecommute, there are certain infrastructure considerations that go along with that.
 4. We need to consider whether the airport is sufficient to provide support to business.
 5. Fiber optics and its availability directly connects to providing opportunities for business and workers on the Island.
 6. Installing fiber optics will make us competitive with other communities in the country. Even Haig Point and Daufuskie have fiber optics now. About 25% of the country has fiber optic cable. We're not on the cutting edge, but we're becoming more competitive.
 7. We need to consider every type of user of each type of infrastructure as we write goals and strategies.
 8. There are conferences that won't come to the Island because of poor cell service.
 9. Can we convert under-utilized office buildings to shared workspaces for telecommuters or those who don't have company offices?

10. What is our goal for tourism? Do we still want to grow that number, or stay the same? Either way it has infrastructure implications.

11. Tourism will remain the Island's number one business through 2040, but we need to diversify.

12. Right now the average age on the Island is 57. Do we want that to remain the target demographic? That has implications for hospitals, medical services, senior living. A younger demographic would have different needs – different kinds of recreational and educational opportunities.

13. Once we have more robust connectivity, how do we leverage that? Parking, smart cars, etc. *Internet of things*: the connectivity of all devices.

14. One of the challenges we face is how we effectively move large numbers of people from Point A to Point B and move them out of automobiles. Could we use a rail system? Could we make more effective use of our waterways?

15. We need to consider the trend of motorized scooters, golf carts, etc. and how we integrate them into our transportation system.

16. Transit for workers has to serve different needs than transit for tourists. Tourists have a lot of things with them; getting them out of their cars is going to be a challenge. Would lockers on the beach be effective?

- Comment from Jane Joseph: We need to consider cultural sites (Mitchelville, Coastal Discovery Museum, Arts Center) as part of our physical infrastructure and to consider how we can grow them.
- Initial review of relevant Goals from 2010 Comprehensive Plan:
 1. Chapter 3 (Environment), Section 2 (Air Quality), Goal A (page 3-2): “To explore opportunities for alternative transportation to limit traffic congestion and pollution, including potential for effective mass transit and other innovative transportation strategies.”
 2. Chapter 3 (Environment), Section 2 (Air Quality), Goal C (page 3-2): “To educate residents and visitors about the impacts of idling and traffic congestion and provide ways in which each person can help to reduce idling time as well as reduce overall personal and commercial vehicle usage. The Island imports nearly 100 percent of goods. The commercial fleet utilized to transport these goods should be encouraged to reduce idling time due to its potential impact on air quality.”
 3. Chapter 6 (Community Facilities), Section 3 (Transportation Network), Goal **A** (page 6-2): “To provide a transportation network that includes opportunities for roadway, pathway, water- based and air-based transportation to and on the Island.”
 4. Chapter 6 (Community Facilities), Section 3 (Transportation Network), Goal **B** (page 6-2): “To have a safe, efficient and well-maintained regional and local roadway network.”
 5. Chapter 6 (Community Facilities), Section 3 (Transportation Network), Goal **C** (page 6-2): “To protect the bridges that provide the only ground transportation link from the Island to the Mainland.”
 6. Chapter 6 (Community Facilities), Section 3 (Transportation Network), Goal **D** (page 6-2): “To have a pathway network that provides for recreational opportunities as well as an alternative means of transportation to and on the Island.”
 7. Chapter 6 (Community Facilities), Section 5 (Utilities), Goal **A** (page 6-4): “To have a safe and effective utility system that minimizes interruptions in services.”
 8. Chapter 6 (Community Facilities), Section 5 (Utilities), Goal **B** (page 6-4): “To

provide adequate water service for both domestic use and fire safety to all areas of the Island.”

9. Chapter 6 (Community Facilities), Section 5 (Utilities), Goal **C** (page 6-4): “To address the challenges that salt water intrusion presents for Island water sources.”

10. Chapter 6 (Community Facilities), Section 5 (Utilities), Goal **D** (page 6-4): “To promote water conservation.”

11. Chapter 6 (Community Facilities), Section 5 (Utilities), Goal **E** (page 6-4): “To have sewer service Island-wide.”

12. Chapter 6 (Community Facilities), Section 5 (Utilities), Goal **F** (page 6-4): “To have well-maintained, effective stormwater infrastructure on the Island.”

12. Chapter 6 (Community Facilities), Section 5 (Utilities), Goal **G** (page 6-4): “To have a solid waste and recycling program for the Island and to educate residents and visitors on the benefits of recycling.”

13. Chapter 6 (Community Facilities), Section 5 (Utilities), Goal **H** (page 6-4): “To improve the utility and cooperative use of publicly owned easements on the Island.”

14. Chapter 6 (Community Facilities), Section 8 (Health Care Services), Goal **C** (page 6-6): “To provide for safe and efficient evacuation including Island medical facilities in accordance with the Town’s adopted Emergency Management Plans.”

15. Chapter 7 (Economy), Section 6 (Potential Strategies with Implications for the Comprehensive Plan) (page 7-4), “Major theme #4 ‘Mobility and Access’ identified the Island’s airport as a ‘community asset requiring sensitive development’ and that the Town should ‘own the airport as an asset,’ especially in growing the business travel and hospitality segment of the economy. Consideration should be given to such ownership with the thought of developing the airport in line with similar assets owned by other major upscale resort communities. Direct ownership may not be a high priority within the short term (3-5 years), especially given the magnitude of the current recession, but certainly within the 20 year scope of the Comprehensive Plan. A well-developed, small Island airport is a key tool in further enhancing the Island’s economy through potential for growth in the niche, premier corporate meeting and functions segment.”

16. Chapter 8 (Land Use), Section 1 (Existing Land Use), Goal B (page 8-1), “To maintain the character of the Island while insuring adequate infrastructure is in place and balancing land conservation to meet future needs.”

17. Chapter 9 (Transportation), Section 1 (Road Network), Goal A (page 9-1), “To improve the road network by creating safe and convenient access and interconnections to all areas of the Island while protecting community investments, neighborhoods, and the natural environment.”

18. Chapter 9 (Transportation), Section 1 (Road Network), Goal D (page 9-2), “To maintain all roads on Hilton Head Island to ensure safety and adequate access.”

19. Chapter 9 (Transportation), Section 4 (Pathway Network), Goal A (page 9-5), “To expand the pathway network to provide pedestrians, bicyclists, and other users of non-motorized transit with a safe and efficient infrastructure to connect residential and tourist areas to schools, parks, commercial areas, and potential off-Island connections.”

20. Chapter 9 (Transportation), Section 5 (Public Transportation), Goal A (page 9-6), “To identify the Island-wide needs for public transportation and research alternative ways to provide the needed services.”

21. Chapter 9 (Transportation), Section 7 (Marine Transportation), Goal A (page 9-8), “To integrate a marine-based transportation option into the transportation network that

has the potential to serve Town residents, visitors, and employees.”

22. Chapter 10 (Recreation), Section 2 (Park Sites), Goal A (page 10-1), “Continue to enhance the public recreation system by providing adequate facilities to meet the needs of a broad spectrum of the Island population (including visitors) while maintaining sensitivity to the specific needs of the Island.”

23. Chapter 10 (Recreation), Section 5 (Facilities Guidelines), Goal A (page 10-3), “Continue improving and expanding the existing network of multi-use pathways throughout the Island enabling residents and visitors to access recreational areas, shopping centers, schools and businesses by non-motorized forms of transportation.”

- Defined Our Plan terminology: Goals; Strategies; and Tactics.
- Discussed draft goal categories for Infrastructure:
 1. Transportation: vehicular, public transportation, rail, hovercraft, bicycles, e-scooters, air transit
 2. Technology: fiber optics, 5G
 3. Utilities: water/sewer, electrical
 4. Built environment: under-utilized buildings
 5. Medical facilities
 6. Educational facilities: schools, libraries
 7. Cultural facilities
 8. Housing, including considering permanent population housing versus vacation housing

Additional Topics that may be made into a separate goal category or may be integrated into one or more goal categories above:

Development standards and their impact on climate change and environmental threat preparedness

Economy & the Workforce

Effects of climate change and environmental threats on infrastructure

Safe evacuation

- The meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Submitted by: Anne Cyran