



Agency Involvement



LEAD AGENCY

The lead agency is defined as the federal agency proposing to take an action. This agency supervises the preparation of an environmental impact statement and has the responsibility for managing the day-to-day conduct of the environmental review.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)  U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

FHWA carries out the Federal highway programs in partnership with the State and local agencies to meet the nation's transportation needs. State transportation agencies hold varying degrees of responsibility for the construction and maintenance of public highways. FHWA administers and oversees the highway programs to ensure that Federal funds are used efficiently and in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

JOINT LEAD AGENCIES

According to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), A Citizen's Guide to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), if another Federal, State, local, or Tribal agency has a major role in the proposed action and also has NEPA responsibilities or responsibilities under a similar NEPA-like law, that agency may be a joint lead agency. A joint lead agency shares the lead agency's responsibility for management of the NEPA process, including public involvement and the preparation of documents.

South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) 

SCDOT is responsible for the systematic planning, construction, maintenance, and operation of the state highway system in the state. The goal of the department is to provide adequate, safe, and efficient transportation services for the movement of people and goods. SCDOT is developing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the I-526 project at the request of Charleston County.

Charleston County

Charleston County initiated the project by applying to the South Carolina Transportation Infrastructure Bank (SIB) in 2006 for assistance with project funding. Upon review of the application, the SIB committed to fund the project.



COOPERATING AGENCIES

According to [23CFR 771.111(d)], the Administration may request other agencies having special interest or expertise to become cooperating agencies. Agencies with jurisdiction by law must be requested to be cooperating agencies. Cooperating agencies for this project are:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
- S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC)
- SCDHEC - Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (SCDHEC-OCRM)

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

According to SAFETEA-LU (Section 6002) participating agencies are federal and non-federal governmental agencies that may have an interest in the project because of their jurisdictional authority, special expertise, and/or statewide interest. Participating agencies for this project are:

- Berkeley Charleston Dorchester – Council of Governments (BCDCOG)
- City of Charleston
- Charleston County Parks and Recreation
- Federal Aviation Administration
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – National Marine Fisheries
- S.C. Department of Archives and History (SHPO)
- S.C. Department of Commerce
- S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- S.C. Emergency Management Division – Hurricane Coordinator (SCEMD)
- S.C. States Ports Authority (SCSPA)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture - Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)