

**Memorandum of Understanding
Among
The City of Charleston, the City of North Charleston, and Charleston County,
The Charleston Area Transportation Study (CHATS) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO),
and
the Berkeley Charleston Dorchester Council of Governments**

WHEREAS, the City of Charleston, the City of North Charleston, Charleston County, the Charleston Area Transportation Study (CHATS) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and the Berkeley Charleston Dorchester Council of Governments (BCDCOG), herein referred to as the “Parties,” collectively desire to establish a multijurisdictional vision for the portion of the metropolitan Charleston area located between the Ashley and Cooper Rivers, beginning at the foot of the Arthur Ravenel, Jr. Bridge (US 17) and extending generally to the Mark Clark Expressway (I-526), known as the Neck area; and

WHEREAS, goals of the vision (the Neck Area Master Plan) include reversing negative physical and environmental impacts of the current transportation infrastructure, industrial development, and military activities; improving the transportation network as it relates to port facilities, industrial uses, and proposed residential and mixed use development; producing quality urban design that enhances livability for the established commercial and residential neighborhoods, as well as newly proposed development; and creating methods for promoting economic redevelopment at transportation nodes and centers through public and private sector investment; and

WHEREAS, the vision (the Neck Area Master Plan) is to be accomplished through implementation actions stemming from the Neck Area Master Plan that addresses issues related to economic development, community livability and environmental sustainability that provides clear guidance to state and local agencies, community stakeholders, the general public, and the private sector; and

WHEREAS, the Neck Area Master Plan builds on and coordinates with previous and ongoing planning and development activities from the public and private sectors, and community-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Neck Area Master Plan identifies strategies and provides the basis for setting priorities to achieve desired outcomes that can transform the Neck area towards a more sustainable, livable, and economically vital part of the region, serving both existing communities and new growth;

NOW, THEREFORE, IN RECOGNITION OF THE FOREGOING, the Parties hereby jointly understand, agree and commit as follows:

A. To formally establish the *Partnership for Prosperity* as an ongoing forum for communication and collaborative planning and implementation activities among local, regional and state

agencies for the long-term health and vitality of the Neck area. The *Partnership for Prosperity*, through the support of the BCDCOG, shall develop an operating agreement for communication and coordination protocols and establish a regular meeting schedule and means of affirming commitments, sharing information, reporting progress and celebrating accomplishments.

B. That the *Partnership for Prosperity* membership shall include, at a minimum, the City of Charleston, City of North Charleston, Charleston County, CHATS, BCDCOG, South Carolina Department of Transportation, Palmetto Railways, and the South Carolina State Ports Authority, with coordination and convening responsibility lying with the BCDCOG.

C. To work in partnership to improve economic opportunity, quality of life and environmental conditions for the benefit of everyone in the Neck area.

D. To continue establishing and improving a well-defined freight rail and commercial vehicle roadway network that minimizes impacts to established residential neighborhoods, reduces conflicts with transit and other motorized users, and increases safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, while providing the capacity, reliability and regional access that is critical for the region's economic success.

E. To supplement the vehicular road and rail network in the Neck area with an interconnected non-motorized transportation network offering clearly defined, convenient and safe travel options linking origins and destinations within the Neck area and to adjacent areas.

F. To enhance and establish robust and attractive public transportation options serving the Neck area and connecting to the Tri-County region to increase travel choices available to people of all means and abilities.

G. To reinforce the catalyst areas developed in the Neck Area Master Plan as mixed use centers of economic activity and community vitality, as multimodal transportation hubs offering high levels of accessibility, and as areas of transit-oriented and transit-supportive development and redevelopment, while respecting the integrity of adjacent existing uses.

H. To preserve the character and culture of existing residential neighborhoods in the Neck area by limiting the negative impacts of gentrification, displacement of existing residents, industrial development and freight traffic, encroachment, and environmental pollution.

I. To continue working to improve neighborhood safety and expand opportunities for residents' access to open space, parks and natural resources in order to promote a healthy living environment and high quality of life in the Neck area.

J. To actively support efforts to increase opportunities for local Neck area residents to benefit from economic development activities taking place in the Neck area, including education and job skills training, higher wage jobs, and greater availability of retail, healthy food options, and community services that meet the needs of Neck area residents.

K. That this Memorandum of Understanding may be revised from time to time as circumstances warrant, and may be amended only in writing and signed by all Parties to indicate concurrence of the City of Charleston, the City of North Charleston, Charleston County, CHATS, and the BCDCOG.

L. That any party may withdraw unilaterally and without cost or expense from the MOU by giving sixty days (60) advance notice to all other signatory parties.

Name (signature)

Date

Title
City of Charleston

Name (signature)

Date

Title
City of North Charleston

Name (signature)

Date

Title
Charleston County

Name (signature)

Date

Title
Charleston Area Transportation Study (CHATS)

Name (signature)

Date

Title
Berkeley Charleston Dorchester Council of Governments