

**TOWN OF SULLIVAN’S ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA  
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Meeting was held at 5:00PM, this date, at Town Hall, 2056 Middle Street, all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act satisfied. Present: Committee members Gary Visser (Chair), Vic-Chair Sydney Cook, Charlie Cole and Hal Currey. Staff members: Zoning Administrator Henderson and Asst. to Administrator Darrow.

**Call to Order.** Chair Visser called the meeting to order, stated press and public were duly notified pursuant to state law and all Committee members present except Carl Hubbard and Manda Poletti (excused absences) and Tim Watterson (recovering from medical illness); special guest Ryan McClure (Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester County of Government aka BCD-COG); and three (3) audience members present (Councilmembers Clark, Langley and Howard); no media.

**I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – approved as presented**

Commission reminded audience that any preliminary approval of Comprehensive Plan material would occur in the regular Planning Commission meetings and the series of Steering Committee meetings serve as workshops.

**II. CORRESPONDENCE-PUBLIC FEEDBACK**

**Consultant McClure (BCD-COG) – Reported no specific correspondence received; noted survey feedback will continue to be included in the staff report of respective Plan elements.**

**III. ITEMS FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Chair Visser reminded Committee that the following three elements have been revised by Staff pursuant to last month’s Committee feedback: Land Use, Natural Resources & Cultural Resources

**1. Land Use Element: Consider draft language with changes from the May 9<sup>th</sup> review**

**Staff (Zoning Administrator Henderson) & Consultant McClure**

Consultant McClure presented to Committee the Staff overview/report regarding revised Land Use Element/Needs & Goals (**Exhibit A**). Thereafter Committee reviewed, discussed and modified language on the draft Land Use Element/Needs & Goals.

**Committee Discussion/Public Questions & Comments:**

Committee continued discussion of staff enforcement of illegal Island rentals, targeting online advertisement of rentals on marketing websites such as Airbnb, Homeaway, etc.

Committee continued discussion of historic preservation and designation of historic properties. Staff noted that Town identification and determination that a property is considered historically

contributing would trigger an owner notification and appeal process: Town would send a letter to property owners of status change and owners would have the right to appeal to the Design Review Board. Committee discussed last Town update of the historic designation list, which Staff clarified as being in 2008/2009. Zoning Administrator Henderson noted records show that no homes have been added to the historic designation list since 2005. The only mechanism to increase the historic designation list would be to have a qualified historic architect evaluate island-wide properties to update the list based upon SC Historic Preservation/National Archives & History standards and guidelines. Committee expressed continued support for voluntary resident requests for historic determination but did not recommend that the Town retain a consultant to initiate a new island-wide historic determination evaluation.

Staff noted that reference to historic homes has been moved to Cultural Resources as Committee requested.

**2. Natural Resources Element: Consider draft language with changes from the May 9<sup>th</sup> review**

**Staff (Zoning Administrator Henderson) & Consultant McClure**

Zoning Administrator presented to Committee the Staff overview/report regarding Natural Resources Element (**Exhibit B**). Thereafter Committee reviewed, discussed and modified language on the draft Natural Resources Element/Needs & Goals.

**Committee Discussion/Public Questions & Comments:**

Committee discussed Town policy to require stormwater management on residential lots with significant new improvements (new policy circa 2016), island-wide rising tide resiliency and adjustments to the Needs & Goals per staff report (Exhibit B). Staff will modify NR 9.5 in staff report.

**3. Cultural Resources: Consider change to the approved goals and strategies from the May 9<sup>th</sup> review**

**Staff (Zoning Administrator Henderson) & Consultant McClure**

Zoning Administrator presented to Committee the Staff overview/report regarding Cultural Resources Element (**Exhibit B**). Thereafter Committee reviewed, discussed and modified language on the draft Cultural Resources Element/Needs & Goals.

**MOTION: Chair Visser moved to forward the following elements to the Planning Commission meeting tonight for potential preliminary approval with the changes outlined in the respective Staff reports and discussed in this meeting; seconded by Mr. Currey. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.**

#### IV. NEW ITEMS FOR REVIEW

##### 1. **Priority Investment Element: Consider draft language for the *Priority Investment Element* with goals and strategies**

###### **Staff (Zoning Administrator Henderson) & Consultant McClure**

Zoning Administrator presented to Committee the Staff overview/report regarding Priority Investment Element (**Exhibit A**). Thereafter Committee reviewed, discussed and modified language on the draft Priority Investment Element (**Exhibit C**).

Committee discussed revenue sources identified in Exhibit C, specifically the Town's inventory of lots, and, questioned the Town's long-range financial strategy and guidelines for selling a lot. Ms. Cook noted that Town owned lots are assets for the entire Island's future and selling land is a major decision.

Councilmember Clark, in the audience as a resident, provided insight on recent sale of Town lots, noting the Town made a capital-for-capital swap by selling lots to fund the new Town Hall/Police Station construction and fire engine. The Town is now faced with the funding of a new sewer plant. He noted that, by choice, revenue sources are cut from consideration (limited vacation rentals, limited business district, no B&B's/hotel, free parking, etc.), but residents expect a continued high level of services and quality-of-life.

Zoning Administrator Henderson noted that the Town has minimal accommodations tax funds due to limited vacation rental inventory and low hospitality tax funds due to limited tourist-related businesses.

Councilmember Howard, in the audience as a resident, echoed Councilmember Clark's comments, noting historically the sale of lots have been tied to big capital improvement projects.

Committee discussed general budgeting, noting the Town needed an individual with long-range financial planning expertise to establish strategies. Staff noted it would refer these comments to Town Administrator Benke and Comptroller Jason Blanton.

Chair Visser queried what needs and goals the Committee wanted to add to this element; COG representative Mr. McClure noted that Priority Investment Element did not include Needs & Goals. Committee suggested the following:

1. Strategy for land assets owned by the Town – perhaps place in Land Use Element
2. Long-range financial strategy for Town revenue and future capital projects – Priority Investment?

Mr. Cole questioned what was the percentage of Island properties that were not taxed at all, some examples being: SI Elementary school, Town buildings and/or lots, Fort Moultrie, various historic batteries and churches. He would like to see Staff include this information in the Priority Investment Element, or, appropriate element such as Land Use.

**MOTION: Mr. Currey moved to send to Planning Commission, this evening, the Priority Investment Element for potential preliminary approval incorporating edits discussed in this meeting; seconded by Mr. Cole. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

**Committee returned to Land Use Element**

**ADD LU/P6.3:**

**Develop comprehensive strategy for Town owned properties currently not utilized or developed (inventory, use, disposition). Short term; Town Council and Staff.**

**Committee Consensus: Add LU/P6.3 to Land Use Element for Planning Commission to consider for preliminary approval. Noted that Staff would return modified Land Use element to Committee in August with the consolidated draft Comprehensive Plan.**

**V. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, August 12, 2018**

Committee will not meet to discuss Plan in July. Town staff and consultants will compile preliminary draft elements into a consolidate draft document for Committee's review in August.

**Committee scheduled a public hearing for the draft plan for Wednesday, August 29, 2018 with following format: 5:30-6:30PM drop-in/open house (comments taken); 6:30PM formal public hearing and meeting.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned (Mr. Cole moved; Mr. Currey seconded; unanimously approved) at approximately 6:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Darrow  
Asst. to Administrator

Approved at the July 11, 2018 Planning Commission Meeting



# LAND USE & PRIORITY INVESTMENT ELEMENTS

Town of Sullivan's Island  
Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee  
June 13th, 2018

## Review Changes Requested by Steering Committee

The Steering Committee has reviewed the Land Use Element and requested the following changes and or instigated dialogue regarding different aspects of the chapter. The following items represent the committees work on the plan.

1. G+O – P1.3 Continue to **restrict** the short-term rental market and **enforce** all policies pertaining to the regulations.
2. G+O – ~~P3.4 Review the demolition criteria used by the Design Review Board to ensure homes being demolished are not contributory to the eclectic nature of the Island, specifically as to size, era and styles of home, including homes not currently protected by historic designation.~~ **Moved to Cultural Resources**
3. G+O – P2.2 Encourage research and documentation of historic structures and pursue National and **Local** Historic Designation when appropriate.
4. G+O - P2.3 Continue to regularly re-evaluate and update Town surveys of historic structures. **Added to G+Os**
5. G+O – **Move P2.1, 2.2, & 2.3 to Cultural Resources**
6. G+O - P5.1 Investigate methods to allow and encourage adaptive reuse of **military era structures island-wide.**
7. G+O - P7.1 Establish a task force that will revise land use regulations by review of the existing Zoning Ordinance to ensure that future construction is respectful of the Island's traditional mass, height, scale, proportionality to lot size, neighborhood compatibility, and **historic resources.**
8. G+O - P7.2 Conduct an evaluation of residential design guidelines to ensure consistency with the Island's open and informal character as it relates to landscape design, fences, site design, and other architectural elements.  
– **Duplicated in Housing Element**

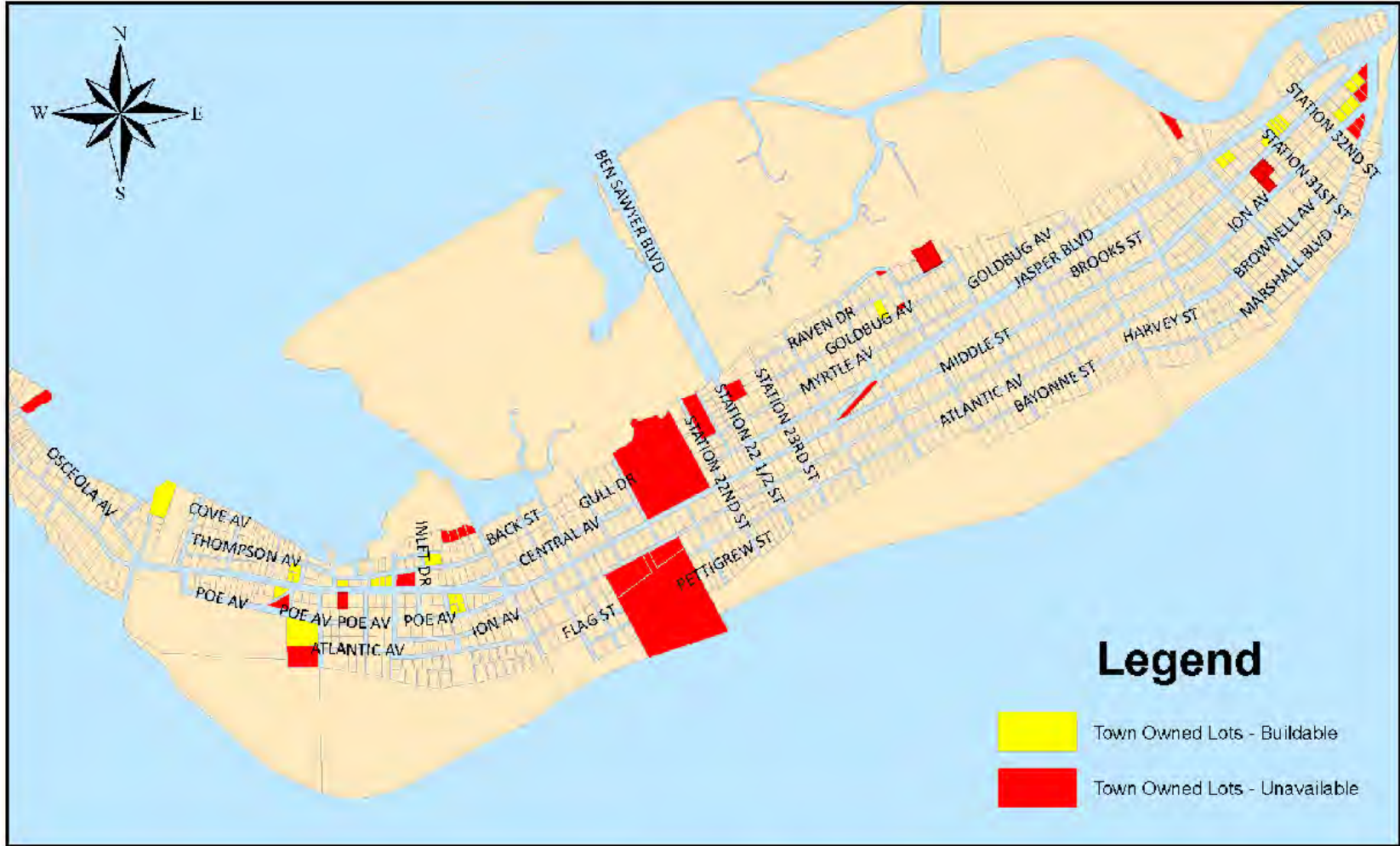
# Priority Investment Element

## Review Changes Requested by Steering Committee

The Steering Committee has reviewed the Priority Investment Element and requested the following changes and or instigated dialogue regarding different aspects of the chapter. The following items represent the committees work on the plan.

1. Who is responsible for researching grants? Added language that said “Town Staff is responsible for seeking and monitoring grants, aid, and other opportunities that arise.”
2. First paragraph had really long sentences. It did as it was almost one long compound sentence. I broke it down into 3-4 smaller sentences.
3. Second page had one really long paragraph. It was and it was easy to break it into 2 paragraphs.
4. Muni-Bond Market – What % rates are we paying? This info can be found in the current budget, we already have a link to the budget in the document. We shouldn’t really get into that here.
5. Selling Town Owned Properties – Discussion
6. What properties (% of total) on SI do not pay property tax? – Discussion

# Town Council Requested Lots



The above map illustrates buildable lots in yellow. In red, are Town owned lots that are currently in use for Town services and/or prohibited from being developed due to site conditions.

Town of Sullivan's standard GIS Standard Map Disclaimer:  
This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for, legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.





Town of Sullivan's Island  
Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee  
June 13, 2018

<https://bcdcog.com/2018-comprehensive-plan/>

# Cultural Resources Changes: removed from Land Use (From May 9th)

- **ADD:** Continue to support Design Review Board oversight of the historic overlay districts, other historic structures and, through Town ordinances, protect historic properties on the Island.
- **ADD:** P2.2 to read, “Encourage research and documentation of historic structures and pursue local and National Historic Designation where appropriate.” [change italicized for emphasis]
- **ADD:** P2.3 to read “Continue to regularly re-evaluate and update Town surveys of historic structures.”
- **ADD:** P3.4 Review the demolition criteria used by the Design Review Board to ensure homes being demolished are not contributory to the eclectic nature of the Island, specifically as to size, era and styles of home, including homes not currently protected by historic designation.

**Cultural Resources Goal: The Town will continue to focus its efforts on protecting sites that are significant to the Town’s history, uniqueness and natural beauty.**

*Cultural Resources Policy 1: The Town will continue to strive to protect historic resources (sites, structures, archeological features).*

	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Responsible Parties</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
<b>ADDED</b>	<p>CR1.3 Continue to support Design Review Board oversight of the historic overlay districts and individual historic structures and, through Town ordinances, protect historic properties on the Island. Continue efforts, where appropriate, for the inclusion of historical properties on the National Register of Historic Sites.</p>	Town Administration;	Ongoing
<b>ADDED</b>	<p>CR1.9 Consider updating historic surveys for all properties not protected by the Historic Preservation Overlay District. Continue evaluating whether these properties embody a distinguishing character, time period and architecture, which could lead to historic designation.</p>	Town Administration; Design Review Board	Ongoing

# Natural Resources Changes

## (From May 9th)

- **MODIFY:** Page 14 Paragraph 2 to read, “.....adaptation actions that will produce two overarching goals: 1.) develop mitigation strategies, prioritizing nature-based solutions, to prepare for future hazards....” [change italicized for emphasis]
- **MODIFY:** NR2.3 to read, “Seek methods to mitigate erosion problems.”
- **MODIFY:** NR3.1 to read, “.....Accreted Land Management Plan, with the broadest possible community participation and input, as an integral part of the Town of Sullivan’s Island resiliency plan.” [change italicized for emphasis]
- **MODIFY:** NR3.3 to read, “Continue to encourage conservation easements, to protect open space on the Island, and conservation structures as a part of the policy of retreat from beachfront development. [change italicized for emphasis]
- **CORRECT:** numbering for NR5.4 and NR5.5 (existing policies currently both number NR5.3)

# Natural Resources Continued

- **ADD:** NR5.6 to read, “Continue to evaluate Zoning Regulations pertaining to maximum allowed impervious surface coverage for development.” [change italicized for emphasis]
- **MODIFY:** NR6.2 to read, “Encourage and support community participation to protect turtle and bird habitats.” [change italicized for emphasis]
- **STAFF REWORK:** 7.1 and 7.2 language to focus on how strategies for the back-island waterways contribute to stormwater drainage and Island resiliency.
- **MODIFY:** NR9.3 to read, “Develop a comprehensive sea level rise....” [change italicized for emphasis]
- **MODIFY:** NR9.4 to read, “.....track to improve eligibility for state and federal opportunities, prioritizing nature-based solutions, as an integral part of the Town of Sullivan’s Island resiliency plan.” [change italicized for emphasis]

# Timeline for Review and Approval

## June 13th

- Priority Investment, Natural Resources, Land Use
- Prepare final document (comments to staff by July 25<sup>th</sup>)

## July 11<sup>th</sup>

- Regular Planning Commission meeting 6:00 pm
- Final document comments to staff by July 25<sup>th</sup>

## August 8<sup>th</sup>

- Hold regular Planning Commission
- Make final adjustments to Plan

## August 29<sup>th</sup>

- **Hold Planning Commission Public Hearing & Recommendation to Council**

## September 4<sup>th</sup> :

- Convert to final design. Send to Council for reading

## September – October

- **Town Council Committee review (LUNR, Facilities, etc.)**

## October 1<sup>st</sup> Council Workshop

- Council discussion and address any issues for changes

## October 16<sup>th</sup> Council Workshop

- Council discussion and address any issues for changes

## November- December

- Begin readings

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## How we Prioritize...

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### Introduction

The purpose of this element is to enhance coordination of local government and public service planning in the Town of Sullivan’s Island, to synchronize public and private investment in land and infrastructure, and to conserve culturally and environmentally sensitive resources through increased coordination with adjacent and relevant jurisdictions. It also serves to show what local revenues are collected and why the Town must work to find other revenue streams to invest in large, impactful projects.

The Priority Investment Act legislation requires an additional comprehensive planning element, which instructs local government entities to analyze the likely federal, state and local funds available for public infrastructure and facilities during the next ten years. These entities are encouraged to prioritize projects for expenditure of those funds during the next ten years for needed public infrastructure and facilities such as water, sewer, roads and schools. Local government agencies should coordinate with adjacent and relevant jurisdictions such as counties, municipalities, public and private utilities, school districts, transportation agencies and other public entities affected by or that have planning authority over the public project.

### Financial Portfolio

To better understand how priority investments may occur, the Town can outlay revenues and potential financial opportunities. Revenues consist of the total operating budget and can be tracked and monitored closely in the Town’s annual budget process. Financial opportunities are contingencies that occur like grants or regional, state, or federal assistance programs. Financial opportunities may occur at random intervals or on scheduled occurrences.

### Revenue

The Town of Sullivan’s Island annual budget provides a funding timeline for public facility improvements including public safety, culture/recreation, general government, and public service. These projects include maintenance for fire and police stations, Town parks and other supporting facilities. An annual budget is prepared by the Town and the process is open and transparent for the citizens

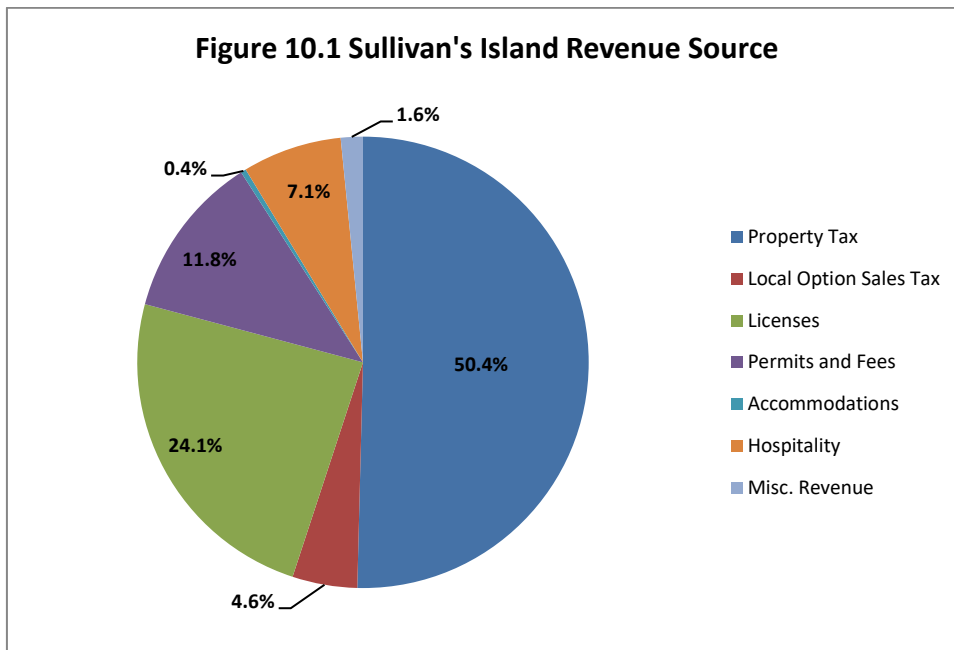
#### **South Carolina Priority Investment Act**

*“South Carolina Priority Investment Act by amending section 6-29-510, relating to comprehensive plans of local planning commissions, so as to amend the housing element and to provide for transportation and priority investment elements of comprehensive plans; to amend section 6-29-720, relating to regulation of zoning districts, so as to allow local governments to develop market-based incentives and elimination of nonessential housing regulatory requirements to encourage private development, traditional neighborhood design, and affordable housing in priority investment areas; to amend section 6-29-1110, relating to definitions, so as to defined “affordable housing”, “market based incentives”, “traditional neighborhood design”, and “nonessential housing regulatory requirements”; to amend section 6-29-1130, relating to regulations of a local governing body governing the development of land upon the recommendation of the local planning commission, so as to further provide for the content of these regulations relating to land development; and to provide that local governments amend their comprehensive plans to comply with these provisions.”*

through public notice and public meetings. This section is only a snapshot of the budget and more in-depth information can be found at the Town's website <http://sullivanisland-sc.com/departments/Financial.aspx>.

The Town's fiscal year runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, which means that a budget must be prepared and approved by Town Council before July 1<sup>st</sup>. The budget process begins in January and is a time in which prioritized discussions should be held on where priority investments should be made for the next budget year. Figure 10.1 shows an approximate snapshot of the Town's 2016/2017 annual revenue stream. It should be pointed out, that the Town must rely heavily on regional, state and federal grant/funding sources for many of the 10-year capital improvement, infrastructure and Town facility projects, because of the nature of the Town's land use and business structure. Sullivan's Island is considered a bedroom community with the preponderance of the Town's land zoned for residential use, primarily single-family residential. Business activity is limited to a two-block Community Commercial District with a handful of allowed home-based business uses. As a beach community close to the City of Charleston, which is a nationally-ranked tourist destination, Sullivan's Island could potentially generate more traditional tourism and hospitality business revenue streams, such as hotel and vacation rental accommodations; restaurant or nightlife activities; front beach business; and Island festivals and events. Sullivan's Island, however, receives nominal revenues from accommodations and hospitality taxes. The Town is different from other coastal communities in the area, such as Folly Beach and the Isle of Palms, because it prohibits new vacation rentals (only 50 units exist) and also prohibits new restaurants. As a result, accommodations revenue accounts for approximately less than a ½ a percent (.4%). Likewise, there are fewer than ten (10) food and beverage establishments in the town and hospitality revenue only accounts for approximately 4.6% of the entire general fund.





Additionally, the Town continues its historical focus on natural resource conservation, specifically by deed restricting the 100+/- acre front beach to recreation-conservation space use only with no business activity on the beach. As such, the Town does not receive revenue from the typical business activity often found on popular beaches: equipment rentals, photography, refreshment sales, beach sports lessons and/or fitness camps, to name a few.

**Local Revenues** – A quick snapshot of local revenues for the Town of Sullivan's Island are shown below.

- General Fund Revenue
  - Licensing (Business License, Building Department, etc.)
  - Fees
  - Fines (Court)
- Tax-Increment Financing (must be planned and implemented prior to the redevelopment)
- Accommodations tax
- Property tax
- Municipal Bond Market – Town pays for most capital improvements with this funding source
- Selling Town-Owned Properties for Residential Development

## Expenses

Towns that are largely residential incur high service costs that are only offset by property taxes or special use taxes paid by the residents. Sullivan's Island does not pass along exorbitant expenses related to heavy tourism to its visitors and

receives nominal to no funding offset by Charleston County or the State of South Carolina.

## Financial Opportunities

In an effort to prioritize how investments are made, financial opportunities should be presented so that Town staff can explore them as they arise. The Town should explore all opportunities to fund facilities and larger infrastructure projects.



### Charleston County Funding

Charleston County Transportation Committee (CCTC) - CCTC selects projects on an annual basis to fund within the County. The funds are derived from 2.66 cents per gallon of the state user fee, which is allocated into a County Transportation Fund. The CCTC consists of members who are appointed by the State Legislation. 80% to 90% of the funds go toward preservation, rehabilitation, and reconstruction of the current network. Up to 10% may be awarded to new projects. The Town received \$20,000 from the CCTC for Crosswalks in 2018. More information can be found at <http://charlestonctc.org/>.

Transportation Sales Tax (TST) - TST is a funding source that is obtained by Charleston County who successfully holds a referendum. Charleston County Transportation Development plans, programs, and administers the transportation projects throughout the County. More information can be found at <https://roads.charlestoncounty.org/index.php>.

Urban Greenbelt Funding – Urban Greenbelt Funding is funding that is provided by Charleston County that can be used to conserve and protect the natural environment. Sullivan's Island was able to secure funds from Charleston County to build the Station 16 Nature Trail (pictured). More information on Greenbelt Funding can be obtained from [www.charlestoncounty.org](http://www.charlestoncounty.org).

Station 16 – Nature Trail, Sullivan's Island

### Regional Funding

Berkeley Charleston Dorchester Council of Governments (BCDCOG) – BCDCOG is one of ten regional planning councils in South Carolina. BCDCOG primarily assists local governments develop local and regional plans within the tri-county region,

as well as providing local governments with planning and technical support to improve the quality of life in the region. Funding opportunities exist through partnerships with BCDCOG in grants. More information can be located at [www.bcdcoq.com](http://www.bcdcoq.com).

Charleston Area Transportation Study (CHATS) - CHATS exists as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the urbanized areas of Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties. Funding opportunities exist through:

- Guideshare Funding – Federal dollars used for transportation improvements
- Transportation Alternatives – Federal dollars used to help fund bicycle and pedestrian projects



More information regarding CHATS can be found at [www.bcdcoq.com/transportation-planning/](http://www.bcdcoq.com/transportation-planning/).

### **State Funding**

Coastal Access Improvement Grants – The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Controls (DHEC) Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) division offers opportunities to improve ADA accessibility to beach access points. These are pass-through Federal funds that are managed by the OCRM division. Sullivan's Island was awarded funding for Station 29 (pictured) beach access improvements in 2015. More information regarding funding opportunities can be located at

<http://www.scdhec.gov/HomeAndEnvironment/Water/CoastalManagement/>.

Image: Station 29 Sullivan's Island

South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (SCPRT) – SCPRT offers opportunities to local jurisdictions through a Parks and Recreation Development Fund (PARD). PARD is State funding that can be used for the development for new park and recreation trails or facilities, or an enhancement of existing facilities. The Town has used PARD grants for projects ranging from historic bandstand renovation to beach access boardwalk enhancements. More information can be found at [www.scprt.com](http://www.scprt.com).

South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority – The State offers a Basic Infrastructure Grant Program, which helps to offset infrastructure projects such as

drainage repair or enhancements. More information can be obtained from <https://www.ria.sc.gov/>.

Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) – MASC is a non-profit organization that offers funding to participating members. The money can be used for safety related items such as police protective gear or safety cones. More information regarding MASC and the opportunities can be viewed from [www.masc.sc](http://www.masc.sc).

South Carolina Forestry Commission – The South Carolina Forestry Commission offers an Urban/Community Forestry Grant to local jurisdictions. The grant can be used to improve Geographical Information System (GIS) studies, tree surveys, and environmental protection projects. More information regarding the grant can be located at [www.state.sc.us/forest](http://www.state.sc.us/forest).

### **Federal Funding**

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant (HMP) – FEMA helps communities declare disaster relief and provides guidance with hazard mitigation measures in an effort to get communities back on track after major events. FEMA also helps individual property owners with elevating of noncompliant/non-elevated homes to protect against flooding. In the unfortunate event of a natural disaster, FEMA will have opportunities for the Town to receive federal funds. More information can be found at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

US Army Corps (USACE) – Opportunities exist that could help fund beach re-nourishment projects. Folly Beach recently received \$10 million dollars to re-nourish the beach, which will place approximately 750,000 cubic yards of material along 2.5 miles of the east side of the beach. The project was funded with emergency management money from Hurricanes Matthew and Irma. Please visit [www.usace.army.mil](http://www.usace.army.mil) for more information.

Recreation Trails Program (RTP) - Federal funding that is administered through the State of South Carolina's Parks, Recreation and Tourism (SCPRT) Department. The funds can be used for parks or vehicular/multi-modal trails. More information on the RTP program can be found at [www.scpert.com](http://www.scpert.com).

### **Coordination**

To achieve the goals of this Comprehensive Plan Element, the Town of Sullivan's Island should facilitate communication between public service and infrastructure providers. The Town of Sullivan's Island's Planning Staff should provide written notification to relevant jurisdictions and public service authorities to coordinate the municipal approval of significant project proposals including emergency and wastewater services. The purpose of this notification process is to increase government efficiency and remove avoidable duplication of tasks.

The Town of Sullivan's Island's Planning Staff should facilitate a yearly review of service planning coordination with representatives from utility providers, school districts, SCDOT, SCE&G, CARTA and other entities. This meeting will facilitate an increased level of dialogue, reduce administrative overlap and ultimately increase efficiency throughout all levels of the municipal approval structure. The Town continues to work in conjunction with Charleston County to provide a 911-consolidated dispatch program to serve the residents and visitors of the Island.

Sullivan's Island continues to evaluate its current essential services for maximum efficiency and value to the residents: garbage collection, water and wastewater treatment, fire suppression and law enforcement. All services remain a function of Town services with individual departments and staff with one exception, waste collection. Council deemed the most economical way to provide residential garbage collection is by contracting these services with a garbage collection vendor. Town Council and Staff will continue seeking opportunities to serve on regional and statewide boards to improve Town services.

The Mayor and Council members serve on agency boards providing regional services: CARTA, CHATS, and BCDCOG. Sullivan's Island and neighboring coastal communities, like Folly Beach and Isle of Palms, hold annual mayor/administrator meetings to discuss and strategize shared solutions to mutually-shared issues unique to area coastal communities.

Town Staff are members of regional and statewide industry related groups, such as SC City County Manager's Association and various affiliate groups with the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC).

## Transportation Improvements

The Town of Sullivan's Island, through coordination with Charleston County and SCDOT, should continually review and analyze existing and alternative funding sources for transportation infrastructure improvements. The municipal boundaries of the Town of Sullivan's Island, Isle of Palms, and the Town of Mt. Pleasant are closely tied and thus further necessitating the need for inter-governmental coordination across municipal boundaries.

The Town of Sullivan's Island is also a member of the Charleston Area Transportation Study (CHATS) and participated in the composition of the CHATS Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Region, in order to prioritize regionally significant transportation projects. The CHATS LRTP schedules road construction and enhancement projects with subsequent funding sources. Scheduled transportation projects with corresponding funding sources are identified on the region's Transportation Improvements Program (TIP). Federal funds for transportation infrastructure improvements are channeled through CHATS.