



The Town of Hilton Head Island  
**Regular Public Facilities Committee Meeting**

**May 3, 2011**

**2:00 p.m. – Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers**

**AGENDA**

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**As a Courtesy to Others Please Turn Off All Cell Phones and Pagers during the Meeting**

- **Call to Order**
- **Freedom of Information Act Compliance**  
Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and mailed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.
- **Committee Business**
  1. Approval of Minutes
    - March 1, 2011
- **Unfinished Business**
- **New Business**
  - Presentation by the Binyah Foundation on establishing a Marine Division within the Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority (LRTA)
- **Adjournment**

**Please note that a quorum of Town Council may result if four (4) or more of Town Council members attend this meeting.**

1 **TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND**  
2 **PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

3  
4 Date: March 1, 2011

Time: 2:00 P.M.

5  
6 Members Present: Kim Likins, George Williams, Bill Harkins

7  
8 Members Absent: None

9  
10 Staff Present: Scott Liggett, Charles Cousins, Jill Foster, Brian Hulbert, Susan  
11 Simmons, Cary Gaffney

12  
13 Others Present: Bill Ferguson, Ken Heitzke, Councilmen, Cary Kelly, *Community*  
14 *Services Associates, Inc.*

15  
16 Media Present: Tom Barton, *The Island Packet*  
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18  
19  
20 **1. Call to Order.**

21 The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M.

22 **2. FOIA Compliance:**

23 Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted and mailed in  
24 compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head  
25 Island requirements.

26 **3. Committee Business:**

27 **1. Approval of Minutes:**

28 Councilman Williams moved to approve the Minutes of January 4, 2011.

29 Councilman Harkins seconded. The Minutes of January 4, 2011 were unanimously  
30 approved.

31  
32 **4. Unfinished Business:** None

33  
34 **5. New Business**

35 **• Request for Funding Assistance from CSA for Dredging Related Study**

36 Councilman Williams moved for approval. Councilman Harkins seconded for  
37 discussion purposes. Councilman Williams stated that the group, through CSA  
38 leadership, has been working diligently for the last year to try to find a way to  
39 expedite the dredging. The existing permit that is held is unworkable due to  
40 environmental constraints. Therefore, the Committee has been working through a  
41 Community Task Force to try and come up with a different type of methodology,  
42 one of them being using the Calibogue Cay Spoil site. There are difficulties with  
43 that as it is my understanding that each individual property owner on Calibogue Cay  
44 has an undivided interest in that particular site and such requires a 100% okay to  
45 use it for any other thing than Calibogue Cay. At this point the agreement for use  
46 of that particular site has not been forthcoming.  
47

48 It is my understanding that subsequent from this request from CSA, the community  
49 has come forward through various methods to partially fund these particular studies.  
50 It comes to mind that the Town, as one of our goals, has committed to developing a  
51 particular step in helping make this particular project, i.e., the dredging of the Sea  
52 Pines waterways happen. It is my suggestion, therefore, that we take the  
53 \$25,000.00 with the concept of reviewing all of the data from the previous dredges  
54 through the existing permit plus what the community has worked on in the last year.  
55 The Town needs to get an independent review to see from our perspective if  
56 anything is missing or if more action needs to be taken by whomever in order for  
57 the Town to be comfortable with the concept of going forward once we have the  
58 material to review. It is obvious to be that the Town is going to have to take some  
59 kind of leadership role on an ongoing basis for dredging our waterways within the  
60 Town and I think this is a good first step to use this money and take a look at what's  
61 there, what isn't there in order for us to try and address any and all environmental  
62 concerns.

63  
64 Chairman Likins asked Councilman Williams if his recommendation is really that  
65 we hire an independent consultant rather than using the Sea Pine Waterways Task  
66 Force and that we also use the independent consultant to basically compile and  
67 validate all the information that has been gathered to this point to make a  
68 recommendation to move forward rather than take on these specific studies that we  
69 have listed in here. Councilman Williams stated that is correct.

70  
71 Councilman Harkins asked who would be the client. Councilman Williams advised  
72 that the Town would be the client.

73  
74 Chairman Likins stated that at the Strategic Planning Session one of the things we  
75 discussed was that this needed to be a long term solution and that we don't need to  
76 keep coming back every five years to refigure out what the game plan is. It sounds  
77 like that your recommendation, Councilman Williams, is going to allow us to work  
78 holistically at all of the options including the open water disposal vs. if we fund this  
79 we are primarily looking at land disposal at two particular sites. At the end of the  
80 day if that doesn't work out then we spend a lot of money on two options that  
81 maybe won't work out.

82  
83 Councilman Harkins stated he supports this and would move in the direction that  
84 Councilman Williams had advanced. Chairman Likins asked if there was anyone in  
85 the audience that would like to comment. Councilman Ferguson asked if this was  
86 the \$25,000 that Town Council ear marked for all of the marinas, both private and  
87 public on the Island about a year or so ago. Councilman Williams said that was  
88 correct. Councilman Ferguson asked if this included the other marinas on Island or  
89 is it exclusively for Sea Pines. Councilman Ferguson stated that Council had  
90 agreed that we would take that \$25,000 and put it toward all of the marinas, both  
91 public and private across the Island. I don't know how we can go back on  
92 something that Council had already ear marked these funds for and use it for  
93 something else. Councilman Harkins said he would recommend that our authority  
94 level here is of course a recommendation and we may choose to recommend to  
95 Council that if this were directed to the entire Island we might consider channeling  
96 funds for this project since it is a priority and if anything is left over, continue with  
97 the main thought that this be available throughout the Island. Councilman Ferguson

98 asked what we do with the intent that Council had in mind then for the rest of the  
99 marinas on the Island.

100  
101 Councilman Williams amended his previous motion and moved that the Public  
102 Facilities Committee recommend to Town Council that we deny the funding request  
103 of CSA for the dredging related studies and then go forward with the  
104 recommendation to fund the independent study for the Town's future participation  
105 in the dredging. (This motion was not voted on and was replaced with a motion  
106 from Councilman Harkins below.)

107  
108 Councilman Harkins moved that we consider denying the funding assistance to  
109 CSA for the dredging related study. Councilman Williams seconded. The motion  
110 passed unanimously.

111  
112 Scott Liggett, Director of Public Projects and Facilities advised the Committee that  
113 when discussion ensued during the budget hearings last year, the monies that were  
114 allocated were not necessarily restricted only to the south end, but rather as the need  
115 presented itself. Theoretically the funds could be used to examine other areas. I am  
116 not aware of any areas that are in need or at least have moved far enough along such  
117 that any of our work is required. My recollection would be that the monies were  
118 not restricted and I don't view us as having an obligation to necessarily spend those  
119 monies island wide uniformly or not.

120  
121 Chairman Likins moved the Public Facilities Committee recommend to Town  
122 Council the funds that have been allocated be used to hire an independent  
123 consultant that will help gather all of the information and validate it concerning the  
124 current situation and directions available for the dredging in the Sea Pines  
125 waterways. Councilman Harkins seconded the motion. The motion passed  
126 unanimously.

127  
128 **6. Adjournment:**

129 Councilman Williams moved to adjourn. Councilman Harkins seconded the  
130 motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

131  
132 Respectfully Submitted,

133  
134  
135  
136 \_\_\_\_\_  
137 **Karen D. Knox**  
138 **Senior Administrative Assistant**

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

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CLERK TO COUNCIL

March 29, 2011

Mrs. Jenny Carter, Chairman  
Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority  
8328 Coosaw Scenic Drive  
Ridgeland, SC 29936

RE: Establishing a Marine Division within LRTA

Dear Chairman Carter:

On behalf of Beaufort County Council, I am writing to ask the Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority to provide the County with a proposal regarding the establishment of a marine division within LRTA. County Council also requests that your board examine the feasibility of creating a regional marine division, explore regional ferry service, and identify what resources may be necessary to create the division.

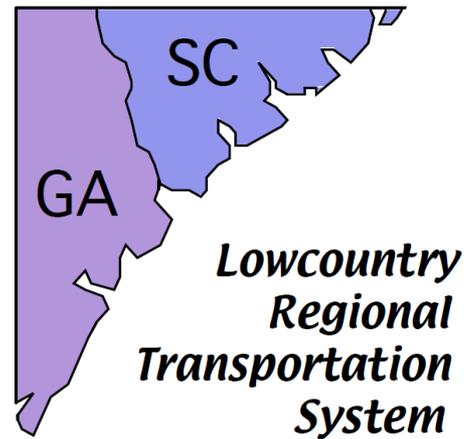
The Community Services Committee, chaired by Councilman William McBride, has been assigned this project. Committee discussion of this project occurred March 21, 2011, which resulted in a recommendation to Council to seek the aid of LRTA moving forward.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



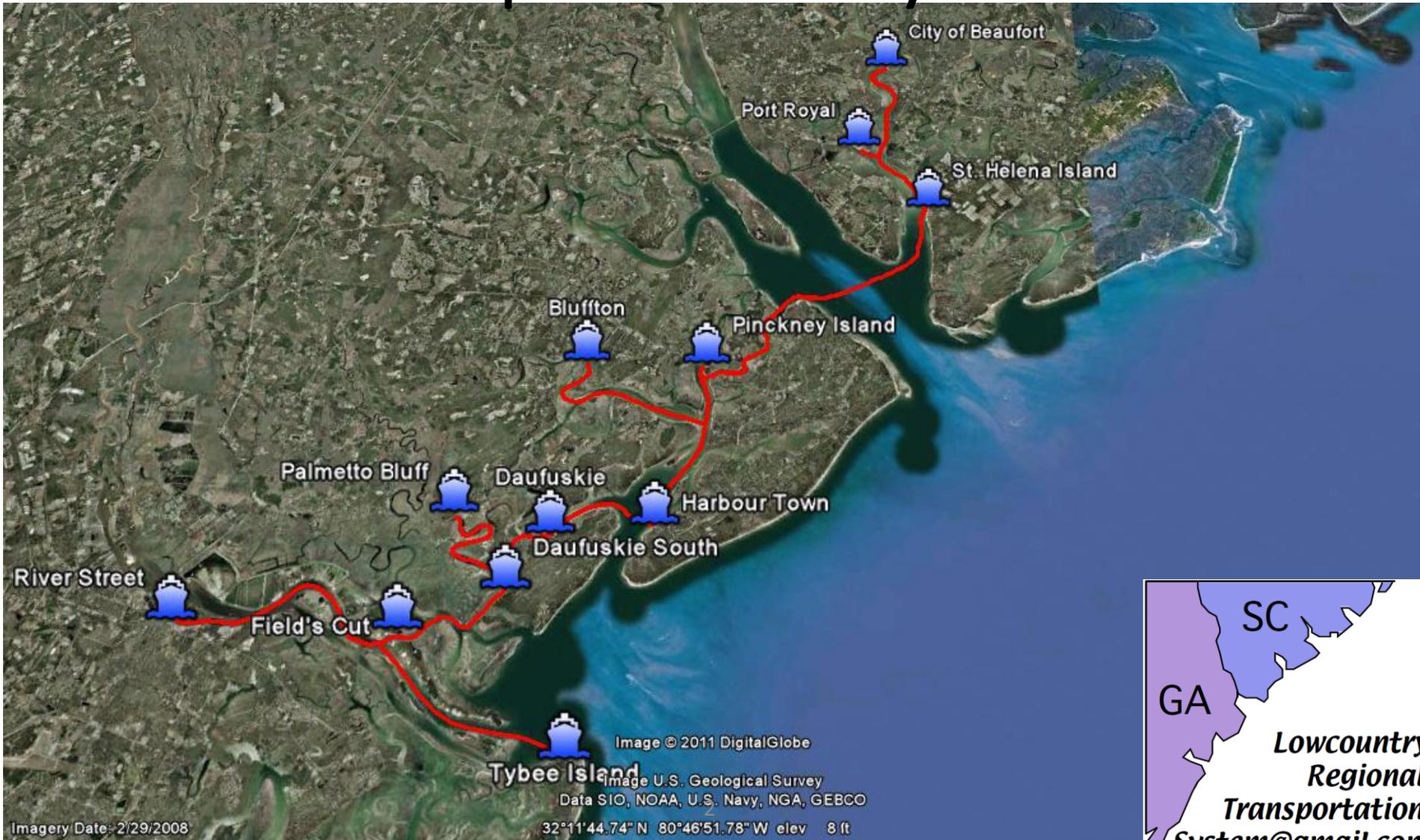
Wm. Weston J. Newton  
Chairman



# A Lowcountry Regional Economic Development Opportunity

Creating a System that Links  
Communities, Destinations and  
Tourism Centers

# Lowcountry Regional Transportation System



# County Stakeholders

- Beaufort County
- Jasper County
- Allendale County
- Hampton County
- Colleton County
- Chatham County
- Effingham County
- Bryan County
- Liberty County

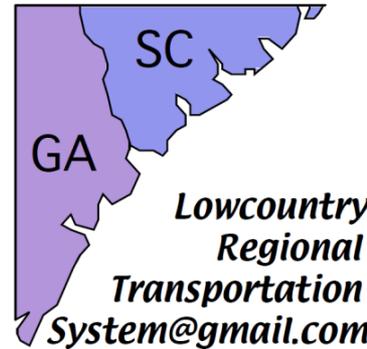


# Local Key Stakeholders

- Savannah
- Tybee Island
- CORE MPO Members
- Hilton Head Island
- Town of Bluffton
- City of Beaufort
- Hardeeville
- Ridgeland
- Port Royal
- Daufuskie Island
- St. Helena Island
- Savannah River COG
- Savannah CVB
- Georgia DOT
- CAT/LRTA
- Chambers of Commerce
- SC DOT
- LCOG
- SC PRT
- Gullah Geechee Corridor

# Existing and Potential Landings

- City of Savannah – River Street
- Chatham County – Hutchinson Island
- Tybee Island
- Beaufort County – Pinckney Island, Daufuskie, St. Helena's
- Hilton Head Island – Harbour Town
- City of Beaufort – City Marina
- Town of Bluffton
- Jasper County – Field's Cut

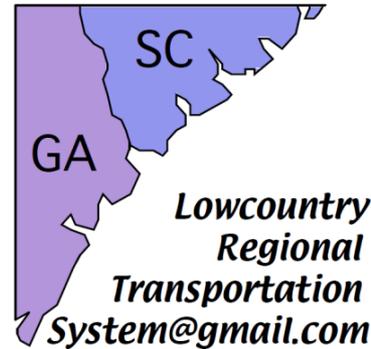


# Conceptual Terminal

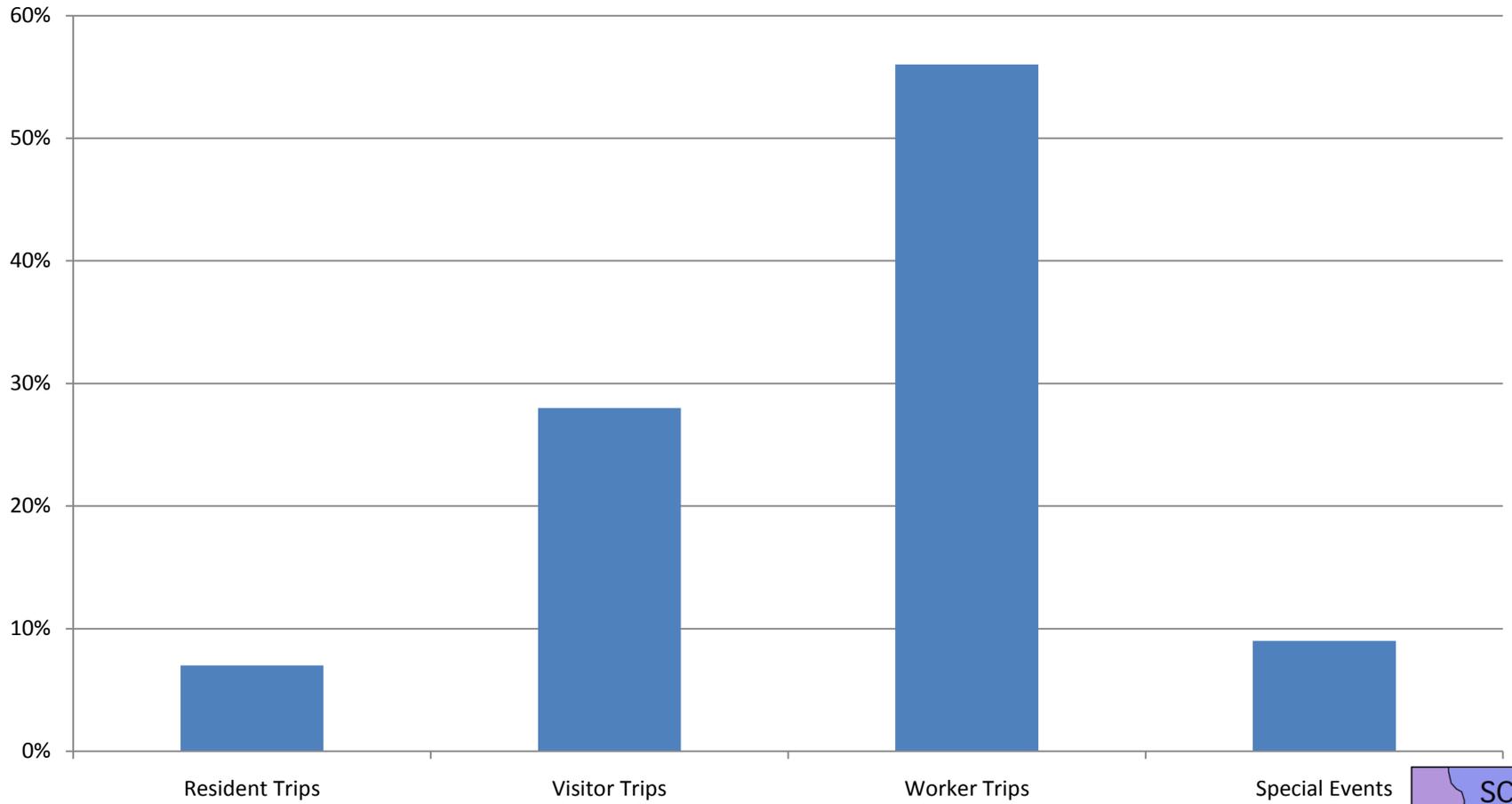


# Conceptual Schedule

- Early morning runs to accommodate workforce
- Mid-day runs for tourists, shoppers and locals
- Late afternoon runs for returning workforce
- Late evening runs for tourist-related businesses

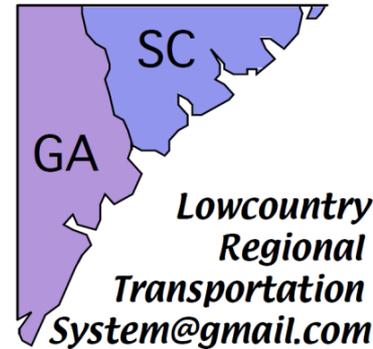


# Anticipated Ridership Breakdown



# Projected Ridership

- 2005 study projects 1.6 million one-way passengers annually for a regional system
- Projections were based upon surveys performed during the course of the 2005 study commissioned by CAT
- Daufuskie ferries have historically transported more than 600,000 one-way passengers in a year



# Benefits

- Creates new transportation hubs that will stimulate economic growth
- Creates Jobs Regionally
- Alleviates road congestion
- Socio-Economic Development
- Interconnects Existing Transit Systems



# Job Creation

- Employment within the Transportation System
- Hospitality Industry-Related Businesses
- Individual Transportation/Rental Agencies
- Construction Industry-Related Businesses
- Professional Support Businesses

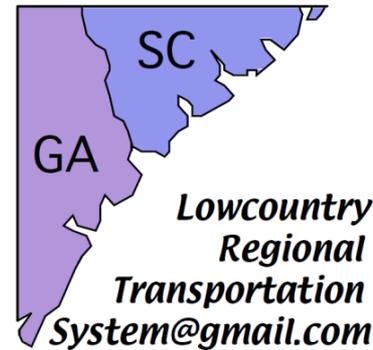
# Tourism Economics

- Savannah Tourism Expenditures
  - 6,130,000 overnight visitors in 2009
  - \$1.63 billion in expenditures
  - 2.2 day average length of stay
- HHI Tourism Expenditures
  - 2,016,000 overnight visitors in 2008
  - \$1.4 billion in expenditures
  - 5.2 day average length of stay
- Real Estate Implications



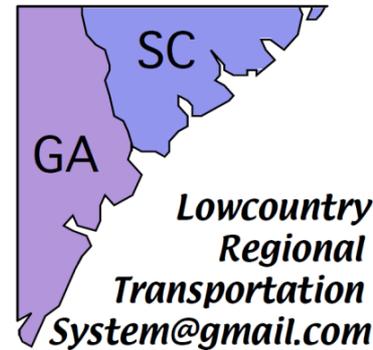
# Lowcountry Regional Stimulus Plan

- \$26 million in tourism revenue annually for Savannah
- \$28 million in tourism revenue annually for Hilton Head



# Lowcountry Regional Stimulus Plan

- **\$2+ billion** in economic activity added to regional economy solely in new construction
- \$40 million in additional property tax revenue annually for Beaufort County

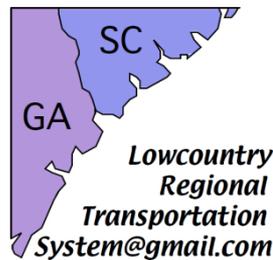


# Potential Funding and Revenue Sources

- Daily ticket revenue
- Monthly and annual ticket sales
- Pre-paid bulk ticket purchases
- Ferry tax improvement districts
- Municipal, County and Federal contributions
- Georgia & South Carolina DOT contributions
- Other grant opportunities
- Advertising opportunities
- Potential developer contributions
- Private Sector Investment Opportunities

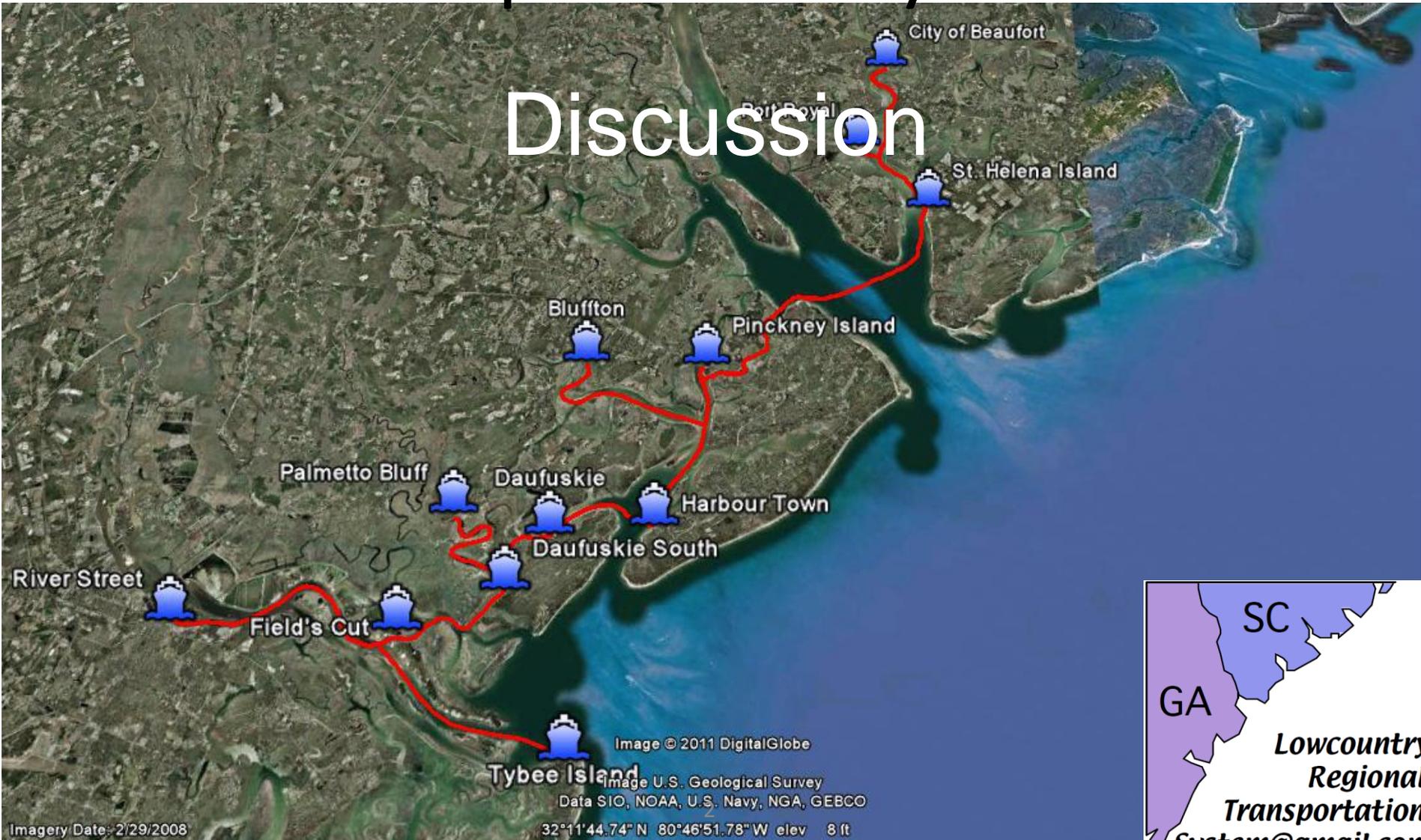
# Getting Started

- Get Involved!
- Establish the political will to support this effort
- Empower transportation Authorities to collaborate on this effort
- Create a regional ferry task force
- Publicly state scope of effort, goals and timelines to encourage accountability
- Identify public and private opportunities
- Solidify public and private funding sources



# Lowcountry Regional Transportation System

## Discussion



# St Helena Island, SC - Savannah, GA



Prepared by  
Beaufort County  
GIS Division

Generated March 29, 2011

