



Section 1 – Introduction

URS Corporation was hired by the City of Easley to perform a transit feasibility study. The intent of the study was to determine the City's potential for a transit system and to help the City gauge the short and long-term benefits and demands for a City-wide system. The City of Easley was interested in assessing the feasibility of trips within the community, between Easley and other portions of Pickens County and to Greenville.

The unprecedented growth in the Upstate of South Carolina for the last 15 to 20 years has resulted in overcrowded roads and violations of the Federal government's air quality standards. Those issues, coupled with high gas prices and limited highway funding, make public transportation the best option for meeting the mobility needs of Upstate residents. The need for transportation for medical appointments, shopping, work and entertainment continues to grow, especially for an aging population. The purpose of this study is to determine if a public transportation system can be tailored to meet the specific transportation needs of the Easley community and its residents. In order to determine the feasibility of public transit for the City of Easley, the following questions need to be answered:

- Does the Easley community need public transportation?
- Will the residents in Easley support public transportation?
- What would the system look like?
- How will the transit system be funded?
- How and when will the transit system be implemented?

In order to answer these questions, URS Corporation identified the following major tasks for the feasibility study:

- Task 1: Identify Community Goals and Objectives
- Task 2: Needs Analysis and Feasibility
- Task 3: Develop and Evaluate Alternatives
- Task 4: Transit Development Plan

Each of these tasks, and the associated subtasks, was very important to the overall success of the feasibility study process. The study process and the major tasks will be further discussed in Section 2 of the report.

Public Participation

As with any planning process, public participation is a key element and vital to the successful completion of the study. Residents, business owners and public officials were invited to work interactively throughout the study to shape the recommended transit system. The approach to public participation was comprehensive and diverse to maximize participation. The public involvement process utilized a variety of techniques



for engaging and informing the public including surveys, meetings, flyers and the print and cable media. In addition to these techniques, a Transportation Committee was employed to provide overall guidance to the process. The Transportation Committee was made up of public officials, City department heads, concerned citizens, business leaders and SCDOT staff members. As a result of the outreach program, significant input was received for the study.

In addition to several Transportation Committee meetings and a transit workshop, the following public meetings were conducted throughout the study:

Meeting Date	Type of Meeting	Location	# of Participants
May 8, 2007	General Public	Hampton Library	13
May 24, 2007	Easley Lions Club	Hampton Library	22
June 7, 2007	General Public	LEC Courtroom	27
July 31, 2007	Easley Rotary Club	West End Hall	50
August 7, 2007	General Public	Hampton Library	35

Report Organization

The remainder of the report is organized as follows:

- Section 2 – Study Overview and Goals
- Section 3 – Key Issues and Current Conditions
- Section 4 – Public Transit Needs Assessment
- Section 5 – Service Options and Recommendations
- Section 6 – Implementation and Financial Plan
- Appendices