



NAEP 2026 National Conference

# **Starting Strong - The Importance of Purpose and Need**

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# Purpose & Need

- Specific
- Comprehensive
- Data driven



# Purpose Statement Examples

## Audience Participation

- Replace the functionally obsolete and structurally deficient bridge
  - Good. Its specific, and focused on maintaining existing infrastructure, but some agencies may want to broaden purpose to “maintaining access across [water, railroad, road]”
- Improve safety by installing a roundabout
  - Safety is important, but this is too specific as it does not allow for alternatives to be considered
- Improve the traffic flow, reduce travel delays, and increase the LOS along corridor
  - Good. Its data based, transportation focused, leaves room for alternatives, and can show improvement once constructed
- Accommodate increased traffic that would be generated by Economic Development/Industrial Site
  - Can be used, but with caution

# Project 1 – I-95 at US 301 Interchange Improvement



- Partial access interchange
- Lack of connection between US 301 and SC 6
- Rapid growth and development
- Industrial sites proposed - Land already purchased and zoned

Google Earth Image (11/2013)

# Evolution of P&N

- Environmental Assessment P&N:
  - Accommodate increased traffic that would be generated by the Industrial Site
  - Improve efficiency of intermodal freight by providing relief to the expanding Port of Charleston
  - Accomplish completion of an existing interchange with construction of a fourth leg
  - Provide connection of US 301 to SC 6
- Individual Permit Concerns:
  - Since the P&N directly called out the specific Industrial Site, USACE wanted to tie the two projects together into one permit
  - Tying the permits together would cause scheduling concerns and make DOT liable for construction compliance issues on the Industrial Site
- Solution:
  - Permit focused independent utility of the completion of the interchange and connection of US 301 to SC 6

# Construction to Present Day



2015 Roadway Construction  
Google Earth Image (10/2015)

2021 Industrial Construction  
Google Earth Image (12/2021)

Present Day  
Google Earth Image (10/2024)

# Project 2 – I-20 at Calks Ferry Road Interchange



- 6.7 miles between existing interchanges
- Existing overpass at Calks Ferry Road and Old Charleston Road
- Heavy congestion at Longs Pond Road Interchange (Exit 51)
- Growing area – transitioning from rural to suburban

Google Earth Image (11/2025)

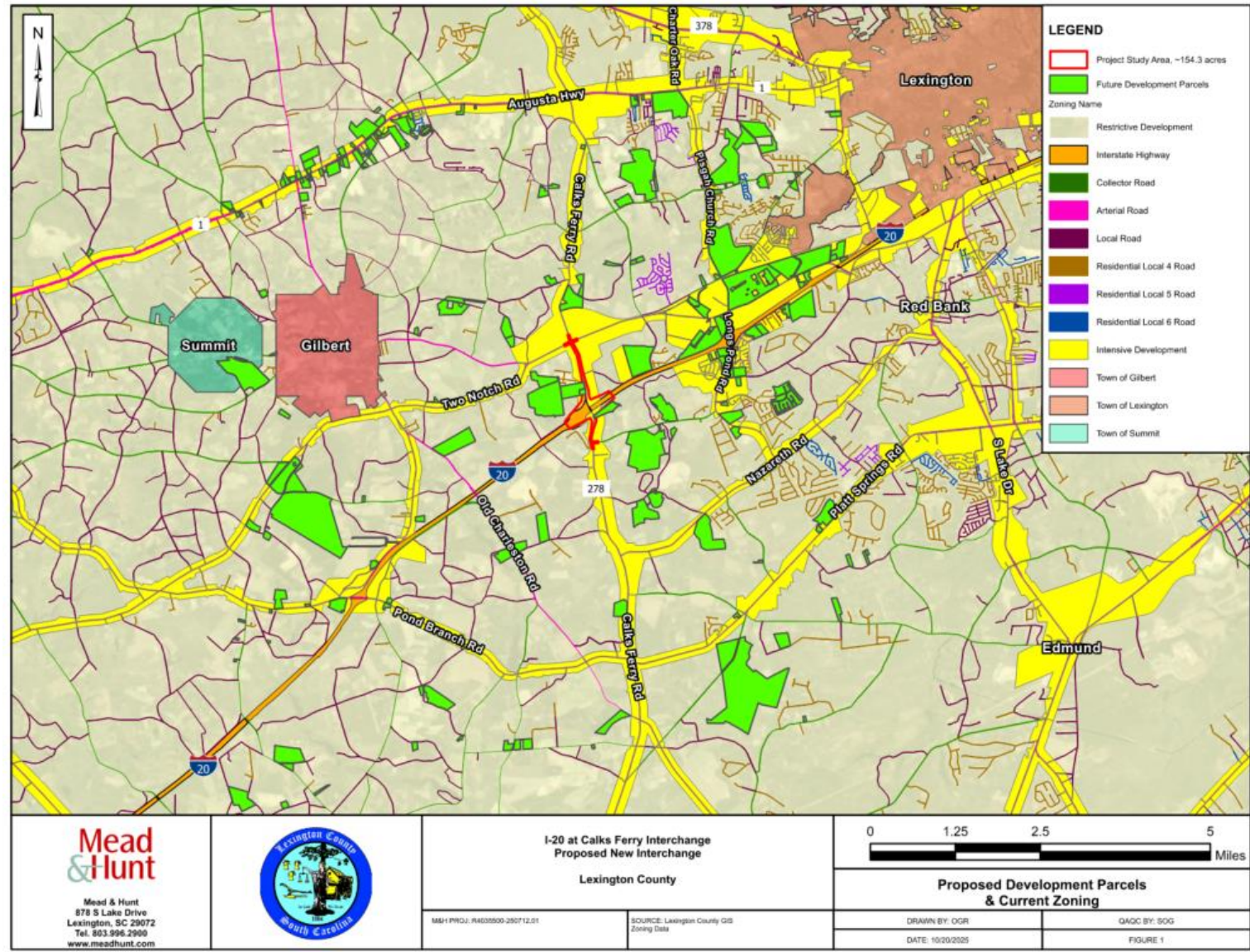
# Evolution of P&N

- Planning Document P&N:
  - Relieve congestion at Longs Pond Road Interchange (Exit 51)
- Environmental Assessment Concerns:
  - Traffic models show less congestion reduction than anticipated
    - ~6% reduction with interchange at Old Charleston Road
    - ~16% reduction with interchange at Calks Ferry Road
- Solution:
  - Reassessed P&N based on:
    - County and Town population growth
    - Town's annexation plans
    - Existing County zoning designations
    - Pending and approved building permits

# Environmental Assessment Purpose

The purpose of this project is to improve the system linkage of I-20 to the western portion of the Town and County to alleviate existing and forecasted congestion resulting from development and intensive zoning in the project vicinity.

Another desirable outcome of the proposed project is to reduce the existing and forecasted congestion at I-20 at Longs Pond Road (Exit 51).



## Summary

- Be specific, but not too specific
- Verify data supports the proposed P&N
- Use caution with tying P&N to components outside of the project's control
- Collaborate with other disciplines
- Consider the “bigger picture”
- Begin with the end in mind



# Questions?

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