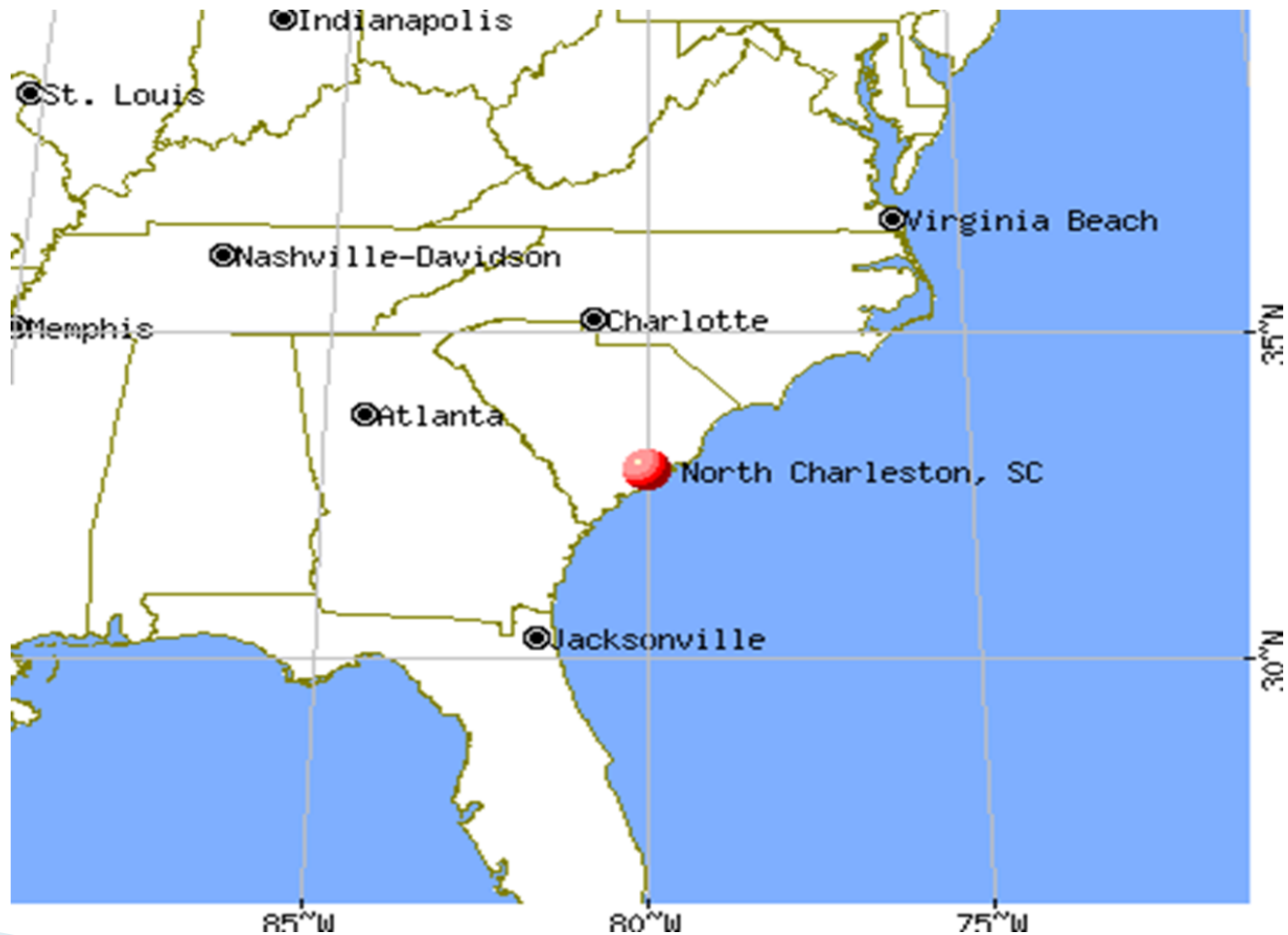


Using Social Impact Assessments to Create Opportunities for Communities



Wannetta Mallette
February 12, 2016

PROJECT LOCATION



PROJECT BACKGROUND



- ▶ SC State Ports Authority (SCSPA) DEIS to build a \$700 million, 286-acre new port terminal and \$300 million port access road
 - Increase capacity by 1.4 million TEUs
 - At full build-out, the facility would have 3,500 ft. of berth, 13 cranes, 202 acres of container storage space
 - Only permitted new marine terminal construction project on the U.S. East Coast



SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT BASIS

▶ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- When required by NEPA, Federal agencies must analyze the environmental, health, economic and social impacts of its activities on minority and low-income populations
- Each Federal agency shall provide opportunities for community input, including identifying potential impacts and mitigation measures

▶ Executive Order #12898

- Ensures that environmental justice populations are not exposed to unjustly high and adverse environmental impacts as a result of federal actions

▶ SCSPA Conditional Permit

- Corps issues conditional permit based on public comments that DEIS did not fully evaluate all environmental impacts



SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

1. Goal – maximize positive community benefits and minimize negative environmental impacts
 - Commitment to go beyond traditional environmental mitigation and assess impacts to the “human environment”
2. Comprehensive review of Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
3. Extensive community engagement and education program to identify social impacts and viable mitigation measures



SOCIOECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Selected Characteristics	NC Community Study Area		Charleston County		Region	
	Population	% Change	Population	% of Total	Population	% of Total
Population Trends	27,648	-33.8%	309,969	25.2%	549,033	63.3%
Total Minority	20,382	73.7%	121,427	39.2%	196,921	35.9%
Poverty Levels	9,028	34.1%	41,832	13.5%	67,270	12.3%
HS Graduate	4,998	30.3%	45,752	22.9%	93,479	29.0%
Median Income	\$21,134		\$37,810		\$40,345	

✓ **Environmental Justice** threshold met for block groups where the minority or low-income population equals or exceeds 50% of the population for that block group.

Source: US Census Bureau, Census 2000/US Army Corps FEIS 2006 FEIS



IMPACT SCREENING CRITERIA

Direct



Cumulative



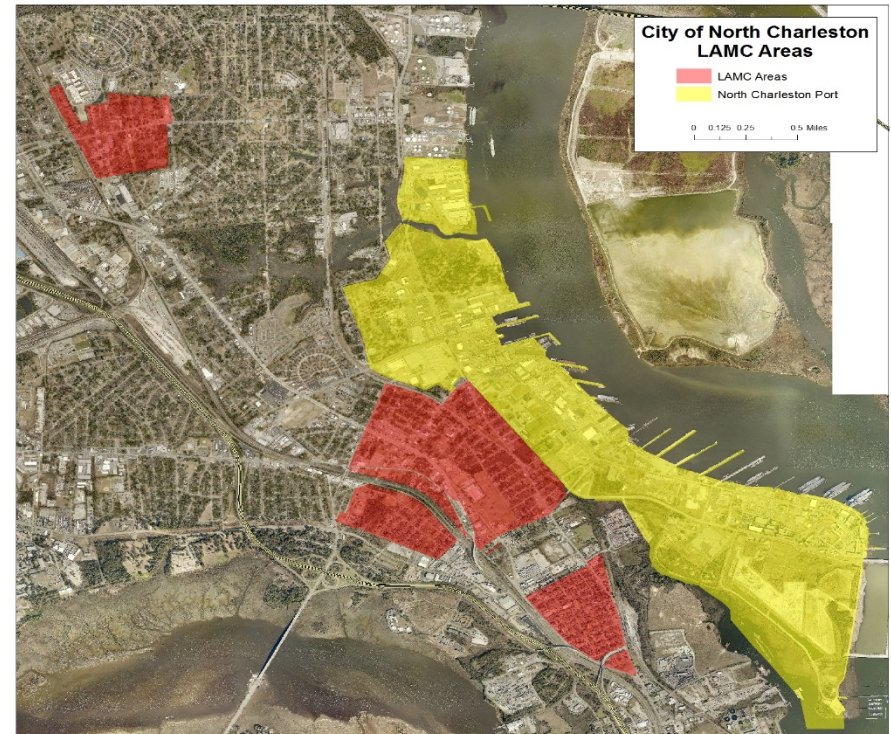
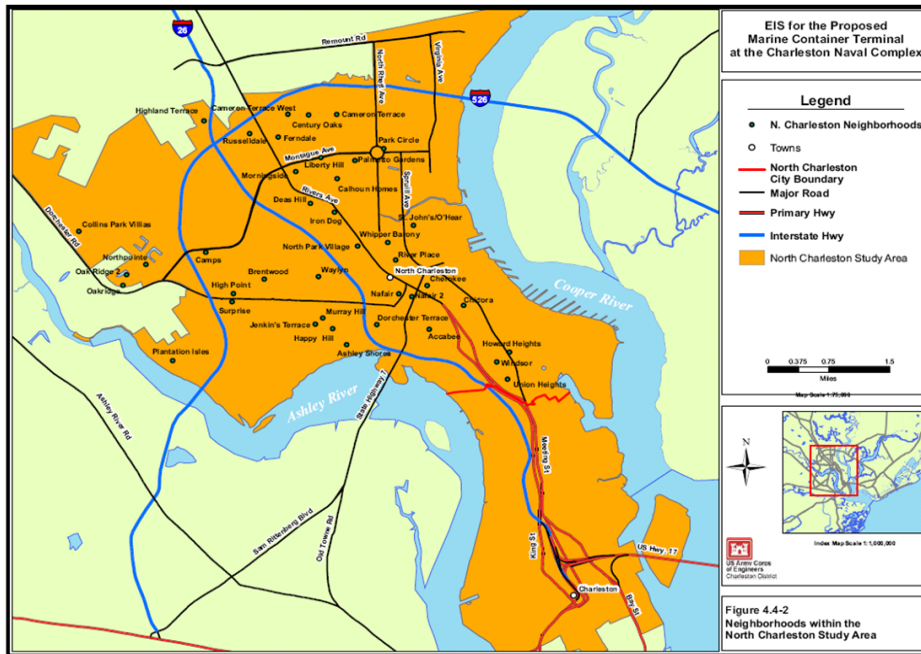
Indirect



Public Interest Factors



COMMUNITY IMPACT AREAS



SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SNAPSHOT

Project Impacts	Direct, Indirect Cumulative and Social Impacts	Proposed Remedies
Property Acquisition and Rezoning	Tax and Property Value Losses	Establishment of an affordable housing trust to replenish housing stock with new, affordable, energy efficient housing
Environmental	Noise, CO ₂ and PM _{2.5} emissions, vibration, light pollution, truck traffic, train horns, etc.	Air and vibration monitoring, quiet zones, truck study, limited construction hours
Economic Development	Job and Business Opportunities	Development of a Maritime Training Institute, DBE/MBE assistance programs



COMMUNITY MITIGATION PLAN



Item	Funding
Housing Trust	\$ 1,000,000
Environmental Monitoring	\$ 100,000
Education	\$ 250,000
Maritime Training Institute	\$ 600,000
Redevelopment Plan	\$ 600,000
Small Business Development	\$ 350,000
Health Care	\$ 500,000
Community Amenities	\$ 300,000
Contingency (20%)	<u>\$ 680,000</u>
Total	\$ 4,080,000



SCSPA MITIGATION PLAN SUMMARY

PROJECT	AMOUNT
Tidal Marsh Creation on Drum Island	\$ 1,500,000
Oyster Reef Restoration and Enhancement	\$ 1,000,000
Land Preservation – Morris Island	\$ 1,000,000
Land Preservation – Cooper River	\$ 1,000,000
Freshwater Wetlands – Credits	<u>\$ 67,000</u>
Total Environmental	\$ 4,567,000
Clemson Restoration Institute	\$ 975,000
Community Programming	<u>\$ 4,080,000</u>
Total Community	\$ 5,155,000
Right Whale Harm Avoidance – Section 7	\$ 1,000,000
Marsh Creation – Section 7	<u>\$ 1,500,000</u>
Total Mitigation	\$12,122,000



COMMUNITY MITIGATION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- ▶ Tri-party agreements created between SCSPA, City and Community
 - Allows community fiduciary and administrative control
 - City of North Charleston provides project management and technical assistance
- ▶ Mitigation Agreement Commission established to oversee Community Mitigation Plan implementation
- ▶ Payment Schedule
 - Upon issuance of Federal and State permits for terminal construction - \$750,000 paid to City c/o designated community group
 - Annual payments of \$300,000 during active construction of the project
 - Remaining balance will be paid upon new terminal dedication and opening



PROJECT OUTCOMES

- ▶ National, State and Local recognition
- ▶ Leveraged over \$3 million in matching grant funding
- ▶ Social impact assessment now serves as a model for all NEPA projects within the region



EPA Environmental Justice Achievement Award Recipient



FOR MORE INFORMATION



Wannetta Mallette

800.906.9189

www.malletteconsulting.com

