



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

Monday, March 12, 2012

10:00 a.m.

Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers

AGENDA

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

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. 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.
- 3. Committee Business**
- 4. Unfinished Business**
- 5. New Business**
 - Town Position on the segment of Bluffton Parkway – Phase 5A including the bridges and interchange with US278
- 6. Adjournment**

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

Memo



To: Public Facilities Committee

Via: Stephen Riley, Town Manager
Scott Liggett, Dir. of PP&F / Chief Engineer

From: Jeff Buckalew, Town Engineer
Darrin Shoemaker, Transportation and Traffic Engineer

Subject: Town Position on the segment of Bluffton Parkway – Phase 5A including the bridges and interchange with US 278

Date: March 9, 2012

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Public Facilities Committee endorse Beaufort County's acceptance of \$15 million in federal match construction funds associated with the above referenced project and offered by SCDOT, as well as the implementation of this project when full construction funding is in place. Staff further recommends that the Committee forward their endorsement to Town Council for action.

Summary:

This proposed project will enhance traffic conveyance and reduce demand on US 278 on the mainland, especially within the segment from Moss Creek to Buckwalter Parkway. Projections of the County's consultant show that as much as thirty percent of the US 278 traffic volume demand will be diverted and will use the Bluffton Parkway if this segment is built. This connection will also provide an alternate route for emergency vehicles and for evacuations on the mainland after traversing the bridges. This construction can only help to advance the priority of the SCDOT to widen or replace the existing bridges to Hilton Head Island.

Rights of way and permits have been acquired, utilities have been relocated and several public meetings have been held on the project. The project is "shovel ready" with a \$15,000,000 grant currently available. Recommending against the construction now may not only result in the loss of substantial outside funding, but would be counter to a long-term cooperative effort with Beaufort County and SCDOT

to make improvements to the regional roadway network. The Town may wish to request the County make special consideration of the aesthetic elements of the project, such as landscaping and stamped concrete facades, to help it blend with the low country character and provide a gateway to Hilton Head Island which is mindful of the Island's character.

Background:

The project was first conceptualized in 2002 as part of the southern Beaufort County transportation study of the US 278 corridor by Wilbur Smith Associates. In 2005 the County hired Florence & Hutcheson to conduct a feasibility study on phases of the Bluffton Parkway. In 2006 the Transportation Sales Tax Referendum passed, including the Bluffton Parkway on the project list. In 2007 the County hired Florence & Hutcheson to design and permit Phase 5A of the Bluffton Parkway. Late in 2011, federal grants totaling \$15,000,000 were offered toward to the project by SCDOT.

Town Council has been involved in this project for over a decade. In October, 2002 a special Town Council (TC) meeting was held to review the Wilbur Smith Associates study of the US 278 corridor, but no action was taken. This was the first mention of the Bluffton Parkway extending to the bridges. In July, 2004 TC adopted a resolution endorsing the project list and placing a road project sales tax referendum on the November 2004 ballot. The referendum failed. In February, 2006 TC unanimously approved contributing \$400,000 for the feasibility study of the County's Bluffton Parkway Phase 5A and 5B project. In August, 2006 TC unanimously approved an endorsement placing the Transportation Sales Tax Referendum on the November, 2006 ballot. Bluffton Parkway Phase 5A/5B was number one on the list of projects.

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND

One Town Center Court, Hilton Head Island, S.C. 29928

(843) 341-4600 Fax (843) 842-7728

www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov

Drew A. Laughlin
Mayor

Kenneth S. Heitzke
Mayor ProTem

Council Members

Wm. Lee Edwards
Willie (Bill) Ferguson
William D. Harkins
Kimberly W. Likins
George W. Williams, Jr.

Stephen G. Riley
Town Manager

September 7, 2011

Mitchell Metts, P.E.
Director of Preconstruction
South Carolina Department of Transportation
955 Park Street
Columbia, Sc 29202

**RE: Letter of Support for Bluffton Parkway Phase 5A Phase II Extension
Beaufort County Application for FY 2012 Federal Match Program**

Dear Mr. Metts:

The Town of Hilton Head Island would like to offer our full support to the Beaufort County application for federal construction funds for the Bluffton Parkway Phase 5A Phase II Extension from Buckingham Plantation Drive to US 278 including flyover bridges at US 278. We believe this project is an excellent candidate for additional funding and are confident that SCDOT and Beaufort County will continue to work together to provide a transportation project the citizens of the Town of Hilton Head Island and Beaufort County can be proud of.

The extension of the Bluffton Parkway from Buckingham Plantation Drive to US 278 will improve traffic flow and safety along US 278. It is anticipated that future traffic along US 278 could be reduced by up to 30% and would provide a much improved alternative for hurricane evacuation. Both the Town and Beaufort County have a history of working collaboratively with the SCDOT on funding and constructing transportation improvements, and we are confident that this is an excellent opportunity to continue our combined success.

We anticipate the extension of the Bluffton Parkway Phase 5A Phase II will greatly benefit the safety and economic success of not only the Town of Hilton Head Island residents and visitors but also the Town of Bluffton, other Beaufort County residents, and the many visitors to our region. Our Town staff and officials have worked with the County on this project for several years now and are committed to pushing forward and working together to see this project finished.

Mitchell Metts, P.E.
Director of Preconstruction
South Carolina Department of Transportation
September 7, 2011
Page 2

**RE: Letter of Support for Bluffton Parkway Phase 5A Phase II Extension
Beaufort County Application for FY 2012 Federal Match Program**

Thank you in advance for your support and consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

Town of Hilton Head Island

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Drew Laughlin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

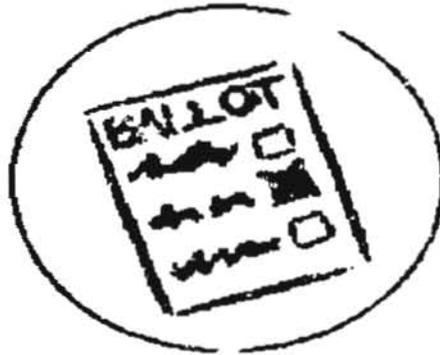
Drew Laughlin
Mayor

cc: Weston Newton, Chairman, Beaufort County Council
J. Craig Forrest, SCDOT Highway Commissioner, 2nd District
Mark Pleasant, SCDOT
Matt Lifsey, SCDOT Brent Rewis, SCDOT

August 1, 2006

New Business 11.e.

Consideration of a recommendation that Town Council for the Town of Hilton Head Island endorse placing the proposed Beaufort County Transportation Sales Tax Referendum on the November 2006 ballot.



Memo

To: Town Council
From: C. O. Hoelle, Jr., Deputy Town Manager/Director of Public Projects and Facilities
Via: Steve Riley, Town Manager
Date: 7/26/2006
Re: Proposed November 2006 Beaufort County Transportation Sales Tax Referendum for Transportation Projects

Recommendations: Staff recommends that Town Council endorse placing the proposed Beaufort County transportation sales tax referendum on the November 2006 ballot for consideration by the electorate.

Summary: A proposed sales tax referendum of ten (10) projects has been developed and approved on Second Reading by Beaufort County Council. Several of the projects are actually combinations of individual projects taken from both the Northern and Southern Beaufort County Capital Improvements (CIP) programs that have been developed through the cooperative efforts of staff from a variety of state, county, and municipal agencies. A brief PowerPoint™ presentation will be made by staff that summarizes the individual projects funded by the proposed referendum. The proposed referendum would impose an additional county-wide one-cent sales tax for a period not to exceed six years, and would generate a projected \$152 million dollars for the transportation projects included in the referendum. Projects within the Town included in the referendum are the resurfacing of William Hilton Parkway from Squire Pope Road to Sea Pines Circle in an amount of \$4.7 million, and a major improvement to the intersection of William Hilton Parkway with Squire Pope Road in an amount of \$2.1 million.

Background: State law permits the placement of sales tax referendums on the ballot in even-numbered years during November general elections. County Council is asking for the support of the municipalities in placing a referendum question before the voters prior to Third and Final Reading of the Referendum Ordinance. Because of timing constraints, this matter is being placed on the August 1st agenda without first going through Committee.

2006 SALES TAX REFERENDUM

Project Name	Southern Beaufort County Road CIP	Northern Beaufort County Road CIP	Project Limits	Estimated Cost	State & Federal Funding	Updated Road Impact Fees	Cost Funded from Sales Tax	Bonding, Contingency and Inflation (20%)	Total Budget from Sales Tax
1 Bluffon Parkway (US 278 Alt.) Phase 5. Construction and R/W	4		Buckwaller Pkwy to Mackays Creek	\$50,000,000	\$0	\$10,000,000	\$40,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$50,000,000
2 US 278 Improvements: P&E, Construction and R/W	8, 10, 18, 20, 24, 30		Sea Pines Circle to SC 170	\$33,700,000	\$8,100,000	\$2,900,000	\$22,700,000	\$4,540,000	\$27,240,000
3 SC 170 Widening: P&E, Construction and R/W	28, 29		Bluffon Pkwy to Tide Watch	\$12,400,000	\$0	\$7,500,000	\$4,900,000	\$980,000	\$5,880,000
4 US 17 Widening		2	US 21 to Colleton County Line	\$93,000,000	\$70,200,000	\$2,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$0	\$5,000,000
5 US 21 (Boundary Street) Improvements: Construction and R/W		4, 10, 11, 18	Broad River Blvd to Palmetto St	\$11,500,000	\$0	\$3,750,000	\$7,750,000	\$1,550,000	\$9,300,000
6 Boundary Street Parallel Road: Construction and R/W		5	SC 170 to Palmetto St	\$8,000,000	\$0	\$4,550,000	\$3,450,000	\$690,000	\$4,140,000
7 SC 802 (Ribaut Road) Improvements: Construction		8	Lenora Dr to Ladys Island Dr	\$2,165,000	\$450,000	\$1,215,000	\$500,000	\$100,000	\$600,000
8 US 21/SC 802 (Lady's Island Drive) Widening: P&E, Construction and R/W		7	Ribaut Rd to Sea Island Pkwy	\$29,419,000	\$0	\$0	\$29,419,000	\$5,883,800	\$35,302,800
9 Northern Beaufort Bypass. P&E		8	Grays Hill to Ladys Island	\$6,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$6,000,000	\$0	\$6,000,000
10 SC 802 (Savannah Hwy) Widening: P&E, Construction, R/W		12	SC 170 to Parris Island Gateway	\$6,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$6,000,000	\$1,200,000	\$7,200,000
TOTALS				\$252,184,000	\$78,760,000	\$31,915,000	\$125,719,000	\$24,943,800	\$150,662,800

Note: 6 Year Collection Assumption

TOTAL S.O.B.	55%
TOTAL N.O.B.	45%

Total Value of Projects	<u>\$277,127,800</u>
Total State & Federal Funding	\$78,750,000
Total Road Impact Fee Funding	\$31,915,000
Total Sales Tax Funding	<u>\$150,662,800</u>

Percent Sales Tax Funding	54%
Total Funding From Other Sources	\$126,465,000

**THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

Date: Tuesday August 1, 2006

Time: 4:00 P.M.

Present from Town Council: Thomas D. Peeples, *Mayor*; Ken Heitzke, *Mayor Pro-Tem*; Drew Laughlin, George Williams, Bill Mottel, *Councilmen*.

Absent from Town Council: John Safay, Bill Ferguson, *Councilmen*.

Present from Town Staff: Stephen G. Riley, *Town Manager*; Gregory D. DeLoach, *Assistant Town Manager*; C.O. Hoelle, Jr., *Deputy Town Manager/Director of Public Projects & Facilities*; Thomas Fieldstead, *Chief, Fire & Rescue*; Shirley Freeman, *Director of Finance*; Scott Liggett, *Town Engineer*; Jill Foster, *Deputy Director of Planning*; Darrin Shoemaker, *Traffic Engineer*; Ed Drane, *Urban Designer*; Randy Nicholson, *Comprehensive Planning Manager*; Mike Roan, *Urban Designer*; Anne Cyran, *Planner*; Brian Hulbert, *Staff Attorney*; Steven Markiw, *Deputy Director of Finance*; Teri Lewis, *Division Manager, Planning Dept.*; Shea Farrar, *Senior Planner*; Jayme Davidson, *Senior Planner*; Susan Blake, *Executive Assistant*.

Present from Media: Tim Donnelly, *Island Packet*

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER**
- 2) **PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**
- 3) **INVOCATION**
- 4) **FOIA 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.
- 5) **PROCLAMATIONS and COMMENDATIONS**
- 6) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. Regular Town Council Meeting of July 18, 2006

Mr. Mottel moved to approve. Mr. Heitzke seconded. Mr. Williams commented that he thought the secretary, Sue Blake, was doing a wonderful job transcribing the minutes. The Mayor concurred. The motion to approve the minutes was passed with a vote of 5-0.

7) **REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER**

a. Town Manager's Items of Interest

Steve Riley reported on some items of interest.

b. Semi-Annual Report of the Planning Commission – Harry Shutt

Mr. Shutt provided an update to Town Council. The Mayor thanked Mr. Shutt for the fine job the Commission has been doing

c. Semi-Annual Report of the Design Review Board – Steve Clark

Mr. Clark provided an update to Town Council. The Mayor expressed his appreciation to Mr. Clark for the fine job the Board has been doing.

d. August 2006 update for Policy Agenda, Management Agenda and CIP Items

Steve Riley asked Town Council members if they had any questions regarding the update that had been provided to them with their agenda package. There were no questions.

8) REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

a. General Reports from Council

Mayor Peeples presented Shirley Freeman with a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The Town of Hilton Head Island has received this award for the 17th consecutive year.

b. Report of the Inter-Governmental Relations Committee

No report.

c. Report of the Personnel Committee

No report.

d. Report of the Planning and Development Standards Committee

Mr. Laughlin reported that at their June 26th meeting the committee conducted a spirited review of the piping plover critical habitat and the issue of placing sand in the Port Royal Plantation shoreline. The committee will be recommending against the Town sponsoring an effort to de-list the area from the critical habitat designation or placing sand there. They will be recommending that Town continue to study potential short-term and long-term solutions to the problems there.

e. Report of the Public Facilities Committee

No report.

f. Report of the Public Safety Committee

Mr. Mottel reminded Town Council that their next regular meeting is August 7, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. They will be reviewing the second quarter crime statistics.

9) APPEARANCE BY CITIZENS

There were no appearances.

10) OLD BUSINESS

a. Second Reading of Proposed Ordinance No. 2006-02 to amend Chapter 1 of Title 10 (Business and Professional License), of the Municipal Code of the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, by amending Section 10-1-20, Definitions; amending Section 10-1-190, Classification Rates, Schedules; and providing for severability and an effective date.

Mr. Heitzke moved to approve. Mr. Mottel seconded. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

- b. Second Reading of Proposed Ordinance No. 2006-20 authorizing the Town Manager for the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina to execute and deliver a quit claim deed conveying two tracts of land known as the Spanish Wells Fire Station to Property Research Holdings, Inc., pursuant to the authority of S.C. Code Ann. Sec. 5-7-40 (Supp. 2002) and Sec. 2-7-20, Code of the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, (1983); and providing for severability and an effective date.**

Mr. Heitzke moved to approve. Mr. Mottel seconded. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

11) NEW BUSINESS

- a. Revised First Reading of Proposed Ordinance No. 2006-09 of the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, the Land Management Ordinance by amending Chapter 4 (Article III and Article XVII) and Chapter 10 to provide for general amendments to the Family Housing Overlay District creating a moderate income housing district floating zone, the Family Housing Program, changes to moderate income housing program being subject to new standards, and additions to definitions; and providing for severability and an effective date.**

Mr. Heitzke moved to approve. Mr. Mottel seconded. Mr. Williams asked a question regarding buffer setbacks. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

- b. First Reading of Proposed Ordinance No. 2006-17 to amend Title 16 of the Municipal Code of the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, the Land Management Ordinance by amending Chapters 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 10 to provide for general amendments to: Activities not Constituting Development, Notice Requirements, Sign Permits, Variances, Appeals, Folly Field Neighborhood Character Overlay District, Forest Beach Neighborhood Character Overlay District, Use Regulations, Open Space Standards, Street Standards, Setback and Buffer Standards, Parking Standards, Temporary Signs, Site Lighting Standards, Wetland Buffers and Definitions; and providing for severability and an effective date.**

Mr. Heitzke moved to approve. Mr. Mottel seconded. Mr. Laughlin said the committee spent a lot of time talking about street, side and rear buffers in the Forest Beach Character Overlay District and whether or not it was desirable to have buffers in a residential area in addition to setbacks. They questioned why buffers were needed to separate homes from streets or residential lots from each other. Mr. Laughlin said he did not understand why Town needed these buffers. He also raised the question whether staff analyzed the potential impact on existing development when they change the LMO; that is to say, was thought given to how many new non-conforming properties were being created by these changes. Mr. Laughlin said he would like to see that kind of analysis in the future accompany every proposed change. The Mayor said that he concurred with Mr. Laughlin regarding the issue of buffers. He also expressed his feeling that Town consider making fewer changes in the LMO in the future because it was becoming increasingly difficult for citizens to understand all the revisions to it.

Mr. Williams asked staff for clarification regarding the need for a covered porch definition. He also inquired about minimum open space standards for major residential subdivisions. Ben Brown provided explanations. Lastly, Mr. Williams was concerned about the candle power

increases at Town parks and its effect on neighboring homes. Ben Brown said that this was a result of upgrades in lighting technology which allowed brighter lighting without increasing the spillover on adjacent property.

Mr. Laughlin moved that the motion on the table be amended to delete Section 16-4-702b in its entirety and if there was a need to protect trees in setbacks, that staff bring Council a proposed language to add to 16-4-702a. Mayor Peoples seconded for the sake of discussion. The Mayor suggested a follow up Resolution rather than delete the Section entirely. Steve Riley asked if there was a similar buffer standard in the Folly Field Overlay. Ben Brown responded that the buffer standards are similar for both Folly Field and Holiday Homes. Steve Riley felt that if Town was going to revisit buffer standards, we would need to handle this as a separate matter. Mr. Laughlin said that he was willing to withdraw his motion at that time, but he felt that the issue did need to be revisited. The seconder of the amendment agreed to the withdrawal.

Mayor Peoples then called for a vote on the original motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Laughlin moved for a Resolution that Town Council request staff to restudy buffers such as described in 16-4-702, not only in Forest Beach Neighborhood Character Overlay District but also wherever else they appear – buffers between single family residential lots and streets and buffers between single family residential lots and single family residential lots. Mr. Mottel seconded. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

c. Consideration of a recommendation that the Town Council for the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina adopt a Resolution to adopt the Southern Beaufort County Regional Plan.

Mr. Heitzke moved to approve. Mr. Mottel seconded. Mayor Peoples pointed out that Mr. Heitzke served on the Committee that put forth this Plan. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

d. Consideration of a recommendation that the Town Council for the Town of Hilton Head Island review and approve the conceptual plan of Compass Rose Park and the efforts of Sea Pines Company and the Community Foundation to enhance the park with art work celebrating the 50th anniversary of Sea Pines.

Mr. Heitzke moved to approve. Mr. Mottel seconded. Ed Drane presented a power point which detailed the proposed conceptual plans for the Park. Council had questions for Ed Drane on various aspects of the Plan, which he answered.

Andrea Almond asked the Town Council to hold a workshop on the conceptual plan for the Park with design professionals, especially some of the architects who were instrumental in designing Sea Pines Plantation over the last fifty years.

J. R. Richardson, President of the Hilton Head Island Foundation, advised Council that in honor of the Foundation's tenth birthday, they have set aside a \$70,000 matching grant to get people interested in donating to future Town public art.

The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

e. Consideration of a recommendation that Town Council for the Town of Hilton Head Island endorse placing the proposed Beaufort County Transportation Sales Tax Referendum on the November 2006 ballot.

Mr. Heitzke moved to approve. Mr. Mottel seconded. Mayor Peeples pointed out that Town Council was only being asked to endorse putting the referendum on the ballot, not whether or not they wanted to endorse a positive vote for the referendum items. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

12) EXECUTIVE SESSION

Steve Riley stated that he needed an executive session for contractual matters related to land acquisition, including a request for a utility easement over Town-owned land, contractual matters regarding proposed land swaps with private parties, legal matters pertaining to potential litigation, and contractual matters regarding a proposed renewal of our contract with the Trust for Public Lands for land acquisition services.

At 5:20 p.m. Mr. Heitzke moved to adjourn for the reasons stated by Mr. Riley. Mr. Williams seconded. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

The Mayor called the meeting back to order at 5:45 p.m. and asked if there was any business to conduct as a result of executive session.

Mr. Mottel moved that the Town Council for the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina adopt a Resolution authorizing the Mayor and Town Manager to execute and deliver a non-exclusive telecommunications and cablevision facilities easement to Hargray Communications Group, Inc. for the installation of telecommunications and cablevision systems at the corner of U.S. Highway 278 and Gumtree Road. Mr. Heitzke seconded. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Heitzke moved to approve renewal of a contract between the Town of Hilton Head Island and the Trust for Public Lands for a one year term to begin October 1, 2006 at a monthly fee of \$8,150 and to authorize the Town Manager to sign same. Mr. Williams seconded. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

13) ADJOURNMENT

At 5:46 p.m., Mr. Williams moved to adjourn. Mr. Heitzke seconded. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

Susan Blake, Secretary

Approved:

Thomas D. Peeples, Mayor

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
TOWN COUNCIL/PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes of Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Joint Meeting

Council Members Present: Mayor Tom Peebles, Mayor ProTem Jim Carlin, Bill Ferguson, Kenneth S. Heitzke, Bill Mottel, John Safay, George W. Williams, Jr.

Council Members Absent: None

Commissioners Present: Andrew B. Shapiro, Kenneth R. James, Mark A. Moore, Paul M. Roth, Roberta F. Bender, Harry J. Shutt, Don Williamson

Commissioners Absent: Laura Cramer, Chris Darrell (both excused)

Staff Present: Stephen Riley, Town Manager; Charles Cousins, Planning Director; Jill Foster, Deputy Planning Director; Matt Margotta, Senior Planner; Karen Cullen, Senior Planner; Scott Liggett, Town Engineer; Darrin Shoemaker, Town Traffic Administrator

I CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Peebles called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II PRESENTATION OF THE LONG RANGE TRAFFIC STUDY

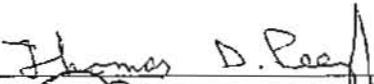
Mayor Peoples stated that the purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss the Long Range *Traffic* Study completed by Wilbur Smith Associates and he outlined the procedural process that would be followed. He stated that Mr. Charles Cousins would present the historical information on the Town's efforts in transportation planning; Mr. Todd Salvagin, from Wilbur Smith & Associates who prepared the Long Range *Traffic* Study, would give an overview of the study; and Mr. Darrin Shoemaker would present Staff's recommendations on the study.

Mr. Cousins presented background on the Town's history with traffic studies, noting that studies were performed in 1985, updated in 1991 and again in 2001. He stated that this new study was undertaken to address the Transportation Plan Update item found on Council's 2002 Policy Agenda. Mr. Cousins noted that this Study was not a feasibility study but a first step in updating the Transportation Plan. Mr. Cousins indicated that proposed road improvements would be reviewed on an annual basis by Staff during the annual traffic counts and CIP process. Approval of projects would be done when Council approves the budget.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

By: _____
Geneva Taylor, Secretary

Approved:  _____
Thomas D. Peeples, Mayor

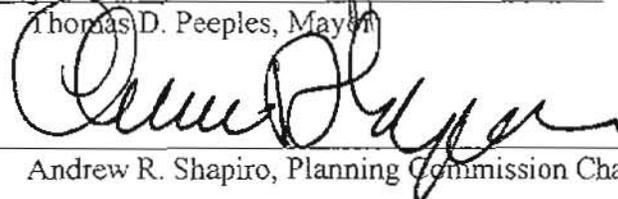
Approved:  _____
Andrew R. Shapiro, Planning Commission Chairman

Table 1
FUTURE 2020 TRAFFIC VOLUME PROJECTIONS - US 278
(Vehicles Per Day)

ROADWAY VOLUMES

	US 278 McGarveys Corner'	US 278 Buckwaller'	US 278 Kittles Crossing'	US 278 Foreman Hill Rd.'	US 278 Waterway Bridge'	Bluffton Parkway Shults Tract'	Bluffton Parkway Myrtle Park'	Bluffton Parkway H.H. Factory Stores I'	Bluffton Parkway Buckingham Plantation Rd.'	Bluffton Parkway New Waterway Bridge''
EXISTING	16,000	30,900	34,800	40,200	45,500	---	---	---	---	---
FUTURE 2020	45,100	62,900	64,500	71,200	87,800*	---	---	---	---	---
ALTERNATIVE A (Bluffton Parkway Extended to Fording Island Rd Extension and Existing bridge	39,800	49,700	50,900	53,101	87,800	29,500	27,900	29,300	35,200	---
ALTERNATIVE B (Bluffton Parkway Extended with new 4-lane sister bridge across waterway)	39,900	49,700	50,900	53,101	52,600	29,500	27,900	29,300	35,200	35,200

Source: Wilbur Smith Associates "US 278 LONG TERM NEEDS STUDY" - Jan. 2002



Town of Hilton Head Island

STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION ON THE BLUFFTON PARKWAY PHASE 5A FLYOVER EXTENSION TO US 278

as identified within the

BEAUFORT COUNTY SALES AND USE TAX ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

March 12th, 2012



Project Summary

1. BLUFFTON PARKWAY FLYOVER BRIDGE: PHASE 5A

Project Summary

Design Firm: Florence & Hutcheson, Inc.

Project Manager: David Beaty, Florence & Hutcheson, Inc.

This project will construct a flyover bridge to connect the Bluffton Parkway Roadway with unrestricted access to US 278 in both eastbound and westbound directions.

Project Status

Final plans are complete. Right-of-way acquisition and utility relocations are complete. Cost of bridge is estimated at \$35,000,000



Rendering of the Flyover Bridge

*Information from
Beaufort County web site*



Bluffton Parkway Extensions

Roads

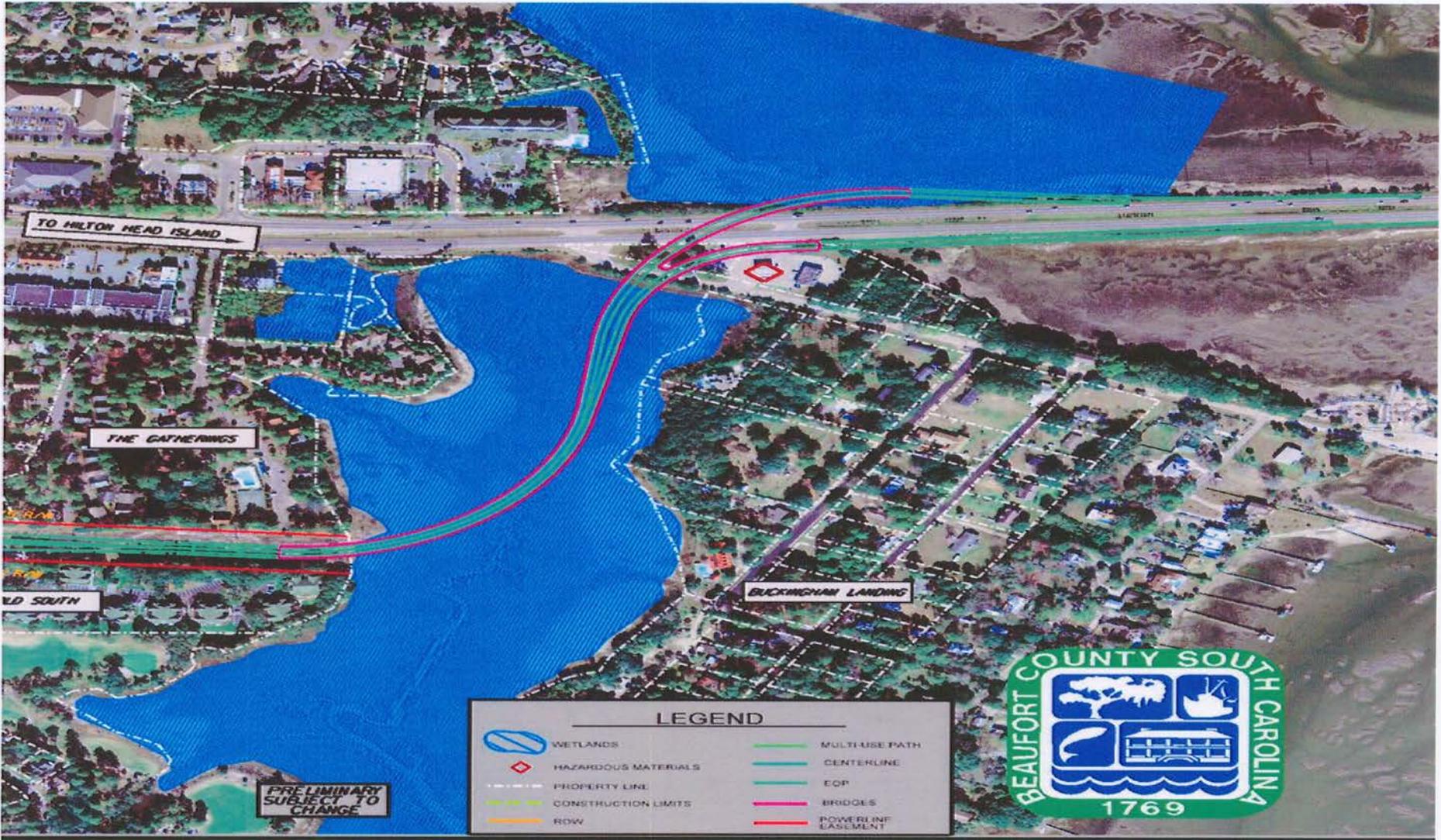
- Roads
- Bluffton Parkway (existing)

Bluffton Parkway Extensions

- Phase 5A
- Phase 5A (Under Construction)
- Phase 5B

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2
Miles

N





Source: Florence & Hutcheson, Inc.



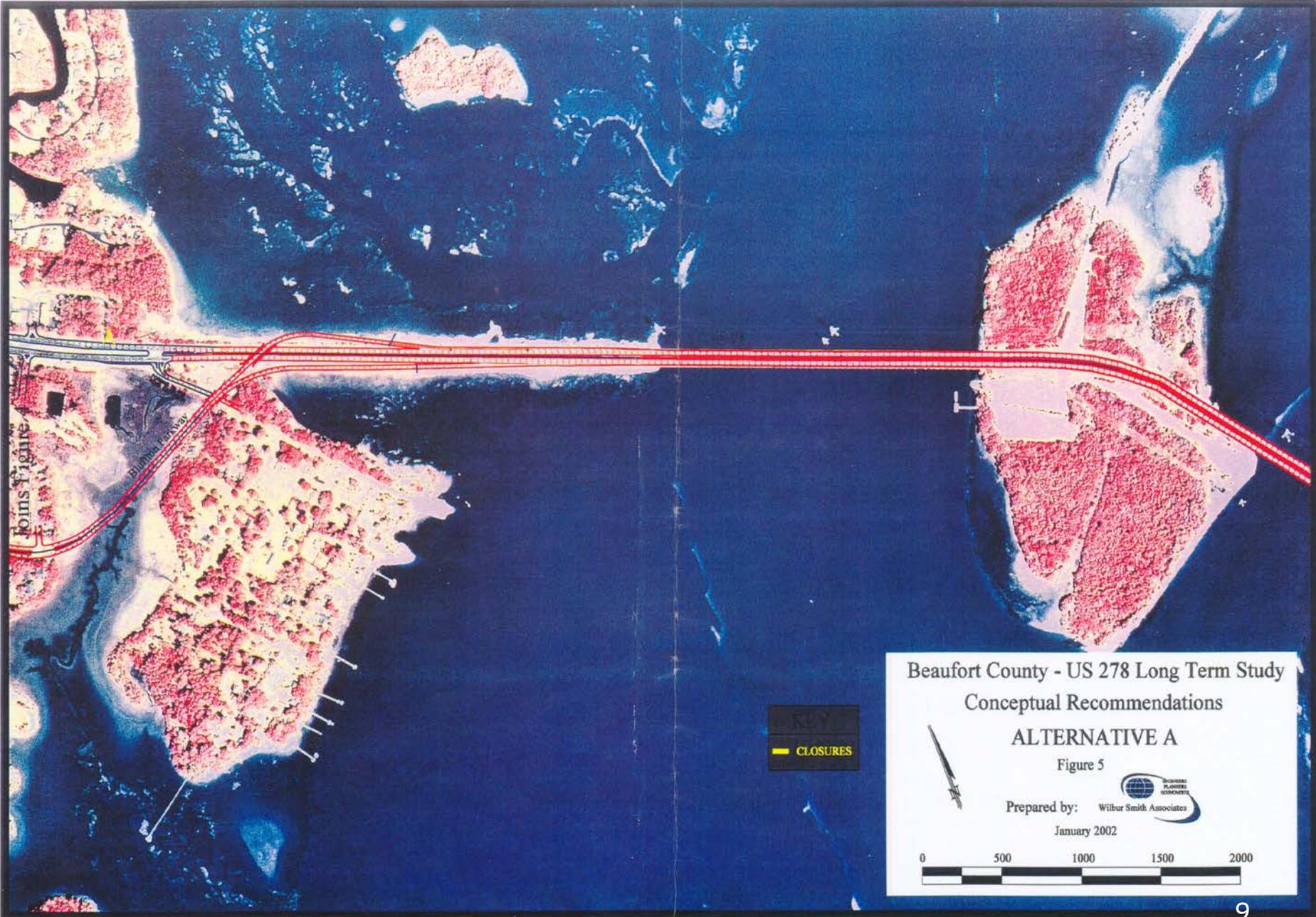
Source: Florence & Hutcheson, Inc



Project History and Status

- Bluffton Parkway was originally conceived in the mid 90's to connect SC 170 to Burnt Church Road. The extension eastward to US 278 was first conceptualized in early 2002 as part of the US 278 Long Term Improvements study conducted by Wilbur Smith Associates, Inc.
- In October 2002, a special Town Council (TC) meeting was held to review the Wilbur Smith Associates US 278 Long Term Improvements Study; no action was taken
- In July 2004, TC adopted a resolution endorsing the placement of a one-cent local option sales tax for road projects on the November 2004 ballot and the accompanying list of projects, which included extensions to the Bluffton Parkway. This referendum failed.
- Early in 2005, Beaufort County hired Florence & Hutcheson to conduct a feasibility study on phases 5A & 5B of the Bluffton Parkway







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- Early in 2005, Beaufort County hired Florence & Hutcheson to conduct a feasibility study on phases 5A & 5B of the Bluffton Parkway



Project History and Status (cont'd)

- In January 2006, Beaufort County hired Florence & Hutcheson to design and permit Phases 5A & 5B of the Bluffton Parkway
- In February 2006, TC unanimously approved contributing \$400,000 for the feasibility study and design efforts toward the Bluffton Parkway phases 5A & 5B.
- In August 2006, TC unanimously endorsed the placement of a one-cent Sales and Use Tax referendum on the November 2006 ballot. Bluffton Parkway 5A & 5B were included.



Project History and Status (cont'd)

- In November 2006, the one-cent Sales and Use Tax Referendum was approved by the voters.
- In January 2010, Beaufort County split phase 5A into two separate projects due to insufficient funding to build all of the sales tax projects advertised. They elected to move ahead with the at-grade portion of 5A from Burnt Church Rd. east to Moss Creek, and elected to temporarily defer the elevated structure portion of 5A from Moss Creek to US 278, as well as segment 5B.



Project History and Status (cont'd)

- In September 2011, Beaufort County Council applied to SCDOT for a grant of federal-aid money in an amount of \$15 million to put toward the deferred (elevated) portion of Bluffton Parkway 5A. This grant required a local government match. The Town was asked to provide a letter supporting the County's grant application and did. The SCDOT approved this grant application and offered the \$15 million to Beaufort County, contingent upon the local match.



Project History and Status (cont'd)

- The \$15 million local match is currently being considered by Beaufort County and will be discussed at a Beaufort Co. Transportation Advisory Group (BCTAG) meeting scheduled for late March.
- The at-grade portion of 5A from Burnt Church Road to Moss Creek is under construction and scheduled to be completed and opened to traffic in July 2012.
- The elevated structure portion of 5A is ready for construction, i.e. the design, permitting, utility coordination and right of way acquisition are all complete.
- Approximately \$33.5 million in one-cent sales tax revenue has been spent to date on phase 5A, both the at-grade portion that is under construction, and the elevated structure portion that is currently on hold.



PROS of building the project now

- Ability to divert additional traffic from US 278 to Bluffton Parkway on mainland
- Improved westbound evacuation capacity after you cross the bridges
- Alternate route for emergency vehicles
- Alternate route available during incidents that block the movement of traffic between Moss Creek and the bridges.
- Permits, R/W, Utilities are ready now, would likely need updating if built later

Table 1
FUTURE 2020 TRAFFIC VOLUME PROJECTIONS
(Vehicles Per Day)

ROADWAY VOLUMES

	US 278 McGarveys Corner ¹	US 278 Buckwalter ²	US 278 Kittles Crossing ¹	US 278 Foreman Hill Rd. ⁴	US 278 Waterway Bridge ²	Bluffton Parkway Shults Tract ⁴	Bluffton Parkway Myrtle Park ⁷	Bluffton Parkway H.H. Factory Stores I ⁴	Bluffton Parkway Buckingham Plantation Rd. ⁴	Bluffton Parkway New Waterway Bridge ¹⁰
EXISTING	16,000	30,900	34,900	40,200	45,500	---	---	---	---	---
FUTURE 2020 ¹	45,100	62,900	64,500	71,200	87,800*	---	---	---	---	---
ALTERNATIVE A (Bluffton Parkway Extended to Fording Island Rd Extension and Existing bridge)	39,900	49,700	50,900	53,101	87,800	29,500	27,900	29,300	35,200	---
ALTERNATIVE B (Bluffton Parkway Extended with new 4-lane sister bridge across waterway)	39,900	49,700	50,900	53,101	52,600	29,500	27,900	29,300	35,200	35,200



Bluffton Parkway Extensions

Roads

- Roads
- Bluffton Parkway (existing)

Bluffton Parkway Extensions

- Phase 5A
- Phase 5A (Under Construction)
- Phase 5B

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2
Miles

N



PROS of building the project now

- Ability to divert additional traffic from US 278 to Bluffton Parkway on mainland
- Improved westbound evacuation capacity after you cross the bridges
- Alternate route for emergency vehicles
- Alternate route available during incidents that block the movement of traffic between Moss Creek and the bridges.
- Permits, R/W, Utilities are ready now, would likely need updating if built later



PROS of building the project now (cont'd)

- **Potential catalyst for bridge replacements or improvements between Hilton Head Island and the mainland**
- **Project is likely to ultimately be built, and building now leverages \$15M in funds to direct toward other incomplete sales tax projects**
- **Promotes ongoing cooperation between the County, the Town, and SCDOT on future endeavors**



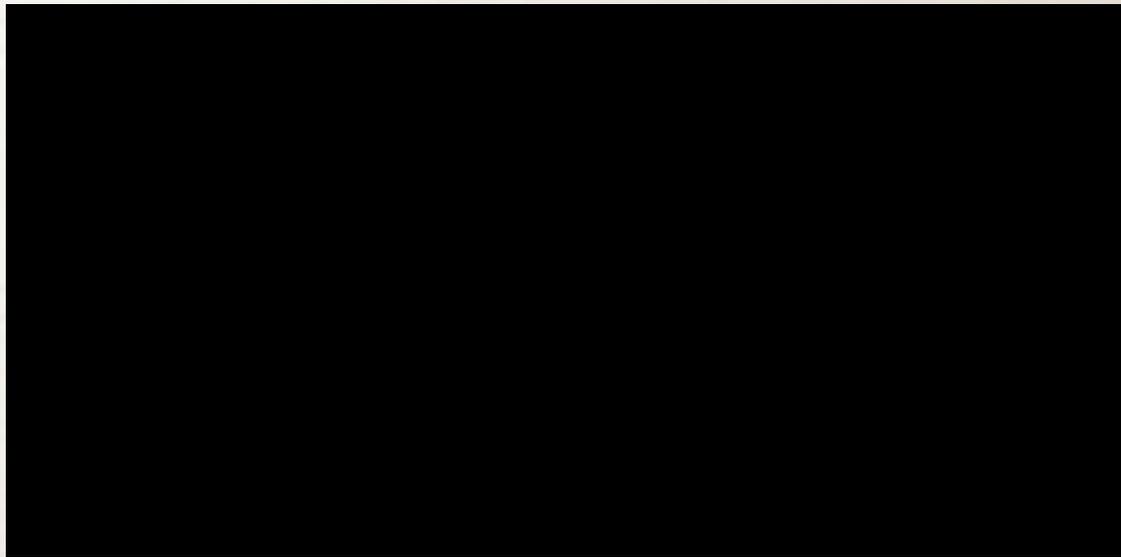
CONS of building the project now

- **Aesthetics – some may view the bridges as too urban or detrimental to the character of the island’s gateway corridor**
- **Environmental impacts – although project has been permitted, it will add another bridge over the salt marsh**
- **Available sales tax money plus the \$15M SCDOT grant equals approximately 90% of the funds needed to build the project, but not 100%**



CONS of building the project now (cont'd)

- **Potentially exacerbates periodic bottlenecks on the mainland resulting from the availability of only four lanes on the bridges**
- **Generates concerns on the part of some members of the Windmill Harbour community that adequate gaps in traffic to serve the demands generated at their entrance will be compromised**
- **A Hilton Head PSD water line still needs to be relocated to avoid conflicts with the project, and the County's position is that this will be done at no cost to the project.**





Staff Recommendation:

Recommend to Town Council that they endorse the contribution by Beaufort County of \$15 million dollars in sales tax revenue to serve as the local match required to claim the SCDOT grant of federal-aid money in the amount of \$15 million, and



Staff Recommendation:

Endorse Beaufort County proceeding with the project's construction when sufficient funding is fully in place.