



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

**Wednesday, January 23, 2013**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers**

**REVISED**

**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 Bluffton Parkway – Phase 5A including the Flyover and Interchange with U.S. 278
    - Funding for previous studies
    - Funding for project beautification
    - Funding for Town road maintenance
- 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 G. Riley, CM, Town Manager

From: Scott Liggett, Dir. of PP&F / Chief Engineer

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

Date: January 16, 2013



---

In April of 2008, Town Council approved the following mainland transportation improvement projects for Hospitality Tax Funding, not to exceed \$2.1 million:

- SC 46 Widening (US 278 to Bluffton Village) - \$500,000.
- US 278 Frontage Roads (east of Simmonsville Road) - \$1,100,000.
- Simmonsville Widening (US 278 to Bluffton Parkway) - \$500,000.

At the time, the Town's contributions were understood to be necessary in order to fully fund the projects and allow them to be constructed. Each was part of the Council endorsed and voter approved transportation improvements program funded by the Beaufort County local 1 cent sales tax. Additionally, \$400,000 was previously pledged for the completion of the Bluffton Parkway Phase 5A Feasibility Study (professional services). The total amount pledged for "Mainland Transportation Projects" is \$2,500,000.

Subsequent to the commitment of the Town, the County secured additional Federal and State funding for construction of the SC 46 and Simmonsville Road Widening Projects which obviated the need for the Town contributions. These projects became fully funded as a result and have been completed without Town assistance. While no additional third party funding was secured by the County for the Frontage Road Projects, they were

completed by using sales tax and County impact fee revenues with no Town dollars involved.

With the need for Town funding assistance for the above mentioned projects having evaporated, it was suggested by County staff that the Town consider redirecting funds associated with the prior commitment to assist with the construction of the Bluffton Parkway Phase 5A. Now, with bids in hand and a significant funding shortfall a reality, additional funds are required in order to construct the project. This suggestion has transitioned into a formal but unwritten request.

No action has been taken by Council in regard to the redirection of Town Hospitality Tax funds previously earmarked for mainland transportation projects. Though in March of 2012, Town Council took action to support the complete construction of the Bluffton Parkway Phase 5A project, including the County's acceptance of a pending \$15,000,000 grant. Council approval came with the following conditions:

- That the County and Town investigate opportunities to improve the aesthetics of the proposed flyovers through architectural detailing, landscaping, or both;
- That the State, County and Town make their best efforts to ensure that planned improvements to the Windmill Harbour area be coordinated so as to be implemented at the same time as the flyover project is completed;
- That the Town supports and encourages the County's efforts to secure, from the State Infrastructure Bank, the additional funding necessary to build the flyovers.
- That the Town encourage the County to investigate an overpass alternative as a preferred solution before proceeding

Town Council has been aware of and involved in this project for over a decade. In October, 2002 a special Town Council meeting was held to review the Wilbur Smith and Associates study of the US 278 corridor, but no action was taken. This is the first mention of the Bluffton Parkway extending to the bridges. In July, 2004 Council 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 Council unanimously approved contributing \$400,000 for the feasibility study of the County's Bluffton Parkway Phase 5 project. In August, 2006 Council unanimously approved an endorsement placing the Transportation Sales Tax Referendum on the November, 2006 ballot. Bluffton Parkway Phase 5 was number one on the list of projects. Rights of way and permits have been acquired, most of the

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.

Unrelated to the Bluffton Parkway Phase 5B Project, but having an impact on the availability of Hospitality Tax funds sufficient to support a Town contribution, is the disposition of the Town’s request of the County to accept the transfer of Town-owned roads. In June of 2012, Town Council authorized staff to make a request that the County accept the transfer of thirty (30) Town-owned roads (7.17 miles in length). That request was denied. The Town remains the owner of these roads and twenty (20) others and must plan for their necessary maintenance, indefinitely. As a result, staff intends to recommend the use of Hospitality Tax where appropriate or the reallocation of Hospitality Tax to free up qualifying funds for at least a portion of the need. As such, there is concern about the long-term impact to Town owned roadway maintenance funding should the full \$2.5 Million be provided to fund the construction of mainland transportation projects.

While staff makes no recommendations for further action regarding the construction of the Bluffton Parkway Phase 5B, we do recommend that the Town:

- Release to the County the \$400,000 previously committed for the Bluffton Parkway Phase 5A feasibility study;
- Prepare to at least partially fund and potentially lead the landscaping and beautification program subsequent to project completion. In order to accomplish this, staff recommends that up to \$1 Million of our previous commitment be reserved to satisfy the landscaping requirement and;
- Hold back the remaining balance (\$1.1 Million) to be made directly or indirectly available to fund Town operating expenses for road and other property maintenance through time, as may be needed.