



# **The Town of Hilton Head Island Intergovernmental Relations Committee Regular Meeting**

**Monday, March 16, 2015  
10:00 a.m. – Conference Room 3**

## **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. Approval of Minutes**
  - a. Regular Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting of April 21, 2014
- 4. Chairman's Report**
- 5. Unfinished Business**  
None
- 6. New Business**
  - a. Proposed Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting Dates for 2015
  - b. Presentation of S.C. General Assembly matters by Scott Slatton, Legislative and Public Policy Advocate, Municipal Association of South Carolina
- 7. Adjournment**

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

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND  
**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Monday, April 21, 2014  
Regular Meeting

*Members Present:* George Williams, *Chairman*, Marc Grant, and Lee Edwards, *Council Members*

*Members Absent:* None

*Others Present:* Joe Croley, *Lowcountry Inside Track*

*Staff Present:* Greg DeLoach, *Assistant Town Manager*; Scott Liggett, *Director of Public Projects and Facilities/Chief Engineer*; Jeff Buckalew, *Town Engineer*; Darrin Shoemaker, *Traffic and Transportation Engineer*; Jennifer Lyle, *Assistant Town Engineer*; Faidra Smith, *Administration Manager/Public Information Coordinator*; and Lynn Buchman, *Administrative Assistant*

*Media Present:* Dan Burley, *The Island Packet*

---

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

**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. Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2014 meeting was made by Mr. Grant and seconded by Chairman Williams. The motion was approved by a vote of 2-0. Mr. Edwards was not present when the vote was taken, but he arrived shortly thereafter and acknowledged his approval of the minutes.

**4. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Williams briefly reported that he had met earlier this morning, in his capacity as Chairperson of the Transportation Committee for LCOG, with a representative from Windmill Harbour concerning a new proposal for a road configuration that Windmill Harbour will be presenting to the County as a later add-on, but that issue is before the Committee today.

**5. Unfinished Business**

**a. Update on General Assembly Issues**

Greg DeLoach, Assistant Town Manager, reported that the House and Senate are both on furlough this week, with no action being taken. He noted the procedural deadline for bills to pass from one body to the other is May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Since the last meeting, he stated letters had been sent to SC House and Senate members in support of USCB's Parity for Students' Initiative, which was discussed at the April meeting and fast-tracked, and USCB had expressed their appreciation for Council's quick action.

Mr. DeLoach also reported that letters had been sent to the Senate Finance Committee members, requesting full support of the Local Government Fund, which is currently funded the same as last year, but he noted it is still not fully funded to the formula, nor has it been for several years.

As requested by Council several years ago, Mr. DeLoach reported a joint resolution had been adopted to name the new Spanish Wells Bridge over Jarvis Creek in honor of Charles Simmons, Sr. Once a new sign is completed, he stated a dedication ceremony will be arranged with the family, their invitees, SCDOT, Senator Davis, Representative Herbkersman, and Town Council.

Mr. DeLoach reported that two different texting bills had passed the House and Senate, and he considered it questionable that a reconciled statewide bill would pass in this session, as there is still work to be done. He also reported that the bill prohibiting municipalities from collecting a business license fee is still in the House Ways & Means Committee.

Mr. Harkins inquired about the status of Senator Davis' insurance bill and whether any action should be taken to indicate the Town's support. Mr. DeLoach reported it had passed the Senate and was now in the House, but only a monitoring position had been taken at this point. The Committee members recommended a letter of support be sent, and Mr. DeLoach offered to draft such a letter for review and approval at the Town Council meeting tomorrow.

## **6. New Business**

### **a. Proposed Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Town and SCDOT Concerning Proposed Roadway Improvements Near Windmill Harbour**

Scott Liggett, Director of Public Projects and Facilities/Chief Engineer, advised the Committee that the SCDOT is moving ahead with the plans for the improvements in and around Windmill Harbour, as well as the bridge replacement on Spanish Wells Road, over Jarvis Creek. He explained the DOT standard practice when pursuing roadway improvements of this type is to seek local consent of these projects via a resolution. He noted the resolutions included in the agenda packet were provided to Staff several months ago, with refinements made with the assistance of the Town Attorney, and are being presented today to seek the Committee's support and ultimate consent of the Town Council.

A discussion followed among the Committee members, Jeff Buckalew, Town Engineer, and Darrin Shoemaker, Traffic and Transportation Engineer, concerning the main improvements to the roadway near Windmill Harbour and the prior proposals not accepted by the DOT. The major improvements included an acceleration lane for those exiting Windmill Harbour and merging into traffic proceeding onto the Island, and angling the access lane away from the other lanes to off-island traffic turning into Windmill Harbour, thereby creating a vastly improved site distance for the left turn into the median for those exiting Windmill Harbour and proceeding off-island. Mr. Buckalew explained this would not preclude any other improvements that may be talked about later, but Mr. Shoemaker noted an acceleration lane of adequate length for those turning left out of Windmill Harbour and proceeding off-island had not been accepted by DOT due to its close proximity to the bridge and the Blue Heron Point Road median crossover. Chairman Williams indicated from his perspective, anything that helps improve the situation is a step in the right direction, and there will be another phase of improvements yet to come.

Jack Lee and Ed Forrest, residents of Windmill Harbour, expressed concerns about the limited space in the median when exiting Windmill Harbour and proceeding off-island, and the speed limit on the bridges. Once the flyover is completed, they feared there will be a continuous flow of traffic onto the Island, with no break in the traffic that is currently stopped at the Moss Creek light. Mr. Lee suggested a temporary traffic light until a permanent solution is found, for which the residents of Windmill Harbour might be willing to pay all or a portion of the cost. Mr. Forrest also suggested a reduction in the speed limit on the bridges.

A discussion followed concerning the existing plan and the left turn lane through the median, which Mr. Shoemaker noted should hold 2 passenger vehicles, but may only hold 1 large vehicle. Mr. Shoemaker expressed confidence that the DOT design, which was coordinated with the Town for technical assistance only, is the optimum design to treat the existing conditions.

Further discussion followed concerning the 55 MPH speed limit across the bridges and causeway, while speed limits are lower approaching and leaving the bridges. The reasoning for such speed changes was discussed, and it was agreed that the legacy of 55 MPH from the beginning of the bridges to Simmonsville Road is the cause, with widening projects reducing the speed limits in certain areas only. It was agreed among the Committee members that the 55 MPH speed on the bridge creates dangerous intersections at the boat ramp, Pinckney Island Refuge, and Windmill Harbour. After further discussion about procedures required to request a change in the speed limit with the SCDOT, it was agreed that Chairman Williams would discuss the matter with the Town Manager to determine how best to coordinate support with Beaufort County for a joint request for speed limit reduction to the DOT, as the timing was right with the flyover under construction.

A motion to recommend approval of the Resolution to Town Council was made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Grant. The motion was adopted by a vote of 3-0.

**b. Proposed Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Town and SCDOT Concerning Proposed Bridge Replacement on Spanish Wells Road, over Jarvis Creek**

A discussion ensued about the language included in the Resolution requiring compliance with the LMO and review and approval by all necessary Town Staff. Mr. Buckalew noted that this had been discussed with the State project manager, who had no issues with the language. The project manager had agreed that all LMO requirements would be respected and adhered to, including a re-design of their plans if necessary. Mr. Buckalew and Jennifer Lyle, Assistant Town Engineer, explained the purpose was to make sure the LMO is not ignored and to avoid trees being impacted unnecessarily. Chairman Williams asked how this would be monitored, and Scott Liggett explained that a permit must be obtained. If Town Council concurs with the Staff's position via this Resolution, it will provide needed support for Staff to administer the LMO. Ms. Lyle noted that the construction of the new bridge is scheduled to begin in April, 2015, with a projected 18-24 month construction period, while the old bridge remains in place until completion. Details of the new bridge were discussed, which include wider shoulders to enhance safety, and increased length from 72 feet to 180 feet. Mr. Buckalew explained that the DOT is currently in the acquisition phase, during which they will acquire rights of way or easements from the Town, Jarvis Creek Club, and other private parcels.

A motion to recommend approval of the Resolution to Town Council was made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Grant. The motion was adopted by a vote of 3-0.

**7. Adjournment**

At 10:33 a.m. Mr. Edwards moved to adjourn and Mr. Grant seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Respectfully submitted:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lynn W. Buchman  
Administrative Assistant

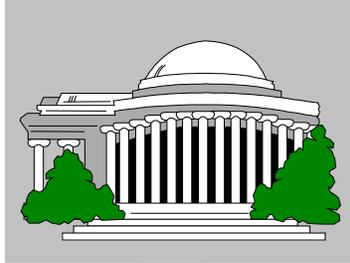
Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
George Williams, Chairman

**These minutes were not approved due to a complete turnover in Committee Members for 2015.**

**Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina**

**Year 2015  
Intergovernmental Relations Committee  
Meeting Dates**



**Third Monday of the Month  
10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room #3**

**No January Meeting  
Held**

**No February Meeting  
Held**

**MARCH 16, 2015**

**APRIL 20, 2015**

**MAY 18, 2015**

**JUNE 15, 2015**

**No July Meeting  
Scheduled**

**No August Meeting  
Scheduled**

**No September Meeting  
Scheduled**

**No October Meeting  
Scheduled**

**NOVEMBER 16, 2015**

**DECEMBER 21, 2015**