



OUR TOWN

A Newsletter of the Town Of Hilton Head Island

Brought to you by the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina
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>> Steve Riley

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>> Town Manager’s Note

Congratulations to the Heritage Classic Foundation Board and Tournament Director Steve Wilmot and staff on another successful RBC Heritage Presented by Boeing Tournament. Let’s not take for granted all the hard, year-round work that goes into this major South Carolina event.

One of the things that separates our Town from others is that we are an Island. That uniqueness comes with challenges as well. By definition, access to and from our Town is made via bridges and causeways. Many people don’t realize that two bridges must be crossed to get to Hilton Head Island and that, on average, 56,000 vehicles drive on the bridges each day.

Our (State-owned) current bridges have 4 spans. One of those spans has been identified as deficient by the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT). Thus, it will need to be replaced in a few years. SCDOT has roughly \$40,000,000 budgeted to address this deficient span. Given the known deficient bridge span, SCDOT has determined it would be a good opportunity to look at reworking/replacing all 4 spans. It is believed that the \$40,000,000 could be allocated for this bigger project, but SCDOT estimated the cost of this larger project would be \$240,000,000. That’s a lot of money and depending upon the final plan, the cost could be higher.

To make up the difference, Beaufort County has initiated a referendum this November for which you will be asked to vote on. The referendum would provide \$80,000,000 toward the total bridge cost; Lady’s Island Corridor

Traffic Improvements at \$30,000,000; and Sidewalks and Multi-Use Pathways (Safe Routes to Schools and Residential areas) at \$10,000,000. The Hilton Head Island Bridge and Lady’s Island projects would address the only two segments of roads in Beaufort County that are currently over capacity according to the County’s traffic model.



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The remainder of the \$240,000,000 cost for the bridge would hopefully come from the State Infrastructure Bank (SIB). The SIB selects and assists in financing major qualified projects by providing financial assistance for constructing and improving highway and transportation facilities necessary for public purposes, including economic development. SIB funding is always contingent on a local match.

The County has hired a consultant to prepare the application to the SIB. The Town has agreed to partner with the County in hiring this consultant. It is anticipated the consultant would hold some initial public meetings on

the bridge project and develop some sketches of what the bridge might look like.

SCDOT has hired a consultant to undertake the necessary environmental studies for the project. They will look at alternatives involving just expanding the number of travel lanes on the bridge or building entirely new structures.

This work will include numerous public workshops. This consultant’s work is anticipated to take 2 years.

Your Town Council has expressed a strong desire in being a partner in the development of the bridge plan. There may be more to the project than bridge replacement e.g. will the project include widening U.S. 278 from the bridge to Squire Pope Road? Where will the bridge begin and end on the mainland and Island? There are countless other associated issues, but I want to simply alert you to the fact that we are speaking/meeting with Beaufort County and State Officials and will continue to do so.

Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue CARES

Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue participates in the CARES Registry – Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival. CARES is a national data base and network that helps communities measure performance and identify how to improve out-of-hospital cardiac arrest survival rates. The program is in cooperation with the Hilton Head Hospital, which documents patient outcomes in the CARES Registry.

Hilton Head Island’s survival rate is at 68.75% for the year -- one of the highest in the nation.

Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue responds to about 50 “workable” cardiac arrests a year. In about 25 of those, the collapse

is “witnessed” by a bystander, and in about 15 of them, the initial heart rhythm is “shockable” (ventricular fibrillation or ventricular tachycardia). According to the academic template used to measure cardiac arrest survival (Utstein template), the number of these patients who survive to hospital discharge determines a community’s cardiac arrest save rate.

In 2017, Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue responded to 16 witnessed/shockable cardiac arrests and 11 survived to hospital discharge with a CPC score of 1 or 2 (which means they were neurologically intact at the time of discharge to the hospital). That puts Hilton Head Island’s survival rate at 68.75% for the year – one of the highest in the nation. The great outcomes are due to the efforts of by-stander CPR, E911 Telecommunicator



CPR, Fire Rescue pit-crew training and performance, and the Hilton Head Hospital post-resuscitative care.

>> Projects Around Town

Dune Restoration Sand Fencing

On March 5th, 2018, the Town's contractor began work on the Post-Hurricane Matthew Dune Restoration Project. The contractor began work at the Alder Lane beach access point in South Forest Beach, and continued north to Beach Marker 97 (just south of the Folly), which is the limit of the first ocean-front segment. In all, about 12 miles of beach will have sand fencing installed, extending from Brown Pelican Street to Fish Haul Beach Park. These fences will help accumulate wind-blown sand to start rebuilding dunes. Following this fence installation, the Town's planting contractor will install native dune plants to help stabilize the accreting sand and further build the dunes. Together,



these projects will help provide upland property protection during storms and will re-establish wildlife habitat on the beach. The Town asks for assistance in helping protect our new and existing

dunes and dune vegetation from damage via foot and bicycle traffic by using established access points for beach access and encouraging our visitors to do so, as well.



Beach Tilling

As a follow up to work related to our recently completed Beach Renourishment Project, the Town is tilling the beach throughout the limits of our sand placement project. The tilling will better prepare the beach for sea turtle nesting activity, which is expected to start in May, by loosening the sand. The tilling work will also knock down and regrade small scarps ("mini-cliffs"), which may have formed on the seaward edge of the beach. Work started in late March and is now complete.

Intersection Improvements at Pope Avenue and Office Park Road/New Orleans Road

The Town has begun construction on intersection improvements at Pope Avenue and Office Park Road/New Orleans Road. The project is scheduled to be completed in June at a total cost of roughly \$3,400,000 including construction, property acquisition, and design. The work is being funded mainly by Tax Increment Financing (TIF). This is a vital intersection to beach-bound and south Island traffic, with an average daily volume of 31,800 vehicles. This project originated from the USCB traffic study and the Town's desire to improve geometry and safety at this intersection.

The project includes expansion and realignment of the existing signalized intersection. The New Orleans Road

approach will be widened to include two left turn lanes, one straight through lane, and one right turn lane. The Office Park Road approach will be widened to include a left turn lane, straight through lane, and right turn lane. The Pope Avenue south (beach) bound approach will be widened to include a left turn lane to New Orleans Road, two through lanes, and a right turn lane to Office Park Road. The project construction also includes geometric and drainage improvements at the intersection of Office Park Road and Greenwood Drive by lengthening the turning storage lanes for vehicles entering and exiting Office



Park Road at Greenwood Drive. Please remember to drive safely and watch for construction crews and pedestrians as you encounter this project area. Segments of the pathways and crosswalks at the intersection will be closed at different times based on the construction phasing.

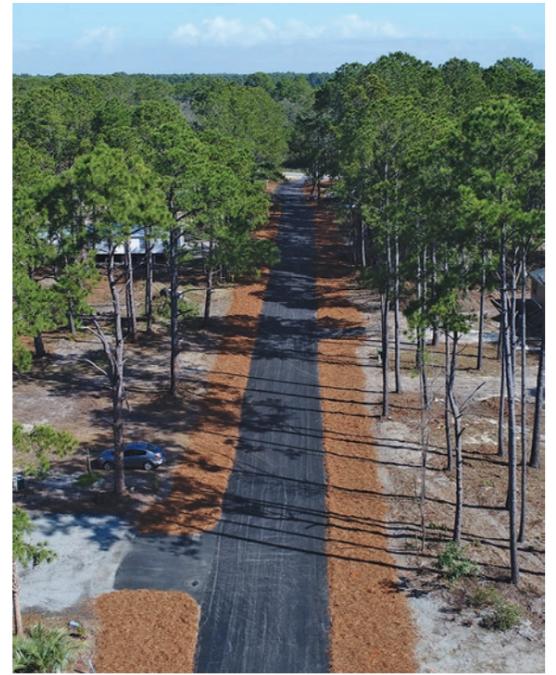


Dirt Road Paving

The Town has been busy paving dirt roads and providing drainage infrastructure in residential areas. In December, Rhiner Drive off Gum Tree Road was paved, and this month Wiley Road off Dillon Road has been paved, both with pervious asphalt.



This type of pavement was suitable to both of these projects and combined with drainage swales along the road shoulders will allow storm water to infiltrate into the ground instead of generating runoff that may carry pollutants and increase flooding downstream. Several roads in the South Forest Beach neighborhood of Lawton Woods are also being paved and storm drainage infrastructure installed. These are Bayberry, Cassina, Dogwood, Elderberry, Juniper, Laurel, and Sea Oak Lanes. Quality Enterprises was contracted to pave Rhiner Drive at a cost of \$294,000 and Wiley



Road at a cost of \$323,000; all work is scheduled to be completed by May. Preferred Materials has been contracted to construct the Lawton Woods project at a cost of \$1,124,000, and all work is scheduled to be completed in June.

USCB Hospitality Management Program Facility

In March 2015, the Town of Hilton Head Island and the University of South Carolina executed a Memorandum of Understanding to outline the agreement and obligations of the Town and the University with regard to the future development and operations

of an educational facility by USCB.

The building was designed by Liollo Architects and will house USCB's Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism Administration Department and will include a biology lab. The University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) will continue



to provide courses, lectures, and educational opportunities on the Island and have office and conference space.

A ground breaking ceremony was held in February 2017 and construction started in April 2017 with site prep. Exterior wall-framing is complete and interior work is underway. The current construction schedule allows the University to occupy the facility by the end of September 2018. A ribbon cutting ceremony has been scheduled for October 2018.



Island Recreation Center Expansion

In January of 2017, the Island Recreation Center project broke ground on an exciting renovation and expansion. This project renovates the 30-year-old Recreation Center, while adding a new 22,000 square foot addition.



The Center will continue to provide the same first-class youth activities and programs, along with an increase in the recreational opportunities for teens, adults, and seniors as well. The expanded building will house fitness classrooms, cardio machines, free weights, and a state of the art Teen Room. For a small fee, members will be able to get in a quick workout, utilize the walking track, or join a class such as spin, yoga, or Zumba.

The Town of Hilton Head Island funded the \$13,000,000 needed to renovate and expand the facilities. The

Hilton Head Island Recreation Association enlisted the help of another local nonprofit, People for Parks, to raise \$1,200,000 to equip and furnish the entire project. This includes the preschool and youth gym, classrooms, inclusive playground, as well as a new equipment for the gymnasium with fitness areas, walking track, and community rooms to accommodate our residents and visitors fitness needs. Currently, People for Parks has raised \$900,000. Find out more online at www.hiltonheadpeopleforparks.org.

>> Hilton Head Island - Our Future

Hilton Head Island - Our Future is the Town of Hilton Head Island's long-range visioning process to ensure that residents, business owners, local institutions and all community stakeholders have a voice in future decision making, and to provide the Town with the insight needed to set intelligent, coordinated, and creative future priorities.

Identified as a Town Council priority in 2015, and temporarily delayed due to Hurricane Matthew, the Our Future visioning project has engaged over 2,500 local stakeholders in over 4,500 hours of community dialogue throughout 2017 through online surveys, in-person workshops, and virtual engagements.



On February 16, 2018, Future iQ, the Town's visioning consultant, presented the final Community Engagement Report and Vision Report to the Vision Project Management Team (VPMT). The reports and all project materials are available on the project website: <http://lab.future-iq.com/hhiourfuture/>

Roadmap to the Future

This visioning process identified "Reinventing Sustainability... Again!," a scenario focused on revitalization and modernization, and building an inclusive and diverse community, as the Vision for the future of Hilton Head Island. Closing the gap between where stakeholders perceive the community to be heading and the Vision of "Reinventing Sustainability... Again!" is the foundation for the strategic pillars and action areas outlined in the Vision Report.



Our Vision: Reinventing Sustainability Again!

The ideas and recommendations outlined in the Strategic Action Framework have been drawn directly from the scenario planning and community engagement process. The Strategic Action Framework is designed to bring strength and cohesiveness to existing efforts, as well as suggest new areas for action. The action plan is structured around seven key strategic pillars.

The pillars are as follows:

- » Relentless pursuit of excellence
- » Redefining environmental sustainability
- » Revitalizing and modernizing the economy
- » Fostering an inclusive multi-dimensional community
- » Building a connected and collaborative community
- » Expanding to embrace an integrated regional focus
- » Innovative approach to create 'right-sized' infrastructure

Detailed information supporting each of the key strategic pillars can be found in the Vision Report.

The Strategic Action Framework is not intended to solve all of the community's challenges in the immediate short term. Rather, it presents a series of strategic actions that can be achieved in the short to medium term that will produce long-term results.

For more information and to stay tuned to project progress visit <http://lab.future-iq.com/hhiourfuture/>



Tell us what you think!

Everyone is encouraged to read the reports and participate in an online survey to provide their feedback.

<https://www.research.net/r/HHIVisionPlan>