To Whom It May Concern:

We, the collective homeowners and residents of West Woodland Shores Road, would like to voice our STRONG OPPOSITION to Alternative 10 and Alternative 36 of the SC DOT’s proposal alternatives for the extension of I-526. While the construction of any extension at all may be viewed differently among our property owners, it is the unanimous position of owners among this petition that these two alternatives are EXTREMELY HARMFUL to our neighborhood and the quality of life of our residents. Below are just some of the reasons we collectively oppose these alternatives.

(* “West Woodland Shores Road Neighborhoods refers to residents, properties and neighborhoods along Woodland Shores Road west of Riverland Drive)

1) Property Values – Clearly these alternatives would have a substantially negative impact on the property values of Cloundbreak Court, Stono Shores, etc., and other properties along west Woodland Shores Rd. The other options, including the originally proposed extension (alternative #1), that go through and next to the JI County Park include significantly more public land. If those options are available, why would the DOT choose to damage existing residential neighborhoods?

2) “Proposed Extension” versus “new” options – For many years, people have seen maps of Charleston with “proposed extension” of 526 cutting through James Island in and around the county park. People have had time to make decisions, specifically real estate investment decisions, based on that “vision”. Property owners along Woodland Shores have purchased knowing the possibility of the extension going through James Island, but until recently it was never shown (at least for any of the people we talked to) to even be considered going through our residential neighborhoods along Woodland Shores Road. Alternatives 10 and 36 were among only a couple of the 30+ options previously shown in the SCDOT pamphlet and somehow are now being considered on the final list. The introduction of these “new” options that impact multiple residential neighborhoods comes across as reckless planning and appears to show complete disregard for the properties they are affecting.

3) Noise and Quality of Life – Property owners along Woodland Shores have made real estate investment based on the quiet environment and aesthetic nature of our area. This is not an area that is near a major highway that would be an obvious possibility for major infrastructure to negatively impact our quality of life. Alternatives 10 and 36 appear to purposefully blaze a destructive path through what is currently a quiet and peaceful environment. It affects an enormous amount of homeowners and residents, many of which made an investment in this area specifically because of this quiet and peaceful environment.

4) Preserving our environment – As mentioned above, we value the natural beauty and raw nature that surrounds our communities. Having a main thoroughfare or connecting through roads would destroy the natural environment around us.

5) Additional Traffic and Congestion – Property owners along Woodland Shores already have to deal with the “cut-through” traffic along Riverland Drive between
Maybank and Central Park. The addition of a major highway going through or right behind our neighborhoods is only going to add to the congestion and chaos of Riverland Drive. With such a significant thoroughfare going right through our neighborhoods, unsightly development will surely follow and further negatively impact our quality of life. Most importantly, additional through traffic (like what is proposed in option 36) would propose increased and significant danger to our young children who commonly play on what are now quiet and safe roads.

6) The Other Alternatives Make Much More Sense! – As stated in comment #1 and #2 above, the county has already publicized “proposed extension” paths in different locations than alternatives 10 and 36 and already has public space that can handle the infrastructure. So why would they instead build a highway that goes right through existing residential neighborhoods and directly impact neighborhoods and hundreds of people? It seems only negligence would allow for such an unnecessary and destructive path to be considered when much less destructive paths exist and are clearly more reasonable options.

Recommendation:

We STRONGLY ENCOURAGE the DOT remove alternatives 10 and 36 from consideration. We believe alternative #1, because it was the original proposed extension that residents made their life decisions with, and because it uses already significant publicly-owned properties and negatively impacts significantly fewer residents, should be the preferred alternative to be considered by the SC DOT.

WE THANK YOU FOR HEARING OUR CONCERNS AND HOPE THAT YOU WILL TAKE OUR QUALITY OF LIFE AS A PRIMARY CONSIDERATION WHEN MAKING YOUR DECISION.

Sincerely,

PROPERTY OWNERS OF WEST WOODLAND SHORES ROAD:
We signed the "526 Extension Petition" petition!

# 60: 10:46 am PDT, May 7, Michelle Chamlee, South Carolina

# 59: 10:39 am PDT, May 7, Pam Boland, Georgia

# 58: 7:29 pm PDT, May 7, Charles Groetsch, South Carolina
Quality of life is more important than getting to the mall in a few minutes less time. Will more concrete make Charleston a more desirable place to live or visit?

# 57: 7:08 pm PDT, May 6, Scott Carnley, South Carolina

# 56: 7:07 pm PDT, May 6, Heather Norton, South Carolina

# 55: 6:12 pm PDT, May 6, Patty Stover, South Carolina
I strongly oppose alternative 10. Please don't upset our quiet and peaceful neighborhood with this plan. We have already seen a lot of development on Woodland Shores and this would only add to more traffic and noise we don't need.

# 54: 5:10 pm PDT, May 6, Name not displayed, South Carolina

# 53: 5:06 pm PDT, May 6, Mariah Alexander, South Carolina
My family and neighborhood is strongly opposed to alternative 10 and alternative 36. These will dramatically decrease the family essence, comfort, and safety of these neighborhoods. We would have never bought a house in this area if we knew there would be a major roadway behind it. We shouldn't have to suffer the decrease in value of our home because of this plan. In addition, the beautiful nature behind our homes should not be tore down but preserved.

# 52: 5:02 pm PDT, May 6, Linda Munch Wilson, South Carolina

# 51: 5:00 pm PDT, May 6, Gerald Almond, South Carolina
Use option one Don't ruin our property value or our neighborhoods

# 50: 3:42 pm PDT, May 6, Harold McLeod, South Carolina
I have lived in this peaceful neighborhood for over 10 years. The new John's Island bridge makes more noise than the old one did. I do not want our neighborhood to have to listen to more noise from another highway. This is an old neighborhood and should not be subjected to this kind of development. Thank You.

# 49: 3:35 pm PDT, May 6, Julie McLeod, South Carolina
100% opposed. I moved here because it was quiet and peaceful. Also do not think for one second that crime will not also increase. Car theft, car jackings, abductions, robberies.

# 48: 2:00 pm PDT, May 6, Bart Stegall, South Carolina

# 47: 11:57 am PDT, May 6, MARTY CROSBY, South Carolina
I AGREE WITH THE COMMENT FROM MR. JOHN MIZZELL.

# 46: 11:07 am PDT, May 6, Tucker Shealy, South Carolina

# 45: 10:04 am PDT, May 6, Linda Lothyer, South Carolina
I strongly oppose alternatives 10 and 36. Our neighborhoods have already experienced tremendous growth leading to traffic congestion on 2-lane roads - specifically Woodland Shores, Riverland Drive and Central Park Road. If we have a major highway cutting through these areas it will destroy the neighborhoods, bring in more noise, litter, crime and traffic. If this must be built, put it in an area that is less densely populated. I prefer the rural nature of the island and would hate to see this changed.

# 44: 9:44 am PDT, May 6, Name not displayed, South Carolina
There is no reason for 526 to expand to James Island. Folly Rd traffic is already congested, and with W. Ashley so close it's foolish to bring 526 to James Island.

# 43: 9:27 am PDT, May 6, Name not displayed, South Carolina
Please do not build I-526. Fix existing roads. WE do not have failed roads. I will take an extra five minutes to leave for work. I enjoy our quiet neighborhood. Please do not build.

# 42: 7:28 am PDT, May 6, Ciri Colee, South Carolina
I can't believe there would even be consideration of such an idea. Let this area remain environmentally sound, and respect the rights of those who bought homes in the area to have the peaceful quiet they deserve.

# 41: 7:13 am PDT, May 6, Colleen Lamar, South Carolina

# 40: 7:01 am PDT, May 6, Name not displayed, South Carolina
GO WITH THE ORIGINAL AND STOP ALL OF THIS POLITICING.

# 39: 6:44 am PDT, May 6, Name not displayed, South Carolina
Keep our neighborhood's safe and traffic free!

# 38: 6:27 am PDT, May 6, William Robert Scott, South Carolina

# 36: 6:10 am PDT, May 6, Wilson MacIwaine, South Carolina

# 37: 6:10 am PDT, May 6, Jessica Murphy, South Carolina

# 35: 5:56 am PDT, May 6, Mandy Bender, South Carolina

# 34: 5:49 am PDT, May 6, Scott Cline, South Carolina
It has been public knowledge for years that the proposed extension would be back around the park and elevated away from the neighborhoods. There have been multiple maps circulated and the local media has pitched this scenario constantly. People have bought homes and lots in this area with this understanding. To now rethink this and actually entertain displacing people from there homes and ruining their property value is not a rational or reasonable answer.
# 33: 5:47 am PDT, May 6, Megan Farr, South Carolina
Please stick with the original proposal. We chose to build our home in this neighborhood because of the peace and quiet and safety for our children. So many young children live here and increased development and traffic would introduce many dangers to them and completely change our way of life.

# 32: 5:36 am PDT, May 6, Trish Beckham, South Carolina
Please stick with the original plan, as it appears to be the best option for protecting people, wildlife, properties and habitats.

# 31: 4:48 am PDT, May 6, Andrew Lamar, South Carolina
As a Woodland Shores Community resident on James Island, I strongly oppose the I-526 Connector Alt. 10 and Alt. 36. Our historic and integrated James Island community of Woodland Shores represents decades of gradual planned development. Alternative #10 and #36, which have only recently come to light, suddenly threatens our high density residential community along the south side of Woodland Shores Road and clips beside the already disadvantaged Murray-Lasaine Elementary School. Over 100 residential homes just along the West side of James Island will be within 200 yards of this proposed roadway, directly impacting our James Island Community quality of life. We will be the main recipients of unwanted noise and air pollution, property devaluation and an unsightly, intrusive roadway structure. Our Woodland Shores Community of James Island stands together in opposition to Alt. 10 and Alt 36.

# 30: 4:31 am PDT, May 6, Bryan Paylor, South Carolina
Alternative 1 would be ideal for everyone. Stick with the plan

# 29: 4:27 am PDT, May 6, Brent Bridwell, South Carolina

# 28: 3:24 am PDT, May 6, Aideen Stratford, South Carolina
Please don’t devalue our homes and our peaceful life, not to mention the loss of wetlands.

# 27: 7:22 pm PDT, May 5, Jana Brady, South Carolina
For more impact, add a personal comment here

# 25: 6:42 pm PDT, May 5, Benjamin Pait, South Carolina

# 26: 6:39 pm PDT, May 5, Thomas R Evans, South Carolina
The proposal route outlined in option 1 minimizes impact on present Woodland Shores neighborhoods which already face increased traffic congestion, environmental impact and quality of life given the expansion of commerce and housing. The island area is a treasure to those of us with roots in the Riverland Terrace and Woodland Shores residential neighborhoods. Directing the 526 connector into this area would negatively impact this rural neighborhood environment.

# 24: 6:37 pm PDT, May 5, Mary Pait, South Carolina

# 23: 6:34 pm PDT, May 5, Jeff Cline, South Carolina
Alternative 1 is what has always been proposed. Its Alternative 1 or nothing.

# 22:
6:24 pm PDT, May 5, Anna Cline, South Carolina
Do the proposed extension you planned or don't do anything at all.

# 21: 5:40 pm PDT, May 5, Frankie Munch, South Carolina
I have lived in this neighborhood for over 35 years. It is also my opinion that options 10 and 36 would destroy all our property values. We need to stick with option 1.

# 20: 5:37 pm PDT, May 5, Michele Hughes, South Carolina
When we bought and built our house in 2007, we made the decision based on the original plan for I-526. In no way do we want to endanger our quality of life for our children nor do we want to decrease the value of our homes. Do not move forward with alternative plans 10 and 36.

# 19: 12:58 pm PDT, May 5, Preston Mizzell, South Carolina

# 18: 12:38 pm PDT, May 5, Justice Chamlee, South Carolina

# 17: 11:54 am PDT, May 5, Ruth Edmonds, South Carolina

# 16: 11:13 am PDT, May 5, Jennifer Farmer, South Carolina

# 15: 9:41 am PDT, May 5, Jennifer Barfield, South Carolina
The options as they are proposed suggest taking up uninhabited space and disturbing wildlife versus taking up inhabited space where families reside and children now play safely. Options 10 and 36 would take away my family's right to safely relax in our home and yard due to heavy traffic, noise pollution, and fear of child predators that would now have easy access and a great escape route. We built our home at the back of this private property on a private road to avoid this exact scenario. Not to mention, many of the rare woodpeckers intended for the county park reside on our property. Options 10 and 36 are not only unsafe for families and wildlife but it would also ruin property values and the current serene lifestyles we have all worked so hard to accomplish. Please stick with option 1.

# 14: 8:04 am PDT, May 5, Kimberly Ambrose, South Carolina
For more impact, add a personal comment here

# 12: 7:23 am PDT, May 5, Tricia Odle, South Carolina
We purchase and or build our homes in communities we deem safe for our kids and then the traffic seemingly 'gets bad', they want to expand the road or put in a major highway. I do not want to see any new roads. Keep the ones we have maintained.

# 13: 7:19 am PDT, May 5, Sheryl L. Kennedy, South Carolina
I trust that the developers would also have in mind the impact on the animals that live in the proposed area, wild and domestic.

# 11: 6:56 am PDT, May 5, James Moffitt, South Carolina
I agree with this petition.

# 10: 6:51 am PDT, May 5, Matt McChesney, South Carolina
# 9: 6:45 am PDT, May 5, Adrienne Coopey, South Carolina
My daughter and I enjoy playing outside in our front and back yard listening to the frogs, woodpeckers and crickets. It is a safe area free of congestion and noise. We chose this home for that reason. Please help us keep our home a safe and nurturing environment for our family.

# 8: 6:35 am PDT, May 5, Stuart Rumph, South Carolina

# 7: 5:42 am PDT, May 5, John Mizzell Sr., South Carolina
I have lived in this neighborhood for over fifty years. It is my opinion that options 10 and 36 would not only destroy our property values but would also negatively change forever the atmosphere that my neighbors and I have worked so long and hard to create. Let’s please stick with option 1. No one lives in the County Park

# 6: 5:38 am PDT, May 5, Kristin Mizzell, South Carolina

# 5: 5:22 am PDT, May 5, Kathleen Rice, South Carolina
these alternatives will negatively affect neighborhoods that have already seen increased traffic congestion due to traffic problems on folly road and will permanently alter the natural beauty of the surrounding areas

# 4: 5:21 am PDT, May 5, John C Mizzell II, South Carolina

# 3: 10:45 pm PDT, May 4, David Dunkleberger, Pennsylvania

# 2: 3:53 pm PDT, May 4, Ronald B Rowland, Jr, South Carolina
Please stick to the original plan and keep this highway away from our and our neighbors homes and families!

# 1: 1:38 pm PDT, May 4, Lionel Farr, South Carolina