PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
I-26 WIDENING PROJECT

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) invites you to attend an important and informative public meeting on the proposed widening of I-26 from approximately 1.6 miles West of the SC 202 (Exit 85) interchange to approximately 0.4 miles West of the US 176 (Exit 101) interchange. The purpose of the meeting is to allow the local community, concerned citizens and project stakeholders an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed widening of I-26. Another purpose of the meeting is to gather information from the public or any interested organization regarding historic or cultural resources in the area. This meeting is being conducted with an informal, open house format. You are encouraged to review the various displays and discuss your questions or concerns with any of the SCDOT staff (or their representatives) at this meeting.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of this action is to increase capacity, improve safety and upgrade to current design standards. The project proposes to add travel lanes in each direction, improve various interchanges, improve exit ramps and replace and/or rehabilitate overpass bridges.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The SCDOT proposes to improve the I-26 corridor from 1.6 miles West of the SC 202 (Exit 85) interchange to approximately 0.4 miles West of the US 176 (Exit 101). Since the October 2016 public information meeting, alternatives have been studied and the SCDOT proposes to:

+ Widen the mainline of I-26, providing an additional through lane in both directions from near Exit 101 to Exit 85.
+ From near Exit 101 to Exit 97, an additional through lane will be added for a total of four lanes in each direction of this segment.
+ Provide interchange improvements at Exits 97, 91, and 85.

Three different configurations are being studied at both the Exit 97 and Exit 85 interchanges and these alternatives are being displayed today for your review and comment. Exit 91, at Columbia Avenue (S-48), was previously studied as part of the Columbia Avenue Corridor Improvement project and thus, the preferred alternative for this exit is being shown today as a new diverging diamond interchange. The interchange improvements previously proposed in the S-48 project are now being incorporated into the I-26 Widening project. The existing roadways in the vicinity of the Exit 91 interchange would also be upgraded to meet SCDOT’s current design and safety standards.

The project is to be financed using Federal and State funds and is estimated to cost $300 million.
Title VI Compliance: Any person who believes that he or she has been discriminated against has the right to file a complaint with SCDOT. The complaint shall be filed with the Title VI Program Compliance Coordinator, at the Office of Business Development & Special Programs, 955 Park Street, Suite 117, Columbia, SC 29202 or at (803) 737-5095.

You are also encouraged to provide written comments on the forms provided so that we may have a written record of your concerns and suggestions. SCDOT appreciates your attendance and strongly encourages you to provide your input regarding the project in one of the following ways:

Leave it in the Comment Box (available during the meeting)

Mail to: Michael L. Hood, P.E.
SCDOT
P.O. Box 191
Columbia, SC 29202-0191
Email to: HoodML@SCDOT.org

Online on the project website:

SCDOT is currently performing environmental studies and preliminary design on the proposed widening project. The information gathered from various studies, along with your input will be used to assist us in the selection of a Preferred Alternative. Once selected, the Preferred Alternative will be presented at an official public hearing, at which time the public will have an additional opportunity to ask questions and provide input on the project. The following is an anticipated project schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT SCHEDULE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete Environmental Assessment</td>
<td>Fall 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Hearing</td>
<td>Late 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Environmental Approval</td>
<td>Late 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advertise for Design-Build Construction</td>
<td>2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction Begins</td>
<td>Late 2018</td>
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