APPENDIX M

Public Involvement
PROPOSED US ROUTE 17 (SPEEDWAY BLVD.)
WIDENING PROJECT

Jasper County

Public Information Meeting

Meeting:
Thursday, September 14, 2010, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., in the Hardeeville Community Center, located at 206 East Main Street in Hardeeville. The meeting will have a drop-in format, with displays for viewing. A formal presentation will not be given during this time.

In the future, if an official Public Hearing is held, a formal presentation will be given during the meeting, and citizens will have the opportunity to make formal, verbal comments immediately following.

Purpose:
To provide information and solicit feedback from area residents concerning the proposed widening of Speedway Blvd., beginning at SC Rte. 170, in Hardeeville, and ending at the South Carolina/Georgia state line. Another purpose of the meeting will be to gather information from the public or any interested organization, on historic or cultural resources in the area. Engineering, Right-of-way, and Environmental personnel from the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) will be available to answer questions.

This major road improvement project is being funded through the Lowcountry Council of Governments.

Contact:
Additional information concerning the project may be obtained by contacting Brent Rewis, SCDOT Program Manager at 803-737-7903 in Columbia, SC. Persons with disabilities who may require special accommodations should contact Ms. Karen Davis at 803-737-1649.

South Carolina Department of Transportation
Proposed Widening of US Route 17 (Speedway Blvd.)
Jasper County, South Carolina

Public Information Meeting
Hardeeville Community Center
Tuesday, September 14, 2010
4:00 – 6:00 PM

PROJECT OVERVIEW
South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) proposes to widen US Route 17 (Speedway Blvd.) beginning at the Georgia state line and ending at SC Route 170. The purpose of this project is to improve safety and increase capacity along US Route 17. The project is funded through preliminary engineering and right-of-way by the Lowcountry Council of Governments. The majority of the project as proposed will be constructed within the SCDOT existing right-of-way. The project is currently not funded for construction.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING
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 US Route 17 (Speedway Blvd.). 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 representatives at this meeting. You are also encouraged to provide written comments on the forms provided so that we may have a written record of your concerns or suggestions. Comment forms may be placed in the comment box or mailed to:

Brent Rewis
Program Manager
955 Park Street–RM 401
Columbia, SC 29201

PROPOSED PROJECT INFORMATION
US Route 17 is currently a two-lane ditch typical section. The Department is proposing to widen US Route 17 to a four lane roadway with a divided median. Existing SCDOT right-of-way varies from 200 to 300 feet wide. This roadway currently has an average daily traffic (ADT) of 14,700 vehicles per day with a level of service rating of C in 2009. If no improvements are made, future projections show a 2033 level of service F with an ADT of 21,900 vehicles per day. The construction of a 4 lane divided section would improve the 2033 level of service to a B.

The Department is currently reviewing various alternatives including a narrower median, or shifting the alignment to reduce right of way and wetland impacts between the S.C.I. railroad bridge and the intersection of US Route 17 and SC Route 170, adjacent to the National Wildlife Refuge.

PROJECT STATUS AND PATH FORWARD
SCDOT is currently performing environmental studies and preliminary design on the proposed widening project. The information gathered from the various studies, along with your input will be used to assist with selecting a Preferred Alternative. Once selected, the Preferred Alternative will be presented at an official Public Hearing, at which time the public will have a second opportunity to ask questions and provide input on the project.

ANTICIPATED PROJECT SCHEDULE:

Public Hearing ................................................................. Summer 2011
Right-of-Way Acquisition .................................................. Fall 2011
Construction ................................................................. Dependent on funding
SCDOT PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
COMMENT SHEET
Tuesday September 14, 2010

PROPOSED US 17 (SPEEDWAY BLVD)
WIDENING PROJECT
JASPER COUNTY

NAME
Mr, Mrs. (Ms, Mr & Mrs) Dorothy L Morris
(Please choose one:)

MAILING ADDRESS
123 Central Ave Hardeeville SC 29929
Street/Route City State Zip Code

PHONE NUMBER
843 505-6400

COMMENTS
Hwy 315 (S. Okatie) - The intersection with Hwy 17
need to be made safer. If it will be just as dangerous do it
in pairs. The danger is when people leave 315 enter 17.
People do not stop at stop sign the normal light would
be nice. Also, 315 needs to be four lanes here well

Mail Comments to:
Mr Brent Rewis
SC Department of Transportation
Post Office Box 191
Columbia, SC 29202-0191

Written comments will be accepted until September 29, 2010
PROPOSED US 17 (SPEEDWAY BLVD)
WIDENING PROJECT
JASPER COUNTY

NAME
(M) Mrs, Ms, Mr & Mrs. Wes Staut
(Please choose one)

MAILING ADDRESS
202 Lee Blvd
Street/Route
Savannah
City
GA
State
31405
Zip Code

PHONE NUMBER

COMMENTS
I work for Hendersonville and travel 11 county and have major concerns about the intersection with 315 and turn lanes for existing businesses. The 315 intersection needs to be safer and not create stop traffic on 17. A right with a continuous right lane traveling south would keep traffic flowing and prevent cars from pulling out. The same thing for the northbound route would be walkabout intersection. Turn lanes for existing business need to be long so that cars don't have to slow down before they reach the turn lane and slow down traffic. Current turn lanes are too short and require drivers to begin stopping well before the turn lane begins.

Mail Comments to:
Mr Brent Rewis
SC Department of Transportation
Post Office Box 191
Columbia, SC 29202-0191

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SCDOT PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
COMMENT SHEET
Tuesday September 14, 2010

PROPOSED US 17 (SPEEDWAY BLVD)
WIDENING PROJECT
JASPER COUNTY

NAME
Mr, Mrs, Ms, Mr & Mrs  
(Please choose one:)
Allen Paul

MAILING ADDRESS
GPT HOMAS REE IA BROSSON SC 29909
Street/Route
City
State
Zip Code

PHONE NUMBER
732 259 2200

COMMENTS
As an avid cyclist I would like the widening to include a bike path.

Mail Comments to:
Mr Brent Rewis
SC Department of Transportation
Post Office Box 191
Columbia, SC 29202-0191

Written comments will be accepted until September 29, 2010
PROPOSED US 17 (SPEEDWAY BLVD)  
WIDENING PROJECT  
JASPER COUNTY

NAME: Johnny L. Wilson  -  J L Wilson Trucking Co.
(Please choose one:)
MAILING ADDRESS:  190 Pine Oak Rd  Hardeeville  SC  29927
Street/Route:  City:  State:  Zip Code:  (843) 384-8775

COMMENTS:  Hwy 315 + Hwy 17 - Need Traffic Light.  I am a Truck Driver, and if I come to a stop on 315 at 17, I start out on 17.  Cars has the tendency to follow the truck through the stop when coming traffic behind. Very Dangerous! Or when we are driving down 17 South passing 315, and cars pulling out in front of trucks.

I'm just looking forward to lots of changes for Hardeeville. I've got a dump truck, and I would like to see some funds come in to make Hardeeville the great town I know it can be.

Mail Comments to:  
Mr Brent Rewis  
SC Department of Transportation  
Post Office Box 191  
Columbia, SC  29202-0191

Written comments will be accepted until September 29, 2010
SC DOT PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
COMMENT SHEET
Tuesday September 14, 2010

PROPOSED US 17 (SPEEDWAY BLVD)
WIDENING PROJECT
JASPER COUNTY

NAME
Mr, Mrs, Ms, Mr & Mrs
(Please choose one:
Bonnie Reyna

MAILING ADDRESS
79 Blue Heron Lane, Hardeeville, SC 29927

PHONE NUMBER
(843) 784-5155

COMMENTS
I would like to know if there are future plans to widen Hwy 315. Since the majority of traffic continues onto 315 toward Hilton Head, it would make the most sense to also widen this deadly road. There are a great number of homes on Hwy 315 which make it dangerous for homeowners to make turns off this road to go home or to work. Widening of Hwy 17 is much needed and will help with the traffic. Please take a look at where traffic is headed to include the most used roads.

Mail Comments to:
Mr Brent Rewis
SC Department of Transportation
Post Office Box 191
Columbia, SC 29202-0191

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SCDOT PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
COMMENT SHEET
Tuesday September 14, 2010

PROPOSED US 17 (SPEEDWAY BLVD)
WIDENING PROJECT
JASPER COUNTY

NAME
DAVID KIMBALL
(Please choose one:)

MAILING ADDRESS
87 HAMPTON CIRCLE, BLUFFTON, SC 29910
Street/Route
City
State
Zip Code
843 705 3342

PHONE NUMBER

COMMENTS
Please build an off-road pathway for bicyclists as well as hundreds of bicyclists in Jasper County & Savannah, people riding the coast and needing road connectivity to Head of the Harbor.

Bicycle tourism is developing from Charleston to Savannah.
It will speed traffic if this important section of US 17 has a pathway.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dave Kimball
President of Sum City Cyclers
(representing over 200 members)

Mail Comments to:
Mr Brent Rewis
SC Department of Transportation
Post Office Box 191
Columbia, SC 29202-0191

Written comments will be accepted until September 29, 2010
SCDOT PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
COMMENT SHEET
Tuesday September 14, 2010

PROPOSED US 17 (SPEEDWAY BLVD)
WIDENING PROJECT
JASPER COUNTY

NAME
Mr, Mrs, Ms, Mr & Mrs
Herald E. Geary

(Please choose one)

MAILING ADDRESS
33 Old Bodega Circle, Saint Helena, SC 29909

Street/Route
City
State
Zip Code

PHONE NUMBER
843-986-6227

COMMENTS
All positive. My interest is in the property contained in the
Oakwood Subdivision, which appears will not be affected except for
construction on the opposite side of the road. Would be concerned if
plans changed which would impact property in
the Oakwood Subdivision.

Mail Comments to:
Mr Brent Rewis
SC Department of Transportation
Post Office Box 191
Columbia, SC 29202-0191

Written comments will be accepted until September 29, 2010
SCDOT PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
COMMENT SHEET
Tuesday September 14, 2010

PROPOSED US 17 (SPEEDWAY BLVD)
WIDENING PROJECT
JASPER COUNTY

NAME
ALAN STURDEVANT

MAILING ADDRESS
CYPRESS HOLLOW, BLUFFTON, SC 29910

PHONE NUMBER
843-705-9463

COMMENTS
THIS PROJECT SHOULD GREATLY IMPROVE SAFETY ON US 17. IT'S TOO BAD THOUGH, IF NO CONSIDERATION IS GIVEN TO AN ADJACENT BIKEWAY I'D RECOMMEND A 10' ASPHALT SURFACE ON ONE SIDE OF THE ROAD SEPARATED FROM MOTOR TRAFFIC BY A GRASSY MEDIAN OF 2'-10'. THE PROPOSED ROADWAY IS ALSO A PART OF THE PARTIALLY CONSTRUCTED EAST COAST GREENWAY. I HAVE FRIENDS WHO BIKE FROM MAINE TO THE FLORIDA KEYS USING THE GREENWAY WHERE POSSIBLE. THEY CALLED US 17 ABOVE THE TURNPIKE BRIDGE THE SCARIEST SECTION OF THE ENTIRE TRIP. I REALIZE A BIKEWAY ON THIS SECTION WILL NOT IMMEDIATELY CONNECT TO OTHER BIKE ROUTES, BUT NEW CONSTRUCTION PRESENTS THE BEST OPPORTUNITY TO BRING DESIRED CHANGE. AS HARDENVILLE + JASPER COUNTY DEVELOP, I EXPECT TO SEE LOCAL BIKE ROUTES TIE IN AS WELL.

THANK YOU

Mail Comments to:
Mr Brent Rewis
SC Department of Transportation
Post Office Box 191
Columbia, SC 29202-0191

Written comments will be accepted until September 29, 2010
NAME: Mr. Leo Degan

MAILING ADDRESS: 48 Graham Hall Rd., Ridgeland, SC 29936

PHONE NUMBER: 912-257-9437

COMMENTS: I travel 17 everyday. This project is over due. I love to see something else done where 315 & 17 come together. Cars are always trying to cut in front of traffic. Can you very please make it a 4 lane & 2 side lane & widen it to 4 lane at the SC & US 17 merge. Narrowing back down to 2 lanes is going to be a bottleneck.

I just wish this would happen quicker. This is very much needed.

Signed: Leo Degan

Mail Comments to:
Mr. Brent Rewis
SC Department of Transportation
Post Office Box 191
Columbia, SC 29202-0191

Written comments will be accepted until September 29, 2010
SCDOT PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
COMMENT SHEET
Tuesday September 14, 2010

PROPOSED US 17 (SPEEDWAY BLVD)
WIDENING PROJECT
JASPER COUNTY

NAME
Mr. George Hetman

(Please choose one:)

MAILING ADDRESS
7 Fenwick Dr. Bluffton SC 29909
Street/Route City State Zip Code

PHONE NUMBER
248-705-3378

COMMENTS
This is a Great addition to our Low Country road improvements-

Transportation takes many forms & I think strongly that a side pathway for bicycle travel is necessary.

Tourists & travelers along with local residents will add revenue to the county funds - for every dollar spent in construction, you'll gain $10 each year.

Don't let this opportunity pass.

Ask to put funds into improvements that will last decades.

Walking, skating, biking can be the means to help improve our health, what a wonderful way to enjoy the Low Country.


Mail Comments to:
Mr Brent Rewis
SC Department of Transportation
Post Office Box 191
Columbia, SC 29202-0191

Written comments will be accepted until September 29, 2010
PROPOSED US 17 (SPEEDWAY BLVD)
WIDENING PROJECT
JASPER COUNTY

NAME
Mr, Mrs, Ms, Mr & Mrs
(Please choose one):

Ruth West

MAILING ADDRESS
620 Bellinger Hill Road
Hanover, SC 29417

Street/Route
City
State
Zip Code

PHONE NUMBER
843-764-3701

COMMENTS
1) Thank the proposed highway is great!
   very excited

2) Concerned about the safety of
   existing facility due to the
   truck traffic & speed

3) Seniors would support project
   due to safety improvements

Mail Comments to:
Mr Brent Rewis
SC Department of Transportation
Post Office Box 191
Columbia, SC 29202-0191

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SCDOT PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
COMMENT SHEET
Tuesday September 14, 2010

PROPOSED US 17 (SPEEDWAY BLVD)
WIDENING PROJECT
JASPER COUNTY

NAME: Karen Heidman

MAILING ADDRESS: 7 Fenwick Dr Bluffton SC 29909

PHONE NUMBER: 843-205-3328

COMMENTS: Please add a 10-12' wide off-road paved multi-use pathway where you widen US 17 Gloster Highway to Sout of Hanover. Reasons:

1. East Coast Greenway - we need to connect Charleston to Savannah with paved off-road pathway by bike
2. SCAD student can commute to Hanover from Savannah by bike
3. Sun City Cyclist and Hilton Head tourists might decide to bike to Savannah for a day trip. Cannot do this without safeplace to bike.
4. All citizens of Jasper-Bennett county need a safe place to exercise - obesity epidemic - too few places to ride
5. Currently this section of SC between Savannah & Beaufort is described by touring cyclists who try to ride the East Coast Greenway (from FL to Maine) as the worst & most dangerous section. Oct 17 has no shoulders poor pavement & fast traffic. This is bad for our reputation.

Mail Comments to:
Mr Brent Rewis
SC Department of Transportation
Post Office Box 191
Columbia, SC 29202-0191

Written comments will be accepted until September 29, 2010
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME (please print)</th>
<th>ADDRESS (please print)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reed Armstrong</td>
<td>Coastal Conservation League, P.O. Box 1861, Bonneau SC 29901</td>
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<td>DAVID KIMBALL</td>
<td>82 Hampton Circle, Bluffton, SC 29910</td>
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<td>Nick Deuel</td>
<td>BISWA, 6 Snake Rd., Okatie, SC</td>
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<td>BRAD SAXON</td>
<td>CDOT P.O. Box 610 Jasper, GA 31598</td>
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<td>E. Todd Mayo</td>
<td>100 Box 193, Bluffton, SC 29929</td>
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<td>ALAN STURDEVANT</td>
<td>60 Cypress Hollow, Bluffton, SC 29909</td>
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<td>GWYNETH B. SAWYERS</td>
<td>52 Peninsula St., Bluffton, Hardeeville, SC 29907</td>
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<td>Christopher Beach</td>
<td>25 Sawgrass St., Hardeeville, SC 29907</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leo Deaver</td>
<td>48 Green Hammock Rd., Ridgeville, SC 29936</td>
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<td>RUTH WEST</td>
<td>620 Bellinger Hill, Hardeeville, SC</td>
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<td>Mayor Bronco Rastide</td>
<td>C/O of Hardeeville P.O. Box 290, 29927</td>
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<td>McKinley Ray Christian</td>
<td>530 Oakwood Dr., Hardeeville, SC</td>
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SCDOT PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
SIGN IN SHEET
Tuesday September 14, 2010

PROPOSED US 17 (SPEEDWAY BLVD)
WIDENING PROJECT
JASPER COUNTY

NAME (please print)

ALLEN PAUL
Roger Cowart
Dorothy L Morris
Bonnie Reyna
Joe Crabby
LeNolan Edge
Jane Griess
Ralph Guertin
Ann Lancaster
Russell Webb
Tom Davis
Tommy Cableman
Johnny Wilson
Doug Hance
Karen Heidner
George Hetman
Patsy Sanders
L诉求 Thompson

ADDRESS (please print)

98 THOMAS BEE DR, BLUFFTON
433 Bellingers Hill Road, Hardeeville, SC
123 Central Ave, Hardeeville, SC
79 Blue Heron Lane, Hardeeville, SC
207 E Main St, Hardeeville
694 Beech Hill Dr., Hardeeville, SC
23 Old Bailey's Circle, Givhny SC 29906
6040 Bellingers Hill Rd., Hardeeville, SC
694 Beech Hill Dr., Hardeeville, SC
1001 Craven Street, Beaufort, SC 29902
1718 S Palmetto Hwy, Hardeeville, SC 29927
P.O. Box 1031, Hardeeville, SC 29907
Jasper Ocean Terminal
7 Fenwick Dr, Bluffton, SC 29909
7 Fenwick Dr, Bluffton, SC 29909
P.O. Box 237, Tillman, SC 29933
100 Kensington Blvd, Bluffton, SC 29910

Page 1 of 2
November 1, 2010

Brent Rewis, Program Manager
South Carolina Dept. of Transportation
955 Park Street, RM 401
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Rewis:

RE: Proposed Widening of US Route 17 (Speedway Blvd.)

I received the informational material for your recent public meeting regarding the widening of US 17 from the Georgia state line to SC Route 170. I and my staff were unable to attend, but I would like to share our comments with this letter.

The project information sheet shows a proposed typical section with shoulders two feet wide on each side of the divided highway. While the proposed project addresses the future volume of motorized vehicles projected by SCDOT, it has negligible shoulders and no other type of facility to accommodate bicyclists in the corridor.

We are particularly concerned about this lack of bicycle facilities because that segment of US 17 is part of the East Coast Greenway, which will eventually run from Florida to Maine, connecting Savannah, Beaufort, and Charleston along the way (maps enclosed). US 17 is an important segment of the greenway because it is the most direct connection between these popular coastal destinations.

We strongly encourage SCDOT to include a minimum 10-foot wide paved path in the right-of-way to one side of the project, separated by several feet of grass or by a barrier. There already exists an example in a newer, divided section of US 17 in South Carolina, near Gardens Corner, where a paved path separated by several feet of grass runs along the east side of the roadway.

Also, we hope coordination efforts between SCDOT and GDOT are taking place to ensure economically efficient designs in the long run, as related to timing and scope of projects, and a safe transition of bicycle facilities between SCDOT's proposed US 17 widening and GDOT’s Back River Bridge Replacement (PI 522920).

We expect the East Coast Greenway, when at least regionally connected, to bring economic benefits to both Georgia and South Carolina. We appreciate your attention to this opportunity to complete a segment of the greenway in the US 17 widening project.

Sincerely,

Thomas L. Thomson, PE, AICP
Executive Director

Thomas L. Thomson, PE, AICP
Executive Director
November 1, 2010
Mr. Brent Rewis, Program Manager
Proposed Widening of US Route 17 (Speedway Blvd.)
Page 2

TLT/jal

Enclosure

cc: Transportation team
    Jo Hickson, Coastal Georgia Greenway
    Drew Wade, Coastal Georgia Greenway and Savannah Bicycle Campaign
    Frank McIntosh, Savannah Bicycle Campaign
    Jason Crane, GDOT Office of Planning
    Byron Rushing, GDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator
    Ginnie Kozak, Lowcountry Council of Governments
    Vonnie Gilreath, East Coast Greenway SC Committee
    Janine Peccini, East Coast Greenway SC Committee
    Dennis Markatos-Soriano, East Coast Greenway
    Eric Weiss, East Coast Greenway
East Coast Greenway, Planned Route in Jasper County, SC shown in red below.
Source: http://www.greenway.org/maps.php

East Coast Greenway, Planned Route in Savannah, GA shown below.
Source: Jo Hickson, Coastal GA Greenway