

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 205 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 803-737-1549.

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.L. 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
(Please choose one:)

Dorothy L Morris

MAILING ADDRESS

123 Central Ave Hardeeville SC 29927
Street/Route City State Zip Code

PHONE NUMBER

843 505-0400

COMMENTS

Hwy 315 (S. Okatie) - The intersection with Hwy 17
need to be made safer it will be just as dangerous as it
is now. The danger is ~~from~~ when people leave 315 entering
17. People do not stop at stop signs. A signal light would
be nice. Also, 315 needs to be four lanes each way.

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 Wes Stutz
(Please choose one:)

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

PHONE NUMBER _____

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

Mail Comments to:



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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

98 THOMAS BEE DR BLOFFEN 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:



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SCDOT PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
COMMENT SHEET
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PROPOSED US 17 (SPEEDWAY BLVD)
WIDENING PROJECT
JASPER COUNTY

NAME

Mr. Mrs, Ms, Mr & Mrs Johnny L. Wilson - JL Wilson Trucking Co.
(Please choose one:)

MAILING ADDRESS 190 Pine Arbor Rd Hardeeville SC 29927
Street/Route City State Zip Code

PHONE NUMBER (843) 384-8795

COMMENTS Hwy 315 + Hwy 17 - Need Traffic Light. I am
a Truck Driver, And If I'm Come To a Stop on 315 at 17 -
I start out on to Hwy 17, Cars Has the Tendency To Follow
The Truck Through The Stop w/ on 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 1 Dump Truck, And I would
like To see some Funds Come In To make Hardeeville
The Great Town I know it Can Be.

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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 W; Hardeeville, SC 29927

Street/Route

City

State

Zip Code

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:



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PROPOSED US 17 (SPEEDWAY BLVD)
WIDENING PROJECT
JASPER COUNTY

NAME

Mr, Mrs, Ms, Mr & Mrs DAVID KIMBALL
(Please choose one:)

MAILING ADDRESS 87 HAMPTON CIRCLE, BLUFFTON, SC 29909
Street/Route City State Zip Code

PHONE NUMBER 843 705 3342

COMMENTS Please build an off-road pathway for bicycles. as well as hundreds of bicyclists in Bluffton, Jasper counties & Savannah, people riding the East Coast Greenway need connectivity to Savannah from Hartsville.

Bicycle Tourism is developing from Charleston to Savannah. It will grow faster if this important section of Hwy 17 has a pathway.

Thank you for your consideration.

David Kimball
President of Sea City Cyclers
(Representing over 250 members)

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 Harold E. Gurney
(Please choose one:)

MAILING ADDRESS 33 old Boileg's circle, okatie 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
okwood 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 okwood Subdivision. HEG

Mail Comments to:



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SCDOT PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
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Tuesday September 14, 2010

PROPOSED US 17 (SPEEDWAY BLVD)
WIDENING PROJECT
JASPER COUNTY

NAME

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

ALAN STURDEVANT

MAILING ADDRESS

600 CYPRESS HOLLOW, BLUFFTON, SC 29909

Street/Route

City

State

Zip Code

PHONE NUMBER

843-705-9463

COMMENTS

THIS PROJECT SHOULD GREATLY IMPROVE SAFETY ON US17, 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 ~~THE~~ MOTOR TRAFFIC BY A GRASSY MEDIAN OF $\geq 10'$. 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 US17 ABOVE THE TALMADGE BRIDGE THE SCARIEST SECTION OF THE ENTIRE TRIP. I REALISE 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 HARDEBVILLE + JASPER COUNTY DEVELOP, I EXPECT TO SEE LOCAL BIKE ROUTES THE IN AS WELL.

THANK YOU.

Mail Comments to:



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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:)

Mr Leo Dugan

MAILING ADDRESS

48 GRETAM HALL Ridge Land SC 29936
Street/Route City State Zip Code

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 coming
down 17. Very dangerous
I'd also like to see Georgia get involved
and widen to 4 lane at the Ga/SC bridge
Narrowing back down to 2 lanes is going to be
a bottle neck.

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

L. Dugan

Mail Comments to:



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SC Department of Transportation
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SCDOT PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
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PROPOSED US 17 (SPEEDWAY BLVD)
WIDENING PROJECT
JASPER COUNTY

NAME

Mr, Mrs, Ms, Mr & Mrs Mr. George Hertman
(Please choose one:)

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

PHONE NUMBER 843-705-3378

COMMENTS This is a Great additvie 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 \$10.00 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:



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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:)

Ruth West

MAILING ADDRESS

620 Bellinger Hill Road Hardenville, SC 29927
Street/Route City State Zip Code

PHONE NUMBER

843-784-3701

COMMENTS

① Thinks 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:



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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 Karen Heidman
(Please choose one:)

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

PHONE NUMBER 843-705-3378

COMMENTS Please add a 10-12'ft wide off-road paved multi-use path way when you widen U.S. 17 ~~to~~ ^{to} 4 lane highway to South of Hunderville.
Persons —

see attached brochure

- ① East Coast Greenway - we need to connect Charleston to Savannah with paved off road path way
- ② SCAD student can commute to Hunderville or Savannah by bike
- ③ Sun City Cyclers + other Hilton Head tourists might decide to bike to Savannah ^{or Hunderville} as a Day Trip. Cannot do this without safe place to bike.
- ④ all citizens of Jasper + Beaufort county need a safe place to exercise - obesity epidemic - too few places to ride?
- ⑤ Currently this section of SC between Savannah + Beaufort is decivilized by touring cyclists who try to ride the East Coast Greenway (from FL to Maine) is the worst + most dangerous section. US 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

*Pavement + fast traffic.
This is bad for our reputation.*

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South Carolina
Department of Transportation

SCDOT PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING SIGN IN SHEET

Tuesday September 14, 2010

PROPOSED US 17 (SPEEDWAY BLVD) WIDENING PROJECT JASPER COUNTY

NAME (please print)

ADDRESS (please print)

Reed Armstrong

Coastal Conservation League
P.O. Box 1861, Beaufort, SC 29901

DAVID KIMBALL

87 HAMPTON CIRCLE, BLUFFTON 29909

Dick Deuel

BTWSA, 6 Snake Rd, Okatie, SC

BRAD SAXON

GDOT PO Box 610 Jesup GA 31598

E. Todd Mayo

P.O. Box 1131 Ft.ville, SC 29927

ALAN STURDEVANT

60 CYPRESS HOLLOW, BLUFFTON, SC 29909

Gwyneth U. Saunders

52 Persimmon St. Bluffton HARDEEVILLE 29927

Christopher Beach

25 Sawgrass St Hardeeville, SC 29927

Leo Deuel

48 Green Ham Halla Ridgeland SC 29936

RUTH WEST X

620 BELINGER HILL, HARDEVILLE SC.

Mayor Bronco Bostick

City of Hardeeville P.O. Box 290 29927

Markus Ray Christian

530 oakwood Dr Hardeeville S.C. 29927

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South Carolina
Department of Transportation

**SCDOT PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
SIGN IN SHEET**

Tuesday September 14, 2010

**PROPOSED US 17 (SPEEDWAY BLVD)
WIDENING PROJECT
JASPER COUNTY**

NAME (please print)

ADDRESS (please print)

ALLERI PAUL

98 THOMAS BEE DR BLUFFTON

Roger COWART

433 Callaghan Hill Run Hardeeville, S.C.

Dorothy L Morris

123 Central Ave Hardeeville SC

Bonnie Reyna

79 Blue Heron Lane W; Hardeeville, SC

Joe Craby

2 FAIRWAY DR BLUFFTON SC

LeNolan Edge

205E Main St Hardeeville

Jane Griess

694 Beech Hill DR Hardeeville SC

Harold Guey

33 Old Parley's Circle, Obovie SC 29909

Steve Janusz

6040 Bellinger Hill ²⁹⁹²⁷ Hardeeville SC

Russell Webb

694 Beech Hill Dr. Hardeeville SC

Tom Davis

1001 Craven Street, Beaufort 29902

Tommy Coleman

1718 S of Katie Hwy Hardeeville 29927

Johnny Wilson

P.O. Box 1036 Hardeeville SC 29927

Doug Mauchon

Jasper Ocean Terminal

Karen Heidman

7 Fenwick Dr. Bluffton SC 29909

George Heitman

7 Fenwick Dr Bluffton SC 29909

Patsy Sanders

P.O. Box 237 Tillman, SC 29943

Luke Thompson

100 Kensington Blvd. Bluffton, SC 29910

(18)



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CORE

COASTAL REGION MPO

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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Mike Lamb
Charles Odimgbe
Patrick Shay
Rochelle D. Small-Toney
Vance C. Smith, Jr.
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Wayne Tipton
Eric R. Winger

Thomas L. Thomson,
PE, AICP
Executive Director

Mark Wilkes,
PE, AICP
Director
Transportation Planning

This board is supported by
the staff of the Chatham
County - Savannah
Metropolitan Planning
Commission

www.thempc.org



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 via 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 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

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

