

# PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

## SC 85 BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS

over Buffington Road (S-995)/Norfolk Southern Railroad and Howard Street (S-2)

SPARTANBURG COUNTY, SC

### WELCOME

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) would like to welcome you to the public information meeting for the proposed SC 85 Bridge Replacements project. The purpose of this meeting is to provide the local community, concerned citizens, and project stakeholders, an opportunity to review and discuss the proposed bridge replacement project with staff from the SCDOT and Project Team. This meeting is being conducted with an informal, open house format. Exhibits are on display that depict the different alternatives currently being evaluated for the project. A comment form is being given to you so that you can provide us with important feedback regarding the proposed improvements. You can leave your comment form here at this meeting by dropping it in the “comment form” box, or you can provide your comments via mail or email as indicated on the form.

**Comments will be accepted until June 22, 2016.** The information and exhibits from this meeting can be found on the SCDOT's website ([www.scdot.org](http://www.scdot.org), "Public Hearings") for review.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The SCDOT is proposing to replace the existing SC 85 bridges over Buffington Road (S-995) / Norfolk Southern Railroad (Exit 4A) and Howard Street (S-2) in Spartanburg County. The current bridges, which were constructed over 60 years ago, have reached the end of their useful life, are structurally deficient, and do not meet the current SCDOT design standards. The purpose of this project is to replace these current bridges with structurally safe and sound bridges. Existing SC 85 is a four-lane controlled access facility, divided by a grass median or concrete barrier wall. In the area of the proposed improvements, SC 85 has three lanes in each direction, with the outside lane serving as a weave area between Hearon Circle and Buffington Road, and Hearon Circle and Simuel Road. The proposed improvements would also include three 12-foot travel lanes in both directions with 10-foot shoulders.



## PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

The proposed bridge replacements would be constructed on existing alignment and two Build Alternatives are being evaluated. Both Build Alternatives would improve safety at the Buffington Road ramp by eliminating the existing cut-through movement to the frontage road.

### ALTERNATIVE 1: Redesigning Buffington Road Off-ramp to Current SCDOT Standards

Due to the proximity of the Buffington Road ramp to the end of the new bridges and the elevation difference between SC 85 and Buffington Road, major modifications to the Buffington Road Loop off-ramp would be necessary to meet current design standards. These modifications would result in four (4) potential business displacements and approximately 4.5 acres of additional right-of-way acquisition.

### ALTERNATIVE 2: Closing Buffington Road Loop Off-ramp

This alternative would avoid the business relocations associated with Alternative 1, with sufficient access to adjacent commercial, industrial, and residential development being provided by the existing local road network.

Due to cost savings associated with not redesigning Buffington Road Loop off-ramp, Alternative 2 provides additional safety improvements associated with eliminating several egress points at the New Cut Road Interchange southbound ramps, thereby greatly minimizing the potential for wrong-way entry onto SC 85. The options of closing the segment of Buffington Road that extends under SC 85 adjacent to the Norfolk Southern Railroad, or maintaining this segment (Options A and B), are also being evaluated under Alternative 2.

A traffic analysis report was completed that analyzed the potential detours necessary during construction of the proposed project. Closing a single lane in each direction to avoid detours was also studied; however this would result in a traffic Level of Service F, with significant delays (gridlock). Also, the replacement bridges would take approximately six to eight additional months to construct under this scenario. Detouring traffic around the construction area can be accomplished utilizing I-85, I-26, and I-585/ US 176 without creating a significant burden on Spartanburg's local road network.

## PROJECT COST AND ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE

The estimated total cost for the project is \$24.0 Million, with proposed funding being provided by State and Federal (FHWA) Programs. A tentative timeline for the proposed SC 85 Bridge Replacements project is:



## COMMENTS

We appreciate your attendance at this meeting and encourage your feedback regarding the proposed SC 85 Bridge Replacements. You may provide comments in the following ways:

- Fill out your comment form and place it in the comment box at this meeting
- Mail your comments to Ms. Penny Phillips at the address listed on your comment form and below
- Email your comments to [PhillipsSP@scdot.org](mailto:PhillipsSP@scdot.org)

**Written comments pertaining to this project will be accepted through June 22, 2016.** All information provided, including name and address, will be published and is subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

## FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT, PLEASE CONTACT:

Ms. Penny L. Phillips SCDOT Program Manager  
Upstate Regional Production Group  
252 South Pleasantburg Drive  
Greenville, SC 29607  
Email: [PhillipsSP@scdot.org](mailto:PhillipsSP@scdot.org)  
Phone: (864) 241-1010



South Carolina Department of Transportation



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