



The Town of Hilton Head Island  
**U.S. 278 Gateway Corridor Committee**

**September 5, 2019, 4:00 p.m.**

Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers

## **AGENDA**

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*As a courtesy to others please turn off / silence ALL mobile devices during the meeting.  
Thank You.*

**1. Call to Order**

**2. FOIA Compliance** - Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and distributed in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of Hilton Head Island.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

a. Minutes from August 1, 2019

**4. Unfinished Business - None**

**5. New Business**

a. Evaluating Alternatives

b. Developing Principles for Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities

c. Developing Principles for Aesthetic Treatments

d. Public Communication

e. Chairman's Comments

f. Public Comment

**6. Adjournment**

**Please note a quorum of Town Council may result if four (4) or more Town Council members attend this meeting.**



Town of Hilton Head Island  
**U.S. 278 Gateway Corridor Committee**

Thursday, August 1, 2019, 4:00 p.m.  
Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**Present From the Committee:** David Johnson, Jr., *Chairman*; Frank Babel, Alex Brown, Tom Crews, Jerry Cutrer, Craig Forrest, David Lunka, Tom Peeples, Sarah Stewart, John Taylor, Kyle Theodore, *Members*; Marc Grant, *Hilton Head Island Liaison*; Larry McElynn, *Beaufort County Liaison*

**Absent from Committee:** Hannah Horne, Brendan Reilley, *Members*; Dan Woods, *Bluffton Liaison*.

**Present from Town Council and Town Staff:** Charles Cousins, *Assistant to the Town Manager*; Krista Wiedmeyer, *Executive Assistant/Town Clerk*

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### **1. Call to Order**

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

### **2. FOIA Compliance**

Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and mailed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.

### **3. Approval of the Minutes**

#### **a. Minutes from July 11, 2019**

Mr. Peeples moved to approve the minutes from July 11, 2019. Mr. Taylor seconded. Mr. Brown made mention of an error to New Business item 4(a), noting the project scope is Moss Creed Dr. to Spanish Well Rd. The motion to approve the minutes, with the noted correction was approved by a vote of 10-0.

### **4. Unfinished Business - None**

### **5. New Business**

#### **a. Discussion of Guiding Principles to Use in Determining the Success of the Corridor Project**

Chairman Johnson opened the discussion by introducing and explaining the Guiding Principles. He noted that these principles will be used to better evaluate the reasonable alternatives presented during the upcoming community information meeting on September 19, 2019. Chairman Johnson went on to explain that the purpose of this discussion was for the Committee to review and finalize the Guiding Principles so Town Council could review, consider and adopt.

The Committee as a whole reviewed and edited the Guiding Principles. Much discussion was had concerning the inclusion of the SCDOT's "Purpose and Need." It was decided that should Town Council adopt the Guiding Principles, they would be forwarded to the Town of Bluffton and Beaufort County to also consider. After a final review of the draft Guiding Principles, a motion to approve as drafted, with Chairman Johnson drafting the final memo to Town Council, was made by Mr. Peeples and seconded by Mr. Cutrer. Chairman Johnson opened the discussion to the public at large, where some discussion was had concerning the drafted document and ultimately how the Committee would be utilizing them. With no further discussion or comments, the motion was approved by a vote of 10-0.

## **5. New Business (cont.)**

- b.** Developing Principles for Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities
- c.** Developing Principles for Aesthetic Treatments

Chairman Johnson stated that in the interest of time and because of the robust discussion about the Guiding Principles, agenda items 5(b) and 5(c) would be tabled until the next meeting.

### **d.** Public Communication

Chairman Johnson introduced Carolyn Grant, Communications Director to provide an update on the communications from the Town to its citizens. Ms. Grant discussed the many ways the SCDOT and the Town have been providing information back to the general public. She noted and referenced the upcoming community information meeting taking place at the Boys and Girls Club on September 19, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

### **e.** Chairman's Comments

Stated earlier, during the opening of the meeting, Chairman Johnson said that after some conversation and discussion, he had appointed Ms. Sarah Stewart as the Vice-Chair of the Committee. Ms. Stewart made a couple brief remarks about the new appointment, stating she was looking forward to the challenge.

### **f.** Public Comment

No further public comment or discussion took place.

## **6. Adjournment**

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

**Submitted by:** Krista M. Wiedmeyer, Executive Assistant/Town Clerk

**Approved:** September 5, 2019

## US 278 Gateway Corridor Project

### Objectives and Recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian facilities

#### Objectives:

- To provide safe, attractive and connected bicycle and pedestrian facilities between Hilton Head Island and the Mainland that accommodates all users.
- Will provide economic, environmental, and health benefits to the community and are essential components of a comprehensive multi-modal transportation system.
- With appropriate design, will reduce dependence on motorized modes and reduce traffic congestion.

#### Recommendations:

- Bicycle and pedestrian facilities will serve users of all ages and abilities with a separated facility for recreational and commuting bicyclists and pedestrians for greater operational efficiency and safety. Shoulders in the corridor must accommodate active cyclists and fast riding e-bikes where possible.
- Facilities will provide safe, attractive, connected, and convenient bicycle and pedestrian access for all people, places and communities along and through the US 278 corridor.
- The project should include comfortable, accessible public transportation stops where the future need is identified, planning ahead for mass transit expansion in the region.
- Narrower travel lanes, street trees, lowered speed limits, and other traffic calming measures will be considered to decrease speeds in appropriate parts of the corridor, creating a safer and more pleasant experience for all modes of transportation while mitigating noise, safety and access issues for neighborhoods directly impacted. This will include median islands of sufficient width throughout the corridor.
- Will address the special access and safety needs of cyclists and pedestrians coming from and going to Buckingham Landing, Pinckney Island, Jenkins Island (including Windmill Harbour), The Resort, the Stoney areas, and the Spanish Wells, Wild Horse Road, Squire Pope Road and Gumtree Road intersections.
- Pathways connectivity will be accomplished from the Bluffton Parkway pathways at Buckingham Plantation Drive to and from Hilton Head Island pathways at Gumtree Road and the Wm. Hilton Pkwy, and by connected paved shoulders and/or bicycle lanes from Buckingham Plantation Drive to Gumtree where possible.
- Separated bike and pedestrian facilities will be illuminated for nighttime use with the lighting designs appropriate to International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) standards.
- Will provide a car parking facility for walkers and bikers to stage their vehicles at Jenkins Island for easy access to the bridge pathway facility and Pinkney Island.

- Will be an attractive facility in keeping with the overall bridge structure and design and will be consistent with Town of Hilton Head Island design standards for access, safety and aesthetics.
- Any Wm. Hilton Pkwy. Corridor crosswalks will be marked in accordance with Town of Hilton Head Island design requirements and be signalized intersections or bicycle/pedestrian underpasses.
- Wherever possible, the roadway will establish connections to existing neighborhood streets, providing users with opportunities to enter and leave US 278.
- The project should serve as an exemplar for future road projects on the island – whether led by SCDOT, the Town of Hilton Head Island, or Beaufort County – for creating a safe, walkable, bikeable roadway that accommodates mass transit. The project has potential to set the tone regionally for a more accessible system of roadways.
- The project will be sensitive to existing communities and cultural resources.

August 26, 2019

# Draft

## U.S. 278 Gateway Corridor Committee Framework for Aesthetics

We have been tasked with developing a framework of design issues and guiding principles that highlight the most important aspects of the completed corridor.

A primary aesthetic focus of the corridor should be creation of a sequence of experiences moving from the Mainland to the Islands. The visual and transitional experiences should create a Gateway; and the Island's "Blend with Nature" design standards should apply to all physical improvements that are constructed by SCDOT.

As a point of reference, the Town's Design Guide should be applied in determining appropriate bridge/roadway design; landscaping and tree protection; community character; materials and colors; lighting; signage; introduction of new bike and pedestrian paths, etc. Other characteristics that are not part of the specific road and road right-of-way design should acknowledge and celebrate the Communities' identity (i.e. Pinckney Island as a natural preserve area; Hog Island and Jenkins Island as distinct but connected components of the island hop from the mainland; and cultural/historical recognition of the Stoney Neighborhood).

As SCDOT provides options we suggest that the Corridor should be viewed as a canvas to be painted upon. All options should be reviewed for compatibility with this design philosophy.

Guiding Principles:

### Bridge/Roadway Design:

- Understated
- Nature Blending
- Allows vista views from vehicles
- Utilizes "do no harm" approach to storm drainage

- Utilizes native materials & colors

#### Landscaping:

- Retains existing vegetation, whenever possible
- Includes replacement canopy trees
- Favors indigenous/native materials

#### Lighting:

- Utilizes low impact light sources (i.e. foot candles/color temp)
- Utilizes low profile fixtures (height)
- Limited to intersections and on pedestrian/bicycle pathways

#### Signage:

- Limited signage in the corridor
- Utilizes a unified package to minimize visual clutter & distractions

#### Community Design:

- Recognizes significance of Native Islander community
- Provides safe movement of pedestrians & cyclists within the corridor
- Provides a natural approach to noise abatement

End of Memorandum