



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

October 3, 2019, 4:00 p.m.

Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers

AGENDA

*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
 - b. Minutes from September 19, 2019
- 4. Unfinished Business - None**
- 5. New Business**
 - a. Initial thoughts on SCDOT's "Reasonable Alternatives"
 - b. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities
 - c. Corridor Aesthetics
 - 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, September 19, 2019, 1:00 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, Hannah Horne, David Lunka, Tom Peeples, John Taylor, Kyle Theodore, *Members*; Marc Grant, *Hilton Head Island Liaison*; Dan Woods, *Bluffton Liaison*

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

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

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 9-1. David Lunka opposed.

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: October 3, 2019



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

Thursday, September 19, 2019, 1:00 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, Hannah Horne, David Lunka, Tom Peeples, Brendan Reilley, John Taylor, Kyle Theodore, *Members*; Marc Grant, *Hilton Head Island Liaison*; Dan Woods, *Bluffton Liaison*

Absent from Committee: Sarah Stewart, *Co-Chair*; Larry McElynn, *Beaufort County Liaison*.

Present from Town Council and Town Staff: John J. McCann, *Mayor*, Bill Harkins, *Mayor Pro-Tem*; Tamara Becker, Glenn Stanford, *Town Council*; Steve Riley, *Town Manager*; Charles Cousins, *Assistant to the Town Manager*; Krista Wiedmeyer, *Executive Assistant/Town Clerk*

1. Call to Order

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:10 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 - None

4. Unfinished Business - None

5. New Business

a. Presentation by Craig Winn, Project Manager, SCDOT

Chairman Johnson introduced Craig Winn, Project Manager with the South Carolina Department of Transportation. Mr. Winn introduced the six (6) reasonable alternatives to the Committee and public at large. Along with the reasonable alternatives, Mr. Winn also went over the project scope and needs, where in the anticipated NEPA schedule the project currently stands, and how the public can submit their comments to the SCDOT.

b. Public Comment

Upon the conclusion of Mr. Winn's presentation, he answered questions from the public at large and Committee regarding the reasonable alternative.

c. Chairman's Comments

Chairman Johnson opened up the discussion to the Committee, asking for some feedback on what they had just seen. The Committee discussed the six (6) different alternatives presented and discussed the need for additional information about the alternatives, such as the cost analysis, environmental impact, as well as community impact. The primary focus of the Committee's discussion was the community impact, and what as a Committee they could do to mitigate the disruption to the community. Mr. Grant suggested that the Committee come back at their next meeting and discuss three of the six alternative and then continue the discussion on the last three at the next meeting after that. He said it would allow for better conversation and better analysis from the Committee. Chairman Johnson noted that at the next meeting there would be discussion on the bike/ped paths as well as bridge aesthetics.

Chairman Johnson closed the meeting asking that the Committee participate in that night's Public Information session hosted by the SCDOT. He encouraged the members to continue to ask questions and to work with the community to ask questions.

6. Adjournment - The meeting concluded and was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

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

Approved: October 3, 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

Guiding Principles for Aesthetics

The Aesthetics Committee has 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 vehicular and pedestrian/bicycle pathway intersections

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

Powerlines:

- Relocate/incorporate into final design solution

End of Memorandum