



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

**October 9, 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 October 3, 2019
4. **New Business**
  - a. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities
  - b. Discussion on SCDOT's "Reasonable Alternatives"
  - c. Public Communication
  - d. Chairman's Comments
  - e. Public Comment
5. **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, October 3, 2019, 4:00 p.m.  
Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers

## MEETING MINUTES

**Present From the Committee:** David Johnson, Jr., *Chairman*; Sarah Stewart, *Co-Chair*; Frank Babel, Alex Brown, Tom Crews, Jerry Cutrer, Craig Forrest, Hannah Horne, Tom Peebles, Brendan Reilley, *Members*; Marc Grant, *Hilton Head Island Liaison*; Larry McElynn, *Beaufort County Liaison*

**Absent from Committee:** David Lunka, John Taylor, Kyle Theodore *Member*; Dan Wood, *Bluffton Liaison*.

**Present from Town Council and Town Staff:** Tamara Becker, Glenn Stanford, *Town Council*; Charles Cousins, *Assistant to the Town Manager*; Shawn Colin, *Director of Community Development*; 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.

Chairman Johnson asked for a motion to change around the order of the agenda, switching 5c with 5b. Mr. Crews moved to make the change. Mr. Babel seconded. The motion to make the change to the agenda was unanimously approved.

### 3. Approval of the Minutes

#### a. August 1, 2019

Mr. Cutrer moved to approve the minutes from August 1, 2019 correcting the header to reflect the correct date, and showing that Ms. Horne was absent from the meeting. With no further changes, the minutes were unanimously approved.

#### b. September 19, 2019

Mr. Cutrer moved to approve the minutes from September 19, 2019. Mr. Crews seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### 4. Unfinished Business - None

### 5. New Business

#### a. Initial thoughts on SCDOT's "Reasonable Alternatives"

Chairman Johnson started the conversation by noting that he understood that some citizens and/or individuals may have been having some difficulties accessing the reasonable alternatives via the SCDOT's website. He went onto say that Carolyn Grant would ensure that there would be an easier way to access them via the Town's website. Mr. Cousins did show how the alternatives could be accessed via the SCDOT's website. Chairman Johnson went over a presentation he had prepared which was a recap of the Reasonable Alternatives. The Committee and the public at large discussed the differences in the alternatives, what concerns they had with each one, asked questions about the different alternatives. The Chairman and Mr. Cousins noted any questions they were not able to answer, so they could be passed on to the SCDOT. Chairman Johnson noted, prior to closing and moving onto another agenda item, that the Reasonable Alternatives would be an ongoing discussion. He said he wanted to make sure that everyone understood that this would not be the last time this is discussed. Before moving on, the members of the Committee did agree that perhaps having a more narrowed down discussion about the alternatives would be more helpful. Focusing in on the adopted Guiding Principles when considering the alternatives.

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

### **b. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities**

Discussion tabled until next meeting where the appropriate time can be spent on the discussion.

### **c. Corridor Aesthetics**

Mr. Crews made a brief presentation explaining that the task of the Aesthetics group was to develop a framework of design issues and guiding principles that highlight the most important aspects of the completed corridor. He made reference to the Town's Design Guide, and noted that this should be the primary point of reference when it comes to the final decisions on the aesthetics. Mr. Crews went through a series of pictures featuring different bridges, roads, and pathways. The Committee and the public at large discussed the different photos Mr. Crews presented. Some questions were asked, and again, it was noted that the discussion was a starting off point and further discussions regarding aesthetics would need to take place.

After the discussion of the Corridor Aesthetics, Chairman Johnson opened the discussion up to Councilman Marc Grant. Mr. Grant reviewed a recent article from the New York Times regarding eminent domain. Mr. Grant asked that the Committee review the article and consider it when moving forward with the recommendation to Town Council. He further stated that it was his opinion that the Town needed to support those who might be affected by eminent domain by providing legal support, and support of legal fees.

### **d. Public Communication**

Discussion tabled until next meeting where the appropriate time can be spent on the discussion.

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

Chairman Johnson closed the meeting by reminding the Committee about the next meeting.

**6. Adjournment** - The meeting concluded and was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

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

**Approved:** October 9, 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