



**The Town of Hilton Head Island  
U.S. 278 Gateway Corridor Committee  
3:00 p.m.  
January 22, 2020  
BENJAMIN M. RACUSIN COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
AGENDA**

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**As a courtesy to others please turn off/silence ALL mobile devices during the Town Council 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** – January 16, 2020 Meeting
- 4. Discussion by Committee of Mitigation Ideas**
- 5. Discussion by Committee of Next Steps towards Recommendation**
- 6. Chairman’s Comments**
- 7. Public Comment**
- 8. Adjournment**



Town of Hilton Head Island  
**U.S. 278 Gateway Corridor Committee**  
Wednesday, January 16, 2020 at 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, David Lunka, Tom Peeples, Brendan Reilley, Kyle Theodore, *Members*; Marc Grant, *Hilton Head Island Liaison*

**Absent from Committee:** Frank Babel, Hannah Horne, John Taylor *Members*; Larry McElynn, *Beaufort County Liaison*; Dan Wood, *Bluffton Liaison*;

**Present from Town Council & Town Staff:** Tamara Becker, *Town Council*; Charles Cousins, *Assistant to the Town Manager*, Krista Wiedmeyer, *Exec. 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 South Carolina Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.

### 3. Approval of Minutes – January 8, 2019

Mr. Crews moved to approve. Mr. Peeples seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

### 4. Discussion by Committee of Next Steps towards Recommendation

Chairman reiterated the timeline that the committee is up against. He said in order to get the information to the SCDOT to meet their timeline, the recommendation to Community Services and Public Safety Committee needs to be submitted by late January or early February. Town Council will need to review the recommendation thereafter at its February 18, 2020 meeting.

Chairman Johnson and the committee had a robust discussion about the Causeways, Bridges, Pinckney and Jenkins Islands. The committee wrapped up their review of items making some changes to the language as drafted in the initial review document.

The committee began discussing the Stoney area as it related to the corridor project. After much discussion, Mr. Reilley made a motion to make a statement that the current footprint through the Stoney Community should not be enlarged. Mr. Brown seconded. Much discussion was had by the committee debating if this statement would limit the creativity of the traffic engineers. The committee continued to discuss each of their own sides as to why a statement should or should not be added to the final recommendation.

Mr. Forrest asked the Chairman to call the question forward, to which the committee voted unanimously to move forward with the final vote on the standing motion. Chairman Johnson asked Ms. Wiedmeyer to restate the motion and to take a roll call of the committee.

Motion: The committee would make a statement that the current footprint through the Stoney Community should not be enlarged.

Vote: Mr. Lunka – No, Ms. Stewart – Yes, Chairman – No, Mr. Forrest – No, Mr. Reilley – Yes, Mayor Peeples – No, Mr. Crews – No, Mr. Brown – Yes, Mr. Cutrer – No, and Ms. Theodore – No. The motion failed by a vote of 3-7-3, as noted above, Mr. Babel, Ms. Horne, and Mr. Taylor were not present.

Upon the conclusion of the vote, Chairman Johnson said that he felt it would be helpful to put aside the discussion at this time until the committee can discuss mitigation. He said that he had asked Mr. Brown and Mr. Cutrer to work on a mitigation document for discussion and bring it back to the next meeting.

### 5. Chairman's Comments

Upon the conclusion of the vote, Chairman Johnson said that he felt it would be helpful to put aside the discussion at this time until the committee can discuss mitigation. He said that he had asked Mr. Brown and Mr. Cutrer to work on a mitigation document for discussion and bring it back to the next meeting.

**6. Public Comment**

Members of the general public and community at large addressed the members of the committee about their concerns with corridor. Some mentioned the need or want for further traffic studies to be performed, others echoed the committee's decision to review the corridor in different sections.

**7. Adjournment** – The meeting concluded and was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

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

**Approved:** 01/22/2019

DRAFT

TO: US 278 GATEWAY CORRIDOR COMMITTEE  
FROM: ALEX BROWN & JERRY CUTRER  
SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MITIGATION PROCESS FOR IMPACTED PROPERTY OWNERS ON HILTON HEAD ISLAND  
DATE: JANUARY 16, 2020

Background:

In the event SCDOT's "Preferred Alternative" for the Gateway Corridor Project involves expansion from four to six lanes of the current roadway between the causeway onto Hilton Head Island to the Spanish Wells Road intersection, this would result in significant impact to the properties along the current corridor. The Gateway Corridor Committee should encourage the Town of Hilton Head Island to explore the use of Town-owned land in the area to create land swap, relocation or other mitigation opportunities for the impacted property owners as possible alternatives to SCDOT taking of right-of-way through condemnation proceedings.

Objective:

With SCDOT's announcement of the Preferred Alternative currently scheduled for late summer or early fall of 2020, it is in the best interests of the impacted property owners and the Town to start now and use the intervening months to work out reasonable solutions for improving conditions in the corridor for the property owners and the community at large. The ultimate goal would be to create a proactive versus reactive environment for dealing with the impact of a no-build decision or if SCDOT's Preferred Alternative incorporates the current corridor.

Recommendations to Achieve Objective:

1. The Gateway Corridor Committee should ask the Town to organize, advertise, coordinate and conduct a single meeting with affected property owners along the current corridor from the causeway to Spanish Wells Road.
2. The Town should identify individual parcels impacted and the respective property owners, then send meeting invitations to each affected property owner.
3. The agenda for the meeting with affected property owners should include:
  - a. An explanation of the role of the Gateway Corridor Committee and discussion of the Committee's Guiding Principles as adopted by the Town and Beaufort County.
  - b. A presentation by SCDOT to:
    - i. Bring all parties up to date on the Project's status and timetable.
    - ii. Review each SCDOT "Reasonable Alternative" and explain how it will impact the current corridor.
  - c. A presentation by the Town to:
    - i. Explain the advantages of working with the Town now versus waiting for the final Preferred Alternative.
    - ii. State that the Town is committed to working with interested property owners to explore mitigation options, including the use of Town-owned land where appropriate.
    - iii. Offer to meet one-on-one with any interested property owner.

4. The Town should follow up individually with any affected property owner who did not attend the meeting to convey its willingness to explore mitigation options.
5. The Town should meet one-on-one with any interested property and explore mitigation options for the affected property.

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## **COMMITTEE FINALIZED DISCUSSION ON CAUSEWAYS, BIRDGES, PINCKNEY ISLAND, & JENKINS ISLAND**

### **Causeways**

There are three causeways within the corridor that serve as important links between the mainland and bridges and between islands to the east of Skull Creek. Due to the nature of these causeways (construction and elevation) the committee has a concern that significant storm events could result in damage or breaches of these structures. These structures should be engineered to reduce the potential of damage which could result in limited or loss of vehicular access to Hilton Head Island, Jenkins Island and Hog Island.

### **Bridges**

All bridges should have a similar useful life post project.

### **Pinckney Island**

Eliminate all left turns on Pinckney Island. Maintain the water oriented access, and preservation of the environment, minimizing impact to the wildlife and any historical landmarks throughout.

### **Jenkins Island**

Improve safety on Jenkins Island, by eliminating left turn movements on 278 and maintain adequate access to all adjacent parcels.

## **COMMITTEE WILL FINALIZE STONEY DISCUSSION, BY DISCUSSING MITIGATION**

### **Stoney**

Mitigate impacts of route choice to property owners and businesses by considering frontage roads for improved access and opportunities for relocation of homes and business if the owner chooses. The use of Town owned property should be considered to accomplish this.

Provide for efficient traffic flow on/off the Cross Island

Consideration should be given to access improvement that will enhance the opportunity for economic development in Stoney. {mixed use}

## COMMITTEE TO FINALIZE CORRIDOR-WIDE DISCUSSION

### Corridor-wide

1. Signals/intersections should be designed so they do not create backups on US 278 while at the same time providing adequate opportunities for traffic on side streets to enter/exit the highway.
2. Impact to the environment should be minimized and any mitigation should be met locally.
3. Work with the Town and the County to take advantage of aesthetics opportunities that create an experience of transitioning from the mainland to the islands. Bridge design and corridor landscaping.
4. Minimize the impacts to residences, businesses and traffic during construction phase – phasing of construction?
5. In designing the route, create roadway redundancy to address emergencies.
6. Enhance roadway's ability to meet community's needs resulting from natural disasters; including improving the causeways to address storm water events.
7. Provide safe pedestrian and bicycle facilities throughout the corridor as well as provide for safe crossings at strategic locations. Also provide connections to existing bike/ped facilities on each end of the corridor.
8. Work with the Town of Hilton Head and other governments in the region to plan for alternative transportation options – future multi-modal needs, park and ride, etc.
9. Include traffic calming techniques to reflect that the road travels through neighborhoods. {intelligent traffic systems} {maintaining character}
10. Mitigate noise impacts.
11. Minimize visual impact of any expansion of lanes in the entire corridor {Take advantage of Town owned property on the north side of US 278 on Jenkins Island to create a major vegetative buffer between the eastbound and west bound lanes.??}