



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

Wednesday, October 23, 2019 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, Hanna Horne, Kyle Theodore, John Taylor, *Members*; Marc Grant, *Hilton Head Island Liaison*;

**Absent from Committee:** David Lunka, Tom Peeples, Brendan Reilley, *Member*, Dan Wood, *Bluffton Liaison*; Larry McElynn, *Beaufort County Liaison*; Palmer E. Simmons

**Present from Town Council and Town Staff:** Charles Cousins, *Assistant to the Town Manager*, Shawn Colin, *Director of Community Development*; Krista Wiedmeyer, *Town Clerk/Executive Administrative Assistant*

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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**

Mr. Cutrer moved to approve the minutes from October 9, 2019. Mr. Crews seconded. The motion to approve was unanimous.

**4. Unfinished Business** – None

### **5. New Business**

#### **a. Discussion of SCDOT Comment Letter**

Chairman Johnson opened the discussion about the letter to the SCDOT regarding the comments about the reasonable alternatives. He noted to the Committee that the purpose of this letter was for the Committee to submit their questions and concerns directly to the SCDOT during the open comment period. Chairman Johnson said that he wanted to be perfectly clear that the letter was to not be considered an endorsement for any one specific alternative, or any kind of a recommendation from the Committee or on behalf of the Town. Upon the conclusion of the discussion by the Committee, Mr. Cutrer made a motion allowing the Chairman to finalize the drafting of the document/letter and submit to the SCDOT on behalf of the Committee. Mr. Crews seconded. Mr. Forrest stated that after the Committee has had a chance to wordsmith the letter and the comments/questions, he no longer feels that said letter is appropriate to be submitted to the SCDOT. He felt it was more of a recommendation, and as such could no longer support the letter. The Chairman called for the question, which was approved by a vote of 9-1, Mr. Forrest opposing.

**b. Discussion on SCDOT's "Reasonable Alternatives"**

Chairman Johnson noted that he would like to start the discussion about the reasonable alternatives, and note that this discussion would go on for several meetings. He said that he would like to discuss the impacts, pros and cons, and the hybrid possibilities, as well as ideas, but not discuss mitigation at this time. Having said that, Chairman Johnson, asked Mr. Cousins to begin the discussion by reviewing a couple of maps that covered the portions of Jenkins Island and the Stoney Community areas. He noted the different alternatives that run through each of these two areas. Mr. Cousins pointed out the impacts to the different businesses, homes, and properties throughout.

Chairman Johnson opened the discussion to the public at large first, asking that the discussion be specific to the routes and the impacts. He also reminded both the public and the Committee that this would not be the only discussion taking place, that this would be a long term discussion throughout many meetings to come. The discussion concerning the reasonable alternatives went into a much broader discussion than then original opening of the Jenkins Island and Stoney Community. This included discussions on the cost of the project, who would be paying for the project, workforce housing, rising sea levels, as well as the above-referenced agenda item, the Committee's Comment Letter.

**c. Committee's Upcoming Schedule**

**d. Chairman's Comments**

Chairman Johnson asked the public at large if there were additional comments that they felt should be added to the Committee's letter that they felt were not originally in the letter.

**e. Public Comments**

**6. Adjournment** – The meeting concluded and was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

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

**Approved:** 11/07/2019