



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

Wednesday, October 9, 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, David Lunka, Tom Peeples, Brendan Reilley, John Taylor, *Members*; Marc Grant, *Hilton Head Island Liaison*;

Absent from Committee: Hannah Horne, Kyle Theodore *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*; Jeff Buckalew, *Town Engineer*; Anne Cyran, *Senior Planner*; Taylor Ladd, *Senior Planner*

1. Call to Order

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 3:00 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. Peeples moved to approve the minutes from October 3, 2019. Mr. Babel seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Unfinished Business – None

5. New Business

a. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities

Mr. Babel made a brief presentation stating the objectives are to provide safe, attractive and connected bicycle and pedestrian facilities between Hilton Head Island and the mainland that accommodates all users. Separated bike and pedestrian facilities will be illuminated for nighttime use with appropriate lighting designs. Mr. Babel presented pictures featuring separated bike and pedestrian facilities and concluded with a list of recommendations.

b. Discussion on SCDOT's "Reasonable Alternatives"

Chairman Johnson started the meeting by reading the Committee's Guiding Principles. He went on to say the SCDOT's reasonable alternatives can be accessed via the Town's website. SCDOT has extended the deadline to submit comments until October 25, 2019. Chairman Johnson announced the Town of Hilton Head Island will host a drop-in style public information session on Thursday, October 17, 2019, to share information that was previously provided at the official U.S. 278 Corridor Improvements project Public Information Meeting on September 19, 2019.

The October session will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Hilton Head Island Public Library and SCDOT will be there to answer questions. Ms. Stewart and Chairman Johnson are scheduling a meeting with the residents of Stoney in approximately two weeks. Chairman Johnson stated many outreach meetings are planned and he will send out the schedule to all Committee members.

Chairman Johnson asked what issues/concerns should the Committee submit to SCDOT prior to the October 25th deadline. He went on to say we should provide input as to where we are at this point in time regarding the alternatives. We should not pick between alternatives - one over the other.

There was lengthy discussion among the Committee and the public at large expressing the following concerns:

- Still just one way on the Island and one way off – this needs to be addressed.
- Push for new bridges incorporate pedestrian/bike facilities.
- Aesthetics
- Raise causeways
- Grade separated interchanges
- Storm water
- Properties right on the corridor
- Reusing/repurpose existing infrastructure
- Guiding principles are missing from SCDOT's alternatives.
- SCDOT not improving quality of life.
- Congestion during construction will have a big impact on tourism, businesses and residents. What is the plan for transportation system management?
- Approved budget numbers have not been released.

Chairman Johnson asked the Committee to send their comments to him and he will put together a draft for their next meeting on October 23, 2019.

c. Public Comment

Mr. Gray Smith submitted a typed statement to be included as an attachment to the minutes. Mr. Raymond Duxbury also submitted a typed statement to be included as an attachment to the minutes.

6. Adjournment – The meeting concluded and was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

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

Submitted by: Eileen Wilson, Senior Administrative Assistant

Approved: [DATE]