

**THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND  
U.S. 278 GATEWAY CORRIDOR PROJECT COMMITTEE**

**Date: Thursday, February 14, 2019**

**Time: 4:00 P.M.**

**Present from Committee:** David Johnson, Jr., *Chairman*; Alex Brown, Tom Crews, Jerry Cutrer, Craig Forrest, Hannah Horne, David Lunka, Tom Peeples, Brendan Reilley, John Taylor, and Kyle Theodore

**Absent from Committee:** Frank Babel

**Present from Town Council:** Marc Grant, *Committee Ex Officio*; Bill Harkins, *Mayor Pro-Tem*; Tom Lennox, David Ames, and Tamara Becker

**Present from Town Staff:** Steve Riley, *Town Manager*; Joshua Gruber, *Assistant Town Manager*; Charles Cousins, *Assistant to the Town Manager*; Shawn Colin, *Director of Community Development*; Brian Hulbert, *Staff Attorney*; Carolyn Grant, *Communications Director*; Ann Cyran, *Senior Planner*; Jayme Lopko, *Senior Planner*; Krista Wiedmeyer, *Executive Assistant/Town Clerk*

**Present from Media:** Katherine Kokal, *Island Packet*

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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 was 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 - None**

**4. Unfinished Business - None**

**5. New Business**

**a. Introduction of Committee Members**

Chairman Johnson made some opening remarks to the Committee and the public at large. He then opened the floor up to the members, inviting them to introduce themselves. Each member of the Committee gave a brief introduction and explained why they chose to volunteer to take part on the Committee.

**b. Presentation of South Carolina Freedom of Information Act – Brian Hulbert, Staff Attorney**

Brian Hulbert, Staff Attorney discussed the information related to the SC Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the State Ethics Act. He explained to the Committee what a quorum is, and why meeting in a group of 7 would be subject to the rules within FOIA. Mr. Hulbert answered questions from the Committee related to both FOIA and the Ethics Act, stressing the importance of both.

**c. Discussion of Future Meetings**

Chairman Johnson opened up the discussion by explaining that his intentions at this time are to hold a meeting every week. He went on to say that he understood this to be very aggressive, but that he felt it necessary for now to begin gathering the information. Open discussion took place amongst the Committee about what the meeting schedule should look like. The Committee did discuss at least through the end of March, having a weekly meeting. By the end of the discussion, a decision was made that the next meeting would take place on Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

## 5. New Business (cont.)

### d. Discussion of Committee Charter

Chairman Johnson opened the discussion concerning the Charter by asking the members what they felt they had been charged to do. Several questions were asked about the scope of work and if the SCDOT would broaden the scope of work to include interim short-term solutions. The Committee discussed where exactly the project started and ended, and what exactly it was that they needed to be looking at in terms of getting the information out to the general population.

Chairman Johnson invited Mr. Cousins to discuss the NEPA timeline and overview of the project. Mr. Cousins explained that Mr. Winn from the SCDOT would be attending one of the Committee meetings in March to discuss the project. Within the NEPA, he pointed out the public's involvement and the important aspects for the Committee with the alternative aspects. Mr. Cousins continued to field questions concerning the timeline, specifically why the public involvement would predate construction. Other questions related to funding, which were answered by Josh Gruber, Assistant Town Manager. Mr. Gruber explained the Town and County's involvement with the State Infrastructure Bank application and the Penny Tax. More questions regarding the alternative aspects for construction were answered by both Chairman Johnson and Mr. Cousins, explaining the SCDOT is hoping to have a list for review by late spring, and one of the Committee is to have feedback as the alternatives are developed. Other members said they would feel better having more information sooner, rather than later. Explaining they feel the Committee is already behind in the data collection.

### e. Chairman's Comments

Chairman Johnson stated that he had five discrete issues that he felt needed to be considered. 1. the "[causeways and](#)" bridges, 2. Pinckney Island, 3. Windmill Harbour and Jenkins Island, 4. the Stoney Community, and 5. the Island traffic pattern through to the Cross Island. He said that these were just his observations, not necessarily issues that the Committee needed to take forward to work on. Chairman Johnson said that he had some homework assignments for the Committee. He said he would like to arrange for the members to begin to look at the areas directly affected. He asked Mr. Brown and Mr. Crews to begin making arrangements for small groups of the Committee, no more than 6 at one time to tour those areas. Chairman Johnson said he would also like to come up with a communications strategy, maybe a website and/or Facebook page. He said he wanted to explore where the members want to pitch in to help out and lastly who the key stakeholders are.

The Committee has asked for as much information as possible concerning the project, both electronically and hard copy, whichever is available. They would like to be able to learn as much as possible to be able to communicate information back if possible. Mr. Cousins noted the request and stated that he would begin working to gathering the information.

## 6. Adjournment

At 5:45 p.m., Mr. Peebles moved to adjourn, Mr. Cutrer seconded. The motion to adjourn was approved by a vote of 12-0

Respectfully submitted by:  
Krista M. Wiedmeyer  
Executive Assistant/Town Clerk

Approved: 02/21/2019

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David Johnson, Chairman