

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

**Date: Thursday, February 21, 2019**

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

**Present from Committee:** David Johnson, Jr., *Chairman*; Frank Babel, Tom Crews, Jerry Cutrer, Craig Forrest, Hannah Horne, David Lunka, Tom Peeples, Brendan Reilley, Sarah Stewart, John Taylor *Members* and Palmer Simmons, *1<sup>st</sup> Alternate*

**Absent from Committee:** Alex Brown, Tom Peeples, Kyle Theodore

**Present from Town Council:** Bill Harkins, *Mayor Pro-Tem*; Tom Lennox, and Tamara Becker

**Present from Town Staff:** Steve Riley, *Town Manager*; Joshua Gruber, *Assistant Town Manager*; Charles Cousins, *Assistant to the Town Manager*; Brian Hulbert, *Staff Attorney*; Carolyn Grant, *Communications Director*; Ann Cyran, *Senior Planner*; Jayme Lopko, *Senior Planner*; 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., with no changes to the agenda, the Chairman asked for a roll call from the Committee.

**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**

**a.** Minutes from February 14, 2019

Mr. Cutrer moved to amend the minutes from February 14, 2019 to reflect the presence of Councilman David Ames and to reflect the Chairman's comments under item 5(e) to say "causeways and bridges". Mr. Crews seconded the motion to amend the minutes. The motion to amend was approved by a vote of 10-0-3. Mr. Taylor then moved to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Cutrer seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 11-0-3.

**4. Unfinished Business - None**

**5. New Business**

**a. Introduction of New 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. The new members of the Committee gave a brief introduction and explained why they chose to volunteer to take part on the Committee.

**b. Tour of Stoney and Jenkins Areas**

Chairman Johnson noted during the prior meeting that the homework given out to two members was to tour the areas affected by this project. Mr. Crews addressed the Committee, noting the plan would be for the Committee to meet publicly at the Crazy Crab and then board a bus and head towards Windmill Harbour where they would step off the bus to witness the flow of traffic in that area. After some discuss, board the bus again and head back towards the Stoney area and back to the Crazy Crab where they would step off the bus and again witness the flow of traffic in that area. The Committee discussed the different possibilities for the tour, and how it could take place. Chairman Johnson noted that discussions have taken place with Town staff to help with the arrangements and from a safety standpoint as well. Mr. Cousins reiterated to the Committee that this will be a public meeting, and that the public does need to hear what is taking place and what is being said.

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

### **c. Overview of U.S. 278 Corridor Study Area**

Chairman Johnson stated that at this point, he would like to show the challenges or issues that the Committee is going to be faced with. He noted that Mr. Winn with the SCDOT would be at the March 7, 2019 meeting to begin answering questions, and after that, the Committee could begin working on specific task items, and who would be responsible for those items. Chairman Johnson invited Mr. Cousins to the podium to present an overview of the study area.

Mr. Cousins begin the overview with a historic view of the area going back before the bridges to the Island had been installed. Showing the difference of the landowner's property then in 1955 to today with a six lane highway. He discussed the capacity that has been added through the Cross Island area down to the Spanish Wells and Wild Horse Roads. Mr. Cousins reviewed the information throughout the different causeways within the Stoney area, and the challenges of maintaining the quality of life for those citizens in the area. He discussed the left turns in and out of the different properties throughout the study area. The dangers of making such turns in and out of the properties. Mr. Cousins talked about the three different causeways on Jenkins Island and the challenges they cause with a project like this. Mr. Cousins reviewed all four bridges, Pinckney Island and the boat launch, discussing the challenges each of these can cause for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. He talked about the Flyover to and from Bluffton as well. Mr. Cousins discussed the relationship between the Town and the County, explaining that much of the area is in Unincorporated Beaufort County and therefore outside of the Town's jurisdiction.

During the overview, there was discussion by both the public at large and the Committee, questions from both sides asking about safety during evacuations, quality of life of those affected, how the County is involved, and many more.

At the conclusion of the overview, Mr. Cousins showed where documents pertaining to the study could be found on the Town's website for both citizens and the Committee to review (<http://www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov/projects/278corridor/resources.cfm>).

### **d. Chairman's Comments**

Chairman Johnson said that Committee is committed to gathering feedback from the community to provide alternatives to the SCDOT, and that it must include the whole scope of the project. He then invited Mr. Cutrer to give a brief summary of his recent trip to Columbia with the Greater Island Council. Mr. Cutrer reviewed the information he had gathered while in Columbia with the Greater Island Council, stating he had the opportunity to meet with members of the SCDOT and learned about the State Infrastructure Bank Application process and that the County to date, had not filed said application. He stated that he was of the opinion that the Committee should invite the County to one of their meetings to discuss where they are in this process and what steps are necessary to move forward. Mr. Cutrer provided the Committee with a copy of a letter from the Governor's office showing his support for the Corridor project.

## **6. Adjournment**

At 5:45 p.m., Mr. Babel moved to adjourn, Mr. Taylor seconded. The motion to adjourn was approved by a vote of 10-0-4

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

Approved: 02/27/2019

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David Johnson, Chairman