



2Town of Hilton Head Island  
**U.S. 278 Gateway Corridor Committee**

Wednesday, May 30, 2019 at 4:00 pm  
Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**Present From the Committee:** David Johnson, *Chairman*; Frank Babel, Alex Brown, Tom Crews, Jerry Cutrer, Craig Forrest, David Lunka, Brendan Reilly, *Members*; Palmer Simmons, *First Alternate*; Larry McElynn, *County Liaison*

**Absent from Committee:** Hannah Horne, Tom Peeples, Sarah Stewart, John Taylor, Kyle Theodore, *Members*; Marc Grant, *Hilton Head Island Liaison*; Dan Wood, *Bluffton Liaison*.

**Present from Town Staff:** 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.

### **2. FOIA Compliance**

Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and mailed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.

### **3. Committee Roll Call**

### **4. Approval of Minutes**

#### **a. Committee Meeting from May 8, 2019**

Mr. Lunka moved to approve the Committee meeting minutes from May 8, 2019. Mr. Babel seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 8-0.

### **5. Unfinished Business - None**

### **6. New Business**

#### **a. Summary of Visit with SCDOT and Federal Highway Administration Officials – David Johnson**

Chairman Johnson stated that he and Charles had a successful visit with the SCDOT this past May 22, 2019. He noted that there are still some pending completion, one of those being the Annual Traffic Count, which is set to be completed in August. Chairman Johnson said another topic discussed was noise. He said it turns out that the SCDOT does take into consideration the changes in noise with traffic. Chairman Johnson said that they were told that the project scope has been extended to Spanish Wells Road now. He noted that there are three cooperating agencies working with the SCDOT, Fish and Wildlife, the Core of Engineers, and Coast Guard. What this means is any cooperating agency such as the three mentioned can accept automatically accept the results of the NEPA process. They do not have to go through a separate process of their own. Chairman Johnson said that something important that he learned, in terms of the scoring process was some terminology that the Core of Engineers uses. They use Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA) when considering matters related to wetlands issues. He noted that the key word is "Practicable."

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

### **a. Summary of Visit with SCDOT and Federal Highway Administration Officials (cont.)**

Chairman Johnson touched on communication and reported that the SCDOT recently updated their information on the project website (<https://www.scdot278corridor.com/>). The website has new information along with videos and surveys for citizens to participate in. Chair Johnson said that Carolyn Grant, the Town's Communication Director, is in the process of syncing up community meeting calendars with the SCDOT. The last couple of items Chairman Johnson touched out were aesthetics of the bridge, and what the Town would like the bridge to look like. He noted the types of financing that need to be in place in order to move forward in a timely manner and what kind of leeway might be available. He closed this portion of his discussion with potential dates the SCDOT will be in the area. Chairman Johnson noted that they would be meeting with the stakeholders on June 25<sup>th</sup> and likely with the Committee on or around the same time.

### **b. Overview of Craig Winn's Recent Memo on Alternatives**

Chairman Johnson discussed the summary of responses to the suggested alternatives submitted by the Committee in April. He reviewed the notes that the SCDOT made regarding each of the workgroups submissions. The information provided back to Committee was intended to give an understanding of the process the SCDOT is using when reviewing the different Alternatives. They explained what ideas had potential, what could possibly be done, and what could not be done. There was discussion about moving of the powerlines and the expense associated with this. With each submission, feedback was provided back to the groups so there was an understanding about their finding.

### **c. Scoring - Methodology to Evaluate SCDOT's Corridor Alternatives**

Chairman Johnson reported that when the SCDOT visits in July that one of the discussions they would have would be on their scoring and methodology to evaluate the corridor alternatives. The Committee as a whole was in agreement that it is extremely important there is input from the Committee on the scoring.

### **d. Report from Data Analysis Working Group**

Mr. Forrest opened the discussion by noting that he and Mr. Taylor met with members of Town staff, Charles Cousins, Scott Liggett, and Darrin Shoemaker to discuss a number of items. He said that the meeting began with the discussion of numbers in the area of 56,000 for current traffic and 75,000 for projected traffic in 2050. He went on to say that there was a conclusion that speaking on the number alone, would not get anyone too far. He said that the thought is to first of all get the committee well education or a better understanding of what the current traffic trends show. Mr. Forrest said that Town staff would be preparing such information to be presented at a forthcoming meeting. He noted that with regards to the projected figures, the committee would need to have a better understanding on how this number is achieved. It was decided that Mr. Taylor working with Mr. Cousins would invite the County's Consultant to a forthcoming meeting to discuss the process for achieving the projected the numbers. Mr. Forrest noted that by educating the Committee on both the current and projected numbers, ultimately they will be educating the community too. Chairman Johnson opened the discussion up to the Committee where it continued at length concerning the how the information would be used once obtained, and how it would be properly distributed to the community.

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

### **e. Appointment of Aesthetics Working Group**

Chairman Johnson asked Ms. Theodore and Mr. Crews to head up an Aesthetics Working Group. Mr. Crews said this is an item that can be done affordably.

### **f. Appointment of Pathway Working Group**

Chairman Johnson asked Mr. Babel to head up the Pathway Working Group.

### **g. Upcoming Meetings**

- i.** Stoney Neighborhood Meeting, June 13, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
- ii.** Next Committee Meeting, June 20, 2019, 4:00 p.m.

Chairman Johnson noted the upcoming meetings. He asked if the Committee would have any objections to moving the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting to June 26<sup>th</sup>. With no objections, the date was changed.

## **7. Public Comments**

There were some members of the community who made informal comments during the Public Comments section.

## **8. Adjournment**

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

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

**Approved:** June 26, 2019