



Town of Hilton Head Island TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

An Update from Deputy Town Manager Josh Gruber 9/28/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

Here's an update on what's happening around Town:

Beach Parking

Yes, the busy, busy beach tourist season has ended but our beaches are still attractive for fall strolls. If you visit our beaches frequently, we want to update you on parking at Burkes Beach and Islanders Beach Park. On-street parking on Burke's Beach Road is prohibited until further notice. We will address parking issues at this location more succinctly once we have the results of our parking study in hand. Options will be presented to Town Council. Chaplin Community Park users, as well as beach goers, are reminded to please use the parking areas within the Chaplin park and along Castnet Drive. Also, as of October 1st, the limited number of metered parking spaces at Islanders Beach Park will become available to the public on a first-come, first serve basis.

Hospitality Tax Funding for Flood Control and Drainage Repair

Governor Henry McMaster is expected to sign bill S217, which the House and Senate passed last week. Introduced in 2019, the bill allows cities and towns to use hospitality tax revenue for flooding and drainage mitigation in tourist related areas. The Town of Hilton Head Island does not currently have any anticipated uses of this revenue for current or existing projects. It may be utilized for funding of future projects if determined to be appropriate to do so. Historically, the Town has utilized Stormwater Utility funds to address flooding and drainage issues on the Island and has utilized hospitality tax revenue on capital expenditure, primarily within the Fire and Rescue Division. The passage of this bill ultimately provides for greater flexibility in the use of hospitality taxes and therefore allows for potential of these funds to be used for flooding and drainage related projects. However, it is not a new tax and therefore does not generate and additional revenue beyond what the Town has historically received in any given fiscal year.

ATAX Committee Meeting Set for October 1

The Town's Accommodations Tax (ATAX) is scheduled to meet at 9 a.m. Thursday, October 1. Among agenda items is a preliminary review of 2021 accommodations tax grant applications. This meeting is being conducted virtually and can be viewed live on the Town's Public Meeting Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/townofhiltonheadislandmeetings/.



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Public comments concerning agenda items can be submitted electronically via the Town's Virtual Town Hall public comment portal at hiltonheadislandsc.gov/opentownhall/. The portal will close at 4:30 p.m. the day prior to the scheduled meeting. Citizens may also call (843) 341-4646 to sign up for public comment participation during the meeting by phone. The public comment period will close at 4:30 p.m. the day prior to the scheduled meeting. All comments will be provided to the Committee for review and made part of the official record.

SCDOT's Public Notification of Proposed Conversion of Cross Island Parkway to Non-Tolled Road in Hilton Head

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) is seeking public comment for the proposed conversion of the Cross Island Parkway toll facility into a non-tolled road. The public has the opportunity to comment on an action to amend the 2017-2022 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) to include engineering and construction for the conversion. SCDOT will receive public comment for a 21-day period that started on September 22, 2020 and ends October 13, 2020.

The toll on the Cross Island Parkway (US 278) is set to expire in 2021. This project includes the removal of existing toll infrastructure and roadway improvements required to change the Parkway to a conventional, non-tolled four-lane road. The total estimated cost of the project is \$14 million. Pending consideration of public comments, the proposed changes will be recommended for inclusion in a future revision to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

For more information or to submit comments, visit:

English: www.scdot.org/projects/press-releases-cross-island-pkwy.aspx

Spanish: www.scdot.org/projects/press-releases-cross-island-pkwy-sp.aspx

Free COVID-19 Tests and COVID-19 Cases in our Community

Hilton Head Hospital and its sister facility, Coastal Carolina Hospital in Hardeeville, offers free COVID-19 drive-thru testing is available from 8 a.m. to noon, Monday thru Friday, at its campus. You do not need an appointment or a physician's order. Your test results typically will be e-mailed within 72 hours to the valid e-mail address you are asked to provide. You can also visit scdhec.gov/covid19testing to find other testing clinics or events near you and what the requirements are for testing at those locations. For the latest figures on the number of cases of COVID-19 on Hilton Head Island, please visit www.scdhec.gov or the Town's COVID-19 hub page at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19.

Town Manager Update Schedule

We hope our daily Town Manager Updates have been beneficial and have kept you abreast of what's happening around the Town, region and state. Over the last six months,



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we have produced these daily updates to ensure our citizens are well-informed. We continue to evaluate how best to keep you informed. Starting this week, we are reducing the number of days we provide Town Manager updates from daily to three times a week – Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We may present special updates and announcements if warranted. Thank you and we appreciate your support and feedback.