



## MEETING MINUTES

Project: Highway 41 Corridor Improvements  
Subject: Community Meetings  
Date: September 20-22, 2017  
Location: Highway 41 Corridor Community Groups  
Meeting Support: Cal Oyer, Charleston County  
Randy Williamson, HDR  
Shannon Meder, HDR  
Samantha Dubay, HDR  
Rotating Meeting Support: Robert Flagler, HDR  
Harriet Richardson-Seacat, HDR  
Josh Fletcher, HDR  
Natalie Lawrence, Joyst Communications  
Cheryl Harleston, CHH Communications  
Ed Givens, Fellowship Strategies

## Overview

The Highway 41 Corridor Improvements project team held eight (8) meetings with community, neighborhood and business groups over the course of three days in an effort to present to leadership from these groups on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and project schedule, and receive input on the project development process. Cal Oyer, Randy Williamson, Shannon Meder and Samantha Dubay presented at each meeting.

Post cards were sent to invite business owners to attend the Business Owner Meeting. The project team coordinated directly with community group leadership in order to schedule each community meeting.

Meeting materials included a presentation, meeting handout, sign in sheets, comment forms, and project study area map. Below is a summary of topics discussed that took place at each meeting.

### Business Owner Meeting, September 20 at 10:00 a.m.

Approximately 70 individuals were invited to attend the Business Owner Meeting. The meeting was held at Greater Goodwill AME Church with eight business representatives in attendance. The majority of the businesses were from businesses along Gregorie Ferry Road at the Station 41 plaza.

- Individuals had concerns over drainage responsibilities and maintenance: Charleston County (County) vs. Town of Mt. Pleasant (Town) vs. SC Department of Transportation (SCDOT).
- Individuals had concerns over the currently-unsafe connection from Gregorie Ferry Road/41 to access Highway 17, which makes it difficult to make left hand turns onto Highway 41. There were also concerns expressed over traffic backing up from Joe Rouse Road and extending down Highway 41 to Gregorie Ferry Road at rush hour.
- Other input/concerns expressed included:
  - Short-term solutions for traffic issues;
  - Planned development (Lowes grocery store);
  - Allocated project funding;
  - Hurricane evacuation route – current Highway 41 capacity is not sufficient;
  - Traffic demand for the new baseball field;
  - Accident/safety data being collected along the corridor.

#### **Planter’s Pointe Meeting, September 20 at 2:00 p.m.**

Approximately 10 individuals attended the Planter’s Pointe meeting; attendees consisted of board members, HOA staff and residents. The meeting was held in the Planter’s Pointe Clubhouse.

- Individuals wanted assurance that the project team was considering future development in the area such as the proposed traffic light at Dunes West, Lowe’s grocery store, other growth in the Town of Mt. Pleasant, growth on Clements Ferry Road.
- Individuals in attendance prefer more lanes to accommodate traffic.
- Other input was provided on:
  - Noise and how the speed limit will affect noise;
  - Emergency responder’s access (typical response time is currently about 45 minutes);
  - Project schedule/timeline is too long;
  - Hurricane evacuation route – current Highway 41 capacity is not sufficient;

#### **Park West Meeting, September 20 at 4:00 p.m.**

Approximately six individuals were in attendance at the Park West Clubhouse, which consisted of board members and HOA staff.

Input from attendees included:

- Clements Ferry Road widening project;
- Highway 41 as an evacuation route;
- Widening of Park West Boulevard as a favorable option;
- Incorporation of bike lanes (some opposed, some were pro);
- Prefer to focus on widening the road to move traffic and focus less on landscape in the corridor;
- Short-term solutions for Bessemer Road.

#### **Action item:**

- *Send board members the presentation and handout for distribution.*

### Phillips Community Meeting, September 20 at 7:00 p.m.

Approximately 35 individuals attended the Phillips Community Meeting held at Greater Goodwill AME Church. To supplement the project team presentation, Harriett Richardson-Seacat from HDR presented to the group on the Phillips Community being evaluated in the project development process as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) to assess adverse effects. TCPs must be evaluated in federal undertakings and the project team will be interviewing community representatives to gather details on community history, cultural practices, inventorying important places and overall TCP extent.

- Questions were asked about the project schedule and when documents would be submitted for a federal decision and what type of studies would be taking place.
- Individuals were concerned over right-of-way acquisition and whether the community would be further divided.
- Individuals also asked that the project team look at alternative connections outside of the Highway 41 corridor and to consider bypass roads.
- The attendees were against noise walls in the area.
- There was a request for more meetings with the Phillips Community and to meet with other communities to hear what they prefer from the project.

**Action item:**

- *Harriett Richardson-Seacat will schedule interviews with individuals to formulate the TCP study.*
- *The project team will hold a second meeting with the Phillips Community Association.*

### Rivertowne, September 21 at 2:00 p.m.

Approximately five individuals attended the Rivertowne meeting, which was held at 1978 Sandy Point Lane. Individuals in attendance included community residents.

- Input was expressed on the following topics:
  - Flooding in the area;
  - Future development in Berkeley County;
  - Noise walls vs. noise berms;
  - Access for emergency vehicles;
  - Public meeting times;
  - Gas station proposed at neighborhood entrance;
  - Right-of-way process.

### The Colonnade, September 21 at 4:00 p.m.

Approximately eight individuals attended this meeting which was held at the Brickyard Clubhouse and consisted of representatives from The Colonnade, Brickyard Plantation, and The Landing.

- A main concern from this meeting was noise and vibration. Representatives from The Colonnade were concerned over right-of-way and corridor noise.
- Individuals expressed that they preferred noise walls along the corridor.
- Individuals also asked if more traffic lights would be added.

**Action item:**

- *Send board members the presentation for distribution.*

**Horlbeck Creek, September 21 at 6:00 p.m.**

Nine individuals attended the Horlbeck Creek meeting held at 1414 Black River Road and consisted of the neighborhood Board of Directors.

- The group requested the project team look at routes for improving traffic other than the Highway 41 corridor.
- The group was concerned over the project affecting their quality of life and requested noise walls to combat noise and vibration.
- Concerns were also raised over:
  - How close the road expansion would come to houses;
  - Impacts to marsh areas;
  - Planned development;
  - Clements Ferry widening;
  - Traffic safety/fatalities.

**Action item:**

- *Send board members the presentation for distribution.*

**Dunes West, September 22 at 2:00 p.m.**

Thirteen board members attended the meeting held at the Dunes West Office.

- Questions included topics on zoning and future development, funding available for the project, and other potential funding sources to speed up the process.
- Individuals suggested widening Bessemer Road and Dunes West Boulevard to four lanes to accommodate traffic.
- Individuals asked about Joe Rouse Road construction and its expedited timeline.
- A question was asked about how the new Dunes West light at Harpers Ferry Way would be affected by the project.
- The group also offered to provide the data that was being collected at Dunes West traffic gate.