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To:
Subject: Highway 41 Corridor Improvements Project – Project Update
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Charleston County
Transportation Development

Message from the Project Manager

Since we held our public [Alternatives Open House](#) in May 2018, we received a number of comments on traffic, safety, existing and future developments, historic and cultural resources, existing congestion, and the overall project schedule. To be exact, the project team received 1,248 comments - including hand-written comments, online meeting comments, e-mails and phone calls - during the official 30-day comment period.

We presented three reasonable alternatives at the Alternatives Open House in May – Alternative 1, Alternative 2, and Alternative 7 – that moved forward for further analysis of impacts on the natural environment and community based on their abilities to meet the purpose and need of the project.

Alternatives Refinement & Modification



Since May, we have been working to refine and revise the three reasonable alternatives presented, taking into account public comments, existing and future traffic volume projections, large planned developments including Cainhoy Plantation, and cultural and environmental considerations in the area.

- **Alternative 1** – Alternative 1 consists of widening Highway 41 to a five-lane section and is being recommended for further evaluation under the [NEPA process](#) as it meets the purpose and need of the project.
- **Alternative 2** - Alternative 2, which consists of widening Highway 41 to five lanes except for the section within the Phillips Community, was presented as a reasonable alternative in May 2018 but is **not** being recommended for further evaluation because a detailed traffic analysis confirms a three-lane section through the Phillips Community would fail and therefore this alternative does not meet the purpose and need of the project.
- **Alternative 5a** - During the alternatives refinement, the project team looked at other ways to distribute traffic in the area and off of Highway 41. As a result of public comment, we reconsidered Alternative 5 and made some revisions to it, which became Alternative 5a. Alternative 5a consists of a parallel five lane roadway primarily along a power line easement running from Highway 17, through Laurel Hill County Park, and tying into Highway 41 near Harpers Ferry Way. Alternative 5a is being recommended for further evaluation under the [NEPA](#)

[process](#) as it meets the purpose and need of the project.

- **Alternative 7a** - In response to public comment, a modification of Alternative 7 was developed to avoid and minimize impacts to residential areas along Bessemer Road. The modified alternative became Alternative 7a and will replace Alternative 7. This alternative re-routes Highway 41 parallel to Bessemer Road and onto Laurel Hill County Park property, follows along the existing power line easement, and then continues back along existing Dunes West Blvd. Alternative 7a meets the purpose and need of the project and is being recommended for further evaluation under the [NEPA process](#).

As a result of the revised reasonable alternatives analysis, **Alternative 1, Alternative 5a and Alternative 7a** are moving forward in the process and will be further evaluated for right-of-way, cost and environmental impacts.

To view the refined reasonable alternatives, [view the presentation](#) that was given to the project Stakeholder Working Group on November 14, 2018.

Additional Improvements Being Evaluated

- **Interim Improvements** - Interim improvements are being pursued, which would help relieve congestion until a final project can be built. Proposed interim improvements consist of introducing a new south bound lane on Highway 41 from Joe Rouse Road to Highway 17 and minor intersection improvements to improve signal timing at Highway 41 and Highway 17.
- **Connection to Billy Swails Boulevard** -The project team is currently evaluating options to connect Highway 41 with Billy Swails Blvd.

Next Steps

Moving forward, we will be finalizing environmental impact studies while working with project stakeholders, the Town of Mt. Pleasant, the South Carolina Department of Transportation, and the US Army Corps of Engineers to determine the preferred alternative that best meets the purpose and need of the project. The project team will take into account public comment about the proposed project and will make every effort to avoid and minimize impacts of the final design. The project team expects to identify a preferred alternative in spring 2019 and the County will host a public meeting in summer 2019 to solicit feedback, which will be considered prior to submitting the permit application and Draft Environmental Assessment to the US Army Corps of Engineers. The US Army Corps of Engineers will issue a public notice seeking public comments on the project and based on those comments, an additional public meeting may be held.

More information on details presented in this project update, including alternatives maps, can be viewed in the [presentation](#) that was given to the project Stakeholder Working Group on November 14.

Contact Information

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