

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3 - FALL 2020



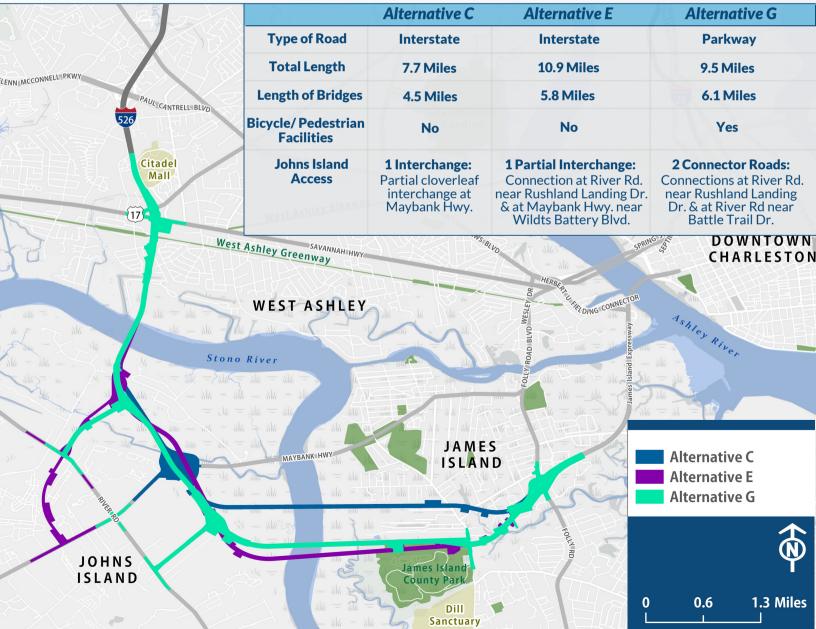
What's Been Happening?

Since <u>our last update</u>, the project team analyzed the 39 Preliminary Alternatives and three Reasonable Alternatives were identified! The conceptual alignments for the three Reasonable Alternatives and a table that compares them are shown below. All three alternatives extend from the existing interchange at I-526 and U.S. 17 and connect to the James Island Expressway at Folly Road on James Island. The project team is finalizing the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) and will share the Recommended Preferred Alternative at the Public Hearing.



Project Purpose

- Increase the capacity of the regional transportation system
- Improve safety
- Enhance mobility to and from the West Ashley, Johns Island, and James Island areas of Charleston



As the project team is finishing up the draft SEIS, SCDOT released a survey from August 10 through August 24, 2020 to learn more about the issues most important to the public. We are using this data to help address your concerns at the upcoming Public Hearing. Thank you for your participation! Here is what we learned:

1,585
Participants!



YOU identified these as the most important priorities in the region:



Travel Reliability



Protecting the Environment



Preserving Quality of Life



Managing Future Development

Related to the natural environment.

the public was most concerned about:

Related to the human environment, the public was most concerned about:



Fair Compensation for Property



Increased Traffic Noise



Traffic Volumes/ Congestion



Protected Species, Fish, & Wildlife Habitats



Wetlands Impacted

SCDOT heard what is most important to YOU! Thanks to your survey responses and write-in comments, we learned that future and current traffic congestion are top concerns. Many write-in comments expressed concern about a new road bringing increased traffic. Our team has been working to analyze future traffic patterns and looks forward to sharing how the Recommended Preferred Alternative can alleviate congestion by improving traffic mobility at the Public Hearing. Additionally, we heard that receiving fair compensation for property and disproportionately impacting minority communities are other top concerns for survey respondents.

Interested in learning more about the Right-of-Way acquisition process?

Watch our Right-of-Way video online!



SCDOTMarkClark.com/resources

At our upcoming Public
Hearing, you will find
additional information
regarding community
impacts, relocations, and
fair compensation.
Additionally, Right-of-Way
Specialists will be available
to address your questions
and concerns.



Having meaningful input from the public on the conclusions of the environmental document and SCDOT's Recommended Preferred Alternative is paramount. We have been actively planning and reaching out to community leaders to determine the best ways to engage with you on this, while balancing the current public health concerns. A multi-tiered approach to engagement will best meet the community's needs, and we will leverage our full toolkit of outreach strategies, including limited-attendance, in-person options combined with online and telephone opportunities.

There are several regional transportation projects scheduled to come before our community this fall, including the I-526 Lowcountry Corridor WEST, which includes improvements to existing I-526 from Paul Cantrell Boulevard in West Ashley to Virginia Avenue in North Charleston. You will notice below that we have shifted our schedule slightly in order to best provide opportunities for the public to engage and to minimize confusion between projects. As we work to finalize our Public Hearing outreach plans for early next year, we welcome your input on the best ways to engage with your community.



Current Project Schedule

201 2020 2021 2022 Fall Spring Summer Fall Winter Spring Summer Fall Winter Spring Summer Fall **Public Hearing & Public Comment Period** We are Here! FHWA & USACE/ USACE USCG Refine FHWA & Screen Preliminary Alternatives, **SCDOT USCG Preferred Permit Permit SCDOT** Identify & Analyze Reasonable **Permit Approve** Sign SEIS Alternative Decision Decision **Alternatives FEIS** Application Submitted **FHWA** Issues Supplemental Draft EIS (SEIS) Development **Prepare Final EIS (FEIS) Public** Record of **Notice Decision**

Contact & Comment

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