

What's Been Happening:

Since our last update, the project team presented the Recommended Preferred Alternative at the public hearing events in the fall of 2021. Between August 18, 2021 and October 15, 2021, 967 people viewed the virtual public hearing room and 311 people attended the three in-person meetings held in the project study area on Johns Island, James Island, and West Ashley. A total of 2,618 comments were received during the comment period from 2,421 individuals. The top comments or concerns received during the public comment period were related to the following themes:



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



Traffic



Funding/Costs



Environment



Timeframe of the Project



Growth/Development in the Region

As the project team moves forward into the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), public and agency comments are being incorporated into the project design. As a result of comments received, the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and Charleston County have initiated a Settlement Community Study. For more information about this study, please see page 3. Additionally, the project team is conducting further analysis on the Recommended Preferred Alternative, including noise, natural resources, and visual impacts. SCDOT, in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), recently completed a complex process to update the project cost estimate based on federal requirements.

In March 2022, the updated potential project cost was estimated at \$2.352 billion (2028-2035 dollars), an increase from the 2014 estimate of \$725-\$772 million (2019 dollars). The cost estimate increased primarily due to construction cost adjustments to present day market conditions and inflation. It should be noted the actual costs of the project will be unknown until construction bids are received. Based on the updated cost estimate, it was recommended to construct the proposed project in two phases:



Phase 1 construction cost @ \$1.35 billion

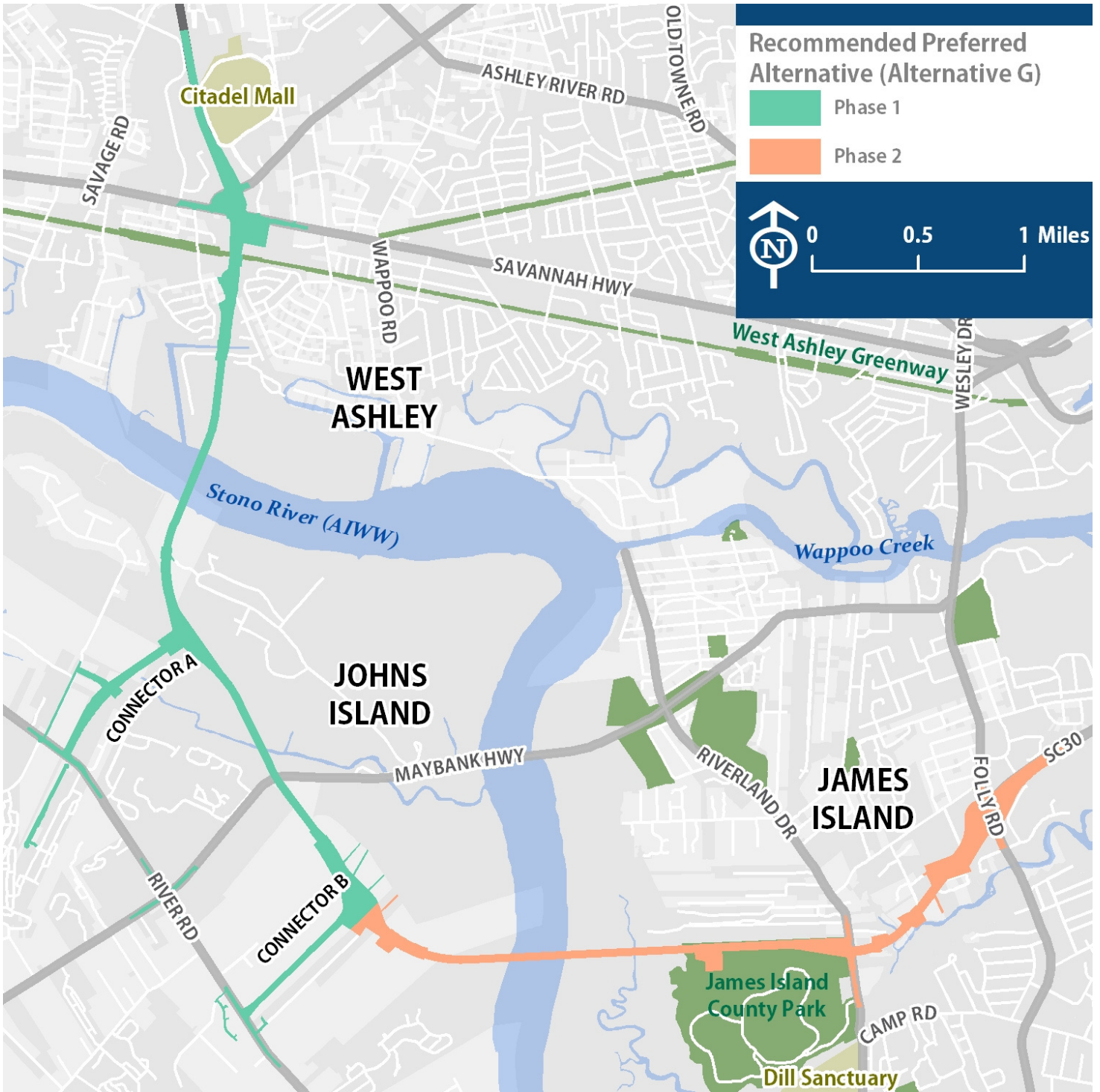


Phase 2 construction cost @ \$702 million

For descriptions and a map of the proposed construction phases to complete the Mark Clark Extension, please see the following page.



What would the Construction Phasing Look Like?



1 Phase 1 Construction

Includes all work within West Ashley and most of the work on Johns Island. Phase 1 includes one crossing of the Stono River, construction of Connector A and Connector B on Johns Island, and improvements to the River Road/Maybank Highway intersection. The estimated cost is \$1.35 billion.

2 Phase 2 Construction

Continues from Connector B on Johns Island, crossing the Stono River for a second time, onto James Island. On James Island, Phase 2 would include a new local road network connection at Riverland Drive then tie into the James Island Expressway at Folly Road. The estimated cost is \$702 million.



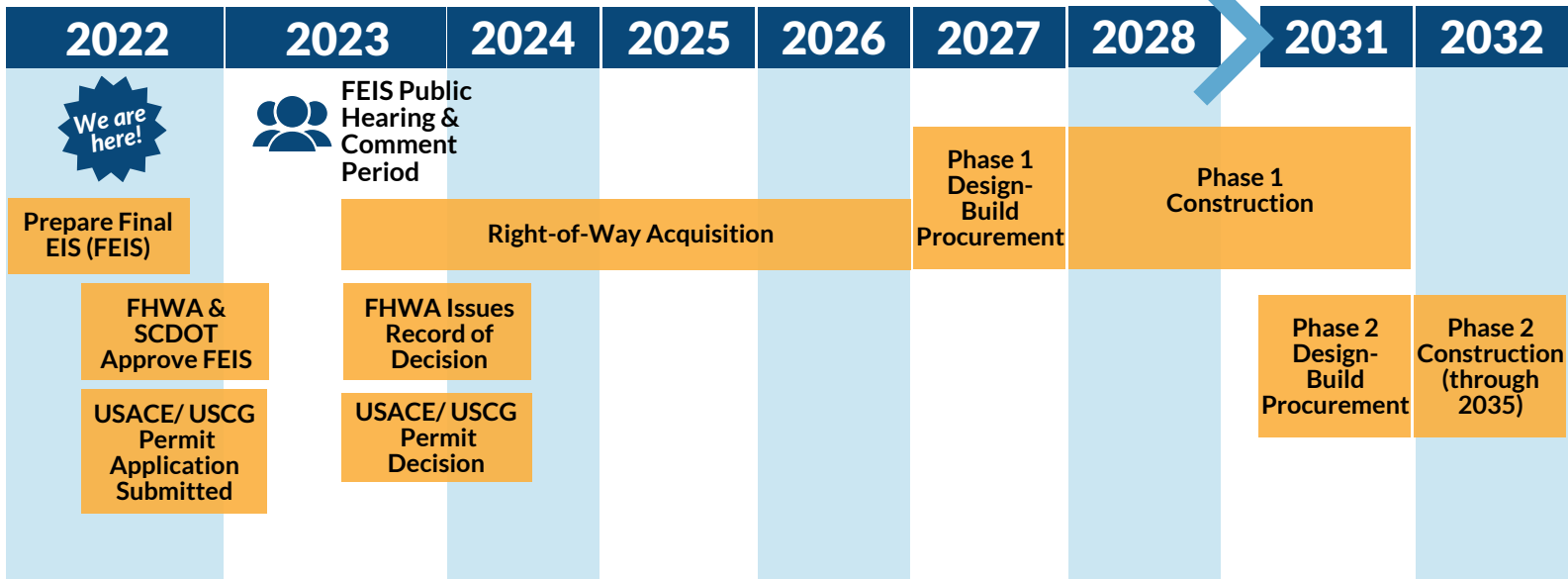
Tell Your Tales: James and Johns Islands History Collection Study

In early May, the project team held a three-day history collection event to hear from current and former residents of James and Johns Islands at the Baxter Patrick James Island Library and Johns Island Regional Library. Historians from New South Associates, a nationally recognized cultural resource management firm, met with residents to gather information about important African American settlement communities in the area, including locations of gathering places, schools, important pharmacies, churches, and places for recreation, either standing or long gone. Attendees were invited to have their oral histories recorded and bring historic photos to be digitized on site.

Over the summer, the project team will continue to document this collection of oral and archival history to gain a better understanding of these settlement communities and their families, histories, and geography. If you are interested in telling your story and did not get a chance to participate in the three-day history collection event, please contact historian Renee' Donnell at rdonnell@newsouthassoc.com or (770)-498-4155, ext. 150. There is still an opportunity to share your story for this important study!



Current Project Schedule



Contact & Comment

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