February 20, 2020

Date





Number of Pages (including cover sheet)

DAILY

NEWS

SUMMARY

If you cannot read any item or need more information, please call SCDOT Communications (803) 737-1270, and we will be happy to provide it to you.



South Carolina Department of Transportation

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CLOSINGS AND DELAYS / Asheville Christian Academy

WEATHER ALERTS / Winter Weather Advisory: Buncombe, Eastern Polk, Eastern McDowell, G Henderson, Macon, Madison, McDowell Mountains, Mitchell, Northern Jackson, Polk Mount Jackson, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey

NEWS

Upstate agencies, schools prepare for wintry weather

by: Kimberely Brown

Posted: Feb 20, 2020 / 02:07 AM EST / Updated: Feb 20, 2020 / 05:43 AM EST

SPARTANBURG, S.C. (WSPA) – Storm Team 7 has been tracking a system that could bring snow across the Upstate and Western North Carolina.

The predicted snow had local agencies and school districts on high alert Wednesday afternoon.

Plans and weather crews are in place to keep drivers and students safe, should the roads get slick.

The threat of inclement weather starts a chain reaction for school officials, South Carolina Highway Patrol and the South Carolina Department of Transportation.

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If the weather changes in the middle of the school day, administrators said their concern turns to safety and road conditions and wanting to make sure buses and cars can safely travel on the roadways.

"There is this delicate balance of waiting long enough to have accurate information about the temperatures, but not waiting so long that parents don't have time to plan in case we do close," Greenville County Schools' Beth Brotherton said.

With thousands of students, faculty and staff across the Upstate, getting everybody home safely when winter weather hits can be a challenge for school officials and highway patrol.

"If the roads are really really icy it's not uncommon to to come onto a shift and have over 100 accidents in the CAD," South Carolina Highway Patrol's Trooper Joe Hovis said.

SCDOT and school officials will send out their ice teams Thursday and Friday mornings to check roads and make sure travel conditions are safe.

"Knowing that the ice team is on alert and ready to go out on the road and check those areas that are most common trouble spots. The areas that ice or that we've seen problems in the past." Brotherton said.

School systems and first responders encourage parents and the public to stay engaged, to be proactive and to always make decisions in the interest of safety first.

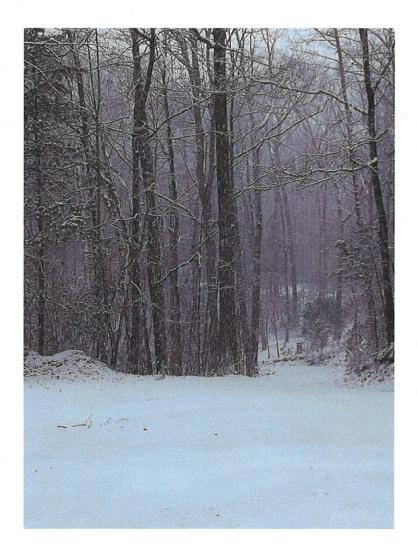
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NC and SC crews prepare for winter weather

Matthew Kaufax Updated 8 hrs ago



Snow pictures

GREENVILLE, SC (FOX Carolina) - Winter weather is expected to first hit the Western North Carolina mountains and work its way through the Upstate. Crews have been out today salting roads and doing whatever they can to prepare.

North Carolina's Department of Transportation says crews are going to start operating on a 24 hour basis as early as tomorrow morning.

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Meanwhile, the City of Greenville says it plans to start pre-treating bridges at 4am and SCDOT has already begun taking preventative steps.

SCDOT engineers say they've started by salting anything north of Highway 11 today. Tomorrow, their plan is to do anything south of 11, starting with interstates. Across state lines in North Carolina, it's a different story. Because the snow--which will hit there first--is expected to start out as rain, they can't really do much ahead of time. Both Buncombe and Henderson counties have at least 30 trucks a piece, ready to go at moment's notice and head anywhere attention demands.

"Each county has its own game plan for how they're going to tackle this storm. Each county also has its own elevation and its own unique characteristics of its roadways," said NCDOT Communications Director David Uchiyama.

"We always tell people: stay off the road if you don't have to be on it," added Josh Rowe, an SCDOT maintenance engineer.

Both men also add: let crews work. They are there to make your drive easier and safer, so its a good idea to let plows come through first if roads are bad. They also say you should remember to pack your car with things like tools, flares, and extra clothes, just in case.

School closings have also been announced as well for Buncombe, Asheville City, Polk, Madison, Mitchell, Graham, Mcdowell, and Macon County. Jackson County will be delayed and Cherokee County will release 3 hours early.

That precipitation expected to start early tomorrow morning in the mountains of North Carolina. And work its way down to Greenville County and the Upstate by the afternoon.

Stay tuned for updates and coverage on the air and in our FOX Carolina news app.

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NOWCAST











CLOSINGS: There are currently 41 active closings or delays



Advertisement

Winter storm shaping up for WNC mountains, Upstate Thursday

Some forecasting models suggest that snow will move into the Upstate as early as 10 a.m. with others as late as 1 p.m.



Updated: 9:38 AM EST Feb 20, 2020

GREENVILLE, S.C. — The third "snow" event for the Upstate since winter began is moving through our area.

9:30 a.m. update:

Advertisement

- -Some areas in the Upstate are reporting that rain is transitioning to sleet.
- -Some light snow is falling in the Western North Carolina mountains.

-Click here to watch Chris' 9:15 a.m. Facebook live

What is expected:

- -Northern Greenville and Spartanburg counties will begin to transition to a rain/snow mix as early as noon.
- -Between noon and 3 p.m. that rain/snow line will slowly move south, approaching downtown Greenville and downtown Spartanburg between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.
- -Snow is expected to continue in those areas through the evening hours.
- -Areas south of I-85 could see a quick burst of light snow this evening.

Expected totals:

- -As of Thursday morning, the mountains are expected to see 2 to 4 inches of snow.
- -Areas north of I-85 in the Upstate could see a dusting to 2 inches.
- -Areas south of I-85 could have some spotty accumulation up to half an inch or so, but the farther south cities are, the less likely they are to see anything but rain.

LATEST EARLY DISMISSALS, CLOSING, DELAYS



WYFF News 4



WYFF4



WYFF4

What is expected Friday morning:

-Chances for road problems may be higher Friday as temperatures are expected to fall into the low to mid-20s freezing the slush on roads and causing black ice.

PICTURES: A look back at our last snow event



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CLOSINGS AND DELAYS / Asheville Christian Academy

WEATHER ALERTS / Winter Weather Advisory: Buncombe, Eastern Polk, Eastern McDowell, Graham, Greater Rutherford, Hay Henderson, Macon, Madison, McDowell Mountains, Mitchell, Northern Jackson, Polk Mountains, Rutherford Mountains, Soi Jackson, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey

LOCAL NEWS

Weather conditions could lead to more potholes, SCDOT says

by: Henry Coburn

Posted: Feb 19, 2020 / 07:39 PM EST / Updated: Feb 20, 2020 / 07:50 AM EST

SPARTANBURG COUNTY, S.C. (WSPA) – The South Carolina Department of Transportation said recent and upcoming weather conditions could lead to more potholes cropping up on roads across the Upstate.

"We get some rain — a lot of moisture under the roadway — and then cold weather comes and it freezes that water under the roadway," SCDOT Communications Director Pete Poore said. "So, it tries to break its way through the pavement."

Cracks in the pavement will form, he said, and heavy cars and trucks driving over cracks will lead to potholes.

Driving through potholes can be a costly mistake. Automotive specialists at Precision Tune Auto Care told 7 News damages caused by potholes can be in the hundreds — even thousands — of dollars.

"The most common damage is to the tires and the rims," automotive specialist Frank Reynolds said. "Especially on some of the newer cars with an alloy rim, it can actually crack the rim."

Reynolds said potholes can also damage suspension and driving components, which can be costlier than tires and rims.

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SCDOT also encourages drivers to report any potholes to them. You can do that one of three ways when you notice a pothole.

First, you can call your county's SCDOT maintenance office. You can find office locations and contact information here.

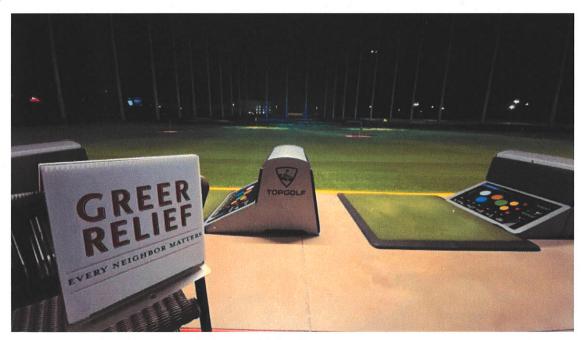
Second, you can submit a form online by clicking here.

Finally, you can call the SCDOT toll-free customer support hotline at 855-467-2368.

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by Christine Scarpelli / Feb 20, 2020

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SC rural roads could get \$100 million boost even after gas tax hike

BY ADAM BENSON ABENSON@POSTANDCOURIER.COM

FEB 19, 2020



South Carolina's rural roads could be getting \$100 million in upgrades using money from the state's nearly \$2 billion budget surplus. The proposal comes two years after lawmakers agreed to raise the gasoline tax. File/Staff

COLUMBIA — South Carolina's network of rural roads could be getting \$100 million in upgrades using money from the state's nearly \$2 billion budget surplus.

But the proposal from S.C. House budget writers comes two years after lawmakers agreed to raise the state's gasoline tax by 12 cents a gallon, which along with increased vehicle fees eventually will provide more than \$600 million a year for roadwork.

The gas tax is rising slowly, however, by 2 cents a year, so House budget writers want to speed rural road work with some of the extra money in the state's bank account.

"Although we have passed a gas tax, I want to remind everybody we're only halfway through the implementation of the gas tax. We've had decades of neglect," House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Murrell Smith, R-Sumter, said. "But what I hope to do today is accelerate some of those plans so we can try to move things forward."

Rep. Neal Collins, R-Easley, questioned why lawmakers would tap into the surplus to pay for roads when the state is already raising taxes.

"I don't like using general funds for roads, as roads have their own dedicated source of income," he said. "But I understand the push to get even more roadwork occurring since that is one of, if not the, top complaint."

Under the House plan, \$77 million would go to the state transportation agency and \$23 million would go to counties in the budget year starting July 1. The state spent twice as much on interstate widening than on rural roads since the gas tax hike went into effect in July 2017, according to state transportation data.

"Roads are one place that helps everybody in the state and commerce, and they touch all districts, so that makes for very happy representatives and senators," state Rep. Shannon Erickson, R-Beaufort, said Wednesday. "We're trying to infuse that system with dollars to bring them up to their ready speed.

"We've got this lag time with the funding slowly being implemented, and there's this gap," she said. "We will crank up that roadwork in those two-lane areas that are spread across our state in all of our districts."



PALMETTO POLITICS

SC seeks to speed interstate widening work since higher gas taxes won't pay for it all

BY SEANNA ADCOX SADCOX@POSTANDCOURIER.COM

Road conditions remain a top concern of voters in South Carolina that has among the nation's most miles of state-maintained roadways. The proposed funding comes as all 170 seats in the Legislature are up for election this year.

A vote on the extra roads spending, along with the rest of the \$10 billion state budget, is expected to move out of the House budget committee Thursday. After passing the full House, the state budget heads to the Senate for consideration and Gov. Henry McMaster's desk for final approval.



PALMETTO POLITICS

South Carolina highway leader: 'We're on target with everything' following gas tax increase

BY SEANNA ADCOX SADCOX@POSTANDCOURIER.COM

More than 4,100 miles of roads have been repaired since increased gas tax collections began in 2017, totaling \$1.2 billion in engineering and construction costs, according to DOT statistics. Almost \$124 million to date has been spent on rural road safety, half of the \$248 million spent on interstates.

South Carolina's rural roadways are the deadliest in America, according to 2019 report by TRIP, a national transportation research nonprofit. It found a fatality rate of 3.6 out of every 100 million vehicle miles traveled, nearly 70 percent higher than the national average.

OPINION POLLS

Hundreds of unfinished paving projects in SC despite huge gas-tax-hike surplus

BY RICK BRUNDRETT

Spending the budget surplus could face challenges in the Senate where leaders have said they want to give a portion back to taxpayers directly in rebates. The House budget plan does have its own plan, a \$100 tax credit for each return.

"If you look at DOT's website and page devoted to gas tax collections, it looks like they have plenty of money in the bank," Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey, R-Edgefield, said. "I've heard from them several times the problem is they can't spend because they don't have the contractors to do the work."

Follow Adam Benson on Twitter @AdamNewshound12.



ADAM BENSON

The State







LC W

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

Millions for rural roads, prisons and teachers included in proposed SC House budget

BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER

FEBRUARY 19, 2020 04:16 PM











South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster announced his executive budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Proposals include tax cuts and pay raises. BY LOUMAY ALESALI

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Those priorities and many more are included in the roughly \$10.2 billion general fund spending plan the House Ways and Means Committee is expected to approve completely on Thursday before it is sent to the full 124-member House for debate about mid-March.

The proposed spending almost entirely reflects what <u>Republican Gov. Henry McMaster</u> recommended the General Assembly spend in his executive budget released in January — a sign, budget leaders said, that reflects another year of collaboration between lawmakers and the state's CEO.

TOP ARTICLES



52 people staged Uber hit-and-runs in Columbia to get insurance money, lawsuit says

"I know we'll never have a perfect budget nor can we agree to everything," said S.C. House budget chairman Murrell Smith, a Sumter Republican whose Ways and Means Committee gets the first crack at writing the budget every year. "But we tried our best ... and we'll continue to

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House budget writers agreed to spend **\$100 million** on security and safety upgrades at the S.C. Department of Corrections, a direct response to years of <u>underfunding the state's prison system</u>. Corrections officials have asked for more money to, in part, replace door locks, buy new safety equipment for officers and purchase equipment that can help detect cell phone usage.

Budget writers also agreed to spend on Corrections:

- \$9 million annually to help the agency recruit and retain officers,
- \$9 million annually for critical need health service positions, and
- \$3 million, to reoccur annually for the expansion of a gang enforcement security team.

With more than 4,600 filled positions, Corrections is one of the largest state agencies in South Carolina. It also has about 1,475 vacancies, according to the latest data from the S.C. Department of Administration.

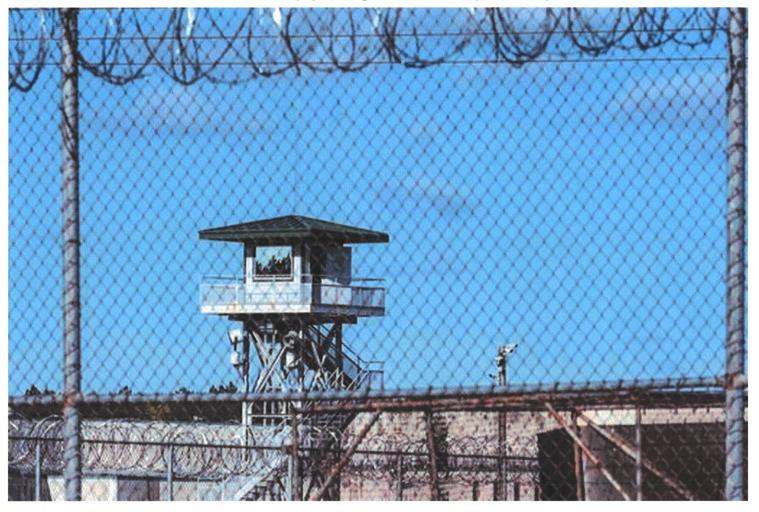
Under Director Bryan Stirling's leadership, Corrections has "been building the case over the last few years of why they need to make improvements there," Smith told The State.

In 2018, a deadly prison riot broke out at Lee Correctional Institution that <u>claimed the lives of seven inmates</u>, underscoring major security problems at the state's prisons. The riot was partly blamed on inmates using illegal cell phones.

"Obviously, what you've seen over the years from riots, inmate violence to hostage situations, it's obvious that in order to improve conditions at Corrections, it's necessary for us to make prisons safer for employees as well as the inmates," Smith said. "The only way to do that is by committing a large amount of money to improve conditions."

The House proposal also includes more than **\$9.7 million** to help the state Department of Juvenile Justice respond to problems at its Broad River Road facility, <u>after the U.S. Department of Justice ordered officials to make changes or face a lawsuit</u>.

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FILE - In this April 16, 2018, file photo, a guard tower stands above the Lee Correctional Institution, a maximum security prison in Bishopville, S.C., the morning after several inmates were killed amid fighting among prisoners. South Carolina officials hope they can combat the dangers of illegal cellphones behind bars by providing inmates with a different kind of technological device. Corrections Director Bryan Stirling tells The Associated Press Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019, he's going to start handing out tablet computers that inmates can use for calling family members, watching movies and studying educational materials. Sean Rayford, File *AP PHOTO*

INJECTION FOR ROADS

Staring down more than **\$1 billion** in new one-time dollars to spend in the state budget, the House Ways and Means Committee voted to put **\$100 million** of the cash toward fast-tracking work on the state's so-called "market to farm" roads.

Those roads are mostly secondary rural roads in South Carolina — not primary highways such as Malfunction Junction, a dangerously congested corridor connecting Interstate 26 and Interstate 20.

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Another \$23 million would go directly to county transportation committees to help decide which roads needs the most help.

Smith told The State this injection of money for roads is in addition to the state's collection of an increasing gas tax, which is funding a longer term strategy to repair major roads and bridges that are deteriorating.

PAY RAISES

South Carolina's teachers will see another pay raise this year should the House's budget proposal be signed into law.

Budget writers agreed to spend roughly **\$213 million** to help add \$3,000 to the annual salary of the state's more than 50,000 teachers.

The budget also would raise the state's starting teacher pay to \$38,000, up from \$35,000 which was approved last year.

That teacher pay proposal was first announced by State House leaders and McMaster in December. McMaster said at the time that leaders chose a flat amount to give teachers, rather than a percentage, because it would have a greater impact on classrooms.

The House budget-writing committee also proposed merit pay raises across state agencies.

Ways and Means vice-chairwoman, Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, told her colleagues Wednesday that she plans to ask the House to raise state worker pay by either 2.5% or 5% — floor amendments the Orangeburg Democrat has made in years prior — to help state employees on the lower end of the pay scale.

Between Wednesday and the time the budget hits the floor next month, Cobb-Hunter asked her colleagues to talk to state employees "who are making very low wages."

More importantly, she said, "hear their pain."

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SOUTH CAROLINA

Millions for rural roads, prisons and teachers included in proposed SC House budget

BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER

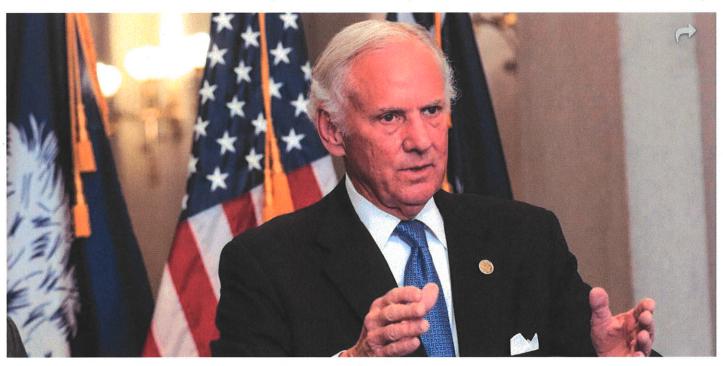
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COLUMBIA, S.C.

State budget writers in the S.C. House approved a spending plan Wednesday that includes more money for the state's prisons, a \$3,000 pay raise for the state's public school teachers and \$100 million for state-owned secondary and rural roads in disrepair.

Those priorities and many more are included in the roughly \$10.2 billion general fund spending plan the House Ways and Means Committee is expected to approve completely on Thursday before it is sent to the full 124-member House for debate about mid-March.

The proposed spending almost entirely reflects what <u>Republican Gov. Henry McMaster</u> recommended the General Assembly spend in his executive budget released in January — a sign, budget leaders said, that reflects another year of collaboration between lawmakers and the state's CEO.

TOP ARTICLES



'Check on your family.' Two sisters dead for years found mummified inside Clover home

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the first crack at writing the budget every year. "But we tried our best ... and we'll continue to work together in trying to develop a budget that's in the best interest of the citizens of this state."

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Here are some highlights:

MORE MONEY FOR SC PRISONS

House budget writers agreed to spend **\$100 million** on security and safety upgrades at the S.C. Department of Corrections, a direct response to years of <u>underfunding the state's prison system</u>. Corrections officials have asked for more money to, in part, replace door locks, buy new safety equipment for officers and purchase equipment that can help detect cell phone usage.

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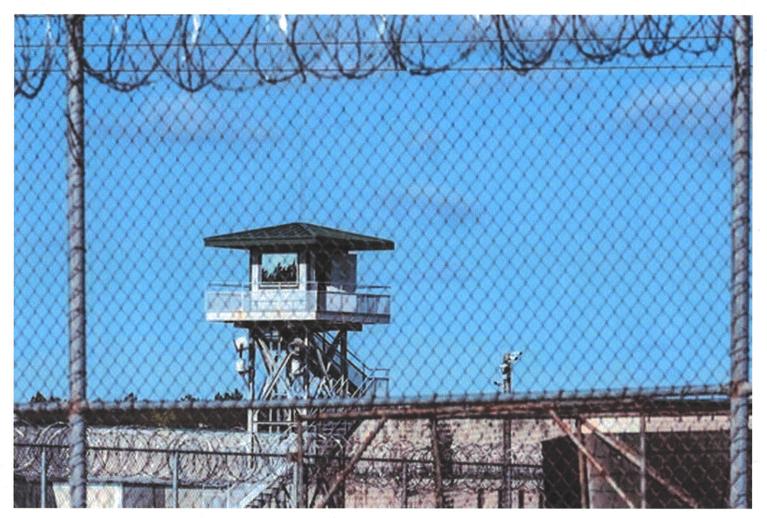
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INJECTION FOR ROADS

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Those roads are mostly secondary rural roads in South Carolina — not primary highways such as Malfunction Junction, a dangerously congested corridor connecting Interstate 26 and Interstate 20.

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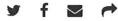


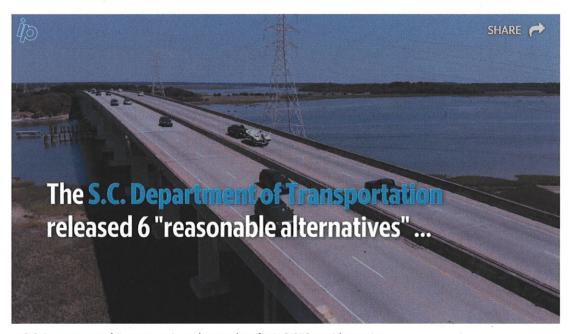
TRAFFIC

'You have veto power... Please use it': Hilton Head residents blast US 278 bridge plans

BY KATHERINE KOKAL

FEBRUARY 19, 2020 12:52 PM





S.C. Department of Transportation releases plans for U.S. 278 corridor project.

BY <u>DREW MARTIN</u> ■ | <u>KATI KOKAL</u> ■

Pressure on Town of Hilton Head Island officials to reject the SC Department of Transportation's plans for the U.S. 278 corridor built Tuesday night at a town council meeting when several dozen people showed up to object to all the proposed alternatives.

They demanded a better process for determining what will happen to the 4-mile stretch of freeway that connects Hilton Head to the mainland — and the \$240 million in taxes earmarked for the project.

Currently SCDOT has six alternatives for the corridor and will begin narrowing the list to one

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'Simple as that': Law requires Hilton Head chamber to divulge spending, Beaufort Co. says

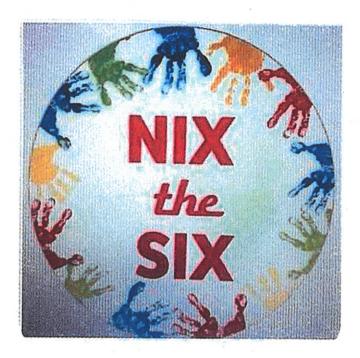
"Act now before SCDOT sets in stone its 'preferred alternative," resident Patsy Brison told the town council. "You have veto power over SCDOT projects. Please use it."

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Brison and fellow residents have formed the Coalition of Island Neighbors to address issues such as the corridor project. The group distributed rainbow stickers on Tuesday that read "Nix the Six," referring to the six bridge alternatives.

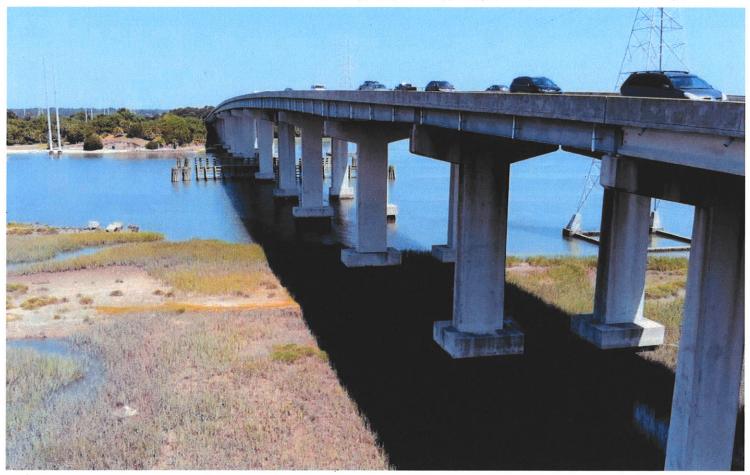


Stickers circulated at Hilton Head Island Town Hall Tuesday urges supporters to "nix the six" bridge alternatives for the U.S. 278 corridor, which some say are not living up to their expectations for a bridge that connects Hilton Head with the mainland. Katherine Kokal THE ISLAND PACKET

Tuesday's discussion comes on the heels of <u>a petition circulated online in November</u> to deny all the alternatives and invest in an independent traffic study. The petition garnered 2,146 signatures and urges supporters to "reject and rethink SCODT plans" and not to let "Hilton Head Island look like an LA suburb."

Some criticized the goals DOT chose for the project, which include increasing capacity and relieving congestion in the corridor.

"Are we trying to improve our overall metrics or the overall quality of life of those who have lived in Stoney for generations," resident Luana Sellars asked the council, referring to the historic Gullah community that sits at the base of the bridge and has already been bisected by U.S. 278.



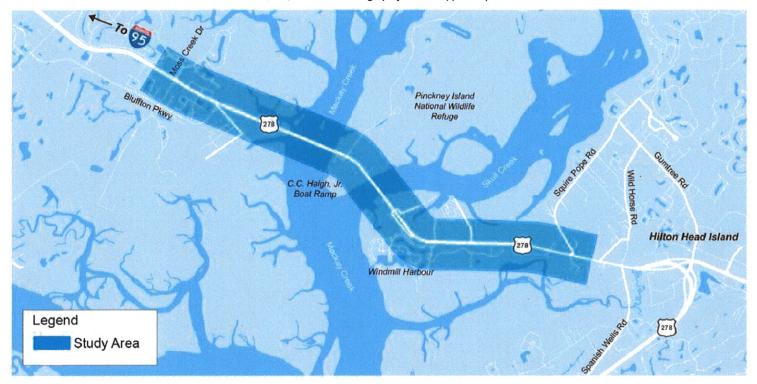
Traffic moves onto Jenkins and Hilton Head Islands over the J. Wilton Graves Bridge in this photo taken from a drone in 2019. Drew Martin DMARTIN@ISLANDPACKET.COM

'WE DON'T ACTUALLY HAVE DATA'

Hilton Head Mayor John McCann called Tuesday's special meeting to hear a report from the U.S. 278 corridor committee — a group appointed by the town council in 2018 to work with the DOT and provide feedback.

But the committee chose not to endorse a specific alternative. Instead it listed its expectations for the project in a report so the town council could compare the alternatives to the community's desires. The committee's chairman said it did so because the committee couldn't get enough data or cost information from DOT.

"We realized we could not accept or reject any of the current reasonable alternatives until we had more information," committee chair David Johnson told the council.



The study area for the U.S. 278 Corridor project by the S.C. Department of Transportation. The study area was extended to Spanish Wells Road on Hilton Head Island from Squire Pope Road in 2019. S.C. Department of Transportation

Town council member Tamara Becker agreed. She said the committee has been limited in what it could do since its beginning.

"We don't actually have data that you can use to make judgments with. I think that's unfair to you and all of us," she told Johnson. "(We have) all the necessary components that people have brought to the table, but we have no idea what that cost is or more importantly where it's going to come from."

The corridor project will be funded in part by the Beaufort County transportation sales tax, which was approved by voters in 2018. The tax will raise \$80 million for the Hilton Head project. The rest is expected to be paid by SCDOT and the State Infrastructure Bank, which is reviewing Hilton Head's application along with several others.

Not all the alternatives will cost the same, SCDOT project manager Craig Winn, who was not at Tuesday's meeting, has acknowledged.

No <u>public cost estimates</u> are available for any alternatives yet. Winn told The Island Packet that DOT was still evaluating preliminary cost estimates and those numbers would be released in summer 2020.

AMOUNT OF LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS

FUNDING SOURCE	AMOUNT
Beaufort County one-cent tax referendum, as approved by the voters on November 6, 2018	\$80,000,000
Beaufort County Road Impact Fees	\$12,300,000
Per Section 5.25	
Federal Guideshare / Local money for the Environmental Assessment/Preliminary Engineering	\$4,200,000
SCDOT Bridge Replacement Funds	\$43,521.112
Beaufort County Funds for Jenkins Island Work	\$9,000,000
Town of Hilton Head Island Right-of-Way Dedication	\$3,350,000
Total Local / Non-Bank Funded Match including Project Risk (see Table 8)	\$152,370,112
SCIB Grant Request	\$120,000,000
otal Project Risk	\$272,370,112

The list of funding sources for the U.S. 278 corridor project in Beaufort County's application to the state infrastructure bank. S.C. Department of Transportation

COMMUNITIES NEAR THE BRIDGE

Not all were happy with how the town's priorities were described.

Johnson said the committee's expectations are divided into four categories: improved essential elements, such as bridges and causeways; infrastructure that is aesthetically pleasing; accessible bicycle and pedestrian paths along the bridge; and protection for property and business owners, such as those who live in Windmill Harbour and the Stoney community.



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transportation tax that started May 1, 2019 will be used to alleviate congestion and build more sidewalks and pathways in the county. Some of that money will be used to replace at least one span of the Hilton Head bridge and holds the possibility of adding lanes if the S.C. Department of Transportation suggests that would help alleviate congestion. Residents in the Stoney neighborhood on Hilton Head say that adding another lane to U.S. 278 would have a tremendous impact on their multi- generational land. Drew Martin DMARTIN@ISLANDPACKET.COM

Although Mayor McCann called for a vote to approve the first three priorities of the report, he said he would forward to town staff the issue of protection for native islanders and nearby property owners for discussion.

That decision compelled some to speak.

"My concern is for the preservation of historic neighborhoods, and that should be the concern of every resident on this island and visitors as well," chairman of the Gullah culture and land preservation task force Lavon Stevens told the council. "I'm a little disturbed that the fourth item is not the number one" priority.

And at least one council member said the entrance to the island isn't getting the same attention as other, more affluent, parts of the island.

"We can't say we're going to do things here at Stoney that we're not willing to do at the Sea Pines Circle," council member Marc Grant said, recalling that the town worked with the gated community Sea Pines to control traffic flow.

The first three priorities of the report were accepted by the council, although a council majority defeated a motion to hire an outside traffic engineering consultant to review the DOT's plans.

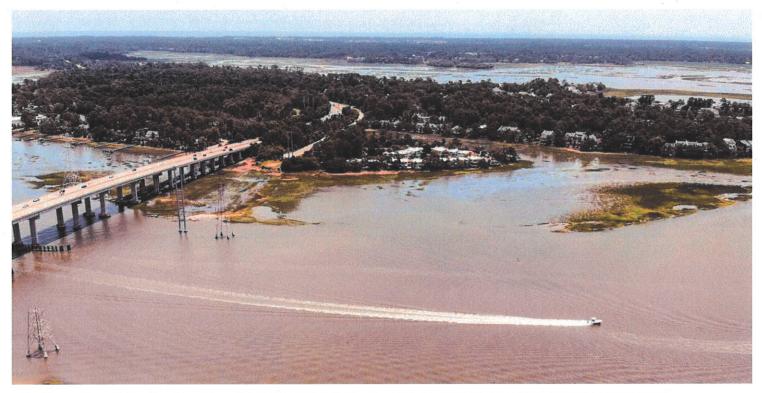


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Another part of the project is also concerning residents on Jenkins and Hog Islands who live in communities like Windmill Harbour.

The future of that strip of highway at the base of the bridge has been subjected to two competing projects: the U.S. 278 corridor project and a separate Jenkins Island safety project which would add traffic lights and U-turn opportunities.

That project <u>was stalled by county council chair Stu Rodman last summer</u> out of fears that it competed with the larger corridor plan, and in October, the county hired an independent engineering firm to re-imagine the area.



Looking east from Bluffton's mainland shows the J. Wilton Graves Bridge carrying traffic on and off Hog and Jenkins islands. Drew Martin DMARTIN@ISLANDPACKET.COM

Asked how DOT has listened to public input on the corridor project, Winn said "We've come down and spoken to numerous groups on the island and we're always willing to come down and speak with any groups that have concerns on the project."

He pointed to the DOT's use of social media and newsletters to communicate with the public.

WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS FOR THE BRIDGE?

Analysis: similarities and differences

Many of the alternatives have common elements. Here's a guide to how they're similar:

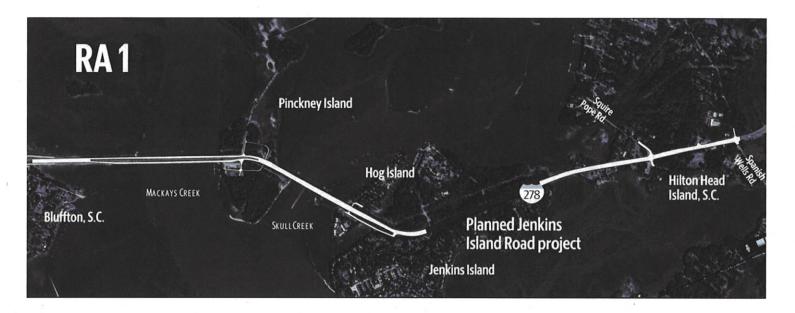
- Widen the entire corridor to six lanes: all alternatives
- Add right-turn only off U.S. 278 and underpass on Pinckney Island: all alternatives
- . Include multi-use nathway over bridge, all alternatives

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- Build entirely new bridge south of existing ones and C.C. Haigh Jr. boat landing: alternatives 4
 and 6
- Build entirely new bridge north of U.S. 278 on Jenkins Island and through Squire Pope Road: alternatives 5 and 6

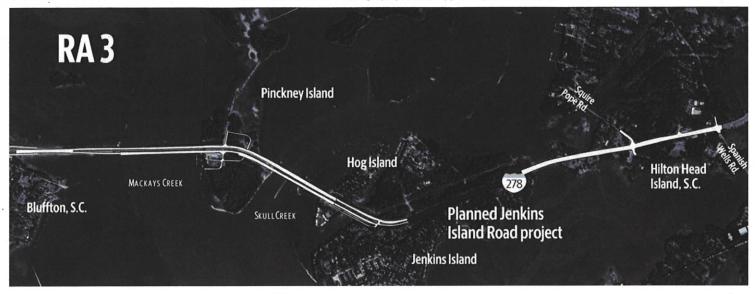
Alternative 1: Closest to the original configuration of the bridges to Hilton Head. The plan would build a new bridge over Mackays Creek south of the existing eastbound lanes and demolish the old lanes. The access point to Pinckney Island would incorporate an underpass to allow only right turns from U.S. 278.



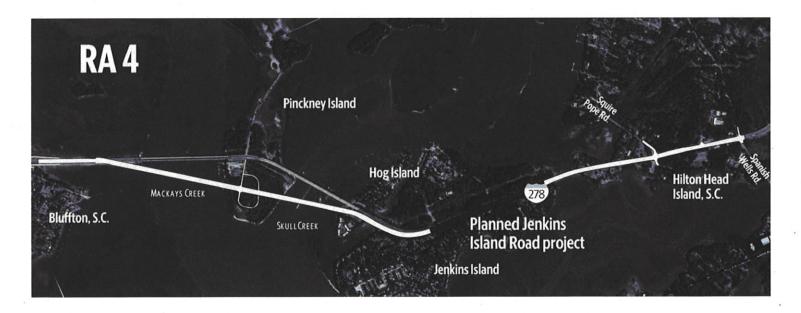
Alternative 2: The second alternative would also maintain the configuration of the corridor. A new bridge would be built north of the existing lanes over Mackays Creek, and the eastbound bridge to Pinckney Island would be demolished. The existing westbound lanes would be switched to eastbound from Bluffton, and westbound traffic would use the new bridge.



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Alternative 4: In the fourth alternative, crews would build an entirely new bridge significantly south of the existing roadway. A new, six-lane bridge would start at the base of the Bluffton flyover and head east, crossing Pinckney Island south of the C.C. Haigh Jr. boat landing, and crossing Skull Creek south of the old bridges. All four existing bridges between Bluffton and Hilton Head Island would be demolished.



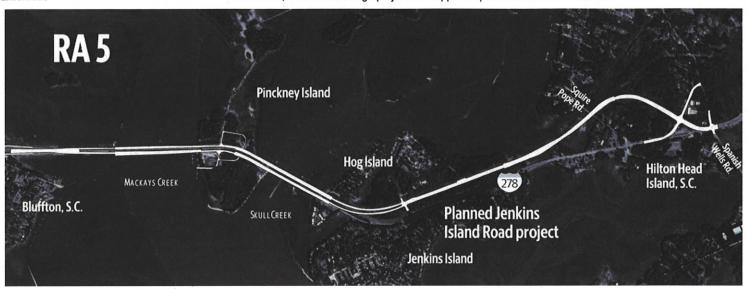
Alternative 5: This plan would add two new bridges next to the old ones: One over Mackays Creek and one over Skull Creek. The existing eastbound Mackays Creek bridge would be demolished.

It also includes a completely different approach from Skull Creek to Spanish Wells in which a sixlane bridge from Jenkins Island to the Cross Island Parkway would cross marshland and historic communities north of the highway.

That bridge would cross the marsh north, running to Squire Pope Road, before meeting existing U.S. 278 at Spanish Wells Road.

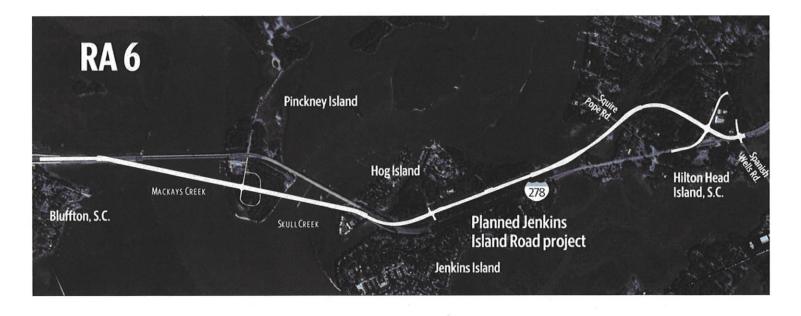
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Alternative 6: The final alternative is a combination of two others by building two new bridges. A new, six-lane bridge would start at the base of the Bluffton flyover and head east, crossing Pinckney Island south of the C.C. Haigh Jr. boat landing, and crossing Skull Creek south of the old bridges.

A second new bridge from Jenkins Island to the Cross Island Parkway would cross marshland and historic communities north of the highway on Hilton Head.



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https://www.postandcourier.com/news/the-latest-on-charleston-flooding-infrastructure-projects-after-yearsof/article_9a94800c-5337-11ea-a923-ff29f0f90124.html

The latest on Charleston flooding infrastructure projects after years of planning and work

BY MIKAELA PORTER MPORTER@POSTANDCOURIER.COM

FEB 19, 2020



From left, Laura Boisclair, Dylan Jacobs and Jerry Martin measure the existing elevations on the wall along Murray Boulevard Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020 in Charleston. Andrew J. Whitaker/ Staff

BY ANDREW WHITAKER AWHITAKER@POSTANDCOURIER.COM

With years of planning and work underground, Charleston city leaders expect to complete a slew of drainage improvements this year, and more are expected to begin.

City Council members were briefed about these plans Wednesday night by the Sustainability, Resilience and Stormwater department heads.

Here's an overview of the major projects:

Downtown's Spring/Fishburne: In progress

The \$198 million project affecting about 500 acres of the peninsula is expected to be completed in 2023.

The area includes Hampton Park to the north, Meeting Street to the east, Charleston Center drive to the south and Lockwood Drive to the west.

The mile-long tunnel beneath the Septima Clark Parkway is expected to be completed in June.



NEWS

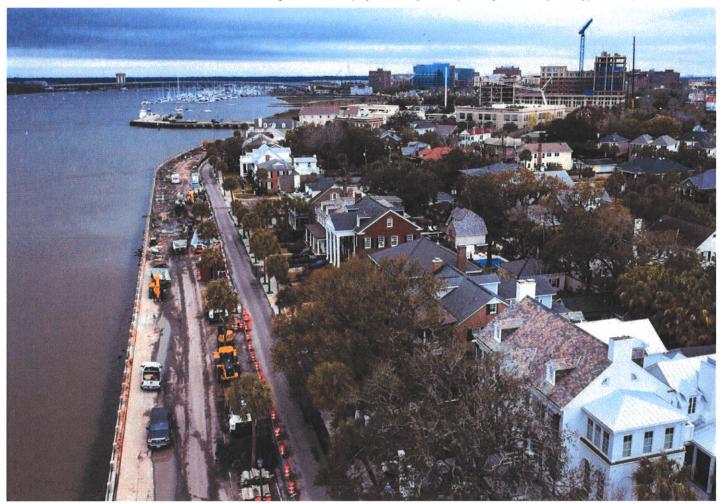
Repeated flooding forcing downtown Charleston DMV office to close permanently

BY MIKAELA PORTER MPORTER@POSTANDCOURIER.COM

Downtown's Calhoun West: Planning in progress

A study team of North Charleston-based Davis and Floyd and Kansas-based Black and Veatch looked at an area that spans nearly 800 acres on the peninsula: Ashley River on the west, as northwest along the Ashley River, as north as Cannon Street, east to about King Street and south to the tip of the peninsula.

The study found that a deep tunnel and pump system would best address issues of tidal flooding and drainage improvement. A drainage project there is expected to be completed by 2030-2035. The estimated cost is about \$200 million.



A view of the construction along Murray Boulevard on the low battery seawall project on Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020 in Charleston. Andrew J. Whitaker/ Staff

BY ANDREW WHITAKER AWHITAKER@POSTANDCOURIER.COM

Downtown's Low Battery seawall raising: In progress

The \$54 million project broke ground in December and includes raising the Low Battery wall along Murray Boulevard starting at the Coast Guard station on Tradd Street to the High Battery on East Battery Street.

The first phase is underway, running from Tradd Street to about Rutledge Boulevard. It is expected to be completed by the end of the year.



A Life Water truck carefully maneuvers around a stalled out car at the intersection of Huger Street and King Friday morning, Dec. 14, 2018 in Charleston. File/Andrew J. Whitaker/Staff

BY ANDREW WHITAKER AWHITAKER@POSTANDCOURIER.COM

Downtown's Huger and King streets: In progress

City staff identified the Huger and King street intersection as a high-flood area. During heavy rain, about 2 feet to 4 feet of water will flood the roadway.

The area includes about 15 acres from Grove Street at the northernmost point, Ashley Avenue to the east, Sumter to the south and Hanover Street to the west.

An improvement plan is under design and construction is expected in June. The estimated cost is \$1 million.

Downtown's Market Street: In progress

The area was once a tidal creek bed. Sudden thunderstorms and high tide can bring thigh-deep water.

The 59-acre area includes Concord Street from Calhoun Street to Clifford Street on the east, about Queen Street on the southern point, King Street on the west and Society Street to the north.

The \$40 million drainage project is expected to be completed by 2023-2024. Completion is is under review.

Downtown's brick arch replacements: Construction underway Roughly 900 acres on the peninsula are impacted by failing brick archways under the city's streets. Once used for sanitation and drainage, the city is repurposing the archways to help drainage.

Of the 54,000 feet that need repair, 3,000 have been addressed so far. The total cost is estimated at \$30 million.

The next area to be improved is about 1,400 feet on Limehouse Street. Draft plans have been completed.

West Ashley's Forest Acres: Project in progress

The area experiences flooding during heavy or repeated moderate rains, causing extensive damage to some homes and dangerous conditions for drivers and pedestrians in those neighborhoods. The stormwater pump station was outdated, outmoded and undersized. The city decided to go with a gravity system instead.

The area includes Marvin Avenue to the north, Old Town Road to the east, Paula Drive at its most southern point and west of Camellia Road as the westernmost part.

The \$20 million project is expected to be completed by 2021-2022. The next phase is to improve the upstream area.

West Ashley's Church Creek: In progress

The area is historically old phosphate mines and marshes. It is about 80 percent developed, with mostly residential but some commercial development in place. So far, the city has spent about \$3.7 million for stormwater runoff improvements. Work started in 2017.

The area includes Ashley River Road to the north, Glenn McConnell Parkway to the south, just east of West Ashley Park to the east and Church Creek to the west.

Surveys planned:

City staffers want to conduct a 200-acre inventory of the East Side, with a projected cost of \$450,000. A proposal is expected to go before the City Council next month.

The city and county are partnering on an estimated \$400,000 drainage study of the Dupont-Wappoo area in West Ashley. The area — Citadel Mall, Hazelwood area and neighborhoods near Dupont, Wappoo and Orleans roads — has seen worsening flood conditions on roadways, residential and commercial areas.

On James Island, the city and county are partnering on a study of the Central Park/Wambaw Creek area. The drainage study is in the planning stages and is expected to be completed by 2021. That work area includes Maybank Highway on the north, Folly Road on the east, Ellis Creek on the south and Riverland Drive and Woodland Shores Road on the west.

In West Ashley, the city is also studying the Windermere area.

Reach Mikaela Porter at 843-937-5906. Follow her on Twitter @mikaelaporterPC.

MORE INFORMATION

Facing dire climate threats, Charleston has done little to reduce its carbon footprint

Fraud found in Charleston flooded homes case, but builder will not be prosecuted

Flooding makes a mess in Charleston but city avoids repeat of its worst sloshings

Charleston County asks patrons at frequently flooded Windermere library: Stay or go?

Charleston approves \$600,000 loan to WestEdge for drainage, additional improvements

Five Charleston homeowners seek FEMA funding to lift their homes

Charleston and the South Carolina coast flooded record 89 times in 2019

Charleston City Council sets aside \$1 million for neighborhood drainage projects

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MIKAELA PORTER

Mikaela Porter joined The Post and Courier in April 2019 and writes about the city of Charleston. Previously, Mikaela reported on breaking news, local government, school issues and community happenings for The Hartford Courant in Hartford, Conn.



MyrtleBeach nline



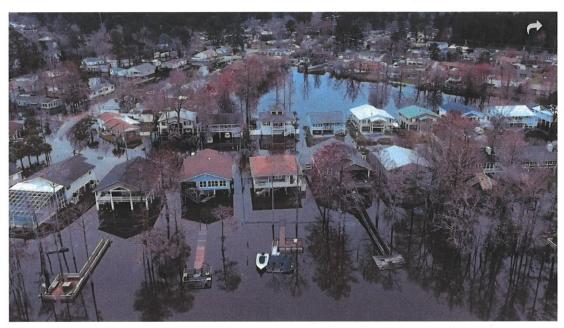
LOCAL

Here's what it looks like in Horry County communities as floodwaters continue to rise

BY TYLER FLEMING

FEBRUARY 19, 2020 04:26 PM





The Intracoastal Waterway reached 16 feet on Tuesday flooding roads, docks, and getting into the lower levels on some homes in the Socastee and Forestbrook areas. Feb. 18, 2020. BY JASON LEE

The damage from Hurricane Florence could still be seen on the side of a gutted home in Pitch Landing as floodwaters once again reached up to the empty building.

While the flooding this week is well below Hurricane Florence levels, waters once again cut off many residents across the region from their homes until the river recedes. Some of the affected families are calling for changes to how the area handles flooding and development.

Due to heavy rains in the upstate and in North Carolina, rivers reached flood stages early this week.

Despite initial hope the river would crest on Wednesday, the Waccamaw River at Conway reached

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Current predictions from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have the river cresting on Thursday just above 12.5 feet but staying in a moderate flood stage through the weekend.

The Little Pee Dee River at Galivants Ferry was slowly receding but still at 9.4 feet, a minor flood level.

Rain is forecasted for Wednesday and Thursday. Horry County Public Safety Director Randy Webster said on Tuesday the rain shouldn't be a major factor in flood levels but could slow water receding through the week.

Across the county the floodwaters were affecting properties closest to waterways from Socastee out to the Pee Dee Highway, and the slower water recedes, the longer recovery can take. Streets were closed at Savannah's Bluff, Pitch's Landing, Punch Bowl Landing and elsewhere.

Road closure signs and caution signs mark where it is unsafe to drive. Pitch's Landing, however, did not have police guarding entrances to the neighborhood like during Hurricane Florence.

The Horry County Emergency Management Department and Red Cross are on standby to help any families needing recovery help from the storm, Red Cross Director Amy Brauner said.

April O'Leary, a leader of flood advocacy group Horry County Rising, launched a <u>website and</u> <u>petition</u> asking local leaders to implement long-term solutions to promote flood resilience. Since her home flooded in 2018, O'Leary and other advocates have demanded changes to land development and flood mitigation rules.

"It's encouraging that people are talking about policy, talking about code enforcement and getting involved," O'Leary said.

Currently, Horry County Government is working on a Flood Resilience Plan and making changes to planning and building codes. O'Leary said she appreciates the work already being done, but would like to see plans turn to action on the local, state and federal levels.

She said some specific improvements could include an online portal showing the flood history of a neighborhood, promoting low-impact developments or speeding up the home buyout programs after a disaster.

"The needs currently outweigh the revenues. So we need to diversify revenue streams for disaster recovery," O'Leary said.

Horry County Chair Johnny Gardner spoke after Tuesday's County Council meeting to let folks know the county is working on long-term solutions. He said everything is on the table and encourages residents to get involved.

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"Our philosophy is everything should be connected to stormwater."

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JANUARY 15, 2020 2:59 PM



TYLER FLEMING







336-302-7411

Development and Horry County reporter Tyler Fleming joined The Sun News in May of 2018. He covers other stuff too, like reporting on beer, bears, breaking news and Coastal Carolina University. He graduated from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2018 and was the 2017-18 editor-in-chief of The Daily Tar Heel. He has won (and lost) several college journalism awards.

COMMENTS ▼



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FIRST ALERT / Falling temperatures and heavy rain, brief transition to snow arrives tonight

5 WEATHER ALERTS IN EFFECT

Q

TOP STORY

Group aims to pressure Horry County into prioritizing plan to prevent flooding

This ad will end in 8 seconds



Horry County Rising founder pushes leaders to making long-term flooding solution a priority

By Katherine Phillips | February 19, 2020 at 9:34 PM EST - Updated February 19 at 9:37 PM

HORRY COUNTY, SC (WMBF) - Flooding has become an issue that many in Horry County know all too well, and this week is no exception.

For days, many Horry County residents have been dealing with rising river levels and flooded homes and roads.

RELATED COVERAGE: Flooding continues to impact communities across the Grand Strand

One group, Horry County Rising, is trying to change that.

They said their organization focuses on pressuring Horry County Council and Horry County Government as a whole to make flood prevention a priority.

The group's founder, April O'Leary, said they launched their website on Wednesday that aims to build a community and bring change.

She said the longer the government waits to make changes when it comes to flooding, the worse it will be when it comes to issues like repeat flooding and catastrophic flooding.

"Demand a plan. A plan has project activities, a timeline, a cost, a responsible entity, we don't have that right now and this has been multiple years of impacts even current impacts now," O'Leary said.

But Kelly Moore, the spokesperson for Horry County, said the county does actually have a plan in place in the form of the Horry County Flood Resiliency Project. She said many of the same goals, are goals the organization shares.

"We are in the midst of a flood resiliency study. A lot of those groups have been involved with that process, we've gotten a lot of good community feedback," Moore said.

Still, neighbors who live in Pitch Landing, an area that frequently floods, are frustrated and want something to be done.

"The first flood we had years ago, they said it was a 100-year flood. Ever since then, every year it floods or every two years it floods and we have to put up with this. If the county would do their job, if the state would do their job, it probably wouldn't be as bad," said Sally McDowell who lives off of Pitch Landing Road.

McDowell said despite the fact she's lived here for years, flooding still worries her.

"Right down yonder it's up to my bumper on my little truck right now, so by tonight, I won't be able to get back in there. It's very frustrating, you know, with the county and the state," McDowell said.

O'Leary said on top of demanding the council to work to keep flooding on top of mind, victims of flooding should not be forgotten either.

"I think so many times after a flood event, people move on and forget these families," O'Leary said.

Horry County Councilman Johhny Vaught spoke to WMBF News over the phone. He said when it comes to the work he is doing on council, flooding and public safety are both top priorities when it comes to the work he



FIRST ALERT / Falling temperatures and heavy rain, brief transition to snow arrives tonight

5 WEATHER ALERTS IN EFFECT

NEWS

Flooding continues to impact communities across the Grand Strand

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Flooding continues to impact communities across the Grand Strand

By Kate Merriman and Nia Watson | February 19, 2020 at 6:51 AM EST - Updated February 19 at 8:39 PM

CONWAY, S.C. (WMBF) – The recent rainfall has caused some flooding in parts of Horry County, including Conway.



Q

As of Wednesday morning, portions of Riverfront Park in Conway are closed due to weather conditions. Although floodwaters have not made it to the playground, the play area is closed to avoid damage to the new equipment.

Posted by Kate Watthman WMSF 2.236 Visus A small portion of the trail walking into the park is closed, and officials are monitoring the boat ramp by the Conway Marina.



As of Wednesday morning, portions of Riverfront Park in Conway are closed due to weather conditions. (Source: WMBF News)

The playground reopened last month after Hurricane Florence's floodwaters destroyed it in 2018.

Rising water levels are also creating problems in the Lee's Landing community and Socastee's Rosewood community, leaving flooded roads and frustrated neighbors.

"You can't leave your house, you can't do nothing. You got pets or you got young children. You just can't do nothing like you're surrounded," Hayley Wallace who lives in Lee's Landing said.

Waccamaw River Drive is also closed due to flooding. Wednesday, the water covered most of Paul Scoggins' yard.

"It isn't new, but it's more of it." Scoggins said.

Officials with the Marion County Sheriff's Office said reports were coming in Wednesday morning of flooding on roads in the Gresham/Brittons Neck area. Drivers were advised to use caution and not drive into the water.

Keep up with the latest weather conditions with the WMBF First Alert Weather App.

RELATED STORY: Horry County leaders continue search for long-term flooding solutions as rising waters hit homes

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414

46°

BREAKING NEWS ALERT / WEATHER ALERT DAY: More rain today, turning into snow tonight as temps continue to drop

GRAND STRAND

Local group calls for action as flooding impacts region

by: Matt Fortin

Posted: Feb 20, 2020 / 08:59 AM EST / Updated: Feb 20, 2020 / 08:59 AM EST

HORRY COUNTY, SC (WBTW) – As flooding continued to impact the region Wednesday, a local volunteer group launched a new campaign that calls for action to help those impacted.

Horry County Rising launched a petition called, 'Demand a Plan,' which advocates for measures to be put in place to protect the area from flooding.

"Our mission is simply prevent the catastrophic costs of flooding and help all the effect families who continue to be impacted," founder April Thomas said.

She says the group would like to see certain key measures be included in the flood mitigation plan for Horry County.

"That includes investing in flood mitigation programs like buyouts, implementing low impact development principles and investing smart infrastructure," Thomas said.

County leaders say they're hard at work to find solutions.

1/2

46°

implementing what is suggested. It's something that's being worked on and data is being compiled and I'll certainly move to expedite that."

You can view Horry County Rising's website here.

Latest Headlines

Local group calls for action as flooding impacts region

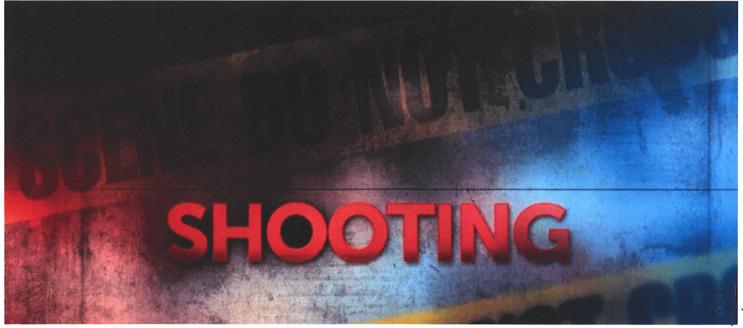
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One injured in shooting at Coastal Villa Apartments in Conway Border patrol SWAT teams to help ICE track down undocumented immigrants

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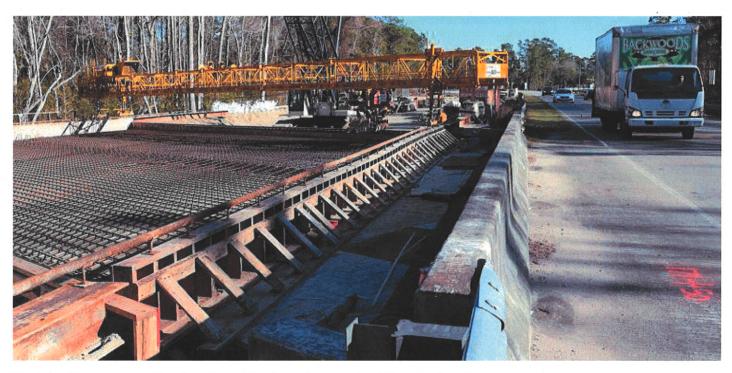
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https://www.myhorrynews.com/news/local/carolina_forest/four-more-traffic-signals-added-to-plans-for-widened-carolina/article_001d8f8c-53b4-11ea-b049-6774a69cc11e.html

TOP STORY

Four more traffic signals added to plans for widened Carolina Forest Boulevard

By Charles D. Perry charles.perry@myhorrynews.com Feb 20, 2020



Work continues on the Carolina Forest Boulevard expansion. Photo by Janet Morgan/janet.morgan@myhorrynews.com

The new plan for widening Carolina Forest Boulevard includes more than a second walking path.

Along with approving an additional eight-foot-wide multipurpose path for the boulevard this week, county officials also signed off on four more traffic signals for the road.

"As part of the pedestrian improvements, we have to have a safe way for people to cross [the boulevard]," said David Schwerd, the county's director of planning and zoning, during a presentation to the Carolina Forest Civic Association Wednesday night.



The boulevard construction, which began last year, will expand the two-lane portion of the road to four lanes from Gateway Drive to River Oaks Drive.

Schwerd said when the road's original design was revealed, many residents questioned how they would turn left out of their subdivisions onto the busy boulevard without a traffic signal.

"What we're going to do is slow them down," he said.

The road's initial design called for adding traffic signals near Southgate and at Farmers Rest Drive. The latest plan still includes those two, as well as four other signals and pedestrian crosswalks: at Avalon, at Plantation Lakes and at both Stafford Drives. The Stafford Drive intersection near the Carolina Forest Recreation Center will be aligned so travelers can cross the boulevard from the rec center to a proposed shopping center on the western side of the road.

Schwerd said the first boulevard plan didn't include more signals because those intersections did not meet the national traffic standards for them. However, the early design also included just a single 10-foot-wide multipurpose path on the western side of the road. When county officials chose to build eight-foot paths on each side of the boulevard, Schwerd said those projections added pedestrian traffic and that triggered the need for additional signals. He also said community input played a role in the county's decision.

"The signals will allow people to safely cross," he said. "It will allow more breaks in traffic for people to make a left [turn] out of their neighborhoods. And it will slow speeds down."

He stressed that the timing of the signals will be adjusted so traffic flows along the boulevard with only occasional breaks to allow cars leaving subdivisions to turn left onto the main road.

One question county officials have not answered yet is how much the new signals and a second walking path will cost.



The road construction is being paid for with money from RIDE III, the county's nearly \$600 million road-building program funded by a 1% countywide sales tax. The boulevard widening is the No. 3 project on the list.

One multipurpose path for the boulevard was included in the program voters approved in 2016. A second path was not.

But county officials said they will save money by reducing the size of the paths to eight feet in width. And while the boulevard widening was initially expected to require \$54.7 million, officials have said the project should come in under budget by more than \$15 million.

Even with the new signals and a second path, Schwerd said construction should still be under budget.

The widening work and the path on the western side of the road are expected to be finished by June 2021, which is in line with the original project schedule.

A timeline for the second path is still being developed, but Schwerd said that will not affect when drivers will be able to use all four lanes of the widened boulevard.

"The road being open is priority one," he said.

Schwerd's announcement about the new traffic signals was met with applause Wednesday night.

Alex Best, who has lived in Avalon for 15 years, is pleased with the change. He had been worried about his development not having a traffic signal.

"That's fantastic news," he said. "I probably couldn't be any more satisfied with the decision. ...
They listened to our concerns in the community."



Contact Charles D. Perry at 843-488-7236

https://www.myhorrynews.com/news/local/horry_county/second-multipurpose-path-approved-for-carolina-forest-boulevard/article_80a64392-5297-11ea-bdde-232af783b538.html

TOP STORY

Second multipurpose path approved for Carolina Forest Boulevard

By Charles D. Perry charles.perry@myhorrynews.com Feb 18, 2020



Work continues on the Carolina Forest Boulevard expansion on Friday. Photo by Janet Morgan/janet.morgan@myhorrynews.com

A second multipurpose path will be built along Carolina Forest Boulevard.

Horry County officials on Tuesday confirmed that instead of constructing one 10-foot-wide path along the western side of the road, they would build two eight-foot paths — one on each side. They also said the project would remain within the existing budget.

13

"I'm very pleased that we're finally here at this point," said Horry County Councilman Dennis DiSabato, whose district includes part of the construction site. "I've been making a strong argument for it."



Carolina Forest Boulevard is being widened to four lanes from Gateway Drive to River Oaks Drive. The boulevard widening is part of RIDE III, the county's road-building program funded by a 1% sales tax that voters approved in 2016. It's the No. 3 project on the RIDE III list.

After the initial design for the road was released, DiSabato raised concerns about building a single path on the opposite side of the road from the county's library and recreation center. That meant some residents would be forced to cross the four-lane road, walk down the path, then cross back at the county complex.

"It was shortsighted," DiSabato said of the original design.

When other Carolina Forest residents raised similar complaints, county officials began to look at a second path as a public safety concern.



In 2017, the two-lane section of the boulevard saw 19,500 vehicles per day, according to county data. By 2040, that number is projected to be 37,000.

Although the second path has been approved by county staff, county spokeswoman Kelly Moore said a change order would need to be issued for the project. She expects to provide more details about the cost and timeline of the project soon.

Building a second path was originally projected to cost \$5 million. However, the boulevard widening was expected to come in more than \$15 million below budget with a single path, and that doesn't include a \$3 million contingency fund built into the estimate.

Moore said the second path will also come from RIDE III funds.

From DiSabato's perspective, the second path should have always been part of the county's plan. He's relieved it now is.

"It's something that the county as a whole needs to do a better job of," he said of being proactive. "I'm just glad that this is not going to be a reaction."

WLTX - \$500,000 in improvements coming to Millwood Ave.

There are plans to add a center turn lane, bike lanes and reduce the size of the current lanes along Millwood Ave.

Author: Loren Thomas Published: 9:31 PM EST February 19, 2020 Updated: 11:08 PM EST February 19, 2020

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Millwood Avenue in Columbia will be seeing major improvements in the coming months.

The South Carolina Department of Transportation and the City of Columbia held a public meeting, showcasing what those improvements will be.

"A lot of people have seen the hawk eye light that was put up," says Representative Seth Rose, D-Richland. "I always said another step of that is the half of million dollars of investment we're going to put into Millwood Ave."

There are plans to add a center turn lane, bike lanes and reduce the size of the current lanes.

The lanes are now 16 feet wide, while a standard lane is between 10-12 feet wide.

"This is a real need," says Rep. Rose. "We've seen pedestrians be killed over the last several years in the same few blocks. I think there are a lot of citizens that are excited about this."

The Richland County Transportation Committee is spending \$500,000 to make those improvements.

Residents living in the area and business owners who attended Wednesday night's meeting were excited about the proposed changes.

"It's been a long time coming," says Joan Morton, who works in downtown Columbia. "I think it will add an appeal to the businesses in that area and Columbia as a whole."

"I have a salon downtown, 2457 Millwood, and I've been there for 20 years," says Rosa Montgomery. "I'm excited about the roads being changed."

"It's encouraging progress," says Josh Shelton. "I think all of the neighborhoods on the Millwood corridor have been fighting for these changes for a long time. We've had a lot of fatalities, especially the lower half of Millwood. I think it's showing progress that the neighborhood is uniting for that type of progress."

Construction for the first phase, from Gervais St. to Gladden St., will take place from April to August of 2020.

Phase two, from Gladden St. to Devine St., will be completed in the summer of 2023.

If you missed the Wednesday meeting, there will be another on Thursday, February 20, 2020 from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. — Melrose Park, 1500 Fairview Road, Columbia SC 29205.

A third meeting will be held Wednesday, February 26, 2020 from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. — Dreher High School Cafeteria, 3316 Millwood Avenue, Columbia SC 29205.

FIRST ALERT / Falling temperatures and heavy rain, brief transition to snow arrives tonight

5 WEATHER ALERTS IN EFFECT

GRAND STRAND NEWS

'S.C. is the best place to be': McMaster hands out tourism industry awards in Myrtle Beach



C



'S.C. is the best place to be': McMaster hands out tourism industry awards in Myrtle Beach

By WMBF News Staff | February 19, 2020 at 7:54 PM EST - Updated February 19 at 7:54 PM

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (WMBF) – Those in the tourism and hospitality industry were recognized for the work that they do in South Carolina.

1/2

The Governor's Conference on Tourism and Travel has been in Myrtle Beach for the past three days.

On the final day, South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster presided over the Tourism Industry Awards luncheon.

McMaster said he's inspired by the people who are involved in the tourism industry. He said they produce revenue, create jobs and teach everyone why it's so great to live in the Palmetto State.

"The businesses from around the world that are coming here to invest hundreds of millions of dollars and that's why they're coming, because South Carolina is the place to be. It's prosperous but it's mainly because of the people. They like what they see in the people of South Carolina," McMaster said.

During the conference, it was announced that the tourism industry brought in more than \$23 billion in 2018, which is the latest data available.

It was also announced that Grammy award winner Darius Rucker would be named this year's South Carolina Tourism Ambassador.

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https://www.foxcarolina.com/news/water-line-break-could-impact-morning-commute-at-intersectionof/article_904a7ef6-53c5-11ea-aedf-9bf2ce4a896b.html

Water line break could impact morning commute at intersection of Woodruff **Road and Miller Road**

Jon Randall Updated 44 min ago



Greenville, SC (FOX Carolina) - Thursday morning your commute could be impacted by a water line break that occurred overnight along Woodruff Road.

Officials say the waterline at the intersection of Woodruff Road and Miller Road was damaged sometime Wednesday night.

Greenville Water System is already on scene working to make repairs.

Anyone heading eastbound on Woodruff Road and on Miller Road could be impacted by the repairs.

Officials say local businesses in the area will also be impacted.

Greenville Water System estimates the repairs will be completed by lunchtime.

More news: Rain and snow for Thursday, accumulations possible

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Jon Randall

Multimedia Producer

NOWCAST







▲1 @ 44°



CLOSINGS: There are currently 35 active closings or delays

Advertisement

LIVE: Water line break on Woodruff Road in Greenville

Expected to be fixed by lunchtime



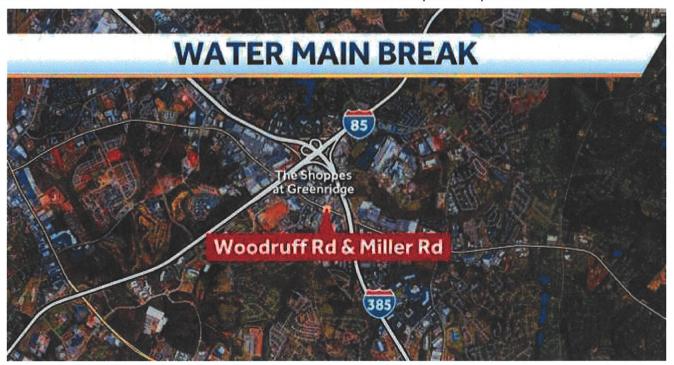
Updated: 8:26 AM EST Feb 20, 2020

GREENVILLE, S.C. — A water line broke early Thursday on Woodruff Road in Greenville.

(Video above: Live look at repairs being made)

Advertisement

The broken line is at the intersection with Miller Road. That is near the Shoppes at Greenridge and the I-85, I-385 interchange.



Greenville Water is at the scene making repairs. Crews hope to have the line fixed by lunchtime.

Stay with WYFF News 4 for the latest on this developing story.

Advertisement

Winter storm shaping up for WNC mountains, Upstate Thursday

Some forecasting models suggest that snow will move into the Upstate as early as 10 a.m. with others as late as 1 p.m.









TRAFFIC

Two weeks of lane closures ahead in popular Hilton Head corridor. What to expect

BY KATHERINE KOKAL

FEBRUARY 18, 2020 11:17 AM





There's a safe way for bicyclists and pedestrians on Hilton Head to avoid having to cross U.S. 278. It's via the Shelter Cove-Palmetto Dunes Pedestrian Underpass Bridge. The main access point is on Shelter Cove Lane, about one-eighth of a mile nor BY JOSH MITELMAN

A \$1.45 million construction project by Hilton Head Island's Shelter Cove area will disrupt traffic for the next two weeks, according to a news release from the Town of Hilton Head Island.

The project will change U.S. 278 from the intersection of <u>Queens Folly Road and King Neptune</u>

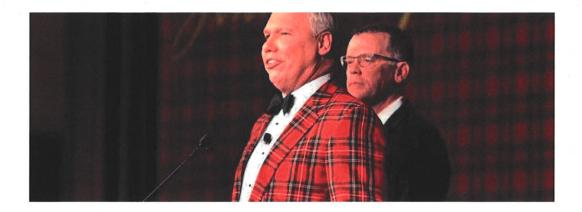
<u>Way with U.S. 278</u> near Palmetto Dunes north to <u>Shelter Cove Lane and U.S. 278</u> near the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office.

Parts of the corridor will be widened and new lights will change traffic flow — especially near the

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'Simple as that': Law requires Hilton Head chamber to divulge spending, Beaufort Co. says

The entire project, funded by town hospitality taxes, should be completed by May, according to town engineers.

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All Shelter Cove intersections will remain open during weekends, according to the release.

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Google Maps

Here's what to expect over the next two weeks:

FEB. 17 THROUGH FEB. 21

Contractors for the Town of Hilton Head Island will close lanes at the Shelter Cove Lane traffic signal and the median crossover near Whole Foods from Monday to Friday this week.

- Northbound left turn lanes into Shelter Cove Lane at Hickory Tavern (formerly Mall Blvd.) will be closed every day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- The left turn lane out of Shelter Cove Lane at Hickory Tavern (formerly Mall Blvd.) intermittently between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

During the week of construction, drivers are urged to use alternate entrances to the Shelter Cove Lane area: Chamber of Commerce Drive, King Neptune Lane, Shelter Cove Lane at the Kroger Fuel Center, The Plaza entrance at Whole Foods, and Shelter Cove Lane next to the Beaufort County Sheriff's Department.

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The proposed plan for the intersection of U.S. 278 and Shelter Cove Lane at the entrance to Hickory Tavern on Hilton Head. TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND PRESENTATION, RELEASED.

FEB. 24 THROUGH FEB. 28

During the second week of construction, a smaller intersection north of the main entrance to Shelter Cove Towne Centre will be redone.

• The median crossover into Shelter Cove Plaza at Whole Foods will be closed all week.

Drivers are urged to use alternate entrances to the Shelter Cove Lane area: Chamber of Commerce Drive, King Neptune Lane, Shelter Cove Lane at the Kroger Fuel Center, Shelter Cove Lane (Mall Blvd.) and Shelter Cove Lane at the Beaufort County Sheriff's Department.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO SHELTER COVE'S TREES?

The Town of Hilton Head Island engineers and arborists have developed a plan that protects every Live Oak in the corridor, traffic engineer Darrin Shoemaker told The Island Packet on Feb. 10.

ACCEPT COOKIES



Of the dozens of trees in the median between the north and southbound lanes, just six tree limbs are at risk of being lost during construction. The limbs may keep drivers from being able to see the new traffic lights that will be installed.

Of those, three limbs are considered "significant," or larger than six inches in diameter, Shoemaker said.



A Live Oak tree in Hilton Head Island's Shelter Cove area will be protected during road construction, according to the town. Although many acknowledge the need for safer intersections in the area, many island residents feared the trees would be cut down. Google Maps

RELATED STORIES FROM HILTON HEAD ISLAND PACKET

LOCAL

CRIME

Shelter Cove road work in full swing on Hilton Head. What will happen to the Live Oaks?

Site of Saturday's fatal Hilton Head crash undergoing \$1M project to make it safer

FEBRUARY 11, 2020 4:00 AM

JANUARY 27, 2020 3:15 PM



KATHERINE KOKAL





843-706-8123

Katherine Kokal moved to South Carolina in 2018 after graduating from the University of Missouri and loves everything about the Lowcountry that isn't a Palmetto Bug. She has won South Carolina Press Association awards for in-depth and government beat reporting. On the weekends, you can find Kati doing yoga and hiking Pinckney Island.

COMMENTS -

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THE ISLAND PACKET

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TRAFFIC

Drivers can expect lane closures on a section of I-95 later this week. Here's why

BY LANA FERGUSON

FEBRUARY 17, 2020 09:27 AM





The South Carolina Department of Public Safety logged 14,383 traffic collisions in Beaufort County, SC between January 2015 to June 2019. Here are the intersections that saw the highest number of accidents.

BY NICOLE L. CYETNIC / MCCLATCHY

Construction will cause lane closures on I-95 North from Ridgeland to Coosawhatchie later this week, according to a Blythe Construction news release.

The construction will be from Exit 22 to Exit 33.

Work is planned to take place between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday.

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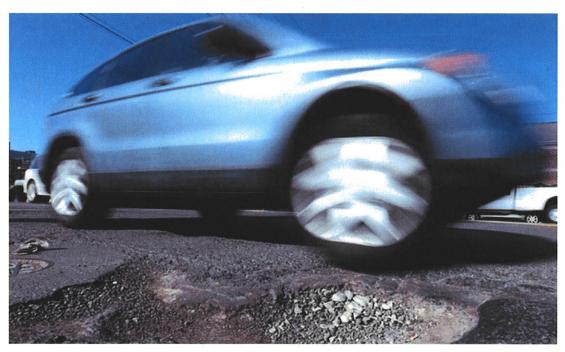
Beaufort Co. airport needs a new image, supporters say. Could the name change?

The project will be completed in the three-day time frame if weather and machinery permit. Motorists are encouraged to use caution when driving through the work zone.

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GET OFFER



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Railroad work closes crossings

By ohtadmin on February 19, 2020

By LARRY HILLIARD Ledger Staff Writer larry@gaffneyledger.com



Norfolk Southern workers perform maintenance work at the grade crossing at Frederick Street.

Motorists should expect delays for the next few weeks during maintenance of railroad crossings.

Gaffney Administrator James Taylor said Norfolk Southern officials aren't required to inform the city of their plans but did contact City of Gaffney Engineer Scott Keller.

Crews were working on the grade crossings at Hamrick Street, O'Neal Street and Rutledge Avenue this past week before moving to grade crossings in the city's core commercial area.

To ease traffic congestion, the crossings at Buford Street and Baker Boulevard are planned to remain open during all of the work, a railroad official said.

The city has posted information on the railroad crossing work on its website.

Taylor said railroad officials didn't provide an exact completion date but said the work is expected to take a "few weeks."

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Officials seek Exit 3 support from Jasper County school board

By Shellie Murdaugh

Posted Feb 17, 2020 at 1:33 PM

The Jasper County school board has agreed to consider offering its support for a proposed new Interstate 95 exit in the Hardeeville area.

The board did not take any official action on the request from Hardeeville Mayor Harry Williams at a recent meeting, but members agreed to hold a work session to learn more about the Exit 3 project.

"I think this is too much for us to decide on tonight, so I am asking the superintendent and the stakeholders to plan a work session so that we can review the information before the next board meeting," board chair Carolyn Bolden said.

Williams appeared before the board to explain the city's and Jasper County's efforts to obtain funding for the construction of Exit 3. He said the State Infrastructure Bank recently asked for a resolution from the school board in support of the project.

Williams said the exit is expected to cost about \$84 million. He said Stratford Land has donated the property and plans to build a road from the exit to the RiverPort entrance on U.S. 17.

The city and county are applying for a grant for a third of the cost from the State Infrastructure Bank. The remaining money would come from a \$28 million tax increment fund (TIF), Williams said.

"The beauty of the TIF is that we don't pay it back until we start collecting the taxes from the building that goes around an exit: hotels, gas stations, restaurant, could be some residential and some industrial," he said. "(They) all bring in tax revenues and the school district, the county and the city all collect interest based on the millage rate."

Williams said 12 percent of the tax revenue would be used to pay back the TIF and the remaining 88 percent would go to the city, county and school district. There would be a 30-year term loan with 3 percent interest.

"The debt service does not start until year six," he said. "In year six, the debt starts to get repaid. What happens for the school district, over the 30-year term of the loan, at your millage rate, and projection is there will be \$900 million of commerce in the tax zone. The benefit to the school district is almost \$170 million."

Williams asked the board to approve a resolution or write a letter of support.

"They (the school board) are not the loan applicants," Williams said. "They are not liable for the loan, have no responsibility for the loan, and if we don't get the exit, they won't get the revenue. The school board is not having to pay anything to be involved in this. The request was for support for the project and the city and county and their efforts."



COLLETON COUNTY

SCHP: 2 dead in head-on Colleton County crash



VIDEO: SCHP: 2 dead in head-on Colleton County crash

By Live 5 Web Staff | February 20, 2020 at 3:50 AM EST - Updated February 20 at 4:48 AM

COLLETON COUNTY, S.C. (WCSC) - Two people died in a two-car crash Wednesday night in Colleton County, according to the South Carolina Highway Patrol.

A Ford Taurus and a 2011 Hyundai Sonata were traveling in opposite directions on Hwy 303 around 7:25 p.m., according to Trooper Edward Collins.

When the driver of the Sonata lost control, they ran off the right side of the road, overcorrected and hit the Ford Taurus head-on, Collins said.

12

Both drivers, who weren't wearing seatbelts, were killed in the crash. The passengers in both cars were taken to MUSC.

The Highway Patrol is investigating the crash.

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TOP ARTICLES

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Woman killed after being struck by NYX float

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TRI-COUNTY

One hospitalized after Berkeley Co. rollover crash



VIDEO: Crews respond to rollover crash in Berkeley County

By Live 5 Web Staff | February 20, 2020 at 6:26 AM EST - Updated February 20 at 7:47 AM

BERKELEY COUNTY, S.C. (WCSC) - One person was hospitalized early Thursday morning following a rollover crash in Berkeley County.

According to the South Carolina Highway Patrol, the crash happened at 5:47 a.m. in the area of Royle Road and Sangaree Parkway and involved one car with only one person inside.

SCHP Trooper Matt Southern said the extent of the person's injuries is unknown, but troopers are still investigating.

Q



TRI-COUNTY

Cops: Two people arrested after chase on I-26 ends after suspect's car runs into mechanical issues



VIDEO: Cops: Two people arrested after chase on I-26 ends after suspect's car runs into mechanical issues

By Live 5 Web Staff | February 19, 2020 at 11:10 PM EST - Updated February 20 at 5:34 AM

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. (WCSC) - Police say two people have been arrested in a car chase on I-26 after the suspect's car ran into mechanical issues Wednesday night.

The North Charleston Police Department arrested 26-year-old Amber Rambert of Hanahan and 28-year-old Carl Moultrie of Huger. Both are charged with failure to stop for blue lights and siren.

Moultrie faces additional charges of driving under suspension and improper lane change.



The incident started when officers attempted a traffic stop on a white Crown Victoria for a moving violation on Ashley Phosphate Road.

"The vehicle pulled into a parking lot and fled when officers approached," NCPD officials said. "The vehicle fled from officers and was pursued."

A report states that as the driver was fleeing, the vehicle struck another vehicle near Ashley Phosphate Road and Rivers Avenue. Investigators say the vehicle continued to flee and entered I-26 from Remount Road.

According to police, the vehicle traveled on I-26 to exit 194, at which time the driver left the interstate and the vehicle became disabled due to mechanical issues.

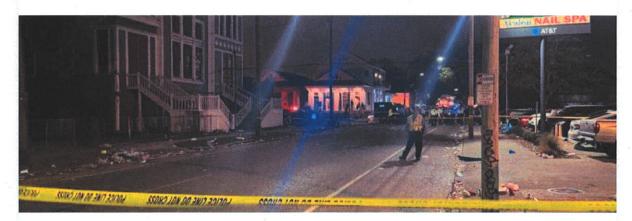
"At some point during the pursuit, the driver and passenger switched seats," police said.

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TOP ARTICLES

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Woman killed after being struck by NYX float

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FIRST ALERT TRAFFIC

SCHP: One person killed in crash on I-20 W near Two Notch Road, lanes reopened

■ This ad will end in 16 seconds



SCHP: One person killed in crash on I-20 W near Two Notch Road, lanes reopened

By WIS News 10 Staff | February 19, 2020 at 1:50 PM EST - Updated February 19 at 9:21 PM

COLUMBIA, S.C. (WIS) - The South Carolina Highway Patrol has confirmed one person has died in a crash on I-20 Wednesday.

The collision happened near the Two Notch Road exit on I-20 West and blocked all lanes, according to officials.

1/2



SCHP investigators said a semi and sedan were going the same direction on the interstate when the driver of the car lost control.

The car went off the right side of the road, hit a guardrail, then went back onto the road and slid under the semi's trailer. That's when the sedan caught fire, officials said.

SCHP said the driver of the car died at the scene. He or she has not been identified.

The semi's driver was not hurt.

Officials redirected traffic from I-20 onto SC-277 following the crash. However, all lanes are now open.

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TOP ARTICLES





TOP STORY

Coroner identifies victim involved in motorcycle crash on Clemson Road

■ ◆ This ad will end in 28 seconds

You can skip this ad in 13 seconds



Highway Patrol investigating fatal vehicle vs motorcycle collision on Clemson Road

By Jazmine Greene | February 17, 2020 at 4:19 PM EST - Updated February 19 at 2:59 PM

RICHLAND COUNTY, S.C. (WIS) - The Richland County Coroner's Office has released the name of the person who died in a motorcycle collision on Monday.

The victim was identified as 39-year-old Emina Yates of Columbia. Yates was pronounced dead at the scene following the crash, which took place around 1:15 p.m. on Monday.

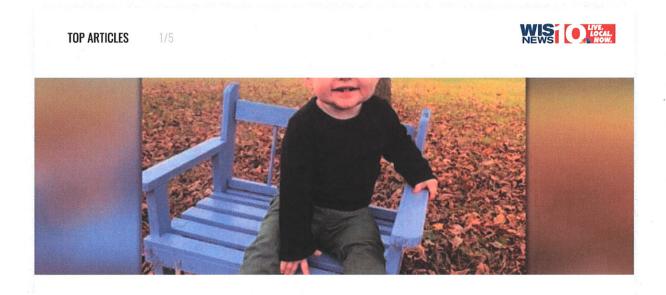
Authorities said a 2008 Toyota was traveling east on Clemson road while a motorcycle was traveling west. The Toyota turned left onto Salsbury Lane and collided with the motorcycle.

1/2

Officials determined Yates died from blunt force injuries to the upper body.

The coroner's office and the South Carolina Highway Patrol are continuing to investigate the crash.

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TBI issues Amber Alert for east Tennessee infant last seen in December

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43°

45°

54°

Search Site

One person dead in accident on I-20 west bound

by Celeste Brown-Cannon Wednesday, February 19th 2020





One person is dead after a crash between a car and a tractor trailer on I-20 west bound, said South Carolina Highway Patrol. (SCHP){/p}

One person is dead after a crash between a car and a tractor trailer on I-20 west bound, said South Carolina Highway Patrol.

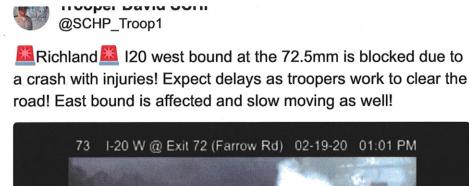
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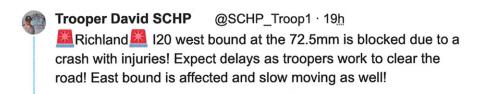




12 1:05 PM - Feb 19, 2020

20 people are talking about this

The tractor trailer was carrying plastic pellets that spilled onto the road, said officials. Officials said expect delays as wreckers clean up the scene.



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Search Site



Trooper David SCHP

@SCHP_Troop1

Wreckers are on scene and clean up has begun. The tractor trailer was carrying plastic pellets that spilled onto the road after the crash. Expect delays for at least another 30 mins to an hour.



10 3:16 PM - Feb 19, 2020

See Trooper David SCHP's other Tweets

MORE TO EXPLORE

Gray Collegiate's Hunter Helms signs with 'dream school' Clemson

Castles earns Scholar Athlete recognition

What we know about Coty Taylor, man linked to Faye Swetlik



Search

Q

No one injured when school bus slides into ditch on U.S. 521

No students on board at time of accident

Posted Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:00 am

BY BRUCE MILLS bruce@theitem.com (mailto:bruce@theitem.com)

Work commuters on Wednesday morning may have noticed a school bus on its side in a ditch near a wooded area off U.S. 521 near Dalzell, but no one was injured in the in students were on board at the time.

About 7:45 a.m., a Sumter School District bus driver on U.S. 521 South pulled over to the side of the road due to mechanical issues, according to a district spokeswoman, ar slid into the ditch because of the wet and soft ground.

The bus driver was able to exit the bus with no injuries, said Shelly Galloway, the district's executive director of Communication and Community Engagement.

After a wrecker and other emergency officials arrived on the scene, the bus was pulled out of the ditch at 9:50 a.m. and taken to the Sumter Bus Shop for repairs, she said.

The incident was near the Frierson Road intersection on U.S. 521.

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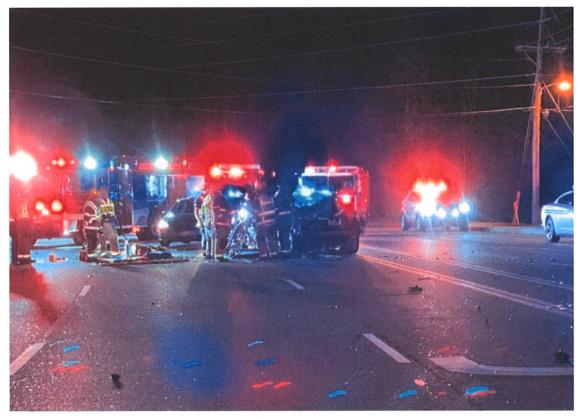


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BREAKING NEWS ALERT / WEATHER ALERT DAY: More rain today, turning into snow tonight as temps continue to drop

HOME

Two people seriously injured, multiple lanes blocked after crash in Socastee



Two people seriously hurt in Socastee crash (Source: Horry County Fire Rescue)

Posted: Feb 19, 2020 / 10:43 PM EST / Updated: Feb 19, 2020 / 11:36 PM EST

SOCASTEE, SC (WBTW) - Two people were seriously injured in a crash in Socastee on Wednesday night.

According to Horry County Fire Rescue, a two-vehicle crash happened around 9:30 p.m. in the area of Socastee Boulevard and Luttie Road. The two people had to be cut out of a vehicle.



Please avoi-

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Two people suffered serious injuries, with extrication tactics required.



8 10:35 PM - Feb 19, 2020

See Horry SC Fire Rescue's other Tweets

Multiple lanes remain blocked off as of 11:30 p.m.



Photo taken around 11:30 p.m. Wednesday

Count on News13 for updates.

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NOWCAST















CLOSINGS: There are currently 35 active closings or delays



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Live traffic updates during your morning commute



Updated: 7:37 AM EST Jan 19, 2019

GREENVILLE, S.C. — WYFF News 4 wants to make sure you make it to where you are going on time each morning.

Below you will find a list of accidents impacting traffic in our area as well as a list of links for live up-to-the-minute reports.

Advertisement

NOW:

• Woodruff Rd in Greenville: Water line break near Miller Rd. That's near the Shoppes at Greenridge. Expect major delays through lunchtime.

OTHER INCIDENTS:

- 4:22 a.m. Anderson Co: I-85 south at mm 12: Crash, no injury
- 5:41 a.m. Spartanburg Co: Hwy 101 at I-85: Crash, no injury

- 5:51 a.m. Anderson Co: Salem Church Rd lane BLOCKED at Pearman Dairy Rd: Driver in need of assistance
- 6:29 a.m. Pickens Co: Hwy 183 at Ireland Rd: Driver in need of assistance
- 7:00 a.m. Oconee Co: Old Clemson Hwy at Lawrence Bridge Rd: Car v. deer
- 7:08 a.m. Spartanburg Co: Warren H. Abernathy Hwy at Blackstock Rd: Crash, no injury
- 7:13 a.m. Spartanburg Co: Hwy 101 BLOCKED at Berry Shoals Rd: Crash
- 7:23 a.m. Spartanburg Co: Compton Bridge Rd at Edwards Rd: Crash, no injury
- 7:29 a.m. Spartanburg Co: Hwy 290 at Reidville Rd: Crash, no injury
- 7:33 a.m. Anderson Co: River Rd at Hwy 86: Crash, no injury
- 8:06 a.m. Greenville Co: I-385 south right lane BLOCKED at mm 35: Crash, injuries
- 8:16 a.m. Anderson Co: Regency Circle BLOCKED at Oxford Dr: Crash
- 8:23 a.m. Greenville Co: Hwy 25 at J Walter Moon Blvd: Crash, no injury
- 8:51 a.m. Greenville Co: Verdin Rd BLOCKED at Tanner Rd: Crash, no injury
- To see a map of traffic incidents, construction delays in South Carolina, including live cameras, click here. (South Carolina Department of Transportation)
- For an interactive map of traffic incidents, constructions delays for our area, click here. (WYFF)

WYFF GREENVILLE

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