



TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
August 31, 2010  
Council Chambers  
2:00 PM

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9 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

10 Councilman Childs called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. In attendance were Council  
11 subcommittee members Mr. Samples, Mr. Childs and Mr. Smith. Staff members in  
12 attendance were Interim Administrator Fellner, Clerk Pinnell and Building and Zoning  
13 Director Donevant. Also in attendance were Brian Dix and Leah Quattlebaum from  
14 SCDOT, and Christopher Clark from the Waccamaw Regional Council of  
15 Governments/Grand Strand Area Transportation Study.

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17 Mr. Samples made a motion to nominate Mr. Childs as Chairman of the Transportation  
18 subcommittee. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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20 **2. BUSINESS**

21 Ms. Fellner asked Mr. Dix to explain the agenda items to be discussed. Mr. Dix  
22 distributed a handout to the subcommittee. Mr. Dix gave a PowerPoint presentation that  
23 showed maps of future projects.  
24

25 **3. REVIEW OF CURRENTLY FUNDED PROJECTS**

26 **a. *Glenns Bay Road Widening***

27 Mr. Dix presented the Glenns Bay widening project photos. He explained that it is a  
28 sales tax project which is funded by the Horry County sales tax program. Part of this  
29 road is in the Town of Surfside Beach town limits; it goes up to south of Evergreen  
30 Circle. It will be widened to three lanes up to Spanish Oak Drive and then it will go  
31 to 5 lanes and an interchange will be put in at US 17 Bypass, Glenns Bay and  
32 Homestown. Mr. Samples asked if there would be a turn lane. Mr. Dix answered it is  
33 what they call a two-way left turn lane; these are seen often on SC 544 and that it  
34 would be similar to those turns. Mr. Smith asked if there would be wide shoulders.  
35 Mr. Dix answered that the plan is for two foot wide shoulders and there would also be  
36 a sidewalk installed. The sidewalks would be installed on both sides. The status is  
37 that they are in the process of acquiring right of ways. This would start within the  
38 next few months and the project should be ready by next summer. Mr. Samples  
39 asked when the property owners would be notified regarding acquiring right of ways.  
40 Mr. Dix answered that they are in the process of hiring a consultant to do the right of  
41 ways and as soon as the consultant is on board the owners would be notified; it is  
42 anticipated to be within the next few months. Mr. Smith asked about the part of  
43 Glenns Bay Road that touches Business 17; would this be 5 lanes and would it have  
44 sidewalks also. Mr. Dix stated that there would be sidewalks installed up to Business  
45 17 and the lanes would remain at the same configuration. The 5 lanes would be at the  
46 Bypass. There would be 4 lanes at Business 17 but the turn lanes would be included  
47 in those lanes and it would taper down to 3 lanes as you pass the Hardees.  
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49 **b. US 17 Business and Glenns Bay Road Intersection**

50 Mr. Dix reported on the US 17 and Glenns Bay Intersection improvement project.  
51 This project will consist of extending the left turn lane on US 17. This would be  
52 contingent up closing the median in that location. This would require the support of  
53 the Town. Crosswalks would be added where they currently do not exist. Mr. Dix  
54 reported that the plan was to make a more pedestrian friendly intersection there at  
55 Glenns Bay and Business 17. The median would stay open on the right turn side of  
56 the road but they are requesting it to be closed on the left turn side of 17. Mr. Dix  
57 stated that if the town supports this plan he could construct a letter requesting this  
58 support. Mr. Dix stated that this project was available through separate funding but  
59 they wanted to tie the projects in together with the Glenns Bay Road widening  
60 project. How people would get to Legends in concert with the median closed off was  
61 discussed. There would be options to u-turn or to go down Surfside Drive and go  
62 around the corner. Mr. Smith asked if it would be appropriate for the town to put up  
63 signs to direct the public to a business. An example of Disney World using signs to  
64 direct the public to their location was mentioned. Mr. Dix stated that he would talk to  
65 his district officer regarding this. Ms. Fellner stated that on the Bypass there are  
66 Aquarium signs. Mr. Samples stated that being that this is a resort area signs are  
67 occasionally used. Mr. Smith suggested this be looked into so that people could be  
68 directed to Legends in the safest manner. Mr. Samples asked Ms. Fellner if she knew  
69 if Legends was aware of this plan. Ms. Fellner answered that she does not believe  
70 they are aware. There was some discussion regarding the report of there being a  
71 possibility of Legends moving their location.

72  
73 There was some discussion regarding the crosswalks to be installed. Mr. Dix stated  
74 that the crosswalks would meet the sidewalk. SCDOT would be willing to work with  
75 the town to keep with the look the town wants to achieve. They would use stamped  
76 concrete that looked like brick. Using actual brick is a safety and maintenance issue  
77 on a highway. Mr. Smith asked if the crosswalk would have the light with the button  
78 to push. Mr. Dix confirmed that would be part of the project. Mr. Smith asked if  
79 there would be some sort of concrete median available to pedestrians in case they  
80 could not make it all the way across. Mr. Dix stated that they could look at adding  
81 the concrete refuge island. Mr. Clark reported on the signal timing. Mr. Clark stated  
82 that the lights are set to have 2 seconds per foot and when someone pushes the button  
83 if there is 100 feet this would give an individual 200 seconds to cross. Mr. Dix stated  
84 that SCDOT would make sure the timing syncs up to the best case scenario for this  
85 project. It was confirmed that the project would actually begin after the summer  
86 season next year.

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88 **c. US 17 Business and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue N.**

89 Mr. Dix reported on the US 17 Business and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North project. This project  
90 was submitted to the Town of Surfside Beach sometime last year. The project has  
91 \$120,000 of funding towards it for this fiscal year. If the town is in support of the  
92 project the solution is to remove the current stop sign at the frontage road, temporary  
93 barricades would then be installed to block off the entrances to the frontage road.  
94 This would eliminate the current safety issues. Mr. Smith stated that the Post Office

95 off of Business 17 is right next to that area and the people from the town cross over  
96 Business 17 and make a left onto that frontage road to enter the Post Office so this  
97 would cause a problem for the public if that frontage road is blocked off where  
98 planned. Mr. Smith stated that the towns Representative Nelson Hardwick suggested  
99 to not completely block the frontage road but to block southbound traffic on the  
100 frontage road from that intersection; from the upper barricade and back. Mr. Smith  
101 stated that this is the plan that the town would like to consider. The stop sign would  
102 still need to remain. Mr. Dix stated that the barricades would be temporary. Mr. Dix  
103 stated that he would speak with Michael Bethea from SCDOT and if this is approved  
104 he would follow up with a letter. Mr. Samples stated that they cannot locally support  
105 the plan to block off both sides because "it doesn't make sense." There was some  
106 discussion regarding the use of Azalea and that this is currently only known by the  
107 locals. There was some discussion about going up 5<sup>th</sup> and then take Azalea around to  
108 the post office. Mr. Smith stressed that the subcommittee definitely wants that  
109 intersection to be worked on and they want to make sure it moves forward. If there  
110 are disagreements then they need to be worked out because this definitely needs to be  
111 addressed.

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113 **d. 2011-2015 GSATS Intersection Improvements**

114 Mr. Dix presented the 2011-2015 improvements adding that nothing has been planned  
115 as of yet but it is good to plan and get the public involved. US 17 business  
116 enhancements including installing signals were discussed. Placing a light at 10<sup>th</sup>  
117 South feasibility for this location is a future discussion. It was confirmed that some  
118 preliminary work could be done but these items are awaiting funding. The projects  
119 get ranked. It was confirmed that traffic counts are done by GSATS and some are  
120 done in house by SCDOT. There is a plan to possibly place a signal somewhere  
121 between 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> North. Mr. Childs stated that council is strong on suggesting  
122 placing a light at 16<sup>th</sup> North' it's a wide road that currently has a sidewalk. Mr.  
123 Samples asked about the proposed light improvement. Mr. Dix explained that  
124 installing a light would have to go under observation and review; it would have to be  
125 a certain distance from other signals, it must be assured that it would not impede on  
126 any other accesses; they would have to make sure it would not possibly cause other  
127 unsafe issues. Ms. Fellner stated that she was under the impression that SCDOT did  
128 not want lights in certain places because it did not meet the counts needed to propose  
129 that location. Mr. Smith suggested that the next time Mr. Dix is in town reviewing  
130 these projects to contact the subcommittee so that they can go out and review it along  
131 with him to provide input. Mr. Dix stated that he will have a scoping meeting to  
132 determine the scope of the project and he would contact Ms. Fellner to set up a  
133 meeting. Mr. Childs stated that this subcommittee will work hard to work together to  
134 get these projects done.

135  
136 **e. GSATS Enhancements**

137 Mr. Chris Clark explained the GSATS process. Mr. Clark stated that GSATS works  
138 with federal dollars that come from the gas tax. Locally they get a little over 6  
139 million dollars a year and they work through a committee structure which is a study  
140 team and a policy committee. The study team consists of the town administrator and

141 this is where projects come forward are ranked and voted on and then they come to  
142 the policy committee which the mayor sits on with local State representatives. They  
143 vote to approve the funds and then the DOT highway commission finalizes it. This is  
144 how projects get funded through GSATS. Mr. Dix and Ms. Quattlebaum work in the  
145 Columbia DOT office and once the project has money they are then on board to do  
146 the engineering and secure contractors to do the work. Another player involved in  
147 the process is Mr. Michael Bethea out of the Florence office; he is the District Traffic  
148 Engineer. There needs to be an agreement with the town approved by council which  
149 is called a municipal agreement. Once something is designed before they can get a  
150 right of way and do the project it has to be agreed upon completely. Both Mr. Bethea  
151 and the town have to agree on the projects. There are currently several projects  
152 identified, there just needs to now be an agreement to move forward. Traffic counts  
153 have been taken at both locations; the projects will be ranked and they will be  
154 assigned money sometime between 2011 and 2015. There is currently a list of 23  
155 projects and this will be done depending on where they are ranked.

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157 Mr. Clark stated that the traffic count volume at 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South does not warrant a  
158 traffic signal; the volume is actually coming from the water park side; Mr. Bethea has  
159 a concern with how close the frontage roads are; it is a similar situation to 5<sup>th</sup> North.  
160 The frontage road is too close to US 17 for a traffic signal to operate appropriately;  
161 one scenario considered was if US 17 frontage road was closed. Traffic from the  
162 water park could then go out one way; the south section would be closed with a  
163 barrier. Mr. Childs stated that he feels that anywhere the town can block off some of  
164 the frontage roads would help adding that they seem to be one of the major  
165 complaints of every resident. There was a discussion from council regarding having a  
166 light placed between 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and Mr. Clark stated that his discussion with Mr.  
167 Bethea was that 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue was the street identified as needing a light. 14<sup>th</sup> goes to  
168 the church and is closed so there was no count done there but 13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> were  
169 all counted. Mr. Bethea had stressed that the light should go at Platt Blvd and 13<sup>th</sup>; as  
170 of now it would be accepted for that location; it is now up to the town to formally  
171 state that council would not want a light at that location. Mr. Samples stated that the  
172 concern with installing a light at 13<sup>th</sup> is traffic from Platt Blvd going directly onto 13<sup>th</sup>  
173 Avenue North; it creates another direct shot to the beach through a neighborhood.  
174 Mr. Samples asked if Mr. Bethea was willing to discuss the design of a light at 13th.  
175 Mr. Clark stated that at this point it would be the towns' responsibility to propose  
176 alternatives. Mr. Samples stated that council has spoken clearly on 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Mr.  
177 Clark stated that according to the letter the frontage road would not have access to the  
178 light at 13<sup>th</sup>; the frontage road would be closed/barricaded on both sides. Mr. Clark  
179 stated that during the study there were very few trips of people going straight across  
180 towards the beach most people coming out of Platt were turning onto Business 17.  
181 Mr. Smith asked about the count for 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue; Mr. Clark stated that he is not sure  
182 what the count was but he does know that it did not warrant the need for a signal.  
183 The review is looking for left turners. Mr. Samples stated that the town has a number  
184 of roads that are properly suited for direct traffic to the beach; Melody Lane, 10<sup>th</sup>  
185 Avenue South, Surfside Drive, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> North. Mr.  
186 Samples stated that 13<sup>th</sup> is one of the nicest neighborhood roads in town in terms of a



187 a residential community and council is against opening it up to direct traffic to the  
188 beach. Mr. Samples stated that it looks like there is more work to do. Mr. Clark  
189 stated that there are 2 to 3 alternatives heard including one from the County that the  
190 town can review. It was confirmed that 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North has \$160,000 funded for  
191 2010. Mr. Smith asked if the town does not spend it this year is it lost or can the town  
192 hold it until a permanent fix is agreed upon. Mr. Clark stated that it will not be  
193 removed from the program until it is completely closed out; the money can be used at  
194 a later time and the budget would then be adjusted. It was explained that the money  
195 must be spent on identified projects only. The value of how much is spent on each  
196 project is a technical committee determination; they are all based on engineering cost  
197 estimates and are not guessed amounts. Mr. Clark confirmed that the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
198 amount of \$500,000 was a projected cost given by the town and that a cost benefit  
199 analysis will be done on this area. Mr. Clark confirmed that 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
200 would warrant the need for a light if the volume on the opposite side of the road  
201 where the water park is located is taken into consideration. The thought is to  
202 temporarily barricade a portion of the frontage road then hold the funds until the  
203 intersection is closed and if the town agreed to the barricade a signal would be part of  
204 the project. It would then need to be engineered and formalized. Mr. Smith asked  
205 if Mr. Dix could meet with council for an hour or two to go over these proposed  
206 projects adding that the town wants to move forward and they would like to know  
207 what alternatives they could propose. It was confirmed that Ms. Fellner would be the  
208 contact to arrange the meeting.

209  
210 Mr. Clark explained that there is \$40,000 in landscaping funds with a \$10,000 match  
211 for a project on the US 17 median. The application was completed and it is currently  
212 being reviewed by SCDOT and it may take 2 to 3 months for approval. They would  
213 then ask for the \$10,000 from the town and it would move forward. The planting  
214 would be done next winter. Mr. Clark reported that regarding bus shelters they  
215 provided Coast RTA with money to purchase and install the bus shelter. There would  
216 be 2 installed in Surfside one on the north side and one on the south side. The town  
217 would need to determine a location for these shelters. Ms. Fellner stated that the bus  
218 currently stops in front of town hall and it could be set up in that area. It could be set  
219 up in the turning lane and on the opposite side it would need to be set up off the  
220 frontage road. Mr. Clark explained that Coast RTA has been providing the towns  
221 with the materials and has been asking for assistance from the towns to install them.  
222 They have had the concrete pad installed by the towns and have had the public works  
223 department putting them up. It was confirmed that Coast RTA currently has the  
224 shelters ready for pickup. Mr. Smith asked if one could be done at a time. Mr. Clark  
225 stated that it is preferred to do both at the same time; if individuals saw one stop they  
226 would get confused and be on the wrong side for pickup.

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228 It was agreed that the subcommittee would hold meetings on an as needed basis. Mr.  
229 Childs stressed that the subcommittee does not want to do anything to hold up any  
230 projects.

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**4. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Samples seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 3:10 PM.

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Sharon Pinnell, Town Clerk

Approved Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Childs, Subcommittee Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Douglas Samples, Subcommittee Member

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Roderick Smith, Subcommittee Member

