

Residents Hear Final Plan to Improve Traffic on James Island

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by Nicole Johnson

** Watch the video online by clicking on the red camera at <http://www.live5news.com/Global/story.asp?S=8913002>*

** In an earlier story, Sheldon Dutes went live from the intersection encouraging James Island residents to come out the meeting. Mention that it was approved by voters in the second bond referendum and is funded by the Transportation Half-Cent Sales Tax.*

JAMES ISLAND, SC (WCSC) -- Five different plans to solve a traffic headache on James Island, but it seems there is finally a green light from residents.

Some James Island residents would say the intersection of camp and folly roads is a traffic nightmare that they wake up to every morning. Charleston county road planners from Roadwise explored ways to make it better starting last year. Now they've come up with five different plans to improve traffic.

"Many many residents were really disturbed by what they saw," Carol Jacobsen said. "They finally took everyone's advice and went back to the drawing board and made it better."

Past plans for traffic improvement included adding extra turning lanes at the intersection, sidewalks, and bike lanes, at the cost of cutting down between 30 to 40 grand trees.

"I think it matters as you heard there are older people who use that area as a kind of daytime outing area and that shade makes a lot of difference to them. Those are beautiful trees and we can't grow those trees in our lifetime," Rod Welch said.

But the final plan for road changes was warmly welcomed by residents at a public meeting. It includes more narrow roads, streets that curve around trees and sidewalks that are built around existing trees.

Only five trees would be cut down with the goal of improved traffic flow.

"It does a lot less damage to the trees. It has all the benefits of the original plan and I really think the Roadwise staff did a good job listening to people," Welch said.

Road planners will listen to people's comments and concerns to make any final changes and present the plans to Charleston County Council within the next few months.

You can still weigh in on the plans to improve traffic on James Island at the intersection of Camp and Folly Roads. You can visit [Charleston County Roadwise](#) or send them your ideas by mail until September 10th.