

## **FORT JOHNSON ROAD SIDEWALK PROJECT PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- I am very much in favor of this project. I walk to work (the marine lab) on many days, and a sidewalk would be a welcome addition. I also recommend using pervious concrete for the sidewalk!!
  
- We support the Fort Johnson Road sidewalk project. But we do have a concern regarding drainage in our area and if the sidewalk project will make it worse. The area of concern is the area between Mikell Drive and Farm Road. The current drainage of our ditches is hampered due to construction at the entrance to the new subdivision, Eaglewood Retreat. My husband was told that there was also a Bell South trunk line installed that blocks the current drainage under Ft Johnson at Farm Road. As new construction occurs, the drainage problem seems to be overlooked and this would be a perfect time to correct an ongoing problem. Would it be possible to reroute the drainage from our ditches to flow under Fort Johnson Road and into the ditch between Lighthouse Road and the soccer fields and ultimately into Parrot Creek?
  
- It is important that this facility be wide enough for bicycle traffic. There is a lot of bicycle traffic on Ft Johnson Road, and it is very dangerous. There are lots of people who live in this area that ride bicycles for transportation, not just recreation, and I see them all the time on bikes on Ft. Johnson, often even at night with no lights. Two of my friends have been hit by cars while riding bicycles on Ft. Johnson road. Both of them were riding in daylight with helmets and obeying all traffic rules (riding with traffic, etc). Ideally, Ft. Johnson should have real bicycle lanes for its entire length. This would allow connections to both the Harborview bicycle lane, and via Seccessionville Rd, the Folly Road Bicycle lane. This would allow bicycles to travel safely from the James Island Connector to Folly Beach on adequate facilities. At any rate, if real bicycle lanes aren't possible on this facility, please know that bikes will be on it, whether or not it is designed for them, so PLEASE go for the full 8 feet (or 10 or 12 feet) and plan for the bicycle traffic as well as the pedestrian traffic.
  
- Will the sidewalk be on my side of the road or the other side? I could not attend the 10/4 mtg., but have concerns about the sidewalk changing the look of Fort Johnson Road. How many trees do you anticipate having to cut down?
  
- They should continue sidewalk to Camp Rd. Asphalt would be the best way to go.
  
- I am in favor of the sidewalk because it will make the island more livable by allowing us to break our dependency on automobile for trips on the island. Having a sidewalk will bring benefits to our health and pocketbooks (less gas consumption). I will use the sidewalk regularly to get to work at the Marine Resources Division.

- Great! Also needed the sidewalk to be extended toward Folly Rd – (Part of this sidewalk is pre-existing but in need of repair) There are also many walkers coming from the opposite direction to and from school. Also needed, lighted crosswalks and sign for walkers/bike riders to school in early AM and late PM. With students walking to and from school this is a real safety issue.
- I am not opposed to a sidewalk on Ft. Johnson Rd., but I feel the sidewalk should be on the other side of the road. It only makes sense to have the sidewalk on the school side. The proposed side makes the kids cross the road across from the school on a dangerous curve and cross the road at the entrance of Lighthouse Point – another dangerous area. More trees are affected with the proposed sidewalk.
- I'm 100% supportive of this project now that I have learned the oak trees will be preserved. My husband and I have been talking for years about the need for a sidewalk on Ft. Johnson Rd. (all the way to Folly) and on Camp Rd because of the school/student traffic. The path really needs to be a bike path. Almost all comments tonight suggested the same. I look forward to the day that I can safely ride my bike to work. Could the asphalt path/sidewalk transition to a wooden plank path to go over tree roots and closer to or around the trees-rather than 5'-8' into the right-of-way? Just a suggestion that may appeal to the residents that oppose the idea.
- I agree with overall plan, but new sidewalk should be asphalt not concrete. Good thick asphalt that is. Concrete will break due to tree roots and be very costly to maintain, it will discolor due to leaves etc and will stand out in peoples yards. Asphalt like Kiawah, Seabrook, Wild Dunes, etc. Those are scenic roads and so is Ft. Johnson Rd. This should not look like a downtown city. Same thought goes for Harbor View Rd. Sidewalk. Both sidewalks must be separated from the roadway by several feet or more.
- I support this proposal thoroughly and believe a sidewalk would be very welcome in this neighborhood. I hope that impact on the grand oaks will be minimal and aesthetically pleasing. I am a bicyclist and would like to see any walkway be useable by cyclist. Thank You.
- I strongly support this project as an avid cyclist and runner. I would like to see the intersect with Folly Rd. and continue to meet the ped/bike path on Folly Rd. Secondly, I would also like to see the extension of the Harbor View red/bike path to meet the J.I. Connector. Thanks.
- Sidewalk sounds wonderful! As a grandmother it will be safer for my grandchildren. It would also be nice to walk my little dog on Ft. Johnson.

- I enthusiastically support this project. Please do it well and do it soon!
- Sidewalk way overdue, however concerning bicycle path, we do not see the occasional child riding a bike. What we experience is a pack of professional weekend cyclist riding – very dangerous. I do not see where even proposing extra footage for bikes would even be entertained. I propose an evaluation of # of individual bikes vs cyclist that would occupy this space. Thank You.
- This is a great project, especially if done sensibly. It should not end at the high school, however, since a very dangerous stretch exists beyond that. It is good to have it extend to the high school but it would be better to link with the sidewalk. Otherwise it will be like Harborview Rd. with the bike path ending at the marsh, that is the most dangerous section.
- I'm pleased with the plan in general. I would be more pleased with an 8 foot path that was bike friendly. I understand it would have an impact but if it is only a few trees I think it is worth it. Also if the path was 8 foot except for a limited number of spots where it narrows to 5 ft. and there were good signs and maybe yellow cross lines warning of this it would work. I think this will be great particularly for kids walking and biking to and from school and through the neighborhood. Thanks.
- I would hate to see any of our grand oaks killed for this project. This trail is an outstanding idea and I believe it will be very popular. In fact, I believe will be so popular with cyclist and pedestrians that 5' will not be wide enough. An 8' path would be ideal. Why can't we go all the way to Folly Rd?
- There needs to be street lights on Ft. Johnson at the intersection of Camp. Also are there plans to light the sidewalk. Thanks. This is a great project.
- Strongly support project. Need to extend it to existing sidewalk further down Ft. Johnson. Ensure existing oaks are protected. Support the concrete versus asphalt. Needs to allow bikes as well as walkers. Ft. Johnson is very dangerous to bike on many bikers I know have been run off the road, if it needs to be widened then it should be. It needs to be maintained.
- I often cringe when I see kids and aging adults riding bicycles on Fort Johnson road! It is SO UNSAFE to do so! The delivery trucks that travel this road literally take chunks off of the ancient oak trees as they ramble past. And if a car is bearing down THERE ISN'T EVEN A SHOULDER onto which a bicyclist could pull off. With a sidewalk, kids could safely walk to Stiles Point Elementary or JI Charter High Schools, bike to parks or soccer fields. Please pursue this plan! It would greatly increase the "live-ability" of this area of James Island.

- Dreams do come true! I thought that this would never happen in my lifetime. Please build the Ft. Johnson Rd sidewalk as soon as possible. I am aware that there are some space challenges (specifically width) to this project. I suggest that you build it 8' wide where possible and 5' wide where you cannot. This would allow the wider areas to be passing lanes for our speedier neighbors.
- What we really need is two bicycle lanes, one in each direction, on the road surface. That probably isn't going to happen on Ft. Johnson, because even the 8-foot sidewalk is going to require that several homeowners sell the county some of their yards. There is a lot of bicycle traffic on Ft. Johnson, much of it folks who use bicycles more for transportation than recreation. So no matter how wide the sidewalk is, it will have bicycles on it. For that reason, I encouraged them to at least go with the 10-foot sidewalk (but I still noted the need for real bicycle lanes, which would allow one to ride most of the way from the James Island connector to Folly Beach on bicycle lanes via Harborview, Ft. J, Secessionville, and Folly Rd.).
- I ride my bike from Hampton Park to Johns Island by coming down Harborview and across Ft. Johnson. I am a recreational rider on the days I ride Ft. Johnson. I cannot ride on the sidewalk because I ride 20-25 MPH. Therefore, is it possible to make Ft. Johnson wide enough to accommodate a bike lane in each direction?
- I hope curb cuts at all road intersections will have ADA compliant slope and crosswalk striping will be provided at road crossings. Please make at least 8' wide.
- Please build bike lanes, as well as sidewalks, on Fort Johnson Road. Many people ride their bikes on Fort Johnson Road as a means of transportation either because they choose to ride their bikes rather than drive or because they can not afford to drive. Their safety needs to be considered. Riding bikes on a sidewalk is illegal and not safe for cyclists or for pedestrians. Please add bike lanes to this project. Thank you for considering the construction of sidewalks on Fort Johnson Road. That is a great project.
- Please consider adding independent bicycle lanes to the project, and tying into similar bike and pedestrian facilities on Dills Bluff Rd, Harborview Road, and Folly Road.
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- Commuting cyclists need lanes, not sidewalks. Especially not a sidewalk that meanders that will only be used by recreational cyclists. Look at some of the resorts in south Georgia such as Jekyll and Sea Island and their meandering sidewalks that cyclists are suppose to use are not practical for the cyclists who want to go out and ride 20 plus miles and commute from their home to the work.
- I think it would be a great idea to make a bicycle lane for Fort Johnson. I run and ride my bike all along that area and have run into many rude drivers that will not slow down or shift their vehicles to avoid being way too close to me when I'm running or riding my bike. It is a very frustrating situation and also, most importantly, very dangerous. One problem though, is that I do not want to see the live oaks cut down for that reason. It would be a shame to lose such beautiful scenery that makes this road so wonderful to run or bike through. I am not sure what the best solution is to this problem, but my suggestion is that we find the best way possible to avoid any destruction of our natural resources. I also propose that we find the most cost effective way to build this biker/pedestrian friendly area...if extending the road into a bike path is cheaper, of course go for that. I would assume creating a sidewalk would be more expensive. I appreciate your concern for our opinions as James Island residents. I hope you will follow through with a great decision for all of the community. Thank you very much.
- I agree that the proposed sidewalk should be at least 10 ft so that bicyclists can safely travel on Ft. Johnson without the fear of oncoming traffic. The road is dangerous enough the way it is laid out, and the addition of a proper pedestrian/bicyclist path would ultimately assist in preventing potential and inevitable accidents.
- Please include bike paths and sidewalks to form a 'complete street'
- I wholeheartedly support this initiative – it is long overdue. I would ask that the engineers be as sensitive as possible to homeowners whose land is to be impacted. I also support the extensions of the sidewalk to Folly Rd. The sidewalk has to allow for bicycle traffic as well as foot traffic. Thank you so much for this important improvement to the safety of the people of James Island.
- As a regular cyclist in this area I would ask that consideration be given to marked bike lanes as well as pedestrian paths for safety and promotion of public health.
- A sidewalk is long overdue along Fort Johnson Road. I live in the Eastwood subdivision and riding bikes, walking the dog, etc. are entirely too dangerous along Ft. Johnson Rd towards Harbor View Rd. Between the summer/fall boat traffic going to the Yacht Club, employees getting off work in the late afternoon from the Marine Biology Lab, and the traffic from both directions on Fort Johnson at Harbor View Rd. is a safety issue for adults and children. Thank goodness this proposal will pass and neighbors/children will have a safe connecting "path along the subdivisions". Children can safely ride their bikes to Stiles Point or have access safely riding to the Fort Johnson Estates Swimming Pool. I am ready for the digging to begin!

- If the goal is to provide a safe place for bike commuters and encourage more bicycle commuting, this proposal is not the answer- we need to consider the bike lanes widely used in other parts of the country which are integrated into the road systems- we should not be focused on a Kiawah island type meandering sidewalk for earth cruisers- we need to integrate bike lanes into our roads so that bicycle commuting will be encouraged-
- The maintenance of the sidewalk when completed concerns me. The existing sidewalk from 1363 to 1514 Ft. Johnson Rd. has been neglected. Who is responsible for this section and why have they not repaired the damage and killed the grass overgrowth? I strongly suggest the project add an addendum to include a sidewalk on the north side along the property of the high school. A properly high visible crosswalk should be marked and maintained. The children using this new needed sidewalk must cross the road to get to the school. It would be short sighted of county council to not provide for this safety measure.
- I am thrilled at the prospect of having the sidewalk project completed! I've had my dog hit by speeders at this end of Ft. Johnson Road. I also have no place to stroll my toddler or ride my bike without risking our lives. Thank you! Now what can we do about some speed bumps???
- I live in Harborwoods III subdivision in the second house in from Ft. Johnson Rd. on your left on Blue Marlin Dr. My main concern is for the trees along with route - I was assured NO trees would be impacted - thank goodness!! I was also told the reason for the sidewalk is for safety since this route is walked by many. I, for one, walk it a lot, and no sidewalk will make up for the fact that cars speed excessively on this road - especially the straight way from the soccer field to the High School - I honestly would rather see the speed limit enforced FIRST - then think about paving over Mother Earth. I understand the sidewalk would be five feet in from the road. In addition to the mature trees - the natural bearm between Blue Marlin and the soccer field MUST be left intact - this is a natural divider and buffer between busier than ever, Ft. Johnson, and our homes which helps to reduce the sight of speeding cars and their noise. If this passes, PLEASE keep this in mind!! Thank you very much!
- I would prefer a 5' asphalt sidewalk in lieu of concrete. Asphalt would fit better with the character of Fort Johnson rd, is cheaper, easier to maintain and because it is layed on top will cause less damage to the grand trees. I think this sidewalk should connect to the existing sidewalk on Fort Johnson near Dills Bluff Rd. This is a concrete sidewalk that has grass growing in the cracks etc. (another reason to choose asphalt over concrete) Children on that end of Fort Johnson and runners/walkers should also have the opportunity for safe travel on Fort Johnson. Crosswalks to connect Mikell and to the park on Harborview should be installed as well as other key points.
- I have lived on Fort Johnson Rd 43 yrs and watched the traffic increase. 18 yrs ago I gave a right-of-way on my side because I felt the need for a sidewalk then. Hugo came along and stopped the project. I can often see elementary and high school children try to walk to school on Ft. Johnson. It is very dangerous. They have to walk on the side of the road and avoid the ditches. It is so important for the safety of our children and families. I do not feel safe to walk to nearby Mikell Drive to get on that sidewalk. I emphasize the need for a sidewalk!