



Charleston County

ROADWISE

4401 Belle Oaks Drive, Suite 105 North Charleston, SC 29405

Victoria Ave Sidewalk
RoadWise Public Meeting
August 19, 2008
Public Comment Summary Report

A public meeting was held on August 19, 2008 at Danny Jones Gym in North Charleston to gather input on the ideas of putting a sidewalk along Victoria Avenue. There were 16 attendees. The following is the summary of the comments received from 10 people.

	# of Responses
Support	1
Do not support	9
No opinion	0

The following are general comments that were received.

- Unnecessary due to low foot traffic. How many people use road. Will compound drainage issues that already exist. Similar services offered on neighboring streets – duplication of services. Damage-remove all and established landscaping in numerous locations. How many people requested this sidewalk? This is just another example bad government.
- Very informative meeting! Bob King came by on Aug 20 with an engineer and checked drainage on Marquis (attached). No pipe. Recommend to add this to project. Also, Mr. King suggested to install larger pipe and move sidewalk closer to Victoria Avenue, so the sidewalk will line up with the new walk.
- There is no need for sidewalks and is general say of those residents who live on Victoria Avenue. If drainage is main concern that should have been fixed years ago, fix the drainage but do not put sidewalks through our neighborhood.
- No need for it with sidewalk on both sides of N. Rhett. Would facilitate more unneeded traffic down our street. Other projects money could be spent on 1) Victoria Ave drainage 2) put utilities underground. My sidewalk should hug roadway as opposed to running 15-20' into yard! Straighten out drainage down Victoria Avenue.

- The sidewalks thru the other neighborhoods are bumpy and uneven-Hard to walk on, stroll on or wheelchair on after a year. Our sidewalk would be the same! Speed bumps are the answer!
- Absolutely against sidewalks. We have a quite community no need to upset the neighborhood. We have a daughter who through the past has roller blade and road her bicycle to other friend's homes, there was not enough room for her to do these things on the sidewalk. I do think we would benefit from speed bumps.
- If projects proceeds, please do not remove any existing trees and please construct sidewalk as close to roadway as possible. I would object to placement anywhere close to the right of way line. This is too far into landscaping of residents.
- This comment is in regards to the Victoria Ave sidewalk project, which will begin in my driveway. First of all, apologies for missing the meeting this evening. I agree with my neighbors, that a sidewalk is not something we want. It's a waste of tax payers money.

The fact that it has to take a 90 degree left turn into somebody's driveway, through an ankle deep puddle then a 90 degree right turn to the connection leads me to believe that this is not a well thought out project. Possibly an easier choice than more important projects.

Not to mention that the right turn will lead Roadwise workers into a veritable marshland when it rains. All I have to do is wash my car and your crew might lose a day to flooding.

If your going to fix the flooding, now you're talking. If not, this is poor poor planning and upsetting that I'll have to be reminded of this daily. Thank you for considering my comments and I plan to follow-up later this week.

- The project would take place in my front yard. If you're looking to spend money, please consider spending it elsewhere. For starters, not that many people walk down our street. You may argue that it's because we don't have a sidewalk, but if they're trying to get to or from the circle, there are plenty of other routes that do have sidewalks. Also, the area you'd be working on floods every time it rains, have plans been made to address this situation before you spend more money to cover up an existing problem with an unnecessary sidewalk?

If you do decide to move forward with this project, I hope that you will at least consider continuing the sidewalk along in a straight line, because besides looking ridiculous, the left turn to the extension on the immediate roadside is less safe and physically unattractive. This will certainly depreciate the value of our home.

Lastly, I am a runner. I run the sidewalks of Park Circle nearly every single day. I talk to other runners and walkers. No one is clamoring to run down Victoria.

Maybe spend more money maintaining the sidewalks that are already in place, or put the money towards a better transit (rail) system. Thank you for mending the sidewalks on Park Place and other areas. That was a nice and helpful project.

- We have the following concerns about the Victoria Ave. Sidewalk Project:
 1. Why are we looking at a sidewalk paving project when there is an existing drainage problem on this street? When it rains, there are five (5) major problem areas:
 - A. The entire corner of Victoria and N. Park Place – sometimes the water puddle extends from the corner to the corner of N. Park Place and Buist. It also covers 6-8 feet of Mr. Ott's yard!
 - B. The corner of Marquis and Victoria has no run-off drainage. The water that flows down from North Rhett collects there at the corner, and then fills up the ditches in front of 4900-4920. These ditches are open and unmaintained so the water is forced across the street into another open and unmaintained ditch at 4931 Victoria which subsequently floods the yard and garage at that residence in spite of additional drainage installed by the owner.
 - C. The corner of Victoria and Addington – Mr. Infinger has a sink hole on the right of way because of the 'ponding' at his corner.
 - D. The corner of Braddock and Victoria has an open, unmaintained ditch. The southeast corner of that intersection only has a partial ditch, which causes water to back up into the yard.
 - E. Maxwell at Victoria also experiences flooding when it rains.
 2. The open, unmaintained ditches are a major source of frustration and inconvenience for the homeowners. We live at 4931 Victoria, and it is a major headache to call for service because State, County and Municipal governments punt the responsibility to each other. It is **HIGHLY** frustrating and time consuming to play the game on the phone with these folks. The last time my ditch was cleaned out was over a year ago – and then it was after I shot photos of the filled ditches, the water coming across the street and the subsequent flooding in my yard. The ditch is approximately 2/3 full right now. We keep the grass cut down and away from the pipe, but the area under the driveway hasn't been messed with in a year.

When we bought this house in 1991, we started inquiring about putting in pipe to cover the ditch. The City said that we had to use concrete pipe, but had to get a permit from the county. The County said that we could use plastic pipe, but had to get a permit from the State. The State said that we had to get permits, inspections, etc. done by the City. We were willing to pay to have the work done, but we still can't get a straight answer from any of the above...and all deny that they have jurisdiction over the

project. Our City Councilman, Bob King told us that he'd get the ditch covered over if he was elected, but that hasn't happened either...

Other neighbors have had to jump through the same hoops. We have to pay storm water drainage fees, but we've yet to see any relief for our problems.

3. At the presentation, the drainage problem was addressed by Bob King, North Charleston City Councilman for the area. He was saying that this could be fixed at the same time the sidewalks were being installed. The drainage issue is not mentioned anywhere in the sidewalk project information available, so it's unlikely that will be addressed with public money at the same time. King also said that he could get the money to fix the drainage problem. If we have to fight with several agencies just to get a ditch cleaned out, how can Mr. King obtain funding that quickly – especially when an appropriation of that kind of money would require legislation – and the city budget won't be up for consideration until next fiscal year (July 01, 2009). Again, it's a representative of one government agency making claims that he really can't follow through with in another government's jurisdiction...
4. The street itself needs to be paved...there are several dips there because of the ponding...
5. Will the pedestrian traffic on Victoria support the funding of this project? It's unlikely...unless this is to alleviate sidewalks on North Rhett so that it can be widened to support the increase in traffic to I-526...

Most folks prefer to run or walk either in the road or on the right-of-way because traffic is slow on Victoria. I have yet to see anyone in a wheelchair on my street... Pedestrian traffic from North Charleston Elementary is also light.

6. Why is it that the newer neighborhoods are getting the 'green' sidewalks instead of the more expensive concrete sidewalks? Concrete doesn't drain as well as the newer materials...
7. And, last, but not least, why are we just hearing about this project now? We've been here...nothing was discussed until just before all the surveying was done. Besides, there isn't a street sign on the southeast corner of Victoria and Braddock to identify the street anyway...