



Charleston County News Release

MEDIA CONTACT

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View presentation that will be shown at meeting:

http://www.charlestoncounty.org/pdfs/Johns_Is_Traffic_Study.pdf

Public Asked to Comment on Sea Islands Parkway and Toll Road Idea on Johns Island

County Council holds meeting on Thursday, June 19, to gather input from residents and determine whether or not to move forward with idea of new road across Johns Island.

Charleston County Council will hold a public meeting to gather input on the idea of building a road, known currently as the Sea Islands Parkway, across Johns Island, and whether or not council should pursue asking the state Department of Transportation to begin considering a toll road option.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, June 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the St. Johns High School Auditorium (1518 Main Road; Johns Island, SC 29455).

The idea of a new parkway is being offered as a potential alternative to widening River Road or Bohicket Road because it would provide another option for travelers crossing Johns Island, and therefore, take pressure off of the current road system. The parkway would stretch across Johns Island beginning at Maybank Highway.

Designing the parkway as a limited-access toll road is an idea that the public is also asked to comment on at the June 19 meeting.

Background:

- In 2001, Charleston County Council authorized a study to gather public input on ways to relieve traffic concerns on Johns Island. Maybank Highway, Bohicket Road and River Road are the boundaries of the area studied.
- As part of the initial study, a public meeting was held in March of 2001 to gather input on various traffic solutions, such as road widening and new alignments. This and other information led to the study that was published in May of 2001.
- Due to changes in residential and business development, population, land use and traffic volume since 2001, there was a need to update the study and gather current public input and views.
- Charleston County Council recently authorized an update to the original 2001 study. The update was funded by the Transportation "Half-Cent" Sales Tax.
- Charleston County held a meeting on Oct. 9, 2007 to gather input so that the May 2001 study concerning traffic on Johns Island can be updated with current ideas and comments. The County gathered information from the public concerning traffic flow and

safety. During the meeting, project staff presented an overview of the 2001 study and gave citizens an opportunity to ask questions and give comments.

- Charleston County held a meeting on Feb. 20, 2008 to present the preferred alternative to relieve traffic problems, and to receive public response. Design staff was present at the meeting to answer any questions from residents.

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