

News Release

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Construction Begins Jan. 8 on Isle of Palms Connector Widening & Intersection Improvement Project

Transportation Sales Tax funded project includes bike/multi-use paths/sidewalks and attention to oak trees

<u>Charleston County Government</u> announces construction beginning Wednesday, Jan. 8, on the <u>Isle of Palms Connector Widening & Intersection Improvement Project</u>. Construction should be complete by May 2014. The project is funded by the <u>Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax</u> and managed by Charleston County Government, in close coordination with the Town of Mount Pleasant.

Construction crews and equipment will work during daytime hours, but the contractor is only permitted to close a lane of traffic between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. to reduce the impact on drivers. The work zones will be marked by orange traffic barrels and signs to alert drivers before they approach these areas.

County staff wants citizens to be aware of what to expect throughout the project; the basic timeline is:

- 1. Starting this week, be prepared to see equipment along the shoulder of the road while crews relocate/remove some the existing trees along the route that cannot be maintained in their current location (see more details on trees in the project description below).
- 2. Next, construction equipment will begin installing the necessary storm drainage system along with the removal and replacement of concrete sidewalks and curbs.
- 3. During February, heavy equipment will move dirt to construct the road shoulders place asphalt to widen the road.
- 4. The final pavement overlay, stoplight installation and pavement marking is expected to be concluded in April and May.

Details of the project:

- The work will include 1.3 miles of improvements including the widening of the Isle of Palms Connector in Mount Pleasant.
- Two through lanes will be constructed in each direction from U.S. Highway 17 to just east of Riviera Drive.
- Left and right turn lanes will be installed at each of the four intersections along the length of the project.
- The existing multi-use paths and sidewalks will be maintained and the road widening will include 4-foot paved shoulders for cyclists who prefer riding on the street.
- To maintain the existing avenue of live oak trees, 37 trees will remain in place, 16 trees will be relocated on site and 82 new trees will be planted. At completion, there will be 16 more trees along the route than are currently planted.

Visit the official website at http://roads.charlestoncounty.org for public meeting notices and up-to-date news and information about all Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax road projects. Anyone with questions about the project can call Charleston County's Transportation Development Department at (843) 202-6154.

For information on Charleston County Government news and services, the public can:

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- Follow us on Twitter:
 - Main County account: https://twitter.com/ChasCountyGov
 - Traffic and road project info. only: www.twitter.com/ccroadwise
- Like us on Facebook (main County site): http://www.facebook.com/pages/Charleston-County-Government/474878989220753
 - Board of Elections and Voter Registration: http://www.facebook.com/pages/Charleston-County-Board-of-Elections-and-Voter-Registration/103895809694986
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- See us on You Tube: http://www.youtube.com/user/charlestoncountygov
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