

## **News Release**

December 9, 2014 Release Number: 3852

Project website: <a href="http://roads.charlestoncounty.org/projects/bees\_ferry\_road/">http://roads.charlestoncounty.org/projects/bees\_ferry\_road/</a>

## Dec. 9 Ceremony Celebrates Completion of Bees Ferry Road Widening Project

Charleston County oversaw major bond project funded by the Transportation Sales Tax

Together at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 9, leaders with <u>Charleston County Government</u> and the <u>City of Charleston</u> gathered to celebrate the completion of the Bees Ferry Road Widening project.

The goal of the project was to improve traffic flow and safety, while remaining sensitive to the needs of pedestrians, bicyclists and other roadway users. The \$49.5 million project was requested by the City of Charleston and funded by the <a href="Charleston County Government's Transportation Sales Tax Program.">Charleston County's Transportation Development staff managed the project in close coordination with the City of Charleston and the S.C. Department of Transportation.</a>

## Improvements include:

- The widening of Bees Ferry Road from two lanes to four lanes for the majority of the project with left and right turn lanes where needed. The widening includes six lanes between Grand Oaks Boulevard and the intersection of the West Ashley Traffic Circle
- A 10-foot wide multi-use path for bicyclists and pedestrians on the west side of Bees Ferry Road that ties into the multi-use path along Ashley River Road
- A five-foot wide sidewalk along the east side of Bees Ferry Road
- An approximate 1,500-foot wide realignment of the intersection of Bees Ferry Road and Savannah Highway near Main Road
- Replacement of the existing bridge over the Church Creek Canal with a new, longer and wider bridge.
- Stoplight upgrades at the intersection of Bees Ferry Road, Ashley River Road, Glenn McConnell Parkway and the West Ashley Traffic Circle. The upgraded stoplights consist of decorative mast arms and include pedestrian signals for crosswalks
- Two left-turn lanes at the intersection of Bees Ferry Road and Ashley River Road for vehicles turning north onto Ashley River Road toward Summerville
- A free flow right turn lane at the intersection of Bees Ferry Road and Savannah Highway for vehicles turning south onto Savannah Highway
- Landscaped medians from Savannah Highway to Glenn McConnell Parkway and from Shadow Moss Parkway to Dove Haven Court.

The public can expect to continue to see crews in the area over the next couple of months as punch-list items are handled.

## **Quotes About the Project's Importance**

- Teddie E. Pryor, Sr., Charleston County Council Chairman: "The Bees Ferry Road Widening project is the latest example of taxpayer dollars being put to good use. West Ashley is growing in terms of people and development and this project will help address transportation concerns moving forward. The joint cooperation between our staff, the City of Charleston, and residents and business owners demonstrates what can be accomplished when people work together."
- Mayor J. Riley, City of Charleston Mayor: We celebrate the completion of the construction for the widening of Bees Ferry Road between S.C. 61 and U.S. 17. This has been a much needed and long awaited project. We worked with Charleston County and identified the Bees Ferry Road widening project as one of the top priority projects to be funded by the half-cent sales tax. The widening will supplement the transportation system in West Ashley by providing additional capacity that will reduce travel time and delay and, working as a complete system with Glenn McConnell Parkway, will represent significant relief of traffic congestion and will enhance mobility for this area. The road also includes a separate and dedicated bicycle path that meanders through trees and also includes landscaped areas in addition to sidewalks, turn lanes, and other safety improvements.

Visit the official website at <a href="http://roads.charlestoncounty.org">http://roads.charlestoncounty.org</a> 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) 202-6140.

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