I-526

US Highway 17 (Savannah Highway) and SC Highway 7 (Sam Rittenberg Boulevard)
I-526
SC Highway 700 (Maybank Highway)

Maybank Highway

Johns Island

John Fenwick Lane

The Preserve at Fenwick Plantation

[Image of a map showing the location of I-526 and Maybank Highway in South Carolina]
I-526
Johns Island to Stono River

Stono River

To
Johns Island

To
James Island

MARK CLARK Expressway
I-526
Stono River to James Island

James Island
Terrabrko Lane
James Island County Park
I-526
Terrabrook Lane and James Island County Park

Riverland Drive

Terrabrook Lane

James Island County Park
Proposed I-526 Plan:

- Shows greater ability to reduce congestion on existing roads.
- The least expensive of all alternatives presented.
- Provides bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
- Provides enhancements and additional/improved access to the James Island County Park and West Ashley Greenway.
- Has the lowest number of relocations and noise impacts.
- Increase in safety on existing roads is higher.
- Will not impact any schools, churches, cemeteries or threatened or endangered species.
Potential Modifications to Proposed I-526 Plan

- I-526
- Stono River
- West Ashley
- James Island Connector
- Johns Island
- James Island
- State Hwy 171 intersection
- Maybank Highway
- Connector A
- Connector B
- I-526/US-17 Interchange
What are the impacts if we design the entire project for more than 45 mph?

- Cost increase of $100 million plus
- 200’ right-of-way versus 300’ right-of-way
- Additional environmental impacts
- More relocations of homes
If I-526 is NOT built what are the impacts to local roads?

- Folly Road will be worse than pre-James Island Connector.
- Savannah Highway will become a parking lot.
- Maybank Highway will become gridlocked due to the amount of traffic and inability to get to Folly Road.
- Main Road will double in traffic and will not allow people to get off of Johns Island.
- Wesley Drive will become completely impassable.
Current Traffic Problem Spots

West Ashley

Johns Island

James Island
Improved Traffic with Proposed I-526 Plan
How much time will be saved by drivers in the Charleston region when I-526 is completed?

- West Ashley – up to 2,236 hours per day
- Johns Island – up to 4,310 hours per day
- James Island – up to 1,276 hours per day
The proposed I-526 plan will significantly reduce the number of vehicle miles travelled, vehicle hours travelled, and vehicle delay in the region.

Projected Daily Reductions:

- 113,583 less miles travelled
- 8,185 less hours travelled
- 5,795 less hours of delay
Proposed I-526 Plan – Cost Estimate

- Proposed I-526 Plan (2009 DEIS Estimate)  
  $489 million

- Proposed I-526 Plan (2012 Updated Estimate)  
  $532 million

- Proposed I-526 Plan Modified for FEIS (2012 Estimate)  
  $555.7 million
Why should I-526 be completed now?

- The money is available to us now and if it is not used it will go away immediately.
- The right-of-way costs will increase as property is developed.
- The cost of construction will continue to rise beyond our region’s financial capability.
- The Draft EIS recommends this plan to avoid creating a massive gridlock in our communities.
- The Federal Highway Administration required poll results indicated overwhelming support from the public (72%).
The I-526 project will be completed as described and recommended in the SCDOT draft Environmental Impact Statement with modifications:

- Overpasses at Folly Road and Up on the Hill Road

If funding is available within the $558 million, grade separated intersections will be built at Connectors A and B. The City will seek additional funding if necessary from State and Federal sources.

All aspects of project design and completion will be approached as a partnership between County and City.
Partnership Plan

- County Council will receive regular updates based on a schedule set by the County Administrator and/or Chair of County Council.

- Naming of segments of the project will be determined by the County in conjunction with State and Federal authorities.

- Signs identifying the project will acknowledge it as a partnership between the County and the City.

- Public events associated with the project such as groundbreakings, ribbon cuttings, etc. will be coordinated with the County.
Next Steps for I-526 Completion

- SCDOT completion of EIS.
- Federal Wetlands Permit.
- State Water Quality Permit.
- State Coastal Zone Management Permit.
- Apply for Federal Permits from Federal Highway Administration and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- Defend potential lawsuits.
Next Steps for I-526 Completion

- Right-of-way acquisition - possible condemnations.
- Request and authorize additional funding from SIB beyond the $99 million previously authorized by the SIB.
- Approval of construction contracts.
- Management of construction impacts.
I-526 Proposed Plan

- Stono River
- West Ashley
- Maybank Highway
- Connector A
- Connector B
- Johns Island
- James Island
- Savannah Highway
- Ashley River
- State Hwy 171 intersection
- Harborview Road
- Folly Road
- James Island Connector
- I-526/US-17 Interchange

MARK CLARK Expressway
Improved Traffic with Proposed I-526 Plan