



Charleston County RoadWise News Release

Release Number: 2949
Release Date: December 4, 2008

See project information online: http://www.ccrowdwise.org/johnnie_dodds.html

Public Hearing on Johnnie Dodds Boulevard Project

Charleston County moves forward on one of the Transportation Sales Tax initial bond referendum projects as approved in November of 2004.

Charleston County Government is holding a public hearing from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 17, at the Mount Pleasant Municipal Complex Gym (100 Ann Edwards Lane in Mount Pleasant) to share information regarding environmental impacts with the public and gather comments on the environmental assessment for the [Johnnie Dodds Boulevard project](#).

The project will be funded by [Transportation Half-Cent Sales Tax](#), which is managed by the Charleston County RoadWise Program.

The first public meeting for the Johnnie Dodds Boulevard project was held on July 19, 2007. At the July 19 meeting, project staff provided information and gathered public comments on plans to improve Johnnie Dodds Boulevard. Since that meeting, conceptual plans have been prepared and have been approved by Mount Pleasant Town Council, Charleston County Council, and the South Carolina Department of Transportation.

The Dec. 17 meeting format will be as follows:

- 6-6:30 p.m.: Anyone who wishes to verbally comment at the public hearing must sign up between 6 and 6:30 p.m. when entering the public hearing. Each comment will be limited to two minutes and may not be transferred.
- From 6 - 7 p.m., the hearing format will be informal. Large aerial displays of the entire project will be available for viewing, and project team members will be present to discuss the project one-on-one with attendees.
- At 7 p.m., project representatives will make a brief, formal presentation about the project purpose and need, schedule and potential impacts to the community and environment.
- Immediately following the presentation at 7 p.m., citizens will have the opportunity to make formal, verbal comments regarding the proposed project. The informal portion of the public hearing will continue during this time.

The following will be available to the public during the Dec. 17 hearing:

- Maps and drawings of the proposed improvements
- Tentative schedules for construction
- Tentative schedules for right-of-way acquisition
- Documentation of the project's environmental effects

Property owners and business owners on or near the project are requested to attend. Area residents will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments regarding the possible social, economic and environmental effects of the project. Attendees will be able to individually discuss the plans with representatives of Charleston County and the project's design team.

Another purpose of the meeting is to gather information from the public or any interested organization about historic or cultural resources in the area. Charleston County will accept written comments for a three-week period following the public hearing.

Details on the Johnnie Dodds Boulevard project:

- [Widening from two lanes to three lanes in each direction on Johnnie Dodds Boulevard](#) including curbs, gutters and medians. Median width will vary from eight to 12 feet similar to that between Hungryneck Boulevard and the Isle of Palms Connector on US 17.
- The frontage roads will be widened to provide one lane in each direction with four-foot-wide, marked bike lanes, curbs, gutters and a sidewalk on the outer edge for pedestrian use.
- Construction of a [standard, signalized intersection at Johnnie Dodds Boulevard and Houston Northcutt Boulevard](#). Left turns from Magrath Darby Boulevard will be eliminated and right turns only allowed. A left turn lane from Johnnie Dodds Boulevard to Magrath Darby Boulevard will be constructed.
- Construction of a traditional at-grade intersection at Johnnie Dodds Boulevard and Shelmore Boulevard, Dragoon Drive and Anna Knapp Boulevard with additional turn lanes where needed. Pedestrian crossing will be provided at one section of the Shelmore Boulevard and Anna Knapp Boulevard intersections to allow for safe crossing on Johnnie Dodds Boulevard. Left turn lanes on Johnnie Dodds to Shelmore Boulevard and Anna Knapp Boulevard will be limited to a single lane with the provision of a turn lane if this need is determined in the future.
[Click here to view Shelmore intersection improvements.](#)
[Click here to view Dragoon intersection improvements.](#)
[Click here to view Anna Knapp intersection improvements.](#)
- Construction of a [tight diamond interchange with an overpass carrying Johnnie Dodds Boulevard traffic over Bowman Road](#). The interchange will carry three lanes in the southbound direction and two lanes in the northbound direction. Bowman Road will be widened to six lanes under Johnnie Dodds Boulevard with appropriate transitions to the existing lane configurations.
- Where needed in high traffic volume areas, traffic signals will be installed where the frontage road intersects with the side roads. An exception to this will be those intersections restricted to right-in, right-out operation on the east side of the Bowman Road interchange. These intersections will remain in their current location with the exception of the west quadrant of the Bowman Road interchange, which will be relocated farther away from Johnnie Dodds Boulevard in conjunction with the relocation of Hospital Road.

Related maps and/or drawings, the environmental assessment, and other information is available for public review at:

- The Charleston County RoadWise office at 4401 Belle Oaks Drive, Suite 105 in North Charleston

A copy of the environmental assessment will also be available 15 days prior to the hearing at:

- The Charleston County Public Library, 68 Calhoun Street downtown Charleston
- Mt. Pleasant Regional Public Library, 1133 Mathis Ferry Road in Mt. Pleasant

The Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax referendum was approved by voters in November of 2004. Collection of the Transportation Sales Tax began in May of 2005 and will continue for 25 years or until \$1.303 billion is generated for transportation and greenspace related projects and improvements.

The Johnnie Dodds Boulevard project is one of the projects approved by voters in the [first bond referendum](#) in November of 2004. The voters of Charleston County authorized the County to issue \$77 million in bonds, which will be repaid through Transportation Sales Tax proceeds. The entire amount of the initial bond referendum is allocated for the following transportation improvement projects:

- [Palmetto Commerce Parkway](#)
 - [Phase I](#)
 - [Phase II](#)
- James Island Improvements
 - [Harbor View Road](#)
 - [Folly Road and Maybank Highway Intersection Improvements](#)
 - [Loop Ramp from James Island Connector to Folly Road](#)
- [Glenn McConnell/Bees Ferry Intersection](#)
- [Hwy 17/SC 61 Connector](#)
- **[US 17 / Johnnie Dodds Boulevard](#)**

Charleston County RoadWise is the name of the Charleston County Government's management program for the construction of roads, highways, resurfacing, paving and drainage projects that are funded by the Transportation Sales Tax.

Visit the official Charleston County RoadWise Web site www.ccroadwise.com for more information on these projects, public meeting notices and up-to-date news and information.