



Charleston County News Release

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Images of the project design

- http://www.ccradwise.org/file/images/musc_beginsend.jpg
- http://www.ccradwise.org/file/images/musc_alt1aa.jpg

Event Photos:

- <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/newsimages/bee.htm>

Construction Begins on Bee Street and Courtenay Drive Improvement Project

Charleston County will oversee major bond project funded by the Transportation Sales Tax

Construction is beginning on the [Bee Street and Courtenay Drive Improvement Project](#) in downtown Charleston.

The project, which is expected to be completed in less than a year, is funded by the Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax and managed by the Charleston County RoadWise Program.

The improvements will improve traffic flow into and around downtown's medical campus and surrounding areas during peak hours, and provide drainage relief along the Bee Street area.

"We are excited to get started," said Teddie Pryor, Charleston County Council Chairman, who spoke at an event on Wednesday, May 5 to kick-off the construction. "Like all our projects, this is one that has been developed through extensive public input. In this case, the City of Charleston and the hospitals also played a large role in determining what changes will truly improve the traffic situation in this area."

The Bee Street and Courtenay Drive Improvement Project was requested by the city of Charleston and approved by voters in the [second Transportation Sales Tax bond referendum](#).

"The continued growth of the Medical University of SC and the need for the expansion of hospital facilities is very important to the local and regional economy," said City of Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. "As MUSC expands their services and facilities, it is necessary to build roadway infrastructure to accommodate pedestrian and bicycle traffic, as well as vehicular and mass transit. The Bee Street and Courtenay Drive Improvement Project, the result of a collaborative effort between the City of Charleston and the Medical University working together with Charleston County, will ensure that roadway capacity is built to properly service the medical facility."

MUSC officials are also eager to get the project underway as well.

"The project will improve traffic, provide drainage relief and result in better pedestrian safety in the long-run," said MUSC Public Safety Director, Chief Tony Dunbar. "This will be a major

improvement for the students, employees and visitors to MUSC, and it has been badly needed. The Department of Public Safety will attempt to ensure that everyone at MUSC is kept up to date on road closings and detours as they become necessary.”

Roadwork that requires lane closures will only occur at night from 9 p.m. – 5:30 a.m. to minimize effects on traffic. The cost of the total project is estimated to be \$4.8 million.

Details of the project:

- The conversion of Courtenay Drive from Spring Street to Cannon Street from two-way traffic to one-way southbound traffic.
- The widening of Courtenay Drive between Cannon Street and Ralph Johnson Boulevard to accommodate an additional lane in each direction and improvements at its intersection with Bee Street.
- The complete demolition, reconstruction, and widening of Bee Street from Courtenay Drive to Lockwood Boulevard to improve drainage and reduce roadway settlement.
- The relocation of 1,200 feet of 12-inch water line along Bee Street from Courtenay Drive to Lockwood Boulevard.
- Improvements to the roadway drainage system on Courtenay Drive and Bee Street to complement the city of Charleston’s future Spring/Fishbourne Drainage Improvement project.
- Upgraded traffic signals will be installed at the intersections of Courtenay Drive at Cannon Street and Courtenay Drive at Bee Street. The upgraded traffic signals will include pedestrian hand/man signal heads and improved cross walks.

The public can get up-to-date project information on the project, including construction status and traffic alerts, online at <http://www.ccroadwise.org/musc.html>.

The voters of Charleston County authorized the County to issue \$42 million in bonds, which will be repaid through Transportation Sales Tax revenues.

The entire amount of the second bond referendum is allocated for the following transportation improvement projects:

- [Glenn McConnell Parkway / I-526 Loop Ramp](#)
- [Bees Ferry Road Widening](#)
- [Folly Road/Camp Road Intersection Improvements](#)
- [Future Drive Loop to Ladson](#)
- [Maybank Highway Widening](#)
- [Medical University Roadway Infrastructure Improvements](#)

Charleston County RoadWise is the name of [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 Web site at www.ccroadwise.org for public meeting notices and up-to-date news and information about all Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax road projects.