

SC HIGHWAY 41 UPDATE #1 (2.24.2016)

CURRENT STATUS FACT SHEET



Widening SC Highway 41 has been the top legislative priority for the Town of Mount Pleasant since 2014. SC 41 is a State-owned two-lane, undivided arterial route and designated hurricane evacuation route. This sheet is designed to help provide factual information to the public on the status of the project.

Details and FAQs

The SC Highway 41 project represents a 4.6 mile stretch between US 17 and the Wando River Bridge. The 2011 Charleston Area Transportation Study (CHATS) Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) identifies the need to widen the entirety of SC 41 in the Town of Mount Pleasant. It identifies three segments for widening: 1.) US 17 to Joe Rouse Road, 2.) Joe Rouse Road to Dunes West Boulevard and 3.) Dunes West Boulevard to the Wando River Bridge. Two of these three recommended sections were ranked in the LRTP; US 17 to Joe Rouse Road was ranked #5 and Dunes West Boulevard to the Wando River/County Line was ranked #37. The Joe Rouse Road to Dunes West Boulevard was not ranked in the LRTP.

Information from the 2014 Draft SCDOT Advanced Project Planning Report (APPR)

According to the 2014 APPR, proposed improvements are to widen the existing roadway to a four lane curb and gutter section with landscaped median, bicycle lanes and sidewalks or a multiuse path. In the year 2013, the average annual daily traffic volume (AADT) varied between 12,300 vehicles per day near Berkeley County line to 19,700 AADT near US 17. Based on these AADTs, the existing segment operates between a level of service D and F. According to the Draft 2014 APPR, the latest 2010-2035 model forecasted volumes in 2035 in this corridor are 22,000 vehicles per day between US 17 and Joe Rouse Road and 13,900 vehicles per day between Joe Rouse Road and Berkeley County line. Assuming a four lane improved section, the project is projected to operate between a level of service B and C. The daily capacity of a four lane road is approximately 35,000- 40,000 vehicles per day.

What is Mount Pleasant’s role and responsibility in this project?

While SC Highway 41 is owned and operated by the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), the Town of Mount Pleasant understands the importance of this road widening project for its citizens. In December of 2015, Mount Pleasant Town Council voted to partner with Charleston County due to the regional significance of the project and because of the County’s ability to attract the resources necessary to construct the project. While Charleston County will serve as the lead agency in project development, the Town of Mount Pleasant will support the project with funding and, more importantly, Town staff and citizens will have a significant role in the design process. Town Council will be continuously updated on the project and will participate in public hearings required during the design and the environmental review process.

For interim relief the Town of Mount Pleasant has funded, through its capital improvement program, dual left turn lanes to be installed on Joe Rouse Road onto SC Highway 41. This will increase the flow of traffic thereby reducing delays.

What is the timeline of this project? *This timeline is a general guide and will be updated as the project advances.*

Stages of Construction	Anticipated Timeline
1. Procurement of Design Firm	January 2016 - May 2016
2. Federal Environmental Review & Design Process	Spring 2016 - Spring 2018
3. Right of Way Acquisition and Final Design	Spring 2018 - Spring 2019
4. Construction Procurement	Summer 2019
5. Construction	Summer 2019 - Winter 2021

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Charleston County is currently in the first stage of the construction process. In this stage, it is anticipated that SCDOT will grant approval to Charleston County to manage the project and to procure a professional design firm. A firm is expected to be selected by May 2016. Next, the project must go through the federal impact process known as the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). By following federal guidelines, this project will remain eligible for both state and federal funding, which is programmed to be available in 2019. The NEPA process will take 18 months to 2 years and requires stakeholder input on the roadway design and all elements associated with it. This process also identifies environmental impacts as well as remediation.

Funding Priority

Both the CHATS 2014-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (CHATS TIP) and the 2014-2019 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) currently reflect \$2,000,000 in CHATS Guideshare Funds programmed for preliminary engineering for Federal Fiscal Year 2019 for the SC 41 transportation project with termini at US 17 and the Wando River Bridge.

Current Project Funding and Funding Sources

This project has a combination of both committed and uncommitted funds listed below. The Town of Mount Pleasant has committed funds through its Capital Improvement Plan. The sources committed from the town include: Hospitality Tax and Infrastructure Funds. Costs for this project could exceed \$100 million assuming an interchange is the preferred alternative for the US 17 intersection.

Committed Funds	Designation	Provider of Funds
\$1.2 Million	Design and Federal Environmental Review (NEPA)	Charleston County
\$400,000	Design and Federal Environmental Review (NEPA)	Town of Mount Pleasant
\$200,000	Design and Federal Environmental Review (NEPA)	CHATS/Federal
\$750,000	Interim Relief with Dual Left-Turn Lanes from Joe Rouse Road onto Hwy. 41	Town of Mount Pleasant
\$2 Million	Engineering & Right of Way Acquisition	CHATS/Federal (October 2018)
Uncommitted Funds	Designation	Potential Provider of Funds
TBD	Right of Way Acquisition & Construction	CHATS
TBD	Right of Way Acquisition & Construction	½ Cents Sales Tax Referendum - 2016

Who should I contact with questions or concerns?

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About the Town of Mount Pleasant's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Highway 41 Widening is part of the Town's CIP. Other capital projects currently underway include: Billy Swails Boulevard, Shem Creek Park Phase 2, Carolina Park, Long Point Road/ 526 WB On-Ramp, Park West Blvd & Bessemer Rd. Round-A-Bout, Phase 2 of Memorial Waterfront Park, Fire station 6 at Carolina Park, the New Town Hall, and several stormwater improvements. For more information on the Highway 41 widening visit our CIP website at <http://www.tompsc.com/index.aspx?NID=602>.