

# US 17 & Main Road Project and Main Road Widening Project

## PURPOSE

To provide a more efficient access point on and off Johns Island by improving the intersection at US 17 and Main Road. This project will also include improvements to Main Road by widening from Bees Ferry Road to Betsy Kerrison Parkway.

## BUDGET

\$195,000,000 from the 2016 Half-Cent Sales Tax.

## STATUS

On May 16, 2018, County Council approved the segmenting the Project into three sections. Below is the Council approved directive. Transportation Development is currently negotiating the engineering scope and fee of Segment A - US 17 and Main Road Intersection Improvements from Bees Ferry Road to River Road.

## TIMELINE

The National Environmental Policy Act process and right of way plans for Segment A is estimated to be completed by 2020.





## COUNCIL ACTION

18 - 113

DATE: May 16, 2018

TO: County Administrator

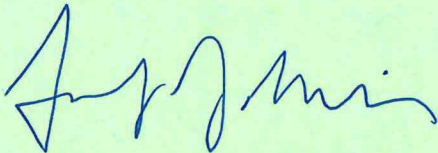
FROM: Clerk of Council

RE: Main Road Improvements (Segmenting) - Request to Approve

At a meeting of County Council held on May 15, 2018, Council voted to approve segmenting the project into three segments and prioritizing as follows:

1. Segment A - US 17 and Main Road Intersection Improvements and Main Road Improvements from Bees Ferry Road to River Road
2. Segment C - Bohicket Road Improvements from Maybank Highway to Betsy Kerrison Parkway
3. Segment B- Main Road from River Road to Maybank Highway

COUNCIL ACTION  
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "A. J. Min", is written over the typed text of the Council Administrator's office.

**COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM**

TO: JENNIFER J. MILLER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

THROUGH: JIM ARMSTRONG, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR *JOA*

FROM: STEVE THIGPEN *ST* DEPT. TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT: US 17 AND MAIN ROAD INTERSECTION IMPROVMENTS AND MAIN ROAD WIDENING

REQUEST: APPROVE PROJECT SEGMENTING

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL: FINANCE DATE: 5/15/18

**COORDINATION:** This request has been coordinated with: (attach all recommendations/reviews)

	Signature of		Individual Contacted
	Yes	N/A	
Legal Department	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>[Signature]</i>
Procurement/Contracts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Zoning Regulations / Comp. Plan Compliance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Community Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Grants Auditor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**FUNDING:** Was funding previously approved?      yes ☐    no ☐    n/a ☐

If yes, provide the following:	Org.	Object	Balance in Account	Amount needed for item
			\$0.00	0

**NEED:** Identify any critical time constraint.

**BUDGET OFFICER SIGNATURE:** *[Signature]*

**Fiscal impact:** Funds are available in the Transportation Sales Tax Program

**ADMINISTRATOR'S SIGNATURE:** *[Signature]*

**ORIGINATING OFFICE PLEASE NOTE:**

DUE DATE TO ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE IS 5:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY OF THE WEEK PRECEDING THE COMMITTEE MEETING.

## SITUATION

In November 2016, the citizens of Charleston County approved a second Transportation Sales Tax (TST). The 2016 TST ordinance states that projects may include US 17 at Main Road flyover and widening Main Road from Bees Ferry Road to Betsy Kerrison Parkway as a project of Regional Significance. The project's intentions include improving safety, traffic capacity, providing bicycle and pedestrian facilities, reducing congestion at the intersection of US 17 and Main Road, and improving drainage on Main Road between US 17 and the John F. Limehouse Bridge.

On April 7, 2017, Council authorized staff to negotiate a contract with Infrastructure Consulting Engineers (ICE) for the Phased Engineering Design and Environmental Permitting. ICE received the notice to proceed with the design contract on September 6, 2017 and shortly after began collecting data to begin the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The first step in the NEPA process includes identifying potential impacts to various environmental features: wetlands, cultural resources, land use (schools, churches, protects farmland, etc.), hazardous materials sites, population demographics, noise, trees, and traffic. In an effort to accelerate the schedule, ICE divided project into three segments while analyzing possible impacts, A, B, and C (shown in Figure 1).

Based on these results, staff recommends moving forward with a segmented approach by separating the project into three segments and prioritizing in the following order: Segment A, Segment C and Segment B.

Staff met with the Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) to discuss the traffic analysis and segmenting the project. Separating the project would expedite addressing the immediate safety and traffic congestion needs of Segment A and allow staff to proceed with the more lengthy permitting process anticipated on the remaining segments.

Staff anticipates that Segment A may be completed through the NEPA process as an Environmental Assessment (EA) rather than the lengthy Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process that may be required for other Segments.

## ACTION REQUESTED OF COUNCIL

Approve segmenting the project into three segments and prioritizing as follows:

1. Segment A - US 17 and Main Road Intersection Improvements and Main Road Improvements from Bees Ferry Road to River Road
2. Segment C - Bohicket Road Improvements from Maybank Highway to Betsy Kerrison Parkway
3. Segment B- Main Road from River Road to Maybank Highway

## DEPARTMENT HEAD RECOMMENDATION

The department head recommends approval of the segmented approach and prioritization. Separating the project will enable staff to expedite the improvements.

*Summey / Johnson*  
*Pruyer - what is this approval for*  
*Armstrong - permit*  
*Schweers - what expedited permitting*  
*Armstrong - Prioritize*  
*Schweers - why is middle section 2nd priority*  
*Thigpen - traffic analysis*  
*Summey - faster relief w/ segmenting*  
*Armstrong - yes*



