

526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR NEWSLETTER



ISSUE III, Spring 2017

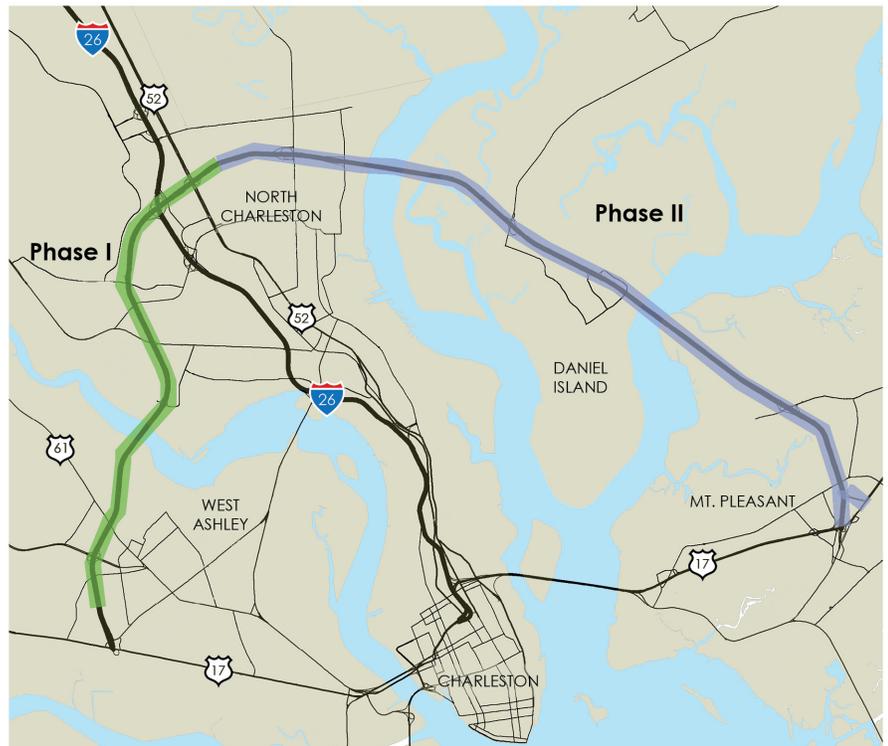
BREAKING NEWS!!

526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR WIDENING AND IMPROVEMENTS:

PHASES I AND II

A new portion of existing I-526 has been added to the 526 Lowcountry Corridor Project. This means that improvements are coming to all of existing I-526. Phase I, already underway, will address improvements to nearly 8 miles of interstate between the interchanges at Rivers Avenue in North Charleston and Paul Cantrell Boulevard in West Ashley.

Phase II preliminary development will start soon and will extend these operational improvements approximately 11 miles between mile marker 19 and mile marker 30. To address the existing and anticipated future traffic needs of this corridor, SCDOT, in cooperation with the FHWA, will be performing an in-depth analysis of the needs for this corridor. An Environmental Assessment will be prepared to promote informed decision-making for the improvements to Phase II of the Lowcountry Corridor.



www.526LowcountryCorridor.com

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT IS ONGOING HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING!

FOR PHASE I



✓ Aerial Mapping

- June 2016

✓ Project Website Developed

- July 2016

✓ Stakeholder Meetings*

- Stakeholder Group: July & Nov. 2016
- Small Business Stakeholders:
November 2016

✓ Community Meetings* (N. Charleston & West Ashley)

- July and October 2016

✓ Preliminary Design Criteria Memo

- September 2016

✓ Evaluation of Roadway Deficiencies

- October 2016

✓ Virtual Public Meeting*

- October 2016

✓ Completed Cultural Resource Survey

- October 2016

✓ Future Traffic Projections Completed

- November 2016

✓ Seismic Analysis Methods Developed for Bridge Evaluations

- December 2016

✓ Completed Underwater Archaeology Survey

- January 2017

✓ Local Small Business Outreach Initiative*

- March and April 2017

**Collected comments were studied prior to starting design efforts.*

SPECIAL STUDIES

Typically project pre-construction activities include many types of studies to determine potential project impacts. Research of possible historical and archaeological sites is one example. One of the many studies done as part of Phase I was the search for underwater archaeological sites in the Ashley River.

In the winter of 2017, Tidewater Atlantic Research conducted an underwater archaeological survey using magnetic and acoustic (sonar) equipment. The survey identified two magnetic anomalies, or unusual features that could indicate the remains of a vessel or some other underwater feature. One of the sites was determined not to be significant and no further analysis was required. The other site could be the remains of an old ship which may contain information about the maritime history of South Carolina.

DOT projects often result in the finding of historical or archaeological sites that might not be discovered without these pre-construction efforts. Impacts to significant sites are avoided when possible. One day, the mysterious nature of this site may be determined- Is it an old ship, or just a piece of debris lying on the floor of the river? But for now the site will be avoided, leaving it for another day to answer the questions about it.





526 LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR SPEAKERS BUREAU

As the 526 Lowcountry Corridor Design Team works to complete the project, SCDOT is looking for opportunities to share project information and updates with local community, residential, business and civic groups. The project leaders will be happy to meet with your organization.

Anyone wishing to have the 526 Lowcountry Corridor Project Team address their group is asked to provide their contact information and the group's meeting schedule via email, 526distribution@scdot.org, with the subject line: "Speakers Bureau."

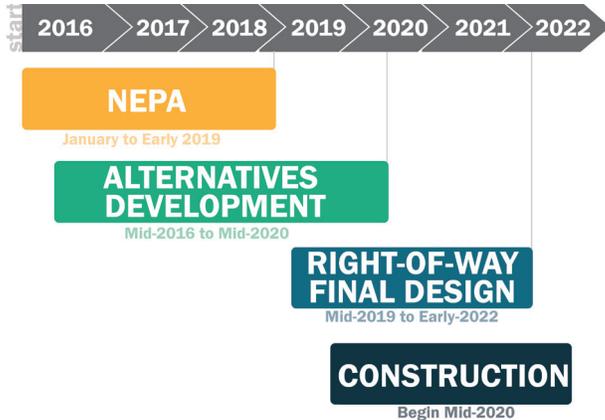
LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS OUTREACH INITIATIVE

As part of ongoing public outreach efforts, businesses located nearest the interchanges along the Phase I area were visited, provided project information, and invited to participate in the Small Business Stakeholder Group. The Project Team hopes that through this forum, issues and potential impacts unique to small businesses can be presented and made part of the decision process as the project continues to develop.

Six to seven meetings over the next two years are planned, with the next meetings to be held on May 24, 2017. If your business is located within or near the project study area and you would like to be a member of the Small Business Stakeholder Group, please provide your contact information via email at 526distribution@scdot.org.



PHASE I PROJECT SCHEDULE



THE PHASE II
PROJECT SCHEDULE
COMING SOON.

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