



Town of Hilton Head Island
**William Hilton Parkway Gateway Corridor
Independent Review Advisory Committee**
Tuesday December 12th @ 10:00am
AGENDA

The William Hilton Parkway Gateway Corridor Independent Review Advisory Committee meeting will be held in person at Town Hall in the Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers.

1. Call to Order

2. FOIA Compliance – Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and distributed in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of Hilton Head Island.

3. Roll Call

4. Approval of Minutes – November 3rd, 2023

Citizens may submit written comments via the [Town's Open Town Hall Portal](#). The portal will close at 4:30 p.m. the day prior to the scheduled meeting. Comments submitted through the portal will be provided to the Committee and made part of the official record.

5. Unfinished Business

- a. Presentation of Initial Findings of Existing Project Reports
- b. Presentation of Initial Findings of Travel Demand Model Assumptions
- c. Discussion of Criteria for Alternative Evaluation
 - i. Throughput and Traffic Simulation
 - ii. Costs
 - iii. Safety, Environmental and Community Impacts
- d. Timeframe for Modeling Capabilities

6. Appearance by Citizens

7. New Business

- a. Monthly Meeting Dates

8. Adjournment

Please note that a quorum of Town Council may result if four (4) or more of their members attend this meeting.



Town of Hilton Head Island
**William Hilton Parkway Gateway Corridor
Independent Review Advisory Committee**

Friday, November 3, 2023, 11:00 a.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Perry called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM. Present were: Mayor Alan Perry, Diederik Advocaat, Charles Walczak, and Willie Young. Edward C. Warner, Jr. was excused from the meeting.

2. FOIA Compliance

Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and distributed in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information act and the requirements of the Town of Hilton Head Island.

3. Roll Call

Present were: Mayor Alan Perry, Diederik Advocaat, Charles Walczak, and Willie Young. Edward C. Warner, Jr. was excused from the meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes – August 28, 2023

There being no changes, the minutes from the August 28, 2023 meeting, a motion to approve was made by Advocaat, seconded by Young. The motion to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2023 meeting was approved by a vote of 4-0.

5. Appearance by Citizens

Public comments concerning agenda items were to be submitted electronically via the Open Town Hall HHI portal. Comments were received on the Open Town Hall Portal and will be added to the public record. Mr. Eric Summerville asked to appear and expand upon his written comments about a planned new bridge and the traffic build-up it will create on the Island. Also appearing was Cliff McMacken, Director of Development for Sea Pines Resort, thanked the Committee for its work, and expressed his concerns about the current traffic levels impacting the Island, and particularly the south end of the Island.

6. Unfinished Business

None.

7. New Business

Kick-off with Lochmueller Group, Inc.

Shawn Colin, Assistant Town Manager – Community Development - expressed his pleasure with having the Lochmueller Group under contract, who will begin the work approved by the Advisory Committee and Town Council earlier this year. This will provide information needed to make decisions on this important project that will shape our future. While the range is wide, it will be important for this Committee to narrow the focus to enable Lochmeller to advance in a way that allows flexibility to evaluate what information is needed. He estimated the total

timeframe to be 6-8 months. He pointed out that there was a Memorandum of Agreement with Beaufort County, which included various recommendations, alternatives and conditions. He noted the work provided by Lochmueller under direction of the Committee is to look at the current recommended alternatives and identify any others, in an effort to narrow down the focus. He noted that a second bridge to the Island is not a part of the scope, but it could be an alternative that replaces the current bridge in a different alignment, but money through LATS being pushed for 2026 may be the right mechanism to evaluate that component. He discussed the possible modification of the original DOT study area to include extension to Sea Pines Circle. He reminded the members that the goals of this Committee are to make sure the information is obtained that is needed to make a decision on alignment, intersections, performance, and impacted mitigations through certain areas. He referenced a Meeting Outline prepared by Lochmueller and introduced Nate Nohren from Lochmueller Group.

Nohren indicated he would be serving as the overall project manager, and he introduced the team as Kate Swinford, Tyson King, and Sharif Ullah, and outlined each person's responsibilities. He reviewed the summary of scope and detailed the intended project approach. He presented an update on the current project status with a formal NTP granted on October 13, 2023, and they have begun reviewing the information, identifying information yet to be delivered, and tasks underway and forthcoming. A site visit is tentatively scheduled for the end of the month.

Colin presented a brief review of the status of "Opportunities for Further Discussion" stemming from the Town's 26 Recommendations.

An open discussion ensued concerning the background growth rate being too conservative, the impacts to intersections downstream of the Cross Island Parkway not having been accounted for, as well as the impacts of the Adaptive Signal System not being incorporated to date, and the impacts to areas within the Stoney Community being properly mitigated. Young pointed out a fresh unbiased look was needed, and suggested running different percentages and calculate the impact on the Island. He also suggested looking at an alternative where there is zero impact on Stoney, what that would mean, and can that be done. Also, he noted that real time solutions for Sea Pines Circle was needed, and consideration of whether a traffic circle is a viable long term solution. He noted the importance of the Adaptive Signal System and the traffic consultants to produce needed data, and a look at the impact of the new Windmill Harbor light.

Mayor Perry commented that environmental structure of Hilton Head should be taken into account, as well as the greenspace, and what we are not trying to become. A look at the day-trippers and their effect on the Island was recommended.

Questions and comments from the Committee members were addressed concerning how much signal data is needed, historical data, and the timing used to represent the existing conditions. Swinford explained the software being used and what can and cannot be done, but with adjustments such as adding lanes and changing intersection configurations requires more work but the models will be re-run until a comfort level is reached that the models are representative of each individual iteration. Discussion ensued about what criteria should be entertained or should be off the table. Widening of the bridges was identified as one of the alternatives to be studied, adding an additional bridge should also be considered, as well as widening the spans, no left turns, and a change of lanes on the Cross Island. Order of priority was discussed, and a fresh look was recommended at what has been proposed, what's wrong with it, how it can be tweaked, what are other options that may not have been considered, and the effects on the Island. Mayor Perry encouraged calming practices be introduced, mainly on Palmetto Bay Road, to help slow the traffic in that area and how that can affect the Sea Pines Circle. Nohren indicated it was incumbent upon them to see what has been done, but then to hear the feedback from either the Committee or the public and Town Staff. Suggestions for a better morning flow was requested.

Colin indicated that Lochmueller would look at the Modified Preferred Alternative, which is the current alignment that was recommended by SCDOT in its latest version, and look at these intersection options and environmental impacts and provide information so that the Committee can refine Preferred Options that could be built in.

Nohren asked the Committee to identify specific points of contention as it stands today, and members expressed their need for the study to tell them what works and doesn't work in certain capacities and recommendations given by the Lochmueller team to readjust, narrow and reduce the impact or mitigation to the community affected.

Mayor Perry noted that it is his understanding that from the County standpoint, the bridge is done, and they are looking beyond for the next projects. However, he added that when the bridge lands on Jenkins Island, it is the Town's concern that the traffic continues to flow properly and provides both safety and security. Disagreement was voiced by a committee member, however, it was argued that the study is needed without constraint on Lochmueller.

Colin introduced the Town Technical Team and expressed his excitement for the evaluation to be done and the need to find the right solution for Hilton Head Island, with Colin to be the main contact for the Committee members. Formal meetings will be taking place every other week with Nohren and suggested a monthly meeting with the Committee to provide interim information and reports. It was noted that a review of previous technical reports is included in the scope for Lochmueller.

8. Adjournment

Mayor Perry adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

APPROVED: _____ Submitted by Lynn Buchman, Administrative Assistant

Please note that a quorum of Town Council may result if four (4) or more of their members attend this meeting.