



Town of Hilton Head Island
WILLIAM HILTON PARKWAY GATEWAY
CORRIDOR INDEPENDENT REVIEW
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 1:00 PM
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mayor Perry called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

2. Approval of the Minutes

a. Regular Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2023

A motion was made by Mr. Warner to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2023 meeting as presented. A second was made by Mr Walczak, and the motion was unanimously passed.

3. Unfinished Business

a. General Observations Noted During the Site Visit

Shawn Colin, Assistant Town Manager - Community Development, noted a technical meeting had been held last week. He asked Nate Nohren, Project Manager, appearing remotely, to report on the matters listed on the agenda.

Mr. Nohren introduced his team also appearing remotely: Kate Swinford, Shariff Ullah, and Brad Strader with CTG. He presented a brief overview from a high level standpoint of some of the observations noted during the December site visit, as they near completion of the simulation models for Synchro and VISSEM. However, he reported that specific operating conditions will not be presented until the February meeting. He explained that he and Swinford were responsible for the intersection observations at the 12 project locations, while Tyson King was performing all traffic time runs to collect real time data. The overall goal is calibration - taking the information back to the simulation models to calibrate them to what is occurring today on William Hilton Parkway. He detailed the site visit observations, including documented saturation flow rates, queue lengths, turning speeds, lane utilization, and noteworthy driver tendencies. Overall, he felt the adaptive system is making an impact.

The report from Mr. King on travel time run observations was presented by Nohren, including the benefits of the adaptive system in operation today. The time/space diagrams will be explained in detail by King at the February meeting. While Windmill Harbor was

not included in the adaptive system, it was noted that the progression at that point was at times delayed.

The Committee had no questions.

b. Status of Growth Rate Determination

Mr. Sharif reported that alternatives are being explored to develop a "Quick" model for estimating traffic growth utilizing available data provided by Town staff on the number of short-term rental units and accommodation and hospitality tax revenues per year. He anticipated presenting growth rate findings at the February committee meeting.

Questions from the Committee were addressed concerning the data sources and factors that are combined into the model to forecast future conditions.

c. Update on Modeling Capabilities

Ms. Swinford discussed with the Committee the general scope of alternatives to consider for future modeling. Since the next phase cannot be entered until a growth rate is determined and agreed upon, she asked for the Committee's agreement on the number of lanes provided through the corridor for each of the alternatives. Graphs were presented and reviewed for potential consideration in a theoretical 6-lane vs. 4-lane configuration in ideal conditions. She reported the 2023 AADT as being over 57,000 vehicles per day average, and the highway capacity manual table for traffic volume considering 2-lanes, 4-lanes, and 6-lanes, as shown on the presentation slides.

1. Approach to Alternatives

Comments from the Committee were made about the need to look at traffic volume during peak hours of congestion. Ms. Swinford noted that based on their site observations and preliminary information obtained from models still being calibrated, there is congestion on the corridor today, leading to a conclusion that a 4-lane roadway does not have a high likelihood of satisfying future level of service. Therefore, she asked the Committee if Lochmueller could narrow the alternatives and focus only on potential 6-lane options.

Lengthy discussion ensued among the Committee members, Ms. Swinford, Mayor Perry, Mr. Colin, and Mr. Nohren as to what is included in the scope of work being provided by Lochmueller. No consensus was reached that 6-lanes should be Lochmueller's focus. Conversations will be coming in the future concerning the feasibility of widening the existing bridges, with a possible future second bridge.

4. Appearance by Citizens: Citizens who wish to speak on the matters being discussed during the meeting may do so by submitting the [Request to Speak form](#) no later than the day prior to the meeting.

Comments posted to the Open Town Hall Portal have been sent to the Committee members and attached to the minutes.

Further comments were made by several citizens. Council Member Tamara Becker requested a private meeting with Mayor Perry to discuss information received from Senator Davis with regard to additional monies that may be available to pursue further research.

5. New Business

Mayor Perry noted that Executive Session of Town Council for the January 23, 2024 meeting would include a discussion of the William Hilton Parkway Gateway Corridor Project and legal advice will be given, but there will be no vote or action taken.

Mr. Advocaat noted that discussion about a second bridge had taken place today, and thoughtful comments have been made which should be taken seriously. While the Town has taken a leap with the adaptive traffic management system, which is proving to be successful, with intelligent people looking at this and a fantastic consulting firm who understands the issues, the entirety of the project should be considered.

6. Adjournment

Mayor Perry adjourned the meeting at 2:23 PM.

Submitted by: Lynn Buchman, Administrative Assistant

Approved: February 14, 2024

The recording of this Meeting can be found on the Town's website at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov