

**A RESOLUTION
ADOPTING THE LADY'S ISLAND CORRIDOR STUDY**

WHEREAS, Beaufort County, in conjunction with the City of Beaufort, had a corridor study prepared for the Sea Island Parkway corridor on Lady's Island; and

WHEREAS, the study included taking current traffic counts, projecting trips from future development, and modeling future traffic conditions; and

WHEREAS, public meetings regarding the study were held in September 2016 and February 2017; and

WHEREAS, meetings were held with project stakeholders and property owners directly impacted by the project's recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the final study report was presented to the Beaufort-Port Royal Metropolitan Planning Commission at their meeting on July 17, 2017, and the Beaufort County Planning Commission at their meeting on August 7, 2017 with both Commissions recommending approval; and

WHEREAS, the study was coordinated with the Beaufort County Traffic and Transportation Engineer and the South Carolina Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Beaufort County desires that the appropriate projects be added to the County's Transportation Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Beaufort County Council that the Lady's Island Corridor Study dated May 19, 2017 (the Study) is approved and adopted. The Study, and the appropriate projects therein, shall be added to Beaufort County's Transportation Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

Adopted this ____ day of August 2017.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

By: _____
D. Paul Sommerville, Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Thomas J. Keaveny, II, Esquire
Beaufort County Attorney

ATTEST:

Ashley M. Bennett, Clerk to Council



MEMORANDUM

To: Natural Resource Committee of Beaufort County Council
From: Anthony Criscitiello, Beaufort County Community Development Director
Subject: Lady's Island Corridor Study (Stantec Report)
Date: August 17, 2017

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION from the excerpt of its August 7, 2017, draft minutes:

Mr. Criscitiello briefed the Commission that the Metropolitan Planning Commission recommended approval of the study. Mr. Criscitiello noted in the audience to provide support were the City of Beaufort Planning Director Libby Anderson and County Transportation Engineer Colin Kinton. Mr. Kinton provided comments on the Stantec Report (Lady's Island Corridor Study). Mr. Criscitiello noted that the City of Beaufort has adopted a resolution to support the Stantec Report. Similarly, a resolution will be going to Beaufort County Council to support the Stantec Report, with the Planning Commission recommendation. Mr. Criscitiello noted that the Planning Commission will see this Study again because it will amend the County Comprehensive Plan—the Priority Investment and the Transportation Elements. The Report has prioritized and included the estimated funding costs for each of nine proposed projects totaling \$28 million. He noted that some projects are interdependent, and must be accompanied or preceded by other projects. He noted that collectively speaking the projects make sense. Mr. Criscitiello noted that Mr. Kinton was available to answer any questions regarding the nine proposed projects in the Study.

Discussion by Commission included the project priorities totaling \$28.8 million; stating confidence in the Stantec study; clarification on the multitude of funding sources; noting that projected future needs were included in the study; concern with the next steps so that the study will not sit in the archives gathering dust; concern with updating the study data as time progresses; and concern with who would take ownership of the study (*Mr. Criscitiello noted that the Planning Commission and staff of each affected government jurisdiction would take ownership of the study and related ordinances. He also noted that staff is proposing to develop a Lady's Island Plan to be incorporated in the Beaufort County Comprehensive Plan.*).

Public Comment:

1. Mr. Chuck Newton speaking on behalf of the Sea Island Corridor Coalition stated that they supported the study and its recommendations. The City responded well to traffic concerns. The County responded equally well regarding funding the study. Our concern was that no new major roads are built nor existing thoroughfares widened. New roads means more development. We are concerned with the cost (\$28 million) during a time when resources are scarce. It's a question of priority, not resources. Please act positively on passing this Study to County Council to get it moving. We don't expect immediate results. The plan will occur over a number of years, but the community expects something to happen soon.
2. Ms. Libby Anderson, City of Beaufort Planning Director, offered no comment, when called upon by Mr. Semmler.
3. Mr. Colin Kinton, County Traffic Engineer, offered no comment, when called upon by Mr. Semmler.

Motion: Mr. Jason Hinchler made a motion, and Mr. Ed Pappas seconded the motion, **to favorably forward to County Council for adoption by resolution the Lady’s Island Corridor Study (Stantec Report), and to incorporate the Study into the Beaufort County Comprehensive Plan.** Further discussion included clarification of the motion. The motion **carried (FOR: Chmelik, Hinchler, Mitchell, Pappas, Semmler, and Stewart; ABSENT: Fermin and Fireall; ABSTAIN: Walsnovich).**

STAFF REPORT

A. BACKGROUND:

Case No. MISC 2017-09
Applicant: Community Development Staff

B. SUMMARY: In 2016, the City of Beaufort contracted with Stantec and Ward Edwards Engineering to conduct a transportation study primarily along the Sea Island Parkway between the Woods Memorial Bridge and Chowan Creek, and along Lady’s Island Drive and Sam’s Point Road from Rue Du Bois to Miller Drive. The purpose of the Lady’s Island Corridor Study was to address concerns about future traffic resulting from recent development (e.g. Walmart, Harris Teeter, etc.) on Lady’s Island. The primary aim of the Study was to:

- Improve traffic congestion and reduce delays;
- Improve safety; and
- Enhance bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

The Study makes projections for future traffic volumes for the year 2038 based on projected growth for that time period. The Study recommends the following 9 projects to address future traffic congestion:

Project	Cost
1. SC 802 Sam’s Point Road Turn Lane	\$ 761,188
2. Hazel Farm Road and Gay Drive (S-7-497)	\$ 2,983,756
3. New Lady’s Island Middle School Access	\$ 1,482,880
4. Sunset Blvd. (S-7-186 and Miller Drive West (S-7-187)	\$ 4,842,155
5. Beaufort High School Access Realignment	\$ 1,792,274
6. Sea Island Pkwy. (US 21 Bus.) and SC 802 Mainline Improvements	\$ 10,755,744
7. Meadowbrook Drive Extension	\$ 776,500
8. Mayfair Court Extension	\$ 449,630
9. US 21 Airport Area and Frontage Road	\$ 4,980,303
Total	\$ 28,824,430

A copy of the Lady’s Island Corridor Study is attached to this report. Appendices A through F, which contain the technical data to support the Study, are available for review at the Beaufort County Community Development Office.

The Study was recommended for adoption by the Metropolitan Planning Commission on July 18, 2017, and subsequently adopted by Beaufort City Council by resolution on July 25, 2017.

C. ANALYSIS: The Beaufort County Traffic Engineering Department reviewed the Lady’s Island Corridor Study (see attached memo).

D. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

After review of the Lady's Island Corridor Study, staff recommends the Planning Commission forward the Study to County Council to be adopted by resolution. Staff further recommends that upon adoption of the study, the Transportation and Priority Investment Chapters of the Beaufort County Comprehensive Plan be amended to include the study's recommendations and to identify funding sources for improvement projects.

F. METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

The Metropolitan Planning Commission met on July 18, 2017. Commissioners in attendance were Joe DeVito (Chairman), Judy Alling, Caroline Fermin, Bill Harris, Tim Rentz, and Robert Semmler.

The Commissioners heard a presentation from Mr. Brett Gillis of Stantec who did the Study. The Study covers Highway 21/Sea Island Parkway from Woods Memorial Bridge to Chowan Creek. Mr. Gillis indicated that there were two public meetings. Feedback from the public included 48% concerns with traffic, 28% various unrelated concerns, and 8% each of trees/flora and drainage concerns. The national and Lady's Island traffic volumes increased in 2014, after having leveled off from 2007. The Study's 20-year traffic projections included all known proposed developments such as Walmart, Taco Bell, Harris Teeter, Village at Oyster Bluff, Whitehall Plantation, Marina Village, Crystal Lake, etc. Several scenarios were considered including grade separated interchange, road widening, and new bridge accesses, but all were deemed too costly. The Study recommends turn lane improvements at the Highway 21 and Sam's Point Road intersection and connectivity through secondary roads with street lights at Sunset Boulevard and Highway 21, Miller Road and Sam's Point Road, Gay Drive and Highway 21, and Hazel Farm Road and Highway 802. Other recommended improvements include traffic calming, landscaped islands, all-way stop control, mini-roundabouts, streetscape improvements, raised medians, new school accesses for Lady's Island Middle School and Beaufort High School, and a lighted intersection at the Walmart intersection. The Study has nine phases of improvements that can be combined in various combinations, depending on funding availability.

Discussion by the Commissioners included concerns for autonomous cars, widening the road through the Walmart intersection, SCDOT not approving 10-foot wide lanes and traffic calming measures recommended in the Study, and including bike lanes or widening sidewalks for bike traffic.

Public Comment:

1. Mr. Chuck Newton of the Sea Island Coalition indicated the Coalition supports the Study, but is opposed to new road construction. He encouraged that the Commission find a solution to the traffic problem on Lady's Island. He urged the government entities to work together to fund the Study.
2. Mr. Robert McFee, County Facilities & Construction Engineering Director, in answer to Commissioner Semmler's question regarding the County's budget process, noted that funding would be found through various sources for the Study.

Motion: Mr. Tim Rentz made the motion, and Ms. Judy Alling seconded the motion, to recommend approval of the Lady's Island Corridor Study to the Beaufort County Planning Commission/County Council and City of Beaufort Council. The motion passed (FOR: DeVito, Alling, Fermin, Harris, Rentz, and Semmler).

G. ATTACHMENT:

- Copy of the Lady's Island Corridor Study Summary
- Memo from Beaufort County Traffic Engineering Department

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Adopted this 28th day of August 2017.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNCIL

By: _____
D. Paul Sommerville, Chairman

APPROVE AS TO FORM:

Thomas J. Keaveny, II, County Attorney

Attest:

Ashley M. Bennett, Clerk to Council