

RETHINK FOLLY ROAD

A COMPLETE STREETS STUDY

Steering Committee Meeting
James Island Town Hall
1122 Dills Bluff Road, James Island, SC

MINUTES
November 20, 2019
3:30PM – 4:30PM

I. Welcome (Mayor Woolsey)

Mayor Woolsey opened the meeting asking everyone introduce themselves, as there was a new member of the committee present.

II. Public Comment (Mayor Woolsey)

There was no public comment.

III. Previous Meeting Minutes (Toole Design)

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved unanimously.

IV. Subway Redevelopment at Folly Road & Camp Road (Ashley Kellahan)

Ashley Kellahan, Town Administrator for the Town of James Island, shared an update on the proposal for the redevelopment of the old Subway property at the intersection of Folly Road and Camp Road. This property development was last discussed in April 2018.

Ashley shared a brief history of the property with the Steering Committee. The property was vacated in July 2017. The Town approached the owner immediately afterwards to lease the property and use it as a placemaking and gateway opportunity. At the time, the County denied the lease, as there was not enough support. Thereafter, the adjoining business—Corky’s—became interested in the property, so the Town suggested a public/private partnership between the County and the business. Presently, Corky’s uses the property for parking.

Town Council has approved funding for an easement. The Town is working on a draft purchase and sale agreement. Part of the agreement will be allowing the public to use the parking. Presently, both parties are still negotiating the landscaping portion of the agreement. Ashley presented rendered concepts of the proposed welcome signage and landscaping.

When the purchase and sale agreement is finalized, the Committee will be solicited for feedback. The Committee generally agreed and approved of the plan as presented.

V. Implementation Matrix (Toole Design)

The ReThink Folly Road Master Plan provided a list of 75 recommendations that will help obtain the vision laid out in the Plan. Toole Design prioritized the recommendations based on feedback from members of the Steering Committee. A scoring rubric was created to determine the priority of each

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recommendation within several categories. Rachael Panik reviewed the rubric used to prioritize the recommendations.

Steering Committee Questions and Comments

- *Are the criteria flexible?* Yes. Prioritizing the recommendations provided a way to organize the list of recommendations and gives direction for tasks that the Committee can be working towards now. It is not meant to preclude the Committee from being opportunistic should other recommendations become more feasible.
- *Why are midblock crosswalks scored so high compared to the existing crosswalks at signalized intersections when they are so difficult to get, especially on SCDOT roads?* These recommendations likely scored higher based on the safety criteria. Toole Design noted that this comment brings up a good point about the lack of criteria about the recommendation feasibility. Toole could tweak/adjust the scoring, but the Steering Committee agreed that the scoring mechanism was fine as is, and that, instead, the Steering Committee would use judgment in terms of feasibility of projects.
 - *Additional Comment:* There are long stretches of Folly Road without signals or safe crossings. Adding signals in some places may be sensible, but there are still places along Folly Road where other options make more sense, like midblock crossings. Since midblock crosswalks ranked highly, Toole Design will investigate further via conversations with SCDOT and assembling precedents of similar crossings on SCDOT roads.

Next Steps/Timeline

Toole Design provided a list of next steps, including branding, planning public events, hosting a business owner forum, and preparing to apply for grants (BUILD Grant and TST Grant). The TST Grant application comes up in January. To prepare, Toole Design will share some ideas for the application via email soon.

In February, Toole Design would like to do a State of the Plan meeting with the community; Toole would like to invite their subcontractor, Rose and Associates—economics and marketing specialists—to the meeting, and to an additional meeting in March 2020 that would be a Property Owner Forum. In Spring 2020, the Committee could plan a Demonstration Fair/Bike Rodeo, possibly in May during Mobility Month.

VI. Steering Committee Structure (Toole Design)

Between meetings, the Steering Committee completed a survey intended to generate discussion around new structure for the Steering Committee. Ernie Boughman discussed the results of the survey:

- Over 80% of respondents said the Committee's role is to "advise and recommend," a little under 20% said "decide and implement," and some voted "other."
- Almost 65% said the meetings should be accessible to the public, over 50% said it should be conversational with an agenda, 25% said it should be a more formal process, and the comments under other were mostly "I'm not sure."

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Ernie shared that, according to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that established the Committee, the Committee serves an advisory role to recommending bodies, and the Committee has power to implement public outreach, marketing, and other actions that can advance the mission.

Ernie reminded the Steering Committee that the MOU says there should be an Operating Agreement for the Committee. The MOU defines what the Operating Agreement should cover. Toole Design agrees with the MOU and recommends that an Operating Agreement further define term limits, how to change membership, and information about chair and vice chair (including terms). Toole Design will draft an Operating Agreement and bring it back for discussion at the next Committee Meeting.

VII. Vice Chair Election (Mayor Woolsey)

Mayor Woolsey nominated Carol Jackson as Vice Chair. Carol Jackson was approved unanimously as Vice Chair.

VIII. Chair's Comments (Mayor Woolsey)

Toole will be sending out a poll to determine a permanent meeting time and day for the Committee meetings.

Dan Frazier addressed the handout regarding the Segment 1 Sidewalk Project updates.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned.