



Steering Committee Meeting

**James Island Town Hall
1122 Dills Bluff Road, James Island, SC**

MINUTES

December 15, 2021

3:30PM – 5:30PM

- I. Welcome** – Mayor Woolsey
Mayor Woolsey welcomed everyone.
- II. Previous Meeting Minutes** – Mayor Woolsey
Minutes from the October 27, 2021 Steering Committee meeting were approved unanimously.
- III. Phase 1 Project Update** – Sheila Sororian
The right-of-way (ROW) acquisition process is continuing. It includes acquisition of about 52 parcels; it will take approximately 1 year to complete. The ROW consultant is Michael Baker, and the design is by Reveer Group. Updates on the process are planned for every month, the first of which will occur before the next Steering Committee meeting.

Steering Committee members still want to help facilitate the right-of-way process. It was recommended that the Steering Committee wait until after the consultant has made initial contact to receive a list of parcels and property owners, then send a general letter encouraging participation in the process, and then follow up directly with locations that are proving to be challenging.
- IV. Recognition** – Mayor Woolsey
Mayor Woolsey recognized the Steering Committee Vice-Chair, Councilwoman Carol Jackson, with a plaque for her contributions to Rethink Folly Road. The December meeting is her last meeting serving on the Steering Committee. Carol has served on the committee for four years.
- V. Nomination to the Steering Committee** – Mayor Woolsey
Motion to add a seat on the Rethink Folly Road Steering Committee for Town of James Island Councilmember Cynthia Mignano. Motion carried.
- VI. Public Outreach Update** – Toole Design
Celebrating Progress: The Brantley Park groundbreaking occurred November 1, 2021. It received very good press. Video and information from the event have been added to the website under Progress and Updates. Everyone was reminded to let Toole Design know of things that should be added to the website by sending an email to Lakesha Dunbar (ldunbar@tooledesign.com) or Ernie Boughman

eboughman@tooledesign.com). Photographs and web links are useful to help celebrate these types of events.

Appreciation Plaques: Staff discussed the idea of giving out plaques in recognition to businesses and property owners that contribute to the mission/goals of Rethink Folly Road. This would be a way to acknowledge and recognize them and let them know we appreciate their contribution to the community. The plaques are relatively low cost, and they would be a good public relations piece by having the Rethink Folly Road logo on the plaque and by presenting it to recipients during a Steering Committee meeting.

Motion to adopt the idea of providing plaques with the request that additional information be brought back to the Steering Committee regarding the criteria for recognition. Motion carried.

Online Tracking Map: An update was provided on the development of the online map to track progress along the corridor. The map will show where the pathways are being implemented, where the Phase 1 Project is located, and where properties have projects underway or that are complete. The map will be part of the website where people can go and visually see the Plan being implemented. It will also help to show where there is opportunity for connectivity. The map will be completed early January 2022 for staff to review and then it will be brought to the Steering Committee for review at the February 2022 meeting.

Property & Business Owners' Group Meeting: An update was given on the participation of the Property and Business Owners' Group meeting held on October 27, 2021. One of the biggest takeaways was that the existing businesses feel like, unless the property they are a part of redevelops, they are not going to see the benefits of Rethink Folly Road. This is creating concern among some existing property owners and businesses. While those in attendance were well engaged, it was communicated that this type of meeting platform is not the most convenient way for them to be involved. It was discussed that more one-on-one, personalized, grassroots contact would be more beneficial.

A recommendation was presented to have Toole Design develop concept designs with a few key properties and businesses to help them understand what improvement opportunities may exist that are small and achievable without having to totally redevelop their properties. This work would be conducted under the confines of the existing Program Management budget and would cost about one month's budget for each concept plan. This process would produce a conceptual sketch, not engineered plans.

Motion to approve the idea of the concept designs with the request that additional information be provided to the Steering Committee. Motion carried.

VII. Phase 2 Project Discussion – Toole Design

The Steering Committee was reminded that there had been discussion that the Phase 2 Project would start at George Griffith Boulevard and continue south. The Steering Committee was asked to take a formal vote on the limits of the Phase 2 Project. After much discussion, it was

recommended that a formal vote be deferred until the February 2022 meeting. It was also requested that Toole Design provide order-of-magnitude cost estimates for possible segments for the Phase 2 Project between George Griffith Boulevard and Folly Beach and identify what funding opportunities may be available in the near-term; these will be provided at the February 2022 meeting.

Motion to defer to the February 2022 meeting. Motion carried.

VIII. Better North Bridge – Katie Zimmerman

The County has been conducting feasibility studies to identify safer ways for people to walk and bicycle across the Cosgrove Bridge, also known as the North Bridge, located in North Charleston. The studies started in 2008 and by 2011 it was determined one cost effective solution is to construct a separate bike/ped bridge. A group of agencies, led by the County, are working together to consider this solution and a public meeting is scheduled for this evening. They are asking the public to comment on a few route alternatives. Once an alternative is selected, the County will begin working on a federal Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application.

Motion for the Steering Committee to approve a resolution in support of the purpose of the study for the Better North Bridge to provide a safer alternative for walking and biking over the Ashley River enhancing connectivity between the communities of North Charleston and West Ashley. The resolution is to also support the ongoing study and eventual fundraising to build what the public and County agree to construct. Motion carried.

IX. Jurisdictional Updates – Various

City of Folly Beach – Katie Gerling

- No updates.

Charleston County – Councilmember Anna Johnson and Niki Grimball

- The County is in communication with the Sol Legare community on connecting a sidewalk along Sol Legare Road (State Road S-10-432) from Folly Road down to the boat landing. They have received \$50,000 from the CTC to get started on this project.

City of Charleston – James Wallace

- A commercial parcel on Single Point Road is going through TRC to be redeveloped. They are adding a 5,000 square foot building to the site. They are including a multi-use path on the site.

Town of James Island – Ashley Kellahan

- No updates.

Additional Discussion

- It was requested that Toole Design provide information on crash data along the corridor; Toole Design will fulfil this request at the February 2022 meeting.

X. Adjourn
Meeting adjourned.