

# S.C. 51 (Pamplico Highway) Widening Project Public Hearing

Hannah-Pamplico Elementary/Middle School Cafeteria, Pamplico, SC

February 5, 2013

5 p.m. to 7 p.m.



The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and Florence County welcome you to this public hearing. Florence County and SCDOT are proposing to widen S.C. 51 (Pamplico Highway) from two travel lanes to four travel lanes, with an additional center turn lane throughout most of the project corridor, with the exception of the Hyman and Pamplico areas. In addition, safety improvements are proposed at various intersections along Pamplico Highway. The purpose of this hearing is for the public to comment on the proposed roadway improvements.

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING THIS PUBLIC HEARING AND HOW CAN I COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED PROJECT?

This public hearing will consist of an informal session from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., where the public will have an opportunity to view the Preferred Alternative, interact with project staff (identified by name tags) on a one-on-one basis, and provide comments on the proposed improvements. At 6 p.m., there will be a formal presentation in the front of the cafeteria and an opportunity for the public to speak about the proposed project. This formal portion of the hearing will last until everyone who has signed up has been given the opportunity to speak. If you wish to speak during the formal portion of the public hearing, please sign up at the formal comment sign-in table before 5:55 p.m. **You must sign up in order to speak during the formal session. You will have two minutes to speak.** Those who are interested in continuing to view the exhibits during the formal presentation/comment period are free to do so.

If you wish to speak during the formal session, please be sure to sign up between 5 p.m. and 5:55 p.m. at the formal comment sign-in table.

The comments from the formal portion will be recorded by a court reporter. However, verbal comments given during the formal portion will not be responded to in writing. If you would like to receive a written response, you must comment on the project in one of the following ways:

- Complete the comment form provided to you when you signed in and place it in the “comment form box” located by the public hearing sign-in tables;
- Verbally record comments in the designated area of the public hearing room using an audio recorder; or,
- Mail your comment form to the address listed on the form. **Comments must be postmarked by February 22, 2013.**
- Email your comments to Program Manager Tony Edwards at [Edwardstc@scdot.org](mailto:Edwardstc@scdot.org).

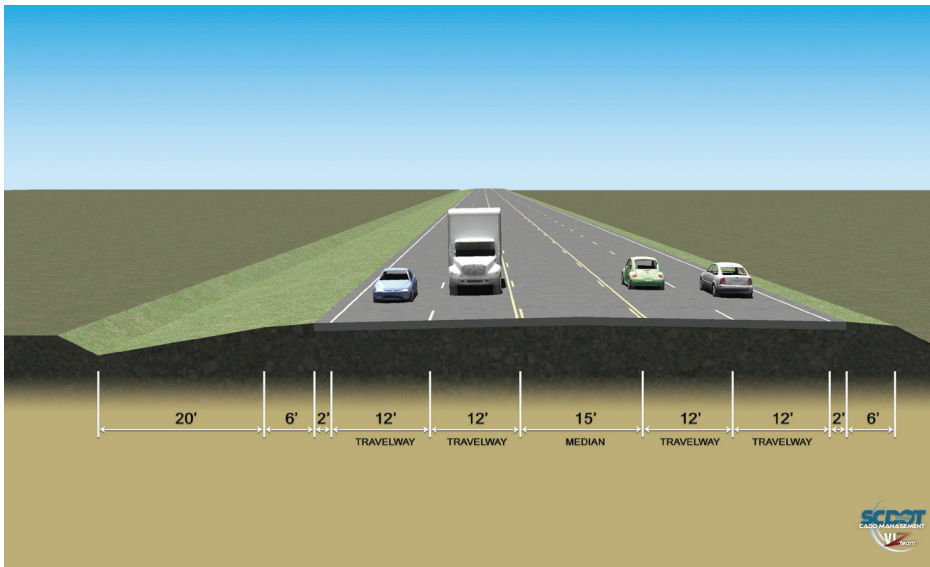
SCDOT will carefully review your comments and suggestions on the Preferred Alternative prior to completing the final design and provide you a written response. Additionally, all written comments received will be made part of the official public hearing certification package. We would like to thank you for your attendance and participation.

## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE AND NEED OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT?

The purpose of the proposed Pamplico Highway improvements is to improve safety, connectivity, and traffic flow by the addition of roadway capacity, as well as to enhance connectivity to the Pee Dee region and Florence County. Florence County voters recognized the need for the project when they approved the One-Cent Capital Project Sales Tax referendum in November 2006. This project is the fifth priority of six component projects and is funded by a combination of Sales Tax revenues and State Infrastructure Bank funds.

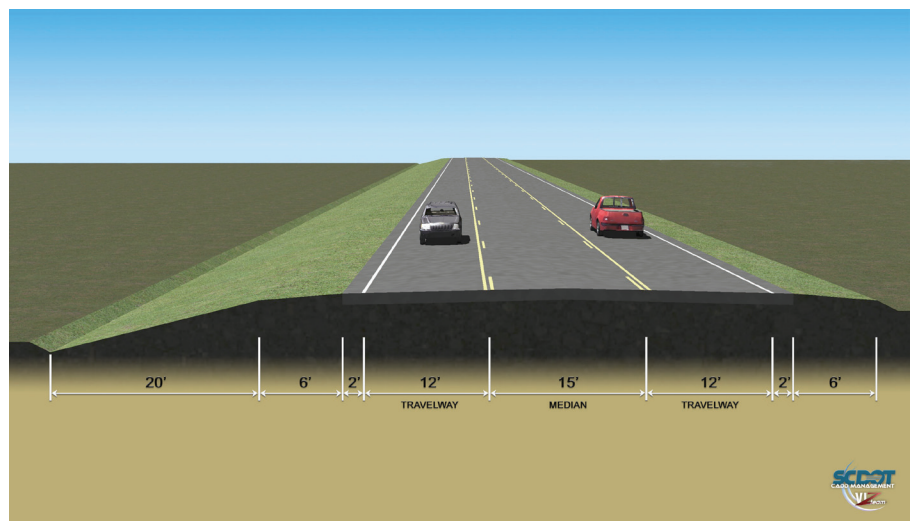
## WHAT IS THE PROPOSED PROJECT?

The proposed project would widen Pamplico Highway from the existing two 11-foot wide travel lanes to four 12-foot wide travel lanes with a 15-foot wide center turn lane from the existing four lane roadway south of Claussen Road to U.S. 378 for most of the project corridor, except the areas of Hyman and Pamplico. Approaching Hyman, the roadway would narrow to three lanes (two travel lanes and a center turn lane) to avoid impacts to the Hyman Historic District and the BP Gas Station. In Pamplico, the roadway would remain the same as it is today with two travel lanes to avoid impacts to homes, churches, and businesses located adjacent to the roadway. The roadway would either have curb and gutter or grassed shoulders and ditches, depending on the location. Conceptual drawings showing the five-lane and three-lane road sections are shown below.



*To the left is a conceptual drawing of how the five-lane roadway would look with grassed shoulders, which would be constructed for a major portion of Pamplico Highway.*

*To the right is a conceptual drawing of how the three-lane roadway would look with grassed shoulders, which would be consistent with how Pamplico Highway would look in the Hyman area.*



In addition to the widening, numerous intersections would be improved. The following intersections are proposed to be improved:

- Effingham Highway (S.C. 327)
- West Turner Gate Road
- Big Swamp Road (S-164)
- West Lynhurst Road (S-897)
- Mt. Zion/Bass Road (S-86)
- Old Salem Road (S-731)
- East St. Luke Church Road (S-732)
- Sandpit Road (S-225)

These improvements would consist of straightening the intersection between the side road and Pamplico Highway by fixing the angle of the intersection to more of a T-alignment. Doing this will improve the line-of-sight for vehicles pulling onto Pamplico Highway from these side streets.

### ***HOW IS THE PROPOSED PROJECT BEING FUNDED AND WHEN WOULD IT BE CONSTRUCTED?***

The proposed project is fully funded through revenues from the Florence County One-Cent Capital Project Sales Tax referendum, which was passed in November 2006, combined with money from the State Infrastructure Bank. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$ 150,000,000.



The right-of-way acquisition is expected to begin this spring. Pending the review of comments received and receiving the necessary construction permits, the construction phase will begin shortly after right-of-way acquisition is completed.

### ***HOW WOULD RIGHT-OF-WAY BE ACQUIRED?***

Once the right-of-way plans are completed, an agent with SCDOT will be assigned to the project. At times, SCDOT will contract with an experienced rights of way consultant company to perform the rights-of-way services. Consultant companies and their agents are regularly monitored by SCDOT staff. The agent's first job is conducting title research to determine the ownership of each parcel of land shown on the plans. The agent will then contact the property owner to verify the information on ownership and property lines and to explain how construction of the project will affect the property. In some instances, SCDOT is allowed by FHWA to make offers based on estimates of fair market value without having an appraisal prepared. If the property value is below the threshold for estimate offers, the agent may present an offer for the needed right of way during the first contact. In the event that the property estimate exceeds the designated threshold, an appraisal will be ordered to establish the offer of just compensation. The acquisition agent will make these offers in writing. If an appraisal is required, the appraiser shall provide an opportunity for the landowner to be present when the property is inspected with the landowner being entitled to a copy of the appraisal. Details of the right-of-way acquisition procedures can be found in the brochure "Highways and You", which is available upon request. Relocation benefits are explained in the brochure and consist of moving expenses and replacement housing payments. No person that occupies real property will be required to move from a dwelling, business, or farm without at least 90 days notice of the vacate date.

The following is SCDOT's policy on replacement housing: FHWA will be given specific written assurance that comparable replacement housing will be available or provided for before the initial written approval or endorsement of any project is requested. Construction authorization will not be requested until comparable replacement housing has been made available to all affected persons.

SCDOT acknowledges that all housing must be fair housing and must be offered to all affected persons regardless of their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. For further information, please feel free to talk to the SCDOT right-of-way agents that are at this hearing.

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## ***TITLE VI COMPLIANCE***

The SCDOT, in response to the nondiscrimination requirements set forth by the Federal regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation to effectuate Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, complies with all regulations in this regard. Any person who believes that he or she has been discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap/disabilities or national origin under a program receiving Federal Aid has the right to file a complaint with the SCDOT. The complaint shall be filed with the Title VI Program Compliance Coordinator, at (803) 737-1372 or at 955 Park Street in Columbia, SC 29202. The complaint should be submitted no later than 180 days after the date of the alleged act of discrimination. It should outline as completely as possible the facts and circumstances of the incident.

Once again, thank you for attending the public hearing, your participation on this project is greatly appreciated. The information at this hearing will also be available for viewing on the SCDOT website at [http://www.scdot.org/inside/public\\_hearings.aspx](http://www.scdot.org/inside/public_hearings.aspx).

Please be sure to fill out your comment form and drop it in the comment form box by the public hearing sign-in table or mail it to the following person:

Tony Edwards, P.E.  
Program Manager, Pee Dee RPG  
SCDOT  
PO Box 191  
Columbia, SC 29202-0191

Comment forms must be postmarked by **February 22, 2013**. Written comments with clearly printed addresses will receive a written response from the SCDOT.