

# **News Release**

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## Charleston County Update on SC 7 and SC 171 Intersection Improvements Project

Charleston County Transportation Development staff will evaluate new options for the SC 7 and SC 171 Improvements project after the latest round of public comment revealed no preferred alternative. The county received almost 700 comments from citizens and the majority of responses selected the no-build option. In addition, public feedback focused on the need to maintain access to local business and neighborhoods along the corridor.

### Path forward

The goals of the SC 7 and SC 171 Improvements project are to improve the level of service for the travelling public, support access to existing and future businesses, and create livable communities. Staff will look at options to accomplish those goals and the preferences of the community identified through the last two public comment periods. Some possibilities include addressing traffic flow at the Orange Grove Road and Sam Rittenberg intersection and making bike / pedestrian improvements throughout the study area. Staff does not have a timetable but we will provide updates on the progress as they become available.

### **Project History**

In 2016, the City of Charleston announced its West Ashley revitalization initiative and shortly thereafter began a comprehensive planning study of the area called Plan West Ashley. The SC 7 and SC 171 intersection was highlighted throughout the plan as a critical focus area for multi-modal improvements. In 2017, the City purchased the 2 ½-acre, old Piggly Wiggly grocery store site located at the north end of SC 7 opening the door further for alternative intersection improvement concept development.

Charleston County hosted the first Public Meeting in December last year and offered four alternatives for consideration. After the initial round of public comment, staff designed two new alternatives utilizing traffic studies and public input. Both options were unveiled at the May 2019 public meeting which opened up a second public comment period, which ended on June 30.

Anyone with questions about the project can visit the project website at <u>www.sc7andsc171intersection.com</u> or call Charleston County's Transportation Development Department at (843) 202-6140.

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