

S-48 Columbia Avenue

Project Update

April 2016

The Project

The Columbia Area Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization (COATS MPO), in partnership with Lexington County, the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and the U.S. Federal Highway Administration, is proposing improvements to the S-48 (Columbia Avenue) Corridor between I-26 and US Hwy 76 (Chapin Road) in Lexington County, South Carolina.

The primary purpose of the S-48 (Columbia Avenue) Corridor Improvement Project is to improve traffic congestion along approximately 2.5 miles of Columbia Avenue. The project will also improve system linkage, provide safety improvements, address roadway deficiencies and consider providing facilities for bicyclist and pedestrians for improved multi-modal forms of transportation.

Work Completed To Date

- The second Public Involvement Meeting was held and comments were received
- Preliminary Boring
- Biological Assessment Field Work

The Road Ahead

- Complete Traffic Analysis for Interchange Options
- Complete Draft Environmental Assessment for FHWA review
- A Public Hearing will be scheduled to receive feedback on the recommended preferred alternative and proposed interchange design

Project News

Extensive work has been conducted on the S-48 Columbia Avenue Corridor Project since the last Public Information Meeting was held. Residents may have noticed surveyors collecting field data, geotechnical drilling machines collecting soil samples, and especially all the little multicolored flags along the side of the roadway that mark the utilities throughout the corridor. All of this work, in addition to the comments received from both of the Public Information Meetings has helped the design team to fully understand the needs of the citizens of Chapin, as well as the best way to resolve the traffic issues along Columbia Avenue. A summary of these key comments included:

- **The importance of the preservation of the Mt. Horeb Cemetery Wall**
- **Minimization of the number of relocations of homes and businesses throughout the town**
- **Special sensitivity to the historic nature and character of the Town of Chapin**
- **Overall relief of the traffic and congestion along the entire stretch of Columbia Avenue**

With this additional information, the design team decided investigate a possible solution by performing modifications to each of the last three alternatives shown at the last public information meeting. This led to the modification of Alternative 9 and Alternative 18 between US 76 and Columbia Avenue. A map of these two modified alternatives, along with the three original alternatives from the previous Public Information Meeting can be found on SCDOT's Public Hearing Website below:

(http://www.scdot.org/inside/public_hearings.aspx). Over the next few weeks the design team will analyze each of the alternatives to determine the recommended preferred alternative which will be presented at the upcoming Public Hearing for public comment. The Public Hearing is tentatively scheduled for the Fall 2016.



For Additional Information:

Jeff McNesby, PE

Lexington County Project Manager

JMcNesby@lex-co.com

803.785.8201

www.lex-co.sc.gov

www.scdot.org/inside/public_hearings.aspx