



Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
In-Person Meeting at James Island Town Hall
1122 Dills Bluff, James Island, SC 29412
May 14th, 2025 at 3:00 P.M.

In attendance: Chairwoman Brook Lyon, Vice Chairwoman Caroline Parker, Spencer Wetmore, Chris Bizzell, Belen Vitello, Katie Zimmerman, Fred Whittle, Joe Walters, Amanda Cox, Monica Eustace, Jenna Stephens, Kyle James, Hillary Smith, Jeanette Ayeni, John Prorock, Todd Oswald, Sophia Bowers, Shawn Salley, Rebecca Luhrs, John Lambert, Mike Hemmer

- I. Welcome – Chairwoman Lyon called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.
- II. Previous Meeting Minutes – Chairwoman Lyon
A motion to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2025 Steering Committee Meeting was made by Fred Whittle and seconded by Chris Bizzell to approve; passed unanimously.
- III. Public Comments:
 - Hilary Smith from 1155 Bradford spoke again regarding how the speed humps on Pauline have caused more traffic on Bradford. She remains concerned about how any traffic changes on Folly Road will impact traffic on Bradford.
 - Rebecca Luhrs from 1654 Wading Heron spoke about the issue of raised medians impacting the ability of emergency vehicles to serve the area. She also has concern about the traffic lights at Folly Road and Camp Road.
- IV. Old Business:
 - a. SCDOT Road Safety Audit for Folly Road
Chairman Lyon noted that there will be another public input meeting held at Camp Road Middle School on May 22nd from 5-7 pm. Spencer Wetmore noted that the current plan only provides three raised medians. Shawn Salley provided a presentation of the changes to the designs and that the medians are not part of the Rethink Folly Road plan, but are safety audit improvements, which are focused on safety. Crash data are reviewed, and all public input is considered. Mr. Salley reviewed each section along Folly Road in detail, noted what has changed as the result of the first Public Input meeting.
 - b. Consultant for Rethink Folly Road
There was brief discussion about hiring a consultant and what the scope and funding source for this effort might be. However, this will likely be revisited after the SCDOT audit improvement plans are complete.



V. New Business:

- a. Folly Beach Center Street Storm water Project – Chris Bizzell
- Mr. Bizzell reported on the City of Folly Beach project to improve Center Street drainage. The project will include new drainage structures island-wide and will reduce Center Street to 2 lanes; one in each direction, hopefully after Labor Day. The City will have a detour planned on the side streets and should be completed by June of 2026. Communication of this project to the public will be critical and the City has created a website for status updates.
- b. Charleston County Central Park Road Project – John Prorock
-Mr. Prorock reviewed the County’s plan for improvements on Central Park Road that are slated to begin in June of 2025. Truluck Construction is the contractor. This project will raise the road about 2’ to reduce flooding and will completely close Central Park Road from Riverland Drive to Fleming Road through late October or November. Private driveways will be maintained. Drainage structures and sidewalk replacements are also being installed. Fleming Road will be accessible from Folly Road. There will be detours and electronic message boards communicating the closure.
- c. Other
-Spencer Wetmore noted that issues remain with the traffic at Camp Road Middle School during the school year. She suggested inviting Mr. Jeffrey Borowy from the school district to the next Rethink Folly Road meeting. Ms. Wetmore also suggested the commission might draft a resolution to support any improvements because “more kids taking the bus” isn’t working.
-Caroline Parker asked about the Folly Trolley plans. Belen Vitello noted that the Trolley was studied, but surveys came back that people would only ride the Trolley if it were in its own lane. There are also safety concerns with a bus on the island and funding concerns. Bike transportation to and from, and on, Folly Beach was also discussed.

VI. Jurisdictional Updates:

- a. City of Charleston – Caroline Parker and City staff
-The James Island Christian School is in TRC and will include sidewalk improvements
-Retiming of signals along Folly Road and traffic light study
-Mini golf course and townhomes are not progressing at this point
- b. Folly Beach – Chris Bizzell
-Noted the Center Street drainage project
- c. State House – Spencer Wetmore
-Noted legislature is out until January
-No earmark funding this year



- d. Carta – Belen Vitello
-No update
- e. Town of James Island – Mayor Lyon
-The service memorial flagpole display on Folly Road at Carolina One is being installed.
-Reminded everyone about the SCDOT Safety Audit meeting on May 22 from 5-7 at the Camp Road Middle School.

VIII. Next Meeting – Scheduled for 3:00 pm on July 16, 2025 at Town of James Island

VIX. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:23 pm

Minutes provided by Michael D. Hemmer – James Island staff