



**Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**In-Person Meeting at James Island Town Hall**  
**1122 Dills Bluff, James Island, SC 29412**  
**July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 3:00 P.M.**

In attendance: Chairwoman Brook Lyon, Vice Chairwoman Caroline Parker, Representative Spencer Wetmore, Katie Zimmerman, Fred Whittle, Joe Walters, Jenna Stephens, Beth Saunders, Kristen Crane, Mike Hemmer, Michael Reidenbach, Julia Crimblin, Richard Stuhr, Karen Henriksen, Marsha Miller, James Wallace.

There were other attendees that did not sign-in. PLEASE SIGN-IN!

- I. Welcome – Chairwoman Lyon called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
- II. Previous Meeting Minutes – Chairwoman Lyon  
A motion to approve the minutes from the May 14, 2025 Steering Committee Meeting was made by Spencer Wetmore and seconded by Fred Whittle; passed unanimously.
- III. Public Comments:  
-Richard Stuhr 1350 Pickett Street spoke regarding the layout of the traffic light at the intersection at Sol Legare and Folly Road. His concern is that people waiting at the light can't see the lights due to how they are installed. Spencer Wetmore thought she may be able to follow-up on this issue.
- IV. Old Business:
  - a. SCDOT Road Safety Audit for Folly Road  
Chairman Lyon noted the SCDOT indicated they will revise plans based on the May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, but there are no other updates at this time. The Town of James Island has continued to advocate for changes regarding the raised medians along Folly Road. There was brief discussion that the SCDOT is now modelling the changes.
  - b. Consultant for Rethink Folly Road  
There was discussion about this topic regarding funding. It was suggested that the City and Town seem to be on-board, but we need to ask for an update from the County. The original engineers assisting RFR were the Toole Group; they were to act as the coordinator, but not necessarily the grant coordinator. There was never a clear direction provided by ALL of the jurisdictions. It was noted that the SCDOT Safety Audit will be a list of recommended projects they will undertake, but these are not necessarily



Rethink Folly Road improvements that they will fund. It was decided that we would like to ask County staff to provide an update on the status of their input into Rethink Folly Road, hopefully for the next agenda and meeting.

- c. Folly Beach Center Street Storm water Project – Jenna Stephens  
-Ms. Stephens noted that construction has started, primarily on the utilities and side streets. Caroline Parker also noted the innovative water-handling improvements that will occur as well.
- d. Charleston County Central Park Road Project –  
The project is underway. There have been some meetings with neighbors concerning traffic cutting through other areas. Mayor Lyon noted that the Town has not heard many complaints.

V. New Business:

- a. Camp Road Middle School Traffic  
Mayor Lyon provided an email from Jaime Meissner, a parent of children at the school. Mr. Michael Reidenbach, the Executive Director of Security and Emergency Management for Charleston County School District. Mr. Reidenbach noted that over the past few years, the amount of traffic at Camp Road Middle has exceeded the SCDOT recommended stacking space (1,500' to 2,000') for a school of 900 students. Camp Road Middle School currently uses about 3,200' of car stacking space. The district has tried to mitigate these impacts by opening earlier and trying to improve efficiency in the afternoons to keep traffic off Camp Road. It was noted that the school layout was not really designed for this level of traffic, due to historic ties to the athletic fields and the demographics of the area lend to increased car pickup and drop-off.

It was also noted that the impacts are not just on Camp Road, but traffic backs up on Folly Road and that makes this an urgent issue that the School District needs to figure out how to address. Discussion included staggering times, new routes for traffic on the school property, alternative bus pickup and drop-off locations, further adjusting to staggering the grade levels being dismissed, and figuring out how to prevent parents from lining up early. Mayor Lyon noted that the new principal should be at the next James Island Intergovernmental Council meeting. Katie Zimmerman also asked how many kids live within a mile from the school and that perhaps long-term improvements would be eligible for Safe Routes to Schools grants.

- b. There was no other new business discussed.



- VI. Jurisdictional Updates:
- a. State House – Spencer Wetmore- No updates
  - b. City of Charleston – James Wallace from Charleston Traffic and Transportation noted:
    - Stormwater infrastructure improvements to the Central Park watershed
    - James Island Christian School expansion (sidewalk included)
    - Retiming of signals along Folly Road nearly complete
  - c. Charleston County – No updates
  - d. Town of James Island – Mayor Lyon
    - Ongoing discussion with SCDOT regarding the raised medians
    - Swim School site on Folly upzoning request to allow storage sheds coming before Council. Recommended denial by Planning Commission
    - Potential openings: coffee shop, bagel shop, jack of cups, wing restaurant
  - e. Folly Beach – Jenna Stephens
    - Noted upcoming road diet design at Bowens and Pees Island on Folly Road
- VIII. Next Meeting – Scheduled for 3:00 pm on September 17, 2025 at Town of James Island
- VIX. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm