

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-10

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND'S SUPPORT FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS ALONG THE FOLLY ROAD CORRIDOR, DOCUMENTING THE TOWN'S EFFORTS TO REACH A COMPROMISE WITH THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REGARDING RAISED MEDIANS, AND GRANTING MUNICIPAL CONSENT FOR ALL PROPOSED PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS EXCEPT THE INSTALLATION OF RAISED MEDIANS.

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Department of Transportation ("SCDOT") has developed a roadway safety improvement project for the Folly Road corridor within the Town of James Island; and

WHEREAS, the Town of James Island recognizes the importance of improving traffic safety, pedestrian safety, roadway conditions, transit accessibility, and multimodal transportation infrastructure along the Folly Road corridor; and

WHEREAS, throughout the development of the Folly Road project, the Town has worked cooperatively with SCDOT, Charleston County, the City of Charleston, the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments ("BCDCOG"), CARTA, and other project stakeholders to identify and support safety enhancements for the corridor; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2026, Mayor Brook Lyon transmitted correspondence to Secretary Justin Powell on behalf of the Town informing SCDOT that the Town generally supports the proposed Folly Road safety project but objects to the inclusion of raised medians within the project; and;

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2026, Secretary Justin Powell responded on behalf of SCDOT and advised the Town that SCDOT would not remove the proposed raised medians from the project, and following receipt of SCDOT's response, the Town Council voted to withhold municipal consent because of its continuing concerns regarding the raised median component of the project; and

WHEREAS, at the July 8, 2026 meeting of the ReThink Folly Committee, representatives of SCDOT advised that, because the Town objected to the raised median component of the project, SCDOT intended to discontinue numerous additional improvement elements unrelated to the disputed raised medians, including resurfacing work, CARTA bus stop improvements, sidewalk installations, Grimball Road/Fort Johnson Road intersection improvements, improvements between Grimball Road and George L. Griffith Boulevard, pedestrian crossing improvements, Camp Road intersection improvements, Eugene Gibbs Street and Rivers Point Row intersection improvements, access control measures between Camp Road and Brantley Drive, improvements from Oak Point Road to Ellis Oak Avenue, and repairs to existing sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, the Town has consistently expressed support for those and other safety improvements that are not dependent upon construction of raised medians; and

WHEREAS, on July 17, 2026 and July 30, 2026, Mayor Brook Lyon and Councilmember Drayton-Crumblin met with representatives of SCDOT to discuss alternative safety countermeasures and compromise solutions intended to improve public safety while addressing the Town's concerns regarding raised medians; and

WHEREAS, during those discussions, Town representatives presented alternative safety countermeasures indicating that SCDOT's preferred median alternative was estimated to reduce serious injuries and fatalities by approximately 2.9 incidents annually, while the Town's proposed alternative countermeasures were estimated to reduce serious injuries and fatalities by approximately 4.5 incidents annually and thereby potentially save additional lives; and

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2026, Mayor Brook Lyon, Senator Ed Sutton, representatives of BCDCOG, and other stakeholders met with SCDOT in a further effort to resolve the remaining issues related to the project; and

WHEREAS, during that meeting, SCDOT indicated that it would consider removal of the proposed median at the Hyams Garden Center location but maintained its position that raised medians should remain at the other proposed median locations within the project corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Town appreciates SCDOT's willingness to engage in continued discussion and negotiate regarding portions of the project; and

WHEREAS, the Town remains committed to working collaboratively with SCDOT to advance transportation safety improvements throughout the Folly Road corridor while identifying the most effective and publicly supported safety measures; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to formally state its continued support for all proposed safety improvements other than the raised median components and to encourage SCDOT to proceed with those improvements irrespective of the unresolved disagreement concerning raised medians.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, THAT:

Section 1: Findings

The recitals set forth above are incorporated herein and adopted as findings of the Town Council.

Section 2: Good Faith

The Town Council finds and declares that the Town has acted in good faith and has consistently sought to work collaboratively with SCDOT to advance roadway safety improvements within the Folly Road corridor.

Section 3: Support for All Proposed Safety and Improvement Measures Except Raised Medians

The Town Council reaffirms its support for the safety, resurfacing, pedestrian, transit, access-management, intersection, and sidewalk improvements proposed as part of the Folly Road project, except for those project components involving the construction of raised medians within the Town limits. The Town's objections remain limited to the proposed raised median installations and should not be construed as opposition to any other project element.

Section 4: Municipal Consent

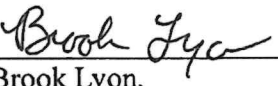
The Town hereby grants municipal consent for all portions of the Folly Road project that do not involve construction of raised medians within the Town limits. The Town respectfully requests that the South Carolina Department of Transportation continue advancing all portions of the Folly Road project for which the Town has expressed support and consent and continue working collaboratively with the Town to identify mutually acceptable alternatives to the proposed raised medians. The Town further requests that disagreement regarding the raised median component not be construed as opposition to, nor serve as the basis for delaying, modifying, or eliminating, the remaining project improvements supported by the Town.

Section 5: No Waiver

Nothing in this Resolution shall be construed as a waiver of any authority, position, objection, right, or remedy available to the Town under South Carolina law.

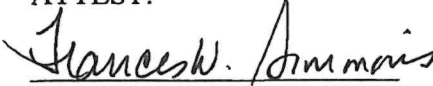
RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of James Island, South Carolina, this 17th day of September, 2026.

TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA



Brook Lyon,
Mayor

ATTEST:



Frances Simmons
Town Clerk