

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY of *De minimis* SECTION 4(f) DETERMINATION
for
The Carolina Crossroads I-20/26/126 Corridor Improvement Project
Richland and Lexington Counties**

Section 4(f) *De Minimis* and Public Notice

In compliance with Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (49 USC 303), hereinafter referred to as "Section 4(f)," and its implementing regulations codified at 23 CFR Part 774, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) provides public notice of its proposal to make a Section 4(f) *de minimis* effect determination on the Saluda Riverwalk Extension, and to provide the opportunity for public review and comment of this proposed determination.

Project Overview

The Carolina Crossroads I-20/26/126 Corridor Improvement Project is a 14-mile interstate improvement project in Richland and Lexington Counties. The project is the number one statewide interstate priority for South Carolina. When complete, the project will improve mobility and enhance traffic operations by reducing existing traffic congestion within the I-20/26/126 corridor, while accommodating future traffic needs.

Section 4(f) resources are significant historic sites and public lands such as parks, recreational areas, and wildlife and waterfowl refuges. The Saluda Riverwalk Extension is a Section 4(f) resource. The proposed project would involve constructing a bridge over the trail and composting toilet facility with a minimum height of approximately 17 feet, which would maintain adequate clearance for users of the facility. The long-term access and use of the restroom facility and trail would not be impacted by the project, and no bridge pilings would impact the trail. However, construction of the project over the trail would require the temporary closure of the trail for safety reasons. This would occur at the end of the current trail and would in turn only effect a short segment and not restrict access to a large portion of trail. The total construction period over the trail is expected to be approximately 36 months. When construction is complete, the condition of the trail will be equal to existing conditions.

A *de minimis* impact to a Section 4(f) resource is a minor impact that would not affect the long-term use of the resource. The project is consistent with the use of the property and will not cause harm to the recreational value of the trail. Impacts to access to the Saluda Riverwalk Extension will be temporary and only *de minimis*. Federal legislation allows for approval of projects that would have only *de minimis* impacts, provided that the agency with jurisdiction over the resource(s) concurs with the finding. The impact finding for the Saluda Riverwalk Extension is based on coordination with the City of Columbia, the officials with jurisdiction. The City of Columbia has been notified of FHWA's intent to make a *de minimis* impact finding and concurred with the finding on March 26, 2018. Further information on this proposed action and its impacts, avoidance, minimization, mitigation or enhancement measures is available by contacting Chad Long, SCDOT Director of Environmental Services, at 803-737-1396. Maps and conceptual drawings of the proposed improvements are available on the project website: www.SCDOTCarolinaCrossroads.com.

Public Input

SCDOT is requesting comments regarding the finding of *de minimis* impact to the Saluda Riverwalk Extension. Please submit your comments to the address below no later than February 22, 2019. Comments will become part of the official record and will be considered when making future project related decisions. Comments may be emailed to info@CarolinaCrossroadsSCDOT.com, recorded via the Project Hotline number at 800-601-8715, or mailed to:

Carolina Crossroads Corridor Improvement Project
C/O South Carolina Department of Transportation
Environmental Service Office
PO Box 191
Columbia, SC 29202-0191

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Ms. Betty Gray at 803-737-1395.

**South Carolina Department of Transportation
And Federal Highway Administration**