The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) is pleased to announce that the Carolina Crossroads I-20/26/126 Corridor Improvement Project has reached a new milestone and is now one step closer to starting construction. SCDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have approved the combined Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) for the project.

The FEIS/ROD identifies the Selected Alternative to be constructed and mitigation to offset the potential impacts due to the project. It also incorporates feedback from public and agency sources gathered over the past four years. Based on the significant number of public comments opposing the Tram Road/Beatty Road overpass, it has been removed from consideration and is not included in the Selected Alternative. With a Selected Alternative and issuance of the ROD, the next phase of project delivery can proceed, which includes right of way acquisitions, permitting, and some utility relocations moving towards construction in late 2020.

The FEIS/ROD is currently available on the project website at www.SCDOTCarolinaCrossroads.com/FEIS/

Hard copies of the FEIS are available for public review at the following locations:

- South Carolina Department of Transportation Headquarters at 955 Park Street, Columbia, SC 29201
- South Carolina Department of Transportation District 1 Office at 1400 Shop Road, Columbia, SC 29201
- Richland Library Operations Center at 130 Lancewood Road, Columbia, SC 29210
- Richland Library St. Andrews at 2916 Broad River Road, Columbia, SC 29210
- Irmo Branch Library at 6251 St. Andrews Road, Columbia, SC 29212
- Richland Library Ballentine at 1200 Dutch Fork Road, Irmo, SC 29063
IMPACTED LANDOWNERS SHOULD KNOW...

Right-of-way (ROW) acquisition is anticipated to begin in fall 2019. Property owners and tenants impacted by the Selected Alternative will be contacted by SCDOT to purchase needed right of way or determine relocation eligibility. SCDOT will work with impacted property owners and tenants according to South Carolina law and the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970.

If your property is impacted by this project, please review the Highways and You booklet at https://www.scdot.org/business/pdf/rightofway/HighwaysandYou.pdf.

UPDATES ON THE NOISE STUDY

Following guidelines in the SCDOT Noise Policy, the project team initially analyzed preliminary noise barriers at 26 different locations in the corridor to determine if they were reasonable and feasible for construction. Of the 26 barriers evaluated, 10 preliminary noise barriers were determined to be both reasonable and feasible. The preliminary noise barrier locations and an overview of the evaluation process were presented at the public hearing.

Following the public hearing, a detailed noise analysis was completed for the Recommended Preferred Alternative (RPA). The detailed noise analysis evaluated noise impacts considering the terrain, shoulder/median barriers, ground zones and buildings in the RPA, as well as the traffic and roadway design.

Of the 10 preliminary noise barrier walls evaluated, 2 noise barriers were determined to be both feasible and reasonable. Results of this analysis were reviewed by an independent, third-party expert in traffic noise analysis.

The 2 noise barriers (Walls O and S) were then presented to the Noise Advisory Board on January 24, 2019. Ballots were sent to the residents and owners benefited by the two barriers to solicit their opinion on the construction of both barriers. Neither of the barriers received a majority of ballots expressing opposition. These barriers are located on the south side of I-20 from the Saluda River extending approximately 2,300 feet west (Barrier O) and on the south side of I-20 from the Broad River Road exit extending approximately 4,400 feet east towards the Broad River (Barrier S).

The detailed noise analysis technical report is available in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).