

September 28, 2018

Dr. Ernie Bell
Acting President of Whitehall Homeowners' Association
177 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Re: Carolina Crossroads I-20/26/126 Corridor Improvement Project
Lexington and Richland Counties, Project ID P027662

Dear Dr. Bell:

Thank you for your community's interest and comments on the Carolina Crossroads I-20/26/126 Corridor Improvement Project during the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) comment period. We have received many comments from residents of the Whitehall neighborhood expressing opposition to the Tram Road and Beatty Road Bridge presented in the DEIS.

In the early stages of the project, the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) received public comments requesting enhanced connectivity across I-26. To address these comments, the Tram Road and Beatty Road bridge was added to provide connection between Fernandina and Jamil frontage roads. In addition, this proposed bridge would also have benefits for emergency response.

As proposed, the Tram Road and Beatty Road bridge would fulfill a secondary need of the project to improve system linkages. However, the bridge does not affect the ability of the Recommended Preferred Alternative to meet the primary purpose and need of the project to reduce congestion and improve mobility in the corridor. Since its removal would not significantly affect the primary purpose and need, SCDOT has elected to remove this bridge from the Recommended Preferred Alternative.

SCDOT is completing a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), and the Federal Highway Administration anticipates publishing an FEIS and a Record of Decision (ROD) concurrently in early 2019. The Tram Road and Beatty Road Bridge will not be considered for further evaluation in these documents.



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I would like to thank you again for your comments and ask that you share this information with all Whitehall residents.

Sincerely,



Brian D. Klauk, PE, CPM, ENV SP
Project Manager for Carolina Crossroads

BDK:rwf

cc: John H. Burriss, SCDOT Commissioner, Second Congressional District
John Barnwell Fishburne, SCDOT Commissioner, Sixth Congressional District
Christy Hall, P.E., Secretary of Transportation
Leland Colvin, P.E., Deputy Secretary for Engineering
Randall Young, P.E., Chief Engineer for Project Delivery
Ladd Gibson, P.E., Program Director for Mega Projects
Emily Lawton, FHWA Division Administrator
Allen Hutto, Legislative Affairs

File: PC/BDK