

What's Next?

What will we do with the input we receive from the public?

The input we receive during this workshop, and comments submitted by mail and through the RoadWise Web site by December 21, 2009, will be evaluated by the project team to complement data obtained through traffic and environmental studies. The information received from the public should not be considered as a "vote" for one route alternative over another, but rather as an effective way for those who live and work within the project study area to give the project team additional knowledge of local conditions. Every comment will be evaluated and considered when refining the various alternatives for further study.

What are the next steps for the Greenway Project?

The project team will evaluate all comments received from the public. Using public input, together with inventories of the environmental resources that exist within the study area, the preliminary route alternatives will be modified to produce route options with the least possible impacts. Environmental resources that must be considered as part of this study include resources within the human environment (homes, churches, cemeteries, communities, schools, public-use facilities, property, land use, and cultural sites) as well as the natural environment (wetlands, farmlands, streams, floodplains, water quality and threatened and endangered species).

Will there be other projects under study?

As mentioned earlier in this handout, Charleston County Council is seeking comprehensive traffic solutions for Johns Island. Accordingly, several other projects will be under study or design:

- ◆ Improvements to Maybank Highway;
- ◆ Studies to analyze the widening of Bohicket Road and Main Road; and
- ◆ Studies of improvements to several intersections on the island, including the addition of turning lanes.

Submitting Comments

You can submit comments by filling out the form provided and dropping it into the comment box during the workshop, completing the electronic form at www.ccradwise.com and clicking "submit", or mailing your completed comment form to:

Charleston County RoadWise
4401 Belle Oaks Drive, Suite 105
North Charleston, SC 29405
Attn: Lynda McMillan

Comments will be accepted through December 21, 2009.



Sea Islands Greenway

An element of the comprehensive traffic solution for Johns Island

Background

In 2001, Charleston County Council authorized a study to gather public input on ways to relieve traffic concerns on Johns Island. Maybank Highway, Bohicket Road and River Road are the boundaries of the area that was studied.

In 2006, Charleston County Council authorized an update to the original 2001 study. The update was funded by the County's Transportation Sales Tax.

Charleston County Council held a public meeting on Thursday, June 19, 2008, to gather input on the idea of building a road, then known as the Sea Islands Parkway, across Johns Island, and whether or not Council should pursue asking the S.C. Department of Transportation to begin considering a limited-access toll road option. Council chose to re-evaluate the Cross Island Road concept in relation to comprehensive traffic solutions for Johns Island.

On September 1, 2009, County Council approved the following directives:

- ◆ To perform an alignment study for the Sea Islands Greenway
- ◆ To prepare a Request for Proposals (RFP) for potential public-private financing and construction of the Greenway
- ◆ To move forward with the Maybank Highway improvements, based upon the "pitchfork" concept at the intersection of Maybank Highway and River Road
- ◆ To study and seek funding for improvements at seven Johns Island Intersections
- ◆ To study the widening of Bohicket and Main Roads as an alternative to the Sea Islands Greenway project.

Sea Islands Greenway

The idea of the greenway is being offered as a potential alternative to widening River Road or Bohicket Road because it would provide another option for travelers crossing Johns Island, and, therefore, take pressure off of the current road system. The greenway would stretch across Johns Island from the area of the Maybank Highway and River Road intersection to Betsy Kerrison Parkway. The proposed road concept envisions a rural roadway, buffered on both sides and protected from development. The buffering concept would be similar to the Colonial Parkway in Williamsburg, Virginia (see photo, bottom right).

Project Funding

Currently, no funding has been identified for the acquisition of right-of-way or construction for the Greenway. On September 1, 2009, County Council authorized staff to prepare a Request for Proposals (RFP) for potential public-private financing and construction of the Greenway. At this early stage of the project, all sources of funding will be considered.

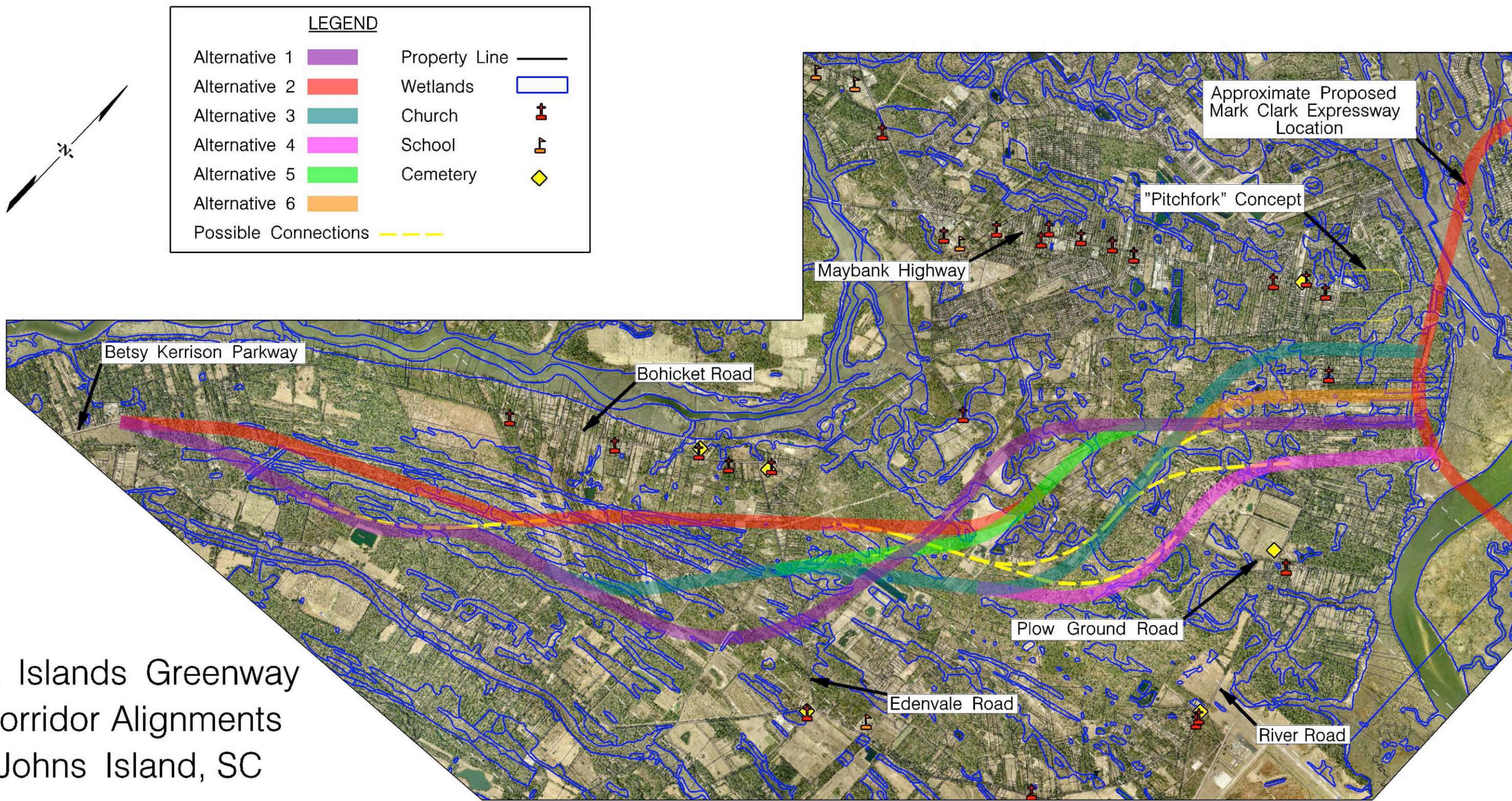
Public Workshop

The workshop is being conducted to obtain public input on the Sea Islands Greenway component of an overall study on improving the Johns Island road network. The workshop will be held on Monday, Dec. 7, from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. at the Johns Island Regional Library (3531 Maybank Highway). The workshop will include a presentation about the Greenway concept by County staff and consultants that will be given at the following times: 11 a.m., 12 p.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. The public may drop in, comment and give input at any time throughout the day.

Citizens interested in learning about the project have the opportunity to discuss their questions and comments directly with members of the project study team. Maps showing various environmental resources and preliminary alternative alignments are available for review. The preliminary alternative alignments for the Greenway shown during the meeting will be studied, along with other alternatives that will be developed based on feedback from the public and organizations.



Colonial Parkway in Williamsburg, Virginia



Sea Islands Greenway
Corridor Alignments
Johns Island, SC