

TITLE VI COMPLIANCE

The SCDOT, in response to the nondiscrimination requirements set forth by the Federal regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation to effectuate Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, complies with all regulations in this regard.

Any person who believes that he or she has been discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap/disabilities or national origin under a program receiving Federal Aid has the right to file a complaint with the SCDOT. The complaint shall be filed with the Title VI Program Compliance Coordinator, at (803) 737-1372 or at the address below. The complaint should be submitted no later than 180 days after the date of the alleged act of discrimination. It should outline as completely as possible the facts and circumstances of the incident.

COMMENTS

SCDOT appreciates your attendance and strongly encourages you to provide your input regarding the project.

You may comment in three ways:

1. Complete a comment form and leave it in the comment box provided.

2. Mail your comment to:

Mr. Kevin Gantt, P.E.
Program Manager—SCDOT
PO Box 191
Columbia, SC 29202-0191

3. Fax your comment to
803-737-1510

4. Submit your comment online at:

<http://www.scdot.org/public/meetings.shtml>

Please submit comments concerning the project no later than August 4, 2011.

All comments received will be made a part of an official public hearing file, which will be available for review along with the displays in the SCDOT Midlands Regional Production Office at 955 Park Street in Columbia, SC 29201.



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PROPOSED WIDENING & REPAVING OF I-26 BETWEEN I-26/I-77 INTERCHANGE AND S-31 & REPAVING OF I-26 BETWEEN S-31 AND SC 6

Public Hearing, July 21, 2011 5:00 - 7:00 PM

PUBLIC HEARING PARTICIPANT

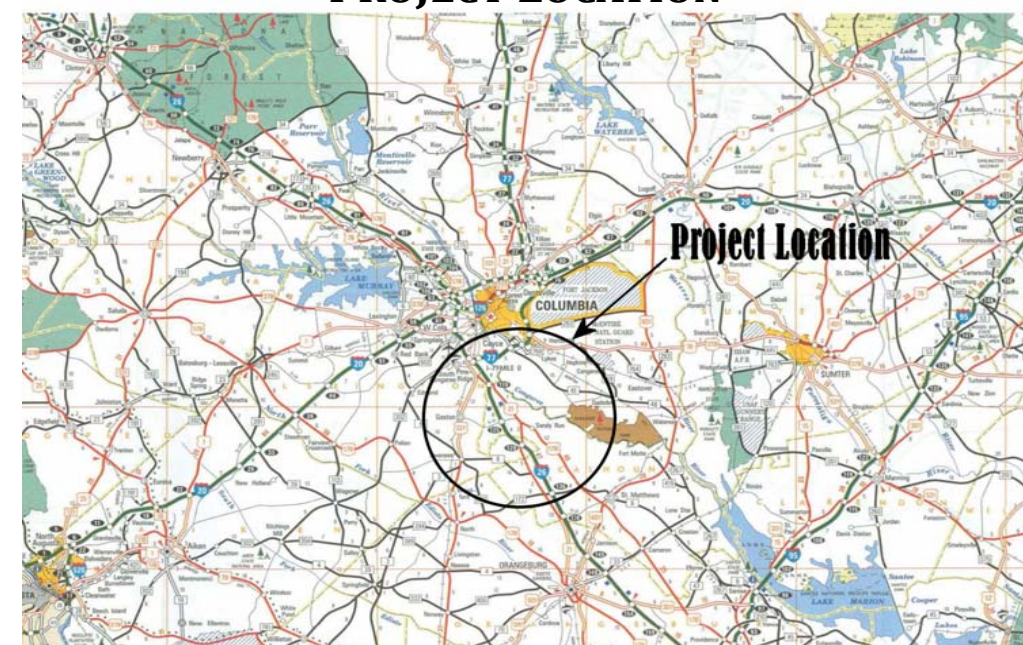
The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) welcomes you to this important public hearing concerning the widening and repaving of Interstate 26 between the interchange of I-26/I-77 and S-31 (Exit 125-Old Sandy Run Rd.), as well as the repaving of I-26 between S-31 (Exit 125-Old Sandy Run Rd.), and SC 6 (Exit 136-Caw Caw Rd.).

The purpose of the hearing is to provide an opportunity to review and discuss individually, with representatives of the SCDOT, plans for the proposed project. Another purpose of the meeting will be to gather information from the public or any interested organization on historic or cultural resources in the area.

From 5:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., the hearing format will be informal. Large aerial displays of the entire project will be available for viewing, and project team members from SCDOT will be present to discuss the project with interested citizens on an individual basis.

At 6:00 p.m., SCDOT will make a brief, formal presentation about the project purpose and need, schedule, and potential impacts to the natural and human environments. Immediately following the presentation, citizens will have the option to make formal, verbal comments regarding the proposed project. Anyone who wishes to verbally comment must sign up between 5:00 p.m. and 5:55 p.m. when entering the public hearing. Each comment will be limited to two minutes and may not be transferred. The informal portion of the public hearing will continue during this time.

PROJECT LOCATION



I-26 PROPOSED PROJECT SITE LOCATION MAP



PROJECT INFORMATION

The project scope includes widening approximately 10 miles of I-26 to six lanes, repaving of the existing lanes for approximately 20 miles, replacement of the I-26 westbound bridge over CSX Railroad, and a bridge jacking of the overpass of Old Wire Rd.

Interstate 26 will be widened into the median beginning at the existing three lane section of eastbound I-26 and westbound I-26 near the interchange of US 321 (Exit 115-Charleston Hwy.) and the new third lanes shall continue through the I-77 Interchange and end east of the interchange for S-31(Exit 125-Old Sandy Run Rd.).

Repaving of the existing lanes of mainline I-26 is proposed to begin near the interchange of US 321 (Exit 115 -Charleston Hwy.) and continue to just west of the interchange for SC 6 (Exit 136-Caw Caw Rd.). This repaving will consist of:

- Resurfacing the existing asphalt
- Replacement of damaged guardrail
- Upgrading slopes and shoulders to current standards

The I-26 westbound bridge over CSX Railroad near Dixiana will be replaced as part of the project.

The overpass bridge of Old Wire Rd. will be raised to achieve safe vertical clearance over I-26. The bridge will be closed and detoured during this closure.

SCDOT is making efforts to ensure that traffic will flow through the project area while construction is underway. Two travel lanes in each direction will be open to traffic during construction, except for limited nighttime lane closures. It is not anticipated that additional right-of-way will be needed.



SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The SCDOT conducted an assessment of social, economic, and environmental impacts for the proposed widening improvements to I-26. An Environmental Assessment was approved by the Federal Highway Administration on June 26, 2011, and is available for your review at this hearing or by visiting <http://www.scdot.org/public/meetings.shtml>.

The purpose of this project is to increase capacity on I-26 for future traffic, reduce congestion, and improve safety. The purpose of the project is to improve daily traffic operation by constructing additional lanes between the I-26/I-77 Interchange and the S-31 Interchange. The additional traffic lane will relieve traffic congestion and allow traffic to flow more smoothly. The interstate is also in need of repaving of the travel surface, shoulder improvement, bridge maintenance, and guardrail replacement.

Since the project will not require any right of way, it is not expected to impact any underground storage tanks or hazardous waste sites. No relocations are expected with the construction of this project. At this time no wetland impacts are expected with the project. Approximately 104 residences, 23 businesses, and one park would be considered impacted by highway noise according to FHWA criteria along the corridor. Therefore, a preliminary barrier analysis was conducted at four sites where impacts are concentrated. It was determined that none of the sites meet the SCDOT's reasonable and feasible criteria for barrier construction.

PROPOSED I-26 WIDENING SCHEDULE

- Development of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Design-Build contract is underway.
- Advertisement of project scheduled for September 2011
- A design-build consultant selection will be made in the Fall 2011.
- Construction anticipated to begin in the Spring 2012 for an estimated duration of 30-36 months.