

PROPOSED I-26 WIDENING AND REHABILITATION PROJECT

Lexington and Calhoun Counties

Public Hearing

Hearing:

Thursday, July 21, 2011, between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the Grace Chapel, located at 633 Dixiana Road, in West Columbia, SC 29172.

Purpose:

To provide an opportunity to review and discuss individually, with representatives from the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and Lexington and Calhoun Counties, preliminary plans for the proposed widening and rehabilitation of I-26 from MM 115 in West Columbia to MM 136 in Calhoun County. The proposed improvements also consist of the replacement of the westbound bridge over the CSX Railroad and a bridge jacking at the overpass of Old Wire Road. The widening of I-26 will occur from mile marker 115 at US 321 to exit 125 Sandy Run to accommodate 3 lanes in each direction by widening to the median. Another purpose of the hearing will be to gather information from the public or any interested organization on historic or cultural resources in the area.

Format:

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 in the auditorium about the project purpose and need, schedule, and potential natural and human impacts to the community. 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.

Process:

Project details, including environmental documentation of the project's effects, will be provided. Maps and drawings of the proposed improvements will be available, and citizens may ask questions and provide comments regarding the possible social, economic and environmental effects of the project. Property owners and business owners on or near the project area are urged to attend.

Review:

Related maps and or drawings, environmental assessment, and other pertinent data will be available for public review at least 15 days prior to the public hearing, at the SCDOT District 1 & 7 Offices located at 1400 Shop Road, in Columbia SC 29201 (803-737-6660); and 1724 Charleston Highway, Orangeburg SC 29116 (803-531-6850). Additional information concerning the project may be obtained by contacting Program Manager Kevin Gantt at SCDOT Headquarters Building, 955 Park Street, Columbia, SC 29201 (803-737-5808). Persons with disabilities who may require special accommodations should contact Mrs. Elisabeth Bleasdale at 803-737-1395.

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