

International Drive Status Update (as of 3/18/2015)

Project Scope: Pave and widen approximately 5 ½ miles of roadway between SC Hwy 90 and River Oaks Drive (near SC 31 / Carolina Bays Parkway) in the fast-growing Carolina Forest area to provide an alternate evacuation route for area residents and to reduce congestion on US Hwy 501 between Conway and Carolina Forest / SC 31 / Carolina Bays Parkway.

Original estimated cost: \$6.5M (for two-lane roadway)

Updated estimated cost: \$16.5M (for four-lane roadway*; cost includes design, permitting, r/w, construction, CE&I, and wetland mitigation).

*Note: project will be advertised for bids as both a two-lane and a four-lane roadway (alternate bid) for the northern/western section between the power transmission lines and Hwy 90.

Original schedule: Begin construction 2012 / Completion 2013

Updated schedule: Pending Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) approval of environmental permit application and receipt of permits in 2015: begin construction in 2015; completion expected one year after the start of construction

Project History:

November 2009 Design, right-of-way and permitting initiated

July 2010 Original "Contract for Sale" between SCDNR and Horry County was executed for the necessary right-of-way to construct the improvements along the north side of the proposed alignment.

County committed to implement several "mitigation items" including the construction of three animal crossings required by SCDNR as grantor of a right-of-way (R/W) easement for International Drive. A 2013 modification to the agreement that allowed for a market-value purchase of the R/W easement from SCDNR, and it also removed the animal crossings from the project scope along with the revision of other mitigation items (details described below).

2010 - 2015 Ongoing development of engineering plans, right-of-way acquisition, and preliminary environmental studies. Project schedule is pushed back due to the continued delays of higher priority projects within the sales tax program (SC 707 Widening and Glenn's Bay Widening and Interchange) and because of design changes with the revisions to the agreement with SCDNR in 2013. Original environmental permit application submitted in late 2013; response to first round of comments submitted in late 2014; second response to follow-up comments submitted to ACOE at end of February 2015.

Current Status (as of March 2015):

- **General status:** Design is substantially complete, right-of-way acquisition is well underway (over 65% complete), the original environmental permit application was submitted in late November 2013, and over the last year and half, two rounds of comments and responses to the permit application have been received and submitted to the ACOE. Construction could begin as early as summer of 2015 if permits are received in a timely manner.
- **Environmental Permit status:**
 - Comments on the original November 2013 permit application were received on May 7, 2014, and issues have been worked through directly with the agencies. Some comments required the

installation of additional monitoring wells for the proposed off-site / permittee responsible mitigation; these monitoring wells did not perform as expected during the summer of 2014 and our formal response to comments were delayed as a result. The formal response to comments was sent back to the ACOE in late 2014 and were amended to include an updated wetland mitigation plan to purchase wetland credits from an approved bank (as per ACOE requirements for permittee-responsible mitigation). Permits are being sought for a four-lane roadway.

- A second round of comments to our late 2014 revised response was received in early February 2015, and the county submitted a final response to these latest comments to the ACOE at the end of February 2015. See “next steps” below for remaining approvals required prior to receipt of permit.
- Miscellaneous: A revised intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between Horry County and SCDNR was approved by the SC Budget and Control Board on October 31, 2013. The revised IGA has allowed SCDNR to accept payment from Horry County at the appraised value of the right-of-way easement and it has reduced some of the requirements in the original contract agreement such that animal crossing structures are no longer required and standard SCDOT right-of-way fence can be used in lieu of the previously mandated 8’ tall barbed wire fence.
- The local option sales tax program revenues and the current project budget validation forecasts indicate that all projects in the program will be completed as planned (including International Drive).

Next steps:

- Conclude remaining design, permitting, and r/w acquisition activities prior to construction.
- During March 2015, the local (Conway) office of the ACOE indicated that they have received all of the information requested in the county’s most recent response to the latest round of comments (from February 2015), and they are currently in the process of preparing their Statement of Findings document, which is the prerequisite for issuance of their permit. The Statement of Findings document will then be sent to ACOE’s Charleston office for their review approval before their permits can be issued.
- Advertise project for construction bids and execute construction contract (can occur as early as spring / summer 2015 – this timeline is dependent on timely receipt of permits and is subject to change as discussed above). Bid advertisement is expected to occur 30 days after receipt of environmental permits. It is anticipated that construction will begin approximately three months after the bid advertisement date; there will be one month between bid advertisement and bid opening, and several weeks are needed after bid opening to execute the construction contract and to allow the contractor to mobilize staff and equipment to begin working on the project.