



Beaufort County conducted an Airport Frontage Road – Phase 1 Virtual Public Meeting from February 14, 2022 through March 16, 2022. Exhibits were published on the website to inform residents of the proposed project design to improve access to Lost Island Road by creating a connection to the traffic signal at Airport Circle/Sea Island Parkway intersection.

The project is a two-lane urban section with an 8’ multi-use path on one side. It will also include traffic signal and left turn lane improvements on US 21 (Sea Island Parkway), as well as new right-of-way (R/W).

The meeting creation was a collaboration of the County and J. Bragg Consulting, Inc. with plans provided by Ward Edwards Engineering.

Meeting Summary:

Time Period: February 14, 2022 through March 16, 2022 – 31-day virtual meeting hosted on www.BeaufortCountyPenny.com

Advertisements:

- Press Release for virtual public meeting on February 11, 2022
- E-mail Newsletters sent on February 15, 2022 and March 14, 2022
- 5 Sales Tax “Yard” Signs were placed near the proposed roadway location

Public Comments:

Virtual Public Meeting: 7 citizens provided a comment. There were 3 ways to comment: Online Comment Form, e-mail, or mail. Online Comment Forms and written responses with a valid address will receive a mailed response to their comments.

On the Online Comment Form, they were asked if they were “In Favor Of” the project by answering “Yes” or “No”, “Resides Near” by answering “Yes” or “No”, and “Would Utilize” by also answering “Yes” or “No”.

This is a summary of those who completed the Online Comment Form.

| Roadway | “In Favor Of” | | “Resides Near” | | “Would Utilize” | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----|----------------|----|-----------------|----|
| | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| Airport Frontage Road Phase 1 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 0 |

The above chart represents 6 comment forms which were submitted. They were also provided the opportunity to submit a written comment. One citizen sent in an email comment but did not answer the online questions.

Project Status:

There have not been any objections to the project, however, 1 citizen had concerns about the overall design. The project requires new right of way and the acquisition process is on-going. Construction of the project is anticipated to begin in Spring 2022 and all permits have been obtained.

Comment Summary:

Note: Comments are copied as is with no edits.





Once complete will access to / from Lost Island Road (LIR) be limited to the signal at Airport Circle? I recommend that be the case.

Businesses at the current intersection of Lost Island and Hwy21 will not suffer. The vast majority of Taco Bell's business is from eastbound/southbound traffic. D&S Heating and Cooling client visits are limited at its office/warehouse (D&S travels to its clients).

Left turn lane improvements? If you're talking about left turns onto the current LIR from Hwy21 you're not addressing half the issue. Eastbound/southbound traffic can be especially dangerous at this intersection as 21 narrows from two lanes to one. Frequently, drivers exercising little if any patience use the current median lane as a passing lane ... especially those heading to the left turn lane at Airport Circle. Hwy21 Westbound traffic attempting to turn onto the current LIR is dangerous at best. Every time I make that turn is a white knuckle event. I'd recommend eliminating this as an option for drivers. Limit access to / from LIR to the proposed traffic signal.

I reside on LIR. I've observed plenty of stupidity at the current intersection of LIR and Hwy21. Closing access to/from this intersection will eliminate the majority of this stupidity. That's key ... giving drivers an opportunity not to be stupid. Thank you for your consideration.

As a resident of Lost Island Road community who happens to be employed in downtown Beaufort, I state without hyperbole that each and every time I access or egress US 21, I fear for my life. A little dramatic? Perhaps. But how many times do you have to wonder whether or not the person driving the vehicle behind you has noticed 1) your right turn signal AND 2) the awkward left merging to right narrowing of the roadway from 4 lanes to 3 at the very point at which you need to turn to get home? Most drivers don't notice. An overwhelming number of drivers just ignore the narrowing roadway and proceed along the left in the medium at or above the posted speed limit. I half expect to be rear ended daily.

Getting out to go to work in the morning isn't good either. Sometimes I cannot get out between traffic light changes at the Walmart because there's too much traffic heading towards St. Helena Island for me to get across and head into town. Sometimes I have to turn right and join the line of folks at the already overloaded Walmart traffic signal line, pull into the shopping center and loop back to HWY 21 heading into town to get to work.

The residents of Little Creek and Lost Island roads absolutely need the Airport Circle access road for safety.

In addition, eliminate left turns from exit road between gas station and strip mall to east 21. All east bound traffic to 21 should use the traffic light at Airport Road. Extend right lane from that same exit road to 21 west bound to Airport Road, so that lane starts from exit road making right turns to west 21 easier.

This project can't happen soon enough. It will save lives and property. Thank you!

Please continue this project and put it on the fast track. Currently this is in two phases, needs to be done together for potential cost savings. I also think the estimated cost is high! This is greatly needed for the safety of all.

I think this connection is great. I am worried that the radius is too large and a connection to the large adjoining parcel to the east has not been developed. Access to that site could become a future problem if it is not dealt with now.

I was out of town a chunk of time when "public meetings" were held on the Airport Frontage Road and other projects, so I commented digitally. I just revisited the issue this week to review public comments and was surprised to see no mention of our comment re: what is a significant flaw in the plan.

As designed, the frontage road runs from Little Creek Road across Lost Island Road and then turns north to meet the signalized intersection at Airport Road. While this solves the problems for residents of Little Creek Road and Lost Island Road, the retention of the "stem" of Lost Island Road from the new frontage road to Sea Island Parkway creates (or retains) a needless intersection (and needless hazard) just a hundred yards short of the signalized intersection. Was consideration given to removing this one (needless?) intersection as part of the design discussion?

To spend the \$500,000 to solve the problem (of the poor decision re: Taco Bell) without actually improving the situation on the Sea Island Parkway itself seems a poor use of available funds, and leaves in place another entry/exit point that is redundant given the new frontage road.

Despite the stated closure of the public comment period, I would hope you could pass this up the line and see if we could get serious consideration of removing the "stem" on Lost Island Road. It is essentially a vestigial organ that is unnecessary given the new frontage road design.

All best.

