

Beaufort County conducted a Virtual Public Meeting from March 20, 2023 to April 20, 2023 for the proposed SC 116 (Laurel Bay Road) Pathway Project. This was the first public meeting for the project. The meeting creation was a collaboration between the County; J. Bragg Consulting, Inc; and Infrastructure Consulting & Engineering, PLLC.

The Laurel Bay Road Pathway project is a proposed 10-ft shared-use path from US 21 (Trask Parkway) to the Laurel Bay Military Housing Complex. Exhibits were prepared showing replacing the existing 5-ft +/- asphalt sidewalk with a 10-ft concrete pathway on the north side of Laurel Bay Road for approximately 3.5 miles. The exhibits were published on the website.

## Meeting Summary:

### Time Period:

- Virtual Public Meeting: March 20, 2023, through April 20, 2023 – 32-day virtual meeting hosted on [www.BeaufortCountyPenny.com](http://www.BeaufortCountyPenny.com).

### Advertisements:

- 1,414 fliers were mailed to residents in the project area the week of March 17, 2023
- E-mail Newsletters sent to 585 recipients on March 20, 2023
- Press Release on March 20, 2023, and Reminder Notice on April 14, 2023
- 12 Yard signs placed on the project corridor on March 20, 2023
- E-mail notification on March 20, 2023, to Marine Corps Air Station Director, Government and External Relations | Community Plans and Liaison Officer with flier for advertisement to base personnel and Laurel Bay Military Housing Complex

### Public Comments:

10 total comments were received by submitting the comment form during the public meeting or from an online comment form, mail, and e-mail. Comments with a valid mailing address will receive a mailed response to their comments. The following is a summary of comments received:

- 9 comments were submitted online.
- 1 comment was emailed to the County
- No additional comments were received by mail

On the Online Comment Form, they were asked if they were “In Favor Of” the project by answering “Yes” or “No”, if they resided near the pathway “Yes” or “No”, and if they would utilize the pathway “Yes or “No.” This is a summary of those who responded to the questions:

Questions	Yes	No
Are you in favor of the proposed 10' pathway?	6	4
Do you reside near the proposed 10' pathway?	8	0
Will you utilize the proposed 10' pathway?	4	5



- One respondent did not answer the “Do you reside near the proposed 10' pathway?” question.

Some highlights from the comments received:

- Several comments expressed safety concerns about speeding motorists and the need for crosswalks and crossing lights.
- The cost of the project and the use of taxpayer money was brought into question in several of the comments.
- A couple of the respondents were concerned about maintenance and the current problem of litter and trash in the Laurel Bay Road area.
- The comment received by email was not in favor of the project and does live on Laurel Bay Road.

### Recommendation:

Based on the comments received from the meeting, the receipt of the South Carolina Department of Veterans’ Affairs grant award, and US Marine Corps Air Station support of the project, it is recommended that the County proceed to construction with the proposed 10-ft pathway along Laurel Bay Road.

### Comment Summary:

Note: Comments are copied as is with no edits.

10 feet wide pathway could be built 8 feet wide instead. 8' is plenty wide enough. Save money and less concrete.

Please consider adding crosswalks with lights at intervals along the path down Laurel Bay rd. Of most concern, is a light and crosswalk by Food Lion. People cross there daily by waiting for a break in traffic and making a run for it. Many times with children in tow. At 55mph, that is dangerous.

I am excited about the community having access to a more asthetically appealing path and I feel many persons will make use of it. I applaud the Spanish Moss Trail and feel it has greatly improved our community. Connectivity of these various paths is important to allow a person to transverse Burton to Port Royal safely.

I am in favor of this project and will utilize it and encourage others to do so as well. My only concern is that currently no one is keeping up the maintenance and whenever the grass is cut all the trash that is left behind makes is look horrible. There should be stiffer fines for folks that litter or more community service for picking up trash throughout the community.. the other concern is that there should be a pathway on both sides of the highway. People walking with headphones need to be facing traffic. Families walking with small children should be facing traffic

Just a waste of tax money so a handful of people can have an extra wide walkway when there are more needed things that need the Countys attention.

Taking control of the litter problem mostly due to the great idea of having a sticker to dump trash with a limit of 3 times a week(so called reason out of county contractors using our great dump sites instead of punishing them you punish whole county) And by the way can the County not afford rakes at the Shanklin center to clean around the dumpsters.





I'M SURE YA'LL CAN FIND A MUCH BETTER WAY THAN THIS TO SPEND MONEY! MY BUSINESS IS 50 FEET FROM CURRENT SIDEWALK AND HAVE SEEN THE NUMBER OF FOLKS THAT USE IT . I'M SURE YOU DID A STUDY AND HAVE A COUNT OF PEOPLE THAT WALK OR RIDE A BIKE THE 3 MILE TRACK YOU ARE DISCUSSING DAILY. I WILL LET YOU KNOW THAT IT'S NOT MANY AND DAYS GO BY THAT YOU SEE NO ONE. THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE DRIVING DIRT BIKES, 4 WHEELERS, ATV'S ON CURRENT WALKWAY THAN PEOPLE, AND I'M SURE THEY WOULD LOVE YOUR NEW DEVELOPMENT. HERE'S AN IDEA! HOW ABOUT SOME TRAFFIC LIGHTS ON THIS RACETRACK TO SLOW SOME PEOPLE DOWN. CHECK THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS AT STANLEY FARM AND STANLEY ROAD WITH PEOPLE BEING KILLED! SCHOOL BUSES BEING PASSED THROUGH THE INTERSECTIONS! HOW ABOUT A NICE PARK SOMEWHERE IN THE AREA FOR FAMILIES AND KIDS.

I'M SURE YA'LL HAVE SOME REAL BRAINS WORKING ON THIS AND I'M SURE YOU CAN COME UP WITH A MORE PRODUCTIVE PLAN TO SEND TAX PAYERS MONEY THAN THIS!

I live and work at the intersection of Laurel Bay Road and Stanley Road and have been there for ten years. I hardly ever see pedestrians or bicyclists using the existing asphalt path and can't imagine this lack of use is resulting from a poor quality pathway. I'm sure your intentions are good but i just can see that this would be a good use of \$100,000 let alone millions. This money is being taxed from the pockets of hard working citizens. If you are going to tax us for infrastructure projects, please find projects that are worthwhile and beneficial to those taxpayers.

Why does a 3 1/2 mile side walk cost 3.2 million? Who's family or friend owns the construction company? Plus there's already a sidewalk.

This is a waste of grant money that's going to friends and/or family of the county board members  
How about fixing the potholes. Or having the sheriff's department stop people from going 60mph on residential roads in this area.

Pursuant to the above referenced project, I am writing this in opposition to that project.

I live on Laurel Bay Road and to me this project would only enhance an already volatile area.  
Laurel Bay Road has become a high speed area.

My concern, if I am understanding the project correctly that traveling from Laurel Bay towards the air station this project would be on the right hand side. We already have a bike/walking trail on the left hand side. To put this on the side you are proposing would negatively impact our neighborhood Those that live on that side of the road already is having drainage problems.

Also people are speeding on that road at excessive speeds with very few police presence I was an accident victim on that road, there was a young lady that was killed on that road There was at least four others that were killed on that road. Why is it that important To do this? I appreciate the MCAS and the soldiers and their families that contribute Greatly to Beaufort County's economy. But what about us???What about the native Beaufortonians, like myself who don't want to see our neighborhood become an area of uncontrolled traffic with more pedestrians subject to being hit or more than that Killed by some careless driver that wonders on the side of the road and hit somebody. We need traffic lights. One at Stanley Farm Road and one at Shanklin Road. Please don't support an action to add to our already disrupted neighborhood.

