



Beaufort County conducted an in-person Public Meeting on April 30, 2024 in conjunction with a Virtual Public Meeting from April 17, 2024 through May 15, 2024 for the proposed Meridian Road Multi-use Path and Middle Road Sidewalk projects. This was the second public meeting held for both projects. The following is a summary of both projects with exhibits shown at the public meeting and published on the website:

Meridian Road Pathway: The project is a proposed 10-ft multi-use path along S-36 (Meridian Road) from US 21 (Lady's Island Drive) to US 21 BUS (Sea Island Parkway) with a 5-ft sidewalk along S-266 (Youmans Drive) on the north side from Meridian Road to Beaufort High School driveway. The multi-use path is approximately 1.5 miles long and will provide a safe route for residents along the corridor connecting to existing facilities on Lady's Island Drive and Sea Island Parkway as well as connecting to Beaufort High School. The 10-ft path is proposed on the west side of Meridian Road from Lady's Island Drive to S-266 (Youmans Drive) and on the east side from Youmans Drive to Sea Island Parkway. The proposed design also includes a new crosswalk and signage on Meridian Road near Youmans Drive.

Meridian Road is a SCDOT-owned and maintained roadway with a present 25' right of way from the centerline of the road. As shown by the preliminary design, areas of new right of way will be required for drainage improvements or to save trees.

Middle Road Sidewalk: This project is a proposed 8-ft sidewalk along the west side of S-750 (Middle Road) from Walnut Hill Street (local) to S-72 (Brickyard Point Road S) and along Brickyard Point Road S to Flycatcher Lane (Local) with a new 5' sidewalk from Flycatcher Lane to SC 802 (Sam's Point Road). The sidewalk is approximately 1.7 miles long and will provide a safe route for residents along the corridor connecting to existing facilities on Sam's Point Road and to Coosa Elementary School.

Brickyard Point Road S and Middle Road are SCDOT-owned and maintained. Brickyard Point Road S has a variable present right of way near Sam's Point Road and Middle Road has a present 33' right of way from the centerline of the road. The proposed design will remain within the present right of way but there are areas of new right of way for drainage improvements as shown by the proposed right of way plan design.

Meeting Summary:

Time Period:

- Public Meeting: April 30, 2024, from 5-7 pm at the Lady's Island Middle School Gymnasium, 30 Cougar Drive, Lady's Island, SC – An informal, drop-in format meeting hosted by Beaufort County Engineering along with representatives from J. Bragg Consulting, Inc. and Infrastructure Consulting and Engineering, PLLC. Citizens were provided an opportunity to review the exhibits and have a one-on-one question/answer session with project representatives. There were 82 attendees.
- Virtual Public Meeting: April 17, 2024, through May 15, 2024 – 28-day virtual meeting hosted on www.BeaufortCountyPenny.com

Advertisements:

- E-mail Newsletters were sent to 578 recipients on April 17, 2024; 587 recipients on April 28, 2024; and 671 recipients on May 13, 2024
- Press Release for public meeting published on April 18, 2024, with Reminder Notice on April 29, 2024, and Final Reminder Notice on May 13, 2024
- 8 "Yard" Signs were placed for Meridian Road and 9 "Yard" Signs on Middle Road on April 15, 2024





Public Comments:

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

- 20 comments were submitted at the Public Meeting.
- 42 online comments were submitted. (2 persons submitted 2 comments).
- 9 comments were emailed to Beaufort County Engineering (1 person submitted 2 comments).
- 9 comments were mailed to Beaufort County Engineering

On the Comment Form, they were asked if they were "In Favor Of" the project by answering "Yes" or "No", if they lived near the proposed project "Yes" or "No", and if they would utilize the proposed 10' pathway/8' sidewalk "Yes or "No." This is a summary of those who responded to the questions:

Meridian Road Multi-Use Path		
Questions	Yes	No
Do you live near the proposed project?	60	13
Would you utilize the proposed project?	57	15
Are you in favor of the proposed 10' pathway?	49	20

Notes:

- One person wrote in "unsure" for the question "Are you in favor of the proposed 10' pathway?"
- One who selected "yes" that they were "in favor of" also wrote a note stating "with adjustments."
- A common concern was that the trees and the tree canopy would be diminished. A large majority of the commenters wanted to be certain that as many trees as possible were spared.
- Multiple comments mentioned speeding and pedestrian safety on Meridian Road. Several commented the need for stop signs at various intersections along the corridor, restriping for "No Passing" (double yellow), speed humps.
- Twelve comments submitted were not in favor of the proposed 10' width but would be amenable to a smaller width sidewalk.
- Three comments which are in favor of the project also mentioned a reduced size would be more desirable.
- A few comments questioned the location of the pathway crossing from the west side to the east side along Meridian Road and suggested it should cross at Rue Du Bois.

Middle Road Sidewalk		
Questions	Yes	No
Do you live near the proposed project?	11	16
Would you utilize the proposed project?	14(+1)*	12
Are you in favor of the proposed 8' sidewalk?	20	7





Notes:

- *One commenter wrote in the response that they would use the sidewalk “but not as planned” for the question of “Would you utilize the proposed project?”
- A couple of comments mentioned drainage concerns
- Several commenters mentioned the project limits, ending/beginning at Walnut Hill Street versus Brickyard Point Rd N/Brickyard Point Rd S/Springfield Rd intersection.
- A few comments stated maintaining an 8’ sidewalk to Sam’s Point Road and not having a 5’ sidewalk from Sam’s Point Road to Flycatcher Lane.

Other highlights from the written comments are:

- Other projects:
 - Spanish Moss Trail Loop incorporating Port Royal and Beaufort
 - Both bridges by bike
 - Realignment of Tucker Drive with Yacht Club Drive
 - Unincorporated Shell Point is in need of a sidewalk system
 - Pathway down Sam’s Point Road and/or Brickyard Point Road
- Crime: Several comments stated crime would increase.
- Maintenance of the new pathway/sidewalk is a concern based on existing conditions of current sidewalks on Sam’s Point Road/Lady’s Island Drive.
- Lighting for the sidewalk/pathway

Highlights from the public meeting:

- Some citizens expected a formal presentation, even though the advertisements stated informal, drop-in format.
- Most attendees were specifically interested in the Meridian Road project with a few for Middle Road.

Recommendation:

Based on the comments received from the meeting and previous meeting, it is recommended that the County proceed with the following:

- Meridian Road: Proposed 10’ multi-use path along Meridian Road with 5’ sidewalk connection to Beaufort H.S. as proposed during public meeting, but will further evaluate the crossing location from the west side to the east side based on public comments.
- Middle Road: Proposed 8’ sidewalk along Middle Road/Brickyard Point Road S from Sam’s Point Road to Walnut Hill Street on the west side. This would include an 8’ sidewalk from Sam’s Point Road to Flycatcher Lane instead of the proposed 5’ sidewalk.





Comment Summary:

Note: Comments are copied as is with no edits.

Meridian: Meridian Rd path is. LONG overdue

Middle: The Sams Pt Rd Pathway should be extended down to the Coosaw Bridge/ Sams Pt Boat Landing. Placing the Pathway on Middle Rd is NOT a good solution / choice ...the Pathway should be either on Sam's Pt Rd or Brickyard Pt Rd. Middle Rd is a poor choice...it is obvious in the near future Middle Rd will need to be widen to 4 lanes when the 3rd bridge is built over ICW at the end of Brickyard Pt Road to Whale Branch. In addition, it makes NO sense to just END the Pathway before the intersection of Middle Rd / Bridkyard Pt Rd / Springfield Rd, especially at a solid waste landfill. The pathway should end at a destination, such as a Park

Meridian: Considering the White Hall development has a sidewalk on the west side of Meridian, shy wouldn't we keep pedestrians safe and keep the flow easy and create the 10' pathway on the west side of Meridian. We use the new White Hall sidewalk daily and it's not always easy to cross over to the current mini sidewalk on the East sdie. Having pedestrians cross over twice is not safe (once at White Hall, once again at Youmans) Just build one continuous sidewalk leading from White Hall to Bunkmeyer.

Both: As a cyclist and walker, this will be a great step forward. My only hesitation, is my concern for the live oak trees along Meridian Rd.

Meridian: My property backs up to Meridian, concerned about the amount of property you would take - have a huge 70'-80' jasmine fence that I don't want to lose; also several oaks, hope you will avoid cutting down the live oaks that make a canopy on Meridian.

Meridian: I've been running this area, Meridian, Rue De Bois, Tucker and down Lady's Island Drive and up and over the McTeir Bridge, 7 days a week for the last 34 years and I see the same 10 people (Max) out walking and running. Most days I'm the only one using the sidewalks. I do live ON Meridian and taken care of these live oats at my own expense during all this time. You will have to take more that 10 feet of property just to get safely around these tress. I do not support this taking nor the pathway or 10 feet. A normal sidewalk should be more than enough. Why do I suspect that the town of Beaufort had this project put on the ballot in the first place so as to connect with the Whitehall project? This money will be well wasted based on the few that will use the pathway. On the other hand, putting the power lines underground would have served 100% of the people. This project does not justify the cost.

Meridian: I think if they do the project the way engineers explained, it should be okay. Hopefully there is still enough of the money left for the project. I don't really want to see oak trees taken down, so it's a plus if you can leave them.

Meridian: First question is, why are you putting a 10' pathway on Meridian? There is not that much foot or bike traffic. If the county would come in and cut back all the scrub bushes, debris, etc, there would be more room on the sides of the road. Is there an underlying reason for the pathway? If anything, why not a 5' - 6' sidewalk?

When it crosses to the opposite side near Youmans, you should put a 3 way stop sign. This would allow for traffic to flow and hopefully slow it down. The limit is 35 mph, however, a lot of speeding, extreme speeding 50 mph or so. Very dangerous. More than likely with a pathway, there will just be more speeding as drives will see pedestrians and bikers off the road.

Regarding maintenance of the pathway as well as the 5' green buffer, who will maintain it.? The sidewalk on Lady's Island Drive is terrible. Cracks, uneven pavement, weeds, trash, etc. Very seldom is it mowed or trash picked up. If you are placing a pathway that a lot of residents do not want, we would expect it to be maintained and to be honest, not sure if it will be.

Needless to say the pathway will be extremely close to homes, ruining landscaing. Also, the live oaks on Meridian are beautiful for the most part. How will you go around those if they are in the way of the path? Also there is water close to the road, how will you address that?

Thank you.





Meridian: I CANNOT support the plan for the following reasons-

There is no plan for how people travel to the multi-use pathway.

Meridian Road does not join a multi-use pathway.

Meridian Road does not join a road that has a pedestrian crossing .

I am unsure who will be using the multi-use pathway or how they will get to and from it.

The environmental impact

There was no evidence provided at the public meeting to suggest an environmental impact study had been completed. I believe the environmental impacts the multi-use pathway will cause do not justify this plan.

It feels that there will be unnecessary destruction of trees, wildlife habitats and natural beauty for little benefit.

How about we maintain the sidewalk and cycle lane that runs along Lady's Island Drive?

I myself use this sidewalk but with caution due to its state of disrepair.

If those responsible to the maintenance for the Lady's Island Drive sidewalk are unable to maintain it I would assume that they will be unable to maintain the large multi-use pathway as suggested in this project plan.

Middle: I am in favor of this plan. It's an area of Ladys Island that has been forgotten.

I do have concerns about the environmental impact to this area.

Again no evidence at the public meeting was provided on the environmental impact to the area.

The plan seems great in theory but the proposed sidewalk that it will join to along Sams Point Road is in need of significant maintenance. Until the maintenance is addressed along Sams Point Road I am unsure how the Middle Road sidewalk will be utilized by those without a direct link to it.

Other: Long term would love to see Spanish Moss Trail loop incorporating PR & Beaufort, both bridges by bike.

Meridian: Meridian is much needed

Middle: A sidewalk to a landfill doesn't seem like the best use of \$. A sidewalk to a possible park or boat land or other destination point or point of interest

Meridian: I would be in favor if I could have .more information about the impact of the number of trees and the species that will be eliminated. Ms Bragg was reluctant to provide a topo that I understood has been done. I would like to have the trees tagged that need to be removed. There needs to be more disclosure before I can support this project.

In addition, there needs to be one three-way stop sign added at Youmans's drive (State Rd S-7-266) where the sidewalk crosses from west to east and a one 4 way stop signs at the Beaufort Yacht and Sailing Club (Yacht Club Drive) and Tucker Drive. Tucker Drive needs to be aligned with Yacht Club Drive. There is vacant land now and could be done easily.

Middle: Concerned about start date for project and start point. Basic sidewalk looks good! Thank you for this.

Meridian: The 10' multiuse path is unnecessary. There is very little walking and minimal bike use on this road.

The 10' path takes away too much of the natural environment, including grand live oaks and other large trees and wetlands.

If a pathway is approved I recommend a narrow walkway (4-5 feet) adjacent to the road to minimize encroachment onto personal property.

The grand trees and wetlands should be protected and avoided at all cost.

I propose speed humps on the road to curtail the excessive speed please.

Meridian: Attached to email: Although I am in favor of the project, I have a few comments/concerns:

1. The width of the path - 10' is too wide. I understand the minimum per SCDOT = 8 feet. That is plenty wide. Beaufort will not only save money, but also require less land AND be easier to maneuver around the existing live oaks.

2. Crossing from east to west at Youmans makes no sense and is dangerous. The traffic @ Youmans is much heavier than Rue De Bois. Also, there is much less disruption of vegetation, etc. by stayin on the east side until Rue De Bois. Just drive that section of Meridian. Makes no sense to cross at Youmans.

In email: Attached please find my comments. In case you can't read my comment page, I am in favor of the project. However, it is unnecessary to have a 10' wide path. If the SC DOT minimum is 8 feet, then that is more than adequate. It will save money, require less land acquisition and make it more efficient to maneuver around the live oak trees (the biggest complaint I heard is concern for the live oak trees along Meridian.)

My other comment is that it is dangerous and inefficient to cross from east to west at Youmans. Youmans has far more traffic (including school traffic) compared to Rue De Bois. Drive that portion of Meridian and you will clearly notice that is far easier to continue the path of the east side of Meridian until you reach Rue De Bois. I don't think there are any live oaks on the east side of Meridian in that stretch, but numerous live oaks on the west side. I believe there is only one home on the east side, but numerous homes on the west side.





I am happy to discuss further.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments and we do look forward to having this path on Meridian.

Meridian: Comment 1: The project is a great idea. What type of substance will be used for this pathway? A pervious substance would certainly reduce the possibility of Stormwater issues. Maintenance would be easier. Unless someone has a contract with a cement company, I can't see any reason why anything but a pervious substance would be used.

Meridian: Comment 2: In order to maintain a grasp of the comprehensive plan, the county certainly needs to make more walkable communities. I'm not sure who in the county has connections to the cement companies, but they need to realize that walkways need to be constructed with pervious substances, in order to allow for better water runoff. Talk with Public Works, and see how understaffed and over-utilized they already are. The last thing they need to do is maintain more stormwater ditches. You can design a better pathway that won't cause mode flooding in an already flood prone area. Have vision, when designing these paths, and not how much money a contractor can make off of the County.

Meridian: As long as this done well and eye pleasing. U don't mention any shrub planting between path and road way. Will there be a green space?

Meridian: 1. Please protect as many trees as possible to preserve canopy

2. Add three way stop at Youmans/Meridian as well as raised crosswalk. Note- traffic count of 2 years (?) ago was taken during school vacation week.

Meridian: The proposed route for bike path is TERRIBLE, Route is wrong, Amount of land is far too much, Road has already been widen 4 feet Center Line is still the same - vast majority of citizens to not want to ruin the last naturally beautiful road in Bft. And beautiful trees will be cut down for more pavement. Realtors are only group desiring this change!!

The meeting was HORRIBLE!! Your people gave contradictory answers - some regarding trees were UNTRUE!! We citizens want to know the best way to stop this WASTEFUL project!! It borders on STUPIDITY!! Run to path by the High School, past Crystal Lake to sidewalk on Hwy. 802 - if you want another UNUSED BIKE PATH LIKE THE ONE on Hwy 21. There is no request of these paths!!

Meridian: Meridian Road is one of the fan canopy roads in Beaufort County. My objection is primarily related to loss of the trees. However, I understand some of the wetlands will be affected when fill is brought in for the pathway.

Meridian: We love this project. PLEASE DO IT!

Meridian: Would love to have a sidewalk to safely walk pets/ride bikes! Would be wonderful to work around the lovely trees that make Meridian so special. Thank you.

Meridian: I am not in favor of the 10 foot sidewalk. As there will be more speeding. We need to add speed bumps. There will be more crime as well. We can not afford to have this beautiful Road destroyed with the elimination of large oak trees

Currently it is so hard to walk my dogs, ride our bikes, or do anything without hopping in the car. I love pathways and would use this at least twice a week. :)

Meridian: A 10 foot wide path is excessive. Too many people will be losing large portions of their front yard which is not acceptable.

Meridian: I am 100% in favor of a pathway/sidewalk along meridian rd, however, I am 100% against this ridiculous design. A 10' shared-use pathway is wholly over the top and the design should be adjusted to take into account numerous factors. I suggest a standard 5' sidewalk without a median - this way pedestrians can use the sidewalk, cyclists can use the roadway (as they can right now), and the impact of this project is minimized.

My points are below:

1) the environmental impact will be huge - Meridian Rd is one of the last pretty old school roads around Beaufort, and in completing this 15'+ clearing, the majority of the trees that currently overhang and make this place the hidden gem that it is will be destroyed. there are numerous ponds/marsh areas which will also be destroyed - and there is no need to do this.

2) With no plan to tie the path into the current path along the parkway at the south end, this is basically a one way strip of





pathway, which makes zero sense. Think the plan all the way through and include some kind of tie into the parkway path system.
3) Re-design this to be a smaller and less obtrusive sidewalk system - therefore minimizing the impact to residents, but also improving safety along the road. there is no need for this multi-use pathway - and in fact that is not the plan on Middle Rd, so why is it the plan on Meridian.

In summary - I totally support a pathway along Meridian as a resident - however, I vehemently disagree with the proposed design for the reasons above and urge you to re-design to have less impact in a number of ways, but to provide the same outcome.

Middle: As above - I don't see why Middle Rd gets an 8' sidewalk, and the lack of impact that comes with that, but the plan is to destroy Meridian Rd ... this makes no sense.

Meridian: I am an architect and have lived on Meridian Road for 32 years. My office is also on Meridian Road. I have several concerns and comments.

1. Meridian is known for it's beautiful tree canopy which must be maintained first and foremost. This tree canopy is made up of many types of trees, not just Live Oaks. I was concerned that one of the engineers said that he had driven down Meridian a couple of times and seemed clueless about the location of the trees. He also said that all the Pines should be cut as well as the underbrush and scrub trees. These all contribute to the canopy and must be saved.
2. We have asked for a sidewalk for years. Please note Meridian Road residents want a pedestrian sidewalk not a 10' shared-use pathway. A 5' sidewalk would have a much smaller impact and suit the needs of the residents. People regularly walk on Meridian but not enough people for a 10' pathway. We just want to be off the road so we don't have to jump in the bushes when a car goes whizzing past.
3. The current design shows the path crossing from the east side of Meridian to the west side just south of Youmans. There are a number of large specimen trees in west side of the road right after the crossing. The sidewalk would have less impact if it stayed on the east side of Meridian until Rue de Bois. The section on the east is wide open with some Palmetto trees at least 15' from the edge of the road.
4. Finally, I request that the engineers on the design team actually walk the length of the road and visually inspect the trees themselves. I would be happy to walk with them.

Meridian: I am in support of the meridian rd pathway project. I would use it as a biker, walker, and runner.

Meridian: I am in favor of mixed use to establish a bike and walking path linking downtown with Port Royal.

It is an important safety consideration and will encourage exercise and outdoor activities.

Please note however the 10 ft wide requirement is excessive and may not fit the area.

Please think out of the box, and resist generic, universal "requirements" that do not fit the local need and topography.

Trees and canopied roadway must be protected and preserved.

Meridian: The April 30th Meridian meeting was well attended by citizens but, poorly planned by the county. The interconnecting maps were very confusing to the public and the engineering staff was unable to answer many of our questions. The Bft County representative told me that they purposely did not want to make a formal presentation, because then there would be questions and negative comments. This is unacceptable.

My questions along w/ many others about a tree survey were not answered.

The impact of this pathway on existing homes is upsetting to many homeowners who do not want to see changes to our landscape, our serenity and mostly to the incredible canopy of trees growing along Meridian Road.

My questions about the entrance to the Bft Yacht and Sailing Club and the high traffic impact and safety risk to people on the proposed walking path were not answered. 300 + members, frequent regattas, weddings, memorial services, summer camp, and a host of monthly member sports activities, will create a dangerous, high traffic section of the pathway.

Please consider the following as an alternative:

Design the path to run from Sea Island Parkway to Youmans Drive to Beaufort High to Crystal Lake to Hwy 802 using the existing sidewalk on to the Mcteer Bridge. This plan would preserve our existing neighborhoods and provide a safe and interesting pathway.

It would also be less costly than destroying and replacing countless landscapes, fences, driveways and more. Thank you.

Middle: We live on the west side of Middle Rd. Just wondering if the sidewalk will be on the west or east side of Middle Rd. After the re-paving of Middle Rd several years ago, the county did not grade the street with our driveway and since then, it has ruined our driveway because of the steep slope. We were planning on re-doing the front of our driveway but do not want to do anything if the sidewalk will be on the west side of Middle Rd., as that will affect our driveway once again. Beaufort County was supposed to come out and fix the mess that happened to our driveway as well as our neighbor's driveway and drainage pipes, but has yet to do so.





Middle: I currently walk and bike my neighborhood internally but wouldn't mind having the option of biking further for many reasons. I think that this project is a great idea, because it would make our neighborhood more attractive and enhance my quality of life. Thank you!

Meridian: I very much like the idea of the shared use pathway on Meridian.. (I bicycle on Meridian) and there is currently not enough room for cars and bicycles/pedestrians. That said I do believe that it is critical to protect the beautiful tree-ed archway and that all and every effort should be engaged to protect the trees and the tree canopy. Hopefully there can be a reasonable compromise or engineering and design of the pathway to avoid tree damage.

Meridian: As a Beaufort native, I have often thought how lovely a sidewalk would be down Meridian Road. As a resident of the topic area, I understand how necessary and functional a sidewalk could be. Over the years I have seen pedestrians have to dodge vehicles and numerous vehicles have to dodge pedestrians. Meridian Road has become a main thoroughfare connecting the two bridges, several small neighborhoods and a high school. The high schoolers often run along Meridian Road and I have feared for their safety as I have witnessed near injury incidents. Due to this reason, I have never been able to comfortably walk/bike ride with my family down Meridian Road to downtown despite the close proximity. I believe adding a sidewalk/bike path would greatly improve the experience of the Lady's Island community by allowing a more enjoyable and safer way to commute around the surrounding areas. The traffic increase is inevitable due to the exponential growth we are experiencing. This pathway will encourage more foot traffic and less vehicle use thus reducing the congestion and accidents we often see now during peak hours.

Meridian: Comment 1: We appreciate a walkway down Meridian, especially with the high speed of traffic. However, a 10' path seems unnecessary. It will jeopardize valuable tree (especially live oaks) that make the street lovely and walkable. Can the walkway be a 4-5' walkway instead? It will cost much less, maintain the residents' property fronts and save the beautiful trees. Thank you for your consideration.

Comment 2: I recently walked the entirety of the projected 10' pathway to discover its possibility. In doing so, it seems an unnecessary use of resources, excessively wide especially including the 5' separation from the road. Although a minimal walking path (4-5') directly adjacent to the road is ideal, it is difficult to understand how this may be possible without disrupting the natural environment of specimen trees and wetlands. Please reconsider this project as grandiose for this beautiful road and reconsider. Is it possible to bury the power lines on the already existing easement and place a minimal sidewalk over them? Is it possible to place speed bumps on the road to curtail excessive speeding? That seems to be the only problem on Meridian. Thank you for your consideration.

Meridian: My concern for this project on Meridian Rd. is that the traffic is not safely controlled for speed. 35 MPH is marked as acceptable to pass slower traffic. This will be a high use public path with street crossing and small children using it. My suggestion is to solid double line the complete street to stop passing and to use other controls to slow traffic down.

Meridian: What is supposed to be the end of the pathway at Sea Island Parkway? Do pedestrians and bike riders do their own thing; continue on the busy thoroughfare, turnaround and travel back to Lady's Island drive? Neither seems like a safe alternative. Was the pathway designed for two way traffic? Wouldn't be bad for walkers but cyclists might pose a danger. With those things in mind, could we consider a shortened route that acted like a full cycle even though two way traffic is still an issue on a section. Can we consider a loop the runs from Lady's Island Dr. to Youmans Dr. Could the loop go from Lad's Island Dr. to Rue Du Bois. Then circle from Rue Du Bois past the high school track and football field back to Youmans Dr. And, from Youmans back to Meridian. The high school parking lot by the field bleachers would allow for a safe pickup, rest-area or start for the pathway...much like the current start, pickup or rest area by the park at the corner of Sea Island Parkway/ Meridian Rd. intersection

Middle: We attended the public meeting on Wednesday April 30 and were impressed with the presentation and the subject matter experts that were available and familiar with the projects and to answer questions that came up. We live very close to the Middle Road project and will be using the improvement which is a family friendly enhancement to the neighborhoods. Good to see funds used to support the Lady's Island community.

Meridian: Please try to go around the beautiful trees on Meridian. The canopy over the road makes Meridian so special. Please do anything to slow down traffic - stop sign where the path crosses the road would be great or a raised crossing so cars must go slow. 4 way stop signs at Yacht Club and Tucker would help on that end.

Meridian: I am 100% in favor of a sidewalk along Meridian Road. I have picked up the trash on Meridian Road monthly since 1995. The tree covered canopy makes this the prettiest road in Beaufort County. It seems difficult to add a 10' wide shared use path without comprising Meridian's beauty.. Perhaps a little narrower and a lot of new trees could make it work?





I am also concerned about the crossing at Lady's Island Drive where the proposed path ends without connecting to another path. What is proposed to get pedestrians across this very busy highway? Maybe a light like at 170 and the Spanish Moss Trail?

Meridian: I am confused why we think a 10 foot wide path is needed. this is wider than most sidewalks and almost as wide as a lane of traffic. Also I know of a land owner that appears to be giving up a good amount of property that has not been included in any discussions

Middle: There is no reason for this other than to spend money. please improve the roadways used by 20,000+ cars per day vs a sidewalk to be used by a couple of people per day

Meridian: The design looks great! A few concerns: Traffic on Meridian often exceeds the posted 35 mph speed limit. Where the path crosses over Meridian needs more than just a painted crosswalk - needs a flashin light or a pedestrian operate signal like where the Spanish Moss trail crosses smalls parkway. Also, traffic control such as making all meridian "no-passing" would help. Finally, there needs to be a follow-on project to address how pedestrians can cross Lady's Island Pkwy at the south end of the path/meridian.

Middle: We live at 92 Factory Creek Ct. and feel a pathway would be used 100 times more throughout the proposed Lady's Island Village Center & via Sea Island Parkway. Why in the world are you even considering a Middle Road sidewalk at this point? Is it because the developers are paying for it? I look forward to hearing more about this. Thank you

Meridian: Very excited to see this happen. Love the trail systems and running paths throughout Beaufort. Unincorporated Shell point area is in desperate need of a sidewalk system. It's terribly busy with pedestrians when driving that area.

Meridian: I initially favored some type of walkway on Meridian Rd for the sake of the students and others who run along it. But I was dismayed by the proposed project - it is entirely too wide and potentially destructive of the beautiful canopy. Meridian Rd is, in essence, a natural heritage of irreplaceable beauty. We should not subject it to this extreme plan for "dual usage" by pedestrians and bikers. Much better to leave it as is rather than proceed with a 10' pathway.

Meridian: I am in favor of 10' or 8' sidewalk for pedestrians and bicyclists. I have kids and when they were younger I pushed them in a stroller on meridian but after a few close calls with cars driving past only an inch from me I stopped walking. A few years later, we rode bikes on Meridian with two of my kids riding their own bikes and all of us having orange bike flags on and the concern of safety is ever present without a sidewalk.

Meridian: I think that a 10' shared-use pathway is too wide!!!! A 5' - 8' wide walking path is plenty.

I would like to see the traffic on Meridian Road slowed down by placing double yellow lines the whole length, by putting in a three-way stop sign at Meridian and Youmans, by putting a four-way stop sign at Meridian and Tucker/Yacht Club. Also having Sheriff patrol there on a regular basis to ticket the cars speeding.

I don't want to see any of the oaks (all kinds of the oaks) cut down. I really don't want to see the canopy over the road changed. What are you planning to do in the wetland areas? Are you going to put a boardwalk over them, I hope? Hopefully you are not planning to fill them! If so, what are your mitigation plans?

Meridian: The Meridian is one of the most scenic roads in Beaufort because of the trees. Try to save them. Project will definitely improve pedestrian safety.

Middle: We have lived near the proposed project for 3 years and travel Middle Road daily. In that time we have seen a total of 4 people walking along the roadside and no people North of Fiddler Drive. There is no need for a sidewalk here. The proposed project would needlessly disrupt traffic and demolish neighbors front lawns. Some neighbors have installed lovely landscaping that would be eradicated. Notably, there is a beautiful American flag made of colored stones embedded in the front lawn of 129 Middle Road. It would be beyond sad to lose this statement of pride in country from our neighborhood.

The proposed project would accelerate the "loss of island" from Lady's Island.

Thank you for your consideration.

Middle: I don't feel that the project would be used enough to justify the expenditure of funds. The speed of traffic and the frequent, very large container trucks going to the landfill does not lend itself to an environment that would be comfortable or enjoy walking on the sidewalk. I bike frequently to the Sea Island PKWY and avoid Middle Road as it is not safe. I stay on Brickyard Point to Holly Hall Rd and Little Capers Rd. It would be wonderful if the margins on Brickyard from Springfield Rd to Pleasant Point Dr were widened a couple of feet and the grass removed in areas that have encroached on the pavement. The extra width would enable vehicles and bikes to pass safely.

Meridian: I live at #62. This will completely destroy the feel of the neighborhood. It will open my property to easily be pilfered. This project has been funded twice already, no you want a way to fund it again. Where is the money? The loss of trees as a buffer will cause remaining trees to be vulnerable to storm damage.





Meridian: I am writing on behalf of our deeply concerned community to express our resolute opposition to the proposed sidewalk construction along Meridian Road. While we recognize the intent to enhance pedestrian safety and access, this project threatens to inflict irreversible harm on our environment, heritage, and way of life.

Preservation of Ancient Ancestral Live Oak Trees Meridian Road is graced by ancient live oak trees, some of which are estimated to be over 300 years old. These majestic trees are more than just a part of our landscape; they are silent witnesses to centuries of history and bearers of our cultural heritage. Their sprawling canopies provide vital habitats for local wildlife and contribute significantly to the area's biodiversity. The proposed removal of these trees would be akin to erasing a chapter from our community's history, an act of environmental and cultural vandalism.

Disruption of Essential Infrastructure

The construction project would necessitate the uprooting and relocation of critical infrastructure, including water, electricity, fiber optic cables, and television cables. This process is not only technically challenging and costly but also poses a significant risk of prolonged service disruptions. Imagine the daily lives of families, businesses, and essential services thrown into chaos, with potential outages lasting for weeks or even months. The financial burden of this relocation would ultimately fall on the taxpayers, further straining our community's resources during already challenging economic times.

Increased Traffic and Safety Concerns

The introduction of a sidewalk, intended to improve pedestrian safety, paradoxically poses significant risks to traffic safety. The construction process itself will lead to road closures and detours, increasing congestion and confusion for drivers. Once completed, the sidewalk may attract more pedestrians, which in turn could lead to more cars and a higher risk of traffic accidents.

Specific Traffic Safety Issues:

1. **Narrow Roads:** Meridian Road is already narrow and ill-suited for heavy traffic. The addition of a sidewalk will reduce road space, making it more difficult for vehicles to navigate safely, particularly larger vehicles and emergency services.
2. **Visibility and Blind Spots:** The presence of a sidewalk close to the road may create new blind spots for drivers, increasing the risk of accidents involving pedestrians, especially children and elderly residents who are less able to react quickly.
3. **Speeding and Traffic Flow:** Increased pedestrian activity may inadvertently encourage speeding as drivers try to bypass congested areas quickly. This puts everyone at risk—pedestrians and drivers alike.
4. **Emergency Response:** Higher traffic volume and potential roadblocks due to sidewalk construction and maintenance could delay emergency response times, putting residents' lives at risk during critical situations.

Potential for Increased Crime

There is valid concern among residents that increased pedestrian traffic could lead to a rise in crime. Studies have shown that areas with increased foot traffic, particularly if not well-monitored, can become targets for criminal activities. Our community values its safety and tranquility, and the introduction of a sidewalk without adequate security measures could compromise these essential aspects of our neighborhood.

Impact on Local Wildlife and Pets

Our community is home to more than just human residents. Many of us maintain beehives, contributing to local agriculture and the health of our ecosystem through pollination. The construction process and increased traffic pose significant risks to these hives, potentially disrupting the bees' habitat and endangering their survival. Moreover, many of us have pets, such as dogs, who enjoy the serene environment of Meridian Road. Increased traffic and noise could cause stress and harm to our pets, diminishing their quality of life and safety.

Community Consensus and Legal Actions Our community stands united in opposition to this project. We are prepared to explore all legal avenues to prevent this project from proceeding, including seeking injunctions and mobilizing public campaigns. We believe that our environmental heritage, the integrity of existing infrastructure, and the safety and well-being of our residents are non-negotiable.

An Emotional Plea for Our Future This issue transcends mere practicality; it strikes at the heart of our community's identity. Imagine children growing up under the shade of these ancient trees, learning the value of history and nature. Picture generations to come walking these roads, feeling connected to a legacy that has endured for centuries. To destroy these trees is to sever that connection, leaving a barren landscape where once there was life and history.

Furthermore, think of the bees that play a crucial role in our ecosystem, and our pets who find joy and comfort in the tranquility of our neighborhood. Their well-being is deeply intertwined with the preservation of our environment. The disruption caused by this project would have far-reaching consequences, impacting all forms of life that call Meridian Road home.

We implore you to reconsider this project. Let us find alternative solutions that do not compromise our precious live oak trees, the harmony of our community, or the safety of our beloved bees and pets. The essence of our neighborhood, the safety of our





residents, and the sanctity of our heritage depend on it.
Thank you for your attention to this urgent and heartfelt appeal.

Meridian: I would greatly benefit personally from the Meridian Road Pathway. I agree with the proposed plan of the pathway on the opposite side of the road from my house as it would be too close to my house if it were on the same side.

I also think it would be a great idea to have a traffic light at the intersection of Meridian Road and Sea Island Parkway.

Meridian: We are strictly opposed to this pathway. How would you like this construction going on in your front yard?

Unbelievable that you would want to throw away this money. Why not a 5' sidewalk instead? You will be inviting a lot of pedestrian traffic on a very busy road. How about using this money to put a light at the end of Meridian rd and using a much smaller right of way with a normal sidewalk. SCDOT does not take care of these roads as you would think they would. We already have a lot of trash to pick up from the school that you said we would not get any traffic from many years ago.

Meridian: Good afternoon Meridian Road Multi-use Pathway Project Representatives:

My name is ... We are all 100% in favor of having a safe for pedestrian pathway along Meridian Road. It is our experience, while living on Meridian Road, that there currently is no safe means of pedestrian traffic along this roadway, something this multi-use pathway will hope to solve.

We have been following this project as our property runs along the Land Side (East Side) of Meridian Road and did not know if the path would be immediate to our house or across the street. The current proposal shows the path across the street from our property along the water side (West) side of the roadway.

We are very much in favor of seeing this project develop and will continue to closely follow its continued progress. The following - in no particular order or hierarchy are several of the questions or concerns our family has with the continued design development"

- How will this pathway impact the existing flora and fauna along Meridian Road? Meridian Road is currently home to a tremendously beautiful, mature tree canopy that extends nearly the length of the roadway (*with several clearings along home sites and in front of Beaufort High's baseball + practice facilities). Will the pathway seamlessly route around Specimen Trees that are selected to be maintained? What methods are being used to determine the viability for removal?
- Will the Pathway be restricted to non-motorized modes of transportation? If not - what is your argument to allow civilian operation of motorized vehicles on this pathway?
- What is the materiality of this project? Asphalt? Crush and Run base with topping gravel mix? Permeable concrete like recently completed within Whitehall Park? How will the pathway itself be constructed?
- There are very limited street lights on Meridian Road. What are the intentions to provide illumination for users of this pathway? How will that fit lighting concept fit within the overall design and characteristics of this roadway?
- How will the speed limit of Meridian Road be impacted, if at all?
- How will users access the pathway? Is there fencing or any physical barrier between the Road and Multi-use pathway - other than the +/- 5'-0" landscape buffer?
- What will be planted and who will maintain the +/-5'-0" landscape buffer?
- Will there be "hours of operation" for accessing the pathway?
- Will there be access barriers to allow Government and Maintenance vehicles access to the pathway but otherwise restrict civilian access to use motorized vehicles on the pathway?
- What happens when the pathway terminates at a 55mph roadway? How will the Multi-use Pathway interact with the intersection at Lady's Island Drive, Meridian Road and Island Causeway? Assuming the Pathway is coming first (before SCDOT does anything at Lady's Island Drive & Island Causeway) - what will this look like? How will it be "future proofed" to comply with what eventually occurs at this interesting intersection?
- During the construction process of the pathway - what will be done with the current power infrastructure that dances across the street time and time again along both sides of the roadway?

We received notice from Dominion that within the next several weeks there will be tree crews on Meridian cutting trees for their powerlines - Maybe a representative on this project can proactively contact Dominion to ensure they don't damage trees that don't need to be limbed up?

Thank you for reading through this lengthy message. We truly are very excited about this project coming to fruition. Thank you for putting this presentation together and look forward to meeting with you tomorrow evening at the open format informational meeting.





Meridian: I am in tremendous favor of this sidewalk and am so excited for it to be completed! After voting in favor for the penny tax increase, we have been waiting to have a sidewalk that will connect Meridian to downtown Beaufort. This sidewalk would not only benefit the residents along Meridian road but many walkers, runners, and bike riders from downtown, Cat Island, and even all of Ribaut and surrounding neighborhoods as it is in close proximity to the McTeer bridge making Beaufort an even more connected small town. The benefits are not only for our enjoyment, but will also create a much safer road as oncoming traffic creates a dangerous environment for walkers, joggers, bikers and high school runners. Let's go ahead and finish what county residents already voted upon when the penny tax was initially approved! Thank you for taking the time to read this comment.

Meridian: No! Crime will increase. Foot traffic will increase. Canopy will be affected. Wildlife. There is an option in place that does not require this project - Sam's Point Road! Save the money and put it where it is needed.

Meridian: Would like to see road have "no passing" stripes due to pedestrian safety. Automobiles speed - easily 60 mph down Meridian Rd.

Need speed bumps or stop signs - due to pedestrian safety.

Hardly ever see police cars monitoring speed on this roadway.

Meridian: Only concern is elimination of canopy trees along Meridian Rd. If the trees are not spared. I am against the project.

Meridian: Please save our Oak trees! Please do not move forward with this project that will ruin one of the few remaining canopies in Beaufort. There are alternate routes for bikes & walkers down Lady's Island Parkway. This will be a tragedy!!

Both: Looking forward to many days on these paths & sidewalks. Great Idea!

Meridian: This is a GREAT idea! I work very near Meridian and I travel it for work every day, multiple times a day. I get very stressed when driving because so many people are walking, running, biking and walking their dogs IN the road. The road is not very wide, so any pedestrians in the road itself is a safety hazard for the pedestrians and the drivers. I would also use this pathway after work for exercise and am looking forward to being able to walk/bike from my office to Whitehall Park, across the bridge and downtown in a safe manner. Thank you!

Middle: Anything that provides better connectivity and safety for pedestrians is a good idea.

Middle: Thank you for your initial attempt to provide a safe pathway on Lady's Island; however, it is inadequate.

The sidewalk should extend from the circle at Sam's Point Road up to the Brickyard Landing Boat Ramp. There are many residents north of the landfill who bike and walk along Middle Road/Brickyard Point Road North. Terminating the shared-use pathway at the proposed location (Better Than Ever Street) does not provide a safe path for those utilizing the route.

Meridian: We want protection for the specimen live oaks. It appears that is the goal of this plan.

- Having the pathway S41 end' into Lady's Is. Drive is not good. People will be inclined to cross over the four lane in a horrible spot. If the pathway crossed back over (possibly near Pope Road), it could tie into the existing s.w. sidewalk on L.I. Drive

- Will it be maintained better than the sidewalks on Lady's Island Drive? Those are not maintained well at all.

- What happens to mail boxes? are they placed 5' grass shoulder across the road?

Meridian: Possible control speeding by double yellow line/NO PASSING

Meridian: I am bicyclist who lives on Lady's Island, and support the full 10' width. A narrow sidewalk is unacceptable for shared use.

Middle: 1) I am bicyclist who lives on Meadowlark St near Middle Road, and support the full 8' width. I think the curve at the traffic circle should also be 8'. I regularly pull a bicycle trailer to and from the Publix grocery store, and this route would be much more direct. A narrow sidewalk is unacceptable for shared use.

2) I am concerned that the new drainage near the intersection of Middle Road with Sherwood/Meadowlark will be inadequate. In heavy rains a great deal of water is carried to the ditches on the sides of Middle Rd. near this intersection. There have been overflow problems in the area requiring the re-digging of ditches. If the Sherwood side ditch is filled in, the water will overflow and flood across Middle Rd. to the Meadowlark side, which is already filled.

Meridian: What would be the benefit of a 10' pathway? A pathway this wide would ruin all the overhead canopy of Meridian Road which is what makes it unique. How many species trees would have to be removed to accommodate this walkway. Meridian Road is already used as a drag strip. How would these race cars and pedestrians be able to be safe when they would have to cross over Meridian Road at Youman's. A path this wide would be able to accommodate cars since most driveways are 10' in width. Are golf carts going to compete with joggers and bikers for right of way? Find a better way to throw the money away.

Meridian: Great idea. It's been an item of discussion for many years.

Middle: Very difficult to walk down the middle road with the big trucks going to the dump even with a sidewalk

Meridian: We are in favor of this shared path. It would be a major improvement. The road is very dangerous for pedestrians & bicyclist. Thank you very much.





Meridian: The proposed sidewalk would be beneficial due to heavy pedestrian walking down the road. Many highschool age kids run down the road and are in danger. Many older people walk their dogs and would be much safer on a sidewalk. Some trees are currently much too close to the road endangering drivers and should be removed during this project. Some oak trees need to be removed as they are literally inches off the edge of the road and would kill any driver that hits them. I don't want any inexperienced driver to get killed due to the trees being too close to the road.

The sidewalk would be used extensively as it would allow for excellent walking. There are five or six neighborhoods along this road and would be highly utilized! Distance runners could now make a loop through Beaufort and circle lady's island.

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Meridian: Why can't pedestrians & bicyclist use the current sidewalk on Lady's Island Pwky? 10' is TOO WIDE - trees will have to be cut affecting canopy & wildlife & wetlands is the path on Sunset Boulevard 10' wide??? WE DO NOT want a path of this size on our road.

Meridian: I work at Howell, Gibson and Hughes located at 25 Rue du Bois. I ride my bike to work as my schedule permits and would love to see a multi use pathway to increase the safety of all users of Meridian Rd.

