

Meeting Purpose

- Present the Environmental Assessment and Recommended Preferred Alternative
- Show potential right-of-way impacts and the noise analysis process
- Ask for YOUR comments and concerns!

Tuesday, May 2nd, 2023 | 4-7pm

**Mount Pleasant Town Hall
100 Ann Edwards Lane**

Formal presentation begins at 6pm

Virtual options available - details on last page



The Environmental Assessment is available to view on the project website or in print at the public hearing, Mt. Pleasant Library (Mathis Ferry), SCDOT Headquarters, SCDOT District 6 Office, and the I-526 LCC Community Office (Rivers Avenue).

Project Overview

In 2022, the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) completed a Planning and Environmental Linkages Study for I-526 from Virginia Avenue in North Charleston to US 17 in Mount Pleasant. That study identified existing and projected transportation issues within the corridor through analysis and public and stakeholder engagement. Building on that analysis and public input, the I-526 @ Long Point Road Interchange Improvements project is helping address one of those needs. The I-526 @ Long Point Road Interchange project is going through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a federal review of the natural and human environments.

Proposed improvements include:



New access ramps to Long Point Road



Retains left turn at Belle Hall Parkway



Improvements on existing ramps



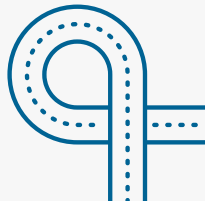
Recommended noise barriers



Roads to separate port-related and local traffic

Project Purpose

The purpose of the project is to **improve the operations** of the I-526/Long Point Road interchange and I-526 mainline and **reduce operational conflicts between port-related and local traffic**.



Why is the project needed?



Interchange deficiencies



Traffic-related congestion on I-526 and within the interchange



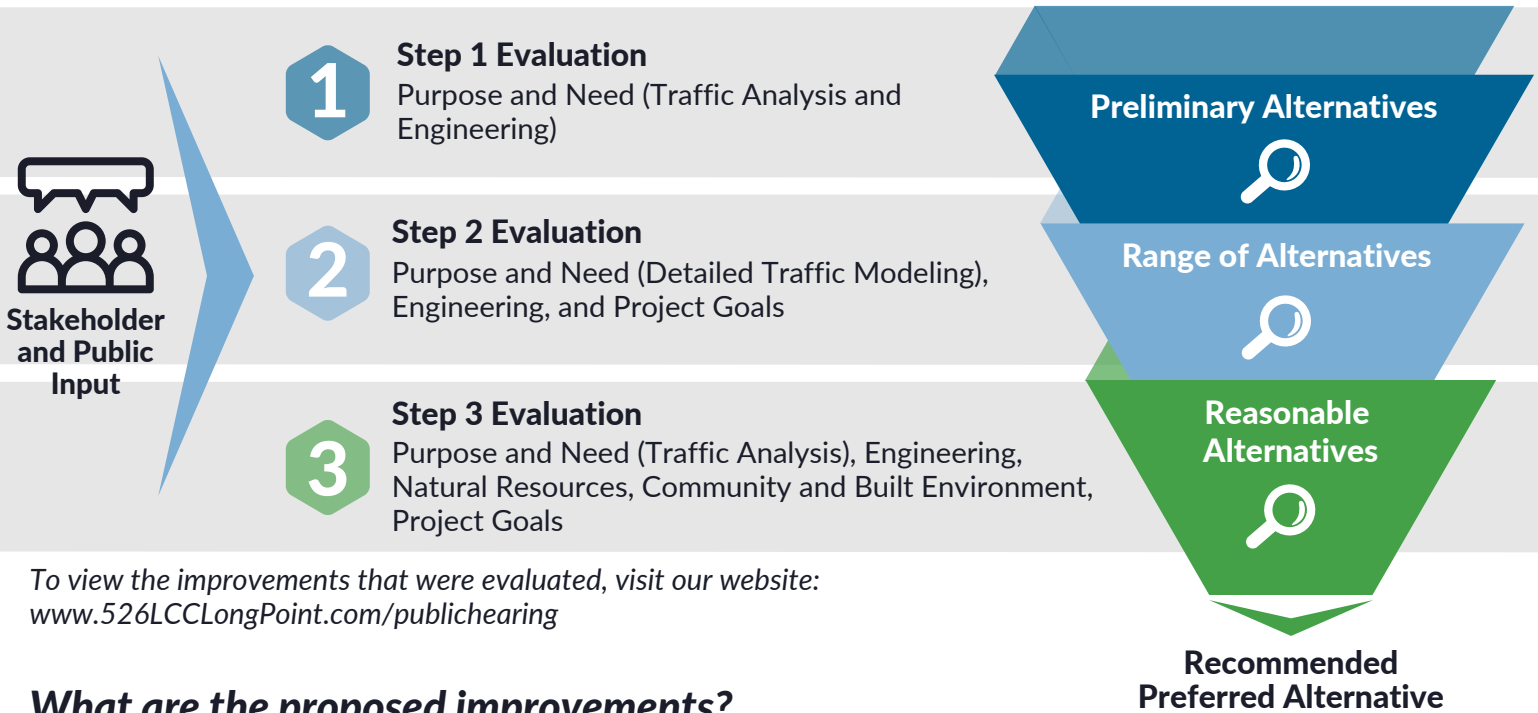
Population and economic growth



Public comment and concerns

How were the potential improvements evaluated?

The project team evaluated the alternatives through a three-step process to identify the recommended preferred alternative. Greater detail in analysis came with each level of evaluation. At the same time, the total number of alternatives decreased as those that were lowest performing were eliminated.

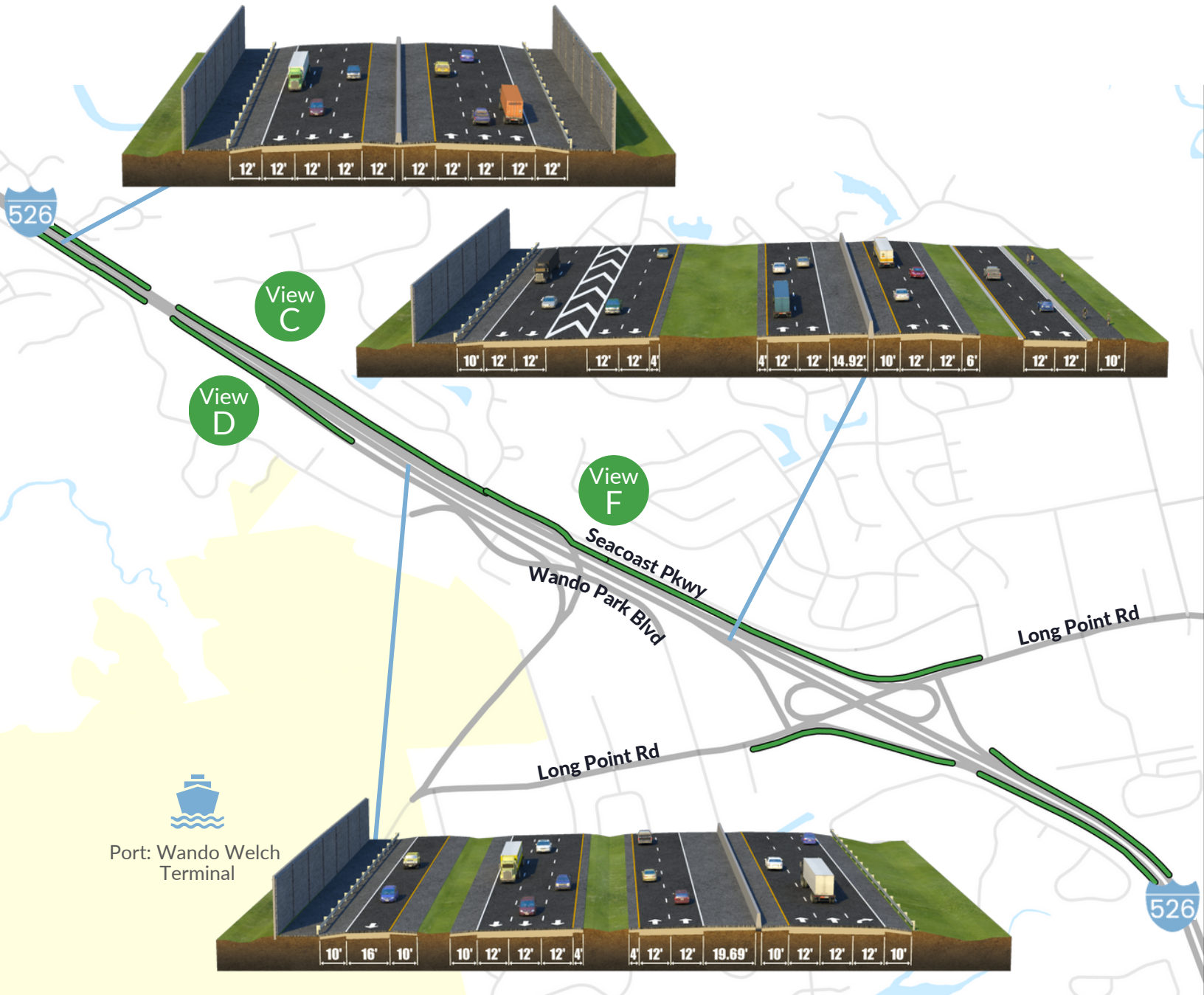


What are the proposed improvements?



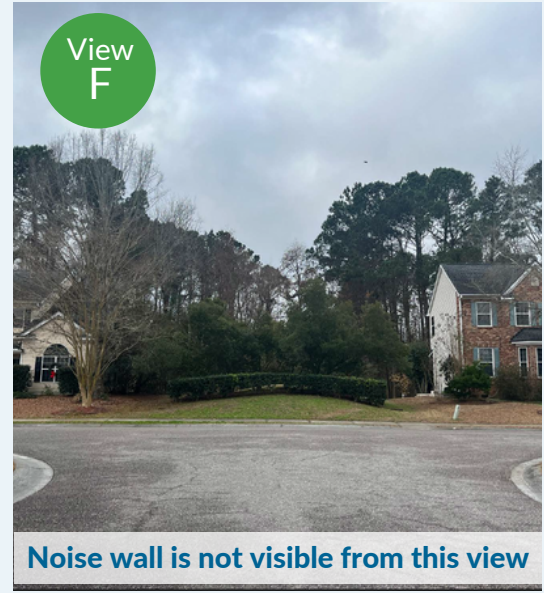
What are the proposed improvements?

The Recommended Preferred Alternative, Alternative 2, would provide new access to Long Point Road for port-related traffic and improve the existing ramps. New roads would be used to help separate port-related and local traffic. Alternative 2 meets the purpose and need of improving operations and reducing conflicts between port-related and local traffic and is compatible with a future I-526 widening. Noise walls are also recommended in locations throughout the study area drawn in green below.



View all noise wall renderings on our website:
www.526LCCLongPoint.com/publichearing

Recommended Noise Walls



Noise Analysis

Monitor Existing Noise

- SCDOT takes field measurements within the project corridor to validate existing noise levels



Model Noise Change

- Computer models for calculating existing, No-Build (2050) and Build (2050) conditions are created to compare all three scenarios



Identify Noise Impacts

- Based on model results, SCDOT identifies existing and future noise impacts within the project corridor



Consider Noise Reduction Measures

- SCDOT evaluates if it is reasonable and feasible to reduce noise levels for impacted properties



After the technical evaluation, SCDOT also considers:

- Would a noise wall reduce the noise enough to justify its construction?
- Is a noise wall technically feasible? Could it be constructed?
- How many people would hear a difference in noise?
- Do a majority of property owners and tenants who would receive a noise reduction benefit from the construction of a noise wall actually want the wall?

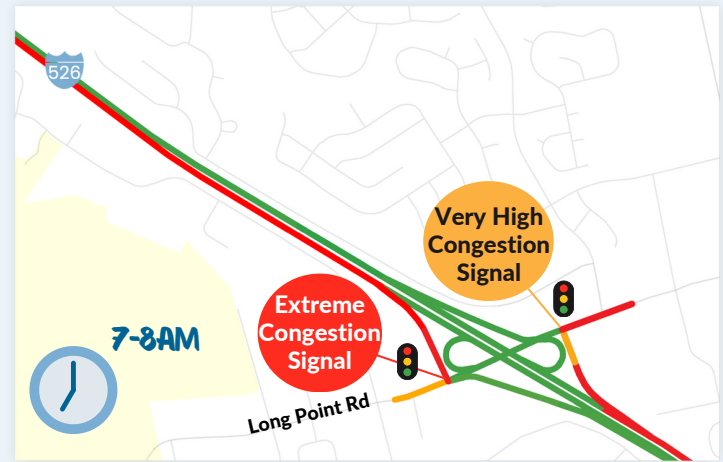
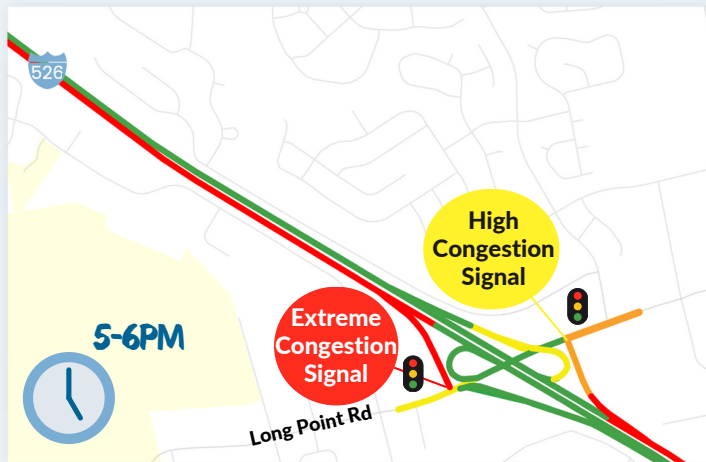
What are the next steps for the noise analysis?

The noise analysis was completed as part of the Environmental Assessment. Any design changes made as a result of public comments will require a review of the noise analysis. Noise ballots will also be sent out to those who would benefit from the noise wall for their input.

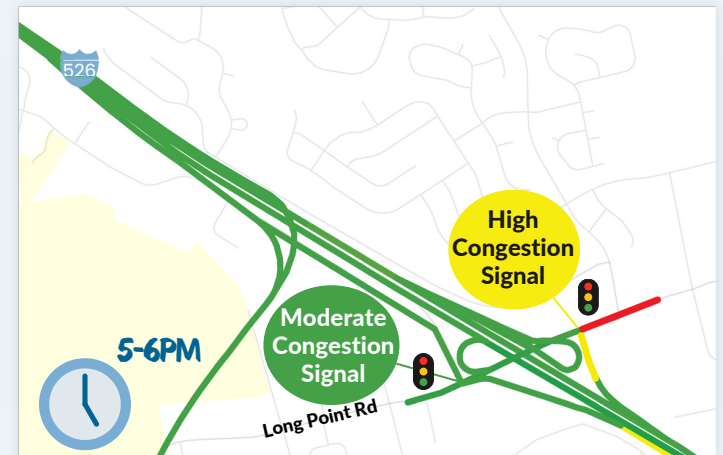
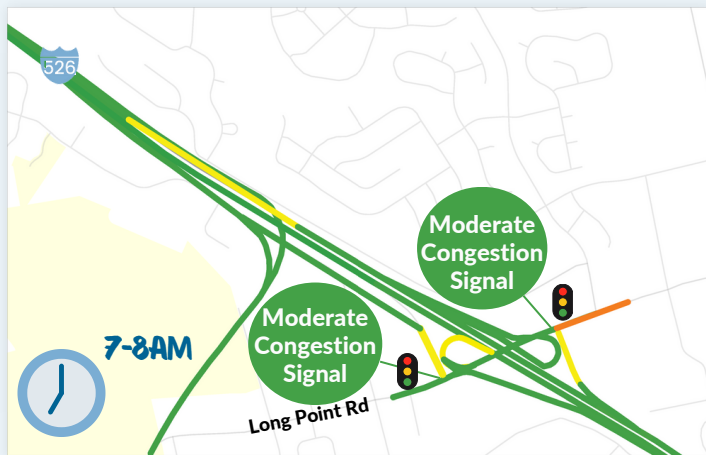
How would the Recommended Preferred Alternative improve traffic?

The I-526/Long Point Road interchange provides access to homes, businesses, schools, parks, restaurants, and commercial and industrial facilities along Long Point Road. The interchange provides access to SC Port's Wando Welch Terminal which serves as a hub for the distribution of freight from the Port throughout the southeastern United States. The amount of red and orange shown in the first graphics below demonstrate the high congestion levels along this corridor by 2050 if no improvements were made. The second graphics show the congestion reduction if the Recommended Preferred Alternative were constructed. Traffic operations reflect future I-526 mainline widening.

2050 No-Build Conditions



2050 Conditions with the Recommended Preferred Alternative



■ Low to Moderate Congestion
 ■ High Congestion
 ■ Very High Congestion
 ■ Extreme Congestion

With the Recommended Preferred Alternative...

The amount of trucks on Long Point Road would decrease from **70%** to **15%**

90% of traffic on the new ramps would be trucks



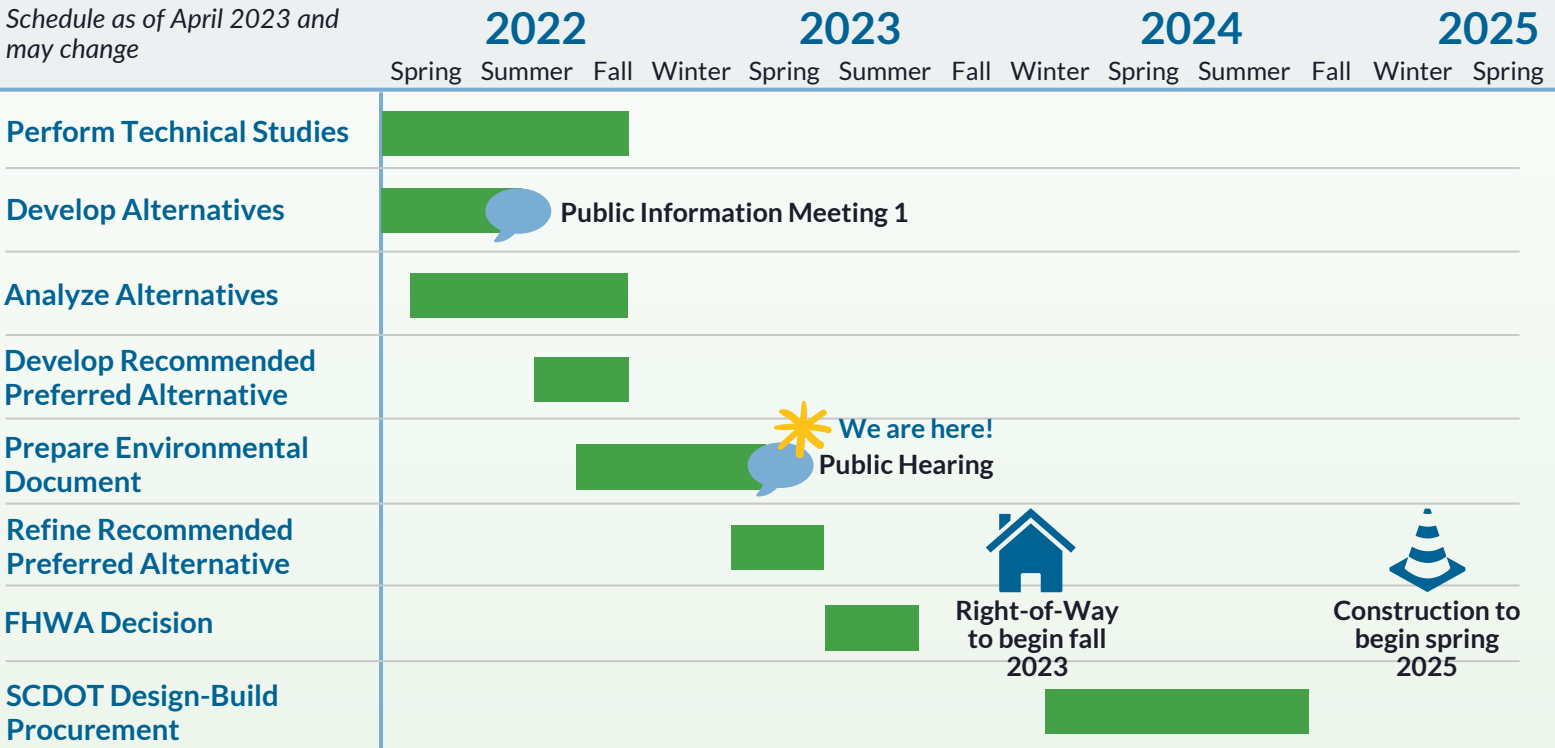
No-Build vs. Recommended Preferred Alternative Impacts Matrix

Evaluation Criteria		No-Build Alternative	Recommended Preferred Alternative
 Meets Purpose & Need	Improves Traffic Operations	No	Yes
	Reduces Truck Conflicts	No	Yes
 Meets Project Goals		No	Yes
 Right-of-Way Impacts	Total Potential Relocations	0	54 <i>(includes 2 outbuildings)</i>
	Residential	0	0
	Businesses <i>(Unoccupied and Occupied)</i>	0	51
	Churches	0	1
 Cultural Resources		0	1
 Hazardous Waste Sites		0	13
 Total Wetland Impacts		0 acres	14.1 acres
 Essential Fish Habitat		0 acres	2.79 acres
 Threatened and Endangered Species		No	May affect
 Preliminary Cost Estimate		\$0	\$280-360 million

What happens next?

SCDOT is taking this important project through an Environmental Assessment as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). We are seeking YOUR INPUT on the Recommended Preferred Alternative as well as the potential right-of-way and environmental impacts of the proposed improvements. Following the public hearing, we will incorporate your feedback, as well as input received from federal and state agencies, to revise the project. If approved by the U.S. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), we would begin right-of-way acquisition with the goal of starting construction in 2025.

Schedule as of April 2023 and may change



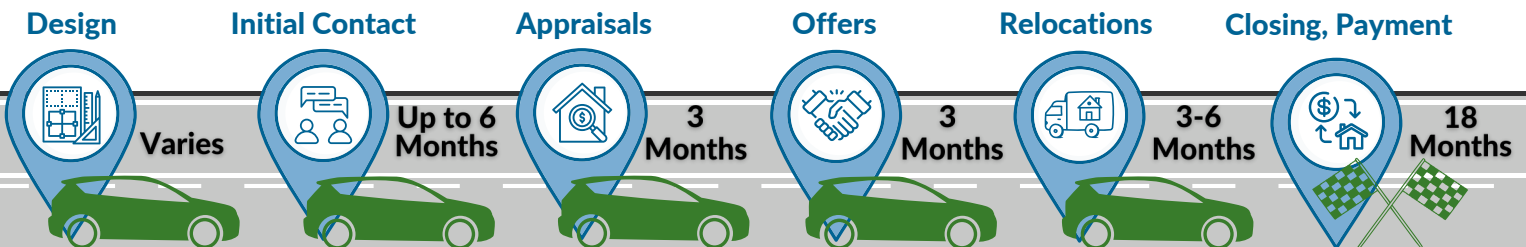
Right-of-Way

The official right-of-way acquisition process does not typically start until the federal environmental review process (NEPA) is completed, and the Federal Highway Administration issues a decision. If a build alternative is selected, meaning something new would need to be constructed, SCDOT would develop final right-of-way plans and acquisition activities would begin.

Questions about right-of-way?

info@526LowcountryCorridor.com

843.258.1135



I-526 @ Long Point Road Interchange Improvements Public Hearing Engagement Guide

Official Comment Period: April 17 - May 17, 2023

How to participate



In-Person

Tuesday, May 2, 2023 4-7pm

Mount Pleasant Town Hall
100 Ann Edwards Lane
Mount Pleasant, SC

View materials and ask questions from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. Formal presentation and verbal comment session begins at 6:00 pm

Traductor estará disponible.



Virtually

www.526LCCLongPoint.com

View ALL the materials you would see at the in-person meeting starting April 17th. Participate in the formal verbal comment session by signing up to make a verbal comment virtually through Zoom Webinar or simply watching the meeting online.

Material disponible en ingles y español.

To make an in-person or virtual verbal comment during the public hearing on May 2, 2023, you must sign-up by 5:55pm on May 2nd. You can do this in-person at the hearing or on the website.

A mailed copy of the handout may be requested by calling 843.258.1135 or emailing info@526LowcountryCorridor.com. Persons with disabilities who may require accommodations should contact Ms. Betty Gray at 803-737-1395.

Other ways to comment

Meaningful input is our number one priority. Below are the ways to make your voice heard in the official project records through May 17, 2023.



Project Website

www.526LCCLongPoint.com

Submit a written comment during the official comment period.



Project Email

info@526LowcountryCorridor.com



In-Person

At the Public Hearing

Paper comment forms will be available for you to use there or take with you to mail later.



Mail

**SC Department of Transportation
Post Office Box 191
955 Park Street
Columbia, SC 29202-0191**

All formal comments received during the comment period will be evaluated and included in the project record. All information provided will be published and subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

We want to hear from you!

info@526LowcountryCorridor.com

843.258.1135   [@526Corridor](https://www.facebook.com/526Corridor)

Title VI compliance: SCDOT complies with all requirements set forth by Federal regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation under the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. Any persons who believe that he or she has been discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or disability, or nation origin under a program receiving federal aid has the right to file a complaint with SCDOT. The complaint shall be filed with the Title VI Program Compliance Coordinator, at the Office of Business Development & Special programs, 955 Park Street, Suite 117, Columbia, SC 29202 or at 803.737.5095. The complaint should be submitted no later than 180 days after the date of the alleged act of discrimination. It should outline as completely as possible the facts and circumstances of the incident and should be signed by the person making the complaint.