













## April 19th, 2012

Mr. Alan Matienzo c/o S. C. Department of Transportation P. O. Box 191 Columbia, SC 29202-0191

Re: Jenkins Island Frontage Road Project - Blue Heron Point

A lan Dear Mr. Matienzo:

I recently met with representatives of the Blue Heron Point neighborhood to provide an overview of the frontage road project and to discuss their concerns over the project as proposed and access to their neighborhood. The Blue Heron Point neighborhood is served exclusively by S-7-772 and is situated on a land-tied island known as Hog Island. The meeting was rather productive and while the neighborhood does not appear to be enamored with the proposed frontage road, they seem to generally agree that it is the best long term solution relative to access to and from US 278.

During the meeting, the neighborhood representatives cited a pair of 60" RCP runs beneath US 278 and aligned roughly with Crosby Creek, a tidal estuary that divides Hog Island from Jenkins Island to the east. They claimed that a fill section placed across this tidal estuary when US 278 was widened from two lanes to four lanes in the 1970's has disrupted tidal flow and led to a degradation of water quality and navigability in the years since. They feel that the twin 60" RCP were constructed to extend from one side of the US 278 right-of-way to the other, but that the fill-section slopes extend outside of the right-of-way on both sides in a manner that effectively nullified any benefit from them.

The community has apparently been engaged in a decades-long effort to restore this tidal flow beneath US 278 by obtaining the permits necessary to perform the excavations necessary to uncover the pipe ends, and is concerned that the subject frontage road project will make their efforts to accomplish this even more difficult. They are very interested in any opportunities to restore this tidal flow within the existing twin 60" RCP runs beneath US 278 that the frontage project may afford, and do not want to see additional fill placed to construct the new frontage road in a manner that counteracts this effort.

The neighborhood has provided me the enclosed documentation that summarizes their efforts to restore this tidal flow beneath US 278. I have reviewed it, and it paints a pretty clear picture of the history surrounding the matter. Excerpts of SCDOT plans portraying the location of the 60" RCP runs are included.

We discussed this at yesterday's meeting between Town staff and Department officials, including Resident Maintenance Engineer Mulligan, and there seemed to be a general unawareness of this issue or its history.

Please review this material as background information relative to the subject project's development, and let me know if we need to discuss or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Darrin A. Shoemaker, P.E. Traffic and Transportation Engineer

**Enclosure: Historical Documentation Packet** 

DAS/das

