



PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

S-41 (N. Blackstock Rd) at S-525 (Fairforest Rd.) and Church St. Improvement Project, Spartanburg County

May 24, 2016, 5:00-7:00 PM

Fairforest Middle School

Welcome

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) welcomes you and is very pleased to have you attend this public meeting on the proposed S-41 (North Blackstock Road) at S-525 (Fairforest Road) and Church Street Improvement Project located in Spartanburg County. The purpose of this meeting is to provide an opportunity to review and discuss individually with representatives from the SCDOT the proposed alternatives, purpose and need for the project, and view displays and simulation video of the project. Personnel from and representing the SCDOT will be available to answer questions and discuss the project with interested citizens on an individual basis. In addition, participants are encouraged to submit any comments or questions utilizing the available comment forms; electronically through the SCDOT website (www.scdot.org, "Public Hearings"); or by contacting Ms. Penny Phillips, SCDOT Program Manager. Comments will be accepted until June 8, 2016.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to increase overall safety and improve the operational efficiency of S-41 (North Blackstock Road) by relocating the current signalized intersection with S-525 (Fairforest Drive) away from the railroad which will eliminate turning movements and queuing across the railroad tracks. The secondary purpose is to improve pedestrian access by providing new sidewalk along the new alignment utilizing Church Street which will provide continuity with adjacent facilities. The existing facilities (North Blackstock Road and Charity Drive) and layout is undesirable due to the convergence of multiple roads and intersections within close proximity of the existing railroad crossing.

Project Background

The original project included eliminating the at-grade crossing of Norfolk Southern Railroad by S-41 (North Blackstock Road) and constructing a bridge on S-525 (Fairforest Road) along with relocating the adjacent roadways of S-41 (North Blackstock Road) and Charity Drive. Due to the lack of available funding in 2011 and inability to qualify for Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) monies, the project was placed on hold. The project scope has since been reinstated with the intent of satisfying the Purpose and Need listed/detailed above.

Proposed Facility

The proposed project would provide two 12-foot travel lanes (one in each direction), curb & gutter, a closed drainage system to replace open ditches, and sidewalk along the north side of Church Street to accommodate pedestrians. The current North Blackstock Road intersection with Fairforest Road would be eliminated and a new signalized intersection would be created away from the railroad crossing in the vicinity of Martin Road. In addition, the SCDOT is evaluating two alternatives for the intersection of North Blackstock Road and Church Street including a proposed roundabout for traffic calming measures. The proposed project is anticipated to require areas of new right-of-way along with potential slope permissions to accommodate the realignment of Church Street to Fairforest Road, for the increase to 12-foot travel lanes on Church Street, and for either the through-curve or roundabout option at North Blackstock Road and Church Street

Schedule and Budget

The proposed project construction cost is estimated at \$1.5 million. Right-of-way acquisition is scheduled to begin summer of 2017. The construction schedule is dependent upon available funding, coordination with affected utility providers, and on the approval of all necessary permits, and is anticipated to begin in summer of 2018.

Roundabout Information

A Roundabout is a type of circular intersection in which traffic travels counterclockwise around a raised central island. They promote a continuous flow of traffic and are designed for slower entry, circulating, and exit speeds through the use of channelized approaches and geometric curvature. Entering traffic must yield to circulating traffic. Roundabouts accommodate the wheel tracking of large vehicles and emergency vehicles by providing a traversable apron on the outer circumference of the central island.

The following are statistics provided from the SCDOT Safety Office.

Currently 16 roundabouts have been completed in South Carolina, 9 of which have before and after crash data available. The data reveals:

- *71 % reduction in total crashes.*
- *71 % reduction in injury crashes.*
- *100 % reduction in fatal crashes.*

Where do we go from here?

SCDOT will consider all comments received at this meeting in the further development of the S-41 (N. Blackstock Rd) at S-525 (Fairforest Rd.) and Church St. Improvement Project. SCDOT will finalize and submit an environmental document to the Federal Highway Administration that outlines the social, environmental and economic impacts of the project. When approved, the document will be made available for public review at appropriate SCDOT offices.

Thank You

Thank you for your participation. Please share this information with any interested persons unable to attend today. Please contact Penny Phillips at PhillipsSP@scdot.org or by telephone at 864-241-1010 in Greenville with any questions you may have. This hand-out and comment sheet is available online (www.scdot.org, "Public Hearings") or by email upon request.



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