



Appendix R

Public Information Meeting Plans and Summaries

June 2021



Memorandum

To: Craig Winn, PE, SCDOT

From: Amy Livingston, Public Involvement Specialist

Date: October 16, 2018

Subject: US 278 Corridor Improvements 9/27/2018 Public Information Meeting Summary

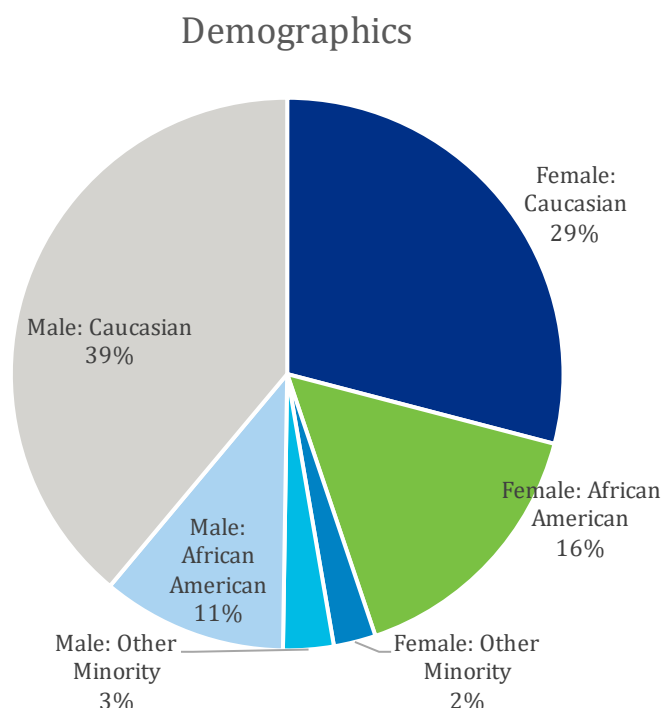
The first Public Information Meeting for the US 278 Corridor Improvements project was held on Thursday, September 27, 2018 from 6-8 p.m. at the Hilton Head Island High School cafeteria. The public comment period closed on October 12, 2018.

Demographics

The general public was invited and encouraged to attend. A total of 203 people attended the first public information meeting. Attendees were very diverse in terms of age, gender and race/ethnicity.

Demographics were tracked by: female (African American, Caucasian, and other minority) and male (African American and other minority). Below are the counts of these groups:

- Female: African American – 32
- Female: Caucasian – 59
- Female: Other minority – 5
- Male: African American – 22
- Male: Other minority – 6



By and large, those in the “Other Minority” category were Hispanic. Many Hispanic attendees took the Spanish-language flyer and left although they were told a translator was available.

According to the [US Census Bureau Quick Facts](#), Hilton Head Island is 77.2% Caucasian (not including Hispanic), 14.1% Hispanic/Latino, and 7.1% African American.

Layout

Content and engagement activities were designed to educate the public about the plan process and to receive information from the public. The room was setup with a sign-in table, seven educational stations, and a table for Beaufort County. The stations were:

1. Sign-In
2. NEPA Process/Project Schedule
3. Study Area Roll Plots
4. Traffic Information
5. Bridge Needs (Smartboard)
6. Environmental Base Map/Community ID Mapping (Smartboard)
7. Noise (monitor)
8. Comments

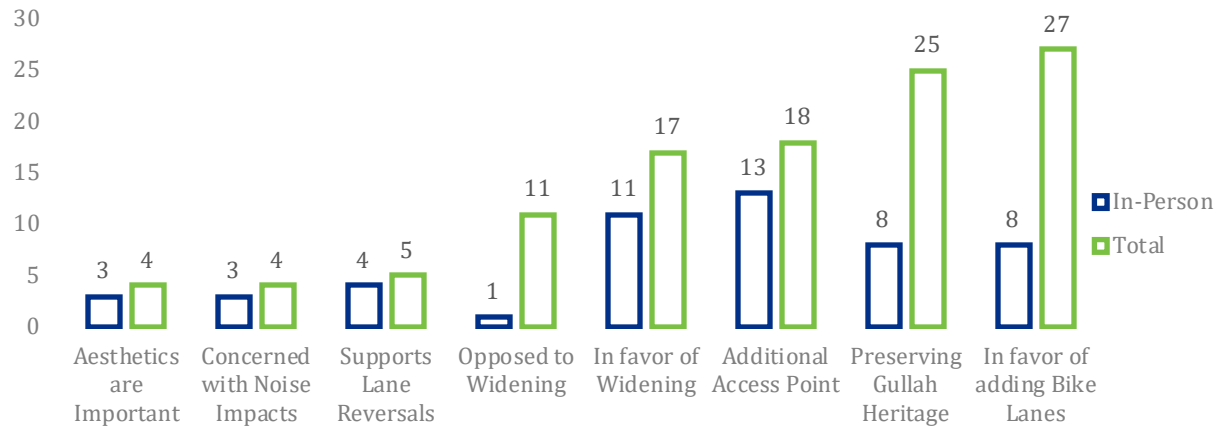
Comments

A total of 102 comments were received during the comment period which ended on October 12, 2018. These include:

- Fifty-three (53) written responses at the meeting
- Seventeen (17) website comments
- Thirteen (13) mailed responses
- Sixteen (16) emails (to both Craig Winn and the project email address)
- Three (3) Letters from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Coastal Conservation League and the Savannah Riverkeeper.

General sentiments on the comments cards can be broken down as follow:

All Comments



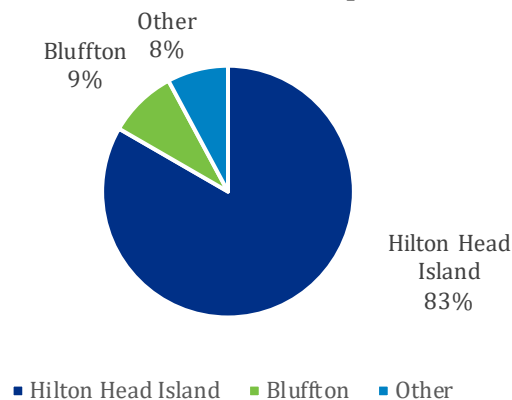
Key recurring themes include support for adding bike and/or pedestrian access on and leading up to the bridges connecting Hilton Head Island to Bluffton as well as the need to preserve the Gullah communities. The need for an additional, alternative access point to the island such as a parallel or alternate bridge was also mentioned various times.

Note: Totals should not equal 102 as one response could contain multiple suggestions. Some comments had suggestions outside of these, but categories were based on recurring themes.

These tallies are to be considered general sentiments only. Counts were applied if the respondent specifically cited a particular suggestion. For example, many respondents interested in preserving the Gullah heritage are likely opposed to widening but did not specifically state it. Therefore, they were only counted in the "Preserving Gullah Heritage" category.

Most comments (83%) came from residents of Hilton Head Island and were likely a representative mix of the Public Information Meeting attendees overall.

Home Address of Respondents





Y O U A R E I N V I T E D

US 278

CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING



**YOU ARE INVITED TO A
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

**to provide input on the
US 278 Corridor Improvements**

This will be an informal, drop-in style meeting held on
Thursday, September 27, 2018,
between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
at the Hilton Head Island High School Cafeteria,

70 Wilborn Road, Hilton Head Island
Palmetto Breeze Route 320
www.scdot278corridor.com

For more information contact Craig Winn, PE,
SCDOT Program Manager at 803-737-6376





WELCOME TO THE US 278 PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

PLEASE SIGN IN



Y O U A R E I N V I T E D

US 278

CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING





Y O U A R E I N V I T E D

US 278

CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING





**HILTON HEAD ISLAND
HIGH SCHOOL**

**THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 27, 2018
6:00 TO 8:00 P.M.**

PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) welcome you to this evening's public information meeting and appreciate your attendance here tonight.

The purpose of this public information meeting is to introduce the project to the community, gather initial comments from the public, identify the needs for the project, and help identify concerns about the improvements or impacts to the natural and human environment.

OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

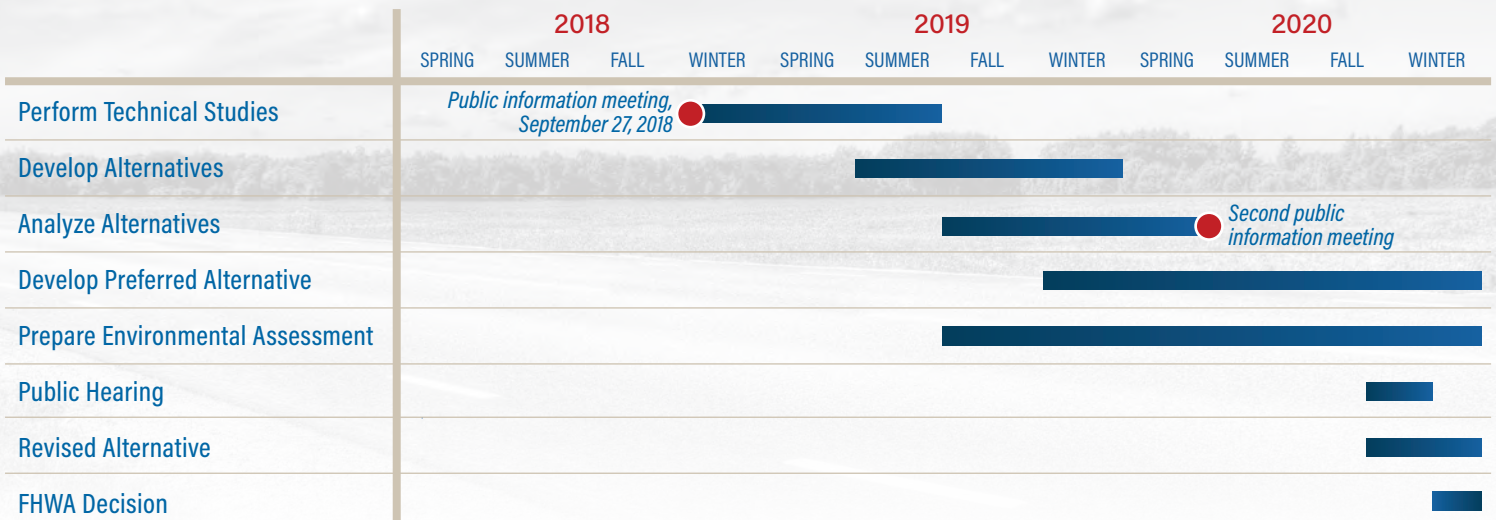
SCDOT is proposing to make improvements to the US 278 corridor between Bluffton and Hilton Head Island. The project includes studying the US 278 Corridor from Moss Creek Drive to Squire Pope Road to increase capacity, which will have secondary improvements to overall mobility, congestion, and safety. The eastbound Mackay Creek Bridge, which crosses the Intercoastal Waterway, is structurally deficient and is scheduled to be replaced. Access to Pinckney Island National Wildlife Refuge and the C.C. Haigh, Jr. boat ramp would be improved as well.

SCDOT will move this important project forward through the planning phase with an environmental assessment (EA), with the eventual goal of acquiring right-of-way and construction of the identified improvements. In association with FHWA and Beaufort County, SCDOT will develop the EA, a process that will include reviewing alternatives and comparing the beneficial and negative impacts on the natural and human environment. Efforts will be focused on community involvement and communication to ensure successful development of the environmental process. Due to the major roles state and federal resource agencies play, the project team will work closely with them in completing the environmental review process.



The project is to be funded using federal, state, and local funds. Right-of-way acquisition for this project is tentatively scheduled to begin in 2021.

ANTICIPATED NEPA SCHEDULE



TITLE VI COMPLIANCE THE NEPA PROCESS | US 278 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS

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 national 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.



PROJECT INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE: WWW.SCDOT278CORRIDOR.COM

WE WANT YOUR INPUT

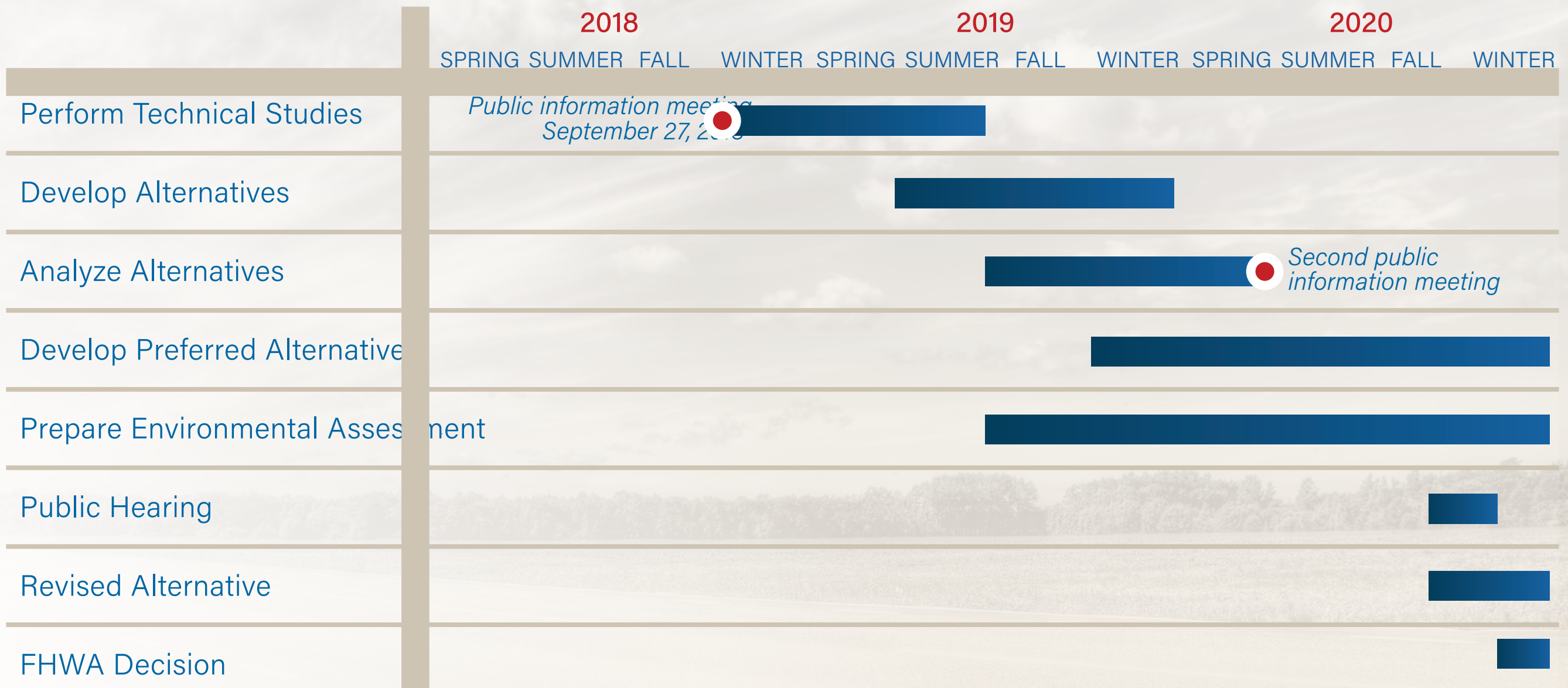
You can submit a comment via the website or by mail to:
 Craig Winn, PE, SCDOT Program Manager
 C/O South Carolina Department of Transportation
 Lowcountry Regional Production Group
 955 Park Street, Room 401
 Columbia, SC 29202-0191

Email comments to: winncl@scdot.org

All comments are due by October 12, 2018.

If you'd like to be notified of project updates and future public involvement activities related to the US 278 Corridor Improvements, please visit the project website to join the project mailing list.

ANTICIPATED NEPA SCHEDULE



THE NEPA PROCESS| US 278 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS

Public Engagement

Start the Environmental Assessment



Public Information Meeting

1

Perform Technical Studies

2

Develop Alternatives

3

Analyze Alternatives

4

Second Public Information Meeting

5

Develop Preferred Alternative

6

Prepare Environmental Assessment

7

Public Hearing

8

Revise Alternative

9

FHWA Decision

10

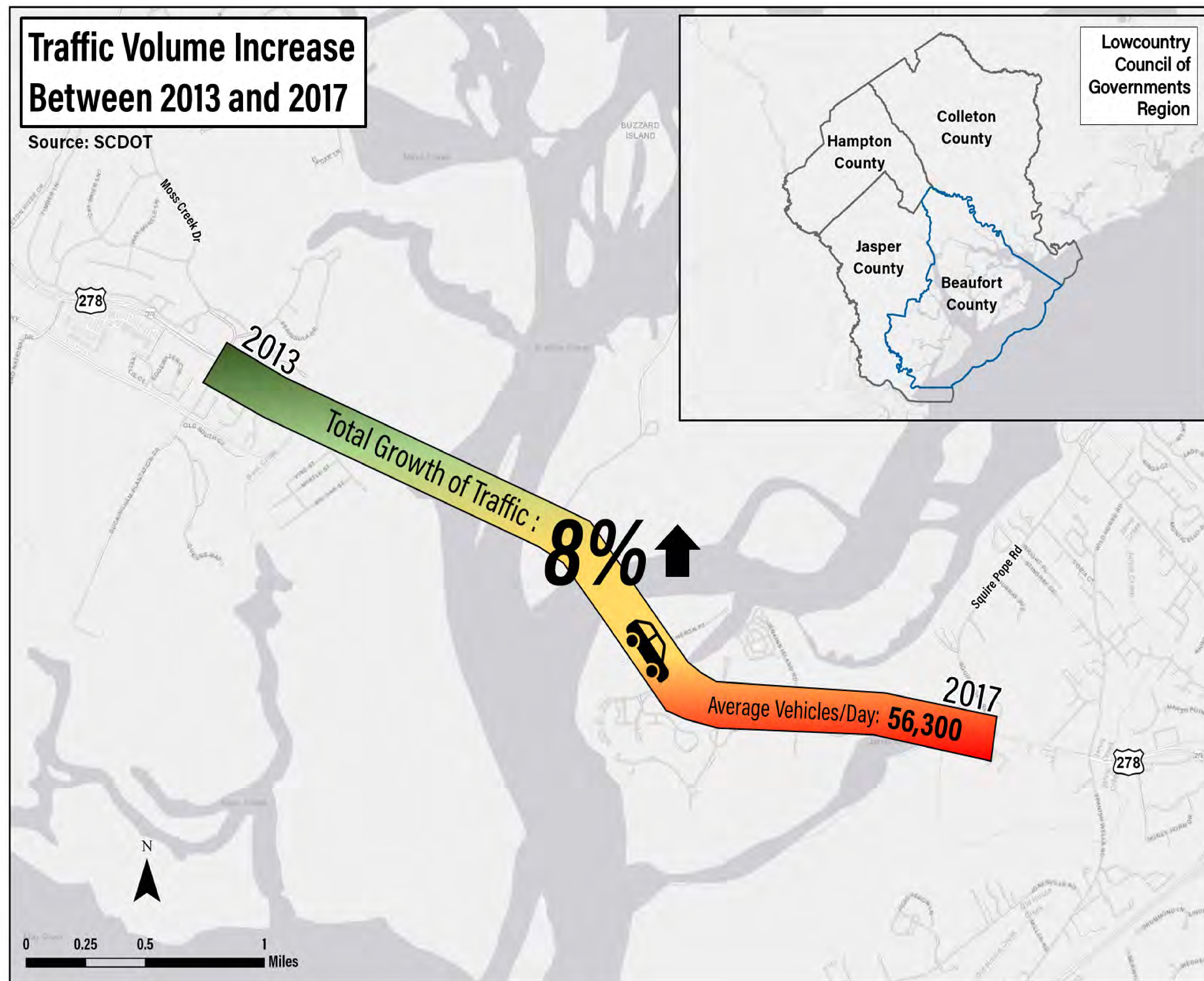
Ten Steps of the
NEPA Process



TRAFFIC INFORMATION

Traffic Volume Increase Between 2013 and 2017

Source: SCDOT



Projected Growth in Lowcountry Region

VARIABLE	2010	2020	2030	2040
Total Population	246,992	281,865	317,106	348,977
Households	96,191	109,976	123,672	136,117
Total Employment	88,112	103,898	122,719	142,284



The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) defines congestion as "an excess of vehicles on a portion of roadway at a particular time resulting in speeds that are slower-sometimes much slower-than normal or "free flow" speeds. Congestion often means stopped or stop-and-go traffic".

41%
Projected Total Population Growth from 2010 to 2040

42%
Projected Total Household Growth from 2010 to 2040

61%
Projected Total Employment Growth from 2010 to 2040

What causes congestion?

Traffic Influencing Events

- Construction
- Traffic Accidents
- Weather

Traffic Demand

- Commuter traffic
- Tourism traffic
- Special events

Physical Highway Features

- Number of lanes
- Traffic signals
- Roadway alignment