

Town Council Special Called Meeting

February 13, 2024, 11:00 AM

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Seabrook Island Town Hall, Council Chambers
2001 Seabrook Island Road
Seabrook Island, SC 29455



Virtual Participation: Individuals who wish to participate in the meeting via Zoom may call (843) 768-9121 or email kwatkins@townofseabrookisland.org for log-in information prior to the meeting.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL & FOIA STATEMENT

2. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Resolution 2024-04: A resolution in support of the Town of Seabrook Island's request for funding under the FY 2025 Transportation Sales Tax Annual Allocation Program for the Seabrook Island Road Improvement Project

3. STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP: FACILITATED BY ASHLEY KELLEHAN (MASC)

- A. Strategic Priorities for 2024-2025
- B. Town Vision and Mission Statements

4. COUNCIL COMMENTS

5. ADJOURNMENT

TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-04

ADOPTED _____

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND’S REQUEST FOR FUNDING UNDER THE FY 2025 TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX ANNUAL ALLOCATION PROGRAM FOR THE SEABROOK ISLAND ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, on December 15, 2023, the Town of Seabrook Island (the “Town”) received a notification from Charleston County (the “County”) regarding the availability of funding under the County’s FY 2025 Transportation Sales Tax (the “TST”) Annual Allocation Program; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the annual allocations approved by Charleston County Council, and subtracting funds for carryover projects, the County anticipates that approximately \$300,000 will be available for pedestrian/bike enhancement projects, \$1,000,000 will be available for new intersection improvement projects, and \$1,500,000 will be available for new local paving projects in FY 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Town has submitted a request for funding under the County’s FY 2025 TST Annual Allocation Program for the Seabrook Island Road Improvement Project (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, Seabrook Island Road is the ONLY means of vehicular access to and from Seabrook Island; and

WHEREAS, during periods of high tide and storm events, low-lying sections of Seabrook Island Road are subject to tidal flooding; and

WHEREAS, periodic inundation of Seabrook Island Road presents a significant threat to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, during the recent nor’easter in December of 2023, personnel from the St. Johns Fire District were called upon to rescue individuals from multiple flooded vehicles on Seabrook Island Road, and the road itself was impassable until flood waters receded; and

WHEREAS, as the only means of access on and off the island, public safety agencies, including Charleston County Emergency Medical Services (EMS), the Charleston County Sheriff’s Office, and St. Johns Fire District, depend on Seabrook Island Road in order to provide a timely and effective response to emergency situations;; and

WHEREAS, Seabrook Island Road serves approximately 7,700 vehicle trips per day (per SCDOT), approximately 2,100 full-time residents, approximately 2,600 dwelling units, more than 2,300 resident and non-resident businesses (including contractors, subcontractors, and employees), and thousands of non-resident property owners, guests, and tourists (especially during the busy summer months); and

WHEREAS, Seabrook Island Road serves properties in three jurisdictions, including the Town of Seabrook Island, the Town of Kiawah Island, and unincorporated Charleston County; and

WHEREAS, Seabrook Island Road is essential to the economic health and prosperity of Seabrook Island, and provides access to many businesses and organizations, including Bohicket Marina & Market, Seabrook Island Club facilities, St. Christopher Camp & Conference Center, more than 580 short-term rental properties, Freshfields Village, the future Seafields senior living community, and the future MUSC Health Sea Islands Medical Pavilion; and

WHEREAS, the frequency of minor, moderate, and major coastal flooding events are expected to increase as sea levels continue to rise in relation to the land, and raising the low-lying sections of Seabrook Island Road will improve the community's resiliency against the ongoing threat posed by sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, the Town has engaged an engineering consultant to design and permit various improvements related to the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Project is intended to raise low-lying portions of Seabrook Island Road to an elevation of +/- 6.75 feet (NAVD 88), beginning at the intersection of Seabrook Island Road, Betsy Kerrison Parkway and Village Green Lane (roundabout) and extending approximately 5,150 LF southwest to the intersection of Seabrook Island Road and Landfall Way. In addition, the Project will include the installation of roadside drainage swales and infrastructure to reduce flooding and ponding upon travel lanes and within the road right-of-way; and

WHEREAS, according to the engineer's Preliminary Opinion of Probable Construction Cost, prepared on February 8, 2024, the estimated cost of the Project is \$3,360,000; and

WHEREAS, at present, the Town has committed approximately \$1,400,000 in its Road and Drainage Fund to be used toward the Project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council for the Town of Seabrook Island, that the Town fully supports the request for funding from the FY 2025 TST Annual Allocation Program for the Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in addition to any funds received from the FY 2025 TST Annual Allocation Program, the Mayor and Council of the Town are committed to identifying and pursuing additional revenue sources including, but not limited to, special source revenue bonds, surplus funds, and/or funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), to ensure that the Project is fully funded.

SIGNED AND SEALED this ____ day of _____, 2024, having been duly adopted by the Town Council for the Town of Seabrook Island on the 13th day of February, 2024.

Signed: _____
Bruce Kleinman, Mayor

Witness:

Katharine E. Watkins, Town Clerk