

**TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01**

**ADOPTED** 1/12/26

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE INCLUSION OF THE SEABROOK ISLAND ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN THE PLANNED CHARLESTON COUNTY TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX REFERENDUM**

**WHEREAS**, on December 10, 2025, the Town of Seabrook Island ("Town") received a written request from Charleston County ("County") to provide a list of the Town's transportation and infrastructure priorities for a Transportation Sales Tax ("TST") referendum currently under consideration by the County for 2026; and

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

**WHEREAS**, low-lying segments of Seabrook Island Road lie below the County's minimum flood elevation and are subject to tidal flooding during periods of high tide and storm events; and

**WHEREAS**, recurring inundation of Seabrook Island Road poses a significant threat to public health and safety; and

**WHEREAS**, as the only means of access on and off the island, Seabrook Island Road is relied upon by public safety agencies—including Charleston County Emergency Medical Services (EMS), the Charleston County Sheriff's Office, and the St. Johns Fire District—to provide timely and effective emergency response; and

**WHEREAS**, during a nor'easter in December 2023, personnel from the St. Johns Fire District were called upon to rescue occupants from multiple flooded vehicles on Seabrook Island Road, and the roadway was rendered impassable until floodwaters receded; and

**WHEREAS**, Seabrook Island Road accommodates approximately 7,700 vehicle trips per day (per the South Carolina Department of Transportation), directly serves approximately 2,100 full-time residents and 2,600 dwelling units, supports more than 2,400 resident and non-resident businesses (including contractors, subcontractors, and employees), and provides access for thousands of non-resident property owners, guests, and tourists, particularly during the peak summer months; and

**WHEREAS**, Seabrook Island Road serves properties within three jurisdictions: the Town of Seabrook Island, the Town of Kiawah Island, and unincorporated Charleston County; and

**WHEREAS**, Seabrook Island Road is critical to the economic health and prosperity of Seabrook Island and surrounding areas and provides access to numerous businesses and institutions, including Bohicket Marina & Market, Seabrook Island Club facilities, St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center, more than 600 short-term rental properties, Freshfields Village, the Seafields senior living community, and the MUSC Health Sea Islands Medical Pavilion; and

**WHEREAS**, the frequency and severity of minor, moderate, and major coastal flooding events are expected to increase as sea levels continue to rise relative to land, and elevating low-lying portions of Seabrook Island Road will enhance the community's resilience to the impacts of sea level rise; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town has retained an engineering consultant to design and permit improvements to Seabrook Island Road ("Seabrook Island Road Improvement Project"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Seabrook Island Road Improvement Project is intended to raise low-lying portions of the roadway to an elevation of approximately 6.75 feet (NAVD 88), beginning at the intersection of Betsy Kerrison Parkway and Village Green Lane (also known as the Sea Islands Roundabout) and extending approximately 5,150 linear feet southwest to Landfall Way, and will also include the installation of roadside drainage swales and related infrastructure to reduce flooding and ponding upon travel lanes and within the road right-of-way; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 17, 2025, the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services, Bureau of Coastal Management ("SCDES-BCM"), issued a Critical Area Permit and Coastal Zone Consistency Certification for the Seabrook Island Road Improvement Project; and

**WHEREAS**, additional permits from SCDES-BCM and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("USACE") are anticipated to be issued later in 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, unlike many current and prior TST-funded projects that have experienced extended delays due to lengthy design, engineering, and permitting requirements, the Seabrook Island Road Improvement Project is expected to be SHOVEL-READY at the time of the referendum, thereby allowing for expedited construction once funding is secured; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the engineer's Preliminary Opinion of Probable Construction Cost dated February 8, 2024, the estimated cost of the Seabrook Island Road Improvement Project was \$3,360,000.00, though this cost has likely increased due to inflation and other factors; and

**WHEREAS**, in both 2024 and 2025, the Town submitted funding requests under the County's TST Annual Allocation Program, but the project cost was determined by County staff to exceed available funding levels; and

**WHEREAS**, although the TST program has generated approximately \$3.4 billion for transportation projects throughout Charleston County since 2004, the Town has NEVER received TST funding for any road or infrastructure project within its municipal limits, despite significant sales tax contributions from residents and visitors of the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, during its strategic planning processes in 2019, 2022, 2024, and 2025, the Mayor and Council consistently identified the Seabrook Island Road Improvement Project as the Town's HIGHEST PRIORITY;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Seabrook Island, South Carolina, that the Town respectfully requests inclusion of the Seabrook Island Road

Improvement Project in the Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax referendum currently under consideration for 2026; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, in addition to any funding approved through the 2026 TST program, the Mayor and Council remain committed to identifying and pursuing additional funding sources to ensure completion of the Seabrook Island Road Improvement Project.

**SIGNED AND SEALED** this 12<sup>TH</sup> day of JANUARY, 2026, having been duly adopted by the Town Council for the Town of Seabrook Island on the 12th day of January, 2026.

Signed:



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Bruce Kleinman, Mayor

Witness:



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Peter D. Wiggins II, Town Clerk