

**TOWN OF MOUNT PLEASANT, SOUTH CAROLINA
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Monday, December 1, 2025
1:15 p.m.
Municipal Complex, Council Chambers
100 Ann Edwards Lane, Mount Pleasant, SC 29464**

MINUTES

Members Present: Mayor Will Haynie, Howard Chapman, Mike Tinkey, Kathryn Whitaker

Staff Present: James Aton, Eric DeMoura

Also Present: Jonathan Guy, Kimley-Horn

[Transportation Committee Presentation](#)

[Listen to the meeting here.](#)

1. Call to order

Mayor Haynie called the Transportation Committee meeting at 2:07 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from the [November 3, 2025](#) meeting

Mr. Chapman moved for approval of the minutes; motion seconded by Ms. Whitaker. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Discussion of potential 2026 Charleston County Sales Tax Referendum projects

Mr. Aton presented information about potential projects for the 2026 Charleston County Sales Tax Referendum. He began by explaining that in June 2023, Town staff conducted a rigorous assessment of the transportation network system, comparing it with other areas in the state. This assessment showed that US 17 in Mount Pleasant sees a 72% higher traffic volume than most interstates in South Carolina.

From this assessment, staff developed lists of long-range, short-range, and medium-term projects that could be pursued through the TST referendum or other capital programs. Mr. Aton noted that many high-priority intersection improvements were already funded through other mechanisms (town, county, or state efforts).

He presented the list of projects that were submitted to the County in 2024:

1. Johnnie Dodds Boulevard
2. Long Point Road corridor
3. Darrell Creek Trail
4. Coleman Boulevard at Chuck Dawley Boulevard intersection
5. Mount Pleasant Way

Mr. Aton shared that public feedback collected by the County showed overwhelming support for all the projects. Mount Pleasant-only responses showed approval ratings ranging from 72% (for Johnnie Dodds Boulevard) to over 70% for other projects.

The County selected the Long Point Road corridor and Darrell Creek Trail realignment from the Town's list as projects to fund. Mr. Aton recommended that, since portions of some originally submitted projects have been funded through other grants, the Town should consider adding replacement projects:

- Whipple Road corridor safety enhancements (to replace portions of Long Point Road that are now funded elsewhere)

- Coleman Boulevard corridor safety enhancements from Pelzer Drive to the recently completed Patriots Point Gateway improvements

Mayor Haynie mentioned that a meeting he attended suggested the County would be conducting public polling to gauge voter sentiment about the next referendum. He emphasized that Mount Pleasant should seek to maximize its share of the potential \$4.2 billion in funding, and that, in addition to transportation projects, the Town should also address green space, resiliency, and drainage needs.

Mr. Chapman stated that the SCDOT has included the Long Point Road bridge at Boone Hall Creek in their bridge replacement program, and suggested staff confirm with Mr. York regarding the scope of DOT's project to avoid duplicating efforts.

Ms. Whitaker noted that the County had opened an online survey and asked about prioritizing projects. She expressed concern about meeting the County's December 1st deadline.

Mr. Aton assured the Committee that while he could provide updated information by the end of the week, he did not believe missing the December 1st deadline would negatively impact the County's consideration of Mount Pleasant's projects.

Mr. Chapman recommended that for the Houston Northcutt Boulevard/Highway 17 intersection, the Town should submit an at-grade solution rather than an overpass.

Mayor Haynie agreed this would make the project more palatable.

Mr. Tinkey raised questions about green belt funding and public transit connectivity with affordable housing initiatives.

Mayor Haynie emphasized that the County needs to make green belt funding at least 20% of the total package and establish clear criteria for accessing these funds when green space opportunities arise.

5. Presentation of Corridor Safety Enhancements for Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant projects

Mr. Aton introduced Jonathan Guy, Kimberly-Horn Consultants, to present information about the corridor safety enhancement projects that were approved at the Bids and Purchasing Committee meeting that morning.

Mr. Guy explained that Mount Pleasant had proactively pursued and secured a nearly \$16 million grant from the US Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program. This grant focuses on three areas: access management, intersection upgrades, and non-motorized safety improvements, all aligned with the federal "zero roadway deaths" initiative.

The grant includes five main projects:

1. Long Point Road
2. Coleman Boulevard at Ben Sawyer Boulevard
3. Chuck Dawley Boulevard
4. Two projects on US 17

The Long Point Road project includes landscape medians, expansion of Mt. Pleasant Way, traffic signal upgrades, and enhanced pedestrian crossings. Mr. Guy explained that removing two-way left turn lanes and adding medians typically results in a 33% reduction in crashes.

Mr. Chapman raised concerns about potential overlap with DOT's planned work at the interchange.

Mr. Aton confirmed that the Town's project limits coordinate with DOT's plans, with the Town's work focusing on the section from Belle Point Drive intersection to Whipple Road.

Mr. Guy presented data showing the success of similar improvements on Coleman Boulevard, where visitor numbers increased from 3.1 million (pre-COVID) to 3.4 million in 2023. Vacancy rates for businesses along the corridor dropped below 2% by 2024, lower than before medians were installed. He cited additional examples from Goose Creek, Beaufort, and national studies showing that median installations and similar safety improvements generally do not negatively impact businesses.

Mr. Guy emphasized that these projects would enhance safety while maintaining access for businesses, noting that destination and drive-by businesses are generally not harmed by such improvements. The grant must be implemented within 5 years.

5. Updates

a. Traffic Management Update

b. Ongoing Projects and Programs

Mr. Aton provided brief updates on ongoing projects:

- Billy Swails: Awaiting release of obligated funds from FHWA to go to bid
- Park West Stockdale Roundabout: Still under design, with completion expected by summer 2026
- 516 Coleman Parking project: Undergoing redesign to stay within CIP budget
- Mount Pleasant Way projects: Multiple projects in various stages, with the Scanlonville Praise House Parklet recently awarded and construction expected to begin in Q1 2026
- Bike and pedestrian accommodation upgrades: Working with Brickyard HOA on sidewalk redesign

Mr. Chapman noted that new left turn signals had been implemented at Wingo Way and Mathis Ferry Road.

Mayor Haynie mentioned receiving feedback about the miniature roundabout in the Old Village area and requested a review at the next meeting.

Mr. Aton confirmed that repairs were underway after a sign was knocked down. He assured the committee that the design accommodates large vehicles, as they had confirmed with Public Services and Fire departments during implementation.

6. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Cathy Godsey
December 3, 2025