



Charleston County

**ROADWISE**

A Program of Charleston County Government

## Charleston County News Release

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### ***Johnnie Dodds Improvements Project Web site***

- [http://www.croadwise.org/johnnie\\_dodds.html](http://www.croadwise.org/johnnie_dodds.html)

### ***Project designs***

- Rendering of project: <http://www.croadwise.org/file/images/jdb.jpg>
- <http://www.croadwise.org/file/doc/shelmore.pdf> (Shelmore improvements)
- <http://www.croadwise.org/file/doc/dragon020810.pdf> (Dragoon improvements)
- <http://www.croadwise.org/file/doc/annaknapp020810.pdf> (Anna Knapp improvements)

## Construction Begins on Johnnie Dodds Boulevard Road Project

*Charleston County will oversee major bond project funded by the Transportation Sales Tax*

Construction is beginning on the [Johnnie Dodds Boulevard Improvements Project](#) in Mount Pleasant. The goal of the project is to improve the traffic flow in and out of Mount Pleasant, especially before and after school and work hours.

The project, which is expected to be completed in the fall of 2012, is funded by the [Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax](#) and managed by [Charleston County Government's](#) RoadWise Program, in close coordination with the [Town of Mount Pleasant](#), [S.C. Department of Transportation](#) and [U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration](#).

The Johnnie Dodds Boulevard Project involves improving approximately three miles of US 17 from just north of the Arthur J. Ravenel, Jr. Bridge to the south side of the I-526 interchange, including the associated frontage roads and side streets.

The major component of the project is to construct a new bridge to carry Johnnie Dodds traffic over Bowman Road.

### **Improvements of the project will include:**

- Widen Johnnie Dodds Boulevard from two lanes to three lanes in both north and south directions.
- Construct curbs and gutters along the entire length of the project.
- Widen the frontage roads to provide one lane in each direction with four-foot wide, marked bicycle lanes and sidewalks.
- Traffic signal upgrades and pedestrian crosswalks will be constructed at the following intersections along Johnnie Dodds Boulevard: Magrath Darby, Mathis Ferry, Houston-Northcutt, Shelmore Boulevard and Anna Knapp, with auxiliary turn lanes where needed.
- Limit left turn lanes on Johnnie Dodds to Shelmore and Anna Knapp to a single lane with the provision for a future turn lane if needed.
- Landscaped median areas will vary width (similar to the area between Hungryneck Boulevard and the Isle of Palms Connector on US 17).
- Design and construct a replacement bridge on Bowman Road over Shem Creek, including all required roadway and drainage improvements. The bridge will be approximately 90 feet long and 80 feet wide, and will include sidewalks on both sides.

- Widen Bowman Road to six lanes from Johnnie Dodds Boulevard to Shem Creek, which will connect with the Town of Mount Pleasant's Bowman Road Widening Project when completed.
- New signal installations will be placed at the ramp tie-ins at Bowman Road where East Frontage Road intersects with Houston-Northcutt and Bowman Road; and West Frontage Road intersects with Mathias Ferry, Anna Knapp and Bowman Roads. These traffic signals are to be interconnected to, and signal timing coordination with, the signal upgrades on Johnnie Dodds Boulevard. An exception to this will be those intersections restricted to right- in right- out turns on the east side of the Bowman Road interchange. These intersections will remain in their current locations with the exception of the west quadrant of the Bowman Road interchange which will be relocated approximately 200 feet further away from Johnnie Dodds Boulevard in conjunction with the Hospital Road relocation project.
- Street lighting and landscaping will be provided along the median and between the mainline and the frontage road system

All motorists traveling through the project area are asked to be aware of equipment and crews and to be prepared for delays beginning this week. Alternative routes are recommended if possible.

The public is also ask to notice traffic control signs, reductions in speed limit and message board information, and to note that all road work is dependent on the weather.

Roadwork that requires lane closures will only occur at night from 9 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. to minimize effects on traffic. The cost of the total project is estimated to be \$83 million.

### **Quotes About the Project's Importance**

**Teddie E. Pryor, Sr., Charleston County Council Chairman:** "The Johnnie Dodds project is one of the largest projects on our list of major improvements. Further, it is a project that clearly demonstrates joint cooperation between two public entities: Charleston County Government and the Town of Mount Pleasant."

**Billy Swails, Mayor of Mt. Pleasant:** "As we are ready to break ground on improvements to Johnnie Dodds Boulevard, I would like to thank all the stakeholders who have been part of this effort and worked very hard to make this project a reality -- from Charleston County officials and staff, to our Mount Pleasant Town Council and our residents and taxpayers."

**Janie Sinacore-Jaberg, Chief Executive Officer, East Cooper Medical Center:** "While quality patient care is our top priority, we are also committed to offering convenient healthcare, which is why we built our new campus in a centrally located area of our community. We believe the planned improvements, as part of the Johnnie Dodds Boulevard Project, will enhance the convenience of our central location, making access even easier for our patients, physicians, employees and guests."

### **Background:**

- The Johnnie Dodds Boulevard Improvements Project was requested by the Town of Mount Pleasant and approved by voters in the [first Transportation Sales Tax bond referendum](#). The voters of Charleston County authorized the County to issue \$77 million in bonds, which will be repaid through Transportation Sales Tax revenues.
- On August 12, 2008, a [preferred alternative design was presented](#) to the [Mount Pleasant Town Council](#). The direct link to the presentation is: [http://www.ccroadwise.org/file/doc/jdbtowncouncil08\\_12\\_08.pdf](http://www.ccroadwise.org/file/doc/jdbtowncouncil08_12_08.pdf).
- Upon requesting that design modifications be made at the Houston-Northcutt, Shelmore and Anna Knapp intersections, Mount Pleasant Town Council gave their unanimous support for the project.
- Subsequently, [Charleston County Council](#) unanimously supported the revised design on August 28, 2008, and the design consultants immediately began work on preliminary design and plans.

- The Design-Build approach, which allows construction to begin on portions of the project to begin prior to the entire project being designed, is being used in order to expedite the project.
- The entire amount of the [first Transportation Sales Tax bond referendum](#) is allocated to the following transportation improvement projects, and the Johnnie Dodds Boulevard Improvements Project is one of them:
  - Palmetto Commerce Parkway
    - [Phase I](#) (complete)
    - [Phase II](#) (under construction)
  - James Island Improvements
    - [Harbor View Road](#)
    - [Folly Road and Maybank Highway Intersection Improvements](#) (under construction)
  - [Loop Ramp from James Island Connector to Folly Road](#)
  - [Glenn McConnell Parkway / Bees Ferry Road Intersection](#)
  - [Hwy 17 / SC 61 Connector](#)
  - [US 17 / Johnnie Dodds Boulevard](#)

**The public can get up-to-date project information, including construction status and traffic alerts, online at [http://www.ccroadwise.org/johnnie\\_dodds.html](http://www.ccroadwise.org/johnnie_dodds.html).**

Charleston County RoadWise is the name of [Charleston County Government's](#) management program for the construction of roads, highways, resurfacing, paving and drainage projects that are funded by the Transportation Sales Tax.

Visit the official Web site at [www.ccroadwise.org](http://www.ccroadwise.org) for public meeting notices and up-to-date news and information about all Charleston County Transportation.