



Charleston County News Release

Release Number: 3299
Release Date: June 21, 2011

Photos from completion ceremony: <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/newsimages/glenmcc.htm>

Project Web page: http://www.ccroadwise.org/gm_526_const.html

Project design: <http://www.ccroadwise.org/file/images/526gmexhibit.jpg>

Construction Complete on Glenn McConnell Parkway/I-526 Improvement Project

Charleston County completes major bond project funded by the Transportation Sales Tax

[Charleston County Government](#) held a ceremony on Tuesday, June 21, 2011 to celebrate the completion of the [Glenn McConnell Parkway/I-526 Improvement Project](#) located in West Ashley.

The \$7.2 million project included improvements along Glenn McConnell Parkway from Essex Farm Road to Orleans Road. The project was requested by the [City of Charleston](#) and was funded by the [Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax Program](#). It was approved by voters in the [second Transportation Sales Tax bond referendum](#).

Speakers at the June 21 ceremony were:

- Teddie E. Pryor, Sr., Charleston County Council Chairman
- Joseph P. Riley, Jr., City of Charleston Mayor
- Allen Carroll, CEO of Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital

The major components of the project improvements are:

- The widening of Glenn McConnell Parkway provides an additional lane in each direction for the full length of the project.
- The widening of Magwood Drive at the Glenn McConnell Parkway intersection (Home Depot/McDonald's side of the highway) allows for dual left-turn lanes and a through or right-turn lane onto Glenn McConnell Parkway.
- The widening of Magwood Drive at the Glenn McConnell Parkway intersection (hospital side of the highway) provides a left-turn only lane, a single through lane, and a right-turn lane onto Glenn McConnell Parkway.
- Adjusting the stoplight timing at the intersection of Magwood Drive and Glenn McConnell Parkway allows left turns from both northbound and southbound lanes of Magwood Drive to occur at the same time.
- Closing the median on Glenn McConnell Parkway at Frontage Road prohibits left turns and U-turns for improved safety.
- Lengthening the left-turn lanes on Glenn McConnell Parkway toward I-526 eastbound (toward North Charleston and Mount Pleasant) allows more room for vehicles waiting to turn.

- A five-foot-wide concrete sidewalk along Magwood Drive connects to the existing sidewalk. Pedestrian signals on both sides of Glenn McConnell Parkway allow for pedestrians to cross the intersection, and eight-foot-wide paved shoulders were constructed, with the exception of the interchange ramp area.
- Earthen sound buffers, including landscaping, along the northbound lanes of Glenn McConnell Parkway provide a buffer for nearby neighborhoods.

Quotes about the project:

- **Teddie E. Pryor, Sr. Charleston County Council Chairman:** “This is an important project because it affects so many people who travel through this area on a daily basis. The input we gathered from the public and surrounding businesses helped shape the design of the project. We are excited to announce the completion of this project because we know the changes will greatly improve the traffic situation and provide better access to the medical complex for patients, visitors and emergency vehicles.”
- **Joseph P. Riley, Jr., City of Charleston Mayor:** “The completion of this significant component of the SC 61 Expressway corridor at the intersection of SC 61 Expressway and Magwood Road will make a critical difference for this area. It has improved traffic flow and increased motoring safety for our residents, businesses and those who commute through that area. For this area of our city, studies showed that this intersection was one of the most congested intersections in the West Ashley area. These improvements will greatly improve the capacity of these roadways and improve quality of life for everyone.”
- **Allen Carroll, CEO for Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital:** “The completion of this construction marks an important day for the West Ashley community and Charleston County. Each day we have approximately 1,400 employees, patients and visitors coming to our Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital campus, which includes the Roper St. Francis Cancer Center. That is over a half million people annually and obviously a lot of vehicle traffic. With the flow of traffic improved, everyone – including emergency service workers and patients – can get to their destinations with improved safety and less stress. We appreciate the leadership demonstrated by the County in planning and executing this project.”

The public can get more information and see photos of the construction process online at http://www.ccroadwise.org/gm_526_const.html. Visit the official website at www.ccroadwise.org for public meeting notices and up-to-date news and information about all Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax road projects.

- Follow us on Twitter -

“ChasCountyGov” (www.twitter.com/ChasCountyGov) for all County news and information.
 “ccroadwise” (www.twitter.com/ccroadwise) for traffic and road project information only.