

Charleston County News Release

Release Number: 3302 Release Date: June 24, 2011

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY: Steve Thigpen, Project Manager, will be available for interviews at **11 a.m. today** at the project site. To determine a meeting location, contact Jennie Flinn at (843) 958-4012 or jflinn@charlestoncounty.org.

Map of detour: http://www.ccroadwise.org/file/doc/us17_tc_display_s3_ramp_detourrev.pdf
Project website: http://www.ccroadwise.org/johnnie_dodds.html

Traffic Alert (MAJOR CHANGE): Portion of Johnnie Dodds Boulevard Shifts to Bowman Road

<u>Charleston County Government</u> announces a major traffic shift as part of the <u>Johnnie Dodds</u> Boulevard Improvements Project in Mount Pleasant.

The following traffic shift will be implemented this weekend, and will remain in place until spring of 2012:

- Drivers should expect a sequence of traffic shifts to be implemented by road crews on Johnnie Dodds Boulevard (U.S. Highway 17) between 9 p.m. on Saturday, June 25, and 9 a.m. on Sunday, June 26.
- Crews will close a portion of existing Johnnie Dodds Boulevard (northbound and southbound lanes) and shift traffic onto new ramps crossing Bowman Road this weekend.
- There will still be two lanes for traffic in both directions over the entire length of the new route near the Bowman Road intersection.
- The detour will allow work on the new bridge over Bowman Road (commonly referred to as the flyover) to begin.
- Once implemented, the Johnnie Dodds Boulevard traffic shift onto the new ramps will
 continue until the new bridge and retaining walls are completed on Bowman Road, which is
 anticipated to be by the spring of 2012.
- Left turns from East Frontage Road onto Bowman Road (adjacent to Nason Medical Center) will be eliminated permanently as part of the change.
- The construction areas will continue to be marked with construction traffic cones and signs as they are now.
- <u>See map of detour:</u>
 http://www.ccroadwise.org/file/doc/us17_tc_display_s3_ramp_detourrev.pdf

Drivers traveling through the construction zone are asked to be aware of equipment and crews working in the area. Alternative routes are recommended if possible. The public is also asked 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.

The goal of the project, which is expected to be completed in the fall of 2012, is to improve the traffic flow in and out of Mount Pleasant, especially before and after school and work hours.

The project is funded by the <u>Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax</u> and managed by <u>Charleston County Government</u>'s RoadWise Program, in close coordination with the <u>Town of Mount Pleasant</u> and the <u>S.C. Department of Transportation</u>.

The public can get up-to-date project information, including construction status and traffic alerts, online at http://www.ccroadwise.org/johnnie_dodds.html.

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