

LADY'S ISLAND CORRIDOR PLAN SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENTS

Corridor Plan Background and Purpose

The Lady's Island Corridor Study was conceived to evaluate the two main corridors of the island, US 21 Business / US 21 Sea Island Parkway and US 21 Lady's Island Drive / SC 802 Sam's Point Road. In order to meet its stated goals, numerous side streets were included. Among the side streets were:

- Meridian Road
- Geechie Road
- Rue De Bois
- Sunset Boulevard
- Miller Drive
- Mayfair Court
- Sam's Point Way
- Cougar Drive
- Hazel Farm Road
- Gay Drive
- Meadowbrook Drive
- Cougar Drive
- Airport Circle
- Little Creek Road
- Lost Island Road

The study originated with the following goals:

Improve Congestion and Reduce Delays – The corridors are experiencing congestion during peak hours of traffic. Traffic volumes are expected to continue to grow in the future, further increasing travel delays. Improvements are needed to provide congestion relief.

Improve Safety – From 2012 to 2015, the two main corridors experienced 541 reported crashes, with two crashes involving at least one fatality and 180 crashes involving at least one injury. Countermeasure strategies are needed to improve safety.

Enhance Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations – Further enhancements to existing sidewalks and bicycle lanes will encourage non-vehicular means of travel and better reflect city standards.

Public Involvement

While developing the study, the project team held Public Information Meetings on September 29, 2016 and on February 16, 2017. The team also held several stakeholder meetings. Those meetings included:

- Area Developers and Engineers
- Various Property Owners
- Public Safety Representatives
- Lady's Island Community Preservation
- Sea Island Coalition
- Coastal Conservation League
- Beaufort County School District
- Northern Regional Plan Implementation Committee

The completed study and its recommendations are the result of the team's analysis, stakeholder coordination, and feedback from the Public Information Meetings. A final concept plan was developed to meet the intended objectives and significantly improve the corridors.

Corridor Plan Elements

The concept plan includes the following elements:

Greater Street Connectivity – Seven new connections are made to provide alternate routes for relief of congested intersections and safer means for difficult turning movements.

Traffic Signal Improvements – Four new traffic signals are planned, with interconnection between them and the existing US 21 / SC 802 signal.

Improvements to the Main Intersection of US 21 and SC 802 – A new right turn lane is already being constructed for the US 21 Sea Island Parkway eastbound approach through a separate site development. The concept plan includes a new right turn lane for SC 802 Sam’s Point Way to provide further congestion relief.

Extension of the US 21 Sea Island Parkway Eastbound Outside Through Lane – The outside through lane currently tapers down just prior to Lost Island Road. Extending this outside lane past the commercial area will provide both congestion and safety benefits.

Raised Medians for Access Management and Safety Improvements – Strategically placed medians can reduce turning movement conflicts and improve safety.

Traffic Calming Elements – The plan includes traffic calming elements to preserve the residential character of Sunset Boulevard, Miller Drive, and Gay Drive.

Enhanced Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations – Existing facilities will be further improved to encourage non-vehicular means of travel.

Corridor Enhancements – Landscaping, irrigation, and lighting are planned to enhance the main corridors and some side streets.

Summary of Improvements

The overall plan is separated into nine distinct projects. These projects will be combined as funding permits. Otherwise, they will be prioritized based on availability, impacts of one project to another, and perceived needs. The nine projects and their estimated total costs (in 2017 dollars, excluding right of way and easements) are listed below:

SC 802 Sam’s Point Road Right Turn Lane - \$761,000
Hazel Farm Road and Gay Drive - \$2,984,000
New Lady’s Island Middle School Access - \$1,483,000
Sunset Boulevard and Miller Drive West - \$4,842,000
Beaufort High School Access Realignment - \$1,792,000
US 21 Business, US 21, and SC 802 Mainline Improvements - \$10,776,000
Meadowbrook Drive Extension - \$777,000
Mayfair Court Extension - \$450,000
US 21 Airport Area and Frontage Road - \$4,980,000
Total Cost - \$28,845,000