


HIGH: 86
LOW: 64
Weather, 8B

PRIMARY RESULTS

WINS FOR BOTH 4A



GRILLED EGGPL

Forget about meat for a minute and try
this healthy, filling veggie on a sandwich **1C**

*****3-DIGIT 292
DENNIS CORPORATION
STE 114
5000 THURMOND MALL
COLUMBIA SC 29201
29201

The Beaufort Gazette

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WIDER ROADS ON THE WAY



Traffic makes its way across the J.E. McTeer bridge from Lady's Island to Port Royal on Tuesday afternoon. A two-lane bridge with a 10-foot wide bike lane and shoulder built parallel to the J.E. McTeer Bridge is slated as part of a \$42.7 million road project. The new bridge would handle eastbound traffic and the McTeer Bridge would accommodate westbound.

BOB SOFALY | The Beaufort Gazette

Project plans include new lanes on S.C. 802, new bridge

By ALEXIS GARROBO

agarrobo@beaufortgazette.com | 843-986-5539

Extended grass medians and an additional noise barrier were some of the changes to S.C. 802 improvement plans presented at the third and final public hearing about the project Tuesday night.

As has been the case with each public hearing regarding the work, project representatives far outnumbered the residents who turned up to view the plans and make comments.

The \$42.7 million road project includes widening Lady's Island Drive from two lanes to four between Ribaut Road and Sea Island Parkway, as well as Savannah Highway between S.C. 280 and S.C. 170. The project is funded through a countywide 1 percent sales taxes voters approved in November.

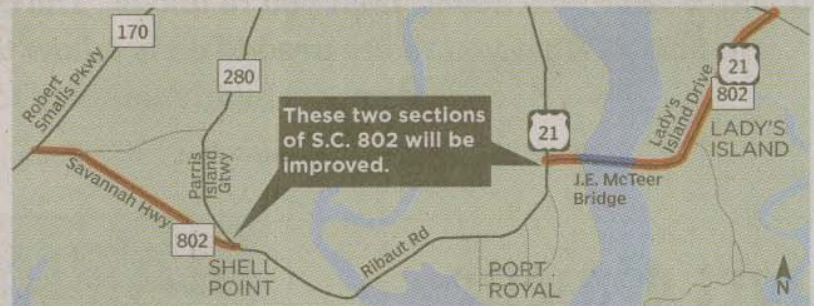
Please see **ROADS** on 7A

CATCH UP

For video highlights of the public hearing, go to beaufortgazette.com

IMPROVEMENTS TO S.C. 802

Two sections of S.C. 802 will be widened to four lanes. A new bridge, built next to the J. E. McTeer Bridge, will handle eastbound traffic.



The Gazette

ROADS

Continued from 1A

A two-lane bridge with a 10-foot wide bike lane and shoulder built parallel to the J.E. McTeer Bridge is also slated for the project. The new bridge would handle eastbound traffic and the McTeer Bridge would accommodate westbound. The new bridge also would have a railing that would allow pedestrians to enjoy the river vista, said Dan Dennis, president of Dennis Corp., which is managing the project.

Extending the grass medians along Savannah Highway, or S.C. 802, was the largest revision to the plan, which was last presented to the public in January.

Previously, the medians were only planned in the Shell Point area. Now the grass strips are projected in intervals along Savannah Highway and at the bottom of the new bridge. There is not a set amount of medians that will be put in, said Frank Hribar, construction manager with Dennis Corp.

But a few people who attended Tuesday's hearing were concerned that the medians would harm their businesses.

Chuck Warren, Smitty's Auto Trim manager, said he came to submit another request that the state not place a median in front of his

business. Warren said about 70 percent of his business consists of repair and trim for large boats, which require wide turns.

"If they don't open it up, it would likely shut us down," Warren said.

Dennis said Smitty's request submitted in January slipped through the cracks.

"We plan to pull (the medians) back so you don't have any obstructions," Dennis said. "I don't know how the ball got dropped."

Lary Shawver, representing businesses on Topper Lane, also objected to the medians.

"(The medians) would shut off a lot of access and basically make it harder to take out the trash or get big trucks into the businesses (such as Beaufort Hardscapes)," Shawver said.

The state agreed to add an 11-foot-high noise barrier along Riverwind Condominiums, said Hribar. However, a study conducted by Dennis Corp and the DOT determined that a traffic light was not needed at the entrance of Riverwind despite residents' request, said Barry Mattox of Dennis Corp.

"Basically we can now proceed with the final arrangements and begin construction by the end of the year," said Jim O'Connor, the project manager from Charleston-based Collins Engineering.

Construction is anticipated to begin in late 2009.