

Approval of Resolution to Explore Options for Seaside Elementary Traffic Concerns

Policy Reference: OE-13: The superintendent shall assure that physical facilities support the accomplishment of the board's Results policies, are safe and properly maintained.

Background Information:

Seaside Elementary School Opened in 1996. Traffic problems at the intersection of Woodland Drive Extension and US-17 Business have been an issue since the school opened.

Prior to the installation of a "no-left turn" sign in the Fall of 2013, this intersection was a problem for cars and buses exiting Woodland Drive Extension and turning left to go north on US-17 Business. However, drivers often ignore this "no-left turn" sign. This intersection remains a problem for cars and buses travelling northbound on US-17 Business and turning left onto Woodland Drive Extension. Multiple accidents have occurred at the intersection of Woodland Drive Extension and US-17 Business.

An October 2012 SC DOT analysis recommended that additional storage capacity be created on Woodland Drive Extension to relieve US-17 Business congestion near the school. SC DOT also recommended a review of the school's loading/unloading procedures for students. A school district review determined that the staff at SSES operates loading/unloading procedures for students very efficiently.

In response to SC DOT's suggestions, plans for potential improvements to Woodland Drive Extension were developed. Since the district does not currently own this road and only has an easement over it, the District and the road's owners are in discussions to facilitate a transfer of the road to the County. In order to dedicate the road to the County some improvements are needed. Recently the Horry County Transportation Committee (CTC) agreed to designate some funds to assist with these improvements if the road is dedicated over to the County.

Over the years the District and various community members and groups have also attempted to secure a traffic signal at the intersection of Woodland Dr Ext and US Hwy 17 Bus for Seaside Elementary School. Prior attempts have been unsuccessful. In January 2014 SC DOT received a request from HCS asking approval for the installation of a stop-and-go traffic light. No response has been received as of this meeting.

Staff would like permission to continue exploring options to address traffic concerns at SSE. It is unknown at this time exactly what the costs may be, but some estimated numbers have been provided. Staff anticipates assistance from the CTC to help offset the costs of improvements.

For Additional Information: Please contact Joe Burch at 488-6712, or Dr. Rick Maxey at 488-6774.

Recommended Action: Understanding that there will be costs associated with improving the traffic situation at Seaside Elementary, move to approve the resolution permitting staff to continue to explore options to address traffic concerns.