

Media Release



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HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

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Town Begins Construction Phase of May River Road Streetscape Project

The Town and its contractor, Preferred Materials, Inc., are beginning construction for the second and final phase of the May River Road Streetscape Project in early January. This 2,800-foot project along May River Road runs from Pin Oak Street to Jennifer Court and will include:

- Road improvements from Pin Oak Street to Red Cedar Street, including curb and gutter installation;
- The road widening portion of this project will enable approximately 30 additional on-street parking spaces to be installed from Pin Oak Street to Whispering Pines Street;
- Sidewalk/street light installation on both sides of May River Road. On the north side (same side of street as Dollar General), a sidewalk will be installed from Pin Oak Street to Red Cedar Street. On the south side of the street (same side of street as the Stock Farm neighborhood), a sidewalk will be installed from Pin Oak Street to Whispering Pines Street;
- Storm sewer infrastructure, featuring a water quality control device, will also be installed. This device separates oils and sediments from stormwater prior to stormwater entering the May River;
- Landscaping, supported by irrigation systems, is also part of this extensive project which will improve the aesthetic appeal when entering the Town along May River Road.

The majority of the road and sidewalk construction will occur at night from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. to minimize disruption to vehicular and pedestrian traffic. "Access will be available to all businesses and residences which are adjacent to this construction zone," Bryan McIlwee, the town's director of engineering, said. "Performing the majority of construction at night is of utmost importance to minimize disruption to local businesses and traffic flow."

Town Manager Marc Orlando said this project is an example of how the Old Town Master Plan, which was adopted in 2006, is still relevant and a guiding document helping to balance what is special about Bluffton with its growing infrastructure needs.

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“For a decade, the Old Town Master Plan has helped provide direction to the Town when considering and prioritizing infrastructure projects,” Orlando said. “Ten years ago, many voices helped shape this plan and the vision for preserving the Historic District.”

Mayor Lisa Sulka said May River Road Streetscape is an example of how one project can accomplish several objectives of the Old Town Master Plan.

“The May River Road Streetscape Project increases parking, promotes the health of the May River, connects our neighborhoods and neighbors, provides safe places to walk and bike and increases the Town’s opportunities for economic development and tourism,” Mayor Lisa Sulka said. “This is a quality of life project which enhances the Bluffton experience as it celebrates our uniqueness and showcases May River Road as a restored centerpiece of Bluffton.”

The Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) awarded the Town of Bluffton a 2016 Achievement Award in the 10,001-20,000 population category for its multi-year implementation of the Old Town Master Plan. Twenty-six municipalities competed for this award. In addition, more than 100 municipal leaders toured Bluffton during the MASC 2015 Annual Conference as a mobile workshop to learn how the Old Town Master Plan provided the blueprint for the transformation of Bluffton’s Historic District.

Phase One of the May River Road Streetscape project, which was completed in the summer of 2012, included sidewalks, lighting and landscaping from the corner of Burnt Church Road and Bruin Road to the corner of May River Road and Pin Oak Street.

The Town will continue to keep the public updated on this highly visible project. If you have any questions about this project, please call the Town’s Director of Engineering Bryan McIlwee at (843) 706 -7824.