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Town of Bluffton to Add New Public Parking
Spaces in the Bluffton Historic District

Bluffton Town Council unanimously approved a contract adding 66 new parking spaces along Dr. Mellichamp Drive and at the Michael C. Riley Sports Complex.

Construction on the Dr. Mellichamp Drive Streetscape project is scheduled to begin in mid-October after Town Council approved award of the \$1,006,081 contract to JS Construction Services at its August 8 meeting.

The project will result in 55 new parking spaces on Dr. Mellichamp Drive and 11 new parking spaces at the intersection of Dr. Mellichamp Drive and Goethe Road. Project

improvements will also include formalizing 46 parking spaces in an area patrons are already using as free-flowing parking and will connect to the two existing parking lots already in use at the Michael C. Riley Sports Complex. Upon completion, a total of 191 public parking spaces will be available for public use along Dr. Mellichamp Drive and at Michael C. Riley Sports Complex.

This Dr. Mellichamp Streetscape Enhancement Project is intended to provide new on-street public parking spaces in the Bluffton Historic District as well as connect and activate an existing public parking supply within close proximity. Upon completion, it will enhance roadway, parking and walkability along the entire corridor of Dr. Mellichamp Drive between Goethe Road and Bluffton Road. These enhancements include sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, streetlights, expansion of the Historic District Wayfinding system, street furniture, landscaping and more efficient stormwater drainage.

The project is scheduled to be complete in March 2018.

The project is funded using revenue from hospitality tax, accommodation tax, stormwater utility fees, tax increment financing (TIF) and an \$89,900 grant from the South Carolina Park and Recreation Development Fund to formalize parking and traffic flow in the Michael C. Riley Sports Complex.

“When this project is complete, residents and guests will have 66 additional parking spaces to use at the northern end of the Historic District, “ Mayor Pro Tempore Larry Toomer said. “In total, adding the new spaces with the ones already existing in that vicinity, there are 191 parking spaces in the Dr. Mellichamp Drive – Goethe Road corridor.”

Town Manager Marc Orlando said this project implements a major component of Town Council's Strategic Plan Action Agenda.

"Town Council is integrating responsible parking planning into nearly every capital improvement project. These projects simultaneously improve parking and walking options and are designed to enhance the Bluffton Historic District," Orlando said. "These are important components in our Capital Improvement Projects program and help to accomplish objectives of Town Council's Strategic Plan, so naturally they are also a high priority for town staff to complete."

Access to all existing businesses and residents on Dr. Mellichamp Drive will be available during the entire construction process via Bluffton Road and Promenade Street.

For more information about the Dr. Mellichamp Drive Streetscape project, visit the Town's Capital Improvement Projects Story Map at <https://tinyurl.com/blufftoncip> or contact Bryan McIlwee, the Town's Director of Engineering, at (843) 706-7824 or bmcilwee@townofbluffton.sc.gov