



South Carolina
Department of Transportation

Acting Deputy Secretary for Engineering
Leland D. Colvin, P.E.
Phone: (803) 737-7900 Fax: (803) 737-5053

May 20, 2016

Mr. Geary-Thomas Dooly
Post Office Box 3326
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29306

RE: Proposed S-30 (Clifton Glendale Road) Intersection Improvements at S-538 (Fernwood Glendale Road) and Zion Hill Road, SC Project ID No. 0041116 - Spartanburg County

Dear Mr. Dooly:

Thank you for your letter regarding the meeting with representatives of the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) on March 11, 2016, to discuss the above referenced project. I appreciate the time you and Mr. David Yates took to meet with them and regret that you did not feel like your input was well received. We take our roles as public servants very seriously as we pursue the mission of providing safe and efficient transportation facilities for the use of all who live in and visit South Carolina.

Spartanburg Area Transportation Study (SPATS) approved this project with the intent to improve the safety, capacity, and operation of the existing intersections. The original scope was to construct two Roundabouts at Fernwood Glendale and Zion Hill Road. However, due to the traffic counts, geometric and grade issues with the vacant grocery store and Pineview Drive, and amount of right of way required, Zion Hill was changed to a traditional three leg T-intersection. As explained on March 11, 2016, the traffic counts did not support changing Zion Hill as the mainline road. Zion Hill Road has five left turn movements onto S-30, but if S-30 was changed to the side road and tied into Zion Hill Road as the mainline per your proposal, there would be 349 lefts. This would require adding an additional left turn lane, which would greatly increase the required right of way, including purchasing the vacant grocery store, and require a new signalized intersection which is not warranted for the current design.

Crash data for Zion Hill Road indicates all accidents are either rear end or running into the ditch, which you mentioned in your letter. The accident reports specifically state they are attributed to driving too fast for conditions and this reinforces the SCDOT approach of correcting substandard "Y" intersections to the safer "T" intersections. Mr. Yates also told Program Manager Penny Phillips that he replaces his mailbox about three times per year. Realignment of these intersections closer to 90 degrees will provide better sight lines for vehicles and achieve the overall purpose of the project to improve intersection safety. The project will also include two foot paved shoulders which will improve safety.



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As confirmed by Mrs. Phillips on your March 2, 2016, phone call, the S-curve was introduced to avoid the total relocation of Mr. Yates' parent's property (Tract 17) and still achieve the required minimum degree curvature. The option of tying in S-30 to Zion Hill Road as the mainline will certainly affect the drain field lines for Tract 17 and it would be a total relocation. Since your meeting, SCDOT has continued to analyze the impacts discussed concerning the Septic tank and drain field lines on Tract 17. If findings from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control determine that Tract 17 will have to be relocated, SCDOT will consider redesign of this S-curve. I have decided to make Mr. Robby Camp your right of way point of contact for the remainder of the project and I regret that your experience with Mr. Huff was unpleasant.

I trust this addresses your concerns regarding the design. Program Manager Phillips will contact you when the outcome of the above issue is determined. At that time, there may be additional opportunities to lessen impacts to your property. Again, I appreciate your letter and taking the time to meet with SCDOT representatives. We look forward to a safer, completed project.

Sincerely,



Leland D. Colvin, P.E.
Acting Deputy Secretary for Engineering

LDC:thm

cc: ✓ Nikki R. Haley, Governor of South Carolina, c/o Susanne Cooper
Shane R. Martin, South Carolina State Senate
Edward R. Tallon, Sr., South Carolina House of Representatives
ec: Christy A. Hall, P.E., Secretary of Transportation
Randall Young, P.E., Acting Chief Engineer for Project Delivery
Mike Barbee, Director of Right of Way
Penny Phillips, Program Manager
Marie Bracanovich, Ombudsman
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