



South Carolina
Department of Transportation

May 2, 2014

Ms. Carolyn F. Pyatt
15 Sandy Island Road
Pawleys Island, South Carolina 29576

RE: Access to Sandy Island - Georgetown County

Dear Ms. Pyatt:

Thank you for your e-mail request to Governor Nikki Haley regarding improved access to Sandy Island. Members of my staff have investigated your request and I offer the following assessment.

As you indicated, Sandy Island is a privately owned and developed island in Georgetown County with the only access to the island being by private boat. Our review indicated that there are no state maintained roads on the island and the SCDOT has had no responsibility for providing access to the island in previous years. Our review of Waccamaw Regional Council of Government's Rural Long Range Transportation Plan does not indicate any plans for improved access to Sandy Island. While SCDOT understands your desire for improved access, and while we support private development and economic growth, state funds cannot be expended for the sole benefit of a private development. Furthermore, the cost for an access bridge to the island, to include project development, environmental permitting and construction, would be very prohibitive when compared to the minimal number of citizens benefited by such a project. Therefore, SCDOT does not intend to pursue a bridge project to provide improved access to Sandy Island residents in the foreseeable future.

I trust you understand our position in this matter. If you should need further assistance on other transportation matters, please do not hesitate to contact SCDOT.

Sincerely,

M. Thad Brunson, P.E.
Chief Engineer for Field Operations

MTB:ths

- cc: ✓ Governor Nikki R. Haley, c/o Katherine Haltiwanger
- cc: Christy A. Hall, P.E., Acting Secretary of Transportation
- Claude V. Fuller, Jr., Deputy Secretary for Engineering
- Wendy Nicholas, Chief of Staff
- M. Thad Brunson, P.E., Chief Engineer for Field Operations
- Dennis Townsend, District Five Engineering Administrator

File: DSE/MTB

CTS No.: 3032784



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