

Susan McLean
567 Delafield Drive
Summerville, SC 29483

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

10/14/2015

**Town of Summerville, SC Infrastructure, Sheep Island Parkway -
Bear Island Road Extension Proposal**



Governor Haley,

I am hopeful that you can make a difference and prevent this Bear Island Highway extension from being built. I just learned of this proposal a few weeks ago from a neighbor. Steven Currie, US Army Corps of Engineers, passed on the information that our Weatherstone POA was informed of the Bear Island Highway extension, but that notice never disseminated the information to their residents who live within the community. The Weatherstone community showed up to the September 9, 2015 Town Council meeting to express our concerns over Mayor Collins and the Summerville Town Council Members Bear Island Road Extension proposal and addressed the following issues listed below - we have been denied the opportunity to speak and present our case on the official Town Council Meeting Agenda on more than one occasion, and have only been permitted to speak during "public comments". The residents' testimonies in the town council meeting broke my heart to listen to their concerns of this highway being constructed. The proposed construction of a two lane highway (Bear

Island Road), which could be expanded at a later date into four lanes, will run straight through the middle of our community. Not only will divide our neighborhood community (750 homeowners) in half, it will endanger the lives of our children, pets, ourselves, and the many diverse native SC wildlife that currently reside within our boundaries. It will run through homeowners' front yards, back yards and is only 6ft away from our community center playground, pool and baseball field.

There are other alternate routes to the proposed industrial/commercial/residential mixed use enterprise zone area, such as Sheep Island Parkway, which is a road that runs parallel, in front of our neighborhood.

We have a petition, please read attached comments from SC Summerville residents about this proposal - Save Summerville wetlands and the Weatherstone Neighborhood from proposed road project: <https://www.change.org/p/summerville-town-council-mayor-bill-collins-town-engineer-russ-cornette-save-summerville-wetlands-and-the-weatherstone-neighborhood-from-proposed-road-project>

I implore you... do not give Mayor Collins and the Town Council permits which will destroy an already established community with critical wetland wildlife habitats, in the name of progress and rampant development. We need to preserve these critical areas of our delicate ecosystem where native SC wildlife currently seek refuge from overdevelopment in the area - deer, Red Bellied and Pileated Woodpeckers, red fox, Bald (American) Eagles, spotted turtles, white tailed deer, cotton tail rabbits, raccoons, and so many other native species.

Please help us to keep our community and wildlife safe from harm and prevent this highway from being constructed. We humbly beseech you to investigate and speak up on behalf of the Weatherstone Community residents, and for the native SC wildlife that have no voice but need an advocate.



The Town of Summerville does not have right-of-way to create water retention easement basins. The Weatherstone neighborhood ponds cannot be expected to handle the additional stormwater runoff as a result of this area being developed, causing flooding and erosion if this highway is constructed. We have also been recently informed that Mayor Collins and the Summerville Town Council plan on filling in one or more of our flood water retention neighborhood (stormwater runoff) ponds in order to extend the Bear Island highway through our development. Attached our photos from the recent heavy rainfall from around the subdivision, and this is one of my back yard on Delafield Drive, which backups to a wetland area:



We will be attending the Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 2015 to voice our concerns once again:

Our sub-division, WeatherStone, which is located in Summerville, South Carolina, is a densely populated community consisting of Seven Hundred and Fifty homes and a population in excess of 2,000 people. The town of Summerville currently plans to build a major highway, (referred to as Bear Island Road extension), that will run through the center of the community. The objective of this highway is to divert traffic from N. Main Street through our community. We the residents of WeatherStone are opposed to this project for the following reasons:

- 1) There will be a substantial increase in traffic (the current estimate is 3500 vehicles a day).*
- 2) The highway would increase the risk of child abductions.*
- 3) The highway puts **children**, the elderly, and the handicapped at high risk of being in an accident.*
- 4) The highway will destroy current wetlands and wildlife.*
- 5) There are no plans to include provisions for drainage causing potential flooding along the highway.*
- 6) The highway would open up our community to traffic from N. Main St. to Azalea mall and Interstate I-26*
- 7) Commercial traffic will use this highway on route to Interstate I26 and other major highways.*
- 8) The highway would cause a significant increase in noise pollution.*
- 9) The overall crime rate will increase.*

- 10) *The highway would be an eyesore. Housing values would plummet.*
- 11) *Property owners have adapted a “get out now” attitude selling their properties at below market value before the highway is put through.*
- 12) *There are plans in the future to widen this highway into four lanes with an increased speed limit.*

We, the residents of WeatherStone, have gathered a petition with over 830 signatures of people who are sympathetic to our cause. This list continues to grow daily.

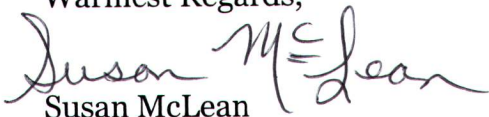
WeatherStone residents have identified an alternative solution that has been put forth to the Town Council. This alternative plan would achieve the same ultimate goal. It consists of widening an existing road (Sheep Island Road) into four lanes. Sheep Island road currently goes around the community, thus eliminating all the listed issues. Since Sheep Island Road is an existing road it may be a lower cost solution.

In summary, WeatherStone is a peaceful, safe, family oriented community to live and raise our children. We want to keep it that way. Incorporating this proposed highway will change all of that. It will increase the crime rate and put our children in danger. I am writing this letter to you to express my concerns. Please support our cause by not approving the permit requested by the Town of Summerville to build the proposed Bear Island Road extension.

I personally was told by a Summerville Town Council member that the Town of Summerville does not have to notify residents of any enterprise zones and/or major thoroughfares that will directly impact their community and surrounding areas, when I questioned why their Weatherstone constituents had not been notified or any public hearings conducted related to this matter. Weatherstone has sent a letter to the Town of Summerville and Mayor Collins to give the residents any documents relating to Sheep Island Parkway - Bear Island Road Extension proposal, under the Freedom of Information Act, and we have requested:

1. *Keep us informed as to any future hearing and/or meetings relative to Bear Island Road.*
2. *Post these hearings for the public to see. Posting a sign in a wooded lot where it can't be seen like the Town of Summerville has done in the recent past, by the public is illegal.*
3. *Have a recent public hearing on the road. The town can't say the hearing occurred in 2003.*

Warmest Regards,


Susan McLean

567 Delafield Drive Summerville, SC 29483

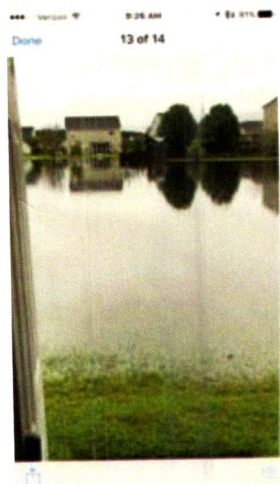
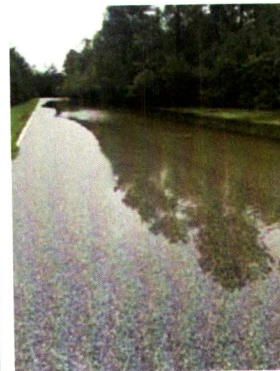
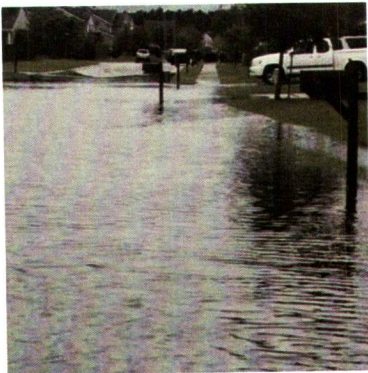
PH: (843)832-1160 CELL: (843)830-9635

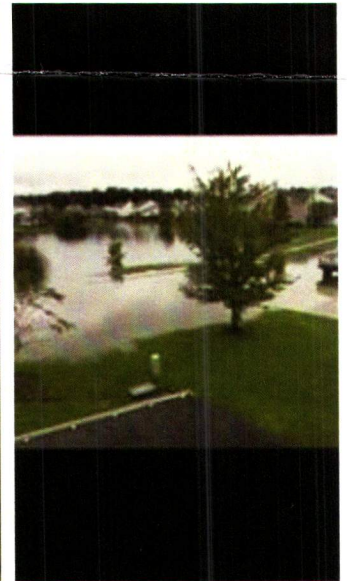
suzmclean@aol.com

THE TRUTH ABOUT RUNOFF WATER

We all experienced the heavy flooding that happened from the storms of September 29 - October 5th, 2015. Our roads were under water, our ponds were in our backyards, and for some a lot closer. I bring this up because the Mayor and the Town Council keep telling us that runoff water from the Bear Island Expansion Road won't cause any issues. They state that the current ponds will be retention ponds for any overflow water that the road will bring.

Well these images show something a little different:





So how exactly are our ponds supposed to handle this plus the water from this road? The answer is they can't. The worse thing is the Town Council know it, and are turning a blind eye. Another piece of information that you would like to know is that the pond that is currently across from the field adjacent to our community center will no longer be there as they are going to fill it to compensate for the expansion road. So imagine the above images with one less pond to help with retaining water. We purchased pond front property not underwater property.

Last updated on October 09, 2015



House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

September 21, 2015

Mayor William Collins
200 S Main Street
Summerville SC 29483

Re: Weatherstone Community

Dear Mayor,

I have been contacted by the P.O.A. of the Weatherstone housing development. This area is part of Berkeley County, in the city of Summerville, that I represent. As such, it is my duty and obligation to act in their behalf on any viable concerns which is the purpose of this letter.

Their concern is the proposed construction of the Bear Island Road that will run through their neighborhood. It would drastically change the lifestyle that they have enjoyed in your city thus far. I would like to make a comment/suggestion. First let me say that I have over 50 years experience in highway construction, engineering and 5 years serving on the Berkeley County planning board. My suggestion is the possibility of an alternate route.

I spoke with Russ Cornett Friday and found him to be very courteous and polite. As I stated to him, I would like to propose that the existing Sheep Island road be widened to accomplish the objective of gaining access to the new I-26 interchange. Improving the existing road would be considerably less costly because of the difference in the length and scope of work. I have reviewed the Berkeley County GIS maps and it appears the proposed Bear Island would navigate through some wetlands. This would need to be mitigated and would add cost and time. This would not be factors in our proposal.

I do plan to attend the next council meeting to gain any further information. If I can assist in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me. I appreciate your time and concern with this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Edward L. Southard". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "E" and "S".

Edward L. Southard
House District 100