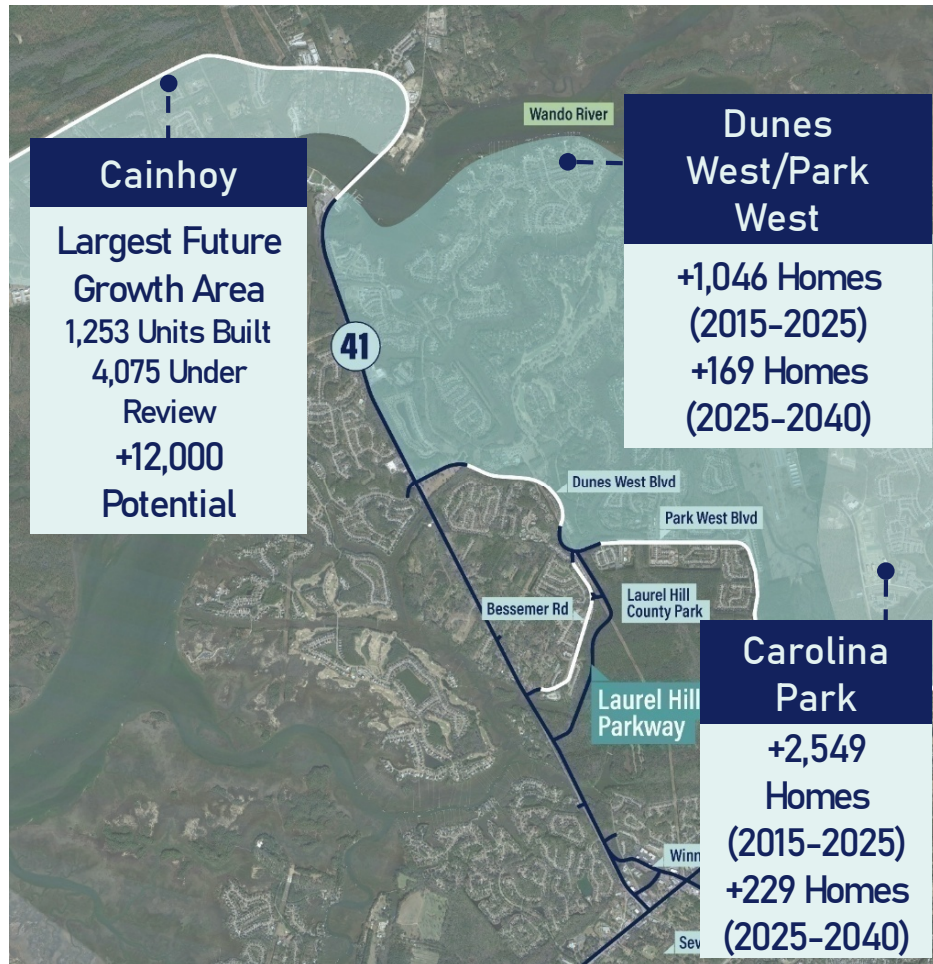




Project Update

Town of Mount Pleasant Briefing
July 14, 2026

Growth is Increasing Pressure on the Corridor



- Over 2,500 homes have been added in Carolina Park over the last decade
- More than 12,000 additional homes are planned in Cainhoy – the region’s largest future growth area
- 25% of future Cainhoy trips are expected to use Highway 41 in Charleston County
- Highway 41 serves both local and regional traffic



Continued growth is increasing congestion and reducing travel reliability on Highway 41

Nine Years of Public Engagement & Technical Analysis

Public comments
received & considered

7,312

Alternatives studied

20

Public meetings

2

Virtual public meetings

3

Stakeholder working
group meetings

5

Additional stakeholder
& community meetings

83

- 9 years of planning, design, environmental review, and public input
- 200+ meetings with residents, stakeholders, agencies, and elected officials
- Over 7,300 public comments reviewed and considered
- 20+ alternatives, alignments, intersections, and community suggestions were evaluated



Community input directly influenced the recommended alternative

Protecting the Historic Phillips Community



- **COMMUNITY INPUT SHAPED THE PROJECT**

- Nearly 800 public comments opposed widening through Phillips
- County Council directed the project team to evaluate alternatives that protected Phillips

- **HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE**

- Phillips is a historic African-American settlement community established in the 1870s
- Received Charleston County historic designation in 2021
- Added to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 2023
- The Recommended Alternative minimizes impacts within Phillips and includes an agreed-upon community mitigation program

Why 4-3-4 Alone Is Not a Long-Term Solution

The 4-3-4 alone does not provide adequate traffic relief in the Build Year (2045).

- Traffic operations begin to fail within 5–7 years
- No new local connection is created for Park West and Dunes West residents to access Highway 41 south of Phillips
- Traffic will continue to rely on Highway 41, Dunes West Blvd, and Bessemer Rd, creating bottlenecks and congestion



Laurel Hill Parkway Completes the Network

Traffic modeling shows that Laurel Hill Parkway provides the network connectivity needed for the 4-3-4 concept to succeed long term.

- Creates an additional local route for Park West & Dunes West residents
- Distributes traffic across the network instead of concentrating it on Highway 41
- Improves travel reliability during peak periods and incidents
- Helps minimize impacts within the Phillips community



Responding to Community & Environmental Concerns



The Laurel Hill Parkway design has been refined to reduce environmental impacts, preserve natural resources, and better integrate with the surrounding community.

- Eliminated center median to reduce footprint to a two-lane roadway along most (70%) of the corridor
- Boardwalk crossing to reduce impacts to tidal marshes
- Drainage improvements to protect surrounding properties
- More than 400 new trees incorporated into the landscape plan
- Limited-access design with no driveways or curb cuts

Why Bessemer Road Was Not Recommended

Bessemer Road was thoroughly evaluated in 2021/2022 as a potential alternative but was determined to have greater community impacts than Laurel Hill Parkway.

- Would require major intersection reconstruction at Highway 41 and Park West Boulevard to maintain traffic operations and avoid impacts to the Phillips community
- Would require widening Bessemer Road, including approximately 60 right-of-way acquisitions from existing property owners
- Traffic volumes on Bessemer Road would approximately double by the 2045 Build Year.
- Would add 2 years to the project schedule, while requiring significant roadway, drainage, sidewalk, and shared-use path improvements



Ongoing Design Refinements Based on Community Input

REDUCED IMPACTS

- Verified no impacts to the Laurel Hill County Park trail
- Reduced tree clearing near Riverview
- Relocated shared-use paths to preserve trees
- Reduced footprint near Gregorie Ferry Townhomes

REDUCED CUT-THROUGH TRAFFIC

- Removed Emma Lane connection
- Eliminated potential neighborhood cut-through routes
- Worked with utility providers to minimize clearing impacts

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

- Abbots Glen
- Porchers Preserve
- Rivertowne
- Dunes West Master Board
- Brickyard Plantation
- Gregorie Ferry Townhomes
- The Enclave at Gregorie Ferry
- Businesses at Winnowing Way/17

IMPROVED NEIGHBORHOOD ACCESS

- Added crosswalk at Morgans Point Road
- Improved left-turn access from Colonnade
- Added U-turn movement near Winnowing Way
- Reconstructed Rivertowne entrance features

Project Investment, ROW, & Funding

Investment in project development,
engineering, environmental studies, design
refinement, public engagement, & permitting

>\$15M

Commitment from the South
Carolina Transportation
Infrastructure Bank

\$63M

Total project funding

\$245M

Impacted parcels
requiring ROW negotiation

171

ROW acquisition progress (as of July 14, 2026)
Completion anticipated in September 2026

139 Tracts Secured 32 in Final Negotiations

County anticipated
ROW acquisition costs

>\$12M

Purpose, Need, & Permitting Considerations

The Project Must Address



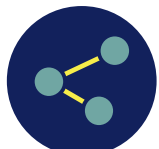
CONGESTION RELIEF



SAFETY / EMERGENCY ACCESS



MOBILITY



NETWORK RELIABILITY



LOCAL + MULTIMODAL CONNECTIVITY

ROAD TO COMPROMISE

The Highway 41 project has never been about finding a solution with no impacts – it is about finding the solution with the fewest overall impacts while still meeting the project's purpose and need.

Numerous alternatives were evaluated.

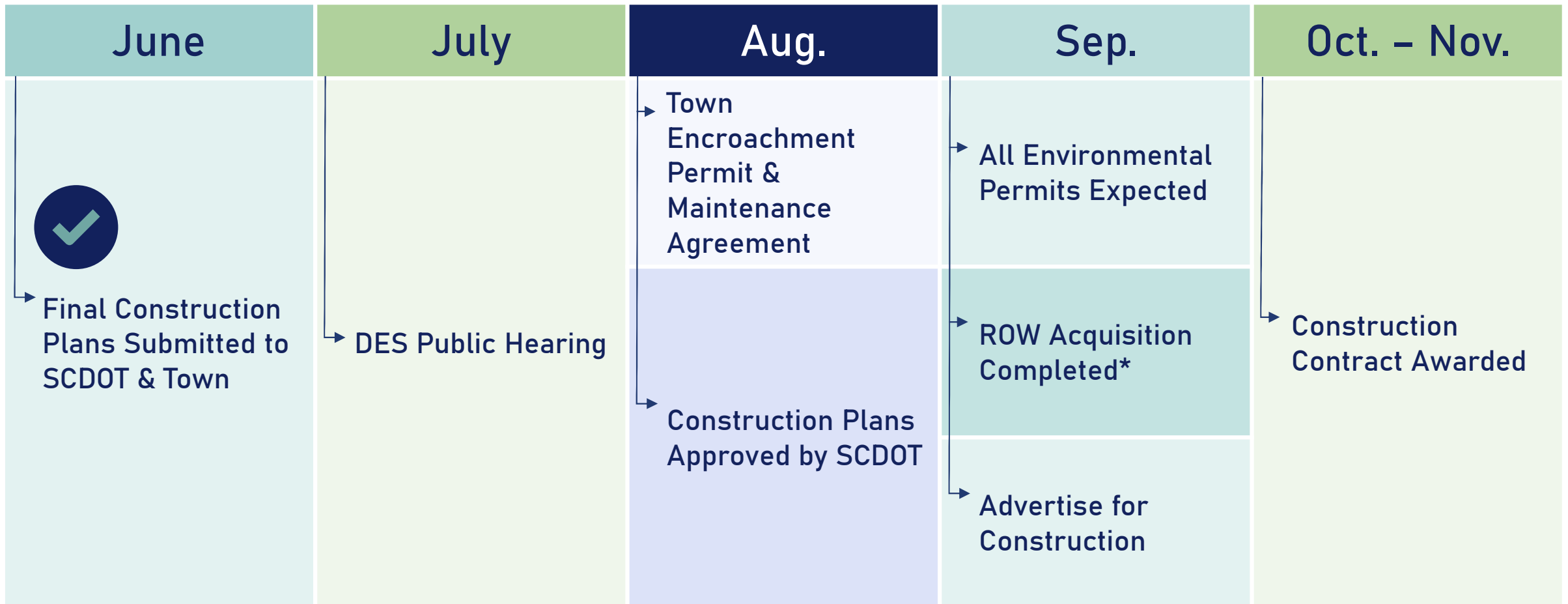
Widening through Phillips has unacceptable community impacts.

The Bessemer alternative requires significant residential right-of-way acquisition.

Alternative 7 shifts impacts to Dunes West and Park West residents.

The recommended alternative remains the most balanced solution that can be funded, permitted, constructed, and successfully delivered.

Path to Groundbreaking



**Laurel Hill ROW will be purchased with controlled access.*

Thank You

