

Port Access Road Project June 2020 Update

The Port Access Road will connect I-26 to the SC Ports Authority's new Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr. Terminal in North Charleston with two inbound and two outbound lanes for all port-related traffic. A new fully directional interchange will also serve local and commercial vehicles with a Bainbridge Avenue connector road, an extension of Stromboli Avenue, associated improvements to local streets, and improved I-26/Meeting Street access ramps.



On the Ground

For the past three years, the Port Access Road project has focused primarily on elevated structure and ramps, but this year, crews turned their attention to the project's surface street improvements. Starting in February, two 60" drainage pipes were installed under Spruill Avenue. This past month, an 18" drainage pipe was placed in the ground and pipes were installed under driveways along Stromboli. When completed, the signalized intersection of Spruill and Stromboli will not only have improved storm drainage, it will also have new sidewalks, as well as right and left turn lanes on a wider Spruill Avenue, between Jacksonville Road to Hampton Avenue.

Over I-26

With this week's dual lane closures, crews expect to finish painting the girders, which support the ramps from I-26 East (into the City) onto Meeting Street and from the Port Access Road onto I-26 East. As the project moves closer to completing the work over I-26, future closures will be needed to place concrete deck for the ramp from I-26 East onto the Port Access Road. Once this final section of concrete has been placed, deck work will be finished for all of the new I-26 Interchange ramps. Painting the girders for this last ramp will be the most complicated since they are 50 feet in the air.

School to Work Interns on Zoom

One of the most important commitments the Port Access Road project made in its Environmental Impact Statement was to introduce neighboring high school and college students to employment opportunities within the transportation industry. With paid summer internships, the School to Work program employed eight students in the summer of 2018, eleven in 2019, and nine students are working remotely this summer. Several of them have returned each year, others have also attended the Summer Transportation Institute Program or received a College Aid Scholarship, and some have benefited by all three programs. With support from Benedict College, this summer's School to Work interns meet regularly via Zoom where they are working together to complete a Virtual Professional Development Program and build the networking skills necessary to make the most of all the opportunities afforded by the Port Access Road community mitigation commitment.



Photo 1: A current picture of Stromboli looking east from Meeting Street. When local road improvements are completed, Stromboli will connect from Meeting St., over Spruill Ave. to the new Bainbridge Connector, seen at the top of this aerial photo. Photo 2: Bridge deck construction is completed on all but the ramp from I-26 East onto the Port Access Road.

Looking for more information?

The Port Access Road Project website can be found at www.SCPortAccessRoad.com.

You can also contact the SCDOT Project Office

by phone- 843-580-8801 or by email scportaccessroad@gmail.com.

