

November 12, 2024

Mr. William Tuten
County Administrator, Charleston County
4055 Bridge View Drive
North Charleston, SC 29405

Mr. John B. White, Jr.
Chairman, South Carolina Transportation
Infrastructure Bank
955 Park Street, Room 120
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Tuten and Mr. White:

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) appreciates the ongoing relationship with Charleston County (County) and the South Carolina Transportation Infrastructure Bank (SCTIB) as it relates to the Mark Clark Extension project (MCEX).

Per the agreements executed between SCTIB, the County, and SCDOT in 2007 and revised in 2019, SCDOT serves as the project administrator for the MCEX. SCDOT has diligently administered the project since that 2019 amendment was executed. Currently, activities have focused primarily on obtaining the necessary permits and regulatory approvals necessary to proceed with the project. SCDOT is prepared to submit the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and an Interchange Modification Report (IMR) to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This is part of efforts to obtain a Record of Decision from FHWA, as well as the necessary permits from the US Army Corps of Engineers and the US Coast Guard.

The funds for the activities from the MCEX are from the County and SCTIB and not derived from SCDOT's sources. SCDOT is aware that the referendum to extend the sales tax needed to fund the MCEX's construction phase did not pass on November 5. SCDOT is also in receipt of Chairman White's November 8 letter to the County requesting additional information on the long-term funding plan for the project. Given these recent events, I have directed staff to hold on submission of the FEIS and the IMR pending further guidance from the County and SCTIB.

SCDOT seeks to be a good steward of the funds entrusted to it. To that end, I am requesting that the County and SCTIB advise if SCDOT should proceed to the next step in advancing the MCEX project by submitting of the FEIS and IMR to FHWA.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and response on this request.

Sincerely,



Justin P. Powell
Secretary of Transportation



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John B. White, Jr., *Chairman*

Ernest Duncan, *Vice Chairman*

Representative Chris Murphy

Senator C. Ross Turner, III

Pamela L. Christopher

David B. Shehan

André Bauer

**South Carolina
Transportation Infrastructure Bank**



955 Park Street
Room 120 B
Columbia, SC 29201
P: (803) 737-2825
Fax: (803) 737-2014

November 7, 2024

Bill Tuten
Charleston County Administrator
4045 Bridge View Drive
N. Charleston, SC 29405

Re: Mark Clark Extension Project

Dear Mr. Tuten:

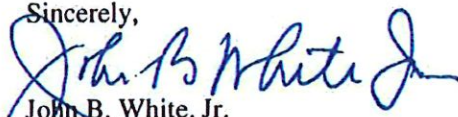
I am writing seeking a response how Charleston County intends to fund its commitment under the First Amended Intergovernmental Agreement, signed January 10, 2019. Please provide a detailed and complete explanation how Charleston County intends to fund its approximately \$2 billion requirement.

The IGA expressly stated Charleston County agrees "to pay all of the costs incurred or to be incurred to complete the entire scope of the Extension Project in excess of the \$420 million in grants from the Bank." The IGA has other provisions concerning material changes in the scope of project requiring Board approval and specific provisions concerning termination by the Bank Board if "necessary approvals, authorizations, or permits cannot be obtained from a Federal or state public body that is required to provide financial assistance." On November 5, 2024, the voters of Charleston County soundly rejected the referendum extending the penny tax. Charleston County has stated the transportation sales tax was its primary funding mechanism to pay for its portion of the project. Since the referendum was rejected, the Bank seeks information how the County now plans to meet its funding obligation.

Please provide a response within in 15 days so the Bank Board can make decisions on how best to proceed with this Project.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Charles Cannon at (803) 737-1225.

Sincerely,


John B. White, Jr.
Chairman

Cc: Board Members