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CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
29405-7464

November 19, 2024

Mr. Justin P. Powell
Secretary of Transportation
SC Department of Transportation
955 Park Street, Room 309
Columbia, SC 29202

Secretary Powell:

I am responding to your letter of November 12, 2024, to County Administrator Bill Tuten requesting direction on the project management activities for the Mark Clark Extension Project.

In 2023, Charleston County, the South Carolina Transportation Infrastructure Bank, and the Joint Bond Review Committee all previously approved and fully authorized the completion of the preliminary activities in order to get the project ready to receive bids. The authorization in December 2023 by the Joint Bond Review Committee specifically contemplated the possibility that the 2024 referendum funding construction may not pass, but that it was to the benefit of the taxpayers of the state to authorize sufficient funding in order to complete the preliminary activities for this regionally significant project.

Therefore, the County respectfully requests that the South Carolina Department of Transportation continue with its project development activities in order to fulfill the commitments from 2023, including submitting the Final Environmental Impact Statement, securing the Record of Decision, obtaining any other permits needed from other state and federal regulatory agencies, acquiring right-of-way, and completing any activity that may be necessary to get to "shovel ready" status for this regionally significant project.

Thank you again for your letter, and we look forward to continuing to work with you on this and other important infrastructure issues in Charleston County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Herbert R. Sass, III", is written over a horizontal line.

Herbert R. Sass, III
Chairman
Charleston County Council

cc: John B. White, Jr., Chairman SC Transportation Infrastructure Bank
Bill Tuten, Charleston County Administrator