



I-26 CORRIDOR

MM 145-172 IN ORANGEBURG AND DORCHESTER COUNTIES

IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

PUBLIC HEARING PURPOSE

- **Educate** the public on key project components, including the Environmental Assessment (EA), Purpose & Need, Preferred Alternative, and potential impacts.
- **Share next steps** in the project timeline and development process.
- **Gather input** on the Preferred Alternative.

Thursday, January 8, 2026 | 4:00 P.M. - 7:00 PM

View materials and ask questions during the open house
from 4:00 to 6:00 PM

Formal presentation and comment session
begins at 6:00 PM

Orangeburg County Conference Center

1643 Russel Street, Orangeburg, SC 29115

Your attendance and feedback are very important components of the project development process!

ABOUT THE PROJECT

SCDOT proposes to **improve I-26 from mile marker (MM) 145 to MM 172** in Orangeburg and Dorchester Counties to improve capacity, mobility, and operations.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the project is to **increase capacity** within the project study limits to alleviate existing and future congestion, **address geometric deficiencies** along I-26 and at the interchanges by bringing them up to current interstate design standards, and **improve corridor safety** by addressing deficiencies that contribute to the corridor's crash rate.

NEED

Improvements are needed to address:

- existing and future **congestion** due to insufficient capacity on I-26
- **operational issues** and **safety concerns** caused by geometric deficiencies that do not meet current standards at interchanges



27

Miles of
Interstate
Corridor



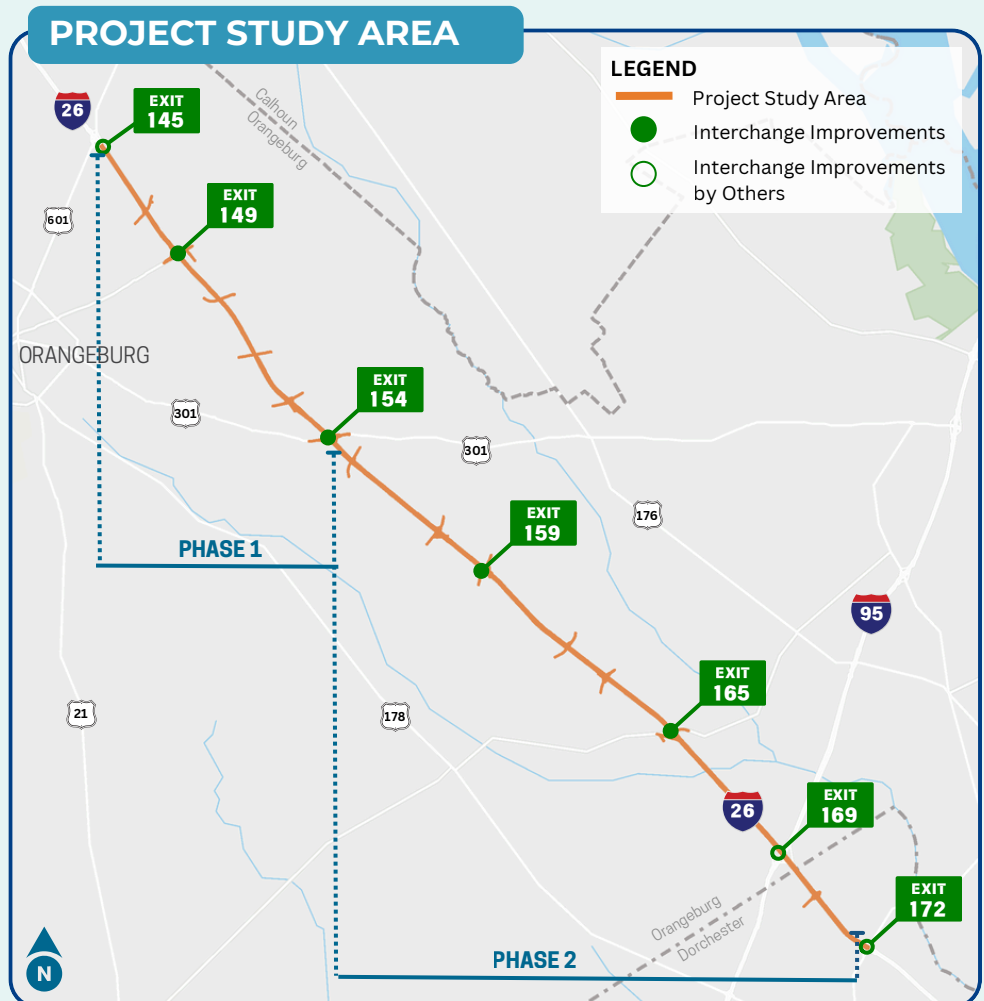
15

Bridges



4

Interchanges

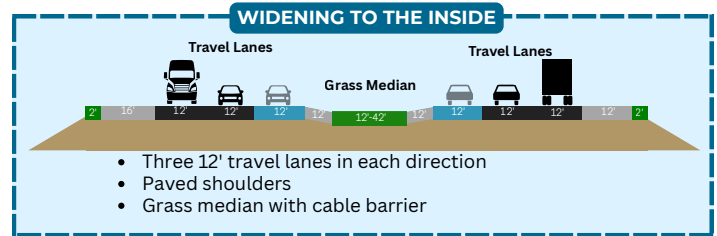
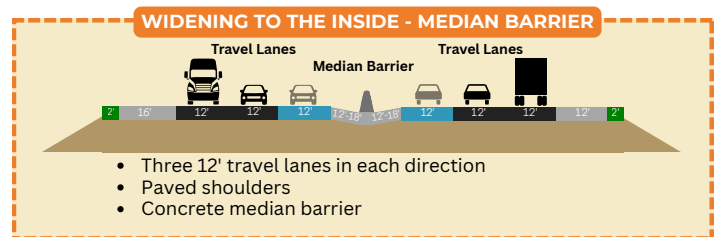
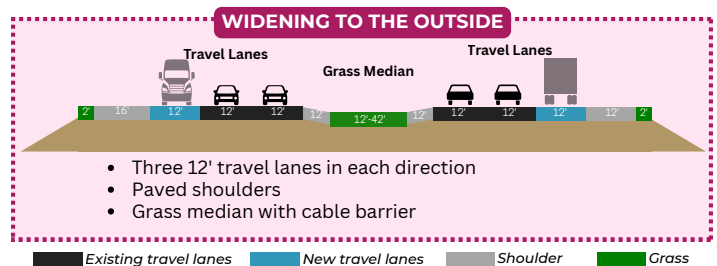
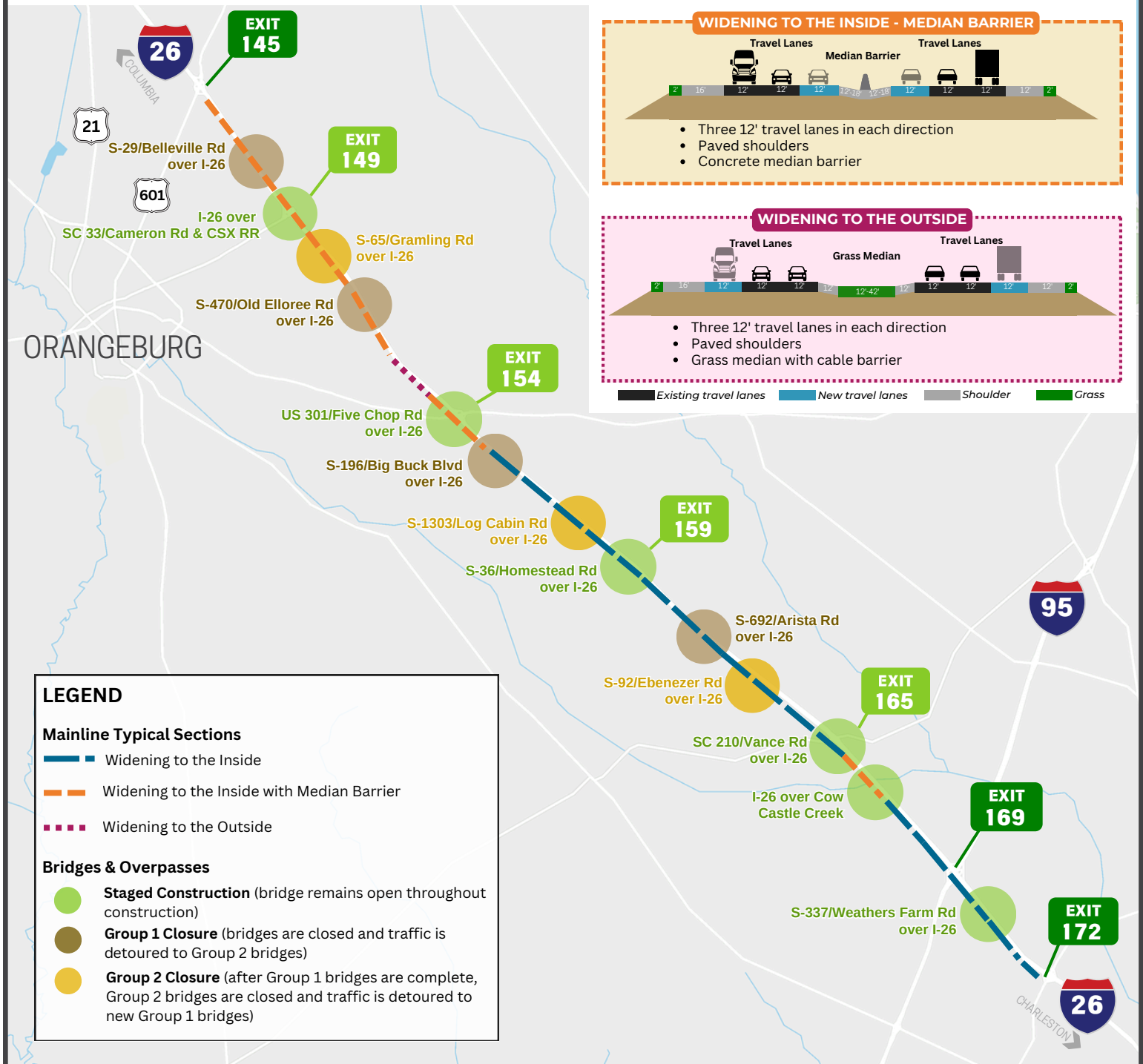


I-26 MAINLINE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The **I-26 mainline Preferred Alternative** includes adding a travel lane in each direction and uses a combination of **widening to the inside**, **widening to the inside with median barrier**, and **widening to the outside**, as shown in the typical section graphic.

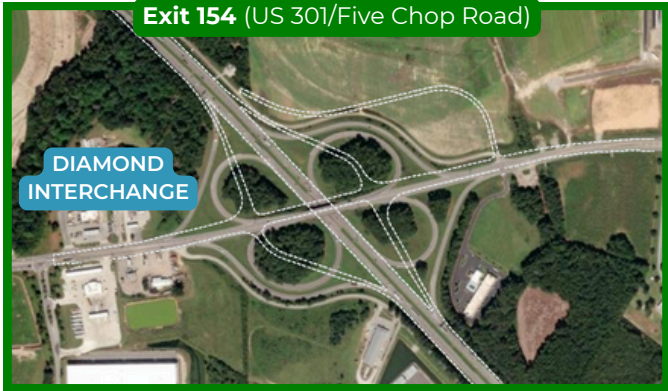
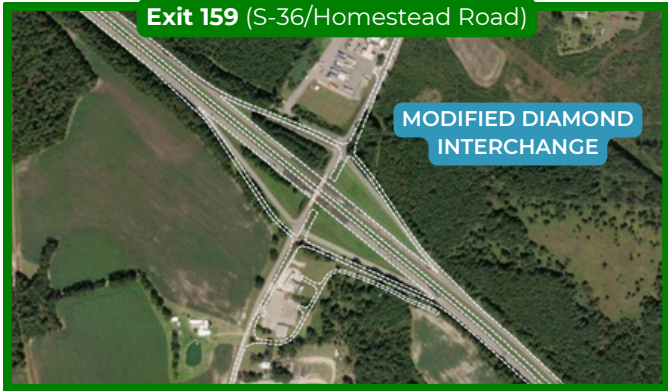
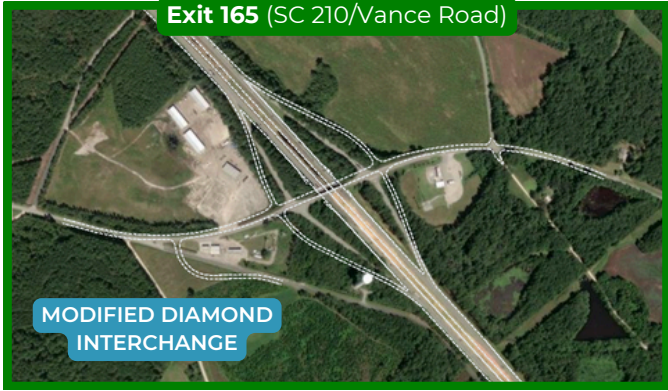
Proposed improvements also include replacing overpass bridges, addressing culverts and drainage, median clearing, barrier walls and cable guardrail installation.

I-26 MAINLINE TYPICAL SECTIONS



INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS & POTENTIAL IMPACTS

All of the interchanges in the project study area have geometric deficiencies and safety concerns, including horizontal and/or vertical alignments that do not meet standards, insufficient spacing between intersections and driveways, merge and weave areas that are too short, and sight distance issues. The **Preferred Alternatives** for the interchanges and ramps at **Exits 149, 154, 159, and 165** are shown below.



COMPARISON OF THE NO-BUILD AND PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES

As part of the Environmental Assessment, **impacts have been evaluated based on proposed right-of-way limits** for conceptual designs dated November 2025 for the mainline widening, interchange improvements, and overpasses.

For some resources, such as wetlands and waters of the US, impacts will decrease as designs progress and construction limits are defined within the right of way. Therefore, impacts presented in EA represent the maximum potential impacts of the Preferred Alternative. The matrix below compares potential impacts of the No-Build Alternative and Preferred Alternative.

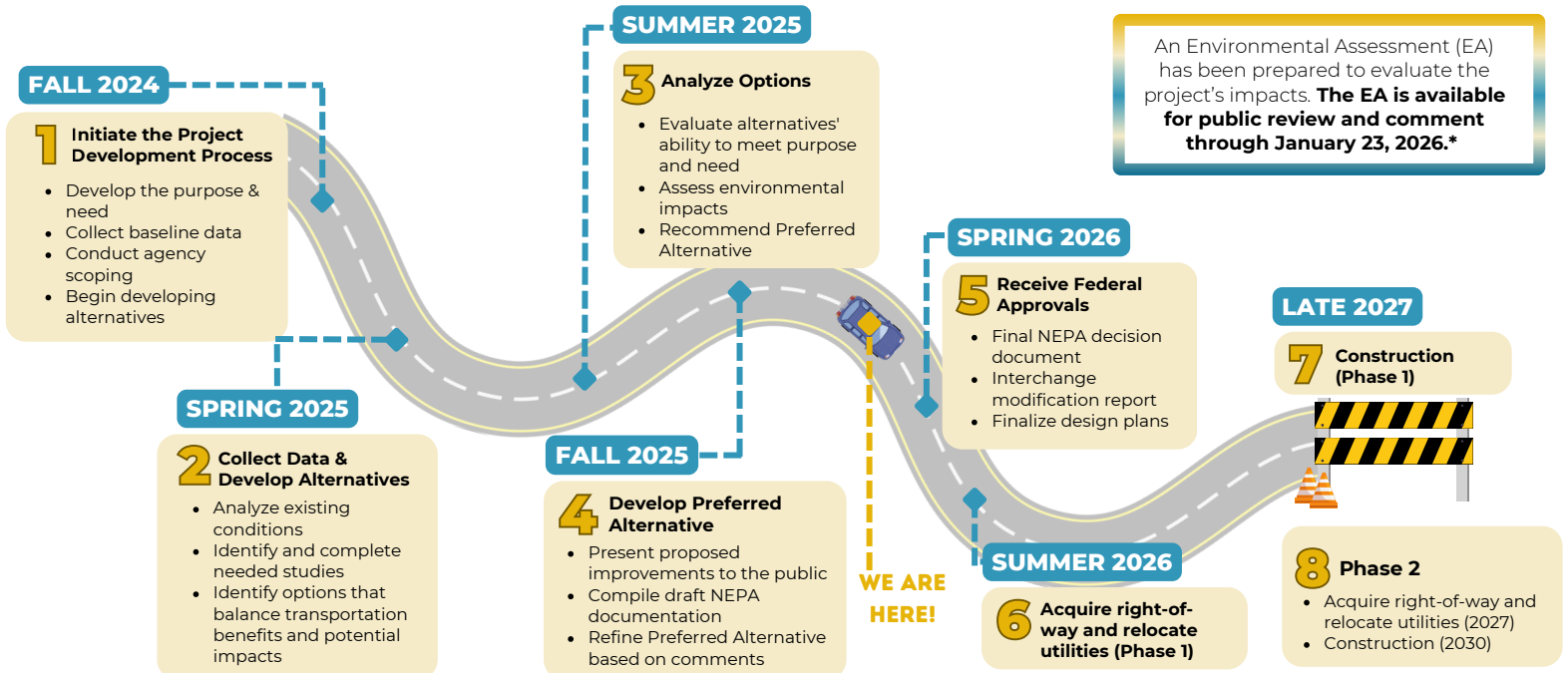
Evaluation Criteria		No-Build Alternative	Preferred Alternative
 Meets Purpose & Need	Improves Traffic Operations	✗	✓
	Addresses Operational Deficiencies at Interchanges	✗	✓
 Meets Project Safety Goals		✗	✓
 Right-of-Way Impacts	Relocations Needed	0	2 residences / 4 billboards
	Properties Impacted	0	144
	Total Acres	0	120
 Noise Impacts*		103 locations	104 locations
 Cultural Resource Impacts		0	0
 Total Wetlands Impacts		0 acres	59 acres
 Threatened and Endangered Species		none	not likely to adversely affect
 Farmland**		0 acres	80 acres
 Hazardous Waste Sites		0	14 sites require further assessment

*Properties are considered impacted by noise if the sound from the highway exceeds 66 dBA (schools, parks, churches, etc.) or 71 dBA (outdoor dining, hotel pools, etc.)

**Farmland impacts are determined based on the soil composition and its ability to support agriculture. Land does not have to be currently used for agricultural purposes to be considered a farmland impact.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is a federally-mandated environmental review process for any project with federal involvement (federal funding or required approvals). The NEPA process helps the project team to avoid or minimize impacts to the human and natural environments and reach a decision that best meets the needs of the community stakeholders.



*Copies of the EA are available for review on the project website and at Orangeburg County Library (1645 Russell St, Orangeburg, SC 29115), SCDOT Headquarters (955 Park St. Columbia, SC 29201), SCDOT District 7 Office (1724 Charleston Hwy, Orangeburg, SC 29115), and SCDOT Dorchester Maintenance (5225 E Jim Bilton Blvd, St George, SC 29477).

Comment

Comments will be accepted from December 24, 2025, through January 23, 2026!



Public Hearing

Complete a comment form and place it in the box provided at the hearing.



Project Website

Complete an online comment form using the QR code.

All materials presented at the public hearing are available on the project website!



VISIT THE PROJECT WEBSITE!

WWW.I26IMPROVEMENTS.COM/MM145-172



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U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration



South Carolina Department of Transportation

We appreciate your attendance and encourage your feedback on the project!

Title VI compliance: SCDOT complies with all requirements set forth by Federal regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation under the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. Any persons who believe that he or she has been discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or disability, or nation of origin under a program receiving federal aid has the right to file a complaint with SCDOT. The complaint shall be filed with the Title VI Program Compliance Coordinator, at the Office of Business Development & Special Programs, 955 Park Street, Suite 117, Columbia, SC 29202 or at 803.737.5095. The complaint should be submitted no later than 180 days after the date of the alleged act of discrimination. It should outline as completely as possible the facts and circumstances of the incident and should be signed by the person making the complaint.