INTERSTATE 26 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (MILE MARKER 172 TO 187)

DORCHESTER AND BERKELEY COUNTIES

PUBLIC HEARING

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026 | 5:00 TO 7:00 PM

WOODLAND HIGH SCHOOL | 4128 HWY 78, DORCHESTER, SC 29437

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) welcome you to this public hearing. We appreciate your attendance and encourage your feedback. You are welcome to review the displays and submit written comments or make a formal verbal comment. Please see the reverse side for ways to make a comment.

PURPOSE OF THIS HEARING

Provide an update on the project, provide an opportunity to review and discuss the project, including the Environmental Assessment (EA), with SCDOT and their project team, and gather input.

PUBLIC HEARING FORMAT

From 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. during the open house portion you may view project materials and displays and talk to team members.

At 6:00 p.m., the brief formal presentation and verbal comment session begins.

If you wish to make a verbal comment, please sign up by 5:55 p.m. at the sign-in table near the entrance. Each comment will be limited to 2 minutes. Verbal comments will not receive a response. Comment forms are available to submit written comments.

PROJECT PURPOSE & NEED

The purpose of the project is to improve traffic operations and existing geometry associated with roadways and bridges along I-26 between mile marker (MM) 172 and 187. The project is needed due to existing and projected traffic volumes and operating conditions along this section of I-26. Specifically, the existing and projected traffic volumes indicate that I-26 would be operating beyond capacity and would experience an increase in traffic congestion and operational deficiencies if no improvements are made.

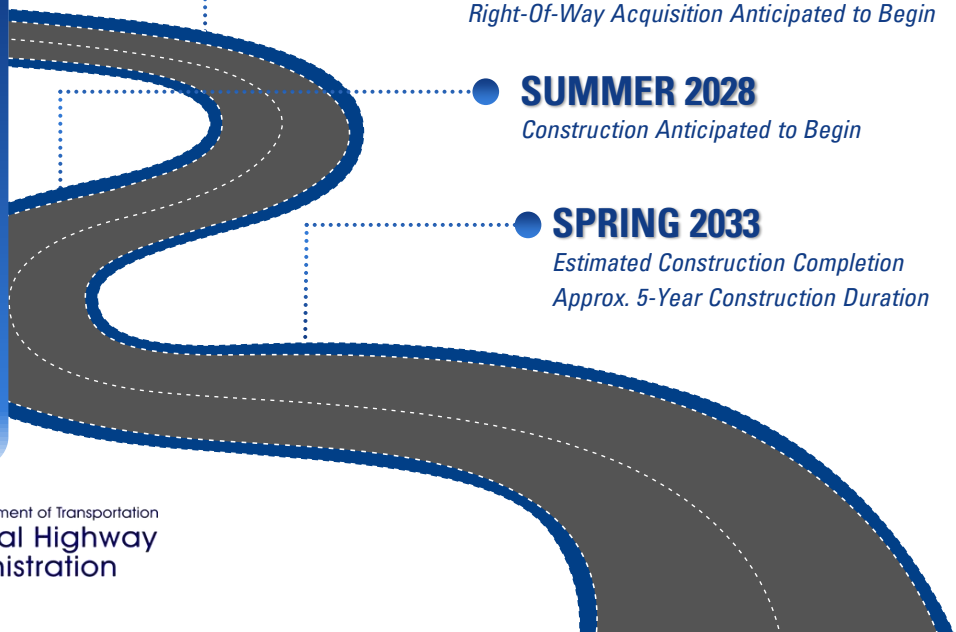
PROJECT BACKGROUND

Widening Interstate (I) 26 to provide three continuous lanes in each direction between Columbia and Charleston is a key priority for SCDOT. This project is a vital piece of that plan. It is also a major component of the Department's Rural Interstate Freight Mobility Program due to its regional and economic significance.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

- SCDOT is proposing improvements to I-26 beginning just west of the US 15 interchange at Exit 172 and ending just west of the SC 27 interchange at Exit 187 (see reverse side). Exit 187 (SC 27) is not included in this project.
- The approximately 15 miles of widening of I-26 will occur by utilizing the existing right-of-way within the interstate median.
- Both the US 15 (Exit 172) and SC 453 (Exit 177) interchanges will be reconstructed to accommodate the widening while also planning for future traffic volumes. A recommended preferred alternative is presented for each. Details can be found in the public hearing display area or by visiting the project website.
- Temporary detours will be implemented for the bridges over I-26 on both the S-28 (First Bend Road) and S-55 (Second Bend Road) overpasses during construction. Details can be found in the public hearing display area, on a detour handout, or by visiting the project website.

PROJECT SCHEDULE



FALL 2026
Right-Of-Way Acquisition Anticipated to Begin

SUMMER 2028
Construction Anticipated to Begin

SPRING 2033
Estimated Construction Completion
Approx. 5-Year Construction Duration

SCDOT
South Carolina Department of Transportation

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

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YOUR FEEDBACK IS REQUESTED

If you would like to submit comments about the project, you may do so by:

- Signing up by 5:55 p.m. on April 28 to make a verbal comment during the formal comment session of the hearing.
- Completing a comment form and depositing it in the comment boxes in this meeting room.
- Visiting the project website: www.i26improvements.com/mm172-187 and completing a comment form.
- Scanning the QR code provided below with your smartphone.
- Mailing or emailing comments using the contact information provided below.

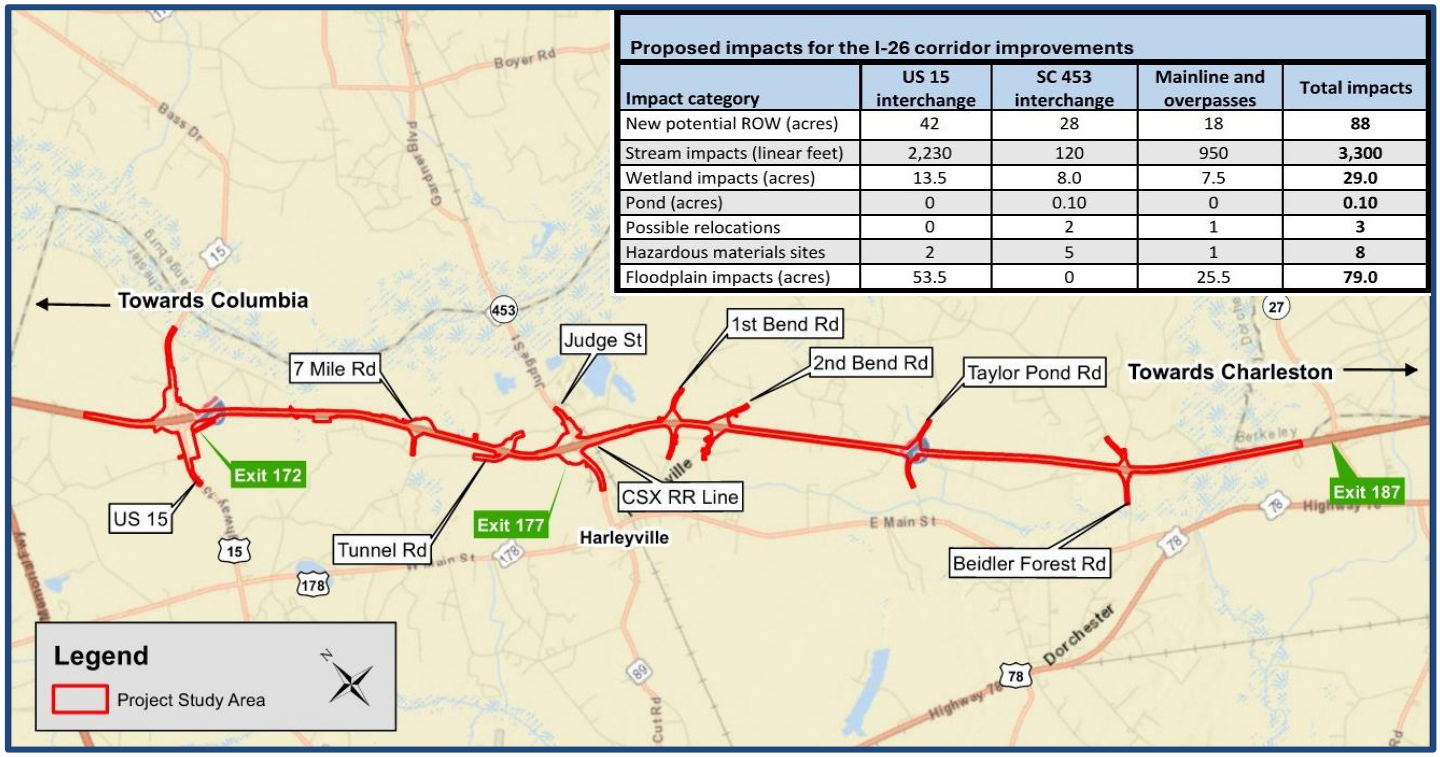
The official comment period closes on May 13, 2026.

C.T. York, PE
SCDOT Project Manager
955 Park Street
Columbia, SC 29201
i26improvements@scdot.org
(803) 737-3122

SCDOT will respond to written comments if requested. Both your comments and SCDOT's response will be included in an official public meeting file. All materials from tonight's meeting can be found at: www.i26improvements.com/mm172-187.

An Environmental Assessment was prepared to evaluate the project's impacts and is also available for public review and comment online and in person through May 13, 2026. A summary of impacts associated with the proposed project is presented in the table below.

PROJECT STUDY AREA AND PROPOSED PROJECT IMPACTS



Proposed impacts for the I-26 corridor improvements

Impact category	US 15 interchange	SC 453 interchange	Mainline and overpasses	Total impacts
New potential ROW (acres)	42	28	18	**88**
Stream impacts (linear feet)	2,230	120	950	**3,300**
Wetland impacts (acres)	13.5	8.0	7.5	**29.0**
Pond (acres)	0	0.10	0	**0.10**
Possible relocations	0	2	1	**3**
Hazardous materials sites	2	5	1	**8**
Floodplain impacts (acres)	53.5	0	25.5	**79.0**

The Recommended Preferred Alternative would add a third travel lane in each direction, modify existing interchanges that allow access to/from the interstate, and replace overpass bridges to accommodate the additional travel lanes.

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 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.

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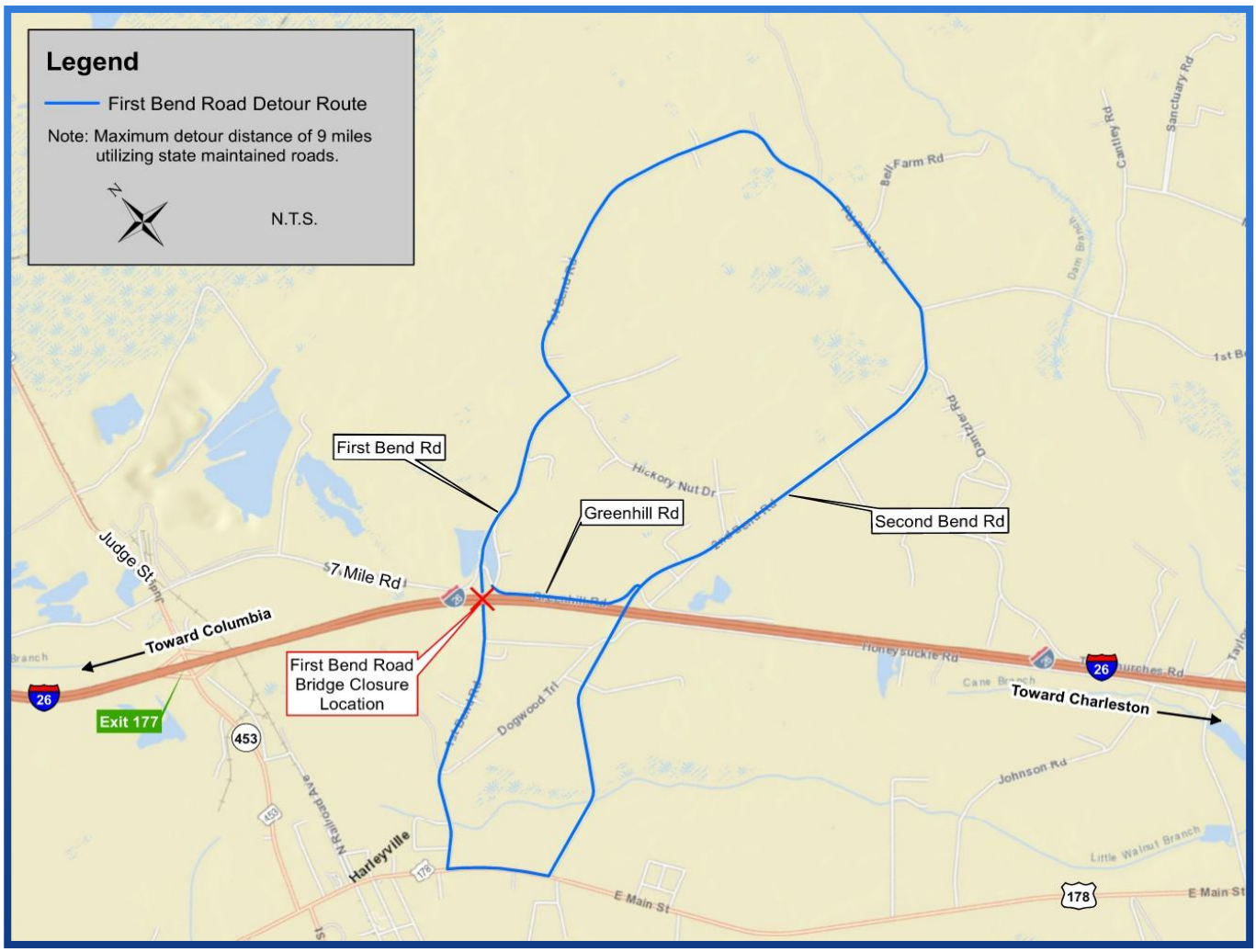
FIRST BEND ROAD BRIDGE CLOSURE DETOUR ROUTE



BRIDGE/DETOUR OVERVIEW:

- To accommodate the widening of Interstate (I) 26, each of the bridges in the project study area will need to be demolished and reconstructed to meet the height and width requirements of the modified interstate.
- A few of the bridges will remain open while a new bridge is constructed adjacent to the old bridge. Once complete the old bridge will be demolished.
- The First Bend Road bridge will be replaced on existing roadway alignment due to design constraints.
- Access across I-26 from First Bend Road will be detoured for approximately 12 months while demolition and new construction is completed.
- The detour has a maximum distance of 9 miles utilizing state-maintained roads.
- The detour will utilize Second Bend Road and US 178 to connect First Bend Road travelers.
- The construction of the First Bend Road bridge will be completed before the Second Bend Road bridge is demolished.

For more information, please visit the project website at:
www.i26improvements.com/mm172-187 or scan the QR code.

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SECOND BEND ROAD BRIDGE CLOSURE DETOUR ROUTE

BRIDGE/DETOUR OVERVIEW:

- To accommodate the widening of Interstate (I) 26, each of the bridges in the project study area will need to be demolished and reconstructed to meet the height and width requirements of the modified interstate.
- A few of the bridges will remain open while a new bridge is constructed adjacent to the old bridge. Once complete the old bridge will be demolished.
- The Second Bend Road bridge will be replaced on existing roadway alignment due to design constraints.
- Access across I-26 from Second Bend Road will be detoured for approximately 12 months while demolition and new construction is completed.
- The detour has a maximum distance of 9 miles utilizing state-maintained roads.
- The detour will utilize First Bend Road and US 178 to connect Second Bend Road travelers.
- The construction of the Second Bend Road bridge will not begin until the First Bend Road bridge is completed.

For more information, please visit the project website at:
www.i26improvements.com/mm172-187 or scan the QR code.