

Today we held a ceremony to kick off the beginning of the construction of improvements to the intersection of Glenn McConnell Parkway and Magwood Road and other safety improvements between Essex Farms and -----.

The intersection at this location has proven to be one of the most congested intersections in the West Ashley area.

Several years ago, we went to then Highway Commissioner Bob Harrell and asked Bob for help in funding a study to identify traffic solutions for this area. The study told us that we needed to add travel lanes to Glenn McConnell Parkway, improve the intersection at Magwood Road, and make other changes for safety in the area.

We then went to Charleston County and asked them to include the project in the half-cent sales tax roadway program so the improvements could be realized and today we are proud of the fact that construction will start immediately on this most important project.

When completed, all of you in West Ashley neighborhoods north of Magwood Road such as Forest Lakes Extension, Providence Commons, Shadowmoss, Hickory Hill, Grand Oaks, Hickory Farms, Village Green, and many others will benefit from the highway improvements as your commute times will be significantly reduced, there will be safer intersections, better pedestrian crossings and more efficient transportation.

Glenn McConnell Parkway at I-526 Project

The project (along GM Parkway to Essex Farm Road) will include:

- The widening of Glenn McConnell Parkway to provide an additional lane in each direction for the full length of the project.
- The widening of Magwood Drive at the Glenn McConnell Parkway intersection (Home Depot/McDonald's side of the highway) to allow for dual left-turn lanes and a through or right-turn lane onto Glenn McConnell Parkway.
- The widening of Magwood Drive at the Glenn McConnell Parkway intersection (hospital side of the highway) to provide for a left-turn only lane, a single through lane, and right-turn lane onto Glenn McConnell Parkway.
- Adjusting the stoplight timing at the intersection of Magwood Drive and Glenn McConnell Parkway to allow left turns from both northbound and southbound lanes of Magwood Drive to occur at the same time.
- Closing the median on Glenn McConnell Parkway at Frontage Road to prohibit left turns and U-turns for improved safety.
- Lengthening the left-turn lanes on Glenn McConnell Parkway toward I-526 eastbound (toward North Charleston and Mount Pleasant) in order to allow more room for vehicles waiting to turn.

- Construction of a five-foot-wide concrete sidewalk along Magwood Drive to connect to the existing sidewalk.
- Creating earthen sound buffers that include landscaping, along the northbound lanes of the Glenn McConnell Parkway to provide a buffer for nearby neighborhoods.