

Port Access Road Project – January 2017 Update

When completed, the Port Access Road will connect I-26 to the SC Ports Authority's new Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr. Terminal in North Charleston with two inbound and two outbound lanes for all port-related traffic. The new fully directional interchange will also serve local and commercial vehicles with a Bainbridge Avenue connector road, an extension of Stromboli Avenue, associated improvements to local streets, and improved I-26/Meeting St. access ramps.



Demolition Underway

To clear the way for the construction of the new Port Access Road/I-26 Interchange and improved I-26/Meeting Street ramps, crews have closed Exit 218 and Exit 217 on I-26 to demolish the existing ramps.

Demolition activities began after Thanksgiving with the removal of signage and guardrails. In mid-December, crews began working at night to remove the concrete ramp parapet walls and deck sections over I-26. Night-time work is required for all activities that require lane closures on traffic restricted routes such as I-26. The restrictions are in place to ensure that motorists are minimally impacted by construction activities for roadways which are heavily traveled.

After a short holiday break, crews will return to night operations to remove the steel girders over I-26 and then to remove the remaining bridge sections over N. Meeting Street (US Route 52) and King St. Ext. (US Route 78).

Once the old elevated ramp sections are removed, crews will remove the old roadway concrete sections and use the underlying soil to provide construction fill for the new ramps being built. Recycling and reusing these materials minimizes waste, reduces cost, and saves time. Steel and concrete debris removed during demolition activities are being recycled at an offsite facility. Demolition work is scheduled to be completed by early spring so crews can begin construction activities for the new interchanges.



Photo Above – Having removed all of the concrete parapet walls and deck on the former I-26 Exit 218 ramp from Spruill Avenue to I-26 Eastbound, crews will work at night in early January to remove the remaining ramp components over I-26.

Vibration Monitoring

SCDOT recognizes life around an active construction project can be challenging and we are committed to minimizing demolition and construction impacts as much as possible. One of our commitments is to minimize and monitor vibrations on this project. Before demolition began, engineers placed special vibration monitoring equipment around the project area and surveyed neighboring homes and businesses to document existing conditions. With records of pre-construction conditions and minute-by-minute recording of vibrations during demolition and construction activities, residents and businesses can be assured the construction team will be mindful of the impacts their activities may cause. Not only do we monitor vibrations throughout construction, we also look for ways to reduce vibrations from construction activities such as choosing to place drilled shaft foundations where feasible, rather than driving pile foundations, to support the new structures.

For more project information, please contact the SCDOT Port Access Road Project Office
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