



## Port Access Road Project June 2018 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 Street access ramps.*

### Steel Girders Go Up

The Port Access Road Project initiated a new work element in May with the placement of steel girders over I-26 to support a new ramp from I-26 Eastbound onto Meeting Street.

Each girder is 5 feet tall, approximately 100 feet long, and weighs between 14 tons and 18 tons. Before being trucked to the construction zone, all of the steel girders are fabricated, tested and painted in Augusta, Georgia.

The month began with the installation of four girders on the north side of I-26 the night of May 1<sup>st</sup>. Once these girders were in place, crews turned their focus on placing girders over I-26 Eastbound and Westbound lanes. It took six nights to complete this crossing, including time to mobilize equipment, place four lines of girders with two girders in each line, and bolt support diaphragms between the lines of girders. Check out the [SC Port Access Road Facebook Page](#) for time-lapse videos showing how some of the girders were placed on the north side of I-26 and over the Interstate.



**Photo Above: Lines of girders over I-26 for a new ramp from I-26 EB onto Meeting Street.**

Additional night time, dual lane closures in both the east and westbound lanes will be necessary to install traffic protection and Stay-In-Place (SIP) deck forms. Plywood and 4"x4" wood framework will be added between the girders to protect traffic from any loose materials or tools that are accidentally dropped. SIP deck forms are steel pans designed to fit between the steel and concrete girders. These forms minimize bridge deck construction time and costs because they allow work to be done from above and do not have to be removed after the concrete deck is formed. Building the Port Access Road Interchange ramps to and from I-26 eastbound will require two more girder crossings over I-26 currently scheduled for 2019.



**Photo Above: Improvements at Stromboli & Carner require a new cul-de-sac on Meeting Street Road.**

### South-end of Meeting Street Road Scheduled to Close June 21, 2018

Construction of the new Stromboli Avenue and Carner Avenue/ (US 52) intersection requires Meeting Street Road, south of Barnaby Lane, to be closed with a new cul-de-sac. This permanent closure has been scheduled to take place on June 21, 2018. Meeting Street Road users can continue to choose other routes such as Clement Avenue to connect with Carner Avenue.

**For more project information, please contact  
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