

Port Access Road Project October 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.



Girders Go Up on Mainline

The first ten percent of the Mainline Bridge's 524 pre-cast concrete girders have been erected between Meeting Street and the new Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr. Terminal. Trucks are delivering girders from Wilmington, NC at a rate of 6 per day until the first week of November. An average girder is 95 feet long, 4.5 feet tall, and weights 25,000 pounds.



Bridge Deck Preparations and Concrete

With substructure in place along Bainbridge Connector and the Meeting Street ramps to and from I-26, crews are now able to begin bridge deck construction. Constructing the bridge deck on the elevated girders starts with the placement of plywood and 4"x4" wood framework between the girders (see photo of Meeting Street ramps on right). This framework protects traffic below from any loose materials or tools. Galvanized steel Stay-In-Place (SIP) deck forms fit between the girders. Steel reinforcing bars are woven on top of the girders and deck forms, and then concrete is pumped around the steel. The surface is finished and grooved for a smooth and safe ride (see two finished segments of the Bainbridge Connector bottom right).



Surcharging the Embankment

Have you noticed the two large piles of earthwork on either side of I-26 at mile marker 218? Higher than needed for the final ramp construction, the weight of the extra soil is being used to surcharge the ground below to reduce settlement. Over the next nine months, this soil will consolidate the original ground with 110 pounds per cubic foot of extra weight.



Top photo: The first girders go up on the mainline just north east of the railroad tracks parallel to Meeting Street. Middle photo: Aerial photo of the new Meeting Street ramps to I-26 Westbound and from I-26 Eastbound with plywood framework and Stay In Place deck forms. Bottom photo: The first portion of concrete bridge deck is placed for the Bainbridge connector.

Looking for more information?

Check out the Port Access Road Project website

www.SCPortAccessRoad.com.

Contact the SCDOT Port Access Road Project Office

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