

TOWN COUNCIL

STAFF REPORT



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| MEETING DATE: | January 9, 2024 |
| PROJECT: | Consideration of a Resolution Establishing an Improvement and Maintenance Plan for Roadways in Old Town |
| PROJECT MANAGER: | Heather Colin, AICP Assistant Town Manager |

RECOMMENDATION:

Town Council approve the Resolution presented as Attachment 2, establishing an improvement and maintenance plan for roadways in Old Town.

DISCUSSION:

The Town owns approximately 2.78 miles of roadway in the Historic District (Old Town). There are an additional 1.71 miles of roadways commonly referred to as 'ghost' roads, which are additional roads that the Town is in the process of claiming legal title. Attachment 3 shows the road responsibilities and general conditions.

The character of Old Town is defined in part by the historic street layout and physical conditions, including the existing pavement widths, material and markings. Through public input the Old Town Master Plan, Blueprint Bluffton (the Comprehensive Plan), and the current and past Strategic Plans have been adopted to guide development within the Historic District and provide prioritization for the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Projects within the CIP may include street maintenance, and streetscape projects with stormwater improvements, on-street parking, lighting, sidewalks, signage, traffic calming or the undergrounding of utilities. The only projects identified and approved in the current CIP are for Pritchard Street, Boundary Street, Bridge Street – Phase 2, Calhoun Street and various sewer extension projects.

As the Town continues to develop strategies for street maintenance and/or improvements within the historic district, there is no intention to change the character of what was or is currently classified as a 'ghost' road, unless the current residents request modifications and present to Council for consideration. The existing characteristics are included in Attachment 4. Staff recommends that requests for any street modification would follow the same process that was established in the Street Calming Procedures approved by Council via Resolution on April 13, 2021.

If approved by Council, residents and property owners can expect the roads to be maintained in their current configurations and locations, to include maintenance of the road surfaces in a safe condition and free of any downed trees or vegetation. Should residents on streets without sidewalks, lighting, signage or traffic calming request such improvements, Town Council would consider on a case by case basis.

NEXT STEPS:

Should Council approve the Resolution, it would be effective during the same effective date of the approved Comprehensive Plan, Blueprint Bluffton, November 8, 2032.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Presentation
2. Resolution
3. Map - Old Town Historic District Roads
4. Historic District Street Characteristics
5. Proposed Motion