



The Lowcountry's Hometown

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STAFF REPORT

TO: Planning Commission
FROM: Justin Westbrook, Community Development Director
SUBJECT: Walking to the Corner: Sidewalks for Improved Pedestrian Access
DATE: June 25, 2024

Background: The Town of Moncks Corner is committed to creating a safe, accessible, and walkable community for all residents. As part of this ongoing effort, Staff with the help of Town Council, Planning Commission, local stakeholders and area residents have identified a critical need for sidewalks along Rembert C. Dennis Boulevard, connecting the commercial corridor of US-52 to nearby neighborhoods such as Sterling Oaks, Stoney Landing, Stone Ridge, as well as Moncks Corner Elementary School.

How the Need Was Identified:

- **Community Input:** The Planning Commission actively seeks public input through various channels, including public meetings, online surveys, and citizen advisory committees. During these engagement sessions, concerns regarding the lack of sidewalks on Rembert C. Dennis Boulevard were consistently raised by residents.
- **Safety Concerns:** The absence of sidewalks creates a dangerous environment for pedestrians, especially children walking to school and residents accessing nearby businesses. The Commission recognized the potential for accidents and sought solutions to improve safety.
- **Accessibility Issues:** The lack of sidewalks hinders access for those with mobility limitations, strollers, or wheelchairs. Ensuring everyone can easily navigate the area was a key priority for the Commission.
- **Connectivity Gap:** A connected sidewalk network promotes walkability and encourages residents to walk or bike for errands and recreation. The missing segment on Rembert C. Dennis Boulevard creates a barrier to this goal.
- **Alignment with Town Goals:** The Town of Moncks Corner's 2024 Comprehensive Plan emphasizes creating a pedestrian-friendly environment. The Planning Commission's initiative aligns with this long-term vision.

Seeking Your Input and Direction:

Staff recognize the importance of public participation in shaping the future of Moncks Corner, specifically with you, the Planning Commissioners of the Town. Staff is requesting you to share your thoughts and experiences regarding the need for sidewalks on Rembert C. Dennis Boulevard. By working together, we can create a safer, more connected, and walkable Moncks Corner for everyone!

Staff Recommendation: The proposed sidewalk project on Rembert C. Dennis Boulevard offers significant benefits for pedestrian safety, accessibility, and overall community well-being. Staff recommends expediting this project to create a safer and more connected Moncks Corner for all residents. Staff also requests the Planning Commission provides feedback and a formal resolution to support the sidewalk plan, along with any and all efforts by Staff to achieve this much needed and critical infrastructure plan, including grant proposals, ordinance changes, policy implementations and public-private partnerships.

Attachments: Sidewalk Plan