



**COLUMBIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

The Columbia Economic Development & Infrastructure Committee met on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, Interim Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Daniel J. Rickenmann	Interim Chair	Present
Will Brennan	District III	Present
Aditi Bussells	At-Large	Present

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. Assembly Street Improvements - Mr. Zack Haney, P.E., Transportation Design Engineer / Mead & Hunt – **Received as information**

Ms. Dana Higgins, P.E., Director of Engineering provided an update on the Assembly Street Project, also known as the South Carolina Statehouse Entryway Project. The first phase of Assembly Street was completed in 2014. It extended from Blossom Street up to Pendleton Street using County Transportation Committee funding and ride-share funding. We engaged with Mead & Hunt last summer. We are at the point where we want to engage stakeholders and we want to make you aware of the project and where we stand right now.

Mr. Zack Haney, P.E., Transportation Design Engineer / Mead & Hunt said the project stretches from Lady Street to Pendleton Street. It's a pedestrian safety and streetscape enhancement project that is a continuation of a previous stage. The project study area is 1,600 feet and it encompasses four block. It's immediately adjacent to the Statehouse. The purpose of the project is to promote pedestrian safety improvements, ADA compliance, provide continuity to the Assembly Street corridor, and create connectivity between the Main Street District and the Vista District. The recommended improvements are to revitalize the existing sidewalks, provide ADA compliance throughout the corridor, install pedestrian bump outs at each intersection, remove median parking, create pedestrian refuge areas, install high visual crosswalks, and underground the overhead utilities. We are currently working on the plans. This is a two-step project. The first step will get us to 30% with the preliminary plans to help identify costs.

There was a discussion about premium lighting improvements, project funding, timelines and connection with the South Main Street construction project.



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2. Distance Requirements for Tattoo Establishments - Ms. Krista Hampton, Planning and Development Services Director – **Received as information**

Ms. Krista Hampton, Planning and Development Services Director said at the last City Council meeting, you asked to look at the current regulations in regards to body piercing and tattoo establishments. The City of Columbia is fairly liberal in regards to these regulations. In other communities, these establishments are grouped with sexual oriented businesses. We do have spacing requirements between tattoo facilities and Fort Jackson and then 100 feet away from residential districts. The establishments are allowed in most of our commercial use and mixed use districts. Depending on the policy guidance from City Council, you have an option of eliminating the distance requirement between facilities or minimizing it to a lesser option. You could make it a special exception with the Board of Zoning Appeals.

There was discussion about selecting between a special exception for an individual store owner or secondary location of a similar business.

The committee recessed at 1:26 p.m. and reconvened at 1:36 p.m.

Mayor Rickenmann suggested that we allow staff enough time to confirm that there's not a wrong address because that would be a determining factor moving forward.

Councilor Brennan requested research on the length of the business license and the lease.

The committee will reconvene if further discussion is needed on body piercing and tattoo establishments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk
