



Conversation with Council

Progress Report

as of November 21st, 2023

Meeting Date: November 9th, 2023

Action Item

Status

How will the new subdivision in Central across from the Grange on Hwy 123 impact traffic at the Issaqueena Trail/Cambridge Drive Intersection?

Procedure in Place

SCDOT required the development off of Old Shirley Rd. To complete a traffic impact study which included the intersection at Issaqueena Trail and Cambridge Dr. and the two interchanges located at the intersection of US 123 and Issaqueena Trail. The development's proposed increase in traffic did not create the requirements for any intersection/interchange improvements. We are in constant communication with SCDOT, the roads in question are within their jurisdiction. New developments including any expansion of the Grange may cause any of these locations to require improvements.

Can sidewalks be installed along Issaqueena Trail between Tiliwa Court and the Issaqueena Trail/Cambridge Drive Intersection so people who live at Rosewood can walk safely to the bus stop? If not, can CATbus stop in the cul de sac at the end of Tiliwa Court?

Procedure in Place

Sidewalk locations are planned many years in advance. The current Sidewalk Capital Improvement Plan has approximately five (5) years of projects on the list. The City Council can make a recommendation that additional projects be put on the plan, and the sidewalk CIP is approved annually by the City Council. City Engineering staff will consider this location as we evaluate future locations. The current 2023 sidewalk CIP list attached.

Extending the Red route to Tiliwa Court would require rebuilding the Red route schedule due to the traffic on Issaqueena Trail. Adding a stop here would add approximately 10 -12 minutes to the route on each run.

Sidewalk Plan				
Year Planned	Project Name	Est. Design Cost	Est. Construction Cost	Estimate
Capital Improvement Projects				
2024	Abel Rd. (LJCC to Rotary Park)	in-house	\$168,000.00	\$168,000.00
2026	Riggs Neighborhood (Strode Cir., Martin St. to Wyatt Ave)	in-house	\$401,520.00	\$401,520.00
2028	Mountain View (HWY 133 - Mountain View Park)	in-house	\$618,030.00	\$618,030.00

Can I have my utility bill emailed to me?

Procedure in Place

Yes, customers can sign up for their bill to be emailed instead of mailed to them. We encourage this when they establish an account. To sign up for ebill, they need to sign in to their established online account and pick the option for ebill. A customer can always come in or call to request a Representative to either sign them up or walk them through the process.

Ways to pay include: In person, by mail, night depository, bill pay (through your bank), bank draft (homeowners only), online, text-to-pay, pay-by-phone (designated phone number to call), and automatic bill pay through an online account.



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Can we install a traffic signal at Issaqueena Trail and Berkeley Drive? SCDOT has recently completed an intersection study for the Issaqueena Trail and Berkeley intersection. At this time the intersection does not meet the requirements for a signal installation. We are in constant communication with SCDOT about local conditions and potential developments to ensure if/when the requirements for upgrade are met that the project is placed on their signal improvements list or improved by a developer.	Procedure in Place
Can we install a traffic signal at the Hwy 123 off ramp to Issaqueena Trail? SCDOT is currently reviewing the Issaqueena Trail and US 123 interchange for the possibility of safety improvements which may include signals. SCDOT is also working on reviewing and having multiple developers create traffic impact studies which include the interchange. We hope to have the results of these studies as well as their safety review in early 2024.	Procedure in Place/ In Progress
The City should do more to make people aware of the noise ordinance and how to make a complaint. A letter issued by Chief Campos outlining this noise ordinance is included at the end of this document and is posted to the website here . The noise ordinance in full can be found on the City's website here .	Procedure In Place/ Ongoing
Why doesn't CU invest more in housing and why do they defer their housing needs to the community? How can citizens communicate with the Board of Trustees? Staff has asked Clemson University for a statement and will share that information as soon as we can.	In Progress
Why don't you use Next Door to notify people of meetings? We don't have access to do so. The local administrator told us that she would post meeting information for us if we sent it to her. We will add this person to our normal distribution list. The City does send notifications of meetings and events to those signed up to receive City emails. Click here to sign up for these emails .	Procedure In Place



ROBERT HALFACRE
MAYOR



JORGE CAMPOS
CHIEF OF POLICE

Noise in the City

By Chief J. Campos

In this article I will discuss the laws and issues associated with the various noise complaints and comments fielded by the City of Clemson Police Department and its officials. First and foremost, please understand that the law requires a police officer must observe a potential noise violation in person in order to issue a citation. Recordings and citizen statements are not legally sufficient for a citation of a noise violation. All officers have discretion when deciding whether or not to charge in these situations.

The most common of the complaints are for vehicle noise. According to South Carolina Code of Laws Section 56-5-520 states, “Every motor vehicle shall at all times be equipped with a muffler in good working order and in constant operation *to prevent excessive or unusual noise* and annoying smoke and no person shall use a muffler cutout, bypass or similar device upon a motor vehicle upon a highway. The engine and power mechanism of every motor vehicle shall be so equipped and adjusted as to prevent the escape of excessive fumes and smoke.” Based on what is emphasized in the italics, an Officer has to determine the noise being produced is excessive or unusual as well as sustained. This analysis is subjective and there isn’t a standard like a speed limit to use to make this determination. Officers have been instructed that if the vehicle’s exhaust noise is louder than other vehicles on the road at the time, it is a good indication that the noise is excessive and can be cited for such. The penalty for a noise citation under the State Law is a fine not to exceed \$232.50 and no points are assessed against their license. This does not stop the violation, force a correction, and only allows that the driver be cited with the same fine each time cited.

The City of Clemson has a municipal Noise Ordinance under Chapter 13 Section 10. A copy of this ordinance can be accessed on the city’s website. The link is listed under Departments – Municipal Court – City Ordinances. It states “Excessive noise means any noise that violates the prohibitions of the noise ordinance but is not subject to an exception to the ordinance. Excessive noise includes, but is not limited to, 1) Any unreasonably loud or raucous noise within the city limits; or 2) Any noise which is plainly audible at or beyond the property boundary on which the noise is being produced and which is of such a volume, nature, intensity, duration, location, timing, and/or repetition that a *reasonable person of ordinary sensibility* would find that it interferes with the comfortable enjoyment of life and/or property by another person; or 3) Any noise measuring 90 decibels or more that can be heard at a distance over 100 feet from the source, lasting more than 1 minute continuously, or over 5 minutes intermittently. 4) Any noise produced at such a time or in such manner as to otherwise violate this section. Excessive noise is hereby declared to constitute a nuisance.” There are many provisions and prohibitions listed in the ordinance. The complete ordinance is used to determine if a violation has occurred. The burden of proof is proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

If you are experiencing issues of excessive noise, call the police department’s non-emergency number at 864-624-2000. Often when our officers respond to a complaint, the source of noise is not obvious or has ceased. To ensure the officer knows exactly what you hear, please leave your name and number and tell our dispatcher you would like to speak to the responding officer. It may be as simple as the noise you are hearing may be louder in the back of your house versus the front. This type of information is needed to properly address a situation. If an officer responds and the situation continues, please call back and report it as soon as it happens. If you are unsatisfied with the resolution, you can ask to speak with a road supervisor.