

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## 2015



### CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS

#### City Council

General Government  
Building, Planning and Zoning  
Fire

Police  
Public Works  
Recreation

Marina

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## 2015 SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### Savings to Citizens

In January, City Council approved refinancing of the bond used to purchase the Isle of Palms Marina in 1999. This action will save the City approximately \$72,000 over the six-year life of the bond. In 2015, the City also refinanced the bond for the Recreation Center Expansion, estimated to save the City \$133,000. These actions, totaling \$205,000 in savings, reflect City Council's multi-year commitment to reduce debt.

The National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) rewards communities that are doing more than meeting the minimum NFIP requirements to help their citizens prevent or reduce flood losses. The City has improved to an ISO/CRS Class 6 rating, from a Class 7. This achievement will result in additional savings to our residents of \$293,000, which translates to approximately \$140 per flood policy annually.



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# Comprehensive Plan Update

The City of Isle of Palms Comprehensive Plan is intended to document the history of development on the Isle of Palms, identify the community's problems and needs, and articulate a vision for its future. The Plan is also intended to help guide future decision making in matters affecting the physical, social, and economic growth, development and redevelopment of the community. The undated, historical photo below from the City's archives shows Isle of Palms prior to present development.

A review of the plan is required by State law every five years, and the Planning Commission and City Council worked on this process over several months with extensive preparation, workshops, public hearings, and consultation of experts in various fields. The updated comprehensive plan is available on the City's website.

IOP Historical Photo



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### Historic Cannonball

When the Isle of Palms executed a successful off-shore dredging project in 2008, a civil war cannonball was dredged onto the beach. This relic from the past created a lot of excitement! It was evaluated by SWAT team members and a historian from Fort Moultrie. Deemed safe, the cannonball went through an extensive restoration process that was completed in 2015. City Council decided that this important part of the island's history should be displayed as a source of pride for residents and visitors. Planning, research, and display case construction were initiated this year, and the cannonball is to be displayed in the City's Recreation Center in 2016.



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## 2015 SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### New Information Boards

The island's iconic information boards, posted at the corner of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Palm Boulevard and at Breach Inlet, keep visitors and residents informed of important happenings. After extensive considerations, the signs were replaced in a style keeping the small-town feel of the marquee boards with letters. The new signs fit into the City's wayfinding sign theme and ensure that residents and visitors will continue to be informed.



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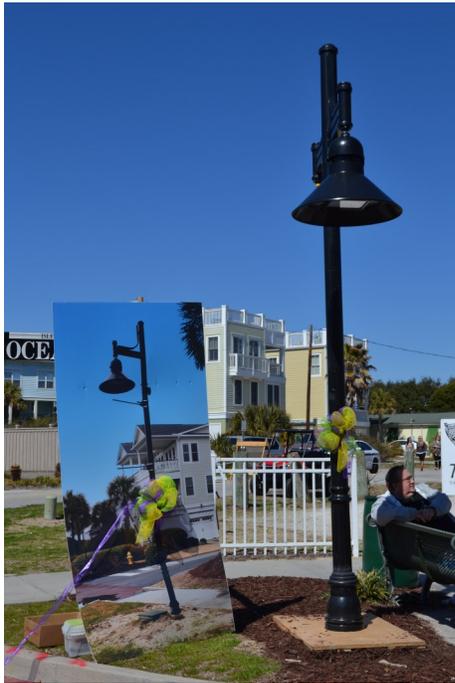
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## 2015 SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### New Front Beach Lights

At the urging of Council member Ward, planning and hard work paid off on March 7, 2015 when City elected officials cut the ribbon on new lights installed in the Front Beach commercial district. The lights include forty-one (41) light poles using turtle friendly, energy-efficient LED bulbs and are designed to make the island's popular Front Beach safer and more welcoming. At the direction of City Council, the staff worked closely with SCE&G to ensure that the project was well in place before the beginning of this beach season.



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### Historic Flooding

In October of 2015, the Isle of Palms experienced historic flooding requiring a comprehensive effort from elected officials and staff to keep visitors and residents safe. The City functioned at OpCon 1, the highest level of alert. An unusual combination of weather factors came together and brought unprecedented levels of rainfall to the Lowcountry. Police and Fire performed safety checks on citizens and roads. Public Works deployed pumps to lower the water levels. City Hall provided documentation, communication, and notification regarding how residents could receive reimbursement for damages from FEMA.



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## 2015 SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## Quality of Life



The City of Isle of Palms is the best family friendly beach community in the Lowcountry and also offers a vibrant arts and culture scene. The City's goal, always, is to maximize the safe enjoyment of the largest number of people. To accomplish this goal, City Council put a significant, year-long effort into evaluating the needs of the residents versus the success of island businesses that provide live music in terms of the legal parameters of the City's noise ordinance. The solution which was developed became win-win as a sound-minimizing stage was built by a tenant at the marina. Additionally, new short-term rental placards were required at outdoor spaces of rental properties.

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## 2015 SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

# Managed Beach Parking



Safety is always the City's number one priority. As development in Lowcountry region continues to rise, visitation to the Isle of Palms beach continues to rise in tandem. The island welcomes visitors from neighboring municipalities as well as from the state, the country, and around the world. At times, the sheer number of beach goers impedes traffic on roads and makes navigation on the beach challenging for emergency responders. The sea turtle release pictured below is an example of IOP's popularity. To alleviate this stress, City Council developed Managed Beach Parking Concept C after receiving extensive input from residents. The Concept, which won SCDOT approval, creates a free parking district for beach goers. Full details of the Concept and other parking improvements are available on the City's website. Extensive planning, budgeting, communications, and preparations were conducted in 2015 with an anticipated launch for the beach season of 2016.

Spectators to a Popular Sea Turtle Release



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### Beach Restoration



Multiple initiatives in varying stages took place in 2015 with the goal of keeping the Isle of Palms beach healthy. In the winter, the City executed a shoal management project that moved 240,000 cubic yards of sand from the attaching shoal to the beach. In the summer, the City authorized Coastal Science and Engineering to seek a modification to the existing permit to allow for greater quantities of sand and more events in the permit window. City Council passed the Fiscal Year 2016 budget, making funds available to initiate preparation work for permit for a future off-shore dredging project and to provide a portion of the cost for another Shoal Management event. The City also awarded a contract for monitoring of the entire seven miles of beach from 2015 through 2017 and a contract for emergency monitoring of beach erosion after October’s historic flooding.



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## 2015 SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS



# Assistant City Administrator Desirée Fragoso

The City of Isle of Palms benefits greatly from the longevity of its lead staff, with turnover being a rare event. City Administrator Tucker and each of the five department heads have served the City for more than a decade, and two of them have served for more than thirty years. In City Hall, the staff members have between eight and twenty years of longevity.

In 2015, Assistant City Administrator Emily Dziuban resigned after eight years of service to move to Florida to be near family.

The City is exceptionally proud to welcome Desirée Fragoso as the new Assistant City Administrator. Mrs. Fragoso completed her Masters of Public Administration in 2015 and worked with the City earlier in the year in her previous role with the South Carolina City and County Management Association.



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## 2015 SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

# Golf Cart Parking and Legislation



The City worked extensively with South Carolina state legislators to find a solution to the residents' desire to traverse the entire island via golf cart while staying in compliance with state law. Several months of work resulted in a state-level legislative change that allows golf cart owners to drive along a primary route like Palm Boulevard, provided certain conditions are met. As a next step, staff began building a budget for the possible construction of a golf cart path on the land-side of Palm Boulevard. In additional efforts to make the island more friendly for residents who drive golf carts, City Council voted to establish golf cart only parking on Palm Boulevard at 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue, adding to the already existing golf cart parking at 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Avenues.



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## 2015 SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS



# Website Improvements

The City continues to expand its online presence with increased usage of the website, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram as communications vehicles. The City's current website received upgrades in 2015 improving the ability of those with disabilities to use the website and apply for employment positions with the City. Council also awarded a contract to redesign the ten year old City website. The new site will be more visually appealing and easier to use yet preserve the wealth of resources on the current site.

Look for the big reveal of the new design in 2016!



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## 2015 SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS



# Tennis and Basketball Court Resurfacing

The popular and free tennis and basketball courts at the City's Recreation Center were resurfaced in 2015 in accordance with the approved budget. The new surfaces make it both safer and easier to play. Game on!



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## 2015 SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS



# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Two hundred (200) island residents attended the Police Department's National Night Out at the Recreation Center. A coordinated effort, the event was designed to bring the community and law enforcement closer together and to build stronger community relationships.



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## 2015 SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS



# Marina Master Redevelopment Plan



The Isle of Palms Marina, owned by the City, is a family friendly destination encouraging enjoyment of the Intracoastal Waterway and a source of significant pride for residents. It is a crown jewel of the island. The City purchased the marina in 1999 and has made dock improvements, installed a new bulkhead, and dredged the marina since then. Marina tenants have made building improvements. However, in 2015, City Council awarded a contract to Applied Technology Management (ATM) to create a Master Redevelopment Plan for the entire five-acre marina site. ATM held a kickoff meeting with City Council in August to receive input from elected officials and created a website to provide updates and receive input from residents and visitors.

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## 2015 SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### Ghostly Tide Tales and New Recreation Events

In 2015, the Recreation Department did the planning work necessary to offer several new programs next year, including an Island History series, a beginner art class for children five to ten (5-10) years of age, a beach education series with Charleston County Parks and Recreation Department, and a beginner photography class. These offerings are in addition to the already popular programming, such as the Ghostly Tide Tales pictured below.



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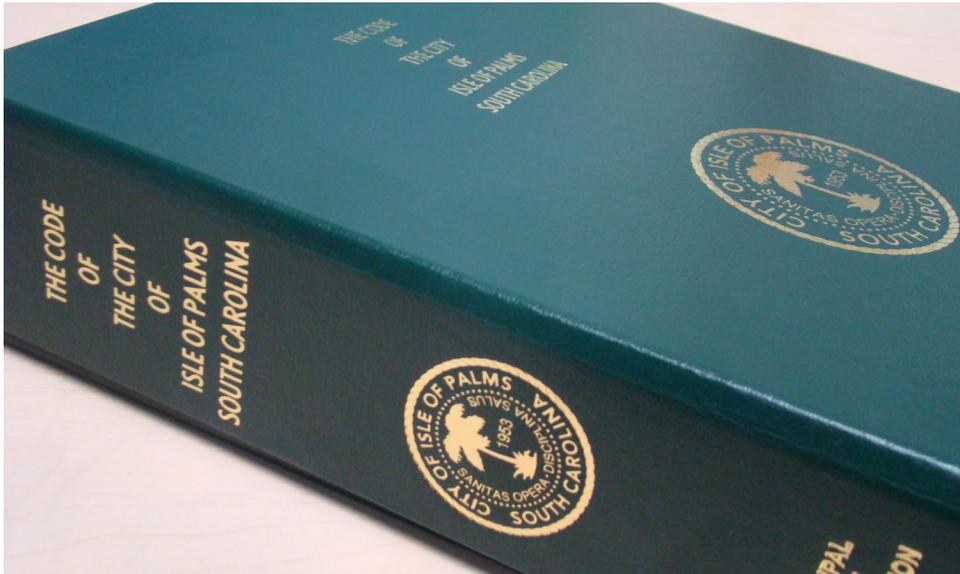
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## 2015 SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## Legislation

City Council passed ordinances in 2015 that approved the extension of the marina management lease and the marina store lease to a thirty-year term, that allowed revocation of a business license for failure to remit hospitality taxes in a timely way, that amended the tree ordinance allowing removal of hazardous trees, that required notices encouraging quiet to be placed on patios of rental units, that prohibited the use of single-use plastic bags, that increased the grace period and fine amount for parking fines, that addressed parking access in commercial loading zones, that updated the City's flood damage regulations, and that facilitated beach parking.



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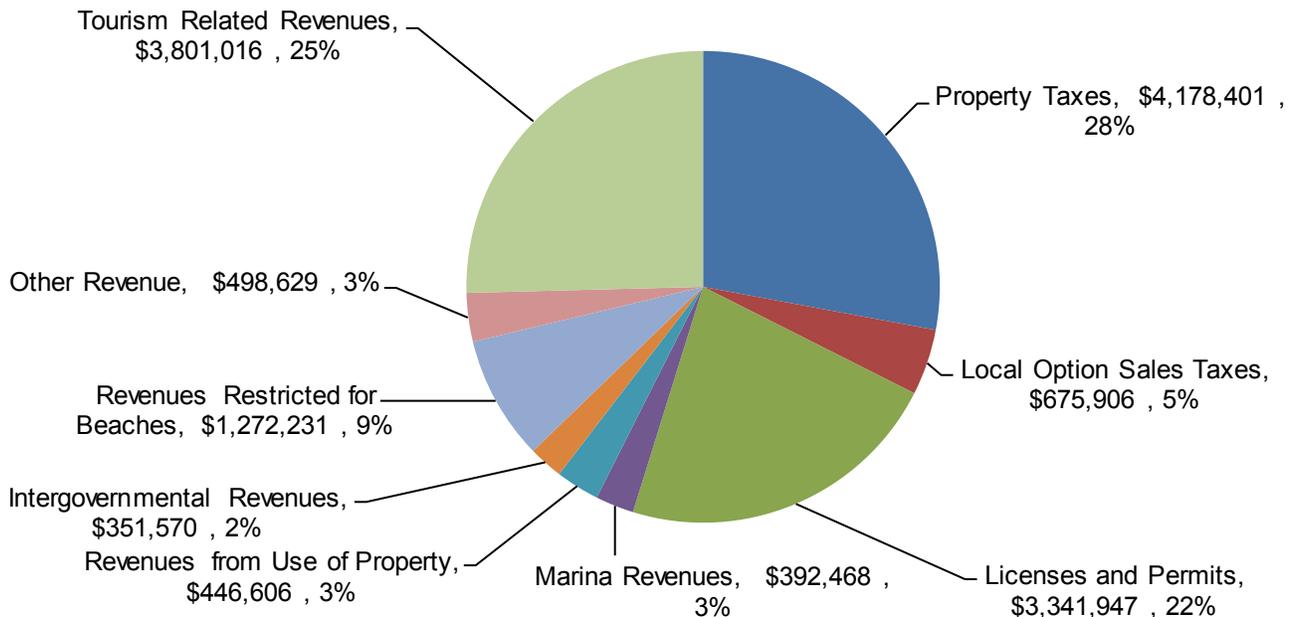


# Finance

## Revenues

The City's financial position continues to be strong. The annual audit again produced an "unmodified" opinion, which is the best opinion available. The General Fund ended Fiscal Year 2015 with a positive net result of approximately \$900,000. Of this amount, \$825,000 was transferred to the Capital Projects Fund and \$75,000 was transferred to the Disaster Recovery Fund.

### City of Isle of Palms - All Revenues - FY15



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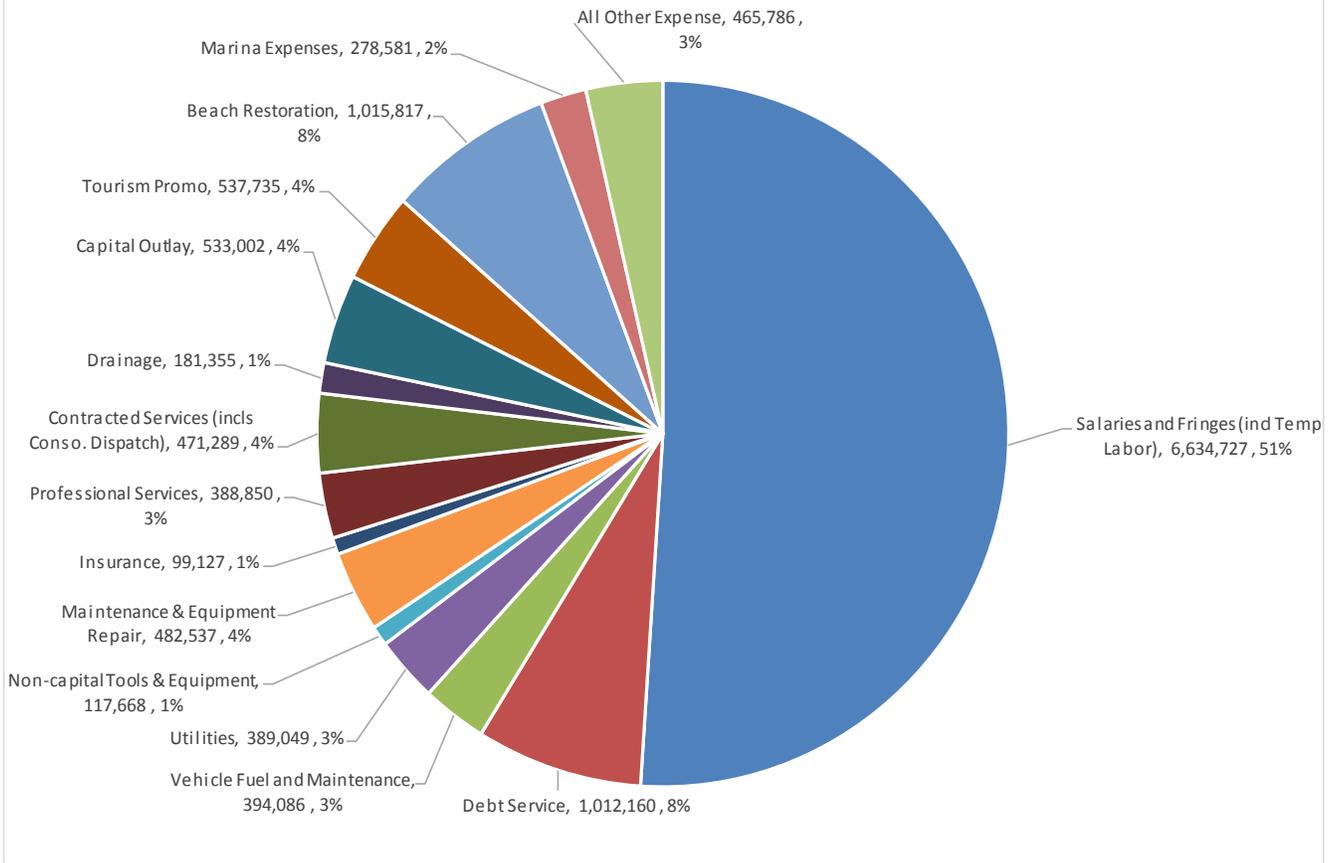
# 2015 SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## Finance

## Expenditures

City of Isle of Palms - All Expenditures - FY15



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## 2015 SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### Department Highlights

The Building Department issued approximately 514 building permits.

City Hall processed 2,865 checks, 2,877 court cases, and 5,283 parking citations, and issued 8 Requests for Proposal or Bids and processed 26 payrolls.

The Fire Department responded to over 1056 calls including more than 30 fires, and over 460 Emergency Medical Service calls, providing care to almost 474 patients and more than 566 other types of emergencies and calls for assistance.

The Police Department received over 51,225 calls for service.

The Public Works Department collected over 1,985 tons of debris.

The Recreation Department welcomed over 12,500 visitors.

City Council and Employees participated in 3 wellness events.



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## 2015 SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

# City Council Committees



Dick Cronin, Mayor  
Michael Loftus, Mayor Pro Tem  
Barbara Bergwerf  
Marty Bettelli  
Ryan Buckhannon  
Jimmy Carroll  
Sandy Ferencz  
Patrick Harrington  
Jimmy Ward  
All Members

Chair of Ways and Means  
Public Works and Chair of Real Property  
Public Safety and Real Property  
Personnel and Chair of Public Safety  
Real Property and Recreation  
Public Safety and Chair of Recreation  
Personnel and Public Works  
Recreation and Chair of Personnel  
Chair of Public Works  
Ways and Means and City Council



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## 2015 SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### More . . . .

The City was honored to be selected as the host for the winter conference of the South Carolina City and County Management Association (SCCCMA).

In 2015, the City implemented a system to allow the online payment of a parking ticket.

Proclamations were issued to re-adopt the City's safety policy, expressing opposition to seismic activities and offshore drilling, opposing South Carolina State House Bill H3490 regarding business licenses, establishing April as sexual assault awareness month, and for National Beach Safety Week.

To stay competitive with neighboring local governments and in appreciation of the employee's dedicated service, City Council voted to establish two additional holidays for City employees – Christmas Eve and a floating holiday.

Sergeant Baldrick completed training and was certified as a Drug Recognition Evaluator, 1 of 150 in the state.

The City ordered a new Rescue Truck equipped with a Pump for the Fire Department and took delivery of a 30-yard Mack Garbage Truck for the Public Works Department.

The City hosted another very popular Household Hazardous Materials Recycling and Shred Day.

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## 2015 SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### Even More . . . .

The ditch at Lauden Avenue was extensively cleaned after a joint effort from the City and the County that took into account the sensitive ecosystem of the salt marsh.

New street prints were installed at 21st Avenue, 25th Avenue, and 28th Avenue.

IOPPD's new Police Car Design won first place in the 2015 Police Vehicle Design Contest by *Law and Order* magazine.

The City provided advocacy in support of dredging the Intracoastal Waterway, a project now under construction by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

Work began to install a traffic camera with a live feed for the Isle of Palms Connector.

A new crosswalk was installed at 37th Avenue.

A contract was awarded for an Internal Controls Audit to increase the City's already vigilant loss prevention strategies.

The City honored resident Diane Oltorik with a Signal 30 Award for her work in creating a medical loan closet for visitors with special needs.

One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) was granted to the City for its Phase II drainage project as a result of an application the City submitted to the Charleston County Transportation Committee.

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