

Public Comment For City Meetings

Name

James W Smiley

Address

16 44th Ave, Isle of Palms, South Carolina 29451

Comments for Council Meeting

Dear Council,

Every year, year after year, usually in August, City Council rubber stamps approval of the CARTA budget. This happens despite the fact that we get absolutely nothing in return for the approximately \$275,000 we contribute to the CARTA budget each year. There are zero CARTA bus routes which deliver and pick up passengers on the Isle of Palms.

Promises are often made by Carta but rarely, if ever, kept. For example, last year in the August Ways and Means Committee, Administrator Frago reported that a CARTA vanpool project was still in the works and the plan was to be implemented this fiscal year. She also shared that the plan for a Park and Ride system for citizens is still part of Carta's long-term plan (see minutes of the Ways and Means Committee for 8/20/2019). In the August, 2019 City Council meeting, a representative from CARTA came before Council to seek approval of the CARTA budget. She spoke to CARTA's most recent accomplishments in the Charleston area and stated that CARTA continued to work toward a vanpool service to transport workers from Mt Pleasant to the Isle of Palms. After her presentation Council voted unanimously to approve CARTA's budget as presented. This was not an exceptional vote, City Council has been unanimously approving the CARTA budget each year for at least the last ten(10) years.

In the meantime, population growth in Mt Pleasant has swelled to over 90,000, their growth is unbridled and is growing each year by leaps and bounds. Yet the Isle of Palms is expected to somehow provide parking for beach access to visitors from our neighboring community and beyond despite the fact that we are a residential community with a finite number of visitor parking spaces. We desperately need help. CARTA could provide help by providing an hourly shuttle service (Park and Ride) to and from Mt Pleasant on the weekends when pressure on available parking is greatest. While this would not completely solve our visitor parking problem, it could help, for certainly every car which does not come onto the island is one less car looking for a place to park. As a guide to what is presently planned by CARTA in the East Cooper area, please read the recently completed public transit study which CARTA did for Mt Pleasant and note that it does not include any mention of public transit from Mt Pleasant to the Isle of Palms (<https://www.tompsc.com/DocumentCenter/View/29891/Transit-Study---Phase-I-Final-February-2019>).

It is time to expect something from CARTA in return for our annual \$275,000 contribution to the CARTA budget. It is time for us to be recognized as an entity in the BCDCOG. It is time for the Isle of Palms, Sullivan's Island and Mt Pleasant governments to sit down and solve the logistics of a Park and Ride system to shuttle weekend beach goers from Mt Pleasant to the islands and back to alleviate at least some of the parking and traffic problem we experience.

I ask you to please not rubber stamp approval of the Carta budget again this year. Expect a quid pro quo for our dollars. Demand CARTA's attention to our transit problems. We have been the orphaned step children for way too long.

Thank you,

Jim

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Meeting This Comment is Intended For:
Ways and Means Committee

Email Address
smileyj@isleofpalmssc.net

Public Comment For City Meetings

Name

celest obrien

Address

2712 canebreak lane, mount pleasant, South Carolina 29466

Comments for Council Meeting

Tax payers (not just IOP residents) paid millions of dollars to renourish those beaches. The parking is DOT right-of-way. There are beach access points all along Palm Blvd. that are essentially now useless. I have been going to IOP since I was a child. Never did we have to worry about our cars getting ticketed by parking on the roadside and using the beach access at OUR beaches. This is outrageous and loP needs to remember the beaches and ability to access them freely belongs to all of us in Charleston County and SC. Do NOT vote to require any changes to the parking at loP.

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Ways and Means Committee

Email Address

cellyob@gmail.com