



John J. Tecklenburg
Mayor

Randall Keith Benjamin, II
Director

City of Charleston

South Carolina

Department of Traffic & Transportation

Traffic & Transportation Committee

City Hall, 80 Broad Street

First Floor Conference Room

Tuesday, May 14, 2019 Time: 2:30 p.m.

Chair, Councilmember Michael Seekings
Vice-Chair, Councilmember Marvin Wagner
Councilwoman Carol Jackson
Councilmember William Moody, Jr.
Mayor John J. Tecklenburg

AGENDA

1. Invocation Councilmember Wagner
2. Approval of Minutes April 23, 2019
3. TRC Review Improvements: Transit Accommodations Keith Benjamin
4. An ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Charleston, South Carolina, Chapter 19, Section 234 to make it unlawful to park a vehicle in a marked fire lane when signs, curb painting, pavement markings, or other approved notices or markings are installed giving notice thereof. (Submitted and approved by the Public Safety Committee April 23, 2019)
5. Director's Update Keith Benjamin
6. Discussion

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, people who need alternative formats, ASL (American Sign Language) interpretation or other accommodation please contact Janet Schumacher at (843) 577-1389 or email to schumacherj@charleston-sc.gov three business days prior to the meeting.



John J. Tecklenburg
Mayor

Randall Keith Benjamin, II
Director

City of Charleston
South Carolina
Department of Traffic & Transportation

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council Members and Planning Commission
FROM: Keith Benjamin, Director
Department of Traffic and Transportation
SUBJECT: Transit Accommodations Ordinance (Zoning)
DATE: May 7th 2019

The Transit Accommodations Ordinance is an amendment to Chapter 54 of the Code of the City of Charleston (Zoning Ordinance) to promote and support quality bus and transit services, to provide and enhance mobility options, reduce individual vehicle miles traveled, and to meet the transportation needs of the City of Charleston’s residents and visitors. According to the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments (BCDCOG), there are over 860 bus stops within the Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA) service area, around 80 of which have passenger shelters. In the city of Charleston there are 378 bus stops, 39 of which have passenger shelters. Currently there are an additional 60 solar powered, lighted shelters and 40 benches being installed throughout the region.

In partnership with the BCDCOG and CARTA this ordinance empowers the Technical Review Committee (TRC) to use existing guidelines in the TRC Procedural Manual to add transit accommodations as a mitigation option to projects that negatively impact roadway level of service or exceed appropriate daily vehicular trips per the Institute of Transportation Engineers’ (ITE) *Trip Generation Handbook*.

Mirroring Sec. 54-360 of the city code requiring “the approval of the Technical Review Committee...[to] provide sidewalks in or adjacent to public rights-of-way,” the Transit Accommodations Ordinance uses the current traffic mitigation process for proposed multi-family residential and non-residential properties to offer transit stops, transit shelters and/or associated infrastructure to assist in addressing congestion both on and off the peninsula.

This practice is not uncommon in other cities/counties like Raleigh, NC Broward County, FL Alexandria, VA and Richmond, VA. In fact, our neighbor Mount Pleasant in their current zoning code (156.320) states, “Provision of bus shelters is highly encouraged and will require coordination with CARTA early in the development process. Bus shelter location and design shall be subject to approval through the Design Review Process.”

The TRC Procedural Manual, revised December 2017, requires traffic impact studies when a development includes one or more of the following:

- A drive-through service window
- More than six fuel dispensing units
- More than 10,000 square feet of non-residential building coverage in existing and/or new buildings
- Five or more acres
- The requirement of a variance from the driveway spacing requirements of Article 3, Part 3 of the Zoning Ordinance
- A restaurant with more than 4,000 square feet of gross floor area
- Single- or two-family dwellings in which the total area ultimately to be developed permits 45 or more dwelling units

Attached please find the supplementation documents:

- Support letter from BCDCOG/CARTA
- List of top 28 highest ridership bus stops in the City of Charleston without transit accommodations.
- List of new shelter locations to be installed by CARTA in 2019.
- Example list of TRC approved projects with mitigation requirements post traffic impact study
- Visual example of CARTA Transit Shelter (Sam Rittenberg/ N Woodmere Dr- Installed February 1st, 2019)

Example Technical Review Committee Approved Projects
2016 - 2019

Project Name	Location	Traffic Impact Study Date (m-yy)	Approximate TRC Approval Date	Mitigation	Cause of Mitigation
1304 Meeting Street - Apartments	Peninsula	Jan-19	Pending	Limit to one access point. Add crosswalk, Ped signal for fourth leg with adjacent parcel redevelopment.	Future transit and site redevelopment
Live Oak Square	Johns Island	Sep-16	Jan-18	Provide for interconnectivity of parcels to access future potential signal at Sailfish.	LOS
Line Street Development (Meeting and Line)	Peninsula	Oct-18	Pending	Coordination of driveway location with City, Signs, markings on Line Street to prevent blockage of site driveway. Exclusive left and right turn lane out of site.	Safety
Burden Creek Residential	Johns Island	Feb-18	Pending	SB left turn lane	Volume, LOS
James Island Apartments	James Island	Jun-17	May-18	Improve existing access location	Safety
577 Meeting Street	Peninsula	Jun-18	Mar-19	Signal timing review/optimization at Huger/Meeting	LOS
CE William's Middle School	West Ashley	Apr-18	May-18	BFR at Sanders Rd-Ext of WB left turn lane. Signalize intersection. W. Murray Blvd at Wildcat Blvd-Optimization of signal. WB right turn lane addition. Stagger School bell times. Improvements to Sanders Road to be required for bus access.	Volume, LOS
Cannon Street Garage	Peninsula	May-17	Sep-17	Right turn lane-Courtenay Dr at Bee St. Placement of garage gates to accommodate queuing internally. Review of signage to prevent queuing from blocking Wescott Ct. Conversion of Wescott Ct to one-way NB. Optimization of signal timing splits.	Volume, LOS
West Edge (All phases)	Peninsula	Feb-17	Multiple Approvals	Lockwood-Additional thru lane. Left turn restriction removal at President/S.Clark Pway. Left turn lane at Bristol.	Volume, LOS
Brigade Street Apartments	Peninsula	Mar-15	Multiple Approvals	Review with City. Railroad to determine if RR crossing at Romney/Huegenin is appropriate	Safety
287 Huger Street Apartments	Peninsula	Jun-16	Dec-17	Phasing and timing adjustments.	LOS
Starbucks - Folly Road	James Island	Dec-16	Mar-17	Access management on Folly. Access only on Rivers Point Row	Safety
Bees Ferry Retail	West Ashley	Nov-15	Pending	Access limited to one location on Shadowmoor Parkway.	Safety
Blackbaud	Daniel Island	Oct-16	Mar-17	Add protected/permitted left turn phase. Relocation/addition of crosswalk, stop bar. Add visitor, bus drop off area on Fairchild.	South Carolina DOT Requirement, Volume, LOS
West Ashley Whole Foods	West Ashley	May-16	Nov-16	Restriping of NB access drive for exclusive left turn, shared right/thru. Monitor Signal timings.	LOS
Oakfield (Shadetree)	Johns Island	Oct-15	Multiple Approvals	Cane Slash Rd/Wildts Battery Blvd improvements (roundabout). Cane Slash at River Rd improvements (TBD).	Volume, LOS
Parker's Gas/Convenience Store	West Ashley	Oct-18	Pending	Access management at site location. Reduce number of driveways. Potential left turn into site with SCDOT approval.	Safety, Volume
Johns Island Residential	Johns Island	Nov-18	Pending	Installation of left turn lane on Maybank Hwy. Installation of right turn lane on Maybank Hwy.	Volume, LOS, Safety
Bishop Gadsden Expansion	James Island	Jan-17	Multiple Approvals	Exclusive left and right lanes out of site. Additional study for phase 2.	Safety
Liberty by Hilton	Peninsula	Dec-17	Pending	Sight visibility must be improved.	Safety
Meeting at Romney Mixed Use	Peninsula	Nov-18	Pending	Coordination of driveway locations with City and SCDOT. Access management - right-in/right-out on East Bay Street.	Safety
V-go Gas/Convenience Store	West Ashley	Dec-16	Jun-17	Access limited to one location on Romney Street. All other access points eliminated.	Safety
Belvidere Office Project	Peninsula	Aug-18	Pending	Limit access on Savannah Highway to right-in/right-out. Maintain sight visibility at Wantoot Blvd and Savannah Hwy.	Safety
Overture at Daniel Island	Daniel Island	Dec-16	Dec-17	Widen Algonquin Road to accommodate separate left turn lane.	Volume
Forest at Fenwick	Johns Island	Apr-18	Pending	Extension of Farr Street to access property and allow for traffic distribution. Construction of roundabout at site access north on River Road. Exclusive NB left turn lane exiting site at site access south. NB left turn lane on River Road at site access south.	Volume, Access
					Volume, LOS, Safety

Highest Ridership Transit Stops without Accommodation

Stop Name	Shelter
Transit Mall	N
Calhoun St / St Philip St	N
Market St / Meeting St	N
Calhoun St / St Philip St	N
Calhoun St / Jonathan Lucas St	N
Meeting St / Woolfe St	N
Jonathan Lucas St / President St	N
Meeting St / Line St NB	N
Calhoun St. / Ashley Ave.	N
Waterfront Park	N
Calhoun St / Ashley Ave	N
James Island Walmart	N
St Philip St / Liberty St	N
Market St / East Bay St	N
King St / Calhoun St	N
St Philip St / Calhoun St	N
Meeting St / Spring St SB	N
Charleston Museum / Visitors Center	N
Broad St / Meeting St (Southside)	N
King St / Market St	N
America St / Columbus St	N
Meeting St / S Market St	N
Meeting St / Calhoun St	N
Meeting St / Mary St	N
Wentworth St / Coming St	N
Broad St / Church St	N
Ashley River Rd / Bees Ferry Rd	N
King St / Wentworth St	N

(New Charleston) CARTA 2019 Bus Shelter Installations

Stop Name
Meeting St / Johnson St NB
President St / Line St
Fire Station 11/Charleston Nine Memorial
Sam Ritt/North Woodmere
Waring Senior Center
Joseph Floyd Manor
Ashley River Rd / Spanish Oak Apartments
President St / Line St
Meeting St / Johnson St NB
Freddie Whaley Community Center



Paneled Canopy

for Illuminated at
t

-lit Signage Area

Perforated Metal

Metal Coated Sea

Trash Receptacle

Enlarged Concrete

50 Square Feet
of Covered
Passenger Area



Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority

May 7, 2019

Mr. Keith Benjamin, II, Director
Department of Traffic and Transportation
City of Charleston
180 Lockwood Drive, Suite C,
Charleston, SC 29403

Re: Zoning Code Revision – Inclusion of Transit Accommodation Requirement

Dear Mr. Benjamin,

As Executive Director of the BCDCOG and the CARTA Transit System, I hereby support the Zoning Code revision to incorporate a requirement obligating large development projects to provide transit accommodations in their traffic study mitigations. It is the goal of CARTA to provide safe and secure amenities that will enhance passenger comfort as they access the CARTA transit system at every stop. Coordinating transit accommodations with new development will be an asset to our current and future customers.

Bus stops are the access point for every customer using the CARTA Transit System. In a recent market analysis, shelters and improvements at bus stops were among the top five enhancements needed to encourage new riders to transit who are currently using other modes of travel. Transit stop amenities ultimately increase the visibility of the transit service and are directly correlated to an individual's propensity to use the system. Further, this ordinance offers an important tool to support mobility management programs as a traffic mitigation strategy.

This ordinance is an important component to an efficient transportation system. Thank you for your work, the work of Staff, and the leadership of City Council in advancing this revision. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please don't hesitate to call me at (843) 529-0400.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "RM", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ronald E. Mitchum
Executive Director

AN ORDINANCE

TO AMEND CHAPTER 54 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON (ZONING ORDINANCE) BY ADDING THERETO A NEW PART 15 ENTITLED TRANSIT ACCOMMODATIONS TO SET FORTH REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSIT ACCOMMODATIONS FOR MULTI-FAMILY AND NON-RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS REVIEWED BY THE TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE TO IMPROVE THE MOBILITY OF THE CITY BY INCREASING THE OPPORTUNITY TO UTILIZE AND OPTIONS FOR TRANSPORTATION.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS OF CHARLESTON, IN CITY COUNCIL ASSEMBLED:

Section 1. Chapter 54 of the Code of the City of Charleston (Zoning Ordinance) is hereby amended by adding the following sections:

“Sec. 54-362 Reserved

PART 15 TRANSIT ACCOMMODATIONS

Sec. 54-363 Purpose

To promote and support quality bus and transit services, to provide and enhance mobility options, reduce individual vehicle miles traveled, and to meet the transportation needs of the City of Charleston’s residents, workers, and visitors.

Sec. 54-364 Defined Terms

For the purposes of this article the following terms are defined and the term “transit” shall also mean “bus”.

Transit Accommodations – Includes transit stops, transit shelters and associated infrastructure.

Transit Shelter – A permanently installed structure located at a transit stop that provides seating and protection from the weather for people waiting for a transit vehicle.

Transit Stop – A designated place where transit vehicles pause to allow for passenger boarding and disembarking. A transit stop is marked with a transit stop sign and shall include the

appropriate infrastructure such as a stop pad and sidewalk connectivity, and may also include, but not limited to, amenities such as shelters, benches and trash receptacles.

Transit Vehicle – A mode of transportation providing a schedule transportation service to the public.

Sec. 54-365 Applicability and Requirement Thresholds

- a. Proposed improvements to multi-family residential and non-residential properties along existing or planned bus and transit routes or within 0.25 mile of said routes as identified by the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments (BCD COG) in the Regional Transit Framework Plan as part of the Long Range Transportation Plan where there is new development, redevelopment, or changes to a building that require the approval of the Technical Review Committee (TRC) under Article 6 shall provide transit accommodations including transit stops, shelters, or other amenities when any of the following thresholds are met:
 - 1. The site development will generate vehicular trips that will impact the traffic operations of the adjacent streets or intersections so that the Level of Service (LOS) drops below LOS C or the adjacent streets or intersections are already operating below LOS C, as determined by a traffic impact analysis; or
 - 2. The site development will generate a minimum of 500 vehicular trips per day per the current edition of the Institute of Transportation Engineers' (ITE) *Trip Generation Handbook*; or
 - 3. If the site development will generate a minimum of 2,500 daily vehicular trips per the ITE *Trip Generation Handbook*, has frontage on more than one public street, and is served by more than one public transit, then two transit accommodations will be required.
- b. Transit accommodations will be reviewed during the TRC approval process; therefore, coordination with the Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA) is strongly recommended early in the development review process.

Sec. 54-366. Type of Transit Accommodations, Location, Design, and Installation

- a. The type of Transit Accommodation required shall be determined by the City of Charleston Department of Traffic and Transportation. Size and capacity of transit accommodations should reflect the size of corresponding development, adjacent land uses, and planned future development. The TRC applicant shall provide documentation with associated exhibits regarding the proposed Transit Accommodations to be provided by the applicant, including location and design, prior to final TRC approval.
- b. Location and design of Transit Accommodations shall be coordinated with the Department of Traffic and Transportation.

1. Transit Accommodations shall be provided in the public right-of-way; however these accommodations may be located outside of the public right-of-way and on the development site subject to all of the following:
 - i. Transit Accommodations may be placed outside of a public right-of-way when deemed appropriate for the preservation of a grand tree, for the accommodation of utilities, for other necessary infrastructure, or for other purposes approved by TRC.
 - ii. The developer shall provide a location on the development site within an acceptable proximity to the public right-of-way for the Transit Accommodations.
 - iii. The developer shall provide a recorded public easement dedicated for the Transit Accommodations, maintenance, and the safe movement of pedestrians.
 2. For Transit Accommodations to be constructed within a right-of-way that is not under the jurisdiction of the City of Charleston, the applicant shall provide a copy of the permit authorizing such work within the right-of-way. For SCDOT right-of-way, a copy of the SCDOT encroachment approval shall be submitted with a request for Final TRC approval.
 3. Transit Accommodations shall comply with all other applicable City codes, ordinances, and design review requirements.
- c. Prior to the issuance of the Certificate of Construction Completion Occupancy (Certificate of Occupancy for the development site, Transit Accommodations shall be provided by and installed by the developer and shall be inspected by the Department of Traffic and Transportation or its designee.”

Section 2. This Ordinance shall become effective upon ratification.

Ratified in City Council this ____ day of _____ in the Year of Our Lord, 2019, and in the ____th Year of the Independence of the United States of America

BY: _____
 John J. Tecklenburg
 Mayor, City of Charleston

Attest: _____
 Vanessa Turner Maybank
 Clerk of Council



Ratification Number _____

AN ORDINANCE

TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, CHAPTER 19, SECTION 234 TO MAKE IT UNLAWFUL TO PARK A VEHICLE IN A MARKED FIRE LANE WHEN SIGNS, CURB PAINTING, PAVEMENT MARKINGS, OR OTHER APPROVED NOTICES OR MARKINGS ARE INSTALLED GIVING NOTICE THEREOF.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS OF CHARLESTON, IN CITY COUNCIL ASSEMBLED:

Section 1. Chapter 19 of the Code of the City of Charleston is hereby amended by adding thereto a new Section 19-234 (c) which shall read as follows:

Sec. 19-234. - Area where stopping or parking prohibited.

- (a) No person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a police officer or traffic-control device, or where curbs are painted yellow.
- (b) When signs are erected in each block giving notice thereof, it shall be unlawful to park a vehicle as prohibited by such signage between the hours on the days so designated.
- (c) When signs, curb painting, pavement markings, or other approved notices or markings are installed giving notice thereof, it shall be unlawful to park a vehicle in a marked fire lane.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall become effective upon ratification.

Ratified in City Council this _____ day of _____ in the Year of Our Lord, 2019, in the _____ Year of Independence of the United States of America.

By: _____
John J. Tecklenburg
Mayor, City of Charleston

ATTEST: _____
Vanessa Turner Maybank
Clerk of Council