

## **Letters of Recommendation**

<b>James E. Clyburn</b>	Representative, House of Representatives, Congress of the United States
<b>Nikki R. Haley</b>	Governor, State of South Carolina
<b>J. Thomas McElveen, III</b>	Senator, Senate of South Carolina
<b>Murrell Smith</b>	Representative, House of Representatives South Carolina
<b>David Weeks</b>	Representative, House of Representatives South Carolina
<b>Christy A. Hall</b>	Secretary of Transportation (Acting), South Carolina Department Of Transportation
<b>Gary M. Mixon</b>	County Administrator, County of Sumter, South Carolina
<b>Sumter City Council</b>	City Council, City of Sumter, South Carolina
<b>George K, McGregor</b>	Executive Director, SUATS Metropolitan Planning Organization, Sumter, South Carolina
<b>G. Michael Mikota, Ph.D.</b>	Executive Director, Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments
<b>Tim Hardee, Ed.D.</b>	President, Central Carolina Technical College
<b>Larry Blanding</b>	Chairman, Santee Wateree Regional Transportation Authority
<b>Grier Blackwelder</b>	President, Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce

JAMES E. CLYBURN  
6TH DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC LEADER

CHAIR  
FAITH WORKING GROUP



COMMITTEE:  
DEMOCRATIC STEERING  
AND POLICY COMMITTEE

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

[www.house.gov/clyburn](http://www.house.gov/clyburn)  
[assistantdemocraticleader.house.gov](http://assistantdemocraticleader.house.gov)

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4006**

April 23, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, Southeast  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing you in strong support of a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grant which is being submitted by the City of Sumter, South Carolina. The Sumter Connectivity Initiative proposes to provide long term safety, mobility, employment access and economic development benefits. This project will connect economically disadvantaged communities in South Sumter with employment hubs in downtown and other parts of the City of Sumter.

The Sumter Connectivity Initiative will build upon two locally funded major intersection projects which lie at each end of the project corridor. This project will transform this corridor into a vibrant multimodal experience which will introduce complete street elements and corridor design characteristics which will be coupled with existing institutions to attract new investment and opportunities. The citizens of South Sumter will have greater access to existing higher education opportunities and improved public transportation as well.

Mr. Secretary, I was born and raised in Sumter, South Carolina and during my tenure in the Congress, I have done assisted with some initiatives which will help improve the access to employment and educational opportunities for the citizens of Sumter. This TIGER grant will enable the City of Sumter to continue the work that we have done in partnership along this corridor during the past few years. Again, I strongly support the Sumter Connectivity Initiative and respectfully request its approval and funding.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

James E. Clyburn  
Assistant Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives



## State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY  
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET  
COLUMBIA 29201

April 24, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing in support of the City of Sumter's TIGER grant request for the Manning Avenue and North Main Street corridor. The city has pledged \$7.5 million in local funds to move the project forward, but require TIGER grant funds to complete.

This section of downtown Sumter has been identified as a conduit for commercial activity, but is home to a significantly impoverished population and contains a number of abandoned and blighted properties. Revitalizing this car-dominated thoroughfare through a multi-modal approach would improve the pedestrian and local transit options for residents, improve safety for disabled persons, and maintain commercial routes for the area's largest businesses.

Thank you for your attention to this project and South Carolina's infrastructure development needs. If I may be of further assistance on this issue, please contact Joshua Baker in my office at 803.734.5153 or [joshbaker@gov.sc.gov](mailto:joshbaker@gov.sc.gov).

My very best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikki R. Haley".

Nikki R. Haley

NRH/jdb



J. THOMAS McELVEEN, III  
SENATOR, KERSHAW, LEE, RICHLAND  
AND SUMTER COUNTIES  
SENATORIAL DISTRICT NO. 35

HOME ADDRESS:  
P.O. BOX 57  
SUMTER, SC 29151  
(803) 775-1263

SENATE ADDRESS:  
P. O. BOX 142  
COLUMBIA, SC 29202  
(803) 212-6132

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
CORRECTIONS AND PENOLOGY  
FISH, GAME AND FORESTRY  
JUDICIARY  
RULES

April 10, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
U.S. Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: City of Sumter TIGER Grant application—Sumter Connectivity Initiative**

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I take great pride in offering my full and unqualified support to the City of Sumter's TIGER VI application for the Sumter Connectivity Initiative. This transformative project will provide long-term safety, mobility, job access and economic development benefits. It will also cement efforts to fully unite economically disadvantaged communities in south Sumter with downtown Sumter and other employment hubs and I urge you to give it all due consideration.

This project will transform 3.5 miles of North Main Street/Manning Avenue from a bland, car dominated, economically distressed corridor into a vibrant, multimodal "complete street" that provides mobility for all users and attracts new investment. North Main Street/Manning Avenue is one of Sumter's primary spines, running the length of the City from the Sumter Bypass to the north through historic Downtown Sumter and the Sumter Empowerment Zone to US 521, Continental Tire, and I-95 to the south.

The Sumter Connectivity Initiative will provide safe bikeways, upgraded sidewalks, improved transit services and a segment of a citywide greenway. Most importantly, the project will greatly improve multimodal access to: Downtown Sumter and other employment centers; human services; educational opportunities, including Central Carolina Technical College and the Sumter County Adult Education Center; the James E. Clyburn Intermodal Transportation Center; and health care, including Tuomey Regional Hospital.

Several portions of the North Main Street/Manning Avenue Corridor suffer from economic distress, having seen little to no economic investment for decades.

- *Income per capita* is \$14,574 per annum in the project area, compared with \$23,906 for South Carolina and \$28,051 for the nation.
- The percentage of residents in the corridor in poverty is highest in the City of Sumter, registering 34% in the corridor Census tracts.

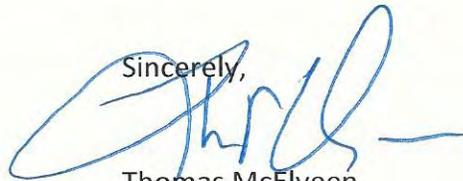
The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
April 10, 2014  
Page Two

- Nearly 93% of the City of Sumter's Black/African American population lives in the project area.
- 91% of the unemployed City of Sumter residents live in the project area.

The City of Sumter's commitment to expanded access for its citizens through this project will yield concrete definitive quality of life improvements:

- Greater upward economic mobility,
- Reduced housing and transportation expenses,
- Increased transportation options,
- New job opportunities, and
- Improved safety for all users of the corridor.

I am pleased that the City of Sumter and its partners are taking the right step in connecting individuals and families to the amenities that will enhance overall quality of life and economic livelihood. This project is an investment in Sumter's future and I therefore take great pride in strongly recommending that you approve the Sumter Connectivity Initiative TIGER IV Grant application.

Sincerely,  
  
Thomas McElveen

TM/mw



# House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

## Murrell Smith

District No. 67 - Sumter-Clarendon  
Counties  
P. O. Box 580  
Sumter, SC 29151  
Tel. (803) 778-2471  
Fax (803) 778-1643  
Email: Murrell@MurrellSmith.com

420-B Blatt Building  
Columbia, SC 29211

Tel. (803) 734-3042

Fax (803) 734-2925

E-mail: MurrellSmith@schouse.gov

April 9, 2014

## Committee:

Ways and Means

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
US Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

## Re: **City of Sumter TIGER Grant application-Sumter Connectivity Initiative**

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I take great pride in offering my full and unqualified support to the City of Sumter's TIGER VI application for the Sumter Connectivity Initiative. This transformative project will provide long-term safety, mobility, job access and economic development benefits. It will also cement efforts to fully unite economically disadvantaged communities in south Sumter with downtown Sumter and other employment hubs and I urge you to give it all due consideration.

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Sumter County Adult Education Center; the James E. Clyburn Intermodal Transportation Center; and health care, including Tuomey Regional Hospital.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Murrell Smith', written in a cursive style.

G. Murrell Smith



# House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

**J. David Weeks**

District No. 51 - Sumter County  
2 Marlborough Court  
Sumter, SC 29154

330-C Blatt Building  
Columbia, SC 29211

Tel. (803) 734-3102

**Committee:**

Judiciary

April 10, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
US Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: City of Sumter TIGER Grant application—Sumter Connectivity Initiative**

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I take great pride in offering my full and unqualified support to the City of Sumter's TIGER VI application for the Sumter Connectivity Initiative. This transformative project will provide long-term safety, mobility, job access and economic development benefits. It will also cement efforts to fully unite economically disadvantaged communities in south Sumter with downtown Sumter and other employment hubs and I urge you to give it all due consideration.

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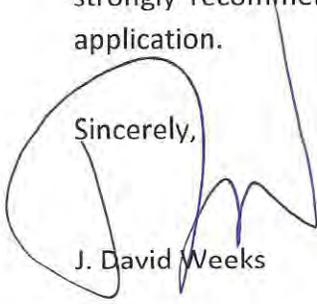
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Sincerely,



J. David Weeks



South Carolina  
Department of Transportation

Acting Secretary of Transportation  
Christy A. Hall, P.E.  
(803) 737-1312 Fax (803) 737-2038

April 22, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: TIGER Grant Project Support

Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) please accept our support for the TIGER Grant application being submitted by the City of Sumter for the Sumter Connectivity Initiative (North Main Street/Manning Avenue) Project.

SCDOT supports the efforts of the local governing bodies in their desire to improve transportation efficiency and multimodal improvements for communities in our State. We understand from the application that this project meets all criteria and timelines for approval as outlined in the TIGER Grant program, and any funding approved under the TIGER Grant program for the project will be used in a manner consistent with USDOT procedures and regulations, and state and federal law. Project management decisions are subject to approval by the Department, and any request or commitment for supplemental funding is subject to approval by the SCDOT Commission.

Thank you for consideration of this application. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Christy A. Hall, P.E.  
Acting Secretary of Transportation

CAH:scj





GARY M. MIXON  
ADMINISTRATOR

**Sumter County**  
Sumter, South Carolina  
29150

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
13 EAST CANAL STREET  
TELEPHONE: (803) 436-2102  
FAX: (803) 436-2108

April 21, 2014

RE: TIGER Grant Application: Manning Avenue

To whom it may concern:

The Sumter Connectivity Initiative seeks to transform the Manning Avenue / North Main Street corridor into a vibrant multi-modal experience for residents and visitors alike, by introducing safe, complete street elements and corridor design characteristics attractive to new investment.

The Initiative builds upon two locally funded major intersection construction projects at each end of the corridor – the Lafayette Intersection Project at N. Main Street and the Southern Gateway Intersection Project at Manning Avenue.

The 3.5 mile corridor project will introduce a series of complete street elements to Manning Avenue and North Main Street. Manning Avenue to North Main St. is a primary commercial spine for the Sumter Community connecting US 378/76 through the City to Highway 521, Continental Tire and I-95 to the south. The Sumter Connectivity Initiative would commit to multi-modal interests, elevating pedestrian bicycling, transit, and ADA users to a more equal footing. As contemplated, the project will:

- construct/reconstruct sidewalks for safe pedestrian usage;
- rebuild nonconforming ADA ramps and crossings;
- introduce dedicated, painted bike lanes;
- remove continuous center lane and replace with plant median;
- plant street trees within verge area;
- move existing utilities away from the street;
- rehabilitate existing intersections with pedestrian crosswalks and ADA elements and Mast Arms;
- install new lighting for corridor;
- construct portions of a Greenway trail system, and
- rehabilitate the Manning Avenue Bridge.

“The Gamecock County”

The chart below depicts a cost estimate for this project.

<b>Project Budget</b>	<b>Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Project Percentage</b>
Transit Elements	\$286,389	1%
Turkey Creek Loop	\$916,118	4%
Manning Ave.	\$6,205,105	29%
N. Main St.	\$6,604,879	31%
Manning Avenue Bridge	\$2,093,622	10%
Utility Relocation *	\$5,000,000	24%
<b>Total Project Cost Estimate</b>	<b>21,106,113</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Capital Penny Local Match</b>	<b>\$7,500,000</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>Total TIGER Requested</b>	<b>\$13,606,113</b>	<b>64%</b>

\*Estimates are higher but Utility work capped at \$5,000,000

Thank you in advance for assist in making Sumter County a better place to live, learn, work, play, and worship.

Sincerely,



Gary M. Mixon  
County Administrator



April 22, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
US Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: City of Sumter TIGER Grant Application:  
Sumter Connectivity Initiative**

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The City Council (the "Council") of the City of Sumter, South Carolina (the "City"), hereby states its full and unqualified support for the City's TIGER VI application for the Sumter Connectivity Initiative. This transformative project will provide long-term safety, mobility, job access, and economic development benefits. It will also cement efforts to fully unite economically disadvantaged communities in south Sumter with downtown Sumter and other employment hubs. We urge you to give it all due consideration.

The Sumter Connectivity Initiative will transform 3.5 miles of North Main Street/Manning Avenue from a bland, car-dominated, economically distressed corridor into a vibrant, multimodal "complete street" that provides mobility for all users and attracts new investment. North Main Street/Manning Avenue is one of the City's primary spines, running the length of the City from the Sumter Bypass to the north through historic Downtown Sumter and the Sumter Empowerment Zone to US 521, Continental Tire, and I-95 to the south.

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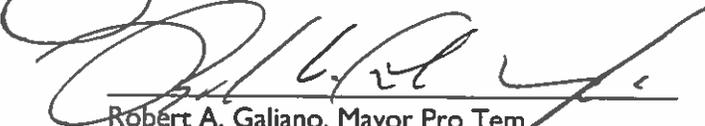
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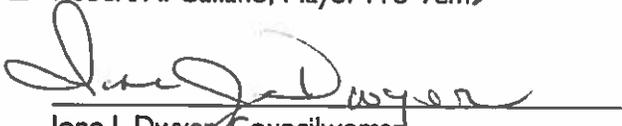
As the governing body of the City, we believe we are taking the right steps to connect individuals and families to the amenities that will enhance overall quality of life and economic livelihood. This project is an investment in the City's future and we therefore take great pride in strongly recommending that you approve the Sumter Connectivity Initiative TIGER IV Grant application.



Joseph T. McElveen, Jr., Mayor



Robert A. Galiano, Mayor Pro Tem



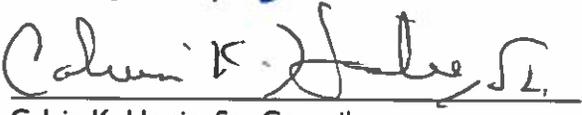
Ione J. Dwyer, Councilwoman



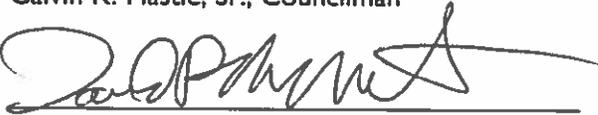
Charles R. Burns, Councilman



Thomas J. Lowery, Councilman



Calvin K. Hastie, Sr., Councilman



David P. Merchant, Councilman



# S U A T S

Sumter Urban Area Transportation Study  
Metropolitan Planning Organization



JOSEPH T. MCELVEEN  
VICE - CHAIRMAN

GEORGE K. MCGREGOR  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LARRY BLANDING  
CHAIRMAN

April 21, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
U.S. Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: City of Sumter TIGER Grant Application – Sumter Connectivity Initiative**

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I take great pride in offering my full and unqualified support of the City of Sumter's TIGER VI application for the Sumter Connectivity Initiative. This transformative project will provide long-term safety, mobility, job access and economic development benefits. It will also cement efforts to fully unite economically disadvantaged communities in south Sumter with downtown Sumter and other employment hubs and I urge you to give it all due consideration.

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12 WEST LIBERTY STREET • PO BOX 1449 • SUMTER, SC 29151  
OFFICE: (803) 774-1660 • FAX (803) 774-1687

The City of Sumter's commitment to expanded access for its citizens through this project will yield concrete definitive quality of life improvements:

- Greater upward economic mobility,
- Reduced housing and transportation expenses,
- Increased transportation options,
- New job opportunities, and
- Improved safety for all users of corridor.

I am pleased that the City of Sumter and its partners are taking the right step in connecting individuals and families to the amenities that will enhance overall quality of life and economic livelihood. This project is an investment for Sumter's future and I therefore take great pride in strongly recommending that you approve the Sumter Connectivity Initiative TIGER VI Grant application.

Sincerely,



George K. McGregor, AICP  
Planning Director

# Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments



Post Office Box 1837  
36 West Liberty Street  
Sumter, South Carolina 29151

Phone: 803-775-7381  
Fax: 803-773-9903  
[www.santeelynchescog.org](http://www.santeelynchescog.org)

April 22, 2014

Mr. George McGregor, Planning Director  
City of Sumter  
Post Office Box 1449  
Sumter, South Carolina 29151

Dear Mr. McGregor,

The Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments (SLRCOG) supports the Sumter Connectivity Initiative. The City of Sumter, with this endeavor, is proactively pursuing the development of a much needed linkage route that connects individuals and families to the amenities that will enhance overall quality of life and economic livelihood. Multiple benefits will arise from the proposed project that will allow citizens in a traditionally economically distressed area to fully access and utilize a safe route to employment centers, skill training facilities, the county adult education center, university/technical college, and the affordable cost-share health clinic.

In addition, the funds devoted to Sumter Connectivity Initiative have the potential to enhance economic competitiveness in the region by connecting the north and south industrial parks and further provide safe access of the exchange of goods and distribution of freight commodities. The initiative may also provide ancillary benefits to the surrounding economically distressed counties in the region, Lee and Clarendon Counties, as they share commercial access and are linked economically with the City of Sumter.

The Sumter Connectivity Initiative is of regional significance and will serve as an example of a quality of life enhancement to this part of the City of Sumter and surrounding communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Michael Mikota".

G. Michael Mikota, Ph.D.  
Executive Director



April 22, 2014

TIGER( Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) Grant Reader,

The purpose of this communication is to serve as a letter of support for the TIGER application of the City of Sumter, South Carolina. Central Carolina Technical College and the City of Sumter have intentionally partnered in several instances to improve the quality of life for the residents of Sumter, South Carolina. The City of Sumter was a major investor in the construction of the Health Sciences Center located at 133 South Main Street in Sumter which serves as the training facility for over 500 students each day in health science programs such as nursing, surgical technology, pharmacy technician, medical assisting, etc. Central Carolina Technical College has recently committed to constructing an advance manufacturing technology training center in Sumter, South Carolina to meet the workforce development needs of this region of South Carolina. The City of Sumter and Central Carolina Technical College have already partnered to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Sumter, South Carolina.

This TIGER grant is an exciting opportunity to continue the momentum toward improving the Sumter community. The transforming of the Manning Avenue/North Main Street corridor by introducing safe, complete street elements and corridor design characteristics will certainly enhance the community and serve as an economic development benefit to Sumter, South Carolina. Central Carolina Technical College and our over 4,000 students would greatly benefit from this initiative. Safe pedestrian usage, painted bike paths, moving existing utilities away from the street, a Greenway trail system, and the installation of new lighting for the corridor would all greatly benefit the City of Sumter as well as the faculty, staff, and students of Central Carolina Technical College.

On behalf of the area commission for the College, our over 400 full-time and part-time employees, and our over 4,000 students I wholeheartedly support the application of the City of Sumter South Carolina for this Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Hardee".

Tim Hardee, Ed.D.

President



March 27, 2014

Mr. George K. McGregor, AICP, Director  
Sumter City/County Planning Department  
12 West Liberty Street, P.O. Box 1449  
Sumter, SC 29151

PO Box 2462 • 129 S. Harvin Street  
Sumter, SC 29151

Administration Office: 803-934-0396  
Administration Fax: 803-938-9867

Re: Support Letter for TIGER Grant Application

Dear Mr. McGregor:

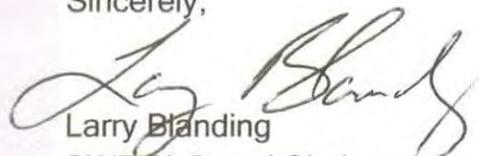
The Santee Wateree Regional Transportation Authority (SWRTA) Board of Directors and Management are pleased to support the City of Sumter in this TIGER Grant Application process with the main focus on funding two major intersection construction projects. The projects are located at the Lafayette Intersection at North Main and the Southern Gateway Intersection at Manning Avenue and Hwy 521. In addition to the major intersection construction projects; it will also fund the purchase and installation of new bus stops signs and Real Time Software with GPS technology for SWRTA to operate routes within the urbanized area of Sumter.

By enhancing and improving the two major intersections within Sumter, along with the connectivity of the transportation system; through the use of GPS technology, can provide a tremendous benefit to improving the quality of life for citizens within the geographic areas. In providing safer highways for traveling, ADA approved side-walks and cross walks, public transit awareness through installation of new and improved bus stop signs and shelters are all needed to provide the citizens with improved mobility options.

The SWRTA currently operates routes along these two major intersections within the urbanized area of Sumter. These routes include the majority of the major Shopping Centers, Health Care Facilities, Recreational Parks and other employment centers.

Again, it gives us great pleasure to provide you with a letter of support for this project. Please feel free to contact Lottie Jones, SWRTA's Executive Director at (803) 934-0396 ext. 106, if you should have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

  
Larry Blanding  
SWRTA Board Chairman

# SUMTER

*South Carolina*  
Chamber of Commerce

March 31, 2014

Mr. George McGregor, Director  
Sumter City-County Planning Department  
12 W. Liberty St.  
Sumter, SC 29150

Re: Support for the Sumter Connectivity Initiative

Dear Mr. McGregor:

This letter certifies The Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce's commitment to support the Sumter Connectivity Initiative to transform the Manning Avenue/North Main Street corridor into a safer, Multi-modal experience for residents and visitors of Sumter County.

There is a definite need in our area for bringing the Lafayette/North Main Street intersection and the Southern Gateway intersection at Manning Avenue up to date as Manning Ave. to N. Main St. is a major commercial thoroughfare connecting US 378/76 through the city to HWY 521, and I-95 to the South.

We look forward to a partnership with the Sumter City-County Planning Department to help boost sustainable economic growth in the community. Now is the perfect time for our community to take advantage of every opportunity to support and facilitate road expansions and improvements.

We are looking forward to working with the Sumter City-County Planning Department in its efforts to bring resources together to facilitate improvements to the Sumter community.

Sincerely,



Grier Blackwelder, President  
Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce  
32 E. Calhoun St., Sumter, SC 29150  
(803) 775-1231 or (803) 236-7061 (cell)  
[grier@sumterchamber.com](mailto:grier@sumterchamber.com)



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