

Heather Finnell

From: Carlton Pittman <rucpitt@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 7:04 PM
To: Alan Holden; Tom Myers; Rick Smith; Tracey7.thomas@gmail.com; rapaarfus@gmail.com; Commisioner Dyer
Cc: Heather Finnell; Christy Ferguson
Subject: Public Comment - Full Board Meeting April 2025

Heather, can you include this as public comments for the full Board meeting Tuesday, April 15.

The board, specifically the three commissioners in the majority, should do what they have stated publicly numerous times – ASK the voters (and I include residents and all property owners) exactly what they want at both the pier and Block Q, and IF they want to fund it.

I am all for majority rule. But, you have to ask to gather the feedback. Now is that time.

Failure to do this will show to everyone the hypocrisy of your time in office, or that you were just disingenuous from the beginning.

For Block Q, the board and PRAB previously asked for and received feedback from a very narrow subset of owners who own property near to Block Q. The Board should use this feedback, as well as additional feedback solicited now on a Block Q and Jordan Blvd redevelopment project.

Failure to do this will show to everyone the hypocrisy of your time in office, or that you were just disingenuous from the beginning.

Funding the pier

Regarding Agenda Item 8 – It is clear the 3 commissioners in the majority are NOT going to vote to actually rebuild the pier. Their comments at last week's special budget meeting seem to confirm this. AND, if this is the case, then there is NO reason to spend \$198k on engineering work if you have no intention to move forward on the pier.

I was the ONLY person in the audience last week for the special budget meeting. When the Board got to next year's budget item for the pier, the discussion was about adding an additional \$90k to next years budget for engineering work by HDR.

All Tom cares about is the optics. He states it plainly – he’s worried about how it will look and no more – “I’m just worried about the optics of it”

Thomas – “we’re not doing that” – (moving ahead with the pier)

Thomas – “why would you assume that” (going forward with the pier)

Paarfas – “Until we say we are not, I think we should” (say we are moving forward).

So my ask is do not spend the \$198k on pier engineering work if you are not moving forward.

You 3 newest commissioners ran for office in part on being fiscally responsible.

You held 20 or so budget meetings in an attempt to find budget irregularities, and did not find a single dollar out of place.

So, if you insist on spending almost \$200k on engineering for a project you KNOW you are not going to move forward, you are all three hypocrites at best. Dishonest at worst.

Heather Finnell

From: John Woods <johnwoods@atmc.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 9:52 AM
To: tmmyers56@gmail.com; rsmith9431@gmail.com; tracey7.thomas@gmail.com; Commissioner Dyer; rpaarfus@gmail.com; alan@alanholdenrealty.com; Christy Ferguson; Heather Finnell
Cc: Troy Gilleland
Subject: Support for item 15 - NC Resilience program - Potential meeting with NCDOT - Brunswick's 1116 (Ocean Blvd E) Drainage Review - request Town support
Attachments: 17-0223_Revs'd_Plans(AFC).pdf

My name is John Woods and I live at 159 Ocean Blvd East and completely support the Town's application for the NC Resilience Program Phases 1 and 2 - item 15 of today's agenda.

Along a similar line of reasoning, residents of SeaSide at Winding River are attempting to get the NCDOT to reinstate the "Engineered Swale" designed by East Coast Engineering and installed in 2016 as part of the stormwater plan for the West parking lot construction at 162 Ocean Blvd East.

Gil Gilleland is trying to set up an on site meeting between April 23-28 at 162 Ocean Blvd East with the NCDOT to review their latest response declining to help us.

We've been informed that requests from citizens to the NCDOT are viewed more favorably if the local municipality is included and also in favor.

Gil has been in communication with Chris Clemmons of Public Works over the past few months and he stated: "They shouldn't have removed that swale, but they never asked me."

We request that the Commissioners and the Town Government make Chris Clemmons, and/or any other suitable Town representative available to attend a meeting with the NCDOT on the island.

Thank you,
John Woods
159 Ocean Blvd East
johnwoods@atmc.net

Attachments:
Email chain with NCDOT and Gil Gilleland
17-0223_Rev'sd_Plans(AFC).pdf - Site Plan of Additional Overflow Parking for Winding River Plantation - February 2016

Begin forwarded message:

From: Troy Gilleland <gil.gilleland@bellsouth.net>
Date: April 13, 2025 at 1:09:35 PM EDT
To: "Leonard, Jessi L" <jleonard6@ncdot.gov>
Cc: "Whitley, A. Battle" <abwhitley@ncdot.gov>, "Moore, Roger T" <rtmoore2@ncdot.gov>, "Lee, Craig J" <cjlee@ncdot.gov>
Subject: Re: Brunswick_SR 1116 (Ocean Blvd E) Drainage Review
Reply-To: Troy Gilleland <gil.gilleland@bellsouth.net>

Ms. Leonard,

While we are disappointed, we would definitely like to take you up on your offer to meet us on site. I will be at Holden Beach and available the dates of 23-28 April, with Friday the 25th or Monday the 28th being the best dates for the key members of our team to meet. Please let me know if this works.

Having lived in my home on Ocean Boulevard for over 16 years, the removal of the swale has caused us huge stormwater runoff issues that were not there before. Just this past Friday night, a normal front of thunderstorms moved through our area causing flooding in front of our homes that made it dangerous to drive, as pedestrians could not walk along the sides of the road and were forced into the middle of the roadway. This never happened prior to the road widening and replacement of the swale with a buried pipe & limited drains.

I've taken the liberty of copying your note and making factual comments titled **INPUT**, and are in **bold** below.

I feel if we can meet on-site, and walk you through what is happening, showing you the actions WE have taken as residents along this area, we can come to a solution that will alleviate the problem. We want to work with you to achieve a good solution.

Here are our comments for consideration:

Mr. Gilleland,

Thank you for bringing your request to our attention regarding the drainage on SR 1116 (Ocean Boulevard E) in Holden Beach / Brunswick County. We have consulted with our statewide Hydraulics unit regarding the specific request for reestablishing a ditch on the south side of Ocean Boulevard at property number 162. Based on the findings and present conditions, the pipe that was installed under the recent project that included widening Ocean Boulevard provides positive drainage once backwater due to the Atlantic Ocean allows. After widening based on the desired project, there would have been minimal ditch open area remaining, thus it was piped and tied to the existing systems that run east along Ocean Boulevard E.

INPUT: We believe the current pipe that was installed on the south side of the road, and especially location & number of drains into the pipe are inadequate. Additionally, the way the area was contoured after the new pipe was installed does not adequately funnel stormwater runoff into those

drains, allowing the majority of the stormwater runoff to get to, and across, the road.

Reestablishing a ditch would not improve the condition on the north side of the road and would not be anticipated to provide significant improvements to the south side of the road.

This site location is in a low spot/sag along this route and the drainage system is impacted by high tide and its island topography. These factors contribute to high water during rain events. This is common along Ocean Blvd.

INPUT: This condition was not there when the swale was in place. The former swale both held and transported the water generated by storms, tropical cyclones, tropical storms, and hurricanes, per the photos on the attached original document submitted by our team.

The drainage for this area does not have a pipe or outlet to direct water from the north side of Ocean Boulevard to south where the ditch section was previously in place. From review of the information, water is ponding on both sides of the road; therefore, the northern side would not be affected by any modifications to the south side.

INPUT: After the road was widened for the addition of bike lanes, excess stormwater runoff definitely moves from the south side of the road to the north side after the deletion of the swale and installation of the pipe. A normal thunderstorm this past Friday caused flooding of the entire roadway along the area in question that had never taken place before the road was widened.

It was noted that there was evidence of rainfall that had covered this road for several hundred feet and beyond the limits of the newly installed pipe section, which you confirmed being from the September 2024 Potential Tropical Cyclone 8. This condition would not have been alleviated from a ditch being installed in lieu of the pipe.

INPUT: In the past when the swale was in place during cyclones/tropical storms/hurricanes, the swale in question definitely assisted in the movement of water on both sides of the swale, both east and west, as it took excess water and held/moved it to the east.

Additionally, that storm was an unprecedented event that exceeds our design standards.

INPUT: The tropical cyclone definitely produced high levels of rainfall. But the photo comparisons in the attachment provided in January was an "apples to apples" comparison, as it compared Tropical Cyclone 8 of September 2024 to Tropical Storm Hermine of September 2016, which produced over 10" of rain in a comparable period. And as the photos depict, the former swale definitely handled all the stormwater runoff from that event.

I am sorry we are unable to provide a more favorable response to your request, but we did conduct work to vacuum out this pipe section to make sure the system is open. Please let us know if you need any more information or if you would like to discuss this further on site. Thanks again!

INPUT AND REQUEST: We would definitely like to take you up on your offer to discuss this further on site. I will be at Holden Beach and available the dates of April 23-28 (25th or 28th are best days), and can have several of the subject matter experts on our team available. I feel confident after physically looking at this problem together and discussing options, we can

come up with a system that will work. Please let me know if this is doable on your end.

- Gil Gilleland, 163 Ocean Blvd East, Holden Beach, 770-289-0229 (cell)

Jessi Leonard, PE
Assistant Division Maintenance Engineer
Division 3
NCDOT – Division of Highways

910 341 2000 office
910 675 0143 fax
jleonard6@ncdot.gov

5501 Barbados Boulevard
Castle Hayne, NC 28429-5646

On Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at 03:25:14 PM EDT, Leonard, Jessi L
<jleonard6@ncdot.gov> wrote:

Mr. Gilleland,

Thank you for bringing your request to our attention regarding the drainage on SR 1116 (Ocean Boulevard E) in Holden Beach / Brunswick County. We have consulted with our statewide Hydraulics unit regarding the specific request for reestablishing a ditch on the south side of Ocean Boulevard at property number 162. Based on the findings and present conditions, the pipe that was installed under the recent project that included widening Ocean Boulevard provides positive drainage once backwater due to the Atlantic Ocean allows. After widening based on the desired project, there would have been minimal ditch open area remaining, thus it was piped and tied to the existing systems that run east along Ocean Boulevard E. Reestablishing a ditch would not improve the condition on the north side of the road and would not be anticipated to provide significant improvements to the south side of the road.

This site location is in a low spot/sag along this route and the drainage system is impacted by high tide and its island topography. These factors contribute to high water during rain events. This is common along Ocean Blvd. The drainage for this area does not have a pipe or outlet to direct water from the north side of Ocean Boulevard to south where the ditch section was previously in place. From review of the information, water is ponding on both sides of the road; therefore, the northern side would not be affected by any modifications to the south side. It was noted that there was evidence of rainfall that had covered this road for several hundred feet and beyond the limits of the newly installed pipe section, which you confirmed being from the September 2024 Potential Tropical Cyclone 8. This condition would not have been alleviated from a ditch being installed in lieu of the pipe. Additionally, that storm was an unprecedented event that exceeds our design standards.

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open. Please let us know if you need any more information or if you would like to discuss this further on site. Thanks again!

Jessi Leonard, PE

Assistant Division Maintenance Engineer

Division 3

NCDOT – Division of Highways

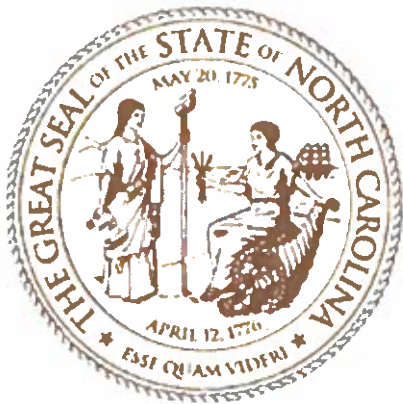
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Castle Hayne, NC 28429-5646



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From: Leonard, Jessi L

Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 12:45 PM

To: gil.gilleland@bellsouth.net

Cc: Whitley, A. Battle <abwhitley@ncdot.gov>; Moore, Roger T <rtmoore2@ncdot.gov>;

Lee, Craig J <cjlee@ncdot.gov>

Subject: Brunswick_SR 1116 (Ocean Blvd E) Drainage Review

Mr. Gilleland,

Thank you again for sending the attached request and speaking with me about this earlier. As discussed, we are bringing on the assistance of our statewide Hydraulics unit for this review. We will be in touch with our findings, but feel free to reach out if any updates are needed. Thank you!

Jessi Leonard, PE

Assistant Division Maintenance Engineer

Division 3

NCDOT – Division of Highways

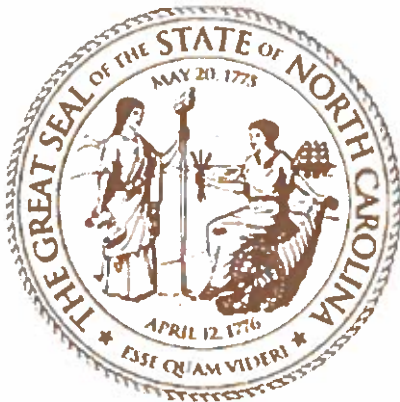
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