

# DAUFUSKIE ISLAND COUNCIL

## THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF DAUFUSKIE ISLAND

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August 22, 2020

### **Daufuskie Island Council Statement on Proposed Temporary Ferry Landing**

Daufuskie Island Council appreciates Beaufort County's efforts to provide an appropriate ferry landing for Daufuskie island. Such a landing, with sufficient facilities, parking, and accommodations will serve as a fitting gateway to Daufuskie while promoting its economic potential for all Beaufort County.

Our community was pleased with the plans presented to County Council and contained in the Accommodations and Hospitality Tax Grant application in February 2020 for development of a ferry landing at C.C. Haigh Landing on Pinckney Island. These plans included a Highway 278 underpass, a new pavilion with restrooms and concession, and a secured parking area. Since February, evolving construction considerations for the Highway 278 improvement project necessitated a revised approach. We recently learned the County supports a new permanent ferry embarkation on the East side of Pinckney Island, facing the Intracoastal Waterway. This solution seems well suited to the needs of both Daufuskie residents and visitors. It holds promise of becoming a marquee Lowcountry attraction. It is uncertain, however, when in relation to the overall Highway 278 improvement effort this terminal will be constructed or whether necessary funding is included. With actual Highway 278 construction scheduled to begin in late 2023 or early 2024, it is reasonable to expect it will be a number of years in the future.

To address interim needs and move the ferry landing from its current location at Buckingham landing in Bluffton, we've learned of the County's intention to build a temporary ferry embarkation at the C. C. Haigh location on Pinckney Island. We've had an opportunity to review the preliminary design of such a facility and would like to share important community priorities to help make this transition a success. Our priorities can be grouped into three broad categories: safety, security, access.

- **Safety:** Use of C. C. Haigh must be accompanied with improved entry and egress to Highway 278. Minimal acceleration/deceleration lanes and unimpeded traffic flow over the bridge make this a difficult traffic situation at best and often downright life threatening.
- **Security:** Allocated parking appears convenient to the landing, however open parking of unattended vehicles for prolonged periods in a location adjacent to a major thoroughfare will invite malicious behavior and possible vandalism. Secure parking will reduce damage to vehicles.

- Access: As many ferry patrons, both island residents and visitors, board the boats with light cargo i.e. groceries, luggage, etc., the ability to transit from auto to boat with wheeled vehicles is important. This is especially the case for passengers with limited access or special needs.

While keeping our eyes on the final, permanent ferry solution, Daufuskie island council is most willing and eager to work with Beaufort County officials to produce safe and secure ferry operations for all.

### Design Concept February 2020



### Design Concept August 2020

