

SCDOT discontinues toll collections on Hilton Head's Cross Island Parkway

By Ted Creech

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) stopped collecting tolls on Hilton Head Island's Cross Island Parkway at 11:59 p.m. on June 30, 2021. The agency is now preparing to convert the corridor to a non-tolled road.

"SCDOT's commitment to the public was to sunset the toll once the bonds are paid off. We take this commitment seriously and are pleased to make the road free to use," said Secretary of Transportation **Christy A. Hall**.

"The Cross Island Parkway has been serving Hilton Head residents, visitors and businesses as an important alternate travel route for more than 20 years, and we're pleased to convert it to a non-tolled roadway permanently," said SCDOT Deputy Secretary of Finance and Administration **Justin Powell**.

Opened in 1998, The Cross Island Parkway is a 7.5-mile limited access route that connects the William Hilton Parkway (Business U.S. 278) at the north end of Hilton Head Island with Palmetto Bay Road and the Sea Pines Circle at the south end of the island. The toll was \$1.25 per cash customer and \$.75 per Palmetto Pass customer based on a two-axle vehicle. The toll was collected to repay bonds that were issued to build the road, pay for toll collection operations, and maintain the roadway and fa-



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The tollbooths on the Cross Island Parkway will eventually be demolished now that toll collecting has stopped.

ilities.

SCDOT continues to maintain the Parkway as a part of its statewide road system.

Motorists who used the Palmetto Pass, an account that enabled them to pay toll charges with a pre-paid balance instead of stopping

at the toll booths to pay in cash, will need to close their accounts now that the toll is discontinued. SCDOT has discontinued the sale of new Palmetto Pass accounts for the Cross Island Parkway.

SCDOT has been communicating with all Palmetto Pass custom-

ers about closing their accounts, returning their transponders, and how to receive refunds of their deposits.

Go to www.crossislandparkway.org for more information. Answers to frequently asked questions about Palmetto Pass accounts

can be found on the website at www.crossislandparkway.org/scvector/static/faq/Discontinuing.shtml.

The public may also call the Palmetto Pass customer service center at 843-342-6718.

SCDOT engineer recognized by University of South Carolina for volunteer work helping future engineering graduates

By Rob Thompson

SCDOT Program Manager **Casey B. Lucas** in the Upstate Regional Production Group (RPG-4) was recently recognized by her alma mater for her impact on young engineers in the Palmetto State.

The University of South Carolina College of Engineering and Computing (CEC) featured the SCDOT engineer

on their website stating that her post-graduate career helps keep South Carolina moving forward.

Lucas worked at SCDOT as an intern while she was still a college student. The intern program gave her a chance to learn about SCDOT career opportunities.

She graduated from USC's Engineering College with a bachelor's degree in civil en-

gineering in 2010 and began working again at SCDOT as a road design engineer. She was promoted to assistant program manager, and then to her current position, program manager, in June 2018. She was recognized as SCDOT Preconstruction Employee of the Year in 2019.

As an alumna, Lucas has reached back to the college community to participate in

programs to help engineering students. She volunteers with engineering students and helped put together a women's luncheon for alumni.

Inclusive Programs Coordinator at the CEC Brian McCaster said "We appreciate people like Casey who show up for our undergraduate students and help them find their place in engineering and computing."



Casey Lucas