

Phase I of Port Access Road opens in North Charleston

By Lauren Roeder

SCDOT opened phase I of the Port Access Road Project on Feb. 23, 2021.

This marked the completion of the road work necessary to accommodate truck and other port-related traffic associated with the future opening of the new Hugh K. Leatherman port terminal at exit 218 on I-26 in North Charleston. Phase I also includes an improved I-26/ North Meeting Street access ramp at exit 217.

The 4-mile project replaces an old partial interchange with a new, fully directional modern interchange. The Port Access Road connects I-26 to the new Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr. Terminal with two inbound and two outbound lanes for all port-related traffic. Other associated roadway improvements are also being made to balance the needs of moving traffic in and out of the new terminal.

Phase II of the project will serve local and commercial vehicles with a Bainbridge Avenue connector road, an extension of Stromboli Avenue, and associated improvements to local streets.

The Port Access Road construction project is managed by SCDOT and the Port Access Road Project Construction Engineering and Inspection team for the South Carolina Ports Authority (SCPA).



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The new Port Access Road runs four miles from I-26 in North Charleston to the new Hugh K. Leatherman port terminal.

Resident Construction Engineer for Design/Build and Special Projects **Sarah Gaffney** in District 6

worked on the project.

The \$220 million project is funded by the federal government

through a 2006 Federal Earmark, the SC State Legislature through allocations with interest to the SC-

DOT, SCPA and the Contingency Reserve Fund by the South Carolina General Assembly.

Employee Appreciation Week 2021



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SCDOT employees mingle and gather in lines outside the headquarters building on May 4, 2021, to take part in SCDOT's yearly food truck event during Employee Appreciation Week.