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Legislative Oversight Committee



South Carolina House of Representatives

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Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Via Email and U.S. Mail

Secretary of Transportation Christy A. Hall
South Carolina Department of Transportation
Post Office Box 191
Columbia, South Carolina 29201 - 3959

Dear Secretary Hall:

An important component of the House Legislative Oversight Committee's mission is to inform the public about state agencies. On occasion, this requires follow-up with the agency regarding particular issues. Accordingly, please respond on or before the close of business on Friday, June 22, 2018, to the issues noted in this letter.

Implementation of recommendations in the Legislative Audit Council's April 2016 audit report

Since the full Committee's approval of the study of the agency on June 1, 2016, the Committee has requested updates on the agency's implementation of items in the Legislative Audit Council's April 2016 audit report. A purpose of this letter is seek an update on the implementation of the Legislative Audit Council recommendations.

Wando River Bridge

A second purpose of this letter is to seek information relating to the Wando River Bridge as recent news articles have noted some issues of concern surrounding the failure of this bridge.

- 1) Please explain the agency's process for determining whether a bridge is safe for motor vehicles, the entities with which it shares information related to any changes in this determination, and the information shared, if any.
- 2) What is the agency's standard protocol when it begins noticing issues in bridges?
- 3) Please explain how the agency incorporates the cost of continual repairs, and eventual complete replacement, of bridges into its prioritization of projects.
- 4) Does the agency publish on a fiscal year basis by county, a list of the amounts spent and specific projects on which they were spent?
- 5) Please explain the agency's monitoring processes for bridges, including the entity which monitors (e.g., SCDOT, third-party contracted entity, federal entity, etc.); the entities with which information is shared; type of information shared; and frequency with which information is shared, if any information is shared.
- 6) Media sources have reported that SCDOT has been inspecting the Wando River Bridge regularly for nearly two years. If this is the case, why were those frequent inspections unable to identify the necessary maintenance that could have prevented bridge closure? What steps is SCDOT taking to reduce the likelihood that future closures will be necessary on this and other bridges?

Thank you for the agency's continued cooperation with the legislative oversight process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Wm. Weston J. Newton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W".

Wm. Weston J. Newton

cc: House Legislative Oversight Committee