

## Administrator Message to Residents

**From:** Andy Benke

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 16, 2018 6:36 PM

**To:** [abenke@sullivansisland-sc.com](mailto:abenke@sullivansisland-sc.com)

**Subject:** I-526 Westbound Bridge Status - Message 2

Good afternoon Island residents,

The South Carolina Department of Transportation held a press conference this afternoon to announce the details of the bridge inspection and requirements for repair. While the forensic analysis of the ruptured cable will continue in the lab in the coming weeks, the necessary repairs and cable replacement will begin early tomorrow. The replacement cable is already on site, repair team assembled, and final engineering of the plan is being completed. **Unfortunately the bridge will remain closed until at least 6-11-18.**

Below are a few additional details from today's press conference:

1. The response is a multi-jurisdictional effort which includes national, state and local agencies. The team has a three phase focus on the issue that is a concurrent approach: (1) traffic management; (2) forensic analysis of the cause; and, (3) repair and re-opening of the bridge. Paramount in each segment of the focus is life-safety of motorists.
2. Federal inspectors, SCDOT inspectors and bridge officials from Florida (additional experts on this design) have spent the past 16 hours inside the bridge examining the ruptured cable. While the cause is yet to be determined, lab analysis will commence when a section of damaged cable is removed. Likewise, a replacement cable has arrived.
3. As the engineered repair plan is finalized today, crews will work 24/7 to complete the temporary repair by June 11, 2018.
4. Law enforcement from Mt. Pleasant, Charleston, Charleston County Sheriff's Department, SC Highway Patrol and DNR will monitor traffic flow at all of the major arteries (i.e. Coleman Boulevard, SC17, SC41, Clements Ferry, I-26, cross town).
5. Traffic engineers have already modified traffic signals along the major arteries to allow for extended "green" time in an effort to accommodate flow. Likewise, law enforcement will be stationed at the intersections with the ability to over ride the lights if necessary. Engineers will continue to monitor peak hours to adjust the "green time" as necessary.
6. SC Department of Transportation SHEP vehicles are positioned along the major arteries to assist disabled vehicles or vehicles that require fuel.
7. SCDOT and local law enforcement are reviewing a plan to reverse traffic in one lane of the eastbound I-526. No decision has been made at this time but details and information to follow.
8. SCDOT has provided mobile traffic cameras to assist officials who monitor the flow of traffic.
9. The South Carolina State Ports Authority has adjusted terminal receiving and delivery gate hours to assist truckers.
10. Large employers in Mt. Pleasant have adjusted work schedules to allow many employees the ability to commute in off-peak hours.

Considerations for the next 4 weeks while the bridge is closed:

- A. If possible consider working from home or planning your commute during off-peak hours 6am to 9:30am and/or 4:30pm to 7pm.

- B. While side streets may seem to cut time off of your route, law enforcement is giving consideration and maximum green time to the major arteries. It may be prudent to avoid side streets.
- C. Remember to have adequate fuel in your vehicle prior to beginning your route.
- D. The Town will be working with its household garbage and yard debris vendor along with the Charleston County to determine if extended land fill hours or adjusted collection hours are warranted.
- E. The main arteries remain as outlined yesterday:
  - 1) SC703 to Coleman Boulevard to Ravenel Bridge:
    - i. to I-26 west
    - ii. to City of Charleston Cross Town/south US-17
  - 2) SC703 to US 17 (Johnnie Dodds Boulevard) north to SC41 then northwest to Clements Ferry Road then northwest to I-526
- F. Area traffic cameras are provided by the South Carolina Department of Transportation and are available at [www.511sc.org](http://www.511sc.org).

The Town will distribute further information as available. However, please continue to monitor local media for other updates.

Regards,  
Andy

**Andy Benke**

**Town Administrator**

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