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NEWS RELEASE

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Photos: Engineers and managers with the Boundary Street project examine where overhead lines will be buried in coming months.

Duct bank work moves to opposite side of Boundary Street, goal to relocate overhead cables underground

Engineers and construction experts walked the eastern side of Boundary Street this week as work begins to install an underground “duct bank” to hold power and communications cables that currently are strung on poles.

Crews are nearing completion of the duct bank on the four-lane road’s western edge from Neil Road to Greenlawn Drive.

Once the duct banks are ready, electricity and communications cables that now run from pole to pole will be hidden from view underground.

Benefits of moving utility lines off the poles and into an underground “duct bank” include:

Aesthetics: The appearance of this key entrance to historic Beaufort and the Sea Islands will be greatly improved by reducing the visual clutter of overhead utility wires.

Reduced maintenance: Falling tree limbs and high winds common in our coastal area can disrupt power and communications services by knocking down lines and even poles. Burying lines reduces weather-related power outages and provides more reliable service to customers. This improves business efficiency and quality of life.

Safety and community health: Burying lines eliminates fire hazards, accidents, and safety risks from downed electricity lines. Moving the lines also improves road safety by removing the chance of motorists striking poles.

Economic development: Many revitalization experts agree that investing in improving the appearance of traditional commercial areas is one of the best ways to attract new business and stimulate economic development.

The City of Beaufort, Beaufort County, S.C. Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration are assisted with the duct bank project by local utilities including SCE&G, Hargray and CenturyLink.

For more information visit www.boundarystreetupdate.com.

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