

# Call made for Highway 11 zoning

## Issue surfaces amid pending sewer project

BY CARLOS GALARZA  
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — An Oconee county councilman has come out in favor of zoning Highway 11 and a member of the Oconee County Scenic Highway Committee agrees.

Councilman Paul Corbeil left no doubt about where he stands on the issue following comments he made to members of the Infrastructure Advisory Commission this week.

"We really need to address zoning in that area," Corbeil said at the commission meeting Wednesday.

Corbeil made the comment in light of a pending contract to connect a sewer line from the planned new Walhalla High School near Pickett Post along Highway 11 to the Cane Creek pump station.

Oconee County agreed to partner with the School District of Oconee County by contributing more than \$1 million to the project.

"That's going to open up that area to development, which is good, but we have to plan for what we want to see there," Corbeil said.

Asked by a commission mem-



Talk of zoning Highway 11 is resurfacing as plans take shape to extend sewer on the designated Scenic Highway.

ber whether he had in mind a scenic highway overlay, Corbeil responded: "We need to have that conversation."

"A scenic highway overlay, I think, is long overdue," Corbeil added. "That's my personal

opinion. I know we have a difference of opinion on that for the highway itself, and also how it's going to affect the area that sewer would be connecting to."

Harold Thomas, a member of

the county's Scenic Highway Committee, said Thursday that he supports Corbeil's call for zoning Highway 11.

"If we don't have setback rules it'll ruin Highway 11 as being a scenic highway,"

Thomas said. "We have to come up with some kind of plan to zone where the school and sewer lines are going to be.

"It'll be too late if we wait until sewer lines go in and commercial building starts coming," Thomas added.

A conservationist who served on County Council in the past, Thomas said he is not opposed to commercial development, but is adamant about putting some zoning rules in place.

Scenic Highway Committee Chairman Luther Lyle said the group's hands are tied.

He said the responsibility for regulating eyesores on Highway 11 falls on counties and not the state.

"Greenville is doing a great job," Lyle said of efforts to regulate signage on Highway 11. "Oconee and Pickens are not."

Lyle said Oconee Planning Department's idea of an overlay district for Highway 11 and Highway 28 met with stiff resistance several years ago.

"There was such an outcry it was dropped," Lyle said.

Any effort to address the issue again would likely have to come from council, Lyle added.

carlos@dailyjm.com | (864) 973-6685