Clemson considers bids for overpass work

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CLEMSON – The city has received two bids on an option to help improve pedestrian safety at the Berkeley Drive overpass at U.S. 123 near Clemson Elementary School.

For the past year, the city has been considering several options for improving safety on the overpass. City officials have held talks on the issue with the state Department of Transportation.

Currently there is no room for pedestrians to cross using the overpass and walkers are forced to the edge of traffic lanes.

One option would be to attach a pedestrian bridge to the existing vehicle bridge on Berkeley Drive at a cost of $550,000. Another, more expensive option, would involve construction of a new vehicle bridge that would include bicycle lanes and sidewalks. That work would cost an estimated $2 million, Kent Guthrie, the city's engineer, has said.

A third, less expensive option involves widening the pavement on the approach to the bridge, adding a short section of sidewalk that would extend the existing sidewalk to a guardrail and adding fencing on the bridge.

Cost for completing the third option has been estimated at $80,000, Guthrie has said.

Monday night, Clemson City Council discussed the two bids received for third option. The lowest bid was from Venesky Asphalt Paving in Easley. It includes $77,570 for the Berkeley bridge improvements and around $27,000 for City Hall paving.

City Administrator Rick Cotton said the city doesn't have a designated funding source for the project, but said the city can approach the C-Fund committee about possible funding.

Councilman Jeremy Wright said the SCDOT representative for the region is also trying to access funds that deal with school accessibility. .