

## **Saluda County E-911 Readdressing Project**

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, Saluda County, along with counties across the United States, transitioned to the Enhanced E-911 System. This system was created to improve public safety response to incidents by 1) establishing 911 as the universal emergency number for all telephone services and 2) implementing a standardized system for addressing residences and businesses, ensuring that emergency responders would be able to locate individuals in need of assistance in an emergency quickly. This addressing system, implemented in Saluda County more than twenty years ago, involved the transition from route and box numbers previously used by the United States Postal Service to street numbers, which have been used ever since.

Over the past several years, Saluda County began to identify areas of the county in which issues with the accuracy of these addresses, assigned nearly a quarter of a century ago, were severe enough to cause potential problems with timely emergency response. Inaccuracies have also impaired the ability to accurately assign addresses to additional properties in those areas.

Because E-911 Addressing ensures that emergency responders can quickly locate properties in an emergency situation, it is vital that addresses are as accurate as possible. Since 2017, the Saluda County E-911 Addressing Office has been working on reviewing addresses throughout Saluda County for accuracy and correcting these inaccuracies as they are identified. Since 2017, more than 100 roads have been reviewed, and, where needed, corrections made. Correcting these inaccuracies when they are identified helps to minimize additional issues in the future.

We recognize and apologize for the terrible inconvenience that this places on property owners. Please know that we are diligently reviewing each road and considering the necessity of these corrections as we consider current and potential growth throughout Saluda County. Not all addresses in Saluda County will be affected, but those affected will be contacted via mail regarding any changes as their road is reviewed.

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**What is the purpose of E-911 Addressing?** E-911 Addressing ensures that emergency responders can quickly locate emergency situations and respond effectively, saving time when seconds could mean the difference between life and death.

**How are E-911 Addresses Assigned?** Per ordinance, addresses are assigned every 26.4 feet along roadways in the unincorporated areas of Saluda County. Because of its central location in the County, the Saluda County Courthouse serves as the reference point for the numbering system. Addressing begins at the end of the street geographically closest to the Courthouse and progresses to the end of the street that is geographically furthest from the Courthouse. Odd numbers are used on the left side of the street going away from the Courthouse, and even numbers are used on the right side of the street going away from the Courthouse.

**What prompted the current readdressing project?** In 2017, E-911 Addressing Staff began encountering situations in which we were unable to assign addresses in areas of the county because there were no numbers available to assign due to inaccuracies with previously assigned numbers. As E-911 staff continued to encounter these issues, it became clear that a significant number of inaccuracies existed throughout the county. Over the last five years, we have been working to address these inaccuracies

one road at a time. To date, more than 100 of the 898 roads in the unincorporated areas of Saluda County have been completed.

**Why are entire roads being readdressed instead of just one or two houses?** Most of the inaccuracies identified have been caused by not enough distance being left between numbers. As this inaccuracy is repeated over the length of an entire road, the problem continues to grow, and addresses become even less accurate the further down the road you go.

**How do I know if my address is being changed?** If your address is being changed, you will receive a letter from the Saluda County E-911 Addressing Office providing your new address, directions on what steps to take, and a checklist to help identify where you need to change your address.

**What happens to my mail if it still has my old address?** The United States Postal Service will continue to deliver your mail for one year after your new address is assigned, so you have twelve months to update your correspondence, but we definitely don't recommend waiting that long.

**Do I have to get a new Driver's License?** No, but you do have to update your address in the SCDMV database. According to the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles, you must change your address in the SCDMV system within ten days of the actual address change. *You can update your address online for free at [www.scdmvonline.com](http://www.scdmvonline.com), and you are not required to get a new permit, license, or ID card, but you may purchase one if interested.*

**Why are some roads being renamed?** In order to eliminate confusion, each road in Saluda County must have a unique name, making it easily identifiable to emergency responders. Throughout Saluda County, several duplicate road names have been identified. Often, these duplicate road names result from a permanent road closure or change in the layout of a road, the result of which is a once continuous road being broken into smaller, disconnected sections. While a small break in the continuation of a road, such as an intersection, would not necessarily require a separate road, the roads being renamed are significantly disconnected from one another, in some cases by several miles.

**How do you determine which road keeps the original name?** Three criteria are considered when determining which road keeps the original name. First, if the road was named after a landmark, such as a bridge, building, monument, farm, etc., we try to keep the original name on the section where the landmark is or was located. Second, if the road was named after a family, we consider if members of that family still occupy property along one of the roads. Finally, if neither of the two previous conditions apply, the original name is left with the longest road section with addresses assigned to it.

**Why are sections of Old Charleston Road being renamed?** As it currently exists, Old Charleston Road is made up of four separate roads, which are not connected to one another. While it is recognized that these roads were connected to one another at some point in history, the current situation creates confusion for emergency responders as they attempt to provide lifesaving care in a timely manner. The four roads are described below:

**Section 1.** Moving from Southeast to Northwest, the first road runs from Neighbors Road in the Ward Community to Johnston Highway and is approximately 7.58 miles long. As this is the longest of the four roads, it will retain the name Old Charleston Road.

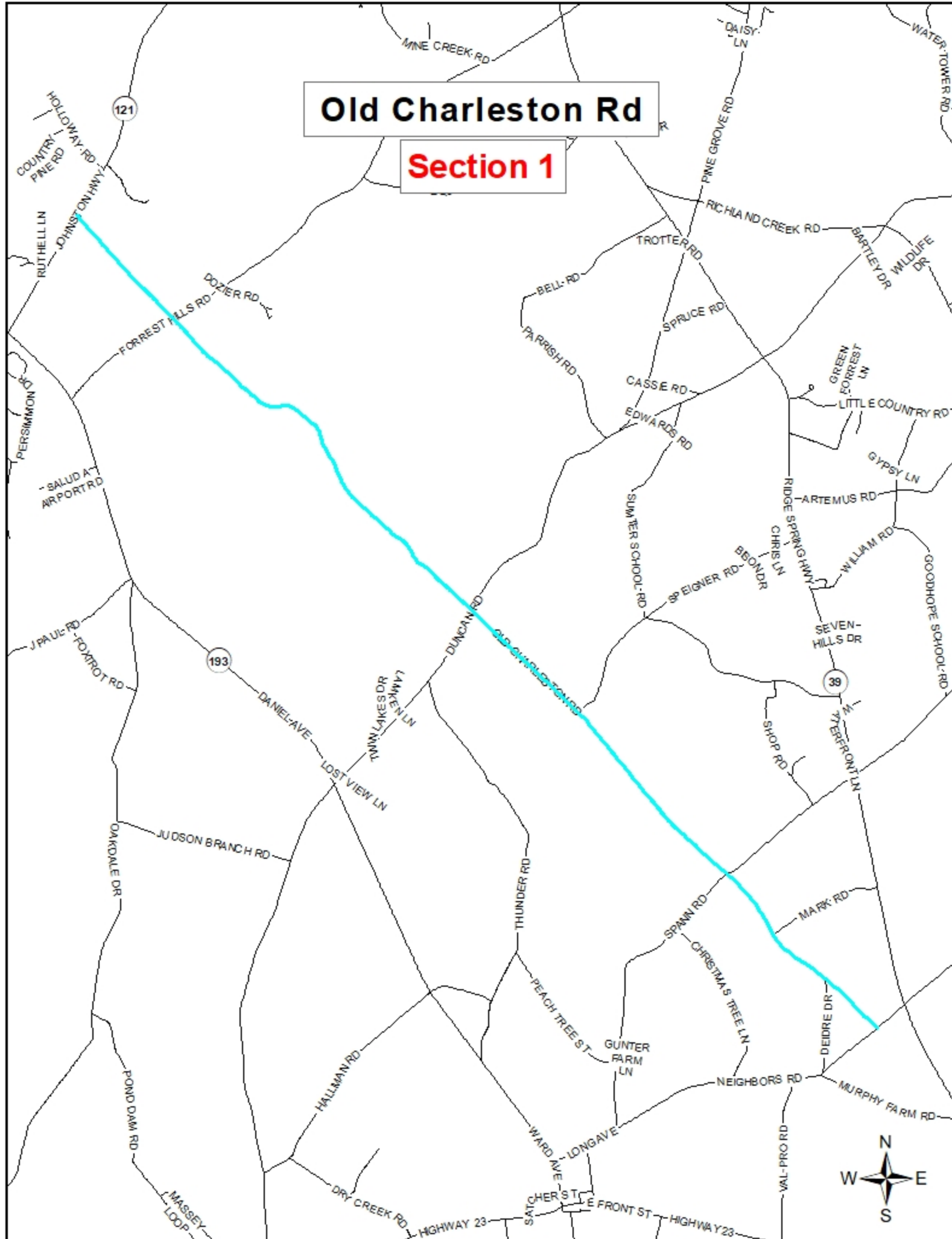
**Section 2.** From Johnston Highway, there is approximately a 2.5 mile gap before the second road bearing the name Old Charleston Road begins at Bonham Road, west of the Town of Saluda. This 2.45 mile long road stretches to Old Chappell's Ferry Road.

**Section 3.** The third road picks up approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile north of the second road, beginning at Old Chappell's Ferry Road and running for approximately 3.15 miles before ending at Greenwood Highway.

**Section 4.** The fourth and final road begins at Fruit Hill Road, near the intersection of Greenwood Highway and behind Good Hope Baptist Church. This road is approximately 3.33 miles long before becoming Pheasant Road at the Greenwood County Line in the Ninety-Six Community.

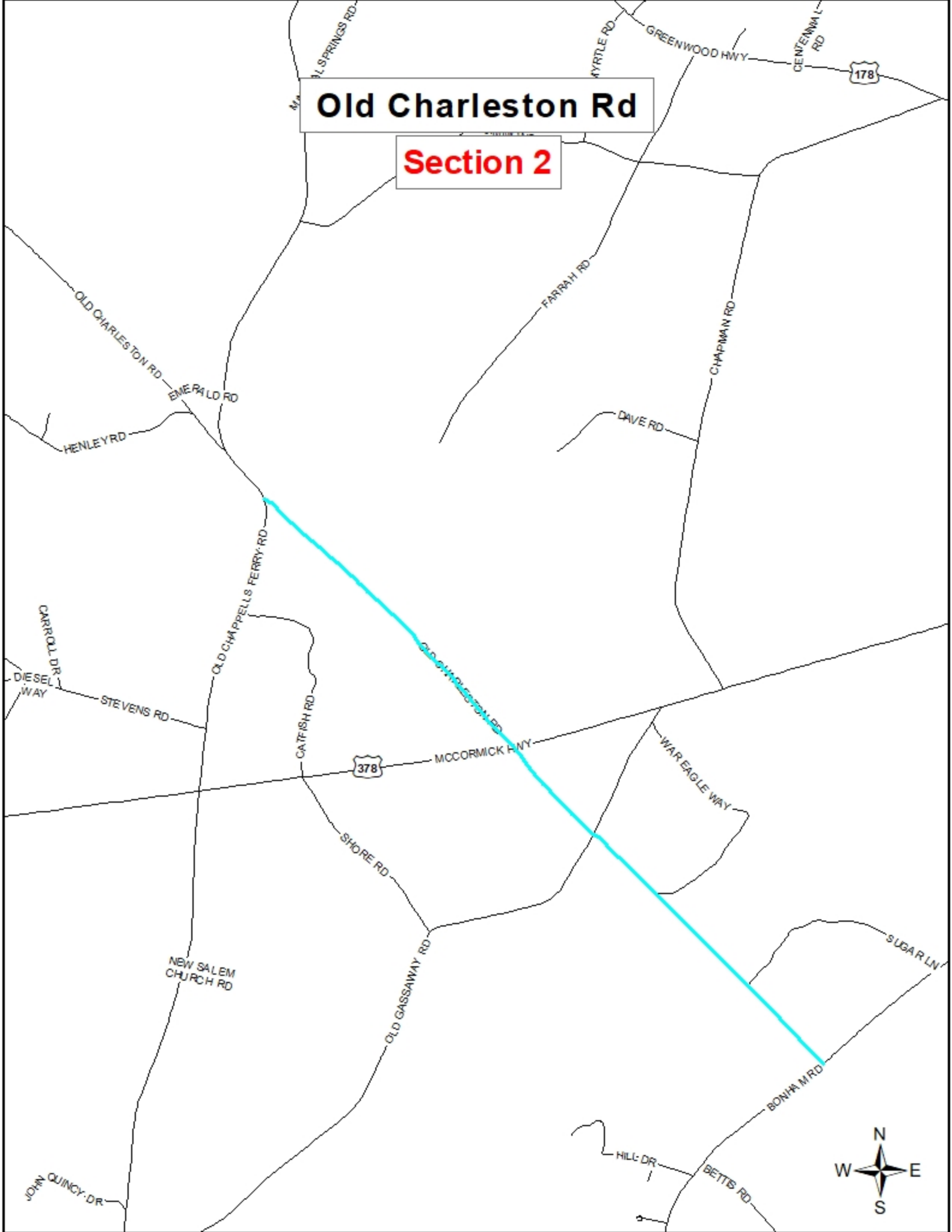
# Old Charleston Rd

## Section 1



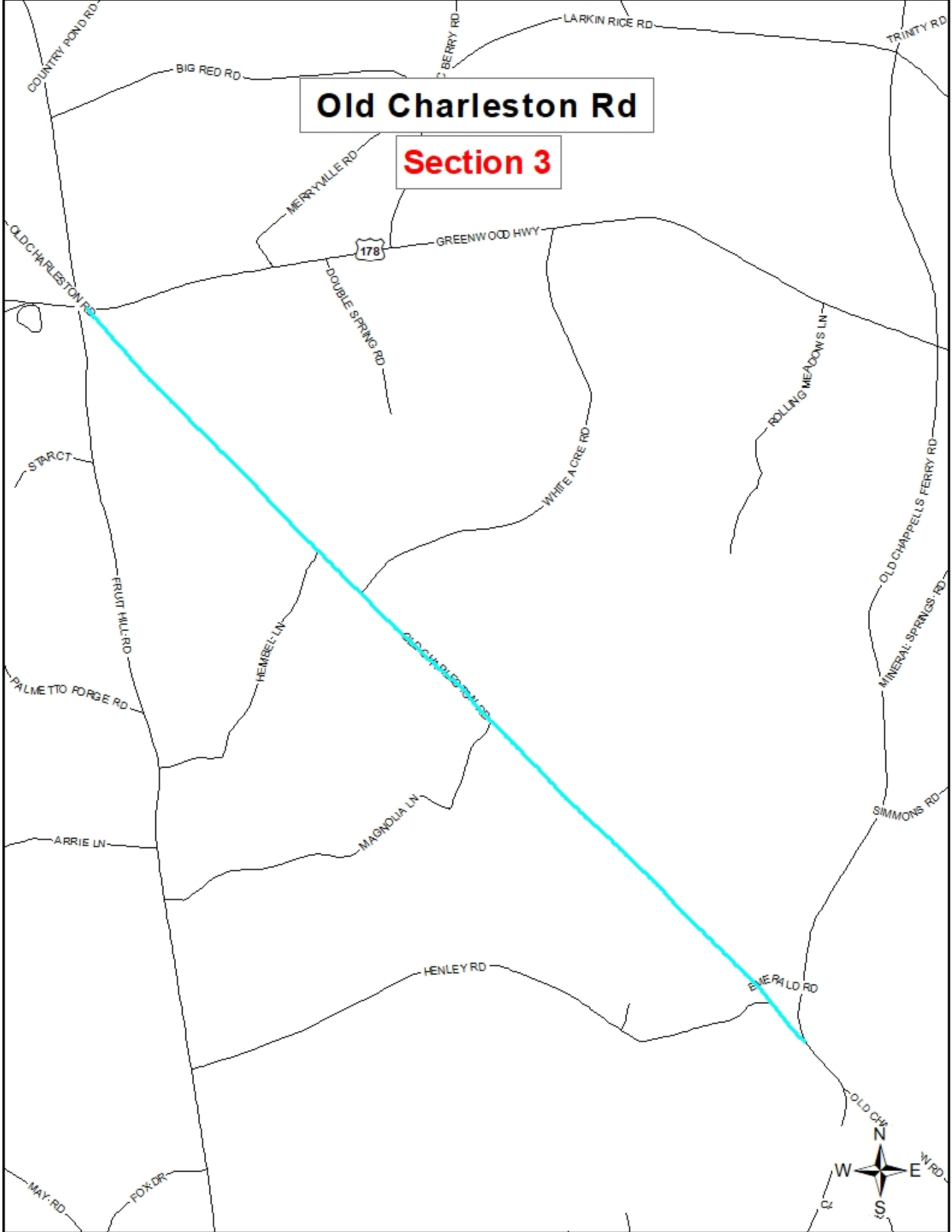
# Old Charleston Rd

## Section 2



# Old Charleston Rd

## Section 3



# Old Charleston Rd

## Section 4

