



REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

ITEM NO. 21.

DATE OF MEETING: June 22, 2009

REQUESTED BY: Rick Benton, County Manager

SHORT TITLE: Resolution Requesting Expedited Funding for US 17 Hampstead By-Pass Project

BACKGROUND: At the June 1, 2009 Board meeting the Board requested a resolution be prepared addressing funding for the US 17 By-Pass project. This project is not funded for construction, however, the EIS and environmental planning phases are on-going. Right-of-Way acquisition is scheduled to begin in 2013. As well, NCDOT is initiating a feasibility study to examine needs and alternatives for widening the existing US 17 corridor. This is not intended to be in conflict with the by-pass project, but is in addition to that project. Even with the by-pass fully constructed, the existing corridor will need considerable improvements due to projected traffic volume.

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED: To adopt the resolution entitled Resolution Requesting Expedited Funding for US 17 Hampstead By-Pass Project.

County of Pender

Board of Commissioners

Jimmy T. Tate, Chairman
George R. Brown, Jr., Vice-Chairman
Norwood Blanchard
F.D. Rivenbark
J. David Williams, Jr.

Rick Benton, County Manager



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Resolution Requesting Expedited Funding For US 17 Hampstead By-Pass Project

WHEREAS, US Highway 17 is a major north-south transportation artery throughout Pender County and the region, serving citizens, visitors, the military, industry and commercial users alike; and

WHEREAS, US Highway 17 bypasses have been constructed and proven to fulfill their intended purpose in many other areas of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the US 17 Hampstead Bypass project is proposed to be a 14-mile multi-lane facility on new location, reducing congestion on existing US Highway 17 and greatly improving the safety and mobility of users and drivers in Pender County; and

WHEREAS, the US 17 Hampstead Bypass project is listed on the North Carolina Department of Transportation's *State Transportation Improvement Program* (STIP); and

WHEREAS, the US 17 Hampstead Bypass project is estimated to cost \$152 million, with planning and design work underway but with the next scheduled expenditure set for the year 2013; and

WHEREAS, the longer the North Carolina Department of Transportation delays funding for this important project, the more expensive right of way acquisition and construction become due to development and inflationary pressures; and

WHEREAS, accelerating the US 17 Hampstead Bypass project will save lives, reduce congestion, improve mobility and improve economic development opportunities for Pender County and the region; and

WHEREAS, Pender County and other jurisdictions and groups have adopted many resolutions and have expressed on-going concerns regarding the delays and the lack of funding priority for this project, for many years; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pender County Board of Commissioners again respectfully asks the North Carolina Department of Transportation to prioritize funding necessary to accelerate the planning, permitting, design, right of way acquisition and construction of the US 17 Hampstead Bypass project in Pender County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the North Carolina Department of Transportation as well as state and federal elected officials representing Pender County.

Adopted this the 22nd day of June, 2009.

ATTEST: _____
Rick Benton, County Manager

Jimmy T. Tate, Chairman