



REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

ITEM NO. 12.

DATE OF MEETING: September 7, 2010

REQUESTED BY: Mayor Pete Cowan, Town of Burgaw; Martin Beach, Interim Town Manager, Town of Burgaw

SHORT TITLE: Resolution Supporting Phase I of the NC 53 Corridor Study

BACKGROUND: For over 15 years NCDOT has studied the possibility of building a bypass around the Town of Burgaw for NC 53. Unfortunately, the project has been at an impasse. In an effort to push the project forward the Town Board held a recent meeting with NCDOT officials Alan Pope (District Engineer), Patrick Riddle (Project Manager), and Mike Alford (Division 3 Representative on the Board of Transportation). The message from NCDOT was in order to better the chance of getting the corridor project on the draft TIP, it needed to score higher on the prioritization ranking as well as displaying regional support (i.e. Town of Burgaw, Pender County, and RPO). As the current TIP, as well as the draft TIP for 2011-2020 currently exists, neither the 53 Bypass project, nor the 53 Corridor Study are funded. Working towards the goal of getting the 53 Corridor improvements on the TIP draft, the Town requests the Pender County Board of Commissioners adopt a resolution which outlines the benefits to that would be shared if this project were built.

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED: To consider adopting a resolution entitled "RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PHASE I OF THE NC 53 CORRIDOR STUDY BY THE TOWN OF BURGAW BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, PENDER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, THE NCDOT RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE (RTCC) AND THE NCDOT RURAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTAC)".

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Respectfully recommend approval.

JB
Initial

RESOLUTION

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Pender County Board of Commissioners that:

the Board hereby adopts the attached resolution entitled **“RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PHASE I OF THE NC 53 CORRIDOR STUDY BY THE TOWN OF BURGAW BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, PENDER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, THE NCDOT RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE (RTCC) AND THE NCDOT RURAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTAC)”**. The Chairman/County Manager is authorized to execute any/all documents necessary to implement this resolution.

AMENDMENTS:

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____

APPROVED _____ DENIED _____ UNANIMOUS _____

YEA VOTES: Tate ___ Blanchard ___ Brown ___ Rivenbark ___ Williams ___

Jimmy T. Tate, Chairman Date

ATTEST Date

RESOLUTION 2010-44

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PHASE 1 OF THE NC 53 CORRIDOR STUDY BY THE TOWN OF BURGAW BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, PENDER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, THE NCDOT RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE (RTCC) AND THE NCDOT RURAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTAC).

WHEREAS, for many years the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has been considering a bypass for the portion of NC Highway 53 that runs through the middle of downtown Burgaw; and

WHEREAS, the need for a bypass is exacerbated by the volume and nature of the large truck traffic which passes through downtown Burgaw via NC Highway 53; and

WHEREAS, these large trucks present a major safety concern for passenger vehicles and pedestrians alike due to their presence in downtown Burgaw; and

WHEREAS, these safety concerns are most acute at the Walker and Bridgers Street and Walker and Wilmington Street intersections because of the unaccommodating design of these intersections for large trucks; and

WHEREAS, the design of these intersections coupled with the presence of the large trucks, some of which carry dangerous cargo, increases the risk to the Pender County Sheriff's Department, Burgaw Police Department, Burgaw Fire Department, Pender County Emergency Medical Services, and other governmental agencies including Burgaw Town Hall and the Pender County Courthouse in the event of a hazardous material spill; and

WHEREAS, in the event of a hazardous material spill, the risk of exposure to the Town and County's first responders could be severe; and

WHEREAS, in light of these safety issues and the resulting impasse that was reached in 2006 regarding the route of the NC Highway 53 Bypass, the Town of Burgaw turned its attention to improving the safety of the existing corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Burgaw and NCDOT commissioned Kimley-Horn and Associates to conduct a design charrette with the goal of improving the safety and functionality of the portion of NC Highway 53 which runs through downtown Burgaw; and

WHEREAS, in December 2006, the Town of Burgaw Board of Commissioners approved through resolution the resulting recommendations and improvements provided by the design charrette via the *NC 53 Corridor Study*; and

WHEREAS, the *NC 53 Corridor Study* included the following improvements which the Town of Burgaw Board of Commissioners has identified as presenting the most immediate threat to public safety:

- 1) Construction of a "free-flow" right lane with median heading north at the intersection of Walker and Wilmington Streets;
- 2) Construction of a roundabout at Wilmington and Walker Streets; and

WHEREAS, the current NCDOT Transportation Improvement Program 2000-2010 and the draft Transportation Improvement Program 2011-2020 do not include funding for the NC Highway 53 Bypass project or the *53 Corridor Study*.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF BURGAW BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, PENDER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, THE NCDOT RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE (RTCC) AND THE NCDOT RURAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTAC) THAT:

SECTION 1. The Town of Burgaw Board of Commissioners, Pender County Board of Commissioners, the NCDOT Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee (RTCC) and the NCDOT Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) request the improvements included in the *53 Corridor Study* be included and funded in the NCDOT Transportation Improvement Program 2011-2020.

Attest: _____
Sylvia W. Raynor, Clerk, Town of Burgaw

Signed: _____
Kenneth T. Cowan, Mayor, Town of Burgaw

Attest: _____
Rick Benton, County Manager,
Pender County

Signed: _____
Jimmy Tate, Chairman, Pender County
Board of Commissioners

Signed: _____
Joan Kinney, Chairman, NCDOT Rural Transportation
Coordinating Committee (RTCC)

Signed: _____
Don Eggert, Chairman, NCDOT Rural Transportation
Technical Committee (RTAC)

Consideration of a resolution of support for Phase 1 of the NC 53 Corridor Study by the Town of Burgaw Board of Commissioners, Pender County Board of Commissioner, the NCDOT Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee (RTCC) and the NCDOT Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC).

Background

As you are probably aware, NCDOT has studied for 15+ years the possibility of building a bypass around the Town of Burgaw for NC Highway 53. In 2006, the issue reached an impasse due to concerns shared by the town and citizens alike regarding the proposed route of the bypass. This impasse effectively meant that the project would not be built until a consensus was reached regarding the route. To date the stakeholders, as well as NCDOT, have not reached this consensus. Realizing the safety issues that will continue to exist along the existing NC 53 route through town due to the volume and nature of the traffic (large trucks), the Town of Burgaw Board of Commissioners asked NCDOT to assist with commissioning a charrette to examine the safety issues with the current route as well as proposing improvements. In December 2006, the Town Board approved the *NC 53 Corridor Study* and since that time we have worked to get the safety measures included in the Corridor Study funded by NCDOT either through local funds or via the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). To date, we have acquired \$100,000 to cover the right-of-way acquisition, surveying, and engineering of Phase 1, which includes the following aspects of the plan:

- 1) Roundabout at Wilmington and Walker Streets
- 2) Free flow right lane heading North at the intersection of Walker and Bridgers Streets

See attached maps

In an effort to push these projects forward, the Town of Burgaw recently requested a meeting with NCDOT. On August 18, 2010, Alan Pope (District Engineer), Patrick Riddle (Project Manager), and Mike Alford (Division 3 Representative on the Board of Transportation) met with members of the Town Board and the Mayor to discuss the next step. The message from NCDOT was that to better the chance of getting the corridor project on the draft TIP it needed to score higher on the prioritization ranking as well as displaying regional support (i.e. Town of Burgaw, Pender County, and RPO). As the current TIP, as well as the draft TIP for 2011-2020, currently exists neither the 53 Bypass project nor the 53 Corridor Study are funded. Working towards the goal of getting the 53 Corridor improvements on the TIP draft, the Town requests the Pender County Board of Commissioners adopt the attached resolution outlining the benefits that would be shared if this project were built.

Requested Action

The Town of Burgaw requests the Pender County Board of Commissioners adopt the attached resolution which requests the NC Corridor Study be included and funded in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) 2011-2020.