



## REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

ITEM NO. 21a.

**DATE OF MEETING:** January 4, 2011

**REQUESTED BY:** Mike Kozlosky, Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO)

**SHORT TITLE:** Resolution Supporting Preservation of the Hampstead Bypass (R-3300)  
Transportation Corridor

**BACKGROUND:** The US 17 Corridor Study includes the Hampstead Bypass (R-3300) and Military Cutoff extension (U-4751) The US 17 Corridor study has been underway for several years, and is part of the NC Strategic Highway Corridor Initiative to preserve and maximize long term interconnectivity of core transportation corridors in North Carolina. The project area extends from Military Cutoff Road in Wilmington to north of Hampstead in Pender County. Various alternatives have been studied, and opportunities for public input into the process have been extensive. Following the completion of all required studies in the near future, the selection of a final transportation corridor by NCDOT will be forthcoming.

The number of alternatives under consideration has been reduced from thirteen to six with only one option extending beyond the Topsail High School. Due to the possibility of encroaching development, it is critical to protect and preserve the corridor. North Carolina general statutes provide authority for local governments, North Carolina Department of Transportation, North Carolina Turnpike Authority, regional transportation agencies and the WMPO, to take steps to preserve and protect transportation corridors. The steps are precise, and include considerable provision for public notice. The statute also limits the delay of development activity within an adopted preservation corridor to three years.

**SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:** To consider a resolution supporting preservation of the US 17 By-Pass Transportation Corridor.

**COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION**

Respectfully recommend approval.

MB  
Initial

**RESOLUTION**

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

**WHEREAS**, efforts and studies have been underway for many years to select and construct a US Highway 17 Hampstead Bypass (R-3300) to reduce congestion and improve safety & mobility of users of the existing US 17 Highway; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the possibility of encroaching development, it is critical to protect and preserve a transportation corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization is authorized and is the appropriate agency to undertake the preservation process for this regional project;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Pender County Board of Commissioners that the Board hereby encourages the Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization to follow the necessary actions as authorized by North Carolina general statutes to protect and preserve the Hampstead Bypass (R-3300) Transportation Corridor. The Chairman/County Manager is authorized to execute any/all documents necessary to implement this resolution.

**AMENDMENTS:**

MOVED \_\_\_\_\_ SECONDED \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ DENIED \_\_\_\_\_ UNANIMOUS

YEA VOTES: Brown \_\_\_ Tate \_\_\_ Rivenbark \_\_\_ Ward \_\_\_ Williams \_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
George R. Brown, Jr., Chairman      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
ATTEST      Date