



PUBLIC INFORMATION

ITEM NO. 4.

DATE OF MEETING: June 4, 2012

REQUESTED BY: Kyle M. Breuer, Director, Planning & Community Development Department

SHORT TITLE: Public Information Regarding the Wallace to Castle Hayne Railroad Restoration Efforts by the North Carolina Department of Transportation

BACKGROUND: The North Carolina Department of Transportation is examining the potential for and impacts of reconstructing 27-miles of railroad tracks between Castle Hayne to Wallace in southeastern North Carolina. The 27-mile rail corridor is state-owned and links New Hanover, Pender and Duplin Counties. The re-establishment of the railroad tracks would improve freight rail options to support the North Carolina State Port Authority, our military bases, improve access for moving products through the state's most agriculturally active region and improve access to major population centers to the north and west. The re-establishment of the rail line would provide access to serve the military installation at Camp Lejeune and also provide a second rail line out of the North Carolina State Port in Wilmington, linking the Port to the interior of the state and supporting economic development. These reconstructed railroad tracks could also allow the introduction of passenger rail between Wilmington and Raleigh via Goldsboro. The reconstructed railroad tracks would have significant and profound positive economic benefits for southeastern North Carolina. Cheryl Hannah, Rail Planner, North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will present to the Board information pertaining to the various studies addressing the restoration efforts of the Castle Hayne to Wallace rail corridor. The Board adopted a resolution supporting these efforts in November, 2011.