



DISCUSSION

ITEM NO. 17.

DATE OF MEETING: April 7, 2014

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

SHORT TITLE: Discussion of Topsail Island Bridge Replacement – Existing Bridge Ownership

BACKGROUND: Pender County was contacted by RS&H, the contracted engineering firm working with NCDOT for the Topsail Island bridge replacement (B-4929) project. The premise of their contact was to gauge the interest of Pender County regarding the future use of the bridge and the potential of assuming ownership of the structure when the project commences. Below is a basic outline of the items that would need to be accomplished shall the county decide to move forward with this project:

- If an agency is interested, ownership of the bridge could be transferred; however it has some policy requirements and stipulations, such as the new owner would be required to preserve and maintain the existing swing bridge.
- If no one is interested in taking ownership of the existing swing bridge, the contractor, while building the new bridge, would be responsible for demolition and scrapping the existing swing bridge.
- If the existing swing bridge is used as a walkway, routine inspections may be required. The County would be responsible for any associated costs.
- Due to the size of the structure (approximately 32' x 230'), the existing swing bridge would need to be cut into sections in order to move it and then reassembled at the new location.
- The County would be responsible to repaint the existing swing bridge, which would be a costly effort if lead paint is present.
- NCDOT estimated that relocating the existing swing bridge would range from approximately \$1.0 Million to \$1.4 Million.
- NCDOT may be able to provide nominal financial assistance from the demolition funds of the project.

Staff has also prepared a basic outline showing some of the potential costs of assuming ownership as well as considerations associated with the actions. To date, the County does not have a specified use for the bridge. It is being requested that this item be discussed and general consensus reached as for moving forward. Of note, North Topsail Beach, Surf City, and Topsail Beach have all declined future ownership of this structure.

Action Item	Consideration	Potential Costs
Ownership Transfer	Required to "preserve and maintain"	Ongoing expense with maintenance
Used for potential pedestrian function	Routine inspections required at owners expense.	Ongoing expense
Relocation	Due to size of bridge, the structure would have to be cut into sections.	\$1 - 4 Million
Repair	County responsibility	\$7,000 - \$10,000/year
Repaint	Only if lead paint is existing and after 30 years.	If applicable

*Costs and responsibilities provided by RS&H, consulting engineers for NCDOT and the Topsail Island Bridge Replacement Project