



REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

ITEM NO. 8.

DATE OF MEETING: October 6, 2014

REQUESTED BY: Chairman David Williams

SHORT TITLE: Resolution Encouraging the Governor, NC General Assembly and NCDOT to Fund the Hampstead Bypass If the General Assembly Approves the Borrowing of \$1 Billion for Rural North Carolina Transportation Projects

BACKGROUND: On September 17, 2014, Governor McCrory announced a plan to fund additional transportation projects throughout North Carolina, the "25-Year Vision for North Carolina, Mapping Our Future". This plan will ask the NC General Assembly to approve revenue bonds to pay for a list of up to 22 rail, port, transit and highway investments. These projects are all "ready right now" according to Governor McCrory and would provide for economic investment in rural areas.

A draft project list was released and the Hampstead Bypass (R-3300) was not included on this list. The Hampstead Bypass project is a high-priority project not only for Pender County but for our region as well. The project's corridor has been preserved, environmental consensus has been reached, and the project is "ready right now".

The Hampstead Bypass will meet the goals of the 25-year plan by "Improving Highway Connections" as well as "Transform North Carolina Ports" by improving highway access to the coast and offer congestion relief while also improving a key connection between Camp Lejeune and the North Carolina Ports.

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED: To consider a resolution encouraging the Governor, North Carolina General Assembly and North Carolina Department of Transportation to fund the Hampstead Bypass if the General Assembly approves the borrowing of \$1 Billion for rural transportation projects.

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Respectfully recommend approval.

DM
Initial

RESOLUTION

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

the Board hereby supports the Resolution titled: Resolution Encouraging the Governor, NC General Assembly and NCDOT to Fund the Hampstead Bypass If the General Assembly Approves the Borrowing of \$1 Billion for Rural North Carolina Transportation Projects. The Chairman/County Manager is authorized to execute any/all documents necessary to implement this resolution.

AMENDMENTS:

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____

APPROVED _____ DENIED _____ UNANIMOUS

YEA VOTES: Williams ___ McCoy ___ Brown ___ Tate ___ Ward ___

J. David Williams, Chairman 10/6/2014
Date

ATTEST 10/6/2014
Date

**WILMINGTON URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE GOVERNOR, NC GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND NCDOT TO FUND THE
HAMPSTEAD BYPASS IF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROVES THE BORROWING OF \$1 BILLION FOR
RURAL NORTH CAROLINA TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS**

WHEREAS, the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization provides transportation planning services for the City of Wilmington, Town of Carolina Beach, Town of Kure Beach, Town of Wrightsville Beach, Town of Belville, Town of Leland, Town of Navassa, New Hanover County, Brunswick County, Pender County, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority and the North Carolina Board of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the US 17 Corridor Study includes North Carolina Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) projects U-4751 (Military Cutoff Road Extension) and R-3300 (Hampstead Bypass); and

WHEREAS, Project U-4751 is an extension of Military Cutoff Road on new location from Market Street (US 17 Business) to the US 17 Wilmington Bypass (John Jay Burney Jr. Freeway) and Project R-3300 is the US 17 Bypass of Hampstead; and

WHEREAS, the purpose the project is to improve the traffic carrying capacity and safety of the US 17 and Market Street corridor in the study area; and

WHEREAS, the Military Cutoff Extension and Hampstead Bypass have been in development for several decades; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the North Carolina Department of Transportation and US Army Corps of Engineers will sign the State Record of Decision in September 2014; and

WHEREAS, Governor McCrory announced the 25-year vision plan for North Carolina "Mapping Our Future" on September 17, 2014, and

WHEREAS, an alternative funding solution identified in the Governor's plan is to "Take Advantage of Low Interest Rates" which would take advantage of historically low interest rates to enhance our ability to fund projects with just-in-time bond strategies; and

WHEREAS, the Governor announced a desire to take advantage of these low interest rates and to borrow \$1 Billion for rural North Carolina transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's transportation plan also included to "Improve Highway Connections" and "Transform North Carolina Ports" in the Coastal Region; and

WHEREAS, the Hampstead Bypass would provide improved highway access to the coast and offer congestion relief while also improving a key connection between Camp LeJeune and the North Carolina Ports.

NOW THEREFORE, the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Advisory Committee hereby encourages the Governor, North Carolina General Assembly and North Carolina Department of Transportation to fund the Hampstead Bypass if the General Assembly approves the borrowing of \$1 Billion for rural transportation projects.

ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee on October 29, 2014.

Laura Padgett, Chair
Transportation Advisory Committee

Mike Kozlosky, Secretary