



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
TURNPIKE AUTHORITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 31, 2010

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**N.C. TURNPIKE AUTHORITY PUBLISHES MID-CURRITUCK BRIDGE DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**
Transportation Agencies Recommend Option MCB4

RALEIGH – The North Carolina Turnpike Authority, in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), today published the Mid-Currituck Bridge Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Draft EIS identifies Alternative "MCB4" as the Recommended Alternative, which includes construction of a bridge across the Currituck Sound. The Recommended Alternative is not a final decision.

"The release of this Draft EIS marks an important step forward for the Mid-Currituck Bridge project," said David Joyner, Executive Director of the Turnpike Authority. "The community has been waiting for the project to reach this milestone, and it could not have happened without the great collaboration between Turnpike Authority staff, local citizens and the FHWA."

While The Recommended Alternative, "MCB4," includes a new bridge facility across the Currituck Sound and minor improvements to existing N.C. 12 and U.S. 158, it does not specify where the bridge would intersect N.C. 12. The Draft EIS identifies two options for this connection, including a northern alignment close to the Corolla Bay subdivision, known as "C1," and a southern alignment south of the TimBuck II Shopping Center, known as "C2." Two options are also identified for the location of the toll plaza and for the facility to be constructed across Maple Swamp. Option A includes a bridge across Maple Swamp and locating a toll plaza at a proposed interchange at US 158. Option B involves placing a new road through Maple Swamp with a toll plaza closer to Currituck Sound. No decision will be made on these options until after the public comment period is closed.

"Public input plays a critical role in the decisions made about this project," said Joyner. "We look forward to receiving the public's comments."

The Draft EIS is available on the project Web site at www.ncturnpike.org/projects/Mid_Currituck. By April 9, hard copies will be at the following locations: Currituck County Courthouse; Currituck County Public Library; Corolla Public Library; Dare County Public Library; Town of Duck Administrative Building; Kitty Hawk Town Hall; NCDOT Maintenance Yard Office in Maple and Southern Shores Town Hall.

The Turnpike Authority will hold several public meetings in the project area to give residents an opportunity to review and comment on the project. The meetings are scheduled for:

- May 18 at the Ramada Plaza Nags Head Beach, 1701 South Virginia Dare Trail, Kill Devil Hills;
- May 19 at the Outer Banks Center for Wildlife Education, Currituck Heritage Park on N.C. 12 in Corolla; and
- May 20 at the Currituck County Center, 120 Community Way, Barco.

The public hearings will begin at 7 p.m. A pre-hearing open house will be held from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. prior to each public hearing. Additional information about these meetings will be provided on the project Web site and in local newspapers.

The public comment period on the Draft EIS and Recommended Alternative will be open until Monday, June 7, 2010. Public comments can be mailed to Jennifer Harris, P.E., North Carolina Turnpike Authority; 1578 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1578 or emailed to midcurrituck@ncturnpike.org.

The Turnpike Authority, a division of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, is developing the Mid-Currituck Bridge project as a public-private partnership. The proposed toll facility is approximately seven-miles long and would cross the Currituck Sound connecting the Currituck mainland at U.S. 158 near Aydlett with N.C. 12 on the Outer Banks south of Corolla. Construction of the Mid-Currituck Bridge is scheduled to begin in 2011 and, depending on the construction methods used, open to traffic in late 2014.

For more information on the Mid-Currituck Bridge Project, please visit www.ncturnpike.org/projects/Mid_Currituck

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