

COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Office Of
Marion County Council

1305 North Main Street
P.O. Box 183
(843) 423-3904 • Fax: (843) 423-8306
Marion, South Carolina 29571

Edwin P. Rogers, Jr.
Administrator
Kent M. Williams
Deputy Administrator
Sabrina Davis
Clerk To Council
Timothy H. Pogue
County Attorney



March 27, 2006

Mr. Mitchell D. Metts, P.E.
Program Manager
SCDOT
955 Park Street, Room 303
P.O. Box 191
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-0191

Dear Mr. Metts:

As you are aware, a large project is planned for the area between Sellers and Pee Dee in Marion County. The impact on Marion and the entire Pee Dee could be tremendous. The first phase will involve an inland port to serve the ports from Jacksonville to Wilmington. In the initial development, it is predicted that 600,000 containers will arrive by rail annually. This represents approximately 1,644 trucks per day leaving the facility. The number of incoming containers should continue to rise until the number peaks between 2 and 3 million annually. This could mean a potential of 8,000 trucks leaving daily. The shipping company that we are working with also sees great potential for this site, due to the available land, to be an area for back loading of containers and other rail cars. This would speed the loading of ships once in the ports since the trucks would arrive and load their cargo back at our site where space is not a restriction. The approximate figures on these numbers are being calculated, but are not finalized. There are other projects that are in the planning stage, but at the present are confidential.

As is apparent from the above figures there is a great need to move these trucks to the interstate system as quickly as possible. It is also apparent that the trucking aspect of this project will create spin off jobs and businesses. Studies show that for every 1,000 acres of inland port facility 4,000 jobs are created. Our site is approximately 17,000 acres. The initial investment on this site is estimated by the parties involved to be in the billion dollar range. These are the reasons that it is vital that this site have quick access to I-73. It can greatly help ease the movement of cargo from this area.

- Page 2 -
Inland Port

The southern route of I-73 will help facilitate the development of this project and will contribute to the growth of economic environment, not just in Marion County, but in the whole Pee Dee area. This project could have as big an impact on the Pee Dee as BMW did on the upstate. I am including a map of the general area of the project and its proximity to population centers within a 300 mile radius of the site. The DOT's careful consideration of the route of I-73 on this project and its impact it will have is vital in determining our future. Should you need further information, please call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edwin P. Rogers, Jr.", written in dark ink.

Edwin P. Rogers, Jr.
Administrator



AREA OF INTEREST
COUNTY LINE
CITY LIMITS
WATER
RAIL & ROADWAY
AREA PARCELS
PRIVATE PARCELS

0 1000 2000 4000 6000 8000 Feet

March 24, 2006

Mayor Charles Dawsey
Post Office Box 66
Aynor, South Carolina 29511

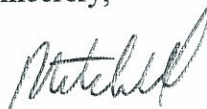
Dear Mayor Dawsey:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns and Town Council's vote in opposition to the US 501 alternative for I-73. I appreciate you taking the time to send me this information and want to ensure you that this will be made a part of the official project record.

Currently, the project team is working to identify a recommended alternative for I-73 south of I-95. We have received a tremendous amount of input from the Aynor area and are considering all of it as we attempt to identify the least overall impact route. Presently, our schedule is to announce a recommended preferred route by early June. Subsequently, public hearings will be scheduled in order to receive feedback from the public. I would anticipate one of the hearings being held at Aynor High School sometime in late June. All of this will coincide with the completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The completion of the DEIS will be a significant milestone for I-73 and will contain the recommended preferred alternative. These time frames are approximate and may be adjusted as all of the required studies must be completed prior to completion of the DEIS.

Again, thank you for sending me this information. If you have any questions or wish to discuss this project in more detail, please contact me at _____ in Columbia.

Sincerely,



Mitchell D. Metts, P.E.
I-73 Project Manager

MDM:svg *MDM*
File: PC/MDM

bc: Robert I. Pratt, Director of Preconstruction



Town of Aynor

600 South Main Street • P.O. Box 66
Aynor, South Carolina 29511

Telephone
(843) 358-6231
Fax (843) 358-0754

March 21, 2006

Mitchell Metts
I-73 Program Manager
SC Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 191
Columbia, South Carolina 29292

Dear Mr. Metts:


We on Aynor Town Council continue to read with interest the stories in our local press and as broadcast on local television regarding the various proposed routes for I-73 as it runs from I-95 toward a likely intersection with SC22 in the western portion of our county. We recognize the lobbying efforts by various factions of our society and appreciate the diligence of SCDOT as a final course is considered.

There can be no debate or doubt as to the favorable impact that an interstate highway will have on Horry County. However, the disruption to existing communities within our border can be devastating if care is not taken and consideration is not given to those many longstanding permanent residents of western Horry County. Of particular concern to our Council is the proposal that suggest that I-73 be constructed along the existing route of US Highway 501, entering Horry County at Galivants Ferry and continuing in a southeastward direction through our Town of Aynor prior to its intersection with South Carolina Highway 22 approximately six (6) miles west of Conway.

By a unanimous vote of Aynor Town Council, we voice our opposition to this proposed route because of the disruptive impact that such a course would have on the Town of Aynor. The unified spirit of our "small-town America" community would be devastated should such a path be accepted.

Please note that Council favors the selection of a more northerly course of I-73 so as to avoid the geographical division of Aynor. We ask that this official correspondence be made a part of SCDOT's permanent file of the I-73 South Carolina corridor and that all interested parties be notified and made aware of this Council's recommendation.

Sincerely,


Charles Dawsey
Mayor, Town of Aynor

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,)

COUNTY OF MARION.)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Marion County Council fully supports the Interstate 73 Project which hopefully will be coming through Marion County, and further bringing much needed economic development to Marion County, and

WHEREAS, Marion County is also cognizant of the fact that the building of I-73 may impact adversely certain areas of Marion County, and

WHEREAS, Marion County Council is aware that the different proposals for the construction of I-73 may severely impact the Temperance Hill Community of Marion County, and

WHEREAS, Marion County Council is also desirous of keeping the integrity of it's County and historical areas, and


WHEREAS, wherever possible, Marion County Council requests that the I-73 Committee take into consideration the requests and integrity of the Temperance Hill Community as to any possible routes for I-73.

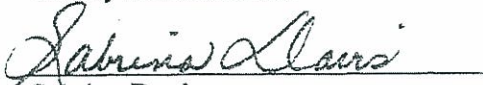
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Marion County Council hereby requests that the I-73 Committee review any and all possible plans for construction of I-73 which would reduce the impact to the Temperance Hill Community of Marion County.


BE IT SO RESOLVED.

DATED this 14th day of March, 2006.


ATTEST:

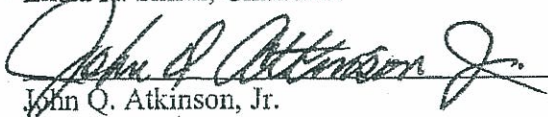

Edwin P. Rogers, Jr.
County Administrator


Sabrina Davis
Clerk to Council


Timothy H. Pogue
County Attorney

MARION COUNTY COUNCIL


Elista H. Smith, Chairman

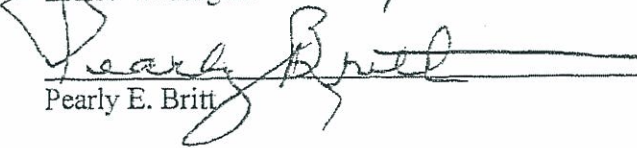

John Q. Atkinson, Jr.
Vice Chairman

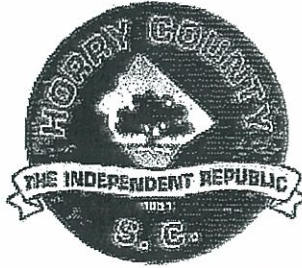

Allen W. Floyd


Milton W. Troy, II


Thomas Shaw


Eloise W. Rogers


Pearly E. Britt



Horry County Council

Liz Gilland
Chairman

Mark Lazarus
Vice Chairman
District 2

Harold Worley
District 1

Marion D. Foxworth, III
District 3

Michael L. Ryan
District 4

Howard D. Barnard, III
District 5

Robert P. Grabowski
District 6

James Frazier
District 7

Carl H. Schwartzkopf
District 8

W. Paul Prince
District 9

Kevin J. Hardee
District 10

John C. Boyd
District 11

Patricia S. Hartley
Clerk to Council

(843) 915-5120
(843) 915-6120 Fax

March 13, 2006

Mitchell Metts
I-73 Program Manager
SC Department of Transportation
Post Office Box 191
Columbia, South Carolina 29292

Dear Mr. Metts:

We on Horry County Council continue to read with interest the stories in our local press and as broadcast on local television regarding the various proposed routes for I-73 as it runs from I-95 toward a likely intersection with SC22 in the western portion of our county. We recognize the lobbying efforts by various factions of our society and appreciate the diligence of SCDOT as a final course is considered.

It was approximately a year ago that our Council voiced its opinion that the I-73 route that would be most beneficial to the residents of Horry County. That proposed southern route now appears to be an unlikely avenue and Horry County Council accepts that decision by SCDOT. Nevertheless, we, as the local governing body, feel it essential that Horry County Council be heard and its opinion be considered in light of the most recent routes being contemplated by SCDOT, and it is for this reason that this letter is written.

There can be no debate or doubt as to the favorable impact that an interstate highway will have on Horry County. However, the disruption to existing communities within our border can be devastating if care is not taken and consideration is not given to those many longstanding permanent residents of western Horry County. Of particular concern to our Council is the proposal that suggests that I-73 be constructed along the existing route of US Highway 501, entering Horry County at Galivants Ferry and continuing in a southeastward direction through the Town of Aynor prior to its intersection with South Carolina Highway 22 approximately six (6) miles west of Conway.

Mr. Mitchell Metts
March 13, 2006
Page Two

By a unanimous vote of Horry County Council, we voice our opposition to this proposed route because of the disruptive impact that such a course would have on the Town of Aynor. The unified spirit of this "small-town America" community would be devastated should such a path be accepted.

Please note that Council favors the selection of the more northerly courses of I-73 so as to avoid the geographical division of Aynor. We ask that this official correspondence be made a part of SCDOT's permanent file of the I-73 South Carolina corridor and that all interested parties be notified and made aware of this Council's recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Liz Gilland". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Liz Gilland

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Elista H. Smith
Chairperson

John Q. Atkinson, Jr.
Vice Chairman

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Allen W. Floyd
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Milton W. Troy, II

Office Of
Marion County Council

1305 North Main Street
P.O. Box 183
(843) 423-3904 • Fax: (843) 423-8306
Marion, South Carolina 29571

Edwin P. Rogers, Jr.
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Timothy H. Pogue
County Attorney



March 6, 2006

Mitchell D. Metts, P.E.
Program Manager
SCDOT
955 Park Street, Room 303
P.O. Box 191
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-0191

Dear Mr. Metts:

Marion County is currently in the process of developing an inland port on approximately 3500 acres on the main North/South CSX rail line between Sellers and Pee Dee. The property fronts U. S. Highway 301 and runs to the Great Pee Dee River. The initial plan is to develop the inland port first and then to target distribution centers (Target, Wal-Mart, and similar big box distribution warehousing operations. On the east side of 301 is a 12,000 acre tract that we propose to develop as a large general aviation airport with a 10,000 foot runway that could also accommodate cargo planes. The site would be large enough to accommodate a regional passenger airport should the need exist and if the site is chosen by the study that is currently being developed by NESAs. The area around the airport could be used for distribution as well as light industrial development.

A similar development in Texas has over the last 16 years created 24,000 jobs and \$23 Billion in investment. The potential of this area is unlimited. We have a developer in place as well as very strong interest from a shipping company and from CSX. The site is within 300 miles of 26 Million people. It is within 750 miles of 58.8% of the population of the United States. The prediction on the operation of the inland port is that it will receive 600,000 containers the first year and within three years 3,000,000. This means that over 8,000 containers could be off-loaded at the site every day. By loading directly from the ship in port to trains or trucks and then shipping the cargo to an inland port, the time it sits unmoved will be reduced from 10 to 14 days to 2 to 3 days. This will save the companies millions of dollars in shipping costs. Every day a ship stays in port it costs upwards of \$65,000.

- Page 2 -
Inland Port

Based on these numbers alone, it is understandable why Marion County is so excited about the potential of this project. Any consideration the SCDOT can give to this project in the routing of I-73 will be greatly appreciated by Marion County as well as the entire Pee Dee Region. This project has the ability to become the Pee Dee's BMW.

If you should have any questions regarding the inland port or any other phase of this project, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edwin P. Rogers, Jr.", written in dark ink.

Edwin P. Rogers, Jr.
Administrator

*Dillon, Marion and Marlboro Counties
Industrial Park
(I-95 Gateway Industrial Park)*

March 1, 2006

Mr. Mitchell D. Metts, PE
Program Manager
SC Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 191
Columbina, SC 29202-0191

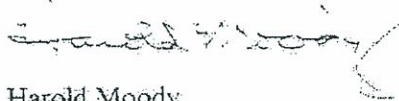
Dear Mr. Metts:

The Board of the I-95 Gateway Industrial Park voted in its February meeting to support the northern route through Dillon County for I-73.

The I-95 Gateway Industrial Park Board is comprised of representatives of three counties, Dillon, Marion and Marlboro. These three counties own the park in Dillon and are working to promote growth and job opportunities for our citizens. Although the I-73 corridor passes through all three counties, we believe this route will beneficially enhance our efforts to attract new job opportunities.

We ask for your support in selecting the northern route through Dillon County.

Sincerely,



Harold Moody
Chairman

Dillon County

March 1, 2006

Mr. Mitchell D. Metts, PE
Program Manager
SC Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 191
Columbia, SC 29202-0191

Dear Mr. Metts:

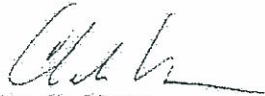
The Dillon County Development Board is in support of the route for proposed I-73 crossing I-95 in Dillon County closest to Highway 34.

As a Board concerned with the growth and development of Dillon County, we strongly believe the northern most route would more favorably enhance our economic development efforts.

We believe the citizens of Dillon County would experience better opportunities for economic growth and investment through the construction of the northern route.

We encourage you and your staff to develop and support the northern route through Dillon County as the chosen corridor for Interstate 73.

Sincerely,



Charlie Vance
Chairman

COUNCIL MEMBERS

WAC D. A. LAWSON, DILLON, SC
TODD K. WOODY LAKEVIEW, SC
AFC T. WOODY HAYES, SC
ANDREA T. DEANES, DILLON, SC
A. JON P. SANDY LITTA, SC
ANNA W. HESTER, DILLON, SC
CLAYTON W. HART, DILLON, SC



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

W. CLAY YOUNG
CLERK TO COUNCIL
L. SA B. GRAY

Dillon County Council

P.O. BOX 449
DILLON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29536
TELEPHONE: 843-774-1400
FAX: 843-774-1443

February 28, 2006

Mr. Mitchell D. Metts, P.E.
Program Manager
South Carolina Department of Transportation
Post Office Box 191
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-0191

Dear Mr. Metts:

As Chairman of Dillon County Council, I would like to inform you that Dillon County Council endorses and supports as its choice, the northern most route of proposed I-73 intersecting with I-95 in Dillon County.

We believe the northern route is better for several reasons: (1) it appears this route is a more direct link, (2) it appears less disruptive of homes and business, and (3) the economic impact would be more beneficial with its proximity to the I-95 Gateway Industrial Park and our proposed new airport and frontage roads all at Highway 34 and I-95.

Dillon County Council sincerely hopes that you and your staff will work with us to develop the northern route as the chosen path for proposed I-73 through Dillon County.

Sincerely,

Macie Williamson
Chairman
Dillon County Council

MW/lg