



# Town of Southern Shores

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## **MEMORANDUM**

To: Mayor and Town Council  
From: Cliff Ogburn, Town Manager  
Date: December 30, 2021  
Re: Manager's Report

Provided below is a brief summary of items I plan to discuss during my staff report at your January 4, 2022, Council meeting.

1. Mid- Currituck Bridge – As stated on the NC DOT webpage – “On Dec. 13, 2021, the N.C. Department of Transportation received notification that the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of N.C. decided in favor of NCDOT and the Federal Highway Administration. A lawsuit was filed in April 2019 by the Southern Environmental Law Center (on behalf of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation and No MCB-Concerned Citizens and Visitors Opposed to the Mid-Currituck Bridge) challenging the FHWA and NCDOT’s environmental analysis and decision document for the project. The court ruled that NCDOT and FHWA complied with applicable federal laws and regulations. The project team is evaluating the schedule and working on next steps to move forward”.

Though it remains to be seen, it has been reported in the local news outlets that the SELC plans to appeal the decision.

The Council may want to discuss with the Town’s Attorney what action or steps, if any, the Council may want to pursue.

2. Potential Council Retreat – If the Council has a desire to schedule a retreat this winter with a facilitator, it would be wise to decide dates before facilitator calendars fill up.

A one- or two-day retreats could be used to:

- Provide an opportunity for board members to learn more about each other's motivations, interests, and work preferences,
- Clarify their mutual expectations, goals, and identity as a governing board,
- Establish broad priorities,
- Define what "success" or "progress" will look like, and/or
- Set budget priorities for the coming fiscal year.

3. Pavement Maintenance Implementation Plan – I will provide an update of the progress with SEPI engineering to begin the process of street maintenance for the coming year.

4. Town Bridge Inspections - We received notification from NC DOT that they are currently preparing for the 2022 inspection cycle. The bridges to be inspected are located at S. Dogwood and Snow Goose Canal, E. Dogwood and Great Blue Heron Canal, and Yaupon Trail and Pelican Canal. The Federal Highway Administration covers 80% of the inspection cost. The remaining 20% or \$650 is our cost. We inquired about adding the Trinitie Trail culvert to these inspections, but it does not qualify due to its narrower width. We are working to get a quote from the DOT contractor as well as the engineering firm who last inspected the culvert in 2014.