



Town of Southern Shores

5375 N. Virginia Dare Trail, Southern Shores, NC 27949

Phone 252-261-2394 / Fax 252-255-0876

info@southernshores-nc.gov

www.southernshores-nc.gov

Resolution 2026-04-01

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CONTINUED INCLUSION OF THE MID-CURRITUCK BRIDGE PROJECT IN THE NCDOT STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Mid-Currituck Bridge is a vital infrastructure project intended to provide a second crossing of the Currituck Sound, connecting the mainland to the Outer Banks near Corolla; and

WHEREAS, the project is critical to improving hurricane evacuation clearance times, which currently exceed the state-designated standard for the northern Outer Banks; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Southern Shores has long supported this project to alleviate severe seasonal traffic congestion on N.C. 12 and U.S. 158, which impacts the quality of life and safety of residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, recent financial analyses indicate that the estimated construction costs for the bridge have risen, creating a significant funding gap beyond currently committed state funds and projected toll revenues; and

WHEREAS, the Town believes the base toll rate of \$15 is well below what users would likely pay and urges NCDOT to analyze the potential impact of a higher toll rate to reduce the revenue gap.

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has recently considered pulling back committed funds and requiring the project to re-compete for funding in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP); and

WHEREAS, the Town Council believes that removing or de-prioritizing the project now would undermine decades of planning, environmental review, and recent legal victories that have cleared the way for construction; and

WHEREAS, keeping the project in the STIP for one additional funding cycle provides the necessary timeframe for stakeholders, including the N.C. Turnpike Authority and regional partners, to identify and secure alternative revenue sources, such as federal grants or updated tolling strategies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Southern Shores that:

Retention in STIP: The Town strongly urges the NCDOT and the North Carolina Board of Transportation to retain and advance the Mid-Currituck Bridge project (STIP Number R-2576) in the current and future State Transportation Improvement Program.

Funding Search: The Town supports a concentrated effort by state and local officials to aggressively pursue new revenue streams, including federal U.S. Department of Transportation grants and public-private partnerships, to bridge the current funding gap.

Regional Priority: The Town reaffirms the Mid-Currituck Bridge as its highest transportation priority for regional safety, emergency management, and economic stability.

ATTEST:

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Morey, Mayor

Sheila Kane, Town Clerk