

Town of Southern Shores

5375 N. Virginia Dare Trail, Southern Shores, NC 27949 Phone 252-261-2394 / Fax 252-255-0876 www.southernshores-nc.gov

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHERN SHORES, NORTH CAROLINA, SUPPORTING CONSTRUCTION OF THE MID-CURRITUCK BRIDGE AND ITS CONTINUED INCLUSION IN THE STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Resolution 2022-03-01

WHEREAS, the Mid-Currituck Bridge project has been in the development process for over thirty years; and

WHEREAS, the popularity of Outer Banks of North Carolina, including Dare County and its towns, Currituck County and the Town of Southern Shores, continues to grow, resulting in an ever increasing number of residents and visitors to the Outer Banks, particularly the northern Outer Banks; and

WHEREAS, the Outer Banks of North Carolina generates substantial revenue for the State of North Carolina, particularly through tourism, and also serves a role as an ambassador area for the State by introducing hundreds of thousands of visitors from all over the United States and the world to the many wonders of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, this revenue and the goodwill that visitors feel towards the Outer Banks and North Carolina is tested annually through frustrations attributed directly to traffic congestion; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Mid-Currituck Bridge is to substantially improve traffic flow on the project area's thoroughfares, i.e. NC 12 and US 158, substantially reduce travel time for persons traveling between the Currituck County mainland and the Currituck County Outer Banks, and to substantially reduce the hurricane clearance time for residents and visitors who use US 158 and NC 168 during coastal evacuation; and

WHEREAS, building the Mid-Currituck Bridge will reduce congestion and alleviate delays, thus promoting and enhancing economic development, while bolstering the tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, alternatives to the Mid-Currituck Bridge project have been studied thoroughly and have been rejected in favor of the Mid-Currituck Bridge; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the viability and need of the Mid-Currituck Bridge, the North Carolina Department of Transportation has demonstrated a commitment to construction of the bridge by placing it in the State Transportation Improvement Plan based on the agency's prioritization process and strong support by local municipalities and the Albemarle Rural Planning Organization; and

WHEREAS, the US District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina ruled in December 2021 that NCDOT and the Federal Highway Administration have complied with all applicable federal laws and regulations in planning for the bridge; and

WHEREAS, the court's decision properly affirms the project's compliance with the federal National Environmental Policy Act; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHERN SHORES, NORTH CAROLINA, THIS 1st DAY OF MARCH, 2022, that it reaffirms its commitment to the Mid-Currituck Bridge project and advocates for advancement of this crucial project and its continued inclusion as a funded project in the State Transportation Improvement Plan.

Adopted this 1st Day of March 2022.

Mayor, A. Elizabeth Morey

ATTEST:

Town Clerk