

NAMING THE THIRD BRIDGE TO BOGUE BANKS, CARTERET COUNTY

12-14-84

Access to Bogue Banks is provided by a two-lane swing-span bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway connecting Morehead City with Atlantic Beach and a two-lane high-level fixed span at the western end of the island between the mainland and Emerald Isle. Summertime traffic congestion is common with peak volumes of 25,000 vehicles per day crossing between Morehead City and Atlantic Beach. This crossing is complicated with hourly openings of the swing-span bridge to accommodate waterborne traffic. Major transportation improvements are needed to handle ever increasing traffic.

Major transportation facilities takes years to develop and involve the efforts of many people. During the planning, development and implementation, there is always an individual whose tireless efforts and determination insures the success of the proposed transportation improvement.

William R. Roberson, Jr. is no exception. During his public service as Secretary for the Department of Transportation, from July 1981 through December 1984, major efforts were undertaken to improve access to Bogue Banks. William R. Roberson, Jr. led these efforts.

As a result of increased federal funding available to North Carolina for bridge replacement/rehabilitation projects, the Board of Transportation in October 1983 approved replacing the existing swing-span bridge connecting Morehead City and Atlantic Beach. In September 1984, the Board of Transportation awarded the construction contract for the new replacement bridge. Secretary Roberson led these efforts.

Development warrants the construction of a third bridge to Bogue Banks. In June 1983, the Board of Transportation authorized planning/environmental studies to determine a location for the third bridge. In November 1984, the Board of Transportation approved the location for the third bridge and authorized the development of plans for the protection of the right of way from development. Secretary Roberson led these efforts.

ATTACHMENT #8, CONT'D.

As a member of the General Assembly and as Secretary for the Department of Transportation, William R. Roberson, Jr. has given many years of unselfish and dedicated service for the benefit of all North Carolinians.

It is most appropriate for the Board of Transportation to recognize this outstanding individual, William R. Roberson, Jr., for his dedication, determination and tireless efforts to improve North Carolina.

Therefore, I recommend the Board of Transportation officially name the Third Bridge to Bogue Banks the "William R. Roberson, Jr. Bridge" and authorize the Department of Transportation to erect the appropriate signs when the new facility is opened to traffic.