

## Meeting Notes Memorandum

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**Meeting Date:** December 16, 2008

**Subject:** Surf City Bridge Replacement Project Scoping Meeting

**Location:** Human Environment Unit Conference Room, Parker Lincoln Building

**Attendees:** See attached list of attendees

Ms. Michele James, PDEA opened the meeting and invited introductions from attendees. Mr. Chad Critcher presented the Surf City bridge history, description, surrounding community, agency concerns, current status and project schedule. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is attached. Subsequent to the presentation, a general questions and comments session was conducted. The following is a summary of this discussion, categorized by each subject area:

- **Do Nothing Alternative**
  - Several components and controls of the existing bridge's machinery have been severely damaged in recent years.
  - Replacement of these components and controls require special manufacturer orders.
  - Continuation of this maintenance process may disrupt the bridge openings and closings in the future.
  - Many of the machinery controls will likely cease to work within five to six years.
  - The Planning Document's Purpose and Need statement should emphasize the current structural deficiencies.
  - General consensus was that replacement of the bridge needs to move forward quickly.
  
- **Off-site Bridge Location**
  - An off-site bridge would not necessarily address the need for replacing the Surf City bridge.
  - No apparent off-site location possibilities were known.
  - Off-site bridge construction process would require an Environmental Impact Statement, which would extend the planning process.
  - An off-site bridge might become another project in future TIP.
  - Surf City would strongly oppose this option and depending on the new location, Topsail Beach also may not support this alternative.
  - General consensus was that this alternative was not currently practical under this study.
  
- **Replacement in Same Location or Nearby**
  - Reconstructing the bridge in the same location would require closing the bridge access for a minimum of two years.

- Closing the bridge during construction would result in severe criticism from the island residents and business owners.
  - Possible alternatives include relocating the bridge a few hundred yards north or south of the current bridge
  - A bridge directly adjacent to the current bridge would have severe impacts to the mobile homes, condos, park, and/or utility lines.
  - A new fixed span bridge, while maintaining traffic on the existing bridge, could present the minimal amount of impacts to the community.
- **Movable Bridge vs. Fixed Span Bridge**
    - Division three strongly supports a fixed span bridge for replacement as it would require minimal operational and maintenance costs.
    - Alternatives' comparison should include long term operating and maintenance cost for a fixed span versus a movable bridge.
    - Surf City is the main project stakeholder requesting a moveable bridge replacement.
    - Topsail Beach, another project stakeholder, prefers a fixed span bridge.
- **Community**
    - Residents of the island are very emotional about this bridge.
    - Surf City treats this bridge as a community symbol.
    - Public Involvement process will be very important for this project in order to build consensus in the three communities.
    - The Project Team will submit the draft Purpose and Need statement for Merger Team approval at the first Concurrence Point meeting to be scheduled for March, 2008.
    - Based on the feedback from the community in the first Community Informational Workshop, the Project Team may revise the Purpose and Need statement for the Merger Team approval.
    - Bridge alternative visualization will be very important in the Public Involvement process.
- **Other**
    - If Surf City would like to preserve the bridge in an offsite location, the State may transfer the ownership to the Town.
    - Project Team will review the Sunset Beach fixed span bridge and the New Bern movable bridge replacement projects for background information and similarities.
    - Subsequent to this meeting, Lonnie Brooks, NCDOT Structural Design Unit, provided the following information for the NC 210 fixed span bridge in North Topsail Beach:
      - Horizontal Clearance between fenders – 90 feet
      - Vertical clearance under the bridge – 65 feet
      - Length of the bridge – 2, 532 feet
      - Length of the main span – 132 feet
      - Construction completion year - 1968



# Surf City Bridge Replacement Project (B-4929)

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### Meeting Attendees List



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