



WACCAMAW REGIONAL
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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March 31, 2009

The Honorable Henry Brown
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
Attn: Ryan Bowley

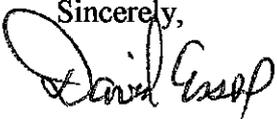
Dear Representative Brown:

I am writing to express the Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments' support for Georgetown County's efforts to make improvements to US Highway 17. The Council of Government (COG) is the staff for the Grand Strand Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), of which this part of Georgetown County is included. We oversee the transportation planning efforts for the entire Grand Strand.

A project of critical importance to Georgetown County, and our region, is the improvement to the intersection of US 17 and Venture Drive. This intersection is on the south side of the Sylvan Rosen Bridge that crosses the Sampit River. The entrance to the new Carroll Ashmore Campbell Marine Complex is at the base of the bridge in the Maryville section of the County. Due to the incline of the bridge and the necessity to make turns into the complex while towing large boats, safety dictates that improvements to this intersection are warranted. Improvements would include a south bound right turn lane, a north bound left turn lane and a related traffic signal. This project currently is in the Grand Strand Area Transportation Study's (GSATS) Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and the State of South Carolina's State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). Georgetown County has agreed to supply any matching funds that would be required..

The COG/MPO is supportive of this vital intersection project, because it will address safety, efficiency of flow, and provide required access to the Marine Complex, which will be a integral component to the County's economic growth. If you have any questions about this project, please feel free to contact me at (843) 546-8502.

Sincerely,



David Essex, AICP
Executive Director

Cc: Mr. Sel Hemingway, Georgetown County Administrator
Sen. Ray Cleary, Chairman, GSATS
Mr. James Kirby, Chairman, WRCOG Board of Directors

WACCAMAW REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AGENCY
SERVING GEORGETOWN, HORRY AND WILLIAMSBURG COUNTIES