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CONWAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Conway Proposal For Future Bypass & Bridge

by Devin Parks, *Director of Economic Development, Conway Chamber of Commerce*

Every morning, thousands of commuters in Conway are on tight schedules trying to get to work or school on time in a safe manner. Approximately 40,000 drivers from Highway 378, 701 North and South, 905 and 501 all merge into a two-lane bottleneck in an effort to cross the Highway 501 bridge over the Waccamaw River. Workers from Georgetown, Johnsonville, Aynor, Loris and rural Horry County all trying to share one road across the Waccamaw River.

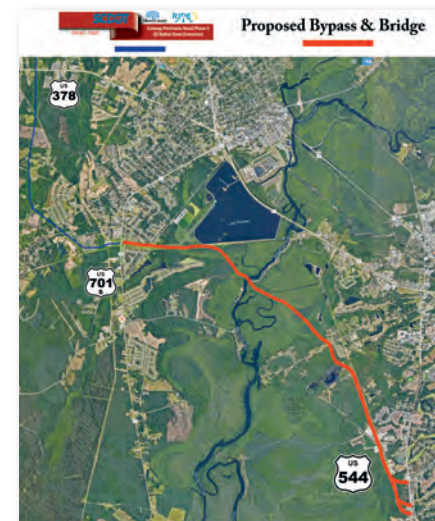
decade, further stressing our already inadequate infrastructure.



Recently, three floods and two hurricanes have shown us how vulnerable our infrastructure for crossing the Waccamaw river has become. In Horry county, we have only four roads across the Waccamaw; two in Conway, one on Highway 9 and one on

Highway 22, two of which have flooded in recent years. By contrast, ten bridges have been built at hundreds of millions in cost across the Intercoastal waterway. The traffic count on Highway 22 pales in comparison to the traffic count on Highway 501. Highway 31 has six lanes, yet also has a substantially lower traffic count than Highway 501. Couple this with the fact that the most recent inspection of the Highway 501

bridge over the Waccamaw River states that the bridge is "tolerable to be left in place as is" and will need to close for repairs in the next 10-15 years, we are now at a critical planning stage for shaping our area's infrastructure for decades to come. We need to plan for our



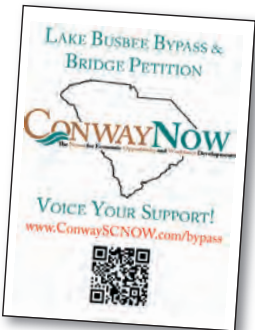
area's infrastructure to accommodate our steadily increasing population NOW.

Fortunately, we believe there is a solution for Conway's residents to permanently alleviate traffic congestion and bottle necks over the Waccamaw River. We are proposing a new bypass and bridge to help solve this crisis on Highway 501. This road can be built without disrupting traffic on existing roads. As some of you may be aware, the Perimeter Road proposal that is already included in Phase II of the Ride III program will connect Highway 378 to Highway 701. However, travelers looking to cross the Waccamaw River will still need to brave the two-lane merge to do so. We are proposing a bypass to begin where the Perimeter Road proposal has left off, feeding behind Lake Busbee and spanning all the way to Highway 544 just South of Singleton Ridge Road. This road will complete a perimeter around Conway and

connect incoming roads, eliminating the bottleneck and giving tourists and residents relief from the congestion and delays of going to and from work.

The benefits for such a road are numerous, including but not limited to an alternative route to Conway Medical Center for emergency vehicles, construction that would not disrupt the normal traffic flow of existing roads, a flood-proof road over the Waccamaw River, a bypass of the Coastal Carolina University area increasing the safety of both student and faculty traffic and

(Continued on page 30)



The temporary closure of the Main Street bridge created extra strain on the aging Highway 501 bridge, but more importantly, it gave us a glimpse into what the future holds as our area continues to grow. The last decade has seen a 20% spike in population throughout Horry County, equating to over 100,000 new residents. Studies show that this trend will continue to increase exponentially in the next

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providing an additional evacuation route for the South Strand.

The alternative solutions out there only provide temporary alleviation for traffic congestion and would require the closing of the Highway 501 bridge for several months. This would result in over 50,000 vehicles crossing the Main Street bridge every single day, which was built in 1937, essentially turning downtown Conway into a parking lot. We believe our proposal will provide a

permanent solution to all of the previously stated issues within our area's current infrastructure. Now is the time to discuss funding for this project to ensure the County's most important East/West crossing remains a viable option for the foreseeable future.

For more information, we invite you to visit www.conwayscnov.com/bypass. A short 5-minute video provides a full picture concerning the problems we are facing, and the solution to permanently solve these

problems. If you believe this bypass and bridge would increase the quality of life for you, your family and friends, please take a moment to sign our petition just below the video in the link provided above.

Let's unite to move our County's economy forward and improve the quality of life for local residents and tourists alike!

For further information or if you just have a question call (843) 248-2273 or email DParks@ConwaySCChamber.com. ■



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EDITORIAL CALENDAR 2020

JANUARY / FEBRUARY ISSUE 2020

Distributed to show attendees @ the 2020 HGHBA February Home Show from BIS booth in the lobby close to the front entrance to the show in the Myrtle Beach Convention Center, Feb. 21-23.

- LOCAL BUILDING SUPPLY
- ENCLOSURES / SUNROOMS
- SCREEN ROOMS / AWNINGS
- SITE WORK / BRICK / CONCRETE / PAVING

Space Reservation: January 17 Material Close: January 24

MARCH / APRIL ISSUE 2020

- FLOOR COVERING
- ENERGY EFFICIENCY ~
- HVAC / Propane / Solar / Water Heaters

Space Reservation: March 6 Material Close: March 13

MAY / JUNE ISSUE 2020

- PLUMBING INSTALLATION
- PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Space Reservation: May 8 Material Close: May 15

JULY / AUGUST ISSUE 2020

- OUTDOOR LIVING SPACE ~
- Landscaping / Pools & Spas / Hardscapes / Outdoor Kitchens / Fireplaces / Lighting
- EXTERIOR PRODUCTS ~
- Roofing / Siding / Specialty Products

Space Reservation: June 26 Material Close: July 3

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER ISSUE 2020

Distributed to show attendees @ the 2020 HGHBA September Home Improvement & Outdoor Living Show from BIS booth in the lobby close to the front entrance to the show in the Myrtle Beach Convention Center.

- BATHROOM & KITCHEN DESIGN
- MILLWORK ~
- Doors / Windows / Specialty Products

Space Reservation: August 14 Material Close: August 21

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER ISSUE 2020

- HOME AUTOMATION / SECURITY / ELEVATORS / ACCESSIBILITY EQUIPMENT
- WINDOW COVERINGS & TREATMENT ~
- Exterior & Interior

Space Reservation: October 16 Material Close: October 23

Each issue is directly mailed to target audience and posted online 30 days from material close date.

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