

**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED REPLACEMENT OF THE TOPSAIL ISLAND BRIDGE
OVER THE INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY ON N.C. 50/210 IN SURF CITY**

TIP Project No. B-4929

Pender County

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will hold a public hearing for the proposed replacement of the Topsail Island Bridge (Number 16) on Tuesday, July 29, 2014. The hearing will be held at the Topsail Island Moose Lodge, located at 13175 N Carolina 50 in Holly Ridge (1/2 mile north of the Surf City McDonalds).

An informal pre-hearing open house will be held from 3:30-6:30 p.m. NCDOT representatives will be available to answer questions and receive comments about the proposed project. There will be an opportunity to submit written comments or questions as well.

The public hearing will begin with a formal presentation on the project at 7:00 p.m. Citizens will be able to speak, ask questions and/or submit comments following the formal presentation. The presentation and all public comments will be recorded and a written transcript prepared. Written and verbal comments bear the same weight.

NCDOT proposes to build a new bridge to replace the existing swing bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway on N.C. 50/210 in Surf City. This is one of two bridges that provide access to Topsail Island. The existing bridge is a steel truss swing span bridge that was built in the 1950s and is due for replacement. NCDOT originally evaluated more than 20 design alternatives for this project. A series of public workshops and meetings with environmental regulatory agencies were used to narrow the alternatives.

The proposed project will improve traffic flow by providing wider travel lanes for all vehicles, maintain boat traffic on the Intracoastal Waterway, and minimize traffic delays. The proposed bridge will include access for pedestrians and bicycles.

An environmental document was prepared for this project and was approved by the Federal Highway Administration in October 2011. This document, known as the Environmental Assessment (EA), along with the Corridor Public Hearing Maps displaying the selected alternative are available for public review at the following locations:

- NCDOT Division Engineer's Office, 5501 Barbados Boulevard, Castle Hayne;
- Town of Surf City, 214 N. New River Drive;
- Town of North Topsail Beach, 2008 Loggerhead Court; and
- Town of Topsail Beach, 820 S. Anderson Boulevard.

Copies of the EA document and maps can also be found on the NCDOT public meetings website: <http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/publicmeetings/>. Additional information on the project can be found on the project website: www.ncdot.org/projects/TopsailIslandBridge.

For more information, please contact Diane Wilson, NCDOT- Human Environment Unit, by phone at (919) 707-6073 or via email at: pdwilson1@ncdot.gov. Additional written comments regarding the proposed project may be submitted to Ms. Wilson until **August 26, 2014**.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who want to participate in this hearing. Anyone requiring special services should contact Ms. Wilson as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made.