

Topsail Island Bridge Replacement Project

TIP No. B-4929



We are Revisiting Your Community

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will hold a Design Public Hearing on Tuesday, July 29, 2014 to present the detailed design plans of the Preferred Alternative for the Topsail Island Bridge Replacement Project. The Design Public Hearing will be divided into two sessions; an informal Pre-Hearing Open House where citizens can drop-in anytime between 3:30 and 6:30 p.m. to review the design hearing map and renderings, followed by a Formal Design Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m., where NCDOT representatives will present the design and potential impacts. After the NCDOT presentation, citizens are encouraged to voice their project opinions as part of the formal hearing record.

July 29, 2014

Pre-Hearing Open House

3:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Formal Design

Public Hearing

7:00 PM

Topsail Island Moose Lodge
13175 US Hwy 50
Holly Ridge, NC 28445

Project Schedule

- **June 2009**
Citizens Informational Workshop #1 – Project Information
- **October 2010**
Citizens Informational Workshop #2 – Corridor Alternatives Evaluation
- **October 2011**
Environmental Assessment Document Complete
- **December 2011**
Corridor Public Hearing Meeting – Preliminary Design Alternatives Evaluation
- **Fall 2012**
Selection of Preferred Alternative
- **2013**
Steering Committee Meetings
- **Summer 2014**
Design Public Hearing
- **Fall 2014**
Anticipated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) Document Complete
- **2015**
Right-of-Way Acquisition Begins
- **2017**
Construction Begins



Project Overview and Outreach Efforts

NCDOT proposes to build a new bridge to replace the existing swing bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway on NC 50/210 in Surf City. This newsletter is an update on the project status and NCDOT's public outreach process.

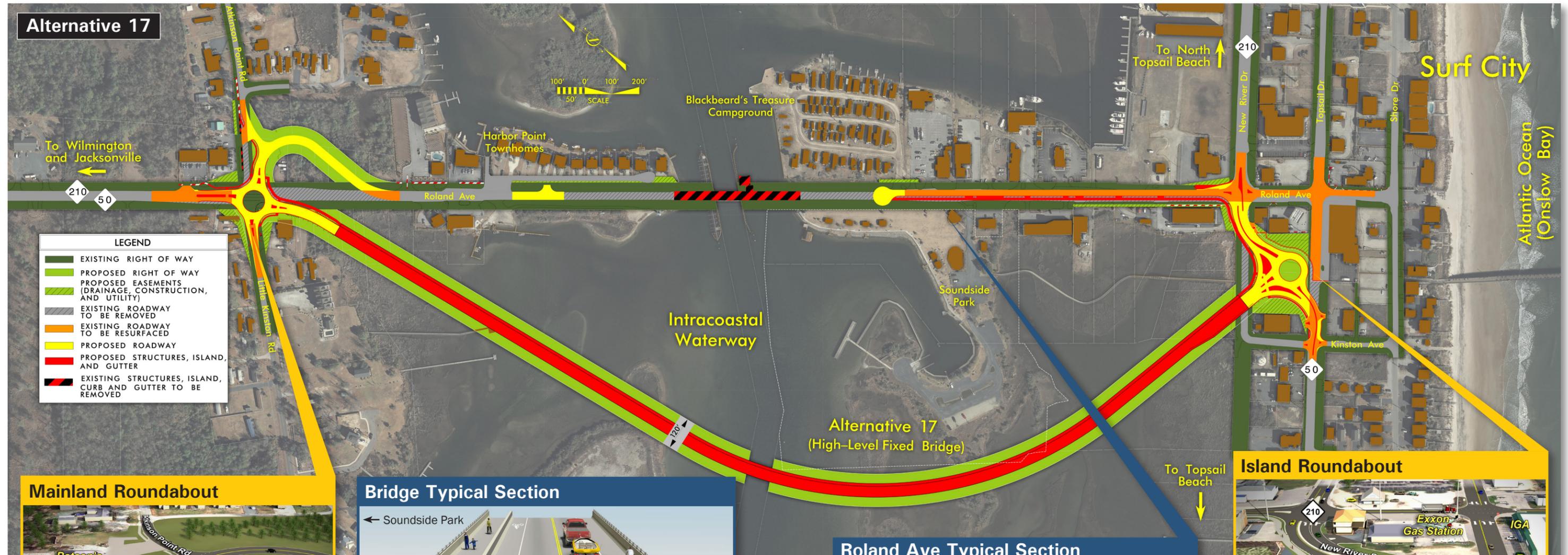
Previously the Project Team held two public meetings (June 2009 and October 2010) and a Corridor Public Hearing (December 2011) where a total of 20 different bridge replacement alternatives were presented. Based on community feedback and the environmental studies, the federal, state, and local environmental review agencies agreed to select **Alternative 17 as the preferred alternative** for the Topsail Island Bridge Replacement project (see map on page 2).

Once the preferred alternative was selected, a Steering Committee comprised of local residents and business owners was formed at the request of the local townships and community leaders. The purpose of the Steering Committee was to provide an additional forum to discuss improvements for the bridge replacement project.

The Steering Committee met three times in 2013 and discussed several project enhancements:

- Bridge Typical Section
- Roland Avenue Improvements
- Island Tie-In Intersection
- Mainland Tie-In Intersection

Details of these enhancements are described on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter.

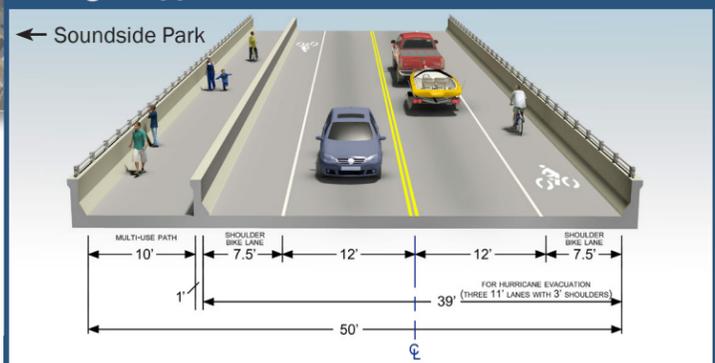


Mainland Roundabout



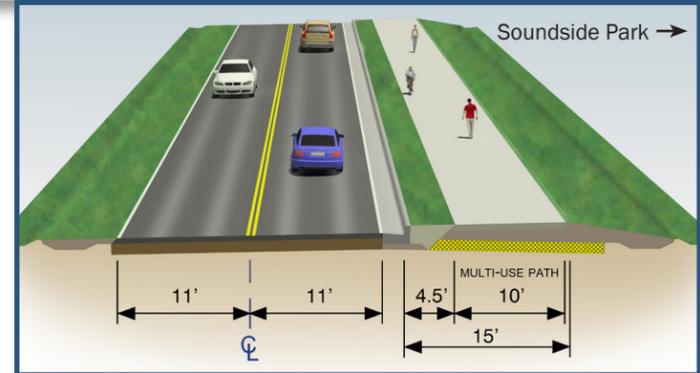
Mainland Tie-In Intersection – On the mainland side, two options for the Little Kinston Road/Atkinson Point Road intersection were presented: a traditional four-legged intersection and a round-about design. The Steering Committee concluded that the roundabout would improve traffic safety and operations while also providing a gateway appearance for traffic approaching the bridge and entering the island.

Bridge Typical Section



Bridge Typical Section – Initially, the proposed two-lane bridge typical section was 47 feet wide, and included bicycle lanes, curb and gutter, and sidewalks on both sides. After internal discussions regarding emergency evacuation needs, and meetings with emergency service personnel, the typical section was modified. The dedicated bike lanes and sidewalks were replaced with wider shoulders, and a ten-foot multi-use path that is separated from traffic by a barrier wall, resulting in a 50-foot typical section (shown above). The wider shoulders provide a safe area for bicyclists to travel adjacent to vehicular traffic. The multi-use path was supported by the Steering Committee. During emergencies or hurricane evacuations, the overall 39-foot clear roadway width between barriers could be converted into three lanes, allowing two lanes leaving the island, and one emergency response lane accessing the island.

Roland Ave Typical Section



Roland Avenue Improvements – Since the bridge will be relocated south of Roland Avenue and the access to the Central Business District will change, mitigation measures were explored to improve accessibility to the businesses and Soundside Park along Roland Avenue, between the existing bridge and New River Drive (NC 210). During the Steering Committee meetings, improvements to pedestrian and bicyclist access along Roland Avenue were discussed. As a result of discussions with the Project Team, the Federal Highway Administration has agreed to provide funding to repave and restripe Roland Avenue, as well as provide a multi-use path within these limits to provide enhanced access.

Island Roundabout



Island Tie-In Intersection – On the island side, four roundabout options were presented for the New River Drive (NC 210)/Topsail Drive (NC 50) intersection. One option was a three-legged roundabout and the others were four-legged roundabouts. The Town of Surf City passed a resolution on February 4, 2014 stating their preference for the three-legged roundabout. The three-legged roundabout provides safety, enhanced traffic operation, and constructability benefits while reducing business impacts.



TOPSAIL ISLAND BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT TEAM

1520 South Boulevard, Suite 200

Charlotte, NC 28203

Design Public Hearing

WHERE: Topsail Island Moose Lodge
13175 US Hwy 50, Holly Ridge
(½ mile North of Surf City McDonalds)

WHEN: Tuesday, July 29, 2014

TIME: Pre-Hearing Open House: 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM
Formal Public Hearing: 7:00 PM

All the information presented at the public hearing will be posted on the project website after the meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting in person, please check the project website to review the material and provide your feedback.



Contact Us

Those wishing to speak at the Formal Public Hearing can register during the Pre-Hearing Open House; by calling the Project's Toll-Free Hotline (**1-877-392-5996**); or by calling Ms. Diane Wilson at: (**919**) 707-6073.

Written comments and questions are welcomed and may be mailed or e-mailed to:

Diane Wilson
NCDOT - Human Environment Section
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1598
e-mail: pdwilson1@ncdot.gov



Website:

<http://www.ncdot.org/projects/TopsailIslandBridge>