

Expressway option preferable for new link

Nov. 10, 2008

By Mike Templeton
OPINION- The Sun News
Myrtle Beach, SC

@-On Oct. 25, The Sun News published an interesting article about the S.C. Department of Transportation's plan to construct an Evacuation Lifeline for the South Strand. The article indicated that funds have not been secured for the evacuation lifeline at this time.

Perhaps several other considerations should be reiterated for legislative support. The following does not minimize the need for a southern evacuation route. However, the following potential additional advantages just might increase the breadth of the methods and means employed to obtain additional funding:

The new link will connect the South Strand directly to future east/west interstate I-73.

The new link will provide travelers and tourists from central Myrtle Beach, southern Horry County and the eastern section of Georgetown County another corridor over the Intracoastal Waterway.

The new link need not be a highway; in fact it shouldn't be a highway. It should be an expressway.

Expressways are characterized by not having the two things wise travelers will drive miles out of their way to avoid.

Expressways do not have intersections and (except for feeder ramps in large cities) they do not have traffic signals.

If the new link is constructed as an expressway, it will essentially mirror the I-73 link that is already in place for Restaurant Row north of Myrtle Beach, S.C. 22.

Expressways are not necessarily any noisier than a U.S. 501-type highway.

In the interest of full disclosure, I should point out that I am part owner of a [driver education school].

We teach all of our teens (and adult students) how to merge onto an expressway, how to safely change lanes, which lane to drive in the majority of the time and how to exit safely.

When the southern link is ready, so shall they be.
The writer lives in Murrells Inlet.