

CURRITUCK COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN AMENDMENT

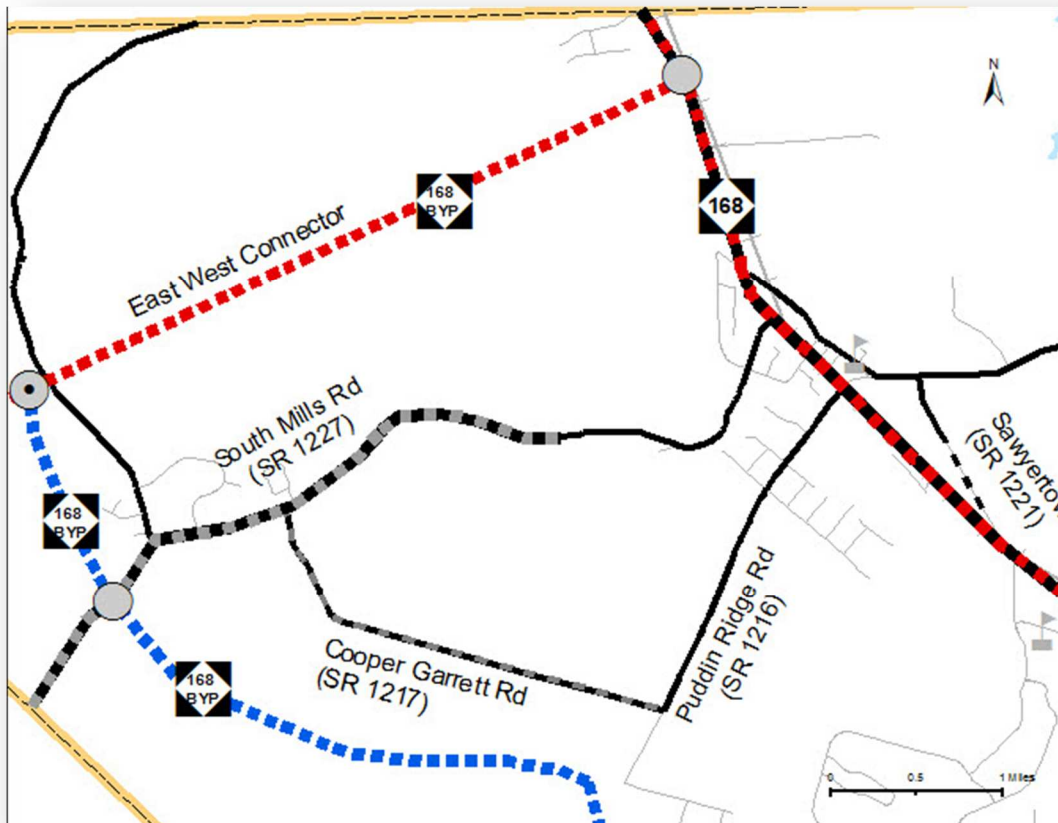
“The Currituck County Board of Commissioners has adopted plans, documents, and policies that identify recommended greenways, multi-use paths, sidewalks, and similar bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout the county, which are incorporated herein by reference and made part of the Currituck County Comprehensive Transportation Plan. For more detailed information on bicycle and pedestrian recommendations, refer to adopted plans, documents, and policies maintained by the Currituck County Department of Planning and Community Development.”

Addendum to “2011 Currituck County Comprehensive Transportation Plan”:

Problem Statements

HIGHWAY

Proposed East-West Connector, Local ID: CURR0010-H



Identified Problem

Northern Camden and Currituck Counties have experienced rapid residential subdivision growth in the past 10 years as the Hampton Roads development in Virginia expands and grows southward. The population of Moyock Township alone has jumped 122% since 1990, while Camden Plantation, a 1,700-unit mixed-use development approved in Northern Camden County, will attract hundreds of new residents as homes and apartments are built.

Moreover, each County is actively promoting and recruiting non-residential, commercial and industrial uses for these same areas. Camden County recently opened an Eco-Industrial Park in South Mills to attract industry, and Currituck County is in the early stages of planning a mixed use property plan for approximately 2,500 acres which will combine residential, office, light industrial and other property uses. In addition, both Counties are actively working with the Port of Virginia to expand port-related and maritime distribution and value-added opportunities by expanding the Port's Foreign Trade Zone program into Northeast North Carolina.

Finally, recent direction from the Governor's NCDOT 25 year vision plan includes the State's push to designate and improve the current US 17 / US 64 corridor from Hampton Roads to Raleigh for a future interstate route. This plan would further enhance Camden and Currituck's potential role in a mid-Atlantic distribution network connecting North Carolina & Virginia's economic centers and ports of entry.

Given these current development trends and the stated long-term economic development strategies of the State, Currituck and Camden Counties, it is reasonable to assume a strong and growing travel demand going forward on all highways servicing these communities locally and regionally.

Currently, though, Currituck and Camden Counties are limited in their east-west highway connections, especially in the northern portions of each nearest to Hampton Roads. In fact, only one major thoroughfare, South Mills Road / SR 1227, is available for traffic covering a nearly 30-mile stretch from US 158 to the Virginia border.

The lack of a dedicated, limited-access road to provide a vital connection between the already busy NC 168 highway corridor and the US 17 highway corridor is likely to restrict commerce and economic development opportunities as all stakeholders have planned.

Justification of Need

Existing NC 168 is currently a 5-lane boulevard from the Virginia line to US 158. NC 168 is a major north-south corridor in Currituck County, connecting the Hampton Roads area of Virginia with Currituck County. The facility is a vital artery in moving people and goods through North Carolina, connecting Virginia and other points north with the coastal region of North Carolina. The entire facility is envisioned to be a boulevard.

By 2040, the route is projected to exceed capacity from the Virginia line to Survey Road (SR 1215) and to approach capacity by 2040 from Survey Road (SR 1215) to NC 34, based on a LOS D. There is significant congestion on this facility during the summer tourist season. Traffic on the northern end of NC 168 is projected to increase from about 20,000 vpd in 2013 to 51,400

vpd in 2040, compared to a capacity of 37,600 vpd. Due to volume exceeding capacity in the future, it is strongly recommended to consider an alternative solution for this deficiency.

Community Vision and Problem History

Currently, Northern Currituck and Camden Counties which are connected via SR 1227 / South Mills Road, a two-lane, rural highway with multiple sharp curves and narrow shoulders. In the future, the northern part of the county is expecting an increase of residents which will lead to an increase in commercial traffic. This increase will not only create more traffic on SR 1227 but may also impact safety.

Currituck and Camden Counties both recognize the need for a limited access connector road to support future trips from the NC 168 corridor west to the US 17 / Future I-44 corridor, especially as properties develop between the major north/south thoroughfares connecting Northeast North Carolina to Hampton Roads, Virginia.

CTP Project Proposal

Project Description

The proposed project (East-West Connector, Local ID: CURR00010-H) is to construct a 4-lane divided boulevard on a new location in Moyock from NC 168 near the Virginia line to US 17 in northern Camden County.

The proposed connector road will alleviate traffic congestion and potentially unsafe conditions on SR 1227 / South Mills Road and provide excellent regional commercial traffic access to points west of the NC 168 corridor.

Linkages to Other Plans and Proposed Project History

The proposal for the new East-West Connector Road is an important link to many of the recommendations in both the Currituck County CTP and the Camden County CTP. It directly connects to proposed improvements of NC 168, the Moyock Bypass and for NCDOT's push to obtain interstate status for the US 17 / US 64 Corridor from Norfolk, VA to Raleigh, NC. Furthermore, the proposed road provides the critical infrastructure needed for Camden and Currituck Counties to best leverage proximity to the Port of Virginia and the Hampton Roads industrial base.

Land Use Patterns

The 2006 Currituck County Land Use Plan indicates that Moyock is currently the fastest growing community of Currituck County. It is a bedroom community for the Hampton Roads area of Virginia. Mixed use development is expected to occur along the existing NC 168 corridor in the future.

Multi-modal Considerations

There are no other modes of transportation associated with this proposed project.

BICYCLE

Identified Problem

Currently, there are a few bicycle routes connecting different parts of Currituck County. There is already a multi-use path in the Outer Banks area, from the north end of NC 12 to Club Road. It is local priority to see that multi-use path extended for the entire length of NC 12. The primary purpose of recommending additional bicycle route improvements is to better connect the Outer Banks area of Currituck County to the Dare County beach communities, as well as in other popular recreational areas. Additional bicycle lanes are being proposed from the Albemarle Regional Bicycle Plan, project descriptions for these bicycle lanes are below under CTP Project Proposal.

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CTP Project Proposal

Project Description

The following on-road bicycle facility is recommended in the Currituck County CTP:

- South Mills Road (SR 1227) From Camden County Line to NC 168
- NC 168 from South Mills Road (SR 1227) to Crandell Lane
- Aydlett Road (SR 1140) from US 158 to SR 1131
- Poplar Branch Road (SR 1131) from Aydlett Road (SR 1140) to US 158
- Shad Street/Lighthouse Drive/Albacore Street (SR 1403) from NC 12 to NC 12

The following off-road multi-use bicycle facilities are recommended in the Currituck County CTP:

- US 158 Proposed Bike Route from US 158 to NC 168
- NC 158 from Camden County Line to US 158