



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

Office of the Administrator

400 Seventh St. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

August 26, 1996

Refer to: HEP-10

Through: Mr. L. N. Larson
Regional Administrator
Atlanta, Georgia

Mr. N. L. Graf
Division Administrator
Raleigh, North Carolina

Mr. Garland D. Garrett, Jr.
Secretary, North Carolina Department
of Transportation
P. O. Box 25201
Raleigh, NC 27611

Dear Mr. Garrett:

This is in response to State Highway Administrator Larry R. Gonde's August 13 letter to Division Administrator Nicholas L. Graf requesting that a segment of the U.S. 220 freeway from I-40 in Greensboro southerly to its terminus near Emery be added to the Interstate System. This segment is part of the corridor from Portsmouth, Ohio, to Charleston, South Carolina, that was designated as a future part of the Interstate System by Section 332 of the National Highway System Designation Act of 1995.

After careful consideration of the request and your commitment to early correction of deficiencies in the older sections of the U.S. 220 freeway, I hereby designate the requested segment as part of the Interstate System under the authority of Section 332(a)(2) of the 1995 act. This action will be effective upon the opening of the 12-mile section of U.S. 220 from south of Asheboro to Steeds. This new section connects two previously constructed freeway sections of U.S. 220. The new section may be signed as an Interstate highway. The existing freeway sections may be signed as an Interstate highway when existing deficiencies have been corrected and/or the necessary design exceptions approved. Mr. Graf and his staff will work with you to identify those design and safety-related features of the existing sections that will either need correction or design exceptions.

We have previously concurred in the proposed route numbering of this segment as I-73, and it has been recommended by the Special Committee on Route Numbering of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials for final action at the Association's October meeting.

The route description for the 56.5-mile addition in North Carolina is established as follows:

I-73 U.S. 220 freeway from Emery northerly to I-40 Greensboro.

As you know, under current legislation, this segment does not become eligible for Interstate 4R funds or Interstate Maintenance funds. The special provisions for use of Interstate Construction funds in the entire corridor are covered in guidance distributed to our field offices in February 1996.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to support your ambitious efforts to create a high quality statewide system of highways.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney E. Slater". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rodney E. Slater
Administrator