

News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)

Assistant to the Democratic Leader

Ranking Member, Committee on the Budget

US House of Representatives – Washington, DC

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Friday, December 05, 2003 – For Immediate Release

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Spratt Helps Secure \$2.5 Million for Interstate 73

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) announced today that he had helped to secure \$2.5 million in federal funds for Interstate 73 in the Pee Dee.

The money, \$250,000 for planning and \$2.25 million for development and construction, is included in the Omnibus Appropriations Act that the House is expected to pass on Monday.

“Interstate 73 will cut through the Pee Dee and bring development to a region where jobs are sorely needed. In addition, I-73 will be a huge help to the 12 million people who visit our beaches every year,” said Spratt; “and when hurricanes hit, it will make evacuations much easier.”

Spratt said the total cost of the South Carolina portion of the project is estimated at \$1 billion over the next six years. Last year, Spratt helped the state secure \$3 million in federal funding.

“The funds we secured this year and last are good down payments,” said Spratt, “but funding still has a long way to go, and federal funding alone will not be enough. The South Carolina Department of Transportation will have to make I-73 a top priority and use state highway funds to match the federal dollars.”

Spratt said the Senate may not take up the Omnibus Appropriations Act until mid-January. “Until the omnibus bill passes the Senate, and the President signs it, provisions of this kind are still in play,” said Spratt. “But Senator Hollings has been an enormous help in the Senate, and with his help, we are optimistic that it will pass.”

I-73 runs from Detroit to Myrtle Beach, going through Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina. Spratt was instrumental in having the interstate identified as a “Congressional High Priority Corridor,” and routing it into South Carolina between Cheraw and Bennettsville. Though construction has not begun, a number of feasibility studies have been completed.

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