

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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Spratt Snags \$4 million for Interstate 73

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) announced today that he had secured \$4 million in federal funds to Interstate 73 in the Pee Dee. The money was included in the omnibus spending bill the House passed today. The president is expected to sign the bill soon.

“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 I-73 is estimated at well over \$1 billion over the next six years. Two years ago, Spratt helped secure \$3 million in federal funding for the project, and last year he obtained another \$2.5 million.

“The funds we secured for the last two years are good down payments,” said Spratt, “but funding still has a long way to go. Another \$4 million certainly helps the project along, but 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.”

“Interstate 73 is a shining example bipartisanship for our state,” continued Spratt. “Henry Brown and Senator Hollings have provided enormous help in pushing this project forward, and cooperatively, we have made a real dent on the funding shortages. It just goes to show what can be done when we put partisanship aside and do what’s best for South Carolina.”

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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