

News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)
Assistant to the Democratic Leader
Ranking Member, Committee on the Budget
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.
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Spratt, Brown Secure Funds for I-73

WASHINGTON – U.S. Reps. John Spratt (D-SC) and Henry Brown (R-SC) have secured \$3 million to help construct Interstate 73 from the North Carolina border in Marlboro County to Myrtle Beach. The funding was included in a spending bill Congress passed Thursday night.

The overall Interstate 73 project is designed to run from Detroit to Myrtle Beach. The highway was identified as a high priority by the National Highway System, and the route through South Carolina approved by the state transportation department, but construction has not yet begun.

“I-73 will cut across the Pee Dee and open up opportunities for growth and development in a region that sorely needs them,” said Spratt. “Nearly 12 million visitors come to the Myrtle Beach area each year, but there is currently no interstate to serve this area of the state.”

Spratt also said the lack of interstate access to the coast creates serious safety problems during hurricane evacuations. Non-interstate highways are not equipped to handle the volume of vehicles that leave the area during an evacuation. I-73 could be designed to accommodate lane reversals to allow for one directional movement during evacuation periods, which would aid the efficiency and safety of the evacuation.

“The construction of I-73 is vital for the safety of South Carolina’s citizens and for continued economic growth in our state,” Spratt said. “Today’s funding is just a drop in the bucket for a project of this magnitude, but it’s a good start. I am pleased to have lent a hand to this effort.”

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