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Federal transportation officials in SC to discuss Interstate 73

The Associated Press

The Sun News

State and federal highway officials are expected in Myrtle Beach on Friday for the latest development in the construction of Interstate 73, a highway that is to one day connect Michigan to this resort area.

State Transportation Department spokesman Pete Poore would not say what is to take place in the parking lot of a pizza restaurant Friday, and a federal transportation spokesman declined to offer specifics.

But Poore said the only step remaining in the process for federal approval of a portion of the planned roadway is what's known as a "record of decision." That record is supposed to clear the way for the government to begin buying land on which to build the road.

The planned route has been split into two sections in South Carolina - a northern portion that is to go from the North Carolina state line to Interstate 95 and a southern route that is to lead from I-95 to Myrtle Beach. Poore said the gathering Friday will only affect the southern portion.