

## **Highway officials hear Henry County's request to reconsider route of I-73**

June 19, 2008

WDBJ7.com  
Roanoke, VA

Henry County officials want to see I-73 built closer to the Martinsville Speedway and Patriot Center Industrial Park.

Virginia highway officials are listening to Henry County's request to reconsider the route of Interstate 73 near Martinsville.

The route that was approved last year swings about five miles east of the city.

Henry County officials want to see it built closer to the Martinsville Speedway and Patriot Center Industrial Park.

"What the board did today is essentially ask VDOT to take a look at the concerns Henry County has raised and then report back to the board on what it might mean to look at changing the route, and what options might be there to better serve the county based on the concerns that they've raised," said Richard Caywood, VDOT Salem District administrator.

Advocates say changing the route would actually save money and lessen environmental impact.

Caywood says VDOT will likely look at all options, including connector roads, similar to I-581 in Roanoke.

The interstate, which will run from Michigan to South Carolina, has been approved by the federal government, but its construction has not yet been funded