

I-73 Gets Key Approval from SC, Federal Officials

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Columbia, SC - (AP) - The state Transportation Department will soon be able to start buying land to build Interstate 73 in South Carolina.

The \$2 billion expressway will run about 90 miles to link Myrtle Beach to Interstate 95. State and federal officials signed off on the plans Thursday.

The roadway will link the Conway bypass to Interstate 95 in the northeastern corner of the state. Eventually, I-73 will link Michigan to the South Carolina beach, the heart of the state's \$16 billion tourism industry.

Bob Lee of the Federal Highway Administration says it typically takes officials five or six years to approve similar environmental impact statements. But he says officials were able to complete this process in a little more than three years.

Construction is expected to take about ten years.