

I-73 gets OK to move forward

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Right of way for Interstate 73 can be bought now and plans laid for the exact route of the road between I-95 and Horry County.

The final federal approval for the 30-mile section of road came Friday when the U.S. Department of Transportation's second in command, Tom Barrett, came to Myrtle Beach to sign the document.

Barrett finalized the papers at the U.S. 501-Carolina Forest intersection to symbolize how the road will relieve congestion. His boss, Mary Peters, visited the same spot in June and said the congestion was unacceptable.

"I-73 is a significant piece of the interstate highway system," Barrett said. After signing the papers, he was to attend a luncheon with I-73 backers, state and local officials to learn more about how they pulled the community together to get to this point earlier than is usual in such a project.