

I-73 plans will soon be unveiled

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By Kelly Gillespie

The South Carolina Department of Transportation Commission said the Northern Project of the new Interstate 73 will run from I-95 through Western Dillon County, Marlboro County and Richmond County, North Carolina.

The Southern Project of I-73 will run from I-95 to S.C. Route 22.

It's a new highway that could potentially bring big business to the Pee Dee, and it could alleviate some traffic headaches to and from the beach.

When driving to Myrtle Beach from North Carolina Allison Clipp said she's always looking for alternative routes.

"Well it's a pretty good drive depending on the traffic. It depends on what time you leave Raleigh," said Allison Clipp, North Carolina resident.

It's time Clipp said she doesn't want to go to waste sitting in her car, but it could soon shorten once Interstate 73 opens.

"Opening up a bypass, that decreases the amount of time in your car. You want to get on vacation as soon as possible, you don't want to be stuck in your car if you can shave off 45 minutes to an hour off your trip," said Clipp.

Over the past ten years there's been talk and planning, but Interstate 73 has yet to be built.

It is projected to cost more than \$1.7 billion dollars to complete.

But, locals like Barbara Long wish money would be used to fix the old before creating a new.

"We need to work on these roads we have now, and that's a big problem like I say riding a bike and everything and it's dangerous out there," said Barbara Long, Dillon County resident.

However, Long said an additional interstate connecting through Dillon County could mean additional traffic for businesses.

"Well if it will help bring more into our area we need that, you know we've lost a lot of industry here maybe more businesses will come and we'll get more business from out of states," said Long.

And Barbara Long said there will hopefully be less car traffic when heading down to the beach.

The South Carolina Department of Transportation will meet Thursday, July 19th at 1:30 p.m. at the Marlboro County Civic Center.

That's when SCDOT will present the project information.

Count on News13 to be there and bring you the details.