

MDOT may want to consider the construction of toll roads

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CHARLES E. ALLOWAY

The CE News magazine for civil engineers reports in the November 2007 issue that Interstate 73 in South Carolina is the first project under the U.S. Department of Transportation's new Interstate System Construction Toll pilot program.

This program will allow South Carolina to use certain types of federal-aid highway funds, along with public and private revenue to construct, operate and maintain Interstate 73. The program does not offer specific funding, but gives status authority to raise revenue through tolling.

South Carolina is to build 80 miles of new interstate highway connecting Interstate 73/Interstate 74 south of Rockingham, N.C., to the Myrtle Beach area to support economic growth and tourism, as well as emergency evacuations.

It would be interesting if MDOT would consider alternate route connections for Interstates 94 and 69 and M25, funded by tolling.