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## PLAN LEAVES FEW OPTIONS FOR SOUTH STRAND

Mike W. Templeton

A number of articles have been published by The Sun News regarding the future development and routing of Interstate 73.

The development of I-73 is a major milestone for the Grand Strand as well as our immediate neighbors across the border in the southeastern section of North Carolina. However, all residents south of U.S. 501 all the way to Georgetown should recognize that the routing has a serious flaw.

Currently I-73 is projected to terminate in the Brown Bay area at S.C. 22. This means that any resident south of U.S. 501 would have only a few reasonable options for accessing I-73.

This means that during hurricane evacuation (or, for that matter, almost any other time) we must inch along at a snail's pace up U.S. 501 for 20 miles through Conway and then cut back four miles south to reach I-73. The second option would involve traveling another 10 miles north on U.S. 17 Bypass, then cutting back south almost the same distance when we reach S.C. 22.

Neither of the above options makes much sense when you consider that I-73 could have been linked directly to S.C. 31 (Carolina Bays Parkway).

Perhaps the Department of Transportation and our state representatives should consider review of a S.C. 31 connector. Yes, [it would be] expensive, but consider the alternatives.

While they're at it, they might want to consider labeling and mapping S.C. 31 and S.C. 22 as real expressways. If they were mapped accordingly, I am almost certain more tourists would use them, thereby reducing congestion on roads.

The writer lives in Murrells Inlet.

