

South Carolina Construction News

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SCDOT, FHWA Leaders Approve Southern I-73 Final Environmental Impact Statement Columbia, S.C.

South Carolina Secretary of Transportation H.B. "Buck" Limehouse Jr. and Federal Highway Administration Division Administrator Bob Lee signed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Southern I-73 Project on Thursday, November 29, 2007. The FEIS was signed in a little over three years; the national average for approval of an environmental document is five years to six years. The Southern I-73 Project is from I-95 in Dillon County through Marion County to SC 22 (Veterans Highway) in Horry County.

The FEIS represents a comprehensive assessment of all relevant human and environmental features within the project study area and results in the least overall impact alternative for I-73 in this area. Approval of the FEIS, along with the upcoming Record of Decision document, allows for the right of way acquisition process to begin. A draft environmental impact statement for the Northern I-73 Project was approved in July 2007. It is anticipated the final environmental impact statement for this project will be completed in spring 2008.