

Sun News, The (Myrtle Beach, SC)  
May 31, 2006  
Section: LOCAL  
Page: A7

## THOSE OUT OF ROAD'S PATH BREATHE SIGH OF RELIEF

Richard Griffis The Sun News

### GALIVANTS FERRY

As her finger traced a map along the final preferred route for Interstate 73, Carolyn Doyle let out a soft sigh.

Pee Dee Farms, a general store that she and her late husband, Tommy, had run for the past 19 years on U.S. 501 at the Horry County line was safe. The same may not be true of her house.

"This is it, right here," Doyle said, tapping a small dot inside a purple line that state Department of Transportation officials used Tuesday to signify a 300-yard-wide path that may one day be the route of I-73 between I-95 and S.C. 22.

Preliminary plans listed other routes, including one that shadowed U.S. 501 through Galivants Ferry and Aynor in Horry County.

"I was going to build a new house anyway," Doyle said, noting her home of 43 years has a sunken den that is becoming more difficult to navigate.

"Before, we were just trying to guess. The worst thing was not knowing," Doyle said. "People kept asking me the whole time 'Have you packed your bags yet?'"

"Now you can prepare for what will happen."

Those preparations could take a while. Highway officials have previously said it could take 10 years and as much as \$2 billion to build I-73.

"I would rather it take my house," Doyle said. "It would affect too many people here [along U.S. 501]. I never thought it would go through Aynor. I figured it would go through us all the time."

Co-workers at Pee Dee Farms weren't as willing to take the new highway path in stride.

"We're tearing up the little bit of country we have left," said Jenny Walters, a former Detroit resident who moved here seven years ago.

“We don't want it, but we're going to have to pay for it,” added lifelong resident Bobbie Peavy. “The road's not going to hit me, but it's going to get a lot of my friends.”

Sherri Wilkinson, who moved from Ohio to Horry County in 1988, lives two miles away from the path, but empathized with those who will be directly affected.

“It's mixed emotions,” Wilkinson said after picking up one of her children at Aynor Middle School. “I hate to see some of the people that have all this land and have it disturbed. I hate to see that happen to anyone.”

“The upside is once 73 is there, you can hop right on it and get going. I guess it's all in the name of progress.”

Justin Brown, a delivery driver for a Grand Strand beer distributor, welcomes that progress.

“Anything that will keep people off 501 is a good thing,” Brown said. “It's not a road that should be a main access road into a destination. But I understand where people [whose homes will be affected] are coming from.”

“Everybody has got to remember our entire economy is built on bringing people into the beach.”

Jeanie Richardson, an assistant vice president at Anderson Brothers Bank and co-owner of The Hagood House, a bed and breakfast scheduled to open in June on Eighth Street in Aynor, has already come to appreciate S.C. 22, one of two limited access highways on the Grand Strand.

“I go every Saturday to the beach, and it's wonderful,” Richardson said. “[I-73] will probably be the same way once people understand it.”

Stacey Brown, a clerk at Bull Mart who moved to Aynor from Maryland last fall, said the new highway is a good idea.

“[But] it's going to be interesting to see how many people use this [U.S. 501] once it comes in,” she said.

Christy Holliday Douglas, a fourth generation Galivants Ferry resident, thinks there will be plenty of traffic for both highways.

“Is it going to affect our business? I really can't say,” Douglas said. “[U.S. 501] will always be used. It will never become a sleepy little road.”

Contact RICHARD GRIFFIS at 626-0294 or [rgriffis@thesunnews.com](mailto:rgriffis@thesunnews.com).

---

Copyright (c) 2006 The Sun News