

## Transportation secretary pledges support for I-73

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MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (AP) - US Transportation Secretary Mary Peters stood next to 1 of the busiest highways on the Grand Strand today and promised federal support for building Interstate 73.

Peters says what should be a pleasurable hour's drive from Interstate 95 to the beach has become what she calls "a long trial of traffic and frustration." Traffic on US 501 was backed up almost three miles today and it wasn't yet noon with weekend visitors coming to town.

The 1,100 mile I-73 will eventually link the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and the Grand Strand, running through six states.

Peters says she expected federal approvals for the first section of the South Carolina project by next year, allowing work to begin. State lawmakers have approved tolls to help pay for the new interstate.

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