



The Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce

www.outerbankschamber.com

P.O. Box 1757 Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

(252)441-8144, Voice

(252)441-0338, Fax

e-mail: chamber@outer-banks.com

April 4, 2011

The Honorable Phil Berger, President
The Honorable Thom Tillis, Speaker
The Honorable Dale Folwell, Speaker Pro Tempore
The Honorable Harold Brubaker, Appropriations Senior Chair
The Honorable Kathy Harrington, Appropriations Transportation Co-Chair
The Honorable James Forrester, Appropriations Transportation Co-Chair

RE: Currituck Mid-County Bridge Funding

The Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce strongly encourages the construction of a mid-county bridge connecting the Currituck mainland with the Currituck Outer Banks. We urge the General Assembly to appropriate gap-funding for the mid-county bridge in the upcoming budget. This issue has been tossed around for more than 20 years, much has been accomplished and \$18 million already spent.

The Dare County and Currituck County Outer Banks host hundreds of thousands of visitors every year. Traffic volume and congestion continue to grow as the number of visitors increases. The more congested our roads become, the greater the risk to the safety of our visitors and residents.

Currently, there is one way to and from the Currituck Outer Banks - a two lane highway that stretches from Southern Shores to Corolla. Currently, school children living on the Currituck Outer Banks must use this route to reach schools on the Currituck County mainland. The bridge would make this commute much shorter and save transportation costs for the school district. A mid-county bridge is essential to the safe evacuation of our visitors and residents in the event of a hurricane. It is also essential to lower traffic volume and decrease congestion which are likely to delay emergency vehicles. Not to mention, a mid-county bridge would simply allow for easier, quicker access to one of North Carolina's top vacation destinations.

We appreciate your consideration, and we hope that you will strongly consider constructing a mid-county bridge connecting the Currituck mainland with the Currituck Outer Banks in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

Robin Mann, Chairman
Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors

cc: Sen. Stan White
Rep. Bill Owens
Rep. Tim Spear