

Secretary Jim Trogdon, P.E.
North Carolina Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
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Dear Secretary Trogdon:

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Transportation Secretary for North Carolina. We are a group of concerned citizens writing to ask you to take a fresh look at the proposed Mid-Currituck Bridge. Our group, No Mid-Currituck Bridge (“NoMCB”), is comprised of residents and visitors from both the Currituck mainland and the Currituck Outer Banks. We began meeting as a group in 2010 and, since that time, have held community meetings to share information about the proposed bridge, voice our opposition, and construct alternative solutions.

We write today to ask that you seriously consider a newly developed alternative submitted by our group to your Department in December. This alternative, a summary of which is attached, stems from our in-depth experience as to the true transportation concerns in Currituck County and the Northern Outer Banks. The solutions we proposed were further developed by transportation expert Walter Kulash, who has over 45 years’ experience in transportation engineering. We believe the alternative would alleviate traffic congestion on NC 12 without the high fiscal and environmental cost of the bridge.

Recent findings by NCDOT demonstrate that now is the time to consider a new alternative to the bridge. Funding for the bridge, with cost estimates ranging up to \$678 million, appears to be in serious doubt. Only \$173 million has been set aside from the project from the STI—leaving the balance to be paid for by tolls. But with DOT’s projections of future traffic now severely diminished we do not believe that drivers will be willing to pay a toll high enough (based on some estimates, as high as \$50 for a one-way trip) to make the bridge financially viable. North Carolina’s scarce transportation resources should be more wisely spent.

As you know, the proposed bridge would cross the fragile and ecologically significant Currituck Sound, which continues to deteriorate because of development in southeastern Virginia. The Sound has historically been one of the most significant spots for wintering waterfowl on the east coast, and it is cherished for the recreational opportunities it provides. The bridge’s construction and use would harm the Sound in an unacceptable manner.

In addition to our serious concerns about the environmental impacts of the bridge, we are also concerned about the effect the bridge would have on the natural resources and character of the Currituck mainland and the Outer Banks. The bridge would induce

development in a way that has not been properly studied and accounted for. In addition to development, the bridge would also attract more visitors, including day-trippers from southeastern Virginia. This increased development and visitation would place an unsustainable strain on the land and natural resources of our small barrier island.

Our group represents part of the strong opposition to the Mid-Currituck Bridge on both the Currituck mainland and the Outer Banks. We hope that your department takes the time to take a thoughtful look at whether this costly and controversial project is truly the best solution. We urge you to consider our new alternative. We would be happy to meet with you to further discuss our concerns at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Jen Symonds,
NoMCB Steering Committee



Barb Marzetti
NoMCB Steering Committee