



Only three central corridor alternatives from a second Oak Island bridge to N. C. 211 remain under consideration. DOT says it will no longer consider corridor alternatives running through Sunset Harbor.

The Army Corps of Engineers is accepting comment on the project before ruling on necessary permit applications.

Bridge

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4401 Reedy Creek Road, Raleigh, NC 27611-7687. Comment will be accepted through April 3 to the attention of John Dorney.

Comment on the project itself may be directed to the corps' Wilmington District office, P. O. Box 1890, Wilmington, NC 28402-1890, attention Scott McLendon. Comment will be accepted through April 9.

The corps notice is significant in that, for the first time in discussion of road corridor between N. C. 211 and the area of the Intracoastal Waterway opposite Middleton Street, only three alternatives remain under consideration. DOT has decided that alternatives known as A, B and C are the only feasible routes for the road corridor.

Initially, two other western corridor alternatives, D and E, had been investigated, but were found to be unfeasible. Both ran through Sunset Harbor and were the subject of a good deal of debate when former Long Beach town councilor Frances Allen broke ranks with the rest of council and supported one of those routes in appearances before local governing boards and the N. C. Coastal Resources Commission late last year and early this year.

The corps notice says an environmental assessment (EA) performed by the state DOT in 1994 concludes alternatives A, B, and C are the only feasible corridor routes between N. C. 211 and the Yellow Banks spoil area.

"The EA contains information relative to three reasonable and feasible new location alternatives that traverse undeveloped land between N. C. Highway 211 and Oak Island, as well as other alternatives that would utilize the existing corridor along SR 1112, Sunset Harbor Road," the Corps of Engineers' notice says. "Based on the analysis in the EA, NCDOT does not consider any alternative that utilizes Sunset Harbor Road as reasonable and feasible and these alternatives are not currently under consideration for this project."

Long Beach mayor Joan Altman Tuesday said the exclusion of the western corridor alternatives through Sunset Harbor by DOT was logical at this time, as construction is scheduled to begin next year. It is still up to DOT and 17 government agencies with environmental and historic interests in the land to decide on one of the three remaining

central alternative corridor routes, she noted.

"I think the consideration of alternatives A, B and C only is consistent with the input DOT has received from interested state and federal agencies," mayor Altman said. "It is also consistent with what DOT has heard, from citizens of the area at public input meetings."

The narrowing of corridor alternatives to the three most direct routes also appears to represent a decision sensitive to the environment. The corps notes the three remaining alternatives impact between 6.4 and 9.9 acres of pocosin, bottomland hardwoods, pine plantations and tidal wetlands when all right-of-way is considered.

NCDOT is currently considering wetland mitigation opportunities -- replacing wetlands disturbed by the project -- but a plan is not yet ready for publication, it is noted.

"We were told at public meetings held on the bridge that DOT had pretty much settled on the three central corridors, based on cost and environmental considerations," mayor Altman said. She said as a courtesy to agencies involved in corridor selection, DOT had performed a second analysis of Sunset Harbor Road alternatives and confirmed original conclusions that these were unfeasible.

"The proposed project is the construction of a high-rise bridge over the (Intracoastal Waterway) from Middleton Avenue to the mainland, the replacement of Bridge No. 206 over Davis Canal (at Middleton Street) and the construction of a two-lane road on a new location from the (Intracoastal Waterway) to N. C. Highway 211, near Smith, Brunswick County, North Carolina," the corps notice says.

The corps notice notes the purposes of the second bridge and corridor project include:

- "(To) provide safe and timely emergency evacuation of Oak Island during severe storms or a nuclear accident at the Brunswick Nuclear Power Plant;

- "(To) provide better access to U. S. 17;

- "(To) provide better access for Oak Island residents and visitors to county services, government offices, schools, medical and emergency services and additional law enforcement;

- "(To) improve the level of service of the existing bridge."

Murder

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or both, may have worked for Morgan, helping him to rebuild the outbuilding on his property.

The ligature used in Morgan's strangling, a weapon used in his bludgeoning and a knife used to stab him were recovered by investigators from an area near the Morgan home the day his body was discovered. In the course of their investigation police also determined a credit card, money clip and driver's license had been taken from the Morgan home.

Executing a search warrant on the Herring Drive home the two teenagers occupied, police found cut-up bits of the credit card and driver's license and an inscribed money clip belonging to Morgan.

Sauls was arrested immediately upon those discoveries and Ireland, who is deaf, was arrested after the services of an interpreter were secured.

The two were charged in September, 1997, with first-degree murder and armed robbery.

Caswell

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in the water ordinance which will allow the town to discontinue service if bills are not paid within 30 days. But, staff will continue to use great discretion in ordering cutoffs.

"We don't instantly go out there and cut their water off," Boyd said. "We usually call people..."

And, commissioners decided they will discourage use of unmetered water for sinking pilings at new construction sites. While the town had the option of establishing a "per piling" fee for water use from hydrants, it will instead require

meters be installed before pilings are set.

While O'Connor may have lost his fight to reduce water costs when lines break, Boyd lost his bid to hike user rates at this time. Boyd contended last month user rates should be raised to as much as \$2.40 per 1,000 gallons. None of his fellow commissioners agreed.

"The user rate is going to remain at \$2.05 for the foreseeable future," O'Connor said.

Dog

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ceiling into another classroom where a second officer was waiting.

And, *Dog and Kennel* tells a personal side of Marco's story not well-publicized here in Brunswick County to date. Marco, who has sired an estimated 40 offspring, will have a granddaughter heading into a law enforcement career of her own.

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Obituaries

Mary Elizabeth Costin, 31, of Nashville

Mary Elizabeth Costin, 31, of Nashville died Wednesday, March 11, 1998. She was born February 12, 1967, in Cumberland County, daughter of Halbert R. and Doris Davis Costin. She was a computer operator for Swift Creek Elementary School.

Survivors include her parents; a sister, Wanda Rother of Ft. Walton Beach, FL.; brothers, Halbert R. Costin Jr. of Aynor, SC, Mike Costin and Joe Costin, both of Bolivia; two nieces and five nephews.

A memorial service was held Saturday at Johnson Funeral Home Chapel. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Heart Association.

Mary Rose Bowling Lewis of Long Beach

Mrs. Mary Rose Bowling Lewis, 92, of Long Beach died Tuesday, March 17, 1998, at Doshier Memorial Hospital. Funeral services and interment will be in Hyden, KY, under the direction of Walker Funeral Home.

Mrs. Lewis was born December 9, 1905, in Leslie County, KY, daughter of the late John and Nancy Joseph Bowling, and moved here eight years ago.

She was the widow of Arnold Jack Lewis and is survived by two daughters, Pauline Morgan of Long Beach and Ruth Lewis of Hyden, KY; a son, Doug Lewis of Detroit, MI; 13 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

A Peacock-Newnam service.

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