

Work Begins On Resurfacing U.S. 17 South Of Shallotte

BY RAIN ADAMS
 Motorists can plan for some delays in traffic on U.S. 17 this summer, as work began last week on resurfacing more than 22 miles of Brunswick County's major transportation artery.

The contractor handling the 22.85-mile project, Dickerson Carolina Inc. of Castle Hayne, began the \$1.1 million facelift last Wednesday, starting with the section of U.S. 17 South from the Shallotte town limits to near Old Shallotte Road.

According to Dave Boylston, resident engineer with the N.C. Department of Transportation in Wilmington, Dickerson Carolina's contract calls for U.S. 17 to be resurfaced from N.C. 87 at Bell Swamp to the South Carolina state line by August 15, with the exception of four small sections that will be parts of the future Shallotte and Bolivia bypasses.

"What we're doing is resurfacing the existing U.S. 17, to make it last until we can get the main project go-

ing—the widening of it," Boylston noted.
 DOT officials have said that four-laning the first of four sections of

U.S. 17 should begin this fall, with the entire project planned for completion in the second half of 1993. Total cost is estimated at around \$31.2 million.

The first leg to be widened will be from N.C. 211 to the Bolivia bypass; then from the Bolivia bypass to N.C. 87; from the Shallotte bypass to N.C.

211; and from South Carolina to the Shallotte bypass.

DOT, no work will be done between July 1 and July 10.

With work already underway, the Shallotte bypass could be open to traffic in late 1990, according to DOT officials. Boylston said work on the Bolivia bypass is expected to begin in 1990.

But in the meantime, motorists traveling through Brunswick County will have to endure traffic delays for the next three months while the resurfacing project is underway. Traffic will be routed through—not detoured around—the individual construction sites, Boylston said.

"There's just no real way to do it (detour traffic), if you know Brunswick County," he commented. "Drivers should just be patient, and when they can move, move on through the work zone so the next man can move on, too."

He added that Fourth of July holiday traffic on U.S. 17 won't be slowed by the resurfacing work. According to the contractor's agreement with

The current improvement project, which involves resurfacing and shoulder paving, is divided into two separate contracts, both with Dickerson Carolina, Boylston said. Completion schedules for individual segments will depend on weather conditions and the contractor's work load in other counties.

The first contract includes the section south of Shallotte, which was begun last week, and a one-mile stretch north of the Shallotte town limits.

The second contract includes three sections of the two-lane highway where it does not tie in with the Shallotte and Bolivia bypasses. Boylston said those sections are from N.C. 87 to just north of Bolivia; from Red Bug Road to Galloway Road; and from South Carolina to near Old Shallotte Road.



FLAGMAN DEMPSEY FLOWERS of Chadbourn stops traffic last week on U.S. 17 South in Shallotte, as road crews from Dickerson Carolina Inc. of Castle Hayne begin resurfacing the highway from the town

limits to near Old Shallotte Road. Motorists can expect delays in traffic through mid-August, while the contractor improves more than 22 miles of U.S. 17 between Bell Swamp and the South Carolina state line.

Brunswick Nuclear Plant Cited For NRC Violation

Carolina Power & Light Company faces a \$50,000 fine from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for allegedly failing to comply with environmental qualification requirements at the Brunswick plant near Southport.

The fine, which was proposed by the NRC staff last Thursday, stems from an NRC inspection in July 1987 that reviewed the use of uncertified electrical equipment or components. The company was given 30 days to either pay or protest the fine.

After the problems were identified and reported by CP&L, NRC inspectors confirmed several instances where the equipment, whose performance should have been certified for use during adverse accident conditions, had not been properly tested and certified as required.

"The instances in question did not jeopardize the safety of the plant or

the public," Brunswick Nuclear Project Vice President Pat Howe said in a news release Friday.

According to the NRC, the company corrected the violation by having the components certified soon after the matter was reported. However, the agency maintained that CP&L should have known about the problems and would have discovered them if adequate field verification had been performed.

The NRC said the base civil penalty for such noncompliance was \$150,000, but CP&L's fine was reduced to \$50,000 due to the company's identification and prompt reporting of the problems. Other factors in reducing the penalty were CP&L's efforts to be in compliance within a set deadline and initiation of "vigorous and extensive" corrective action.

Six Seniors Compete Sunday For Williamson Scholarships

Six Brunswick County seniors—a boy and girl from each of the three high schools—compete Sunday for two scholarships worth \$2,500 each.

The annual competition begins at 3:30 p.m. at West Brunswick High School's multipurpose room and is open to the public.

The Williamsons, of Ocean Isle Beach, have awarded two one-year scholarships annually since 1972. They can be used at any four-year college or university in the state.

Competing this year from West Brunswick High School will be Ursula McMillian, with a speech entitled, "Dare To Dream," and Harold Dean Smith, "The American Farmer: A Proud Heritage." McMillian is the daughter of John McMillian of Longwood; Smith is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Benny Smith of Ash.

From South, the competitors will be Dionne Parker, with "Give It Your Best," and Bernard Flythe, speaking on "Why Aren't We Competitive?" Parker is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Parker of

Southport and Flythe is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Flythe of Southport.

While West and South held their school-level competitions last week, North Brunswick High was to hold its contest Wednesday, May 11.

Other competitors at West and South were as follows: West—Maureen Solano, Shannon Bardin, Ginny Gurganus and Joel Johnson; and South—Alcindor Hankins, Rachel Ragsdale, Marc Spencer, Robin Vittitoe and Maria Ward.

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