

August 25, 2026

The Honorable Sean P. Duffy
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy,

The organizations and local governments represented below write in strong support of your vision to complete and modernize the nation's Interstate Highway System as Congress considers the next surface transportation reauthorization bill. We particularly support efforts to advance construction on unbuilt, congressionally designated Interstate highways, including Interstate 73 in South Carolina.

I-73 would provide the Grand Strand with a direct Interstate connection, improving freight mobility, public safety, regional access, and economic competitiveness. For a fast-growing coastal region that remains one of the nation's largest drive-to tourism destinations, that connection is especially important. It would also strengthen hurricane evacuation capacity and provide greater transportation resiliency during emergencies.

The economic stakes are significant. In 2025, the Myrtle Beach area welcomed **17.8 million visitors**, who spent **\$13.3 billion** in the region. Tourism's total economic impact exceeds **\$26 billion** and supports more than **82,000 jobs** across the Grand Strand. Horry County also collected **more than \$31 million in accommodations taxes** - roughly 30 percent of South Carolina's statewide total. Completing I-73 would help protect and expand this economic engine while improving access for residents, visitors, businesses, and freight.

As surface transportation reauthorization advances, we respectfully encourage the Department to continue championing dedicated and predictable federal funding for completion of congressionally authorized Interstate corridors. These investments have been planned for years and can deliver substantial national and regional benefits in mobility, safety, commerce, tourism, and emergency preparedness. We appreciate your leadership and look forward to working with you and the Department to advance this priority.

Respectfully,

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