

Rec'd 10-24-08
mv.



U.S. Department
of Transportation
20590
Federal Highway
Administration

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C.

October 7, 2008

In Reply Refer To: HEPI-20

Mr. John Horsley
Executive Director
American Association of State Highway
and Transportation Officials
444 North Capitol Street, NW.
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Horsley:

This is in response to your letter of September 10, 2008, to Federal Highway Administrator Thomas J. Madison, Jr. requesting comments on four applications from North Carolina regarding numbering of Interstate highways. These requests will be considered at the October 18, 2008, meeting of the Special Committee on U.S. Route Numbering. The following are our comments taken in the order provided in your letter:

North Carolina Extend I-73 in Guilford: number as I-73 from I-85 (exit 122) and the intersection of I-73 and (SR 2085) Joseph Bryan Boulevard (exit 4)

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) reaffirms this number. This number is established by law under ISTEA 1105(c)(5) as amended. The new route from Business Route 85 west and north on new alignment to SR 2085 will be numbered as I-73. For the section that overlaps I-85 from US 220 and Business Route 85 and is already on the Interstate System, the I-73 number will be concurrent with the I-85 number. The route on the new alignment may only be referred to as "Future I-73" until added to the Interstate System.

North Carolina Establish I-140 in New Hanover: number as I-140 from US 17 north of Wilmington eastward 6.80 miles to I-40 north of Wilmington.

The FHWA reaffirms this number. FHWA approved this numbering on September 11, 2002, and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) concurred on May 30, 2003. This numbering may only be referred to as "Future I-140" until added to the Interstate System.

North Carolina Elimination of I-440 in Wake County: proposed removal of the I-440 route number from the section of I-40 between US 1 and the eastern I-40/US 64 split.

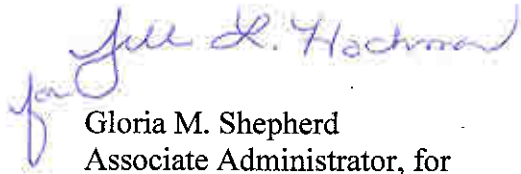
The FHWA approves with this request subject to concurrence by the AASHTO. This request will be covered by a separate letter.

North Carolina Extend I-540 in Wake County: number as I-540 from US 1 eastward, 9.5 miles to US 64.

The FHWA reaffirms this number. AASHTO approved this number on April 21, 1996, and FHWA concurred on June 6, 1996. This numbering may only be referred to as "Future I-540" until added to the Interstate System.

If there are any questions regarding these comments, please contact Mike Neathery at (202) 366-1257.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gloria M. Shepherd". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name.

Gloria M. Shepherd
Associate Administrator, for
Planning, Environment, and Realty

AASHTO Route Numbering Committee - Fall 2008

I-73 / Guilford Co. / From Bryan Boulevard to US 220

- Requesting addition. Approximately 11.5 miles.
- Interstate 73 was approved by US Congress as a High Priority Corridor with NHS Act of 1995 and subsequently approved by AASHTO for the I-73 route number designation.
- Facility will alleviate congestion in Triad Region.
- Triad composed of Davidson, Forsyth and Guilford Counties have over 1,000,000 residents.
- New Interstate alignment will provide heavy commercial traffic an additional access from congested routes in Greensboro onto a newer, substantially more efficient highway.
- More efficient access to Piedmont Triad Airport.

I-440 / Wake Co. / From US 1 Interchange to I-40/US 64 split

- Requesting removal of designation of I-440 that is concurrent with I-40. Approximately 8.5 miles.
- This section of I-40 and I-440 has created some confusion and problems with signing which we believe will be corrected with the route designation removal of I-440.
- Route designation and route number for I-40 along this section will remain unchanged.

I-540 / Wake Co. / From US 1 to US 64/ US 264

- Requesting addition. Approximately 9.5 miles.
- FHWA approved Northern Wake Expressway from NC 55 to Knightdale Bypass as a future addition to the Interstate system in 1996.
- AASHTO approved I-540 as the route number designation in 1996.
- This portion of I-540 is the next segment of the Expressway completed and continues the I-540 designation.

I-140 / New Hanover / From US 421 eastward to I-40

- Requesting addition. Approximately 6.8 miles.
- FHWA approved Wilmington North Outer Loop (US 17 Bypass) from Scotts Hill westward to US 421 as a future addition to the Interstate system in 2002.
- AASHTO approved the Interstate number I-140 in 2003.

US 17 Bypass / Bertie Co. / From US 17 SW of Windsor to US 17 E of Windsor

- Requesting addition. Approximately 8.67 miles.
- Newly constructed multilane limited access facility.
- Designation will benefit traveling public by providing bypass route around town of Windsor, alleviating congestion along US 17.

US 117 Alternate / Wayne and Wilson Co. / From 0.5 miles S of NC 581 to I-795/US 264

- Requesting deletion submitted in conjunction with application to relocate US 117 onto original alignment. Approximately 23.15 miles.
- US 117 runs concurrently with I-795.
- US 117 was lengthened to intersect I-95 and placed on the freeway section now jointly designated as I-95/US 117.
- Request made to eliminate overlap. Proposed to return the designation of US 117 to its complete original alignment, currently designated as US 117 A.

US 117 / Wayne and Wilson Co. / From 0.5 miles S of NC 581 to US 301

- Requesting relocation in conjunction with application to delete US 117 Alternate. Approximately 21.87 miles.
- Propose to return the designation of US 117 to its complete original alignment, currently designated as US 117 Alternative.
- The original alignment of US 117 ended at US 301 in Wilson prior to its extension to I-95 and ran concurrent with US 13/70 for a short section in Goldsboro.