

*County of Brunswick*  
*Office of the County Commissioners*



**BRUNSWICK COUNTY RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING  
EXPLORATION AND FUNDING OF CAPE FEAR MEMORIAL BRIDGE  
REPLACEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge, which joins Brunswick County with New Hanover County, was constructed in 1969 and is nearing the end of its physical life and is subject to burdensome and expensive maintenance and rehabilitation repairs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge is a vital link connecting Brunswick County and New Hanover County residents to jobs, health care, businesses, and services; and

**WHEREAS**, the traffic volume crossing the bridge is expected to increase from its current daily count of approximately 60,000 vehicles to 81,900 vehicles per day in 2045; and

**WHEREAS**, the N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) halted planning for the potential Cape Fear Crossing in August 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, at its June 2020 meeting, the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO), agreed to make replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge its top unfunded strategic priority, as reflected in a July 10, 2020 letter from the WMPO to NCDOT; and

**WHEREAS**, NCDOT received an unsolicited proposal for a public-private partnership to replace the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge with a toll bridge funded by a private developer; and

**WHEREAS**, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners heard an initial presentation on the unsolicited proposal at a special meeting on July 21, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners supported further exploration of the unsolicited proposal along with all other available options for replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge; and

**WHEREAS**, the unsolicited proposal was rejected by the WMPO in a split, 7-5 vote on July 28, 2021;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Brunswick County:

- 1) The County encourages the WMPO to determine whether replacement of the Cape Fear

Memorial Bridge truly remains a top strategic priority and, if so, to continue exploring ALL available options for replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge; and

- 2) The County directs staff to investigate and pursue any federal and state funds that may be available to offset the cost of a bridge replacement project.
- 3) The County urges our State and Federal lawmakers and executive branch officials to pursue all available funding options to replace the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

This the 2nd day of August, 2021.

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Randell Thompson, Chairman  
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST

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Daralyn Spivey  
Clerk to the Board