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News Release

Board Wants Swift Action on Monroe Bypass

March 19, 2013, Monroe, NC – The Union County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution supporting prompt action for construction of the Monroe Bypass.

“This is crucial, this is critical,” said Commissioner Frank Aikmus. “We’ve got the quality of life, but frankly we can’t get the goods from one end of the county to the other.”

The Monroe Connector-Bypass project is a 19.7 mile-long roadway from U.S. 74 at I-485 in eastern Mecklenburg County to U.S. 74 between Wingate and Marshville. When complete, the bypass will allow high-speed regional travel consistent with the designations of the North Carolina Strategic Highway Corridor program and the North Carolina Intrastate system. Currently, Union County is not served by a limited-access highway.

According to the resolution, 49.8 percent of Union County commuters work outside the county and spend a large amount of time in congested traffic. It also states that public safety response times are negatively impacted due to traffic congestion and the Monroe Bypass will ease congestion on U.S. 74 and other routes.

Union County currently has an 8.1 percent unemployment rate and must collect 85 percent of its property taxes from residential tax base. The proclamation affirms the Monroe Bypass will stimulate economic and commercial development.

Despite years of planning, recent delays in the project have impeded many Union County residents from selling, improving or renovating their homes, properties or businesses. The Union County Board of Commissioners encourages state and federal officials to move promptly to begin construction.

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