



US 70 Corridor Commission

TO: Honorable Andy Moore
c/o Michael Scott

Honorable Jeffrey Carver
c/o Rick Hester

Honorable Chuck Allen
c/o Scott A. Stevens

Honorable Joe Gurley
c/o George Wood

Honorable B.J. Murphy
c/o Tony Sears

Honorable Craig Hill
c/o Michael Jarman

Honorable Dana E. Outlaw
c/o Mark A. Stephens

Honorable Thomas Mark
c/o Jack B. Veit III

FROM: M. Durwood Stephenson

DATE: October 3, 2017

RE: FLOOD STUDY – NEUSE RIVER BASIN

The lingering effects of Matthew and the consequences of down-stream flooding continues to haunt eastern North Carolina. In response to Resolutions supporting studies of escalating flooding of eastern North Carolina from U.S. 70 Corridor Commission and several other regional Resolutions from Towns and Counties, N.C. DOT has agreed to fund and lead a study to explore plans to minimize future flooding along the Neuse River Basin.

As we learned last month the Corps of engineers has indicated they currently have no authority to study flooding in the Neuse River Basin and would require a Resolution from Congress and an appropriation to fund the study. It is unlikely a Congressional Resolution and funding will be approved soon with the recent hurricane and flooding in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico. We cannot wait to take action.

NCDOT is currently compiling information and identifying stakeholders to establish the Neuse River Flood Abatement Research Steering Committee.

M. Durwood Stephenson
Director

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NCDOT Secretary Trogdon and Chief of Staff Bobby Lewis have identified the following groups as stakeholders and assets in preparing and recommending measures to monitor and minimize future flooding in the Neuse River Basin in Eastern N.C.;

- U.S. Geological Survey/NC State University Water Resources Research Institute
- NC Department of Agriculture Commissioner
- NC Department of Public Safety's Flood Mapping Program Director
- NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Dam Safety Program Director
- NC Department of Transportation's Office of the Secretary and Hydraulics Unit
- Mayors of Municipalities along Corridor:
 - Smithfield
 - Goldsboro
 - Kinston
 - New Bern
- Boards of Commissioners
 - Johnston
 - Wayne
 - Lenoir
 - Craven
 - Carteret

Jamie Shern, NCDOT Environmental Program Advisor will serve as Committee Staff Director and will involve agencies and scientific community as noted above and perhaps others as need arises.

I am soliciting volunteers and interested partners from Towns and Counties along the Corridor to serve on the Steering Committee. At your earliest convenience, please provide the name and contact information for persons that are willing to serve as we plan forward.

It is necessary for us to plan ahead in order to minimize future flooding of our communities as we witnessed in Houston.

Thank you and please contact me if you have questions.

cc: James Trogdon, Secretary
Bobby Lewis, Chief of Staff
Jamie Shern, Environmental Program Advisor
Jennifer Collins
Tom Mark
Ramey Kemp