



# MEMORANDUM

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**To:** Members of the Finance Committee

**From:** Rich Olson, City Manager

**Date:** November 8, 2016

**Re:** Consideration – Authorization to Submit Application to Tourism Development Authority for Highway 17 Association

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***BACKGROUND:***

The Highway 17 Association is an organization that has been working for several years toward having US Highway 17/64 completely four-laned throughout North Carolina, from its border with Virginia to its border with South Carolina. The organization also serves as a lobbyist in an effort to get the state to make other improvements to the highway as a means of facilitating economic development along the U.S. 17 corridor. Significant progress has been made in recent years toward this effort.

In addition, the Association has been a staunch advocate for a new interstate highway planned to connect Norfolk and Raleigh, which will open a high-speed, unobstructed route between the Virginia port and the Research Triangle. The highway, to be called Interstate 87, has been officially approved as part of the Interstate Highway System, but it may take as long as 20 years to construct. The Association will continue to play an important role in helping to move this initiative forward.

***ANALYSIS:***

Since fiscal year 2011-2012 the City has provided an annual contribution to the Highway 17 Association. The first year, the Council provided funding through a Community Support Grant; however, since that time requests for funding have been made through the Tourism Development Authority.

Staff has received a request for Elizabeth City's support for the Association for fiscal year 2016-2017 (see attached). It is staff's recommendation that the Council consider providing funding by application to the TDA in the amount of \$1,000.

***STAFF RECOMMENDATION:***

By motion, authorize staff to make application to the TDA in the amount of \$1,000 for the Highway 17 Association for fiscal year 2016-2017.

RCO/vdw



RECEIVED

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P.O. Box 1673 • New Bern, NC 28563  
Phone (252) 514-2748 • Fax (252) 633-3565

October 31, 2016

Mr. Richard Olson, Manager  
City of Elizabeth City  
P.O. Box 349  
Elizabeth City, NC 27907

Dear Mr. Olson:

On behalf of the U.S. Highway 17 / 64 Transportation Association in North Carolina (Tax ID # 61-1517857) please accept our profound appreciation for Elizabeth City's support for the Association's continuing efforts. Please consider this document an official invoice for approved funds for fiscal year 2016-2017.

Sincerely,

Marc Finlayson  
Executive Director

Thanks Rich!  
Best,  
Marc

**Amount Due:                      \$1,000.00**

Payable to:

*Highway 17 Association*  
P.O. Box 1673  
New Bern, NC 28563

**Again, thank you very much for your continuing support.**