



Charleston.Net > News > State/Region

STATE/REGION The Post and Courier

EMAIL THIS STORY

PRINT THIS STORY

Story last updated at 7:55 a.m. Friday, January 23, 2004

# Bill includes \$95M for Lowcountry

BY WARREN WISE

Of The Post and Courier Staff

Port security, highway construction, land conservation and other Lowcountry projects would reap a total of nearly \$95 million in federal money if President Bush signs the \$373 billion federal spending bill passed Thursday by the Senate.

Nearly a third of the local money, \$29.5 million, would beef up port security in Charleston through Project Seahawk, the nation's first port security command and control center. Another \$16.75 million would go toward the purchase of Bonneau Ferry, a 10,697-acre tract that paper giant MeadWestvaco is selling in the heart of the Cooper River Historic District in Berkeley County.

The Medical University of South Carolina also was among the big winners, getting \$22.1 million for a slew of programs and improvements. The spending plan includes \$4.5 million to build a visitor center in the ACE Basin and \$3.42 million to hire scientists and expand the U.S. Vegetable Laboratory in Charleston.

Another \$3.25 million would improve the highly congested Bowman Road-U.S. Highway 17 intersection in Mount Pleasant, while local law enforcement would share \$2.5 million for interconnected information systems.

Port security, though, gets the Lowcountry's biggest share of federal dollars.

"This Congress and this administration have failed to provide the funding necessary to secure our ports, and I will not let their lack of foresight threaten security at our Port of Charleston," said Sen. Fritz Hollings, who secured \$9 million for Project Seahawk in last year's federal spending plan.



advanced search



homes



jobs



news



autos

## ADVERTISING



SEE TODAY'S ADS

Today's Newspaper Ads

Local Jobs

Area Homes

New and Used Autos



HOMES



JOBS



AUTOS

→ SUBMIT AN AD

## JOB SEEKERS:

BE SURE TO BROWSE THE DISPLAY ADS



## STATE/REGION

[State may be out \\$40M in bridge removal](#)

[Law change doubles debt to ethics office](#)

[S.C. high court to hear 'Kitchen Sink' bill arguments](#)

[GOP Web site opens window on Legislature](#)

[Legislators gather, get committee assignments and elect chairmen](#)

### Quick Navigation

- Classifieds
- Weather
- Home
- User Registration

### News

- Local News
- State/Region
- World/Nation
- Terror/Iraq
- Business
- Stock Quotes
- The Wire
- Archives
- Obituaries
- Opinion
- Columnists

### Sports

- Sports
- High School
- Outdoors
- Columnists

### Special Reports

- Brown v. Board
- Business Outlook
- Good Samaritan Mission
- Sep 11 Lawsuit
- Weddings
- H.L. Hunley
- Summer Camps

**Features**

- Arts & Travel
- Book Reviews
- Home & Gardens
- Faith & Values
- Health & Science
- Ink (for teens)
- Get Out!
- PETC.
- Ed. 101
- Food
- Family Life
- Fashion
- High Profile
- Automotive
- Homes & Real Estate
- Columnists

**Entertainment**

- TV Listings
- Preview
- Movies
- Dining Guide

**Interact**

- Internet Access
- Net Gateway
- Feedback
- Customer Service
- About Us

**Directories**

- Advertising
- Rate Card
- Classifieds
- Real Estate
- Employment
- Transportation
- Governments
- Tips for Tourists
- Summer Guide

Charleston is the nation's fourth-largest container port, and Project Seahawk is a comprehensive effort to coordinate port security with various federal, state, local and private entities.

The project brings together the FBI, Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Customs Service, the Coast Guard, the State Law Enforcement Division, local law enforcement, the State Ports Authority and other agencies under one port security command center.

The \$16.75 million for Bonneau Ferry would be added to the \$14 million already allotted for the tract in the 2003 federal budget. The S.C. Department of Natural Resources and conservation groups want to buy the tract at the juncture of the Cooper River and its eastern branch to preserve it from development.

Outside the Lowcountry, the spending plan earmarks \$33.12 million for a new federal prison in Williamsburg County, \$9.4 million for an electronic case management system that will integrate criminal information from all 46 counties and \$3.77 million for a shrimp aquaculture study between South Carolina and six other states.

While Hollings bemoaned the amount of money being directed to port security, Sen. Lindsey Graham praised the bipartisan fashion of approving the budget, which passed by a 65-28 vote.

**S.C. projects in the \$373 billion federal spending bill**

**LOWCOUNTRY**

-- Port of Charleston: \$29.5 million for Project Seahawk, the nation's first port security command and control center.

-- Bonneau Ferry: \$16.75 million toward the purchase of the 10,697-acre tract that encompasses a third of the Cooper River Historic District in Berkeley County.

-- Medical University of South Carolina: \$14 million for a cooperative agreement with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, \$4 million for maintenance, acquisition and rehabilitation of bus facilities, \$4 million to the Oncology Center for improvements and equipment, and \$100,000 to help single head-of-household women with children turn away from crime and drugs and become self-sufficient.

-- ACE Basin: \$4.5 million to construct the ACE Basin Wildlife Management Area Visitor Center.

-- U.S. Vegetable Laboratory: \$3.42 million for construction and funding to hire additional scientists at the Charleston facility.

-- S.C. Department of Transportation: \$3.25 million for interchange improvements at Bowman Road and U.S. Highway 17 in Mount

LOCAL/STATE

Garden clubs deck Lace House, Governor's Mansion for holidays

S.C. LOTTERY

Pleasant.

-- Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties: \$2.5 million for a shared information system for local law enforcement.

-- College of Charleston: \$2 million for the School of Science and Mathematics to enhance and expand science and technology programs.

-- Charleston Commissioners of Public Works: \$1.4 million for wastewater tunnel replacement.

-- North Charleston Regional Intermodal Transportation Center: \$1.25 million for maintenance, acquisition and rehabilitation of bus facilities.

-- Cooper River Bridge: \$1.25 million toward replacement.

-- Ravenel: \$1.2 million for construction of sewer lines along U.S. Highway 17.

-- S.C. Department of Transportation: \$1 million for improvements to Berlin G. Myers Parkway Extension in Summerville.

-- Trident Technical College: \$1 million to equip the information technology center, electromechanical skills lab, and the hospitality, tourism and culinary arts program.

-- Georgetown: \$1 million to the Five Rivers Community Development Corp. for economic development and affordable housing.

-- Lowcountry Children's Center: \$750,000 for abused children in Charleston.

-- Care Centers: \$250,000 to extend forensic health care service to outlying rural areas of Charleston.

-- Charleston Bump: \$650,000 for research and \$500,000 for billfish tagging.

-- Advanced Technology Institute: \$200,000 to the North Charleston facility.

-- St. James-Santee Family Health Center: \$200,000 to the McClellanville facility.

-- Charleston County: \$200,000 for the Charleston Media Technology Park project.

-- Edisto Beach: \$100,000 to restore Edisto Beach marsh.

## **STATEWIDE**

- Williamsburg County: \$33.12 million for a new federal prison.
  
- Department of Natural Resources: \$17.28 million for the Cooperative Offshore Fisheries Enforcement Program for funding and equipment of enforcement officers.
  
- S.C. Judicial Department: \$9.4 million for court case management system upgrade.
  
- State Law Enforcement Division: \$5 million to enhance statewide law enforcement, particularly in high-technology crime investigation.
  
- Shrimp aquaculture study: \$3.77 million to study shrimp in South Carolina and six other states.
  
- S.C. DOT: \$4 million to replace the transit fleet; \$3.5 million for the Inroads Intelligent Transportation System project to place video cameras, changeable message signs and other safety devices along the state's interstate highways; and \$2.25 million for construction study of the proposed Interstate 73 to Myrtle Beach.
  
- National Marine Fisheries Service: \$2 million for S.C. Cooperative Research, \$1 million for oyster recovery, \$800,000 for health and risk assessment in Charleston, \$650,000 to study shrimp pathogens and \$500,000 for the South Carolina Taxonomic Center to support fishing activities.
  
- University of South Carolina: \$800,000 for the school's Earth Sciences and Resources Institute to continue developing a geographic information system for the Natural Resources Conservation Service's commodity and conservation management programs and \$500,000 for the National Center for Prosecutorial Ethics
  
- Clemson University: \$900,000 to continue researching the effects of changing land use on the environment, \$273,000 for pest control techniques, \$270,000 for cotton quality research and \$234,000 for Peach Tree Short Life program research.
  
- Rail study: \$750,000 to conduct a Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor Study.
  
- Southeastern Law Enforcement Technology Center: \$1 million to partner with SPAWAR System Center in Hanahan for research and development of software radio technology.