

## **Outer Banks Transportation Study Fact Sheet**

### Background

- The Outer Banks Transportation Task Force was created in 2004 to address issues of traffic congestion.
- A contract was entered into with NC State's Institute for Transportation Research and Education for assistance in developing solutions and conducting a public involvement process leading to community consensus.
- To include both short- and long-term solutions, but with emphasis on the short-term.
- Study recommendations cover five key areas:
  1. Public transportation
  2. Bicycle and pedestrian transportation
  3. Traffic solutions
  4. Transportation demand management
  5. Institutional/organizational

### Public Transportation

- Four seasonal trolley bus routes recommended--Memorial Day-September, 6AM-10PM, every 30 minutes.
- Two loop routes operating counterclockwise on US 158 and NC 12 serving the area between Southern Shores and Whalebone Junction—a northern and a southern route.
- A third route connecting to the northern loop route in Southern Shores and serving Duck/Sanderling.
- A fourth route connecting to the southern loop route at Whalebone Junction and serving Manteo/Roanoke Island.
- Riders to be served include tourists, seasonal workers, and residents.

### Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation

- A fairly extensive system of bicycle and pedestrian facilities already exists on the Outer Banks (multi-use paths, wide paved shoulders, sidepaths, wide curb lanes, bridge improvements, and designated bicycle routes).
- A Dare County Bicycle Map has just been produced.
- More bicycle and pedestrian facilities are needed and are recommended.
- Guidelines for building such facilities are also provided.

### Traffic Solutions

- A number of short-term recommendations are made, including improvements in highway signage, adding left turn lanes and traffic calming measures in villages between Whalebone and Hatteras, and adding more right turn lanes on US 158 .
- In addition to short-term recommendations, four longer-term proposals are made in regard to key traffic congestion trouble spots that were identified: 1) the US 158 Corridor from the Wright Memorial Bridge to Whalebone Junction; 2) the NC 12 corridor in the Duck commercial area; 3) the 12/158 intersection in Kitty Hawk/Southern Shores; and, 4) the Midway intersection in Manteo.

- In the two corridors and at the Midway intersection, a “superstreet” treatment is recommended (this mainly involves a median, limited left-turn options, and more efficient traffic signalization).
- At the 12/158 intersection, due to the high traffic volumes a grade-separated interchange is recommended to eliminate the conflict between traffic on US 158 and NC 12.

Note: the proposed Mid-Currituck Bridge was not addressed in this study due primarily to its inclusion in the more extensive federal Environmental Impact Assessment study currently underway (the Currituck Sound Area Transportation Study).

#### Transportation Demand Management

- This concept involves making more efficient use of existing transportation resources, and makes use of various strategies to influence travel behavior (how, when and where people travel) to reduce or redistribute travel demand.
- Recommended activities include:
  1. Parking and access management
  2. Educational programs—shifting rental turnover, leaving one car at home, information on alternative modes, use of traveler information systems
  3. Land use—increased coordination between transportation and land use planners, state and local stakeholders, promotion of mixed-use development

#### Institutional/Organizational Solutions

- A Transportation Management Association (TMA) is recommended in order to provide an ongoing capability to address multi-modal transportation issues that are unique to the Outer Banks.
- It is also suggested that consideration be given to joining or forming a regional transit authority.

Note: three other studies are being conducted or have recently been completed that relate to transportation on the Outer Banks:

- A study recommending trolley bus service on Ocracoke Island
- A study of trolley bus service in the Corolla area
- The Currituck Sound Area Transportation Study (looking at the proposed Mid-Currituck Bridge and related transportation issues)

For more information: [www.itre.ncsu.edu/obx](http://www.itre.ncsu.edu/obx)