

Outer Banks Transportation Task Force
Bike and Pedestrian Transportation Committee

**Minutes from February 17, 2006 at 8:30 AM in the
Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce Meeting Room**

In Attendance:

Erin Burke, Bill Brobst, Bruce Ferrier, Ann Coughlin, Sue Cotellessa, Megan Gregory, Charles Hardy, Fran Jefferson, Seth Lawless, Greg Loy, John Walsh, Jason Weeks, Cheryl Byrd, and Jody Crosswhite

Absent: Kermit Skinner, Chip Cowan, Kathy Crawford, and Stefan Dabrowski

The group introduced themselves and reviewed and corrected the contact information sheet.

There was discussion of appointing a chairperson. The committee decided to elect co-chairpersons, Kermit Skinner and Megan Gregory.

A regular meeting date of the third Friday of the month at 9:00 am in the Chamber of Commerce meeting room was agreed upon.

Jason Weeks, of Currituck County, discussed the facilities that Currituck has to offer. Mr. Weeks stated that the County had just finished facilities on the Mainland. The bike loop in a new park is approximately one mile long. He said that the county is very interested in extending facilities north from Duck, possibly up to Corolla Light.. He stated that extension would probably look similar to the path that runs through Southern Shores and Duck.

Greg Loy, of Kill Devil Hills, said that DOT would be a good source of funding; however funds from DOT may take a little longer to obtain than funds from other possible funding sources.

Bill Brobst, of the Wheels of Dare Bicycle Club, added that the benefit of using DOT is that they use state and national standards. The standards would address the different users on the paths.

Ann Coughlin, State Parks and Recreation, said that the various users should all be taken into consideration.

Megan Gregory, of Hatteras, said that the group should pursue the widest paths possible. This would possibly allow for the various users to be accommodated.

Greg Loy, of Kill Devil Hills, said that both a wide shoulder and a path are important because the cyclists and the recreational biking/skating/walking users do not have the same needs.

Ann Coughlin, State Parks and Recreation, said that paths in Northern Virginia are used as means of commuting.

Cheryl Byrd, of Dare County, stated that this committee was established more to focus on developing a connected system of bicycle and pedestrian pathways as an alternative transportation network to the road system; use for recreation will occur but is a secondary focus.

Outer Banks Transportation Task Force
Bike and Pedestrian Transportation Committee

Charles Hardy, said that there are a number of things that this group can focus on and listed them.

- 1) New structures, including paths in Currituck County and on Hatteras Island
- 2) Old structures, including sidewalk systems that are not linked in the Towns
- 3) Schools - transportation to and from, safer areas for children to cross roads
- 4) Maintenance - once the paths are established who will be responsible?

Seth Lawless, of Nags Head, stated the Town is currently working on a plan to connect more neighborhoods. The plan is to connect area subdivisions to Barnes Street, from Barnes Street to the YMCA. The YMCA is directly across from the new Nags Head Elementary School. Seth said that the Town had discussed a cross over.

The committee all agreed that a signalized pedestrian system would work best. Crossovers rarely work as anticipated.

Greg Loy noted that one of the biggest hurdles this committee will face is public perception. People are very hesitant to allow for a path through their neighborhood, because of perceived safety threats.

The group decided that they should look at the informal survey done in Kitty Hawk after the Moore Shore Road path was established. Bruce Ferrier, of Kitty Hawk, said that the perception of people in that neighborhood has changed, and the path has actually been beneficial to the area.

Safety was another discussion topic. Bill Brobst noted that visitors from different areas all follow different protocol when using the paths and roads. Fran Jefferson, of the Colington Harbour HOA, said that currently, bicyclists are distractions for the motor vehicle traffic on Colington Road and this road is very dangerous for those riding bicycles and walking.

Fran also proposed a connector from Colington Harbour to the multi-use path in Kill Devil Hills. Greg Loy said that DOT is facing some right of way issues. DOT should be finishing their study soon and will make their recommendations public; Fran requested a copy of the plan when it is made available.

Another suggestion was to unify the sidewalk requirements of all the Municipalities.

Sue Cotellessa, of Duck, said that the group should work on a list of priorities. She recommended that the committee members review a document called "How to Develop a Pedestrian Safety Plan." Sue also enumerated things that the committee should look into:

1. List the Modes of Travel for paths.
2. Identify existing infrastructure and existing problems with it.
3. Evaluate safety of the trails and surroundings.
4. Determine locations of existing and new trails, DOT right of way issues including easements, storm water, safety etc; also identify obstacles.
5. Consider split modes of transportation, e.g., separate paths for pedestrians and cyclists, as appropriate.
6. Be aware of interfaces with Demand Management – another OBTF study area and committee

Outer Banks Transportation Task Force
Bike and Pedestrian Transportation Committee

7. Consider sign management – to reduce possible collisions between motor vehicles and path users and to adequately identify paths for users.
8. Identify/Find sources of funding.

Sue also stated that there should be a representative of DOT present at these meetings

The committee acknowledged that there was a wide breadth of topics that could be covered, but that they needed to have a mission statement and a list of goals and objectives. Greg Loy stated that it should be the goal of this group to identify and link existing facilities and to create new infrastructure. The committee members were tasked with bringing a list of goals and a mission statement to the next meeting.

Also being brought to the next meeting will be maps of the facilities that exist and any supporting information about those facilities, including widths, age and status of maintenance. In thinking about the future, members will need to also consider facilities associated with paths – such as water fountains, benches, restrooms, bike racks at businesses and recreational sites, etc.

Various members offered to bring the plans from the various towns and unincorporated areas to the next meeting. Cheryl Byrd will bring county-wide maps for use in future planning.

At the conclusion of the meeting members decided that the duty of taking minutes would be assigned each meeting.

The meeting ended at 10:00 AM