

**Bike - Pedestrian Transportation Committee Minutes
For Meeting of August 18, 2006**

Chamber of Commerce Bldg, Kill Devil Hills

Attendees: Kermit Skinner, Megan Gregory, Jody Crosswhite, Bill Brobst, Sue Cotellessa, Seth Lawless, Greg Loy, Jason Weeks, Jack McCombs.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am with Jody Crosswhite explaining where the executive committee was with the hiring of a staff person(s). Hopefully by September with the help of a \$40,000.00 grant from DOT the Outer Banks Transportation Task Force (OBTTF) will enter into an agreement with the Community Development Corporation (CDC) to provide staff support to the OBTTF in a variety of ways –not fully defined to date—but will include recording of minutes and announcements of meetings and agendas.

In further discussion Jody also informed the committee that the importance of the Bike & Pedestrian Committee was crucial to OBTTF. The fact that we are all volunteers with most members engaged in full-time jobs makes it difficult for many members to attend all meetings and participate in the workload. This is especially true during the summer months. With the \$40k grant and CDC's staff support it is anticipated the work burden on committee members will be reduced thus enabling the committee to be more productive.

A positive open discussion followed with comments and questions as follows:

- We need to get all the towns and communities together and consolidate as a whole for grants.
- Which committee member will coordinate with each local government entity will go to each town to find out what future plans they have for bike and pedestrian paths?
- Can a representative from NCDOT's Bike & Pedestrian division come to one of our meetings once we have a rough plan together for a consultation? This may prevent us from offering recommendations that have no chance of being approved.
- There was some discussion about the definition of "off-road" cycling. Megan was concerned that high speed cyclists may go "off-road" onto multiuse paths, which would endanger walkers and other users including adults with young children and infants. Jack and Bill explained that multiuse paths are designed for much slower cyclists, children, adults with infants in prams, and walkers. Off-road cyclists are those that ride in hilly and mountainous country or other dirt tracks where pavement does not exist. Road cyclists rarely ride multiuse paths since they are not able to do so safely at the speeds they ride. Thus multiuse paths will be available for those who need it most.
- Can we get Greg Ball, a GIS expert with Dare County, to come to our next meeting with GIS maps to better identify bike and pedestrian assets and deficits?

- **Action Item**

- Kermit will talk to Greg about attending the next meeting with the necessary GIS materials

Jody than thanked Kermit and Megan for the time and work they contributed to the Bike and Pedestrian committee. He than made a motion to elect Jack McCombs as the new chairperson of the committee, which was approved by the members. Subsequently, Jack asked that Jason Weeks be elected as co-chair as he is represents Currituck County whereas all other members are from Dare County. This was seconded by Kermit Skinner and approved by the members. Jack then assumed the chair and guided subsequent discussions with the items not yet discussed that were reflected on the previously published agenda.

- Inventory of Bike-Ped assets and deficits in the OBX.
 - The inventory or network was described, by the agenda, as
 - Existing paths
 - Deficits
 - It was the consensus of the committee this should be revised to:
 - Existing paths **and plans**
 - Deficits
 - **Action Items**
 - Jack asked members who represent the various localities to email to him the existing paths, plans, and deficits. He'll then email those to all members of the committee for their study, which will prepare them to discuss at the next meeting leading to recommendations and priorities for the OBTTF *//added by Jack during development of these minutes: if possible and practical Jack will take each members input and transfer them to a spreadsheet with columns for existing locale, assets, plans, deficits and a column for priority to be decided by the committee//*
 - There was no representation for Southern Shores and Kitty Hawk at this meeting. Jody will contact the Southern Shores Town Manager and ask for representation from that town; while Sue will contact the appropriate department person in the Kitty Hawk municipal office for a representative to the committee.
- Discussion of Jack's recommendations re bike safety (single page letter to all OBX residents and visitors, production of TV program)
 - There was considerable discussion about this item. It was thought it would be too expensive to send the single letter to all residents and visitors. An alternate approach is to incorporate the information into each town's newsletter/magazine.
 - **Action Items**
 - Sue Cotellessa will draft three versions of this information that will have different lengths so the towns can pick one that is best for their respective newsletters
 - Greg Loy mentioned his spouse has expertise in graphics and may be able to add icons to make the articles more interesting and attention getting to citizens.

- There were no decisions reached about the production of a TV program. Jack wanted something more than still photos or a PowerPoint show, although both of those approaches may have a role to play in a future production. Sue volunteered to try and find existing videos on this subject.
- Safety of European Guest workers
 - Jack is very concerned, as are others, that a young European guest worker is going to be killed sooner or later as these young people don't understand that American motorists do not give cyclists the same respect and care as do motorists in European countries. Further, young European cyclists often ride on the wrong side of the road, ride on Route 158, and violate other traffic laws, which make them potential victims of a cyclist/motorist accident. Pathways has done some work to try and make these young people better cyclists in the OBX, but it's not as effective as it should be. Moreover, it was pointed out that Pathways is only one of several organizations that sponsor European Workers.
 - Jack suggested the OBTTF help Pathways and other sponsor organizations with educating young Europeans about cycling in the OBX.
 - **Action Item**
 - Sue will contact Paul Keller of Pathways and invite him to join the Bike and Pedestrian committee.
- Additional Item
 - Jody asked Bill Brobst to send The Bicycle and Pedestrian Goals and Objectives via email attachment to Jack who would in turn send them to the CDC.

The Meeting adjourned 10:45am. The next meeting is scheduled for 9:00am, September 22nd at the same location.