

**Meeting Minutes of TMA / Transportation Authority Committee of the OBTF
February 8, 2006 OB Chamber of Commerce – KDH**

Cheryl Byrd called the meeting to order at 8:40am.

Members attending were: Cheryl Byrd, Willo Kelly, Herb Mullen, Anna Sadler and Sharron Sanderson.

Member engaged in a lively discussion of the benefits to both Dare County and those counties, which are already part of the Inter County Public Transportation Authority (Currituck, Camden, Pasquotank, Perquimans and Chowan) if Dare County's transportation operation were merged with those of ICPTA. For more than two years now, NCDOT/PTD has been urging rural counties to join together in order to provide transportation service more efficiently and with less administrative cost. In addition the new Federal SAFETEA transportation act and appropriations are focused on providing more federal resources for public transportation services in rural areas – especially where there is regional cooperation. More resources are available to counties in regional alliances.

Prior to the committee meeting, our ITRE consultants had already summarized the benefits of regionalizing our transit operations – both those provided to meet human services needs and more full-blown public transportation services – such as those being investigated by the OBTF for possible implementation in the summer of 2007. Moreover, Sharron Sanderson, Dare County Transportation Coordinator, and Herb Mullen, Director of ICPTA's operations have previously had many discussions about how the operations might be merged to the benefit of all of the counties – Dare and those already encompassed by ICPTA. They were enthusiastic that now is a good time to merge these operations, with the understanding that a satellite operation would remain in Dare County in order to retain and expand service to Dare County residents and to improve service to Corolla and Southern Currituck County.

By unanimous consent of the committee, Herb Mullen, Sharron Sanderson and Cheryl Byrd were tasked to figure out what would be required for such a merger to take place, as current Dare County employees in the Transportation area would become ICPTA employees and both ICPTA and the Dare County Board of Commissioners would need to approve the change and work out the financial arrangements.

Members also discussed briefly what to do about future management and coordination of those OBTF's initiatives, which do not involve provision of transportation services. Currently three committees of the OBTF are working on bicycle/pedestrian transportation, traffic solutions and transportation demand management. The Dare County Transportation Advisory Board is also beginning investigations into possible van/car pool coordination for Dare County and ride-share or park and ride programs to help our local work force.

Members realize that a Transportation Management Authority may be needed in the longer term to provide permanent staffing for these efforts, but believe that the OBTF and DCTAB should continue to provide oversight for now. The effort to merge Dare County's transportation operations into ICPTA, if approved by all parties, is probably all that can be successfully managed this year.

Recorded by Cheryl Byrd, Chairperson