

Resolution Concerning Possible Merger of DCTS into ICPTA

Whereas, approximately 90% of capital costs, 85% of administrative costs and 50% of operational costs associated with the Dare County Transportation System (DCTS) are provided by NCDOT/PTD, which functions as a conduit for federal funding of rural public transportation services; and

Whereas, NCDOT/PTD and the USDOT have been providing incentives for development of public transportation services in rural areas, with special emphasis on providing more resources to transportation entities which serve regions consisting of more than one county; and

Whereas, transportation staff members of both DCTS and the Inter County Public Transportation Authority believe that operational efficiencies and better service can probably be achieved if DCTS operations were merged into ICPTA; and

Whereas, ICPTA already includes five other neighboring counties – Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck; and

Whereas, ICPTA (on behalf of Currituck County's Outer Banks), the Outer Banks Transportation Task Force (which is working on transportation issues for both Dare and Currituck Counties), and DCTS (on behalf of Dare County) all recognize great merit in the merging DCTS into ICPTA to provide a Transportation Authority with enough staff and other resources to bring trolley/bus service to the Outer Banks area; and

Whereas, staff at both ICPTA and DCTS have already reached informal agreement that the day-to-day transportation operations, currently managed from within Dare County by DCTS, would continue to be run by personnel within Dare County as a satellite operation of ICPTA, if Dare County becomes a member of ICPTA; and

Whereas, salaries and benefits for Dare County employees may be higher than those of employees of ICPTA, who live and work in nearby counties, where the cost of living is lower; and

Whereas, other financial and operational issues would also need to be resolved between Dare County and ICPTA, before such a merger can be seriously contemplated;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Dare County Board of Commissioners requests our County Manager, County Finance Officer and appropriate other staff work with staff of the ICPTA to conduct a study which addresses the financial and operational issues associated with Dare County joining ICPTA. The Board, in considering such a merger, asks that special attention be focused on retaining the qualified employees, who currently run the DCTS, and on providing the same or a better level of transportation services to Dare County residents. Ideally, the change would be seamless and residents who need transportation services would follow the same procedures and receive the same services that they receive today.