

## Minutes – Transportation Task Force - February 5, 2004

**Members Present** – Jody Crosswhite, Kevin Schwartz, Chris Layton, Sue Cotellessa, Cheryl Byrd, Brant Murray, Linda Bardach, Ralph Buxton, Ray Davis, Sandy Morrison, Kermit Skinner, Carl Classen, Sandy Semans

**Members Absent** – Anna Sadler, Doug Seay, Mike Carver

The meeting started at 9:00 am in the Chamber of Commerce board room.

Members were introduced to each other. The agenda was handed out and an open discussion began about traffic issues. Chris Layton brought up the traffic nightmare on Saturdays and Sundays coming through Southern Shores and Duck. There was also mention of a water ferry service from the Currituck mainland to Corolla. Sandy Semans commented that the population north of Sanderling in the summer was in excess of 80,000 people. Carl Classen from the Town of Southern Shores echoed the same sentiments and read from a list of ideas that he had on easing traffic. Carl spoke of partnering with each township to look at long-term land use. There might be a lessening of traffic by having center isles in the bypass and having turn lanes. Kermit Skinner from the Town of Manteo told the committee to look at transportation more comprehensively. Manteo, on a rainy day, has major back ups coming into their town. Sandy felt that during rainy days, there is not only a traffic problem, but also a safety problem in Manteo. Note: there are approximately 700 Dare County employees not including approximately 700 school employees. Sandy Morrison of Sandy Beach Tours spoke about her bus operation and a test run she made after summer in the Town of Nags Head. She made a timed run in the Town of Nags Head, which took approximately 45 minutes. She also spoke about her buses that mostly sit idle waiting for jobs.

Although the issues that came up inspired us all to be at this meeting, the group decided it would be in the committee's best interest to try to come up with the most attainable goals for the immediate future.

Two goals were identified that in the short term could be attainable. **Visitor Transportation Education and Work Force Transportation.** Linda Bardach and Kevin Schwartz from the Home Builders Association agreed to bring up to their next association meeting ways to possibly put some type of slogan and campaign together for visitor information. Work Force Transportation could be done as a limited pilot program. Both topics would be discussed at the next meeting. Meeting ended at 11:00 am.

The next meeting was set for March 11, 2004 at the Chamber of Commerce.

**Special note:** I just wanted to thank everyone for coming to this meeting. I believe that this committee has the passion and the ability to make something happen quickly. In the long term this group could start the ball rolling on a public transportation system. I will find out through the Transportation Advisory Board I serve on what would be the best direction for us on that. I have spoken to the new CDC Director, Chuck Poe, and he will attend the next meeting with a ton of enthusiasm. I also hope that we can find a secretary to keep the minutes. I look forward to the same participation at the next meeting. See you there!

Best regards, Jody Crosswhite