

Outer Banks Transportation Task Force

Minutes of the meeting on Feb. 10, 2005, Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce

Members present: Cheryl Byrd, Nancy Bellantine, Jody Crosswhite, Kevin Schwartz, Kermit Skinner, Ralph Buxton, Sandi Morrison, Ray Davis, Gwen Cruickshanks, Anna Sadler, Debbie Moore. Guests: Jud Lawrie and Tom Cook from ITRE; Kimberly Kittleson, OB Sentinel

Called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Chairman J. Crosswhite.

1. The minutes of the Jan. 20 meeting were approved.
2. Proposed agenda for community meetings – The schedule for the community meetings Mar. 7-9 were discussed, as was a revised proposed agenda developed by ITRE that would have the meetings wrapping up in two hours. A list of materials needed was discussed, as was the need for a “scribe” and moderator for each meeting. A set of ground rules was also discussed, as was the role of the moderator and how the meeting attendees would be signed in, given name tags, and split up into smaller working groups during the meeting.
3. Meeting publicity – Press release and radio PSAs, ¼ page newspaper ads should be utilized, and K. Schwartz will coordinate. Publicity should shape the scope of the project such that people understand what they are coming to and what the meetings are not. Needs to start week of 2/21.
4. Traffic hotspots – T. Cook talked about previous day’s tour up and down US 158 and NC 12 to Duck and Barco and the issues he saw along the way.
5. Project Web site – J. Lawrie suggested it contain a project overview, meeting times, study input and results of the meetings, list of task force members, FAQs, links to other sites, place for comments and a survey capability.
6. Case study site selection – ITRE determined the Outer Banks is unique to all the other areas they could compare it to, but their list includes Biloxi, Miss., St. Petersburg Beach-Clearwater, Fla., Ocean City, Md., and Virginia Beach. There appeared to be no perfect model, so they will likely broaden the scope to select the BMPs from other places regardless of how close its overall characteristics fit here.
7. Workforce transportation – R. Buxton reported on the ad-hoc committee’s efforts to get a private transportation company, such as Bayside Cab, interested in a program of employee transportation in 2005. He reported that Bayside had quoted \$40/hr for a 15-passenger van and \$20 per hour for a six-passenger van. He felt a commitment of \$30,000 for the summer from a compilation of businesses could get something going. He also reported that Carolyn McCormick of the Visitors Bureau is willing to discuss with her board possible funding as a pilot project. There was also a discussion of workforce transportation grants available from the state, and J. Lawrie said that he would send information on these.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m. The next meeting was scheduled for Feb. 24.