

Transportation Task Force

Minutes of the meeting on March 11, 2004

Present: Cheryl Byrd (Dare County Commissioner, Transportation Advisory Board **member Chairwoman**), Carl Classen (Southern Shores Town Manager), Chris Layton (Duck Town Manager), Sue Cotellessa (Duck Planning Director), Sandi Morrison (Sandy Beach Tours), Ralph Buxton (Kitty Hawk Sports), Nancy **Bellantine Ballentine** (OBX Pathways), Linda Hess, Kevin Schwartz, Lori London (Association of REALTORS[®]), Sandy Semans (Outer Banks Sentinel), Jody Crosswhite (Chamber of Commerce)

1. Approval of minutes -- C. Byrd had minor grammar, spelling corrections. K. Schwartz noted he and associates were representing Association of REALTORS[®] rather than Home Builders Association.
2. Discussion of formalizing board structure - It was determined that for now the structure would remain informal with S. Morrison serving as co-chairwoman with J. Crosswhite.
3. Discussion of Visitor Transportation Education project -- K. Schwartz discussed the outline of an education project to encourage tourists to bring fewer cars on their visits in order to relieve to some degree in-bound traffic and parking issues. Suggested doing research with DOT and Tourism Bureau to assess if the premise was sound; discussed ways a plan could be promoted and paid for. Group discussion of all aspects of the plan ensued. S. Cotellessa noted it should include Currituck. C. Classen discussed upcoming DOT traffic research presentation and that he felt the information gathered by the rental company survey would prove valuable. L. London said that information should ask for 2003 figures. Other ways of getting visit information from tourists was discussed. C. Classen **discussed** Build the Bridge project, NC 12 and visitor initiatives.
4. Workforce transportation -- N. **Bellantine Ballentine** said she thought KDH would be the best place to start a pilot shuttle program. The largest concentration of seasonal workers without transportation live there and the ability to get them back to Colington would increase housing opportunities. Such a program would need to run almost 24/7 to accommodate early and late shifts. It was discussed that such a program should have a convenience component for grocery and entertainment travel. S. Morrison discussed a cut-a-way van as being the best vehicle for such service. Discussion of businesses staggering work hours ensued. R. Buxton discussed survey of businesses indicating 1/3 definitely thought it was worthwhile and 1/3 maybe. C. Byrd noted that businesses are going to have to be willing to pay some cost of this service. K. Schwartz said he would inquire as to which grant type from Tourism Bureau would be appropriate. C. Byrd said she would ask County Attorney Norma Mills to come to a future meetings to discuss legal issues, which might include establishing an authority to implement these plans, like the CDC, and would report on the TTF activities at the next board of commissioners meeting. S. Semans noted that local government employees also generated much traffic and that van pools, ride share, etc... should be pushed for them. J. Crosswhite appointed S. Morrison, R. Buxton., N. **Bellantine Ballentine** and CDC Executive Director Chuck Poe (not at meeting) as a workforce transportation subcommittee. S. Semans said she would set up a list-serv for the TTF.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15. The next meeting was set for 9 a.m. Apr. 15.