

## **Outer Banks Transportation Task Force**

### Minutes of the meeting on Apr. 28, 2005, Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce

Members present: Kevin Schwartz, Ralph Buxton, Gwenn Cruickshanks, Chris Layton, Cheryl Byrd, Jody Crosswhite, Lori London, Ben Sproul, Pat Morrissey, Anna Sadler, Nancy Bellantine

1. Called to order at 9:07 a.m. by J. Crosswhite.
2. The minutes of the Feb. 24 meeting were approved.
3. New member – Ben Sproul of the Pit Surf Shop and Grill was introduced as the Dare County Restaurant Association representative replacing Jeff Metcalf.
4. Ranking of priorities for ITRE – K. Schwartz reported that ITRE has submitted its findings from the March community meetings, which Task Force members had reviewed, and had summarized the issues into eight categories which it wanted the Task Force to rank in order of priority. After a lengthy debate, the Task Force determined that it should be true to its original charge and mission, and the rankings thus were: 1) Public transportation alternatives, 2) Workforce transportation problems, 3) More and better bicycle and pedestrian facilities, 4) Highway design-related congestion, 5) Inadequate traffic signage and information, and all the rest: Traffic signals, better maintenance, speeding/shortcutting and misc.
5. Workforce transportation – R. Buxton reported that instead of looking for a private transportation solution for this summer's workforce, the committee was instead developing a plan to expand the Dare County Transportation system of free van rides to stop-specific routes in the evenings after July 1. C. Byrd distributed a resolution in support of such a plan that she would present to the county commissioners in order to get their consent to take it to the Tourism Board for funding. The resolution was approved with some changed wording. It was agreed a proposal for the program would be drafted and sent to the Tourism Board for its consideration on May 17.
6. ITRE Symposium date – It was determined to pursue a Thursday in October after Columbus Day, either the 13<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> based on facilities availability.
7. Future meeting dates – It was agreed the Task Force would meet at 8:30 a.m. the last Thursday of each month at the Chamber office, beginning with the May meeting.
8. Build the bridge – G. Cruickshanks provided an update on the mid-Currituck bridge campaign, and asked the Task Force to support a resolution asking the federal government to allocate \$2 million for a feasibility study on building the bridge as a public-private partnership project. The resolution passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.