

Outer Banks Transportation Task Force

Minutes of the meeting on July 22, 2004, Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce

Members present: Jerry Raveling, Anna Sadler, Gary McGee, Nancy Bellantine, Cheryl Byrd, Kevin Schwartz, Jody Crosswhite, Sue Cotellessa, Debbie Moore, Kermit Skinner. Guests: Chuck Poe, Outer Banks CDC; Gwen Cruickshanks and Bob Palombo, Build The Bridge-Preserve Our Roads.

Called to order at 9:00 by Chairman J. Crosswhite.

1. Introductions of new members -- J. Crosswhite noted that this was the sixth meeting of the TTF, the first since the TTF was officially appointed as a Dare County advisory board.
2. Approval of minutes -- June 10 minutes approved as submitted.
3. Election of officers -- C. Byrd and K. Schwartz were nominated and approved as co-vice chairs. K. Schwartz was nominated and approved as secretary.
4. Mission statement and procedures -- C. Byrd read the mission statement as it was presented to the Dare County BOC. It was moved that the TTF adopt the middle two paragraphs of that document as its official mission statement, and the motion was adopted. It was reiterated that the official name of the group is the Outer Banks Transportation Task Force. It was determined that the TTF would operate for now without independent bylaws or formal procedures.
5. Build The Bridge report -- G. Cruickshanks reported that the group was not pleased with the DOT's conclusion on the Currituck Sound Area study that the only way to relieve traffic to the northern beaches was to widen NC 12 from Southern Shores to Corolla, and that a mid-Currituck bridge would not provide long-term relief. The group has commissioned its own economic impact study and is looking to do its own traffic study as well. The group advocates a four-lane bridge, which would be about four miles long costing \$150 million, and no road widening except along US 158 in the area of the Marketplace in Southern Shores.
6. NCSU Transportation Study Proposal -- The proposal from the NCSU Institute for Transportation Research and Education was discussed, and the proposal's eight scope-of-work tasks were discussed in depth along with the proposed cost of approximately \$86,000. K. Schwartz will talk with County Attorney Norma Mills to determine what part of the cost would be paid by the Gateway Program before funding sources were explored in more detail. He will also try to arrange for one of the proposal authors to attend the August TTF meeting. S. Cotellessa and K. Skinner agreed to serve with K. Schwartz on a Study subcommittee. The TTF made a number of adjustments to the proposal, including:

Ensuring that Currituck was a part of the study; changing various phrasing such as stakeholders; removing references to only "Dare" County; asking for a Web site to be incorporated into the project; deleting Task 4; asking for more detail on study analysis; suggesting Ocean City, Md., and the Pigeon Forge/Gatlinburg, Tenn., area for a case study; agreeing that the TTF itself could manage some of the work contemplated in Task 7.

7. Additional members -- C. Byrd invited a member of Build The Bridge to join the TTF. In order to get Currituck more involved, it was agreed that G. McGee would discuss with Gary Ferguson whether Ferguson's membership on the TTF needs to go through the Currituck Board of Commissioners. It was also agreed that another Currituck member be added, possibly a Chamber of Commerce or economic development official.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned with the next meeting scheduled for 9 a.m. on July 22.