

Outer Banks Transportation Task Force

Minutes of the meeting on Sept. 9, 2004, Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce

Members present: Carl Classen, Buck Thornton, Ralph Buxton, Chris Layton, Dan Scanlon, Sammy Moore, Kevin Schwartz, Jody Crosswhite, Willo Winterling, Gwen Cruickshanks, Pat Morrisey. Guests: Jeff Aitell and Chuck Poe, Outer Banks CDC.

Called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman J. Crosswhite.

1. Discussion of reworked ITRE proposal -- J. Crosswhite discussed comments he had received since the reconstituted proposal cover letter went out to TTF members. He said he was satisfied with the direction of the project and the TTF and that if the TTF could not go forward on the proposal, he did not see another agency capable of dealing with traffic relief. K. Schwartz described the scope of the ITRE project and how it was distinguished from DOT and other efforts or previous work that was out there.

C. Layton said the TTF had to press on with the proposal as the situation was not going to get better on its own. As far as the study components of the proposal, they were necessary as solutions would have to be justified to elected boards and for public support. He supported spreading the funding out among all the stakeholders. C. Poe noted the parallel to the beach nourishment project, which had problems with public support because there was not the public justification until it was too late, a trap the TTF could avoid. D. Scanlon said he had confidence in ITRE and its work and that it was time to move forward and develop a formula by which all the stakeholders shared in the cost. He and C. Layton considered the new proposal cover adequate to take to their elected boards, and that the TTF should ask for the funding rather than letters of support from the elected boards.

C. Classen suggested that DOT and its various regional boards and committees had some discretionary dollars available to pay for projects like this, and that he would talk to Norma Mills and Cheryl Byrd about that possibility. J. Crosswhite said he would talk with N. Mills about what a funding commitment had to look like before the county would enter into the contract with ITRE.

2. Discussion of some specific traffic remedies – B. Thornton described some things that could be done to relieve congestion on NC 12 north, including lane reversals during high check-in and check-out times; surveying the many curb cuts in Duck and then eliminating some of them; raising the speed limit in N. Duck to 45 mph and using new speed limit signs noting the need to maintain 45; and staggering rental days. K. Schwartz said the rental industry would take a serious look at expanding Friday and Sunday check-ins.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 with no future meeting date set at the time.