

Minutes – OBTF Meeting on December 1, 2005

Jody Crosswhite called the December 1, 2005 meeting of the Outer Banks Transportation Task Force to order shortly after 8:30 am in the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce Board Room.

Members present were: Kermit Skinner, Anna Sadler, Ray Davis, Carl Classen, Christopher Layton, Cheryl Byrd, Jody Crosswhite, Ben Sproul, Dan Scanlon, Ralph Buxton, Willow Kelly, and Herb Mullen

Guests present were: Ben Cahoon and Stefan Dabrowski

Minutes of the previous meeting were not available; Kevin Schwartz, our Co-vice chairman and Secretary has moved from the area. This leaves Jody Crosswhite as Chairman and Cheryl Byrd as Vice Chairman. We need a new Secretary. That previous meeting, held in late September just prior to the Community Symposium on October 12th, was focused on preparations for the Symposium. No other business was transacted.

Jud Lawrie from ITRE has asked what we want to do with the website established for OBTF to provide access to their study results. Carl Classen volunteered to explore the possibility of having Beachlink host the site. Ben Sproul also volunteered to explore the possibility of Outer Banks Internet hosting the site.

An 11-page draft summary from the Outer Banks Transportation Symposium on October 12, 2005 was available from ITRE and distributed by Cheryl Byrd to attendees. It contains comments and questions from the Symposium. Additional input, provided later by email to ITRE by Ben Cahoon and Mike Hejduk, was also distributed.

ITRE produced an updated Dare County Outer Banks Trolley Bus Proposal. This contains both route options under consideration and updated cost estimates that reflect operation of the service by a contractor rather than Dare County. Cheryl also distributed copies of this report for review by Task Force members.

Jud Lawrie notified Jody and Cheryl that some funding will remain unspent as the December 31, 2005 contract end-date approaches and asked whether a no-cost extension of the contract would be productive in addressing implementation of the ITRE recommendations. After considerable discussion, members agreed that remaining resources should be spent in two areas:

1. Further development of the process for establishing a Transportation Management Association (TMA) and/or Transportation Authority. (Both may be needed)
2. More work on a possible fare structure(s) for bus service, including special passes, tickets, and other promotional schemes.

Cheryl will obtain approval of the Dare County Board of Commissioners for a two-month no-cost extension to the contract and will work with Jud and Sharron Sanderson to put it in place.

The rest of the meeting focused on organizing the OBTF for future work in implementing the ITRE recommendations. Jody and Cheryl suggested organizing into five committees – mirroring the five transportation areas contained in the ITRE report. A draft list of these committees with an

outline of their missions was distributed, and everyone present at the meeting indicated their preferences. Cheryl agreed to distribute the meeting materials to all the OBTF members and to request feedback on preferences for committee assignments. Managers and representatives from the towns and counties also agreed to recommend officials or staff members from their jurisdictions, who should be members of the committees. Finally, Cheryl suggested, and everyone agreed, that we should ask members of the public, who attended the symposium, to join in our ongoing efforts as committee members. Cheryl will solicit their involvement.

Final discussion of the meeting focused on the tight time-schedule for implementation of trolley bus service by the 2007 summer season. Thus, Ralph Buxton agreed to be the temporary chair for the Bus/Trolley Transportation Committee. He will work with Herb Mullen and Beverly Paul (Hyde County) to move ahead on hiring a consultant to pull together an RFP that Currituck, Dare and Hyde Counties can issue jointly in the fall of 2006 to obtain bids for bus/trolley service on the Outer Banks in all three counties.

The next meeting is on January 26, 2006 at 8:30am.

The meeting concluded at adjourned at 10:45am.

Prepared by Cheryl Byrd