

## Outer Banks Transportation Task Force **Bus/Trolley Committee**

**Minutes – February 22, 2006**  
**Called to order 8:30 am.**

Members present: Jody Crosswhite, Ralph Buxton, Matthew Byrne, Ben Cahoon, Ray Davis, Angel Houry, Emilie Klutz, Paul Keller, Herb Mullen, Mike O'Brien, Diane Sawyer, Tim Shearin, Andy Szakos, Sharron Sanderson.

Guest present: Ken Hosen

There was a brief introducing of all members and guest. Jody Crosswhite welcomed Ken Hosen with the consulting group KFH Group. The KFH Group was hired through NCDOT and Dare County to develop a Trolley Route and RFP for the OBTF.

Mr. Hosen briefed the members on the implementation plan and the scope of work to be done.

Mr. Hosen asked for any history of transportation on the Outer Banks. Cheryl Byrd gave what little history we had. The Double Decker Bus Transportation was implemented approximately ten years ago. It was done by a private bus operator, and had no real public or private support. Ten years ago there were far less visitors with fewer vehicles. One of the members added that the schedules for the Double Decker made no sense. It failed the first summer. Cheryl went on to give the history of the "Summer Stops" pilot van project for last summer (2005).

The next series of question from Mr. Hosen dealt with what the needs are for a Trolley Service. Summer tourist, employees and traffic relief were the main concerns. By identifying the riders you begin to define the routes by the needs. Bypass verses beach road. Can businesses be a sponsor in return for pull-offs in front of their business or advertising inside the bus? When does the service start and when does it end? The general consensus of the members was 7am till 11pm. Start with a small Trolley force in morning working up to a larger force as the day wares on. Mr. Hosen noted that a Trolley service that had a 15-minute wait verses a 30-minute wait would cost twice as much to run. The committee also came to a general consensus that a Trolley service should start in mid May and finish mid September. Herb Mullen with ICPTA said that it is the intention of the Corolla Trolley Service not to run on the weekends (turnover days) due to traffic.

After one and one-half hours of brainstorming, Mr. Hosen felt that he had enough information to take back with him. When he returns he will bring some alternative routes along with other information for the members to make decisions on.

Ralph Buxton bought forward a draft grant proposal addressed to the Visitors Bureau. The proposal asked the Visitors Bureau for \$10,000.00 to support the

“Summer Stops” van transportation project. The route would be different from 2005. The 2006 route would run a south route Kill Devil Hills down into Nags Head. Paul Keller and Sharron Sanderson would decide on an exact route. The scheduled stops and educating the possible riders of its existence will be the main task for this year’s service. There was support from the members to keep it going. Meeting adjourned 10:30 am.