

Minutes - Trolley Bus and Transportation Demand Committees – June 15, 2006
Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce, KDH

The following committee members attended the meeting: Cheryl Byrd, Matthew Byrne, Ralph Buxton, Ben Cahoon, Randy Carlisle, Paul Keller, Cyprien Regnier (French student worker), Willo Kelly, Emily Klutz, Seth Lawless, Tim Shearin, Brandon Shoaf and Scott Stroh.

In the absence of Jody Crosswhite, Cheryl Byrd called the meeting to order at 8:40 am. Minutes of the previous committee meetings – held in May – were approved.

The remainder of the meeting entailed discussion of the future trolley bus service – in particular the issue areas raised by our consultant, Ken Hosen, as he plans to conclude his work for the OBTTTF in July. The decisions reached by the committees are documented in the attached letter to Mr. Hosen.

Some additional discussion concerning regionalization occurred. The concept of a merger of Dare, Hyde and Tyrrell counties was mentioned. This has not been explored, but it may be a possibility.

Members concurred that the idea of working out arrangements with churches located on or near US 158 (the bypass) or NC 12 - for use of their parking lots as park n ride sites - offers possible benefits for making transportation available for summer programs serving children and for work force.

Members believe that there may be a need for “express route” service that would have only a limited number of stops in order to expedite trips from one end of the county to the other. From the discussion, the members agreed that enough information on the possible demand for this service will not be available until we provide at least basic public transportation service.

Members are concerned about the participation of NCDOT/PTD in the cost of Trolley service. The concern stems from the encouragement by NCDOT for regionalization and for leasing vehicles – at least initially – for the trolley service. Members have a lot of questions on these issues and look forward to having time to discuss them more fully at the next meeting – where it is hoped that Charles Glover from NCDOT can be present, along with Ken Hosen.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

Minutes prepared by Cheryl Byrd