

OUTER BANKS TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE
Trolley Bus Committee
October 19, 2006 8:30 a.m.
Outer Banks C.D.C. Meeting Room

Attendees: Jody Crosswaite, Randy Carlisle, Andy Szakos, Willo Kelly, Charlie Cameron, Paul Keller, and Emilie Klutz

Staff; Chuck Poe

Jody opened the meeting and spent some time relating the historical perspective that relates to the development of the Task Force and where he believed we needed to go from here. The use of consultants and in particular Peggy Schmidt of the Pennsylvania community with a T.M.A., has led the group to a point where adjustments must be made and a positive direction assured.

Jody further addressed the concerns of Web Fuller and the perception that there was an implementation plan that was being taken forward that had not been approved by the body. He explained the intention was to explore all of the organizational and program options and then allow the group to select the direction with which they are most comfortable, then take that plan to the County Commission and the Towns. As part of her responsibility, Cheryl addressed the County Commission in both Dare and Currituck and discussed the inherent differences the Outer Banks resort areas have, thus not fitting into the traditional "Regional Transportation Organization" definition. Further she took forward a resolution that was passed, to address the issue and allow the Task Force additional organization options:

"A regional Transportation entity, for purposes of eligibility for federal pass-through funding, may include all or portions of two or more counties provided however that:

- 1. Members of the entity share common transportation problems that differ substantially from nearby counties or from other portions of the member counties;*
- 2. The entity includes within its mission statement and goals the intention to collaborate or cooperate with surrounding municipal, county or regional transportation entities to meet common needs, including but not limited to ride sharing, van pooling and public transit and;*
- 3. The entity has an open membership provision for expanding its geographic coverage as nearby areas develop the same or similar transportation problems as the entity was formed to solve; this provision shall not be construed to require inclusion of nearby areas if such an action would cause the organization to become too large to manage effectively."*

Discussion followed including the various issues surrounding possible trolley use. It was presented that Kitty Hawk did not support the use of trolleys at this time and in reality 2008 was the soonest possible time that any effort could be significantly underway.

Jody suggested that the Committee “take a break” until after the holidays and allow the CDC staff to work toward a power point presentation to describe the progress made to date and to make this presentation after the first of the year to the County and ask for a new member and their renewed support. As part of this presentation the CDC is working with each Committee to develop or become aware of existing missions, goals and objectives.

MOTION: The Trolley Bus Committee requests that the OBTTF develop a comprehensive presentation, working with CDC staff, in order to provide a status report to the Dare County Commission in early 2007. Furthermore, the Trolley bus Committee recommends to the OBTTF that support, endorsement and direction for future efforts be sought from the County Commission. Subsequently, information and/or presentations should be provided to local governments. Motion: Andy Szakos, second: Charlie Cameron; motion passed unanimously.

At this point, it was discussed that an overall mission for the Committee needed to be stated. After lengthy discussion the following motion was made:

MOTION: The Trolley Bus Committee shall research the feasibility of public transit as part of an integrated transportation improvement program for Dare County. Motion: Andy Szakos, second: Randy Carlisle; motion passed unanimously.

In addition, the following objectives were discussed:

Objectives:

1. Identify potential ridership of a public transit system;
2. Develop a matrix of benefits/challenges of a public transit in Dare County;
3. Determine public transit vehicle options;
4. Determine possible routes for a public transit system;
5. Determine the cost of a public transit system;
6. Determine funding sources.

Strategies include:

- Include Town representatives, business persons and citizens on the Committee and meet monthly;
- Include a representative from Currituck County on the Committee;
- Make a request to the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau to conduct a public transit interest survey;
- Utilize data reported by ITRE;
- Enter into a contract with the KFH Group Consultant Ken Hosen to assist the Committee with research efforts and prepare possible implementation plans;
- Analyze case studies of other resort community public transit systems;
- Visit other resort communities with public transit systems;
- Invite other public transit officials/representatives to address the Committee;
- Seek input and work with the NC DOT officials and other state and local transportation agencies regarding existing programs and funding;
- Collaborate with the other OBTTF Committees.

The meeting was adjourned, next meeting to be called as needed.