

Traffic Solutions Committee Minutes
Outer Banks Transportation Task Force
July 13, 2006
Kitty Hawk Town Hall

Attendance: Carl Classen, Chairman; Suzanne Godley; Jerry Jennings; Robert Palumbo; Joe Walter; John Wander.

A copy of the Committee membership is attached.

Carl Classen called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and thanked people for attending during the summer season.

Jerry Jennings reviewed various **NCDOT projects underway/planned** affecting the Currituck and Dare county area:

- Improvements to Old Oregon Inlet Road in South Nags Head have been completed.
- US64 improvements in front of Pirates Cove have been completed.
- Safety improvements on US158 over the Coinjock Bridge have been completed.
- NC12 improvements in Southern Shores remain pending, though Committee members thanked Jerry Jennings for changes to the pedestrian signal at Chicahawk while noting an issue with the turn signal.
- Colington Road/US158 Intersection improvements in Kill Devil Hills have been bid twice and no bid has been found acceptable for various reasons, including noise issues and nighttime access to materials. The 2-week project will be put out to bid a third time.
- NC343 culvert repairs in Camden County continue, which includes closure of the road. [NC343 is a major access/evacuation route to the Currituck-Dare region.]
- Upgrading the signal structure at Baum Street/US158 in Kill Devil Hills from wood and wires to steel poles and cross-arms should be completed soon. A similar upgrade at Bonnett Street/US158 in Nags Head is funded under the same contract. Cross-arm work affecting traffic flow is planned for completion during evening hours.
- Upgrading the signal structure at Eckner Street/US158 in Kitty Hawk from wood and wires to steel poles and arms will possibly be completed in FY2006-07.
- In Manteo, the Uppovac Extension is underway with utility relocation and other preparatory actions. Actual roadwork is planned later in the year. This roadwork will allow drivers to access the new COA campus (old Manteo Middle School) from side streets rather than from US64.
- Installing street name signs on metal cross-arms from Duck to Whalebone Junction (Nags Head) on NC12/US158 is funded in FY2006-07.

Mr. Classen stated that he would contact the Towns to find out their road, path and other transportation improvement plans over the coming 1-3 fiscal years **so that a comprehensive State-local road transportation improvement project list could be developed.**

Suzanne Godley gave a presentation on how the **Roanoke Island Transportation Plan** was jointly developed by various State and local agencies – NCDOT; Town of Manteo; Dare County;

Roanoke Island Commission; Dare County Airport Board; and UNC Coastal Studies Institute. The Plan was developed over two years with assistance from NCDOT planners and private engineers (Kimley-Horn). The Plan, which can be viewed on the Internet through the Town of Manteo web site (www.townofmanteo.com) outlines various transportation issues and recommended transportation improvements. The Plan has been approved by the Town (which has already begun implementing aspects of the Plan's recommendations) and the Airport Board (approval, but with several minor amendments). Approval is pending by Dare County, the Roanoke Island Commission and UNC-Coastal Studies Institute. Suzanne felt that all parties would approve the plan as their review schedules permit.

The Committee asked **whether the model of multi-jurisdictional collaboration used to develop the Roanoke Island Transportation Plan could be used in developing a transportation plan for the Outer Banks**. Suzanne stressed the need for common goals that will hold all the stakeholders together through the long plan development and approval process. She also stressed that the currently excellent Town(Manteo)-County relations made the Plan possible, along with strong support from the four main attractions on Roanoke Island; good participation by the Airport and UNC-CSI; and support from NCDOT.

The Committee discussed how the **old "thoroughfare plans"** that NCDOT previously developed with local governments are **now called Comprehensive Transportation Plans** and how the Currituck-Dare area has presently has no comprehensive transportation planning similar to what metropolitan and major resort areas utilize. Issues that could hold the counties and towns together include: quality of life/growth management; maintenance and expansion of the local economy, especially movement of guests and employees; interconnectivity of corridors; and emergency management.

As to the **branding of Roanoke Island** that has been developed and is now on various NCDOT signs, Suzanne explained that this was an effort led by the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau to help guests find attractions on Roanoke Island on rain days or when they did not wish to enjoy the beach. Jerry Jennings explained that special legislation through the Roanoke Island Commission allowed for the "branding" signs to be installed and maintained by NCDOT.

The Committee discussed issues with the Currituck-Dare transportation corridors:

Currituck Mainland and Northern Beaches Corridor: Bob Palumbo and John Wander gave an update on the **Mid-Currituck Sound Bridge**, including ongoing issues between NCDOT and ECU over funding the study authorized by Congress. John Wander said the NC Toll Authority's financial study was progressing. The Committee discussed the lack of real alternatives to the Bridge approach alignment on the Currituck Mainland due to extensive housing development blocking other Bridge approaches.

The Committee discussed the importance of requiring **deceleration lanes along US158 on Currituck Mainland** so as to maintain traffic flow and decrease rear-end collisions. Jerry Jennings says that both NCDOT and Currituck County have the authority to require deceleration lanes on new driveway cuts and that they are requiring them more often now. The Committee noted that the only truly bad traffic congestion of the summer occurred the Saturday before the

July Fourth holiday and that traffic was only creeping along south of Grandy that Saturday for many hours. Otherwise, Saturday traffic flow has generally felt to have been improving.

Dare Beach Communities Corridor: The Committee discussed a **general feeling that traffic was moving reasonably well as can be expected during tourist season.** Mr. Classen mentioned the work underway by **Nags Head on planning for the Beach Road (NC12)** utilizing a design team from NC State. Mr. Classen also mentioned that there would be a public input meeting on July 20 at the Colington Volunteer Fire Department building regarding **NCDOT-suggested Colington Road improvements.** The improvements extend from US158 in Kill Devil Hills back to Colington Harbour subdivision.

Dare Mainland and Roanoke Island Transportation Corridors: The Committee discussed **changes to the Midway intersection** being considered by NCDOT and changes recommended by the Roanoke Island Transportation Plan. The Committee expressed appreciation at how well NCDOT was working with redcommendations in the Plan.

Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands Transportation Corridor: Jerry Jennings mentioned ongoing **NCDOT review of erosion hot spots on Hatteras Island.** He also noted multi-use path planning being done by residents of Hatteras Island.

The Committee discussed **developing a recommendation for the full Committee to consider in September that would call for development of a Currituck-Dare Comprehensive Transportation Plan** and that would include stakeholders in its funding, preparation and approval (akin to the model used by Roanoke Island stakeholders). The Committee also discussed the **need for the comprehensive listing of State (NCDOT), County and municipal road, path and other transportation-related projects** funded/planned in FY2006-07 and beyond.

The Committee agreed to meet again on the following dates and times:

- Thursday, September 7, 2006; 8:30 AM; Kitty Hawk Town Hall
- Thursday, October 12, 2006; 8:30 AM; Kitty Hawk Town Hall
- Thursday, November 9, 2006; 8:30 AM; Kitty Hawk Town Hall
- Thursday, December 14, 2006; 8:30 AM; Kitty Hawk Town Hall

There being no further discussions or business, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM.

Committee Membership

Traffic Solutions Committee Dare County Transportation Task Force

		Daytime Phone	Representing
Carl Classen, Chair	carl_classen@hotmail.com	449-0716	Public Member; Nags Head
Cheryl Byrd	byrd@beachlink.com	255-0125	Co-Chair, Outer Banks Transportation Task Force; Dare County Commissioner
Jody Crosswhite	forbescandies@msn.com	441-7293	Co-Chair, Outer Banks Transportation Task Force; Forbes Candies
Gwen Cruickshanks	gwenllyn@earthlink.net	491-8585	Build the Bridge Initiative
Ray Davis	rldavi@kdhnc.com	449-5337	Kill Devil Hills Police Chief
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Jerry Jennings	jjennings@dot.state.nc.us	482-7977	NCDOT, District 1 or Anthony Roper
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