

TRANSPORTATION PLAN

PLANNING OBJECTIVE – To ensure that the Town’s system of roads and pathways provides for the safe and efficient movement of pedestrians, vehicles and emergency equipment within and through the Town of Southern Shores.

TRANSPORTATION DEFINITIONS

CLASS 1 Roadways – Primary collector roads that intersect with more than 2 other town roads and serve as the primary routes from one section of town to other sections.

Average Volume – 2,000 vehicles / day peak season

Right of Way – at least 60’ (need to evaluate impact based on existing ROW’s)

Paved Surface – at least 20’ wide; 10’ each direction if divided

Speed Limit – 25 MPH

Pedestrian Safety Zone – 4’ clear and flat either side of pavement or paved multi-use path parallels the road.

Roads in this class include:

S. Dogwood

E. Dogwood

Sea Oats Trail

Juniper-Trinite from R 158 to Chicahauk Trail

Wax Myrtle

Hillcrest

Hickory from Hillcrest to NC12

CLASS 2 Roadways – Secondary collector roads that intersect with more than 1 other town road and serve as the secondary routes within town.

Average Volume – 1,500 vehicles / day peak season

Right of Way – at least 45’ (need to evaluate impact based on existing ROW’s)

Paved Surface – at least 18’ wide; 9’ each direction if divided

Speed Limit – 25 MPH or less

Pedestrian Safety Zone – 4’ clear and flat either side of pavement or paved multi-use path parallels the road.

Roads in this class include:

All roads that are not Class 1 and not Class 3

CLASS 3 Roadways – Local access roads that connect to only 1 primary or secondary connector road or that have only 1 point of entry and exit.

Average Volume – 1,000 vehicles / day peak season

Right of Way – at least 30’ (need to evaluate impact based on existing ROW’s)

Paved Surface – at least 18’ wide; 9’ each direction if divided

Speed Limit – 25 MPH or less

Pedestrian Safety Zone – 4’ clear and flat either side of pavement

Roads in this class include:

All roads that are not Class 1 and not Class 2

Right-of-Way – ROW refers to the land owned by Southern Shores for its roads. This includes both the paved and unpaved portions of the land owned by the town.

Low-speed vehicle - means any 4-wheeled motor vehicle whose top speed is greater than 20 miles per hour, but not greater than 25 miles per hour. This group includes neighborhood electric vehicles, and speed-modified golf cars, whose top speed is greater than 20 miles per hour, but not greater than 25 miles per hour. (Source - NHTSA's (National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration's) Ruling dated June 17, 1998.)

KEY FINDINGS

1. Seasonal visitors create traffic volume problems on NC 12 and town roads, especially roads that provide routes from the south end of town to the north end of town.
2. The primary seasonal problem is volume, not speeding.
3. Stand alone decisions have resulted in inconsistent speed limits and inadequate public safety provisions for town roads.

RECOMMENDED POLICIES AND ACTION ITEMS

POLICY 1 – Construction and performance standards for all town owned roads shall be defined and evaluated according to the classification of each roadway.

ACTION ITEM 1.a. – adopt the three tier road classification system.

ACTION ITEM 1.b. – provide the necessary funding to comply with road classification standards whenever construction or maintenance is scheduled for a road. The highest priority for funding shall be compliance with the pedestrian safety zone for all class 1 roads and bridges.

ACTION ITEM 1.c. – evaluate town owned roads and bridges at least once every 5 years and whenever construction or maintenance is scheduled for a road to determine if all of the following attributes of the road are adequate for the traffic conditions at that time and for the next 5 years.

- EMS response times
- Pedestrian and bicycle safety zones
- Volume control methods
- Access restrictions
- Traffic calming measures (speed humps, raised crosswalks, narrowed intersections, bump outs, curb extensions, roundabouts)
- Noise / pollution reduction
- Stormwater management
- Aesthetic improvement options

POLICY 2 – Enact volume, weight and speed control measures on a permanent or seasonal basis as needed to ensure the safe and efficient movement of vehicles, emergency equipment, bicycles and pedestrians within and through town.

ACTION ITEM 2.a. – Request that NC DOT reduce the speed limit on NC 12 through all of Southern Shores from 45 mph to 35 mph from May 15th through September 30th each year.

ACTION ITEM 2.b. – Enact an ordinance that limits the weight of vehicles that use town roads to 5 tons or less.

ACTION ITEM 2.c. – Install crosswalk signs on NC 12 that sense and indicate the presence of pedestrians in the roadway.

POLICY 3 – Prevent the pooling or collection of stormwater on or adjacent to town owned roadways.

ACTION ITEM 3.a. – Create a Stormwater Management Plan for the Town of Southern Shores that includes specific design standards (eg. crowning, curbing, runoff absorption techniques) when town roads are constructed, rebuilt or resurfaced.

POLICY 4 – Design and build all multi-use pathways / walkways to follow an overall pattern that ties multi-use pathways and walkways together in a safe, inter-connected system.

ACTION ITEM 4.a. – Create a master plan (“blueprint”) for a system of interconnected multi-use pathways / walkways for Southern Shores.

POLICY 5 – Limit the use of low speed vehicles within Southern Shores to vehicles that:

- Comply with NHTSA’s definition and standards for low speed vehicles.
- Comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 500 (49 CFR 571.500). The standard requires low-speed vehicles to be equipped with headlamps, stop lamps, turn signal lamps, taillamps, reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, windshields, seat belts, and vehicle identification numbers.
- Comply with NC regulations.
- Are powered by electric motors and not internal combustion motors.
- Are capable of sustaining between 20 and 25 mph.
- Are licensed and inspected for use on public roadways.

POLICY 6 – Be proactive in educating residents, property owners, visitors and the business community regarding pedestrian, non-motorized and low speed vehicle access to and use of town owned roadways.

ACTION ITEM 6-a. – Conduct a public workshop and present safety information at a Town Council meeting.

ACTION ITEM 6.b. – Create a brochure on public safety on the roads and provide copies to property owners, renters and realtors.

ACTION ITEM 6.c. - Publish announcements in Southern Shores Broadcast with hot links to a web based version of the brochure.

Transportation Recommendations

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POLICY 7 – Promote interconnectivity of roads within Town.

ACTION ITEM 7.a. - To improve public safety, support transportation projects that promote interconnectivity within the Town.