

Seasonal Traffic Backup Counter Measures Group Meeting

October 13, 2015, 2 PM - Southern Shores Pitts Center

Attached are:

1. List of meeting attendees
2. List of initiatives previously discussed at April 30, 2015 meeting and reviewed at today's meeting (#s of the initiatives indicated are shown below in ()).
3. NCDOT Saturday traffic counts on Wright Memorial Bridge (going and coming) during the three months June, July, August 2015.

MEETING NOTES:

Southern Shores Mayor Tom Bennett opened the meeting and greeted the group. Absent were Currituck BOC Chairman Paul O'Neal and Dare County Commissioner Jack Shea.

Southern Shores Town Manager Peter Rascoe recommended a review of the initiatives discussed at the April 30 meeting and implemented this summer.

Group discussion proceeded generally as follows:

- Kitty Hawk Police Chief Joel Johnson described the *joint law enforcement agency presence* (#4) to keep the main US 158-NC 12 intersection manned on days of each summer weekend. Chief Johnson commented the cooperative effort did work administratively between the participating agencies. However the effort ended up requiring two officers during peak times to adequately handle the traffic load. He recommended that the NCDOT signs for *Do Not Block the Intersection* (#2) be larger and set back further from the intersection if possible. It was noted that NCSHP Troopers participated in the joint effort as well but they would have to leave when called. This effort will continue to have manpower challenges. ... Mayor Bennett and other overall meeting comments indicated the effort received positive comments as "working". Kitty Hawk Mayor Gary Perry commented that traffic volume travelling south through Kitty Hawk seemed the same this year, and he noted it was a good summer. .. Some discussion about smart phone apps contributing to traffic in certain locations.
- Discussion of NCDOT's "*No Right Turn on Red*" signs (#1) produced the comment from law enforcement that they were largely ignored by drivers.
- *Lane Assignment Signage* (#3) placed by NCDOT west of Wright Memorial Bridge - discussion produced comments that this seemed to have some positive effects on traffic separation along US 158 prior to the intersection.
- *Traffic Signal System* (#5) was explained by NCDOT officials Jerry Jennings and Jason Davidson. The system's timing and operation were reviewed throughout the summer – but, it was noted that when traffic comes to a halt due to volume, the system is not effective. ... Jerry and Jason produced results of NCDOT Saturday traffic counts on Wright Memorial Bridge (going and coming) during the three months. It was noted these counts do not determine north-bound or south-bound traffic after the bridge is crossed west to east. Southern Shores Police Chief David Kole commented that is Department's counts would seem to indicate a higher number of vehicles travelling NC 12 north. ... Jerry also commented that DOT could compile some data on counts on US Highway 64 to hopefully determine if traffic increased on that route as an

entrance to the Outer Banks. Kitty Hawk Police Chief Joel Johnson commented he saw increased travel on US 64 during his travels and the State Highway Patrol had indicated such as well. ... NCDOT also commented that summer crash data along US 158 and NC 12 would be compiled soon.

- *Traffic Cameras (#6)* – all implemented by NCDOT for the summer and working. Can't really determine if online use by public had any effect on traffic reduction at peak times.
- *Travel Times on Message Boards*, placed by NCDOT in Currituck County (#7). These were implemented. Noted that there is no indication of effect on traffic reduction at peak times.
- *Portable Message Board announcing Alternate Traffic Route (#8)* activated by NCDOT during peak travel times, placed on US Highway 168 north of Sligo. Noted that there is no indication of effect on traffic reduction at peak times.
- *Marketing (#9)*. Jerry did note that the Dot website was fully functioning as well as the NC12 Twitter feed. He noted that the OB Visitor's Bureau was promoting its own website page indicating alternate routes to the Outer Banks. Southern shores Town manager Peter Rascoe noted he had continued to dialogue with the OB Visitors Bureau about its alternate route effort, and that the Town of Southern Shores had sought to promote the alternate route of I-95/ US 64 as the preferred route for southern beach visitors. Peter noted he had met several times with Outer Banks realtors association Property Management/rental managers' Group in dialogue regarding that group's members marketing alternate routes in early and ongoing communications with rental visitors. Peter noted he would continue the same dialogue throughout the off-season.
- NCDOT Board Member Malcolm Fearing initiated group discussion on the Mid-Currituck Bridge efforts, noting that it is the solution for the mass volume of vehicle traffic headed to Currituck County. Malcolm is confident the bridge will be built and urged public/grass roots involvement in keeping public pressure on the project. It was noted that the Southern Environmental Law Center has file Public records requites with several area local governments regarding efforts for the Mid-Currituck bridge.
- Kitty Hawk Mayor Gary Perry revisited the noted manpower challenge for the US 158-NC 12 intersection on summer weekends. He noted that Kitty Hawk may be able to provide some retired officers for the traffic control at less expense. The idea was discussed that the intersection manpower initiative might qualify for some grant funding form the Outer banks Visitors Bureau was brought up. Peter Rascoe asked if the Police Chiefs might get him some estimated manpower expense numbers, so that he could possibly dialogue with the OBVB on that possibility.
- Southern Shores Town Manager Peter Rascoe brought up that complaint calls to the SS Town Hall continue to primarily pertain to the increased traffic on Interior streets during seasonal weeks. For clarification and amplification purposes, Peter asked if NCDOT and Kitty Hawk could again comment on the previously discussed matter of "No Left Turn" signs at the east-bound side of the US Highway 158 and S. Dogwood Trail intersection. NCDOT reminded that any such regulatory sign would have to apply to all Southern Shores residents as well. And any enforcement of the sign would require a law enforcement officer in the intersection during the regulated period. Southern Shores Police Chief David Kole added that responding firemen

living in Martin's Point and southern Currituck would be inhibited by such a sign. And Kitty Hawk Police Chief Joel Johnson and Kitty Hawk Mayor Gary Perry both noted the intersection is in Kitty Hawk's jurisdiction, and Kitty Hawk could not supply the manpower required to enforce such a sign. Southern Shores Mayor Tom Bennett noted the Town of Southern Shores still has citizens who want South Dogwood Trail blocked for "resident use" only, which, if ever done, would itself cause a back-up at the main highway intersection.

- Discussion confirmed the group will plan to meet again early spring of 2016

The meeting of the group adjourned at 3:15 pm.

October 13, 2015

End of Season Review of Summer "Seasonal Traffic Backup Counter Measures" Efforts

Attendees:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>email</u>
1. Peter Rascre	Southern Shores	prascres@southernshores.nc.gov
Malcolm JEROME	NCDOT	malj@ncdot.gov
DON KINGSTON	Duck	don.kingston@townofduck.com
Jodi Hess	SS	jhess@ss.com
TOM BENNETT	Toss	tbennett@southshores.com
David Kole	Toss pd.	dkole@southernshores.com
Joel C. Johnson	Kitty Hawk Police Dept	jjohnson@kittyhawk.com
Anthony Roper	NCDOT	awroper@ncdot.gov
JASON DAVIDSON	NCDOT	jdauidson@ncdot.gov
JERRY JENNING	NCDOT	jjennin@ncdot.gov
DAN SCANLON	CURRITUCK	dan.scanlon@willuck.com
Peter Rascre		
JOHN STOCKTON	KITTY HAWK	jstockton@KITTYHAWK.TOWN.NC.GOV
SARA PERRY	" "	SPERRY@KHT.NET
Bobby Outten	Dare Co.	outten@darenc.com
BOB WOODARD	DARE CO	woodard@darenc.com
Chris Clayton	Duck	clayton@townofduck.com
John Cueto	DUCK	jcuetto@townofduck.com

US 158 – Seasonal Traffic Backup Counter Measures – Currituck and Dare Counties

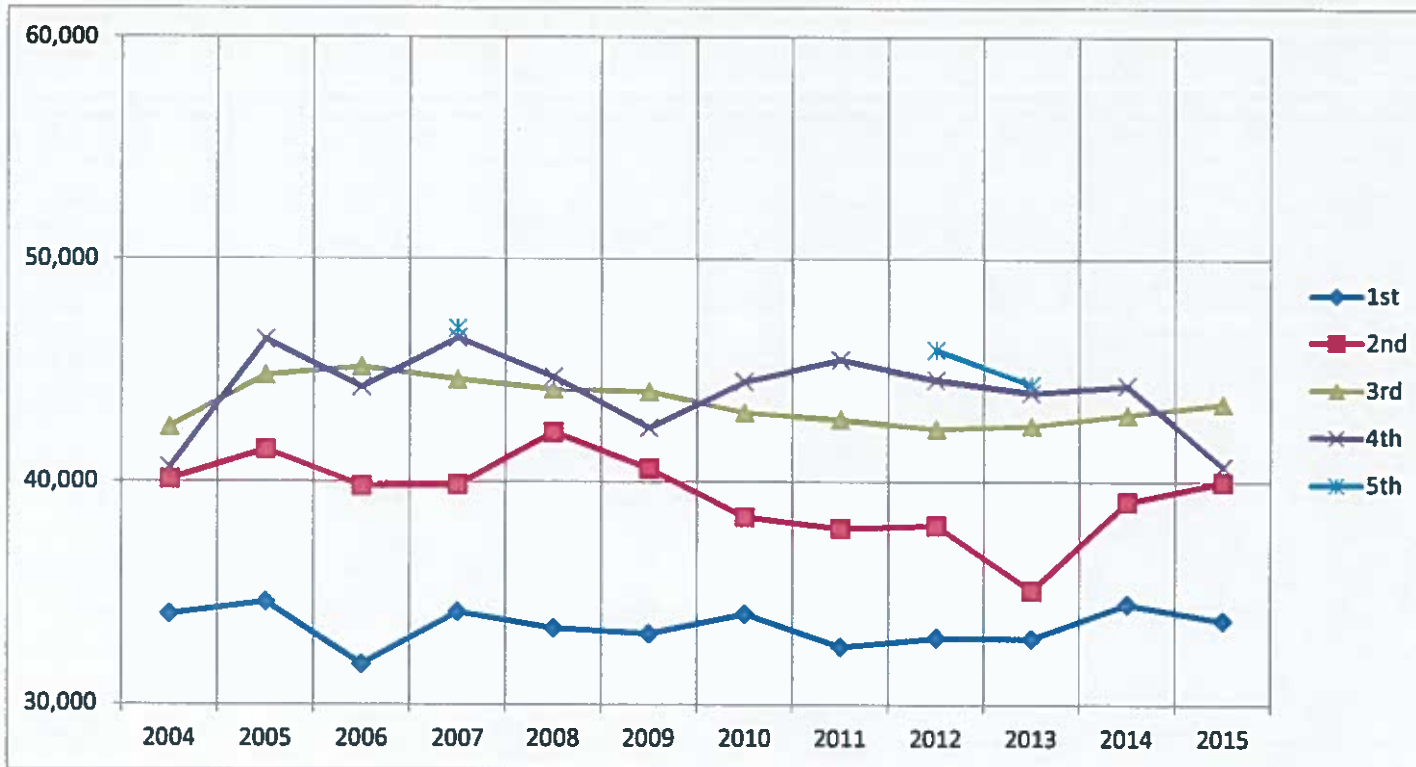
1. **No Right Turn on Red** – This restriction will be added for traffic traveling northward on US 158 and making a right turn to continue north on NC 12 at the Kitty Hawk Rest Area intersection.
2. **Do Not Block Intersection** – These signs will be installed on the traffic signal mast arms for traffic entering Dare County on US 158.
3. **Lane Assignment Signage** – This signage will be placed on US 158 prior to the Wright Memorial Bridge to give advance notice to motorists. This should reduce lane changes approaching the Kitty Hawk Rest Area intersection.
4. **Law Enforcement Presence** – Local governments will provide a limited presence at key intersections during peak periods.
5. **Traffic Signal System** – Traffic signal timing and operation has been reviewed. Operation will be closely monitored during peak travel times and adjusted as appropriate to ensure traffic is flowing at optimum levels.
6. **Traffic Cameras** – Traffic cameras through Currituck and the northern beaches are working properly. Every effort will be made to ensure operation during the summer season.
7. **Travel Times** – The southbound message boards in Currituck will display real time travel times to the Outer Banks area.
8. **Alternate Travel Route** – A portable message board with a highway advisory radio will be in placed on NC 168 north of Sligo to promote the alternative travel route using NC 34 to US 17 to US 64. This system will be activated during peak travel times.
9. **Marketing** –
 - a. The Visitor's Bureau has created a "GetToTheOBXFASTER" webpage that provides recommendations for alternate routes and check in dates/times.
 - b. The NCDOT public information office will issue press releases at appropriate times regarding alternate routes and include this information when providing press releases regarding other Outer Banks issues. A link to the above website will be included. This information will also be shared through social media. In addition, they are working with VDOT in an effort to promote the alternative route in Virginia.

c. "Destination Dare" Gov Channel 191 segment

**US 158 - Wright Memorial Bridge
Saturdays During Peak Summer Travel
(Vehicles Per Day)**

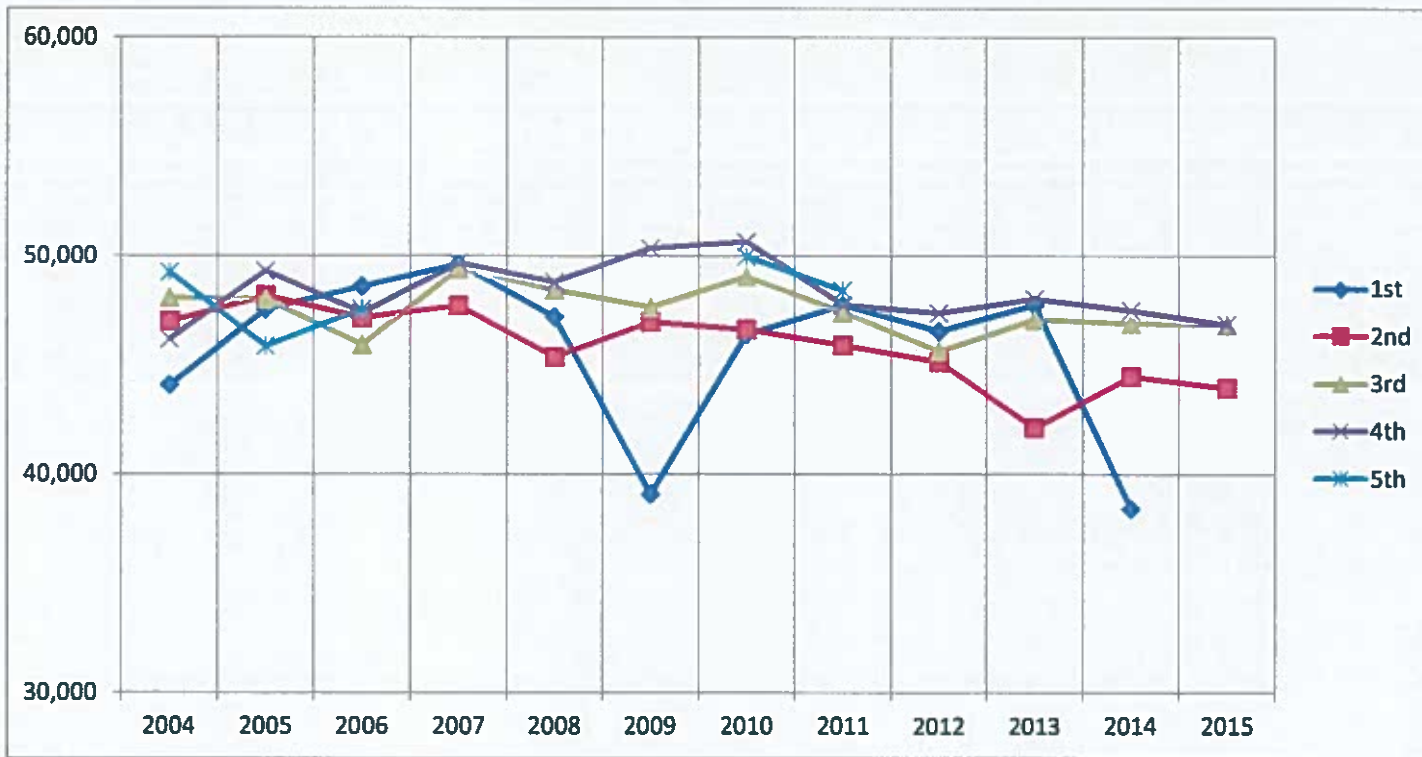
June

Weekend	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1st	34,068	34,614	31,812	34,159	33,448	33,198	34,072	32,607	33,018	32,985	34,526	33,801
2nd	40,101	41,437	39,799	39,859	42,222	40,581	38,414	37,900	38,035	35,124	39,094	40,006
3rd	42,447	44,775	45,133	44,578	44,142	44,020	43,100	42,789	42,369	42,512	43,012	43,521
4th	40,618	46,362	44,223	46,431	44,679	42,395	44,502	45,460	44,574	43,990	44,327	40,689
5th				46,857					45,912	44,365		



July

Weekend	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1st	44,058	47,529	48,592	49,593	47,195	39,077	46,387	47,733	46,547	47,747	38,400	
2nd	46,977	48,155	47,145	47,687	45,348	46,953	46,609	45,888	45,125	42,089	44,452	43,926
3rd	48,072	47,992	45,915	49,391	48,428	47,634	49,040	47,411	45,627	47,072	46,904	46,844
4th	46,183	49,299	47,371	49,664	48,792	50,343	50,638	47,732	47,365	48,018	47,490	46,848
5th	49,234	45,867	47,544				49,969	48,401				



August

Weekend	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1st	48,051	48,233	48,083	50,395	49,452	49,536	50,167	47,950	47,560	47,672	45,078	47,502
2nd	32,134	48,197	47,690	50,818	50,110	51,075	50,351	48,838	47,092	47,696	47,871	44,786
3rd	47,135	45,281	47,330	49,944	49,611	48,673	48,184	47,221	47,010	45,053	47,389	46,931
4th	42,397	42,328	44,701	46,411	45,721	46,429	43,661	42,751	40,649	44,329		44,778
5th					39,615	39,832				40,207		40,080

