

**Parks & Rec Committee
Bicycle & Pedestrian Report
November 14, 2011
Final Report **

Introduction

This report contains recommendations made to the Parks & Recreation Committee (P&RC) and a compilation of issues raised during the past 10 months. It also contains suggestions on next steps to address some of the issues and concerns raised during the process of putting this report together.

The P&RC has met 6 times with the Cape Fear Area RPO transportation planner to identify issues and seek remedies to them. There was also a field trip in December, 2010. *The major issue identified by the committee was the golf cart traffic congestion along N Bald Head Wynd and Federal Road during the peak summer visitation time.* Several possible alternate routes were identified and investigated. They were discarded as unfeasible due to 1.) cost, 2.) environmental impact or 3.) resistance from property owners.

In light of that, the P&RC explored the possibility of some other measures to help with traffic flow. This was seen as a way to address some of the confusion that many visitors have in locating destinations and the resultant unsafe driving that often results.

Recommendations

1. **Relocation "You are here" (YAH) signage to the ferry landing-** The YAH signage (much like what is located in a mall for example) should be relocated to near the island-side ferry landing to make it more useful to the visitor.
2. **General upgrading of directional signage on the island-**The signage near the ferry landing should be upgraded user friendly and visible to the visitor so that they may locate various features and sites on the island after departing the ferry.
3. **Include island maps on real estate publications-**Many of the real estate companies doing business on the island have publications such as brochures that are

widely distributed. The Village should provide a base map to the real estate interests and encourage them to include them in their publications.

4. **Upgrade mainland signage at the ferry landing**-Signage should be erected at the mainland welcome center to give visitors an opportunity to get oriented to the island. This signage could be located in either the upstairs waiting room or near the loading area at the ferry.
5. **Declutter or simplify maps**-Many of the real estate brochures map of the Village contain too much information for the casual reader to digest and easily understand. An effort should be made to simplify the maps so that they are easier for the casual user to read.
6. **Consider closing Federal Way**- Consider closing the road for some period of time to cars to give bicyclists and pedestrians a safer travel period.
7. **Establish "Rules of the Road" for bicyclists**-Basic rules of the road for bicyclist should be established and publicized. This would help protect both the bicyclist and the pedestrian. Rules from the League American Bicyclist include (amended to adapt to Bald Head's circumstances):
 - **Follow the law**-Bicyclist safety and the image of bicyclists depends on the bicyclist. Bicyclists have the same rights and duties as drivers. Obey traffic signals and stop signs. Ride with traffic; use the rightmost lane headed in the direction you are going.
 - **Be predictable**-Make your intentions clear to other road users. Ride in a straight line and don't swerve. Signal turns, and check behind you well before turning or changing lanes.
 - **Be conspicuous**-Ride where others can see you; wear bright clothing. Use a front white light and red rear light and reflectors at night or when visibility is poor. Make eye contact with others. Don't ride on sidewalks.
 - **Think ahead**-Anticipate what pedestrians and other bicyclists will do next.
 - **Ride Ready**- Check your tires have sufficient air, brakes are working, chain runs smoothly, and quick release wheel levers are closed. Carry repair and emergency supplies appropriate for your ride. Wear a helmet.
 - **Keep your cool**.-Road rage benefits no-one and always makes a bad situation worse.

Other Considerations

Availability of State Funding

Two sources of funding through the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) may be available.

Enhancement projects—These projects are defined as activities that must benefit the traveling public and help communities increase transportation choices and access, enhance the built or natural environment, and create a sense of place. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities are one of the eligible types of projects.

I have emailed the link to the NCDOT Enhancement Program website to Ms. Spivey. Unfortunately, this program has not been funded by NCDOT in the last several years.

Powell Bill (PB) Funds State street-aid (Powell Bill) allocations are made to incorporated municipalities by NCDOT as provided by the general statutes. This is done on an annual basis. These funds are allocated on or before October 1, and are to be expended only for the purposes of maintaining, repairing, constructing, reconstructing or widening of local streets that are the responsibility of the municipalities. The Village receives about \$1,300 annually in PB funds. They presently have no PB funds saved from previous allocations.

PB funds can also be used for traffic control purposes such as:

- Purchase and maintenance of traffic control devices.
- Purchase and maintenance of other traffic signs necessary for proper traffic control. **(Not street name signs)**
- Purchase and application of traffic paint.

The Village staff should:

- Consider making preliminary plans to prepare an application for Enhancement funds.
- Carefully monitor the availability of Enhancement funds by keeping in close contact with the Cape Fear Area RPO.
- Assess the potential for the use of Powell Bill funds for signage.

Website Resources

NCDOT's "Bike & Ped" Division

<http://www.ncdot.gov/bikeped/>

NCDOT's Enhancement Program

<http://www.ncdot.org/programs/Enhancement/>

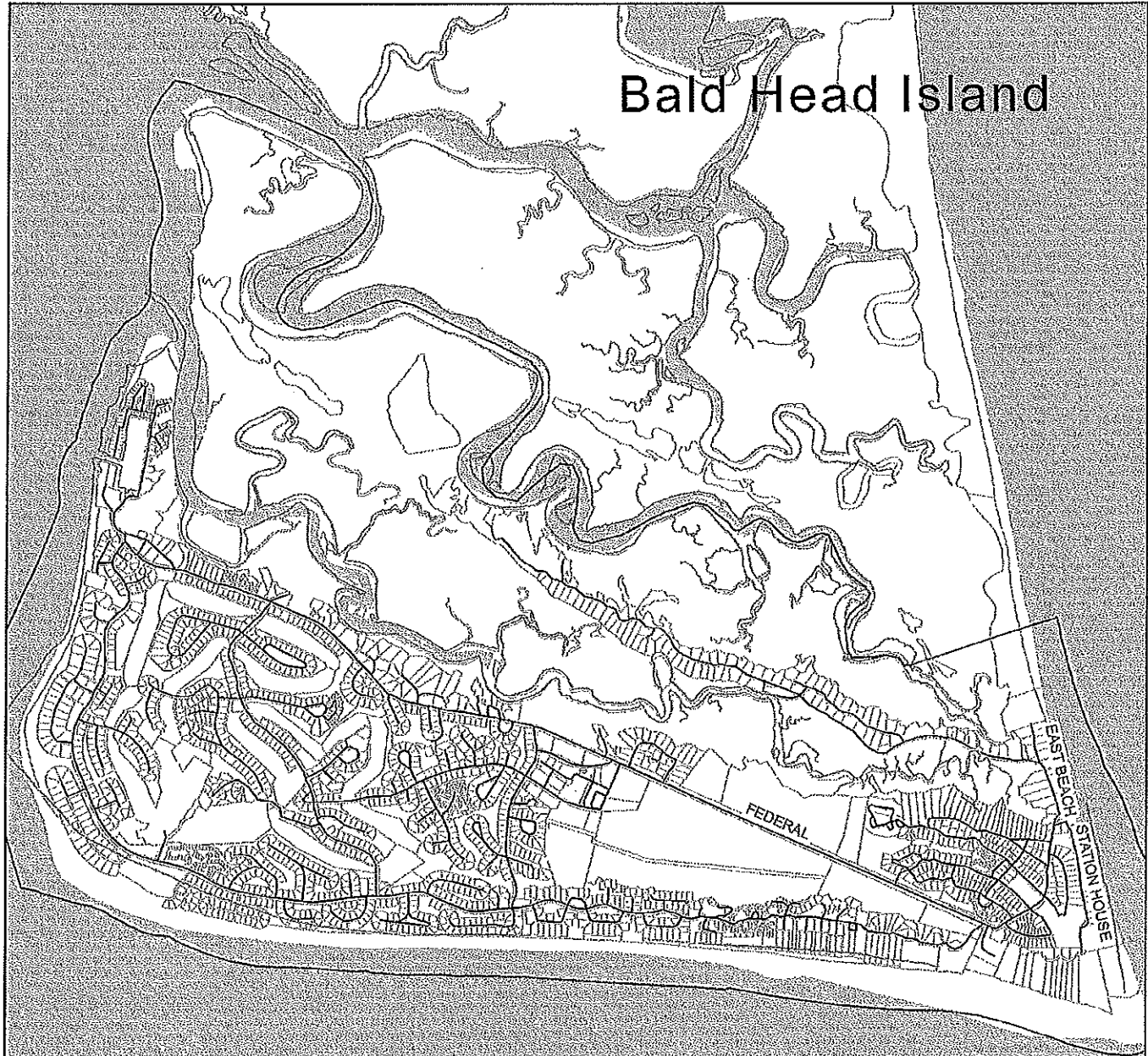
Cape Fear Cyclists

<http://www.capefearcyclists.org/>

League of American Bicyclists

<http://www.bikeleague.org/>

Bald Head Island



Map created: December 10th, 2010.

