

Appendix 1

This appendix includes the original feedback provided during the public meetings. The table is organized according to meeting session (morning or evening), and includes sections for concerns, solutions, and general comments.

Morning Session: 9:00 AM – 11:40 AM

Concerns / Issues
Beach/Parking erosion
Threats to ORV access
Possibility of beach parking disappearing
Storm evacuation
Storm aftermath (reopening the beach after storms)
Cost of transportation improvements
Tom's Cove aquaculture is not well protected
Influx of tourists during holidays and events (e.g. Pony Swim)
Maintaining parking at the beach
Inadequate shoulders on the causeway (especially for bicycle safety)
Causeway elevation (including low spots) is safety issue
No storm shelter
Town could/should be more pedestrian friendly
Road conditions (e.g. surface pavement)
Faint lines on roadways
Public accountability for use of entrance fee funds
Beach accessibility for handicapped (both in terms of parking and access to the shoreline from parking areas)
Defining congestion (relative to other places)
Summertime/seasonal congestion (e.g. traffic to the beach on holiday weekends)
Width of bicycle paths
Bicycles using the road instead of trails
Drivers not used to bicycles on the road
Children on bikes presents a road safety issue
Moped safety
Handicapped accessible spaces (e.g. limited width)
Quality of life and access to fishing for the handicapped
Tourists don't mind traffic
No vehicular access would be most detrimental to tourism (need access for families with coolers and beach gear)
Concerns about evacuation/Need plan ready to institute when vehicles cannot access the beach (or the exit).
Transportation for fisherman (especially gear) at all times of day
People do not come to Chincoteague for one asset - they come for beach, shops, seafood (many assets in many different locations).
Emergency access (not a big issue)
Pull off areas interfere with bicycle lanes
Funding and adequate revenue needed to make changes
Signs - do people read signs? How can they be more effective?
Impact of new bridge and traffic flow on Main St.
Must understand users to understand transportation issues. Users include:
- renters
- motel/hotel guests
- full time residents
- weekenders
- daily visitors (day trippers)
- cyclists
- pedestrians
- delivery/commercial users
- non-US/foreign visitors
- 3-wheeled vehicles

Concerns / Issues (continued)
Must understand users' expectations
Weather impacts on safety (i.e. thunderstorms)
Safety issues, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mixed uses (Town, Refuge, Causeway) - lack of bike lanes - emergency vehicle access - people not using bike lanes correctly and unsafe bike practices - wildlife impacts - viewing of wildlife/rubbernecking - Chincoteague causeway emergency access - Town of Chincoteague emergency access - lack of safe bike access in Town - parking at beach (not enough at peak times) - carrying capacity of beach - currently fewer parking spaces than there had been in the past - wildlife/visit conflicts over space - inability to maintain parking lot (cost/time to repair - solution must be sustainable) - lack of communication to visitors prior to getting to the Refuge/Park
Public wanting more access - bikes on service road
Are we building on a "failed area" - is the public beach the best area for parking
Desire to use different modes of transportation (i.e. golf carts, mopeds)
Issues specific to the town <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mixed uses - lack of public transportation within town and to the refuge - funding (where is the money coming from - homeowners? motel tax? Opportunities for federal and state funding?) - congestion - Maddox Blvd. is "nightmare" at times - concerns that the new bridge will make it worse
Lack of parking, especially on Maddox Blvd.
Cruising/Sharking for parking
Lack of town sidewalk
So few people use the trolley system
Should Main St. be closed to traffic?
No shoulders on causeway
Causeway floods
Lightning - too much or too little
Lack of education to bike users
Litter problem - increase access and people will increase litter problems
Need sand sifting machine
More signs
Pollution - alternative transportation needs to be alternative fuel, and source needs to be clean
Mixed use concerns after 3 PM

Solutions
Public education, especially to avoid peak beach access times
Sand fencing to maintain beach
Moving public beach to the north
Beach replenishment
Creative funding (e.g. finding alternative sources)
Removable beach ramp to provide wheelchair access
Installing a jetty to protect the beach from erosion
Add parking for seasonal residents
Add parking on Maddox Blvd.
Eliminate the drainage ditches on Rt. 175 and bury pipes (to remove safety hazard)
Communication to beachgoers (e.g. full parking alerts)
Improve bike access in and around refuge, and in and around town.
Use ADA matting
There used to be a wooden access path to the water line (in summer only), which was accessible
Need different options for different populations (vs. "one size fits all")
Rental options (e.g. Wildwood and rentals of umbrellas, chairs, kayaks, etc.)
Accomack school buses
Park cars on wildlife drive with a shuttle to the beach

Move the beach parking north (4-5 mi. to more stable area)
Solutions (continued)
Parking for handicapped fisherman by ORV area (see map). Could possibly charge for parking.
Change traffic flow to close down Main St. to vehicles (make it pedestrian only for 3-4 blocks downtown), make Maddox Blvd. one way and use Ocean to come back, and consider circular vs. linear traffic flow
Consider gateway as positive, not negative
For first responders/emergencies, send ambulance in exit lane
Add express lane at refuge entrance for those w/passes (however, people sometimes want to use the same booth to say hi to staff).
Use E-Z Pass at booth entrances
Think regionally (especially in terms of hospitality/tourism/customer service) - integrate and combine missions
Find positive solutions to problems
Create parking garage (both Town and refuge) and transport to/from
Use existing public lots for parking
Motel/hotel bus services
Create single booths for pass access holders at refuge entrance
Create temporary storm shelters for mass transit
Expand trolley system
Pony carts
Overhead tram systems throughout the town and refuge
Business rent electric cards with <i>charging</i> stations on stations
Free use of bikes
Establish emergency lane (on/off refuge)
Create new bike lanes/sidewalk
Create more pull-offs on Refuge for wildlife opportunities
Relocate public areas to more sustainable area
Look for our windows of opportunity
Water transit system w/information system - run from mainland to Chincoteague Is and from Chincoteague Is to Assateague Is
Canoe/kayak water trail from north to south end
Pump sand to west side of island (but consider environmental impacts)
Educate public about proper bike use
Traveler information - use current radio station
Parking at Wallops Island - use water transportation to access refuge
Disney-type water ferries
Concession that provide "staff" to people at beach
Relax environmental concerns/rules
Surfers and fisherman want access with their staff
Access that is quick, especially for locals with limited time constraints
Ability to maintain current uses
Use stickers on vehicles to speed up process (but there are concerns about misuse of passes)
Increasing infrastructure for bikes - organized storage for bikes
Racks/storage areas on new buses
Create biking storage - stacking as opposed to strung out racks
Create small/compact car parking
Have designative parking for scooters and motorcycles (especially in closures)
Lined/painted parking spaces
Create oversized parking areas
Parking attendants
Encourage carpooling (HOV lanes)
Consider location of fee booths
Lack of parking at crabbing area
Crabbers parking in bike lane near bridge
People get lots of info too close to the fee booths
Create phone # so people can call re: fees/other info
Get passes off-site (ATM)
Get info offsite (hotels/chamber)
Post fee/other info on cable access channel
Monorail or pod cars ("George Jetson cars")
Get coupon/commercial incentive to car pool
Change fee laws

Park-n-ride lot for beach going
Solutions (continued)
Open Wildlife Loop for parking
Lack of moped access to wildlife loop
Search out/create new partnerships that might help with \$\$\$ (i.e. Ford funds staff person)
Promote/allow for drop offs at beach w/shuttle system for driver from remote lot to beach

Other Comments
"If it ain't broken, don't fix it" means current beach parking should be maintained (but what happens if there is a storm, too many people, etc.)
Transition into new solutions (e.g. move beach parking north, but keep some southern parking open, and gradually transition to new parking areas).

Evening Session: 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Concerns / Issues
Fear of loss of access to the beach
Impact of restrictions to access on property values
Ped-bike access through town
Transit/shuttle would be liable for visitor safety during storms
Chincoteague offers the only public beach access between VA state line and Virginia Beach
Handicapped access to water line
The highway between 13 and Chincoteague is only 2 lanes, but should be 4
Bicycles and mopeds on the causeway
Dangerous biking on causeway, Main Street, and to beach
Congestion is only 2 months out of the year for four hours each day
Confusion at fee booth about what pass to buy creates bottlenecks
Storm evacuation
Congestion on Maddox Blvd. after evacuating from a storm event.
3-wheelers and scooters are a nuisance
No separation between bicycles, pedestrians, and cars
Bike paths are poorly marked or difficult to find
Bike paths are too gravelly for bikes with skinny tires
Lack of shoulders on 175 and low points on 175
Emergency vehicle access (causeway, buses, etc.)
Whole causeway road needs to be rebuilt (bridges, approach, etc.)
Open drainage ditches on 175
Chincoteague lack of bike paths, esp. on Main Street
Inadequate bike paths in Chinco - not well labeled
Lack of sidewalks/inconsistent sidewalks
Left turn from Church and Main Streets
Trolley drivers have a wide vehicle combined with increased bike and moped use on Chinco
Refuge bike path to bridge - WL Loop too narrow - ignore lines
Young kids and experienced riders
Unfinished bike path from the refuge
Town bike committee - \$ to look at and include in Plan - Bike Plan
Congestion at fee booth
Potential to lose beach parking
How will people be removed from the beach during weather events
Environmental impacts of buses, etc.
How can people get their stuff to/from the beach
Carnival traffic - esp. at events, re: weather in Town
ORV access - losing potential spots
Increased fees
Resident rate for fees
Moped use of WL loop
Is there really a problem??
Are we overreacting?

Concerns / Issues (Continued)
Do tourists see these as problems?
Need to enforce bikes off sidewalk
Cars don't respect bikes- both vehicles and bikes need to be educated
Bike path cross over NPS - signs block traffic
Evacuation during weather events
Reduced boating access

Solutions
Jetties or man-made reefs
Facilitate, don't limit access to the beach
Hotel passes or tokens for the beach
Express lane to the beach (EZ Pass type)
Widen road between bridge and booths
Keep offering yearly pass
A place to park cars that won't get washed away
Turn over the area from FWS to NPS, or vice versa.
ORV pass to the north
Parking area to the north
Different paving materials on parking lots for easier maintenance (e.g. shells)
Create one fee option for certain times of day
Offer fewer fee options or advance pass sales
Move parking to the Hook or another area
Add another road north of Parking lot 1
Create a family-friendly bay beach as an option
Offer ferry access a new bay beach on east side (near Memorial) to create economic engine for town
If new bay beach is created, offer swan boats for recreation
Consider bike/ped routes from NASA
Improve signage for bike path (painted on path)
Enforce bicycle laws
Add another beach to the north
Widen and raise causeway
Provide educational material to tourists - helpful hints from beach traffic
Metal landing stripe for surface stabilization
Create dunes to stabilize area
Snow fencing in winter to catch sand and keep it from getting into the lot
Educate visitors #1 idea
ORV fee too much \$\$ - lower fees to increase access
Create artificial reefs to prevent beach erosion
Dunes? Beach vs. parking? What is right?
1 on, 1 off for parking
Better markings on bike lanes
Educate cyclists re: bike lanes - brochures with lane
Identify bike path with paint on road
Min/max speeds on causeway should be established
EZ pass access at gate
Like daily pass - nice to have
Increase boating access via floating docks
Increase kayak access with a water trail
Educate visitors (Denise Bowden)
Create pull-offs along causeways or observation areas
Widen causeway - concern over fatalities
Maintain beach parking (\$200K/year, possible use of mesh surfaces [WWII stuff])
Provide beach access via boat
Extend vehicle access down Toms Cove
Increase fee for parking lot maintenance
What happens at refuge and park affects community
Bike safety film was produced and played on PA channel
Bike rental places hand out safety info
www.chincoteague.com, put out bike safety info and other educational info

