



TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

PUBLIC HEARING

August 17th-24th, 2020

The Kure Beach Town Council held a Public Hearing on Monday, August 17, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. The Town Attorney was present and there was a quorum of Council members present.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Craig Bloszinsky
MPT David Heglar (Via Conference Call)
Commissioner Joseph Whitley
Commissioner John Ellen
Commissioner Allen Oliver

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Town Clerk – Mandy Sanders
Building Inspector – John Batson
Deputy Town Clerk – Beth Chase
Police Chief – Mike Bowden
Fire Chief – Ed Kennedy

Mayor Bloszinsky called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. stating the purpose of this hearing is to receive comments from the public regarding the speed limit between Alabama Avenue to N Avenue and N Fort Fisher Boulevard to S Fort Fisher Boulevard.

Mayor Bloszinsky stated:

- 17 accidents recorded by the Police Department throughout Town
- 9 of those accidents took place on Fort Fisher Boulevard.
- 3 were vehicle related incidents
- 2 were parked car incidents
- 4 of the accidents were bicycle/vehicle related incidents

Mayor Bloszinsky opened the Public Hearing for comments at 5:37 p.m.

Elizabeth Stewart, Resident at 742 Cutter Ct

Out of the 17 incidents in Town what months did the accidents occur? Is this a seasonal issue?

Police Chief Bowden stated 9 out of 17 incidents were from May through September.



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Ed Wilkerson, Resident at 625 Settlers Lane

How many of the accidents were the results of speeding? From Fort Fisher Boulevard throughout Town there is a variety of activity. It seems like Kure Beach is following Carolina Beach in this speed reduction and he would like to know if the reduction in speed in Carolina Beach has caused a reduction in accidents.

Mayor Bloszinsky stated he does not have the data regarding the results of accidents related to speed. This is not because Carolina Beach has lowered the speed but because the Town has a lot of bicyclists, and pedestrians that need to cross the street to get to the beach. He is looking tonight for citizens position regarding lowering the speed limit or keeping it the same.

Howard Aims, Resident on Atlantic Avenue:

He feels it is important to be consistent from Carolina Beach all the way down Fort Fisher Boulevard. The enforcement of the speed reduction will be a very important part as if it is not enforced citizens will not obey the new law.

Pedestrian Chairman Mo Linquist read her comments to Town Council which is hereby incorporated into the minutes.

Maryanne Hitter, Resident at 401 Largo Way:

We all live on an island and she is all for lowering the speed limit to 25mph.

Elizabeth Stuart, Resident at 742 Cutter Court:

She disagrees with lowering the speed limit. She feels that citizens currently go slow enough, and she rarely gets to go 35mph. She would like for Town Council to consider the speed reduction during the peak season.

Patty Dillinger, Resident at Fort Fisher Boulevard S:

She lives near the E Beach Access and it is her experience that most evenings and all-day Saturday and Sunday citizens on Fort Fisher Boulevard are racing throughout Town. She would like to ask Town Council to please consider lowering the speed limit for the sake of pedestrians, children, and citizens that walk pets every day along this road.

Connie Mearkle, Resident at 454 N Fort Fisher Boulevard:

She is not in favor of a speed reduction. She walks her dogs every day on Fort Fisher Boulevard and does not see an issue with speeding. She does not feel she has ever been able to drive above 25mph during the summer season.

Town Clerk Sanders read comments received via email. The emails are hereby incorporated as part of the minutes.



TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

PUBLIC HEARING

August 17th-24th, 2020

MOTION- Commissioner Oliver made a motion to hold a Special Meeting to take action on the Speed Limit on Monday, August 24, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

SECOND- Commissioner Whitley

VOTE- Unanimous

MOTION- Commissioner Whitley made a motion to continue the Public Hearing to receive additional comments on Monday, August 24, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

SECOND- Commissioner Oliver

VOTE- Unanimous

CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING ON MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Craig Bloszinsky
MPT David Heglar
Commissioner Joseph Whitley
Commissioner John Ellen
Commissioner Allen Oliver

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT


Town Clerk – Mandy Sanders
Building Inspector – John Batson
Deputy Town Clerk – Beth Chase
Police Chief – Mike Bowden
Fire Chief – Ed Kennedy


MOTION- Commissioner Ellen made a motion to continue the Public Hearing on Monday, August 24, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

SECOND- MPT Heglar

VOTE- Unanimous

Town Clerk Sanders read public comments received via email and the comments are hereby incorporated into the minutes.


ATTEST: Mandy Sanders, Town Clerk


Craig Bloszinsky, Mayor

NOTE: These are action minutes reflecting items considered and actions taken by Council. These minutes are not a transcript of the meeting. A recording of the meeting is available on the town's website under [government>agendas&minutes](#)

Beth Chase

From: Galbraith, Craig <galbraithc@uncw.edu>
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 3:15 PM
To: Beth Chase
Subject: public comment on speed limit

Beth - here is my comment re public comment on speed limit

=====

Dear Kure Beach Council

As a Kure Beach resident and property owner, here is my public comment regarding the Speed Limit between Alabama Avenue to N Avenue and N Fort Fisher Boulevard to S Fort Fisher Boulevard

I have lived in Kure Beach since 1995, and have now traveled on Fort Fisher Blvd probably thousands of times. Personally I have never seen speeding as a problem on Fort Fisher Blvd. In addition, I have looked at many months of police records this year, and find only a minimal amount of speeding tickets being written in Kure Beach. Although I have never really witnessed speeding, without question I have seen either drunk drivers and/or texting drivers unable to stay on the road many times, often causing near accidents. Drunk and/or texting drivers presents far more danger to citizens and pedestrians in my opinion than speeding in Kure Beach.

Having said this, I support changing the speed limit between Alabama Ave and N Avenue to 25 mph. It is simply confusing to go from 25mph through all of Carolina Beach, to 35mph, then back to 25 mph. Lets be consistent on this stretch of road. However, I do NOT support changing the speed limit to 25mph for the more southern stretch on Fort Fisher Blvd - no real reason, and it will, in fact, simply encourage people to now speed by continue driving 35mph on this stretch of road.

With Respect

Craig

Craig S. Galbraith, MBA, MSc., Ph.D., CPVA
Duke Progress Energy/Betty Cameron Distinguished Professor
GlaxoSmithKline Faculty Fellow, Economic Development
Cameron School of Business, University of North Carolina Wilmington
& Doctorate Dissertation Supervisor, Edinburgh Business School
UNCW Contact: (910) 962-3775; (910) 962-2116 (fax)

Mandy Sanders

From: Craig Bloszinsky
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 12:57 PM
To: Judy Larrick; Allen Oliver; John Ellen; David Heglar; Joseph Whitley
Cc: Mandy Sanders
Subject: Re: KB Public Meeting re 25 mph speed limit

Judy, thanks for sending us your opinion. For your awareness this has nothing to do with CB. Your neighbors like you would like to have a 25mph on their street as you want for your street. There are many more possible issues on Fort Fisher, just getting out of the driveway is a problem for people, seeing around parked cars, people biking, walking, skateboarding, everyone crossing to get to the beach. We have had several accidents this year on Fort Fisher but none on Settlers so safety is an issue but tickets are not. I understand your points and they are valid but I think you would agree that the people living on that street and using it daily should have a say about the mph.

Best Regards,
Craig Bloszinsky
Mayor Kure Beach

Craig

From: Judy Larrick <judylarrick@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 12:26:18 PM
To: Craig Bloszinsky <c.bloszinsky@townofkurebeach.org>; Allen Oliver <a.oliver@townofkurebeach.org>; John Ellen <j.ellen@townofkurebeach.org>; David Heglar <heglardw@corning.com>; Joseph Whitley <j.whitley@townofkurebeach.org>
Cc: Mandy Sanders <m.sanders@townofkurebeach.org>
Subject: KB Public Meeting re 25 mph speed limit

I am OPPOSED to the reduction of speed limits to 25 mph, especially on South Fort Fisher Blvd. What is the justification for this change? How many speed accidents have there been? How many speeding tickets over 40 have there been (or perhaps not enough for needed revenue)? It is especially offensive to me that Carolina Beach, the architects of the disaster Road Diet, request these changes in KB and Council agrees!! The KB Business area already has 25 mph limits which is adequate for a one-stoplight town!

For 3 months of the year, increased tourist traffic on our roads already reduces speeds to a CRAWL on FF Blvd due to:

1. Tourists sightseeing, looking for rentals, or just lost, stopping and turning!
2. Golf Carts going 20 mph
3. Traffic stopped at Crosswalks every few blocks
4. Ferry traffic lines after docking at FF

The other 9 months of the year the 35 mph limit is reasonable for our greatly reduced traffic, few pedestrians and bicycles, and finally when residents can commute without all above! Many residents depend on FF Blvd to commute to work! FF Blvd speed was reduced from 45 to 35 a few years ago, and 25 mph is overreach and NOT JUSTIFIED by conditions. 25 mph will turn our ONLY road into a Parking Lot!!!

I urge you to NOT make changes to speed limits on FF Blvd (and please tell CB to mind their own business!)

Judy Larrick
645 Settlers,KB

Mandy Sanders

From: msakurada@empowernc.com
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 1:46 PM
To: 'Mo Linquist'; Allen Oliver; Beth Chase; Mandy Sanders
Subject: Public Comments
Attachments: Comments for public hearing 8-17-2020.pdf

Here are my comments for upcoming public meeting on change to 25 mph on Ft Fisher Blvd.

Let me know if you have any questions or comments. Thanks.

Matt Sakurada
Phone 919-770-9329
Email: msakurada@empowernc.com

Comments to Town Council for Public Hearing on
Reduction of speed limit to 25 mph north on Ft. Fisher Blvd N Avenue to Alabama

Submitted August 14, 2020

By: Matt and Sudi Sakurada 234 3rd Avenue North, Kure Beach

We have lived near the intersection of Ft. Fisher Blvd and M Avenue for the last 11 years. During that time, we have seen numerous potential accidents between pedestrians, bicycles, cars and trucks. Recently Matt has joined the Pedestrian Bike Committee and started planning and data collecting to enhance the safety on Ft. Fisher Blvd and intersections of K through N Avenues.

Since the speed limit issue has arisen, some preliminary evaluation may be helpful. For example, at the peak hour during 7/25/2020, nearly 800 cars went through Avenue M intersection. That converts to 13 cars per minute or one car every 5 seconds. There were 40 pedestrians using the crossing at M during that time. There are also bike lanes for most of the distance. Finally, the speed limit is not consistent with the 25 mph limit at both ends.

Slowing the speed on the less than one mile is an opportunity to increase safety. It takes 30 seconds longer to drive this stretch at the decreased speed. That is a small price to pay for lessening potential accidents. I have worked as an executive in dangerous industries (coal mining and construction) and still live with the tragic loss of life and livelihoods in rush to save time.

I will report through the Committee on our progress on our different projects throughout time. Our hope is the improve the safety throughout Kure Beach.

Respectfully Submitted.

Matt and Sudi Sakurada

Mandy Sanders

From: Ed Vanyo <ejvanyo@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 3:41 PM
To: Mandy Sanders
Subject: Public Hearing on August 17, 2020

We can't call in on Monday, so we would like to offer our comments.

The speed limit should be 25 mph for Alabama to N and North and South Fort Fisher Blvd.

Thank you...
Ed and Barb Vanyo
337 S Fort Fisher Blvd
Unit A

Mandy Sanders

From: David Garceau <David@Lykicare.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 4:01 PM
To: Mandy Sanders; Craig Bloszinsky; David Heglar; Joseph Whitley; Allen Oliver; John Ellen
Subject: Public comment on the Speed limit for Ft Fisher Blvd for Aug 17th Meeting

Public comment from David & Sherry Garceau
1038 Fort Fisher Blvd South.

As we understand it from the discussion in the July 20th council meeting; council is looking for input on changing the speed limit from 35 to 25 in two specific areas along Ft Fisher Blvd.

For the first area to the north, between Alabama and N Ave.

There is already a 25mph zone at either end of this stretch of road, it is highly populated, and it is relatively easy to get to Dow Road as an alternate way around the area using K Ave or Ocean Blvd. So we think that it makes sense to make this a 25mph zone. If for no other reason than to simply provide a constant speed limit from the center of Carolina Beach through to the center of Kure beach.

The second area under review is south of H Avenue, We assume from H avenue all the way to the town limit at the Riggings.

This area is less populated with no alternate routes, and must be used to get to Dow Road to get on and off the island. Changing the speed limit here not only affects the egress of residents but also those that work in the area including the military base, ferry terminal, state park and aquarium.

Just as the speed limit is higher entering Carolina beach we feel that it should remain higher (at 35mph) for exiting Kure beach to the south. **We strongly oppose that changing the speed limit south of H avenue.**

Also, because it was already brought up in the council meeting we would like to add that the only recorded accident in this second area was at the crosswalk adjacent to our house. We witnessed that accident and it was not caused by speed. The driver of the second car was texting and not looking anyway. A reduced speed limit would not have changed the outcome. Additionally, from an accident prevention perspective, the cars that park next to the crosswalk causing blind spots are a much bigger risk to the public using the crosswalk than the speed of a vehicle... credit is due to Public works for temporarily marking this area with tape but that needs to be made permanent with no parking signage.

There is also another point we would like to remind council of that comes from the meetings last year with MOTSU through the JLUS process. In that process US Hwy 421 was designated as the principle arterial road and that Dow Road is also a minor arterial, serving as a reliever route for US Hwy 421. This is significant because (quoting from the JLUS) "Recent traffic count data from the Wilmington MPO shows that the average annual daily traffic volume on Dow Road on Pleasure Island is just under 5,000 vehicles per day, and therefore likely close to the high density route threshold if 2 passengers were assumed to occupy each vehicle. The portion of Dow Road that would potentially be impacted by this includes the segment of the road south of Ocean Boulevard to its terminus in Kure Beach". Increasing the traffic on Dow Road will certainly cause it to exceed the passenger limits set in place and could cause intermittent closures.

Sincerely
David & Sherry Garceau

Mandy Sanders

From: Ed <ibforester@gmail.com> Pomeroy
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 10:44 AM
To: Mandy Sanders
Subject: Question/Statement for the speed limit discussion

1. I see no need to lower the speed limit, typically one can never do 35 due to traffic, especially during the season. I travel this road frequently, early mornings to the ferry and it's nice to go 35 mph at 6:00 am when there is no traffic to catch the 6:15 ferry.

2. I'm assuming the request is to make it 25, but one can then make the argument that 15 would be significantly safer? If a pedestrian is hit at 15 mph there is only about a 2% chance of fatality, at 25 mph that increases to about a 17% chance of a fatality.

Just my thoughts. Thanks

Ed Pomeroy
1706 Searay Lane

Sent from my iPhone

Mandy Sanders

From: Steven Shumate <kureshumate@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 11:50 AM
To: Mandy Sanders
Subject: 25 MPH reduction on Ft Fisher

Mandy, I wish to go on record as supporting the speed reduction to 25 MPH from Alabama all the way thru Kure Beach. As a matter of fact, I suggest we make 25MPH the standard for all of the Kure Beach town limits!

Steven Shumate
107 Ocean View Ave

Mandy Sanders

From: Sarah Barham <sbarham817@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 1:45 PM
To: Craig Bloszinsky
Cc: Mandy Sanders
Subject: Re: Speed limit

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 17, 2020, at 12:02 PM, Craig Bloszinsky <c.bloszinsky@townofkurebeach.org> wrote:

Thanks Sarah, Mandy will be reading many of the inputs, I will add this one.

Craig

Craig

From: sbarham817@aol.com <sbarham817@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 11:14 AM
To: Craig Bloszinsky
Subject: Speed limit

Craig.. good morning... today is our anniversary and unfortunately I can not attend the meeting tonight. I was wondering if you could read the following on my behalf?

I know the council voted 3-3 last week on reducing the speed limit from Alabama Ave to N Ave. we all know cars travel much faster than 35 making it dangerous for walking, riding your bike or just trying to cross to the beach access. I was just putting our trash cans out last night and a truck was speeding by riding on the shoulder messing with his phone. I have witness cars passing other cars in front of our house. Imagine if kids were crossing the street. I am not sure what prompted Carolina Beach to change their speed limit on fort fisher blvd. to 25 but I am afraid it had something to do with the number of people who have been hit by a vehicle over the past year. I just pray we do not wait until someone is hit and possibly killed before we realize the need to lower the speed limit. Thank you Sarah Barham

Thank you Craig..as you can tell this is something weighing heavy on my heart. I posted the meeting on next door Kure Beach in hopes if people were in favor they would contact a council member.

Appreciate your help. Stay safe Sarah

Mandy Sanders

From: Garner Von Cannon <greychan@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 2:26 PM
To: Mandy Sanders
Subject: Public Hearing regarding the reduction of Speed Limit in Kure Beach to 25

I am a full time resident since 2003 and a current member of the KB Bike/Ped committee and Board of Directors for the Pleasure Island Chamber of Commerce.

I am in favor of the speed limit being reduced to 25 throughout Kure Beach for many reasons. I think this would lend consistency to travel throughout our island, now that Carolina Beach has lowered their speed limit from the main business district to Kure Beach to 25. I know as a pedestrian who enjoys biking and running on our main street, there are many times I have felt uncomfortable being on the main road due to drivers that are already testing the speed limit of 35 by going faster and encroaching on the established bike lane, or not being aware of pedestrians crossing at various points along the road. I believe the lowered speed limit would cause the drivers to be more mindful of bikers, pedestrians and crosswalks and allow much more time for stopping if needed. I also feel that with a consistent speed limit throughout the island we will be discouraging drivers from accelerating once they see the number change from 25 to 35 and keep their focus on the road and it's surroundings.

We need to be mindful of our very active community during all seasons and set a good example for our future, which we hope encourages a less sedentary lifestyle for all ages and in order to do that we need to make them feel safe.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Garner Von Cannon
Von Cannon & Associates Inc

910-538-8307 cell
910-458-1948 fax

414 Kure Village Way
Kure Beach, NC 28449

Mo Linquist, 744 Gulf Stream Drive

Mayor Blosinsky and members of council,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our thoughts on the suggestion by the Town of Carolina Beach to lower the speed limit on Ft. Fisher from Alabama to N creating consistency with their 'safety first' approach for pedestrians, people on bikes, families with kids including babies in strollers. I know you also want to continue the conversation south of K and I will address that also, but my first comments will concentrate on the .7 mile section, Alabama to N.

I want to thank you for creating the KB Bike/Ped Committee as our purpose is to make recommendations to increase safety for pedestrians and people on bikes in our town.

I also want to thank you for appointing me to the WMPO Bike/Ped committee as the town's representative because during these meetings I have been able to discuss issues directly with NCDOT employees and that is the first thing I wanted to bring to your attention since Ft. Fisher is an NCDOT road.

The N.C. Department of Transportation has adopted a policy known as *Complete Streets*, which directs the department to incorporate different modes of transportation, such as walking and biking when building or *improving existing roads*.

These "complete streets" generally include sidewalks, bicycle lanes, multi use paths and other accommodations designed for all travelers – not just drivers and the benefits include: making it easier for travelers to get where they need to go, encouraging individuals to use non-vehicular forms of transportation, building more sustainable communities, better connecting neighborhoods, AND improving safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists.

At this time, we do not have a plan to improve the corridor for these non-motorized travelers but now is the time to think about it and plan for the future. If we had an approved plan, NCDOT would cover 80% of the cost and require 20% from our town.

By lowering the speed limit, today we have an opportunity to begin the transition 're-socializing' the public to consider biking and walking normal, desirable, everyday activities. Our culture must progress from motorists being the only consideration on our roadways to creating a SAFE and FRIENDLY environment for pedestrians, people on bikes, families with beach paraphernalia. This re-socialization will require education to train all road users to use active and constant interactions like eye contact and body movement. As soon as Covid is over, the KB Bike/Ped committee will be on it.

Today we have an opportunity to create a consistent speed through the main artery of our island and this consistency would make it easier to educate and enforce.

Our engineer did the math and by lowering the speed limit to 25mph from Alabama to N, it will cost a motorist less than 30 seconds time. I know from my personal experience, driving 25mph makes me more aware of my surroundings and gives more time to stop to avoid a serious car crash. A crash is not an accident. They are preventable, and their severity can be reduced by lowering the speed limit.

The resistance I have heard has been from residents who don't want to drive slow. They've even called it a punishment. I am saying to those neighbors, "Look at where we live. This is a privilege never a punishment. Let's appreciate the visitors who come here and spend their money. We all deserve to be in a safe and friendly environment.

From the Island Greenway on Alabama to Ft. Fisher Blvd to the Ferry system is the East Coast Greenway which is a bike trail connecting Maine to Florida. Kure Beach should feel honored to be on the main spine of this awesome trail. I am grateful for travelers who come here and don't have to drive their cars. Cyclists love to eat and sleep, and generally spend money.

Calming our traffic is not just for visitors. It is for our children and grandchildren who ride their bikes year round. AARP aarp.org/livability-factsheets has produced factsheets helping towns, cities and communities nationwide to become safer, healthier, more walkable and overall livable for people of all ages. Want to increase your property value? Live in a walkable and bike friendly community.

To add to this, I would recommend also lowering the limit through the population dense section of our town to the Air Force Recreation Center. I used to cross at G Street and it could be horrendous at times. Our town speed limit signs are in 2 different blocks going north and south so I am not sure where the change starts and stops.

Those are my thoughts. 1-Safety first. 2-Consistency through our island. 3-KB moving forward in the direction of *Complete Streets Policy* that today costs our town nothing except less than 30 seconds of your time.

Thank you.

Mo Linnquist

Mandy Sanders

From: jpeterson0656@charter.net
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 7:35 PM
To: Mandy Sanders
Cc: jpeterson0656@charter.net
Subject: FW: Town Council Meeting (07-20-2020) discussing speed limits

Ms. Sanders,

I previously sent my message below to Mayor Bloszinsky but for some reason it was not presented at the special meeting today. I apologize for not realizing the protocol for addressing comments to you. I would like to restate myself as follows for the next Public Hearing on this matter:

I totally support reduction of the speed limit from 35 to 25 for all of the areas referenced in the 08-17-2020 Public Hearing especially Fort Fisher Blvd South to the southern city limit. The travel time from the traffic light to the southern town limits would only be increased approximately 40 seconds. That is a small sacrifice that everyone can make to help save a life.

I have observed numerous vehicles exceeding the 35 mph speed limit in my area. It is not unusual to see vehicles traveling at 45 to 50 mph. The white monument posts on 421 (from the old Ft Fisher base entrance) appear to be a "speed up" point. Prior to the closing of the Ft Fisher Trading Post, the Kure Beach Police used to sit in their parking lot which helped control speeding. As the ferry reopens, the vehicular speeding will only get worse as people rush to or from the ferry landing. I have spent in excess of 5 minutes waiting to safely cross 421 as the ferry traffic travels north. The increased use of the Ft. Fisher State Park 4X4 beach has resulted in a significant increase in excessively noisy pick-up trucks speeding down 421. The use of golf carts has exacerbated the speeding as impatient drivers finally pass the cart then accelerate to make up for their "lost time".

A comment was made at the 08-17 hearing that there has been only one accident in this area recently. I believe that claim is suspect and I doubt that the commenting individual had the resources to adequately research such a claim. Regardless, I have seen numerous "near misses" as pedestrians have attempted to cross 421 going to the beach. Vehicles hitting pedestrians at 35 mph can result in serious injuries including fatalities. One death is one too many. In the interest of safety, the speed limit needs to be reduced.

Thank you,
James Peterson
930 Ft Fisher Blvd S

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: jpeterston0656@charter.net

Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 6:02 PM

To: c.bloszinsky@tokb.org

Subject: Town Council Meeting (07-20-2020) discussing speed limits

Mayor Bloszinsky,

I was listening to the Town Council Meeting (07-20-2020) this afternoon. In particular, the speed limit decrease from 35 to 25 mph that was discussed for north Kure Beach residents from Alabama to N street. In the interest of safety for everyone, I would strongly encourage the Council to also consider lowering the speed limit on the south end of Kure Beach up to or beyond the public crosswalks at the AFB.

I have observed numerous vehicles exceeding the 35 mph speed limit in my area. It is not unusual to see vehicles traveling at 45 to 50 mph. The white monument posts on 421 (from the old Ft Fisher base entrance) appear to be a "speed up" point. Prior to the closing of the Ft Fisher Trading Post, the Kure Beach Police used to sit in their parking lot which helped control speeding. When the ferry reopens, the vehicular speeding will only get worse as people rush to or from the ferry landing. I have spent in excess of 5 minutes waiting to safely cross 421 as the ferry traffic travels north.

Thank you,
James Peterson
930 Ft Fisher Blvd S

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Mandy Sanders

From: Ronald Creasy <rbcreeasy7901@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 9:16 PM
To: Mandy Sanders; Beth Chase; Meredith Bailey; Craig Bloszinsky; David Heglar; Joseph Whitley; John Ellen; Allen Oliver
Subject: Our email and the speed limit issue public meeting of August 17, 2020

Good Evening to you all,

We listened in on the public meeting this evening concerning a possible speed limit change on Ft Fisher Blvd.

This morning, we sent an email concerning this issue and our thoughts about it to all the commissioners, the mayor and the mayor pro tem. We expected to hear our email read during the meeting this evening, but it wasn't. We were pretty disappointed. Where were we supposed to send it in order for it to be read to, and heard by, the public?

Please make sure our concerns are known and are part of the public record about this speed limit issue. If we need to submit a copy of our email to someone else who will take responsibility for handling this, please advise us.

Thank you to the mayor and the two commissioners who took the time to respond to our email today. Whether or not we agree on the speed limit issue resolution, we still appreciate your response.

Regards,

Ronny Creasy and Windy Thompson
107 Myrtle Ave (Kure Beach, NOT Carolina Beach!)

Mandy Sanders

From: Joseph Whitley
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 4:24 PM
To: Mandy Sanders
Subject: Fwd: August 17 Council Meeting on Speed Limits

Joseph Whitley
Commissioner, Town of Kure Beach
910-620-4900
<http://www.townofkurebeach.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ronald Creasy <rbcreasy7901@hotmail.com>
Date: August 17, 2020 at 8:06:45 AM EDT
To: Joseph Whitley <j.whitley@townofkurebeach.org>
Subject: August 17 Council Meeting on Speed Limits

Dear Commissioner Whitley:

We're writing in regards to tonight's town council meeting about speed limits on Hwy 421/Ft Fisher Blvd. I'm guessing that someone has proposed to lower the limit, as did Carolina Beach.

Please don't lower the speed limit! There's no need for that.

If the reason for lowering the limit is because of pedestrians crossing the highway just anywhere, willy-nilly, why not install the signs/lights/crosswalks as our neighbor beach town has done? That makes much more sense. With the light system, drivers are alerted that people are crossing the street up ahead, and to exercise caution and prepare to stop. People headed to or from the beach on foot or bike will have a designated and reasonably safe place to cross.

If the reason for lowering the limit is because of slow golf carts, don't make those of us in cars go slower because of them; make them pull over to the side of the street to let cars safely pass. And enforce the rule.

Even now, at height of tourist season, things get backed up with the lower speed limits already in force in Carolina Beach. Also, during the off-season, do we really need to be crawling down the blvd at 25 mph, when there's NO ONE around?

Please just leave the speed limits alone; it's fine, though, to drop down to 25mph in the downtown business district.

Thank you for your time. We're looking forward to listening in on Monday night!

Ronny Creasy and Windy Thompson
107 Myrtle Ave (Kure Beach, not Carolina Beach!)



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Mandy Sanders

From: jpeterson0656@charter.net
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 7:35 PM
To: Mandy Sanders
Cc: jpeterson0656@charter.net
Subject: FW: Town Council Meeting (07-20-2020) discussing speed limits

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I previously sent my message below to Mayor Bloszinsky but for some reason it was not presented at the special meeting today. I apologize for not realizing the protocol for addressing comments to you. I would like to restate myself as follows for the next Public Hearing on this matter:

I totally support reduction of the speed limit from 35 to 25 for all of the areas referenced in the 08-17-2020 Public Hearing especially Fort Fisher Blvd South to the southern city limit. The travel time from the traffic light to the southern town limits would only be increased approximately 40 seconds. That is a small sacrifice that everyone can make to help save a life.

I have observed numerous vehicles exceeding the 35 mph speed limit in my area. It is not unusual to see vehicles traveling at 45 to 50 mph. The white monument posts on 421 (from the old Ft Fisher base entrance) appear to be a "speed up" point. Prior to the closing of the Ft Fisher Trading Post, the Kure Beach Police used to sit in their parking lot which helped control speeding. As the ferry reopens, the vehicular speeding will only get worse as people rush to or from the ferry landing. I have spent in excess of 5 minutes waiting to safely cross 421 as the ferry traffic travels north. The increased use of the Ft. Fisher State Park 4X4 beach has resulted in a significant increase in excessively noisy pick-up trucks speeding down 421. The use of golf carts has exacerbated the speeding as impatient drivers finally pass the cart then accelerate to make up for their "lost time".

A comment was made at the 08-17 hearing that there has been only one accident in this area recently. I believe that claim is suspect and I doubt that the commenting individual had the resources to adequately research such a claim. Regardless, I have seen numerous "near misses" as pedestrians have attempted to cross 421 going to the beach. Vehicles hitting pedestrians at 35 mph can result in serious injuries including fatalities. One death is one too many. In the interest of safety, the speed limit needs to be reduced.

Thank you,
James Peterson
930 Ft Fisher Blvd S

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Mandy Sanders

From: Michele Banks <mlbanks@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2020 4:39 PM
To: Mandy Sanders
Subject: RE: Public Feedback on Changing Speed Limit in Kure Beach

Hello Council,

In my opinion the speed limit should be 25 mph on Ft Fisher Blvd thru KB. This will keep it consistent with the speed limit in CB and provide safety for KB residents and visitors.

I live on the corner of N Ave on the oceanside next to the beach access public parking. The speed limit changes to 35 mph just past N Ave (heading north on Ft Fisher). I have witnessed too many close calls with vehicles, pedestrians and bikes at this intersection. Many vehicles tend to accelerate as they are passing my house and the 35 mph sign is within their sight. This creates a dangerous situation.

I listened in on the meeting earlier this week and many valid points were made for both lowering the speed limit and keeping it as it is especially in the off season. However, I believe safety should be the priority and the extra time it takes to get to a destination is a small inconvenience to ensure the safety of KB residents and visitors.

Also, I want to add that the neon crosswalk sign (just south of N Ave on Ft Fisher/Kure View Townhomes) is hidden behind a tall oleander shrub and parked vehicles on the street also block it. In my opinion, it would be better to place the sign in a better visual area for drivers approaching N Ave and the KB downtown area.

Thank you for considering my feedback. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Best,

Michele Banks
342 Ft Fisher Blvd N
mlbanks@bellsouth.net
919-605-5223

Mandy Sanders

From: Don Boman <brxbmbr15@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 11:22 AM
To: Mandy Sanders
Subject: FF BLVD Speed Limit

I am a member of the Pedestrian/Bike Committee, and I am in favor of lowering the speed limit from Alabama, south to about the area of H Avenue, but leaving it at 35MPH from there southward.

I feel that Alabama to just south of K represents the largest amount of pedestrian traffic.

However, as expressed in my email below, I feel the priority has to be to establish proper pedestrian walkways and signage/signals. Please see the email below

Hello Group,

I just wanted to take a few minutes to add to my previous email concerning the FF Blvd speed limit and my comments on pedestrian cross walks. I would also like to address some of the rhetoric regarding the speeds and revving engines.

In my 30 years as a police officer and administrator, our department routinely responded to citizen complaints about speeding. We would order our patrols to take extra notice in those areas and issue summonses where appropriate. What we also did was to place speed monitoring devices in the area, much like the one operating on K Avenue. These would be either displaying a speed, or just recording the data, with no display to the motorists.

What we had come to learn more often than not, is that residents greatly overestimate the speed of vehicles in their neighborhoods. This was usually borne out by the data that the device collected.

In addition, I have personally seen many vehicles traveling on FF Blvd while walking my dog. Most vehicles are not traveling that fast, although you will have the occasional one driving a bit excessively. This will however happen regardless of the posted speed limit, it's just human nature.

In regard to the revving engines, I would submit that most of the time this is a similar situation. Many "muscle cars" have that throaty sound that appeals to drivers. Many times they may have their clutch depressed while revving the engine, and are not necessarily driving that fast.

I think what I am trying to prevent is a knee jerk reaction that does nothing to solve the real problem. Ultimately what will make things safer in the short term is the addition of pedestrian walkways and signage.

I had the pleasure of working with a great civil engineering company during my career that handled much of our traffic and pedestrian issues, as well as road design and a gamut of engineering functions. Their name is Maser Consulting and they have offices in NC, located in Raleigh, Charlotte and Wilmington. They are thoroughly familiar with federal and local guidelines for traffic control. I firmly believe that guidance from them would be a wise idea, and probably the most expedient way of providing a safer environment.

In speaking with another civil engineer, he advised that if the town does not have crossings or intersections set up in accordance with federal and NC DOT, that Kure would be, in his words, "a big loser" in a lawsuit should someone be struck and injured or God forbid worse.

I would hope that the town take this under advisement and address some of these issues in the immediate short term.

Respectfully,

Donald Boman

Mandy Sanders

From: Don Boman <brxbmbr15@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 6:11 PM
To: Mandy Sanders
Subject: Speed Limit Change

I am a member of the Bike/Ped committee, and I am in agreement with the speed limit adjustment from Alabama to N Avenue and continuing past the intersection at K Avenue for several blocks. I would prefer to see the limit remain at 35 MPH from G continuing southbound. I don't believe the southern part of Fort Fisher Blvd is as busy, and with ferry traffic resuming, will create even more issues.

I think that running on the main road is a somewhat dangerous proposition regardless of the speed limit, as I routinely observe drivers drifting over the fog line and into the bike lane. This has more to do with distracted driving rather than speed. In addition, many bicyclists don't adhere to the rules of the road, placing themselves in harm's way.

I feel that the biggest issue is pedestrian crossings, or lack thereof. Too many streets that come out to FF Blvd with a beach access directly across the street, have absolutely no pedestrian walkways. K Ave at FF Blvd is a complete disaster with no pedestrian walkways, no pedestrian signals and very heavy foot traffic from the parking area, Sunoco/Convenience store as well as the restaurants.

I would be concerned with the potential liability for the town, with most of the area seemingly non-compliant with Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices from the Federal Highway Administration.

Personally, I would recommend speaking with a civil engineering firm that is familiar with municipal processes for implementing traffic control measures and limiting liability to the town.

I would say that K Avenue is a priority for safety reasons and that additional pedestrian walkways along Ft Fisher Blvd would alert drivers of the presence of people walking. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Don Boman
221 Marquesa Way

Mandy Sanders

From: Don Boman <brxbmbr15@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 6:19 PM
To: Mandy Sanders
Subject: Speed Limit Change

Mandy,

As an addendum to my previous email, I spoke with a friend who is a civil engineer who does a great deal of municipal work.

His opinion is that if an intersection or crosswalk is not designed to the MUTCD, the town will be liable should any be hit in that intersection.

Respectfully,

Don Boman

221 Marquesa Way, Kure Beach, NC 28449

Mandy Sanders

From: Craig Bloszinsky
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2020 3:08 PM
To: Wayne Rush
Cc: Mandy Sanders; David Heglar; Allen Oliver; Joseph Whitley; John Ellen
Subject: Re: Speed Limit on south end

Mr. Rush, thank you for your comments, they will be added to the comments for the next public call.

Craig Bloszinsky
Mayor Kure Beach

From: Wayne Rush <rush336@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2020 12:18 PM
To: Craig Bloszinsky
Subject: Speed Limit on south end

Mr. Mayor

I am highly concerned about the speeding traffic on the south end of town. As a resident i cross Ft fisher blvd daily to visit the beach and routinely am given the 1 finger salute from traffic. I try and be polite and let the traffic move on if there is an opening in traffic . But invariably one lane stops and the other tries to run you over. Last week a car went into the other lane to avoid having to stop. Its not like i am darting into traffic. I watched an 80 yr lady almost run over earlier this week. This is a serious matter that needs to be addressed ASAP.

Thank you for your time.
Wayne Rush

Mandy Sanders

From: patholleman42 <patholleman42@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2020 9:52 AM
To: Mandy Sanders
Subject: FW: Speed limit

Good morning Mandy,
Please pass on to the Board my support for the lowering the speed limit on Fort Fisher Blvd in Kure Beach. I am a regular bike rider and believe a consistent speed limit is in everyone's best interest. After all, we live at the beach; what's the hurry!
Thank you,
Dr. Pat Holleman
317 Settlers Lane

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Mandy Sanders

From: Wick Wickliffe <wickncsu@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 12:04 PM
To: Mandy Sanders
Subject: Public hearing re reduction of speed limit

A Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee member gave a diatribe, which the Mayor could not stop after the 3 minute limit, about the benefits of reducing the speed limit to 25 mph from Alabama to N (the speed limit from N to H Aves is already 25 mph). Two of the points, if not more, I am at issue with:

1. A reduction in speed from 35 to 25 reduces the impact from a collision/accident (I don't want to play the semantics game), but at either speed it's going to leave a mark and the degree will be minimal. There will be property or human damage either way. Yes, you have more time to react. But if you watch people driving, they wouldn't notice anything but the glimpses of the ocean or houses as they already poke down the road in many cases at 20 mph. During the off-season, there aren't as many cars parked on the side of the road or people trying to cross and the "traffic" is made of residents..
2. I feel sorry for those who live or frequent TOKB south of H Ave. The proposed change means that traffic can roar back up to 35 mph where chaos will ensue. Why is it that we have such wanton disregard for the disadvantaged in that part of town?

Additionally, a gentleman during the Public Hearing said he got a warning ticket for going 35 in TOCB new 25 mph zone. If the Island Police have nothing better to do than stop reckless drivers speeding down the road at 35 mph, we have other issues. And: "Due to NC Department of Insurance law, speeds under 10 mph are to be forgiven if other criteria are met. By law, insurance companies in North Carolina must forgive a speeding ticket of less than 10 mph over the limit if you have no active license points." So the Court system gets \$200+ and it costs how much for the officer to attend Court.

As a frequent walker and biker on Fort Fisher Blvd, I AM AGAINST CHANGING THE SPEED LIMIT.

Wick Wickliffe
417 N. 4th Ave.

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Thanks for deleting names & email addresses if forwarding, and for using blind copy ("bcc") when sending e-mails to multiple recipients. Deleting the history helps prevent Spammers from "harvesting" addresses and viruses from being spread.

Beth Chase

From: Galbraith, Craig <galbraithc@uncw.edu>
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 3:15 PM
To: Beth Chase
Subject: public comment on speed limit

Beth - here is my comment re public comment on speed limit

=====

Dear Kure Beach Council

As a Kure Beach resident and property owner, here is my public comment regarding the Speed Limit between Alabama Avenue to N Avenue and N Fort Fisher Boulevard to S Fort Fisher Boulevard

I have lived in Kure Beach since 1995, and have now traveled on Fort Fisher Blvd probably thousands of times. Personally I have never seen speeding as a problem on Fort Fisher Blvd. In addition, I have looked at many months of police records this year, and find only a minimal amount of speeding tickets being written in Kure Beach. Although I have never really witnessed speeding, without question I have seen either drunk drivers and/or texting drivers unable to stay on the road many times, often causing near accidents. Drunk and/or texting drivers presents far more danger to citizens and pedestrians in my opinion than speeding in Kure Beach.

Having said this, I support changing the speed limit between Alabama Ave and N Avenue to 25 mph. It is simply confusing to go from 25mph through all of Carolina Beach, to 35mph, then back to 25 mph. Lets be consistent on this stretch of road. However, I do NOT support changing the speed limit to 25mph for the more southern stretch on Fort Fisher Blvd - no real reason, and it will, in fact, simply encourage people to now speed by continue driving 35mph on this stretch of road.

With Respect

Craig

Craig S. Galbraith, MBA, MSc., Ph.D.. CPVA
Duke Progress Energy/Betty Cameron Distinguished Professor
GlaxoSmithKline Faculty Fellow. Economic Development
Cameron School of Business, University of North Carolina Wilmington
& Doctorate Dissertation Supervisor. Edinburgh Business School
UNCW Contact: (910) 962-3775; (910) 962-2116 (fax)

Mandy Sanders

From: Nancy Benton <nanlar581@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 11:30 AM
To: Mandy Sanders
Subject: Speed limit

Not a question for the meeting but a thank you for making this change. We think it will be safer for drivers and walkers/bikers. Again, thank you. Nancy and Larry Benton, 502 S 4th Ave, KB

Mandy Sanders

From: Geoff Williams <ggw1492@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 1:15 PM
To: Mandy Sanders
Subject: Speed Limits-KB

Dear Mayor Bloszinsky,

We live 1/2 the year at 120 Spotters Court and I am against reducing the speed limit as people already drive very slowly in those sections of town and it gets even slower with all the golf carts. As we live close to F Fisher Blvd, we have not noticed any particular problems.

Thanks for asking for input

Geoff Williams

120 Spotters Court

Mandy Sanders

From: Gramcox <kurebeachgram@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 10:13 AM
To: Mandy Sanders
Subject: Lowering the speed limit

I would like to express that I am very much against LOWERING the speed limit. This is not the time to be taking this action when so many people are unaware that this is being considered. Neighbors aren't interacting with other neighbors due to the Covid limitations to spread the word about such actions and not everyone is computer literate enough to attend and comment on line. This should be tabled until regular monthly council meetings resume and everyone can attend in person to debate this issue.

Thank you for considering this alternative approach.

Sandra Cox
Gary Cox
309 Davis Rd
Kure Beach

Sent from my iPhone

Mandy Sanders

From: Robert Matthews <robertmatthews5@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 7:12 PM
To: Mandy Sanders
Subject: Speed Limit

M. Sanders We support keeping the speed limit from Alabama N, at 35 MPH...
Matthews 1705 Searay Lane 28428

Robert and Jackie

Mandy Sanders

From: Ed <ibforester@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 6:22 PM
To: Mandy Sanders
Subject: Re: Question/Statement for the speed limit discussion

Several folks brought up great points that the council could not answer; ie. Out of the 17 accidents this past year it sounded like none involved a pedestrian. Also, unable to answer the question as to the cause of the 17 accidents, how many were caused by speed. How many occurred during the May to sept prime time.

Have we seen a reduction of traffic accidents since CB reduced speed to 25?

If 25 mph is better, then 15 has to be significantly safer....it becomes a risk to rewards issue.

Ed

Sent from my iPhone

> On Aug 17, 2020, at 10:44 AM, Ed <ibforester@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> 1. I see no need to lower the speed limit, typically one can never do 35 due to traffic, especially during the season. I travel this road frequently, early mornings to the ferry and it's nice to go 35 mph at 6:00 am when there is no traffic to catch the 6:15 ferry.

>

> 2. I'm assuming the request is to make it 25, but one can then make the argument that 15 would be significantly safer? If a pedestrian is hit at 15 mph there is only about a 2% chance of fatality, at 25 mph that increases to about a 17% chance of a fatality.

>

> Just my thoughts. Thanks

>

> Ed Pomeroy

> 1706 Searay Lane

>

>

>

> Sent from my iPhone

Mandy Sanders

From: sassy da <hud_28334@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 6:30 PM
To: Mandy Sanders
Subject: Speed limit

This is Rene Pomeroy, 1706 Searay Lane. I am not in favor of reducing the speed limit between Alabama and N.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone