



TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, August 24, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.

The Kure Beach Town Council held its regular meeting on Monday, August 24, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. The Town Attorney was present and there was a quorum of Council members present.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Allen Oliver
MPT David Heglar
Commissioner Connie Mearkle
Commissioner Byron Ashbridge
Commissioner Mark Dirks

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Police Chief – Brandon Bailey
Fire Chief – Ed Kennedy
Director of Recreation & Events – Nikki Keely
Director of Public Works – Jimmy Mesimer
Director of Development and Compliance – Bethany White
Director of Administration – Mandy Sanders
Town Clerk – Beth Chase
Finance Officer – Arlen Copenhaver

Mayor Oliver called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approve the NCBIWA Sponsorship in the amount of \$1,200 for Mayor Oliver and Commissioner Mearkle to attend with the two registrations
2. Accept the Resignation from Don Campbell from the Shoreline Access and Beach Protection Committee
3. Allow Throw Coast Disc Golf to have a food truck on site during the Riptide Rumble Disc Golf Tournament at Joe Eakes Park on Saturday, October 17, 2026
4. Approve Closing Atlantic Avenue between K and L Avenues from 1-10 p.m. on Friday, October 2, 2026 for the Kure Beach Farewell Summer Jazz Funeral, Closing Atlantic Avenue between K and L Avenues from the early morning hours through 5 p.m. on Saturday, November 21, 2026 and Saturday, November 28, 2026 for the Kure Beach Holiday Market Closing Atlantic Avenue between K and L Avenues from the early morning hours through 10 p.m. on Friday, December 18, 2026 for the Holiday Whoobie Whatty, Allow participation by food truck vendors during event hours on Friday, October 2nd, Saturday, November 21st, Saturday, November 28th, and Friday, December 18th at the Ocean Front Park/Atlantic Avenue
5. Minutes:
 - July 20, 2026 Regular



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- March 16 2026 Closed
- April 20 2026 Closed
- May 18 2026 Closed
- May 26 2026 Closed
- June 15 2026 Closed
- July 20 2026 Closed

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented

SECOND- Commissioner Ashbridge

VOTE- Unanimous

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to approve the agenda as presented

SECOND- Commissioner Ashbridge

VOTE- Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Introduction of Pastor Chad Walker with the Kure Memorial Lutheran Church

Commissioner Mearkle stated that Kure Beach Memorial Lutheran Church had a vacancy for some time and has now filled the position with Pastor Chad Walker. She invited Pastor Walker to attend the meeting to introduce himself and welcome him to the community.

Pastor Chad Walker stated that he originally grew up in Florida and recently moved from Lincolnton, a town north of Charlotte, where he served for 16 years. He expressed his appreciation for the invitation to introduce himself and say hello to the community. He currently lives in Kure Beach with his wife. Their two adult children have moved out of the home; one lives in Wilmington, and the other lives outside of Pennsylvania.

2. Update on the Midblock Crossings and Fort Fisher BLVD and K Avenue Project
 - Consideration and Action on Resolution Supporting the Application to the WMPO for Locally Administered Projects Program Funds for the Construction of Three Mid-Block Crosswalks

Mayor Oliver gave a update on the Midblock Crossings and Fort Fisher BLVD and K Avenue Project that is hereby incorporated into the minutes.



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Presentation Highlights:

Mid-Block Crossings Project(s)

- Goal: Provide a safe location for people to cross Ft. Fisher Blvd. to access public beach access spots and other Town amenities.
- Project Scope: Install 7 mid-block crossings with rectangular rapid flashing beacons and high visibility crosswalks
- Funding: In 2023, secured \$250,000 in discretionary funds from Representative Miller/Senator Lee

Mid-Block Crossings Project(s)

- Current Status: • Four are installed and operational:
 - Ft. Fisher Blvd. & Ocean View/Myrtle Ave.
 - Ft. Fisher Blvd. & M Ave.
 - Ft. Fisher Blvd. & Public Access #1045
 - Ft. Fisher Blvd & Surfrider Circle
- Three require engineering and design work
 - Ft. Fisher Blvd. & I Ave.
 - Ft. Fisher Blvd. & E Ave.
 - K Ave. & Settlers Lane
 - 100% final plans are complete
- Next Steps:
 - Secure construction funds (\$445,000)
 - Requesting \$364,000 from WMPO's DA grant program
 - Required 20% match (\$91,000)

Ft. Fisher & K Ave Intersection Improvements Project

- Goal: Improve pedestrian safety and connectivity.
- Project Scope: Improve the intersection by adding high-visibility crosswalks, push button-pedestrian signals, and sidewalk connections to the intersection.
- Funding:
 - In 2021, Town was awarded \$359,559 • \$62,500 local match
 - In 2025, Town was awarded an additional \$632,000
 - \$158,000 local match

Current Status:

- WithersRavenel completed 100% final design/engineering plans
- TELICS is navigating the right-of-way (ROW) process
- Gannet Flemming Transystems (GFT) will be providing construction inspection services



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- Next Steps:
 - Finalize ROW
 - RFQ for construction

MOTION- Commissioner Ashbridge made a motion to approve Resolution R26-07 Supporting the Application to the WMPO for Locally Administered Projects Program Funds for the Construction of Three Mid-Block Crosswalks

SECOND- MPT Heglar

VOTE- Unanimous

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Bike/Ped Committee

Eilen Clute read a letter that is hereby incorporated into the minutes of the meeting.

2. Marketing Committee

Commissioner Dirks reported the Committee met with the (CVB) last month to review the performance of last year's marketing efforts and the strategy for the upcoming fiscal year, noting that last year ended 15% higher and the CVB is projecting a 29% increase this fiscal year, with part of the increase attributed to an error in which some Room Occupancy Tax (ROT) funds were included in Wilmington's budget. He stated that the CVB would be contacting Town Council regarding the September 1st stakeholder meeting, which will focus on rebranding all four New Hanover County beaches, and noted that the Town could build upon this effort by creating branding guidelines for Kure Beach, along with a new focus on community engagement.

DEPARTMENT HEAD BUSINESS

1. Administration

- WMPO Commuter Challenge Sponsor Request

Director of Administration Sanders stated that she received a request for the Town to donate a free parking pass to the GO Coast program, which conducts a community challenge promoting alternative transportation.

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to approve donating a parking pass as a prize for the Go Coast program

SECOND- Commissioner Mearkle

VOTE- Unanimous



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2. Fire Department

- Kure Beach Rescue Bouy Program

Fire Chief Kennedy reported that the department recently completed installation of the remaining 13 rescue buoys, bringing all 25 beach accesses to have a buoy and instructional sign. He stated that the department is not promoting unskilled swimmers to enter the water and wanted to provide an alternative for those who may need assistance. The signs instruct individuals not to enter the water but to throw the buoy into the water. He reported that there were two confirmed successful rescues using the buoys last year. Five buoys were lost during the year and have been replaced. The cost of the buoys and the plan for ongoing maintenance are included in the agenda packet.

3. Recreation Department

- Joe Eakes Park Renovation Project – Design Development

Recreation Director Keely stated that Disney has finished filming and that the Town will hear from them if the pilot is picked up for further filming in Town in the new year. He stated that the Town has budgeted for the full design plans for Joe Eakes Park this fiscal year and will begin working with the Town Attorney on the RFQ process. He also reported that the Town had a very successful meeting with MOTSU and received approval to move forward with the development plans.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Consideration and Action on Proposed Text Amendment to KBC 13.15.030 amending the hours of Joe Eakes Park from 7:00 am to 9:00 p.m.

Attorney Eldridge commented he amended to KBC Code as requested by Town Council and in the agenda packet is the amendment.

MOTION- Commissioner Ashbridge made a motion to approve Proposed Text Amendment to KBC 13.15.100 as presented

SECOND- MPT Heglar

VOTE- Unanimous



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2. Continued Discussion of the Asset Management Plan for the Town of Kure Beach Water System

MPT Heglar reported that Public Works staff and he met with the engineers to make changes to the recommended plan. Based on their assessment, the engineers initially recommended spending approximately \$21 million on projects during the next fiscal year, which he stated does not make sense for a Town of this size. He stated that they worked to spread the recommended replacements over multiple years and emphasized that the plan is a recommendation and is not mandatory. The plan outlines the age of some of the Town's piping, noting that the recommended lifespan is 60 years and some of the Town's piping is approximately 10 years beyond that lifespan. He stated that Council will need to hold workshops in the future to review the plan and discuss funding for the projects.

- Approve Resolution R26-08 Accepting and Adopting the Results of the Asset Management Plan for the Town of Kure Beach Water System

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to approve the Resolution R26-08 Accepting and Adopting the Results of the Asset Management Plan for the Town of Kure Beach Water System

SECOND- Commissioner Ashbridge

VOTE- Unanimous

3. Discussion of Scheduling the Unveiling of the Friends of Kure Beach Totem Poles

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to table this item to the September 21, 2026 Town Council meeting

SECOND- Commissioner Mearkle

VOTE – Unanimous

NEW BUSINESS

1. Schedule a Legislative Hearing for September 21, 2026 for the Proposed Text Amendment Application for 15.36.100 Modification of Required Yards (Attorney Eldridge)

MOTION- MPT Heglar made a motion to Schedule a Legislative Hearing for September 21, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. for the Proposed Text Amendment Application for 15.36.100 Modification of Required Yards

SECOND- Commissioner Ashbridge

VOTE- Unanimous

CLOSED SESSION

None.



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ADJOURNMENT

MOTION- Commissioner Ashbridge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

SECOND- MPT Heglar

VOTE- Unanimous

ATTEST: Beth Chase, Town Clerk

Allen Oliver, 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



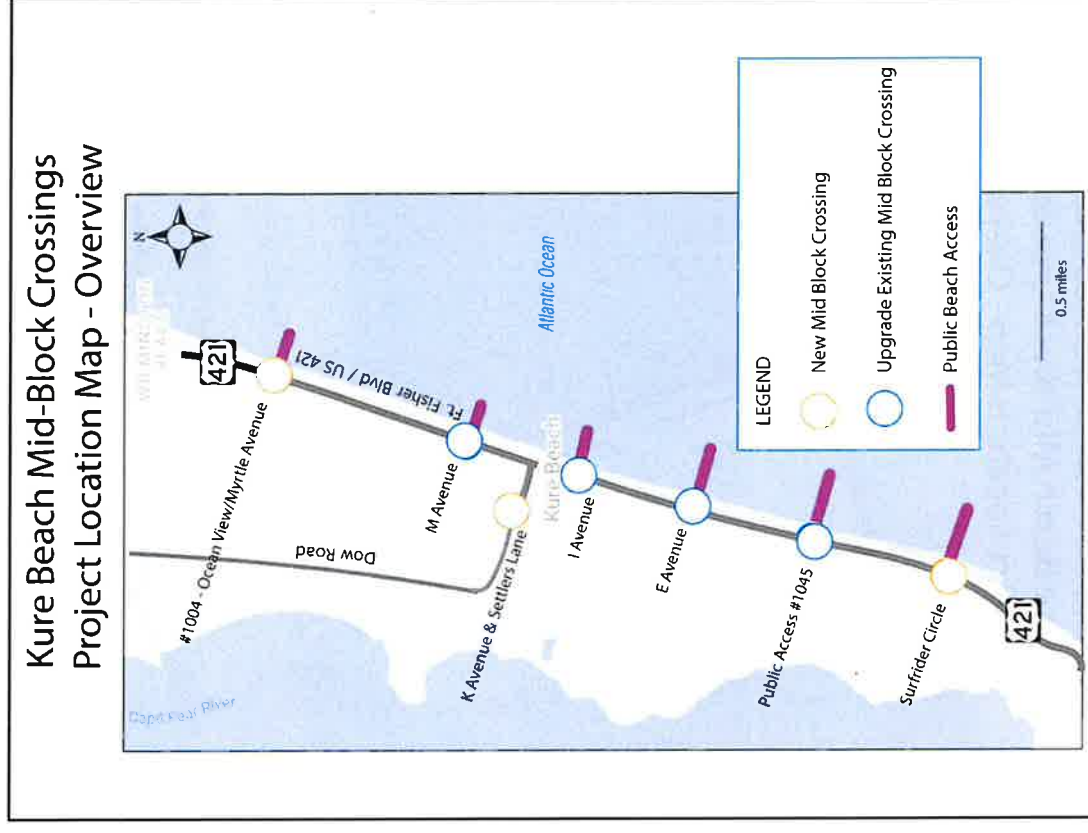
Town of Kure Beach – Projects Update

Allen Oliver, Mayor

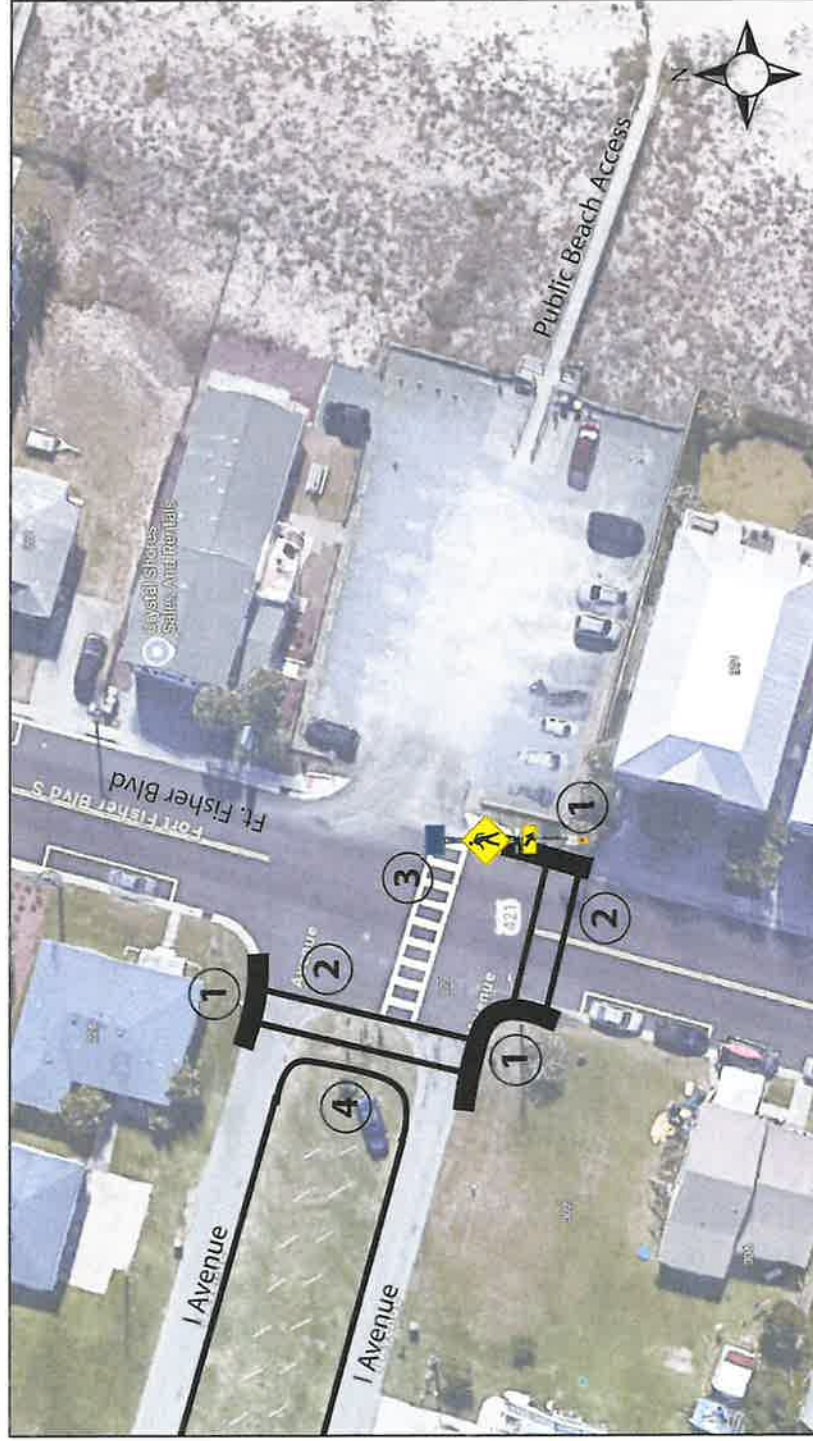
Adrienne Harrington, Founder/Owner Smart
Moves Consulting

Mid-Block Crossings Project(s)

- Goal: Provide a safe location for people to cross Ft. Fisher Blvd. to access public beach access spots and other Town amenities.
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Mid-Block Crossing Improvements at I Avenue



1 Update/improve curb with ADA ramp

2 Add new crosswalk

3 Remove existing crosswalk

4 Pull back median

Mid-Block Crossing Improvements at K Avenue & Settlers Lane



- 1 Add new crosswalk
- 2 Add new sidewalk

Ft. Fisher & K Ave Intersection Improvements Project

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 - WithersRavenel completed 100% final design/engineering plans
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Kure Memorial
Lutheran Church



Big Daddy's

- New sidewalk
 New crosswalk
 Existing sidewalk

Any Questions?



Town of Kure Beach – Projects Update

Allen Oliver, Mayor

Adrienne Harrington, Founder/Owner Smart
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Transportation Projects in Kure Beach

Mid-Block Crossings Projects

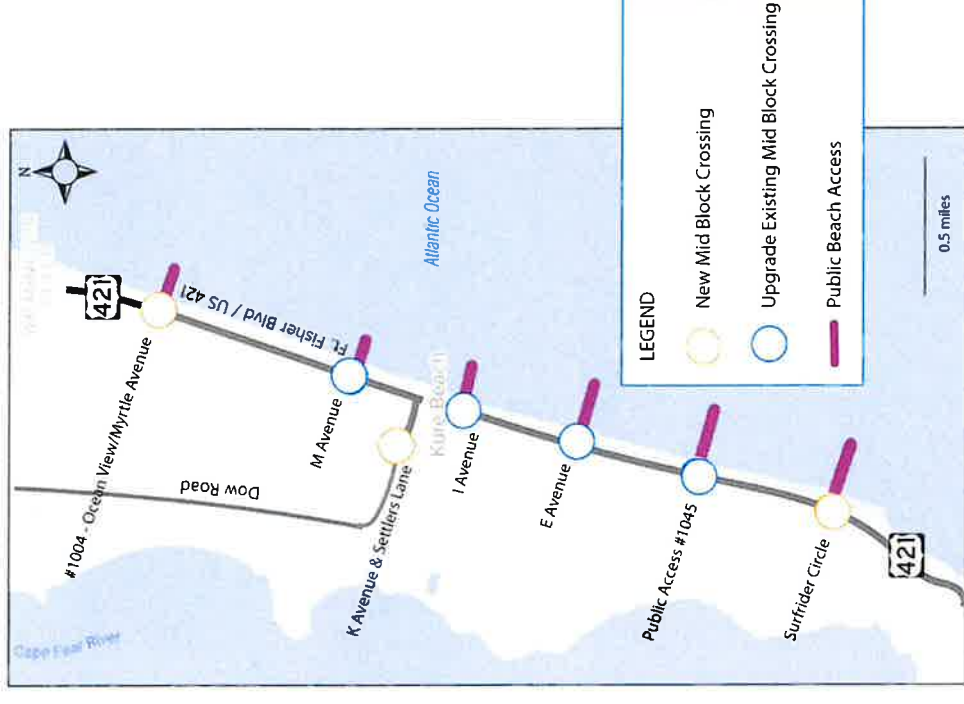
Fort Fisher Boulevard & K Avenue Intersection Improvements

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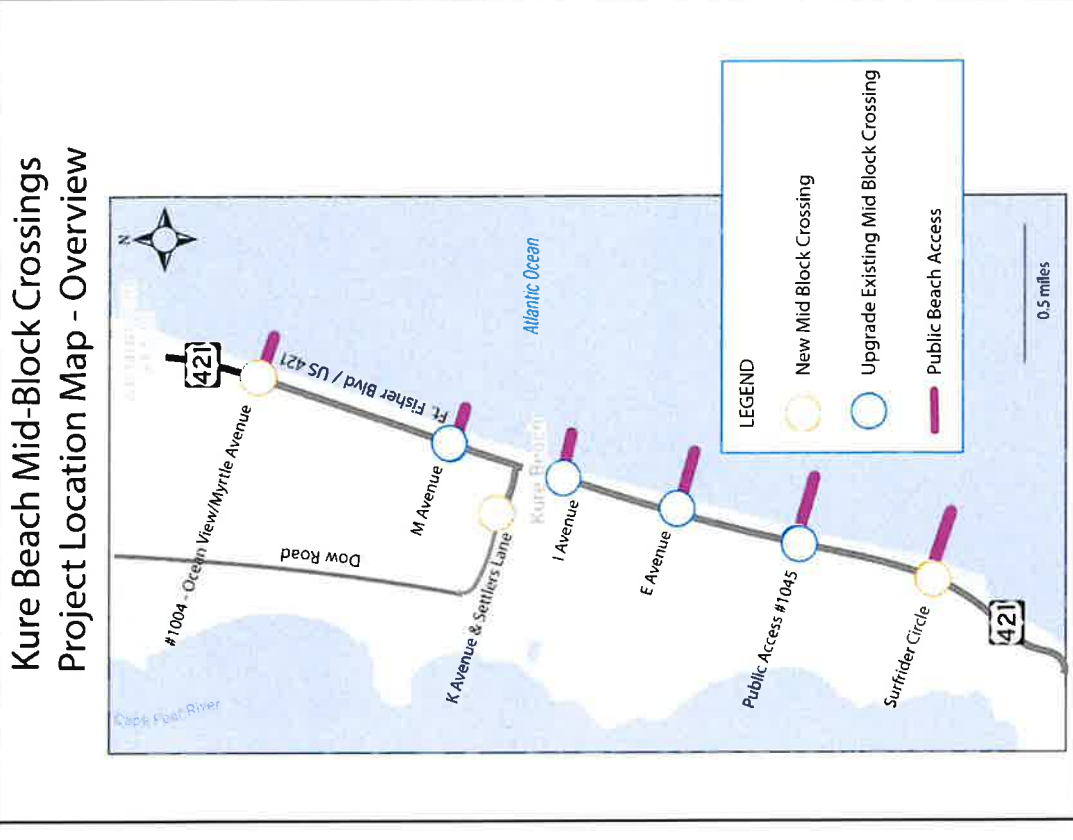


Kure Beach Mid-Block Crossings
Project Location Map - Overview

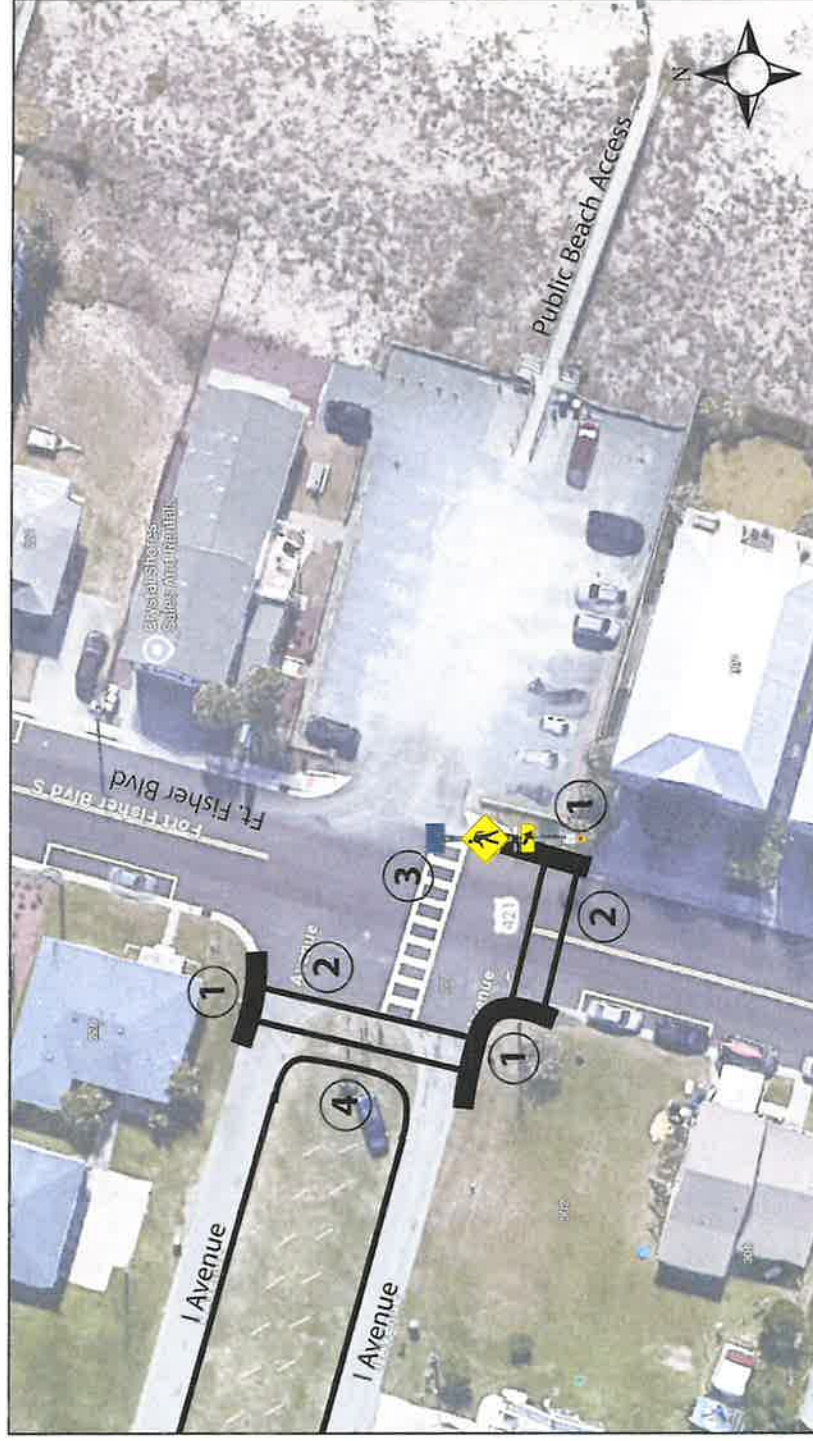


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Mid-Block Crossing Improvements at E Avenue



1 Update/improve curb with ADA ramp

2 Add new crosswalk

3 Remove existing crosswalk

Mid-Block Crossing Improvements at K Avenue & Settlers Lane



- 1 Add new crosswalk
- 2 Add new sidewalk

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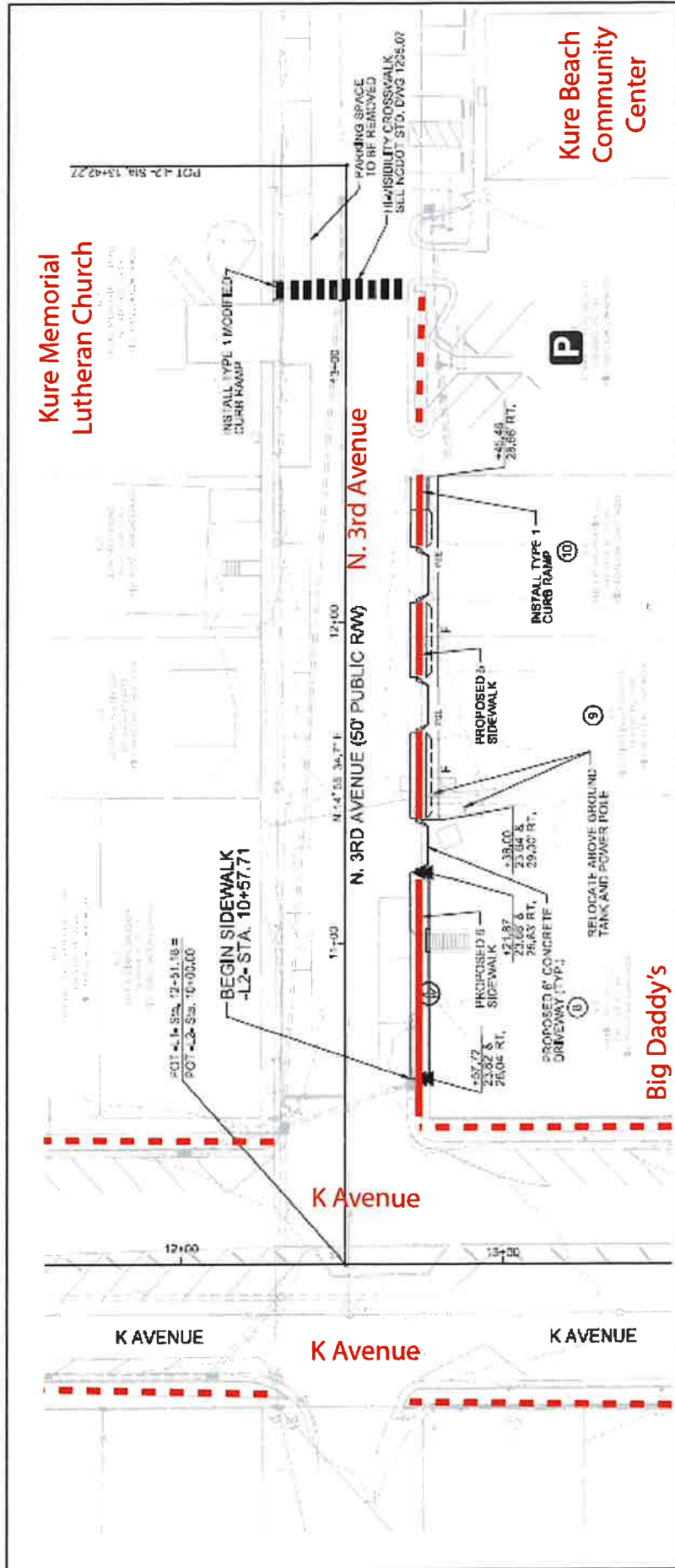
Plan view of the proposed sidewalk and curb ramp along Fort Fisher Boulevard. The drawing shows the alignment of the sidewalk (proposed 6' wide) and curb ramp (proposed 1' wide) from station 10+00 to 15+20.00. Key features include:

- 1. Installation of Type 1 curb ramp at station 10+00.
- 2. Removal of existing 4' curb wall and installation of 6' sidewalk taper.
- 3. Installation of Type 1 curb ramp at station 11+00.
- 4. Installation of Type 1 curb ramp at station 12+00.
- 5. Installation of Type 1 curb ramp at station 13+00.
- 6. Installation of Type 1 curb ramp at station 14+00.
- 7. Installation of Type 1 curb ramp at station 15+00.
- 8. Installation of Type 1 curb ramp at station 15+20.00.

The drawing also shows the location of existing and proposed sidewalks, and the location of the curb ramp. The drawing is titled "Ft. Fisher Boulevard" and "Kure Beach Pier".

 New sidewalk
  New crosswalk
  New driveway crossing (marked pavement)
  Existing sidewalk

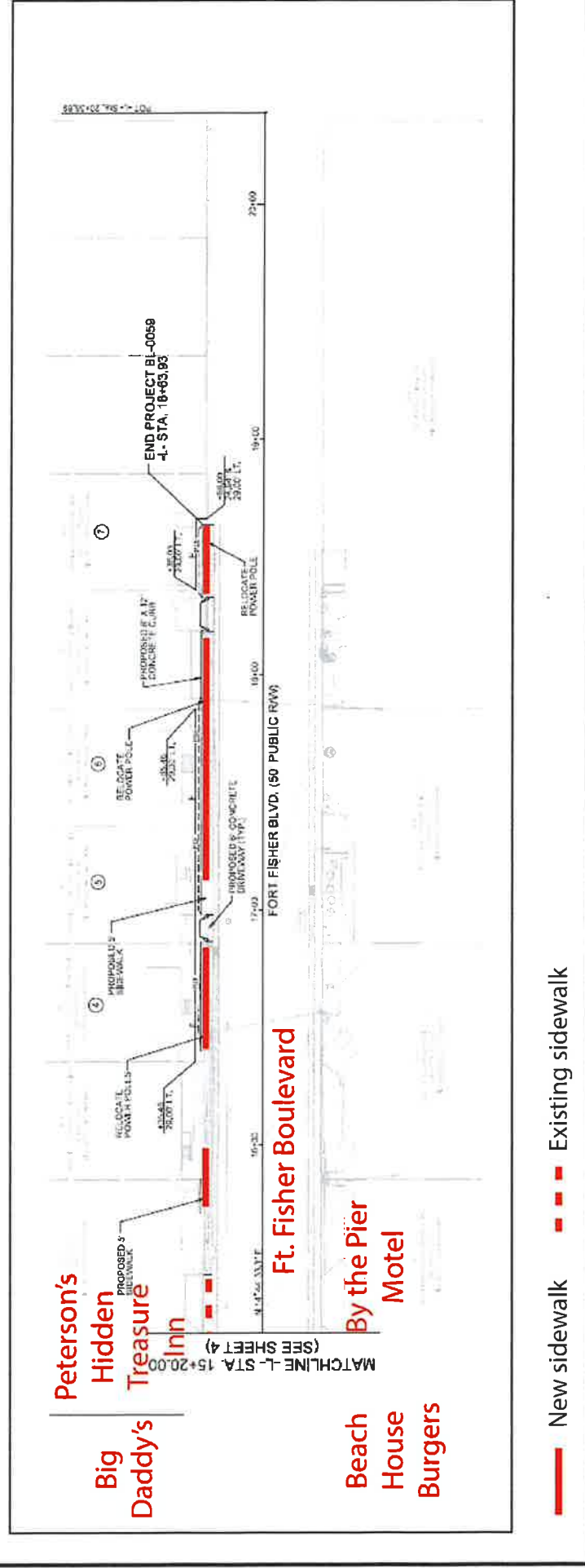
North 3rd Avenue Pedestrian Improvements



- New sidewalk
- - - New crosswalk
- - - Existing sidewalk

Ft. Fisher Boulevard & K Avenue Intersection Improvements

Note: This portion may be completed at a later date, depending on the cost estimates



Any Questions?

TOWN COUNCIL PRESENTATION

Bike/Ped Committee
Tour de Island Update
August 24, 2026

With fall right around the corner, we have two great opportunities to showcase bicycling on Pleasure Island.

1. BikeWalkNC Transportation Summit

- **Dates:** Thursday, September 17 to Saturday, September 19, 2026.
- **Details:** Guests from across North Carolina will attend. Riders will experience our island from a bicycle perspective on Saturday, September 19.
- **Highlights:** Showcase the Island Greenway, highlight our two communities, and share our work on pedestrian and bicycle safety.
- **Attendance:** About 80 riders are expected to participate.

2. Tour de Island (3rd Annual)

- **Date:** Saturday, October 17, 2026.
- **Details:** A new route featuring a special highlight at the Blakeslee Air Force Recreation Area, new t-shirts, and a fun post-ride celebration.
- **Goal:** Bringing families, residents, visitors, and returning riders of all ages and abilities together to ride safely and enjoy the island.

Get Involved

- Flyers are available tonight.
- Scan the QR code on the screen.
- Check the Recreation Department's Facebook page for updates.

In September, we welcome the state. In October, we welcome our community.
Get your helmet ready, pump up those tires, and let's ride!