



# *CARTERET COUNTY*

## *COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN*

### *Vision Statement*

As North Carolina's Crystal Coast, Carteret County and its municipalities are unique in many ways. The Crystal Coast is an important tourist, second-home, and retirement destination because it serves as a gateway to the Outer Banks, as well as Cape Lookout National Seashore. It is also home to the Port of Morehead City, which is one of the deepest ports on the East Coast, the second largest importer in the country for natural rubber, and a leading exporter of phosphate.

Because Carteret County's scenic and maritime-related assets (particularly commercial fishing) generate and attract so much additional car, rail, air, and marine traffic, an efficient and well-maintained comprehensive transportation network is vital to the safe movement of visitors, residents, and business traffic, both within the County plus to and from regional, national, and even international locations. Moreover, the network needs to be built to preserve the environmental features that make Carteret County unique.

To accomplish this, Carteret County and its municipalities, with the assistance of the NC Department of Transportation and the Down East Rural Planning Organization, will work together to develop a Comprehensive Transportation Plan to serve as a guide for all future transportation improvements to roads, bicycle and pedestrian ways, plus rail, air, and water facilities.

### *GOALS*

- Provide a safe, reliable, efficient, and sustainable multi-modal regional transportation network that enhances the quality of life within, and economic vitality of, Carteret County and its Towns, as well as Eastern Carolina.
- Maximize the use of existing facilities and add capacity and connectivity strategically.
- Promote the continued improvement of the road and rail networks to and within Carteret County to create a transportation network that promotes and supports economic development, particularly development that is compatible with the existing and future land use goals and patterns.
- Promote the orderly design of new rights-of-way.
- Plan for alternative forms of transportation.
- Reduce congestion and improve safety.
- Ensure the safe evacuation of the population when hurricanes and other natural hazards occur.
- Seek increased funding of all transportation modes.
- Promote cooperative local and regional planning.

### *OBJECTIVES*

- Establish a Countywide multi-modal transportation system.
- Coordinate transportation and land use plans between Carteret County and its Towns, and the Down East Rural Planning Organization, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, plus other local and state organizations.
- Enhance and expand services for alternative transportation needs, including (but not limited to) transit, walking, and bicycling.
- Make informed transportation decisions that are sensitive to possible adverse impacts on the environment.
- Study automobile crashes within the county and make improvement recommendations.
- Use traffic management techniques to improve and upgrade the connections between communities and to identify major transportation corridors.
- Coordinate transportation plans and recommendations with Carteret County Emergency Management Office and other relevant local and State organizations.
- Solicit additional transportation goals and objectives for the future from the municipalities and Carteret County.
- Educate the public on general transportation issues, as well as alternative forms of transportation.