

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
Town of Oriental - Bicycle Plan
Special Meeting - March 29, 2011

Overview

The Town of Oriental is dedicated to pursuing community resources oriented to encouraging healthy lifestyles.

Oriental has been identified as an important biking destination and, due to the fact that all but four hotel rooms in Pamlico County are in Oriental, it is a logical destination for touring cyclists as well as a good base for tourists who bike.

Oriental's dedication to retaining and expanding the opportunities for bicycling in and around the town benefits the community in the following ways.

1. Enhances public health and safety
2. Invites tourism
3. Encourages alternate "green" transportation options
4. Develops a heightened sense of community

Plan Objectives

1. Increase opportunities for safe cycling on town roads and roads connecting the town to other areas of Pamlico County
2. Interconnect housing developments and areas of town via bike routes and off-road trails that avoid high speed roads.

Plan Objectives (continued)

3. Participate with County, Regional, State and Federal agencies in defining, planning and implementing bicycling awareness, training, tourism, and infrastructure development.
4. Work with state and regional agencies to decrease or establish safest vehicular speed where no bike paths exist on the streets.
5. Use the TownofOriental.com website to inform residents and visitors of cycling opportunities in and around the town including routes interconnecting the town with other towns and destinations in the region or link either by inclusion on the website or links to other websites providing such information including:
 - a. Family Friendly Routes
 - b. Cycling specific transient/touring routes
 - i. Transient Routes for those passing through
 1. Starts and ends in Oriental for tourists
 2. Route 306 to 101/Beaufort for touring cyclists coming or leaving the county
 - ii. Signature Routes to highlight the best cycling in and around Oriental
 - c. Routes that would most likely be noted starting and ending in Oriental
 - i. 22 miles to Minnesott and Back
 - ii. 13 miles to River Dunes and Back
 - iii. 35 miles the Florence Loop and back
 - d. Training Routes for local cyclists

Items for Action:

1. White Farm Road - an essential route between the Dolphin Point area of Oriental and Downtown.
 - a. Main route to the recreation park.
 - b. Mostly traversed by cyclists that are children or retirees.
 - c. 35 mph would make it a safer and more appealing as a bike route - entire road is not in the Town of Oriental - must work with other agencies.
 - d. The road is quite narrow: a 3 foot bike lane on either side wherever the speed limit is in excess of 25 mph would make it a far safer route. This should be included anytime town or state work is done on White Farm Road.
2. Produce bike maps (downloadable and at town hall) ...initially with the assistance of OrientalExpress Bicycle Club (orientalexpress.com) to assist residents and tourists.
3. Provide signage denoting bike routes that avoid high speed roads where possible.
4. Establish as many local plans as possible...Oriental leading the way. ECC Croatan Regional Bicycle Plan being developed for the Department of Transportation will consider cycling plans from municipalities and counties in conjunction with future road building and maintenance.
 - a. Organize, with other towns and Pamlico County, a county-wide bicycle plan. For example: the more towns on 306 and Hwy 55 that state the need for bike lanes in respective plans, the more weight the DOT will give to making that a reality when major road work is planned for those routes.

5. Pursue establishing a "Criterion" bike race with Oriental as the hub - profits from the event to be dedicated to expansion and maintenance of Parks and Recreation Facilities in Oriental. Assistance has been offered from Oriental Express Bike Club.
6. Educate the boating and non-profit community that cycling is considered to be the best training for Dragon Boat Racing when there is no opportunity for regular on-boat training.
7. Encourage local bike racks throughout town at businesses and destinations.
8. Encourage local bike rental and repair services.

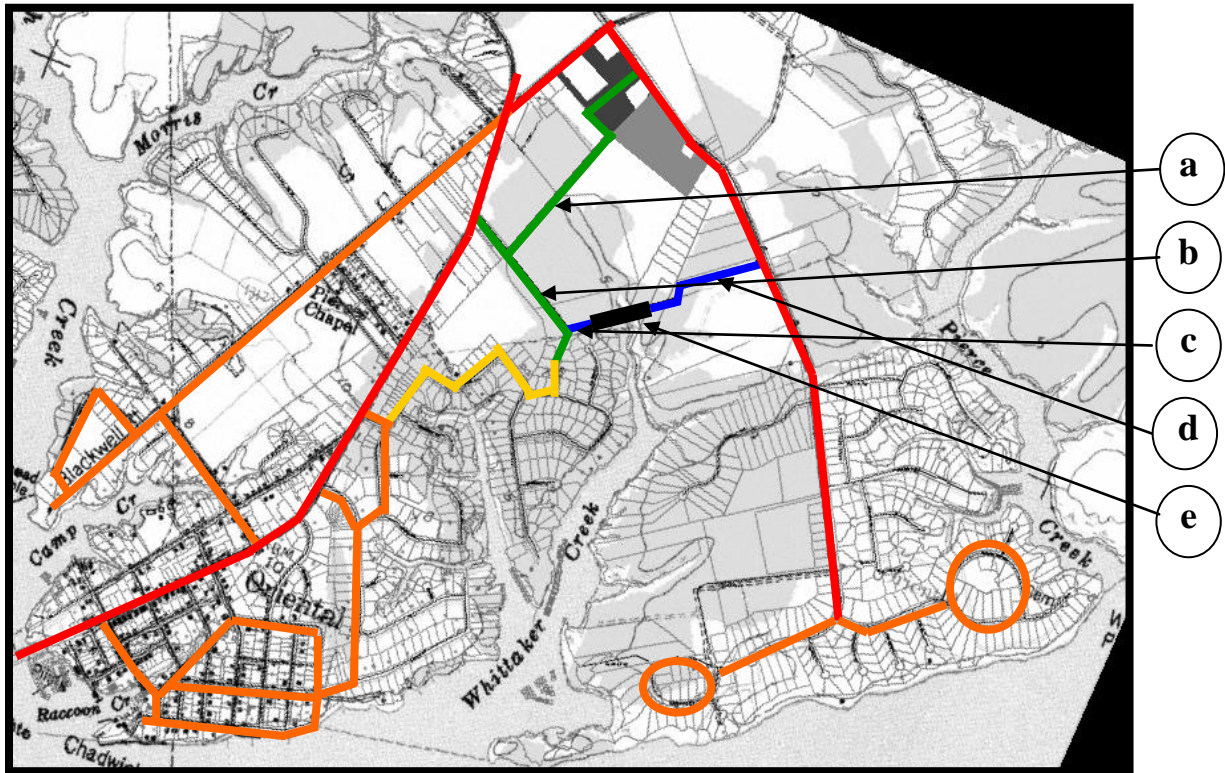
Oriental Bike Routes

1. Roads that are considered main routes should have no more than 25 mph speed limits.
2. Roads that have speed limits greater than 25 mph should have bike lanes on either side or have off-road alternative routes.

Map 1 - Whole town, current roads and projected trails.

Map 2 - Oriental Old Village and Adjacent Neighborhoods

Parks and Recreation - Map 1
Town of Oriental Primary Bike Routes

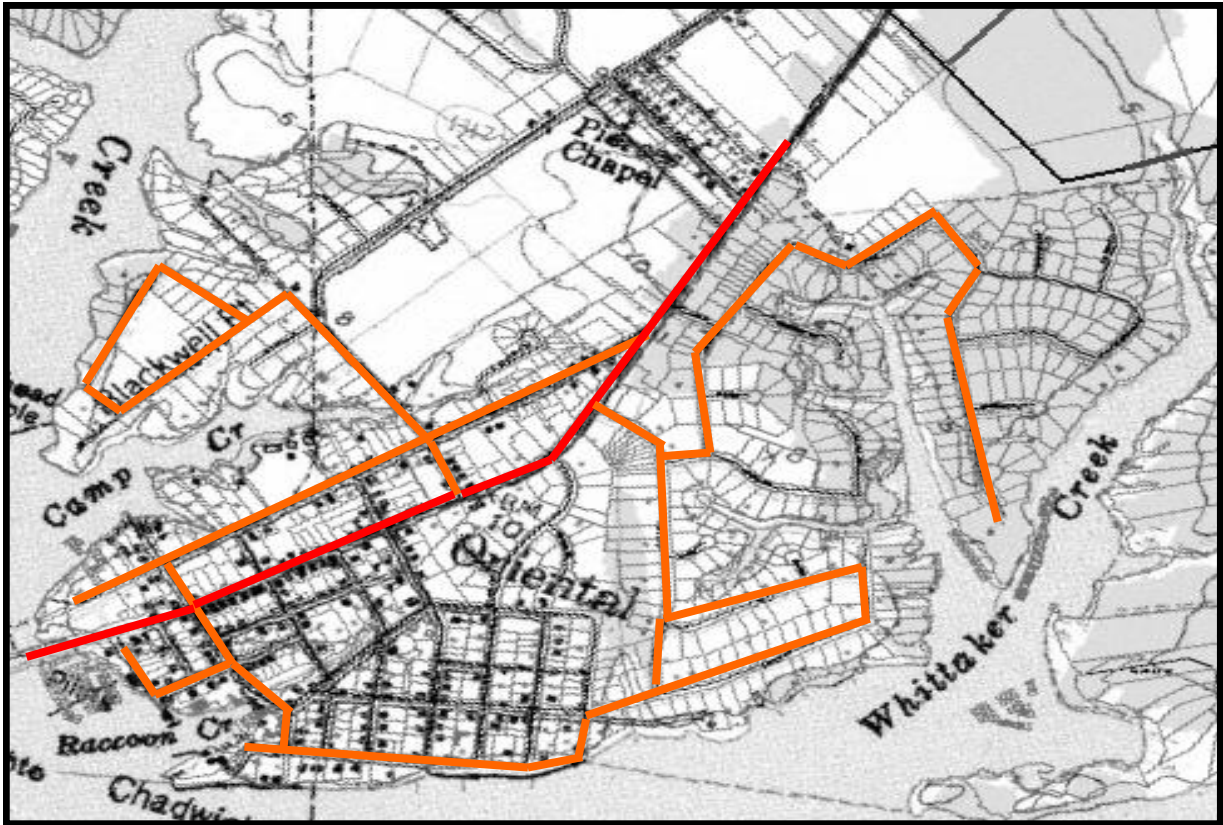


Red - existing > 25 mph roads
Orange/yellow - existing 25 mph roads
Green/Blue - off-road bike trails

1. Develop off-road trails under power-line easements and other utility easements connecting White Farm Road with Highway 55 and the Oriental Recreation Park in phases:
 - a. Highway 55 to the recreation park - connecting to White Farm Road via new Water Tower drive. (green)
 - b. Highway 55 to Peterson Place (green)
 - c. Highway 55 to headwaters of Whitaker Creek (blue)
 - d. White Farm Road to headwaters of Whitaker Creek (blue)
 - e. Bridging or alternative route over or around headwaters of Whitaker Creek (black)

Parks and Recreation - Map 2

Oriental Old Village and Adjacent Neighborhoods - Bike Routes



Red - existing > 25 mph roads

Orange - existing 25 mph roads

1. Develop signage highlighting these main routes.
2. Develop signage along these routes to Lupton Park, Lou-Mac Park, Town Beach, Harbor, Post Office, Wildlife Ramp, Marinas and Boat Yards.

Oriental Bicycle Plan
Adopted April 5, 2011

Mayor - William Sage

Interim Town Manager -
Robert Maxbauer