

Dare County
Summary of Strategic Interviews (07/18/2016)

The below tables represent a summary of the interviews conducted by NC State University for Dare County from April to July 2016. Feedback with similar responses was tallied to represent general feelings of a particular aspect of the county. Categories and attributes with the highest feedback are in red.

The people interviewed and their respective organizations appear on the final page.

Question	Responses
1. What do you see as assets (positive drivers) of the Dare County economy?	<p>Clean beaches/environment (7) Tourism (6) College of the Albemarle (6) Water access (6) Engaged community (6) Good K-12 system (4) Healthcare/hospital (3) Maritime industry (3) CSI (2) Great quality of life Natural setting Park service Dependable energy Diverse population</p>
2. What are some ways to optimize the current Dare County economy (e.g. in areas of tourism, sports recreation, marine industries, second homes, retirement, and construction)?	<p>Continue support of inlets (7) Build sports recreation/hold events (7) Promote retirement possibilities (6) Support construction industry (4) Market hospital/healthcare options (3) Market community for telework options (2) Support and promote CSI (2) Market historical sites (2) Beach re-nourishment (2) Address living affordability (2) Attract naturalists Build long-term care facilities Expand tourism industry Develop maritime tourism industry Improve shoulder season Utilize commercial kitchen in off-season Fish processing facility Build a convention center</p>
3. What do you see as barriers to the county's economic growth in the near term? In the long term?	<p><i>Near term:</i> Land availability (5) Skills gap for diverse industry (5) Seasonality of tourism industry (5) Cost of living (5) Lack of affordable housing (4) Lack of commercial airport (4) COA is unresponsive to industry needs (2) Coastal erosion (2) Lack of technology infrastructure Finish HWY 64 Labor shortage Lack of entertainment options Declining historical sites/events</p>

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	<p>Lack of collaboration between sports/rec department and tourism Ferry service Drug usage</p> <p><i>Long term:</i> Sales and occupancy tax rates (3) Lack of consistency with building codes/CAMA (3) Cost of living (2) Climate change (2) Affordable housing Budgeting for economic development over time Lack of county-wide sewer system Lack of public transportation Workforce issues Bridge replacements Lack of investment funds Lack of educational resources</p>
<p>4. What do you think are the solutions to the barriers described in question 3?</p>	<p>Partner with neighboring counties (Currituck) (6) Lack of fulltime and cohesive economic development focus (3) Town collaboration (3) Affordable housing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SECU model • Duplexes across county • Look at Aspen and Cape Cod plans • Property by the 'old dump' • Scan for empty individual lots Regional collaboration through Albemarle Commission Transportation/Carpooling subsidies Promote retirement community Involve convention center stakeholders Consolidation individual town services Address sewer issue before federal government steps in Communicate with COA on needed programs Address access issues between recreation fields and facilities Currituck bridge</p>
<p>5. What are some ways to diversify the Dare County economy (e.g., attract new industry, foster entrepreneurship, build a creative economy)?</p>	<p>Promote and develop broadband infrastructure (3) Incubator for start-ups (2) Promote arts community (2) Establish a revolving loan fund to start businesses (2) Promote telework (work anywhere) Healthcare industry and ancillary services Convention center/hotel Incentives for mixed-use development Provide lodging incentives for un-used houses in off-season Promote tourism events Promote/grow water sports Product testing for water based and wind based sports Promote CSI and COA as school destination</p>

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<p>6. What CSI connections can you suggest for business development (e.g., attracting private companies, startup companies & entrepreneurs)?</p>	<p>Clean/renewable energy (6) Aquaculture (3) Need student housing (3) Market CSI to rest of NC/region (2) Entrepreneur center Unbiased opinions for businesses and environmental groups Seafood industry sustainability Erosion/beach nourishment research Desalination companies Collaboration with Army Corp. of Engineers App developers to distill science to planners</p>
<p>7. What are collaboration/partnership opportunities for economic development initiatives?</p>	<p>Neighboring counties/Currituck Chamber of Commerce Albemarle Commission Wanchese Industrial park Home Builders Association Restaurant Association COA Southeast Virginia CSI ECU Private companies (Kitty Hawk Kites) Hampton Roads DC</p>
<p>8. Can you offer examples of any comparative communities (e.g., tourism) that may offer lessons for Dare's economic diversification?</p>	<p>Myrtle Beach (cautionary tale) (3) Carteret County Swain County Hilton Head Asheville Eastern Virginia Maryland Portland, ME Charleston Bonita Springs, FL Daytona Beach Clearwater Sanibel Cape Cod Gloucester, MA Martha's Vineyard Nantucket Gulfport, MS</p>

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<p>9. Are there any other ideas you can offer relevant to Dare’s economic development? Feel free to include any ideas—even those that may be “outside the box.”</p>	<p>Trolley system (2) Ecotourism (2) Promote retirement community Attract a call center Attract the pharmaceutical industry Promote wind sports Aviation (expand airport) Expand seafood processing Medical device R&D Market maritime industry Bring in a four-year university Attract IT/software development Expand boardwalks Combine housing and rentals</p>
<p>10. What further advice do you have for us as we move ahead on this project in Dare County?</p>	<p>Include shoreline when thinking about land availability Focus on building a university/college environment Look at current regulations</p>

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	Organization	Contact
1.	Dare County Commissioner	Robert Woodard
2.	Dare County Commissioner	Wally Overman
3.	Dare County Commissioner	Jack Shea
4.	Dare County Commissioner	Warren Judge
5.	Dare County Commissioner	Allen Burrus
6.	Dare County Commissioner	Beverly Boswell
7.	Dare County Commissioner	Margarette Umphlett
8.	Dare County Administration	Bobby Outten
9.	Dare County Administration	David Clawson
10.	Dare County Public Information	Dorothy Hester
11.	Manteo Mayor	Jamie Daniels
12.	Duck Mayor	Don Kingston
13.	Kill Devil Hills Mayor	Sheila Davies
14.	Kitty Hawk Mayor	Gary Perry
15.	Nags Head Mayor	Bob Edwards
16.	Southern Shores Mayor	Tom Bennett
17.	Manteo Town Manager	Kermit Skinner
18.	Chamber of Commerce	Karen Brown
19.	Outer Banks Visitors Bureau	Lee Nettles
20.	Wanchese Seafood Industrial Park	Bob Peele
21.	Coastal Studies Institute, Executive Director	Nancy White
22.	Coastal Studies Institute - Dir. Education & Outreach	John McCord
23.	Outer Banks Association of Realtors	Christopher Nave
24.	Dare County Restaurant Association	Dan Lewis
25.	Outer Banks Hospital	Ronnie Sloan
26.	Sentara Healthcare	Jennifer McNinch
27.	Kitty Hawk Kites	John Harris
28.	Hatteras Island Ocean Center	Eric Kaplan
29.	Albemarle Commission	Cathy Davidson
30.	College of the Albemarle	Kandi Deitemeyer
31.	College of the Albemarle	Timothy Sweeney
32.	UNC General Administration	Leslie Boney
33.	Outer Banks Community Foundation	Lorelei Costa
34.	Army Corp. of Engineers	Jeff Waters
35.	NC State Cooperative Extension Service	Shannon Brooks
36.	Elizabeth City State Small Business & Technology Dev. Ctr. (SBTDC)	Mike Twiddy
37.	Dare County NC Works Career Center	Kenny Kee
38.	Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative	Susan Flythe