



# Cape Fear Firebird

*The Light of Save the Cape*

January 20, 2017

*You got to be careful if you don't know where you're going, because you might not get there.*

~ Yogi Berra

## ***A Smidgeon of Vision***

On Monday, January 30, the Brunswick County Planning Department is holding an open house to display its plan for “Greenways and Blueways,” a network of walking trails, bike routes, and kayak routes throughout the County. Although it is but a plan, it is a plan, a welcome bit of forward vision altogether rare in this County since the loss of David Sandifer. Oh, there’s vision in the County, but it looks backward, actions typically being taken “because that’s the way we’ve always done it.”

You can download the maps at <http://www.brunswickcountync.gov/planning/trails/> . Do that. You will see that conceptually, the plan is quite wonderful. But concept is all it is. At this point, the bike routes are simply lines along existing roads and highways, highways that, today, are altogether unsuitable, indeed very unsafe places to be on a bicycle. NC211? Yikes! Narrow, two lanes, high speed limits. With no designated bicycle lanes, a cyclist is compelled to use the vehicle lane and hope cars and trucks approaching from the rear will be driven by cautious, attentive, courteous people. Yeah, right! So also in the various municipalities. Cyclists and pedestrians beware!

For the “greenway” plan to become a reality, adequate bicycle and pedestrian lanes must be included in the plans for improvement of roads as they evolve. This requires a strong County position in support to be in the public record, compelling highway planners and designers to include bicycle and pedestrian lanes in improvement projects, implementing the greenway plan. And saving lives.

And therein lies the challenge. County and municipal officials must be convinced that this small feature in our roadways, a safety feature as well as an amenity, can have a very dramatic effect on the livability of Brunswick County. Which, in turn, would enhance the County’s economic future. The knowledge-based enterprises we need would be attracted to a County whose government exhibits the kind of vision this plan represents.

The “blueways,” a thoughtful match for the “greenways,” are much closer to reality. These are kayak routes along Brunswick County’s many scenic rivers and creeks, an important and unique natural resource. Some of the routes shown are along navigable waterways, not so good for kayaks because of the powerboat wakes, but that wake issue needs attention anyway.

The “Public Open House” is on January 30, 4:00 to 8:00 PM at the Cooperative Extension Center, Building N in the County Complex in Bolivia. Go and show your support! This project can do wonderful things for Brunswick County, but must have broad-based and strong public support for success—success that would make Brunswick County a better place to visit, to live, and to work. For more information contact Kirstie Dixon at the County Planning Department <[Kirstie.Dixon@brunswickcountync.gov](mailto:Kirstie.Dixon@brunswickcountync.gov)> , 910-253-2027.

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