

To: Currituck County Board of Commissioners  
From: Tom Hudak, President FBCA and FBCA Board of Directors  
Date: November 20, 2017  
Re: Beach Driving Ordinance

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the 600 members of the Fruitville Beach Civic Association, we write to urge you to oppose the beach driving ordinance that was voted on by the BOCC on November 6. We understand it will come up for final vote on Nov. 20th and we urge you to vote 'no' on the ordinance as presently drafted and to move affirmatively to work with all stakeholders to develop a comprehensive solution that can be operational by Memorial Day 2018.

The key problem on the northern beaches is that there are too many vehicles driving up and down the beach in the summer. We agree with Commissioner White that this is a safety issue, and it needs to be addressed before someone is seriously injured. But restricting those vehicles to one narrow strip in the soft sand at the toe of the dunes – without reducing the absolute number of cars on the beach -- will only make the problems worse. Vehicles are more likely to get stuck in the soft sand than is the case for cars driven on the foreshore, and one car getting stuck in the sand will have a domino effect on all the cars behind, leading to congestion and confusion. We agree with Lieutenant Davis of the Carova Beach Volunteer Fire and Rescue who suggested a permit system be established to limit the number of cars on the beach. Certainly that option should be explored.

We request that the BOCC form a task force including all stakeholders to develop a comprehensive approach to beach driving on the northern beaches. Meanwhile, do not pass the Ordinance as drafted.