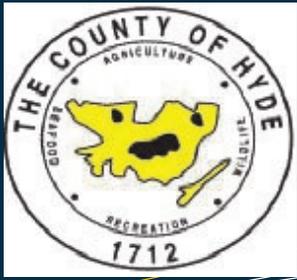


Hyde County Office of Economic Development & Planning April 2014 Infrastructure Update



The Hyde County Office of Planning & Economic Development continually strives to improve the infrastructure of the county to support small business and industry development. The quality of infrastructure directly affects a county's economic growth potential and the ability of businesses to engage effectively.



For more information about the Engelhard Marine Industrial Park, call Bob Peele at the Wanchese Seafood Industrial Park : (252) 473-1414

Water

Hyde County supports a mainland wide municipal water system that covers over 250 miles and approximately 85% of Hyde County and a portion of Beaufort County. The Hyde County water system has 3 water treatment plants with the newest being a reverse osmosis treatment facility constructed in Engelhard in 2012. The Ocracoke Sanitary District owns and operates a reverse osmosis water treatment facility and distribution system on the island covering a large majority of the roads in Ocracoke. The availability of high quality water is critical to supporting the businesses we currently support and attracting new businesses, especially industrial users which typically bring in big job numbers. The Hyde County Office of Planning & Economic Development works with the Hyde County Utilities Department and Ocracoke Sanitary District to seek funding and facilitate expansion.

Sewer

Along with water availability, access to sewer treatment capacity is critical to small business and industry growth. Both the townships of Swan Quarter and Engelhard are served by sanitary districts that own and operate wastewater treatment facilities and collection systems. These districts are stand-alone boards governed by elected officials. The Hyde County Office of Planning & Economic Development works with the sanitary boards to maintain and expand services to homes and businesses within the districts.

Hyde County is currently working with the Engelhard Sanitary District to rehabilitate their wastewater treatment facility. While the district is currently under moratorium, Hyde County and the Engelhard Sanitary District are working cooperatively to seek the funding needed to repair the facility to enable further economic growth in the Engelhard township.

Roads, Bridges & Ferries

Roads, bridges and ferries are critical transportation infrastructure. Hyde County works with NC Department of Transportation to address road, bridge and ferry projects. Most recently Hyde has worked with NC DOT on the paving of Creekside Drive in Swan Quarter to ensure that all water and sewer utilities were appropriately relocated for the paving. Hyde County works in a similar capacity with bridge replacements.

Hyde County is also aggressively working with the NC DOT Ferry Division to maintain and enhance the ferry services to Ocracoke Island. The Hyde County Board of Commissioners, Hyde County Manager's Office and the Office of Planning & Economic Development are working with the NC DOT Ferry Division to ensure that access to the island is available, affordable and dependable.

Engelhard Marine Industrial Park

Engelhard has great potential for economic development and those opportunities include the Engelhard Marine Industrial Park (EMIP). EMIP is a marine industrial park site created cooperatively between Hyde County, the NC Division of Marine Fisheries and the NC Industrial Seafood Park Authority. The first tenant, a marine and agricultural diesel repair shop moved into the park in 2012. The Hyde County Office of Planning & Economic Development works continually with the Wanchese Industrial Seafood Park to recruit new industrial tenants to grow EMIP into a center of waterfront industrial commerce for the Engelhard harbor.

Broadband

High speed internet services are also critical infrastructure in today's world. Hyde County has high speed internet services along Hwy 264 from its western to eastern boundaries. The line serves Main Street Swan Quarter including the Government Center, Mattamuskeet Schools and the Hyde Davis Business Incubator. The Hyde County Office of Planning & Economic Development is working with the NC Department of Commerce Broadband Division to facilitate broadband development particularly as it applies to industrial and business needs in the county.

Engelhard Airport

Engelhard is also the center of activity for Hyde County's Unmanned Aerial Vehicle efforts. The Hyde County Office of Planning & Economic Development has been working with the NC DOT Division of Aviation, the NextGen Air Transportation (NGAT) Center at the Institute for Transportation Research and Education (ITRE) at North Carolina State University (NCSU) and the NC's Northeast Commission on the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) project at the Hyde County Airport in Engelhard since April 2012. Much work has been done and many great accomplishments made including the approval by the FAA of an Agricultural Certificate of Authorization to fly UAVs for agricultural purposes in the general vicinity of the Hyde County Airport.

March 21, 2013 marked the first flight of a UAV under the agricultural COA at the airport by a team from NCSU and Bosh. As flights take place under the agricultural COA, the team is still working towards designation as one of the six test sites designated by the FAA across the nation. The Hyde County Office of Planning and Economic Development continues to work with project partners to achieve maximum direct and indirect economic impact including but not limited to job creation, educational outreach and infrastructure improvements.

Hyde Davis Business Incubator

The Hyde Davis Business Incubator, located in the former Davis School Building in Engelhard is a business incubator for businesses needing office space and high speed internet services. Tenants currently include a large home health provider, a CPA firm and a farming operation. The facility offers affordable office space and access to internet services. Space is available and the Hyde County Office of Planning & Economic Development is continually looking for tenants that could benefit from the space, continue to grow and prosper and create much needed jobs in Hyde.

Cell Phone Service

The road less traveled is often marked with limited cell service connectivity. The Office of Planning and Economic Development has partnered with the Building Inspections Office to create a more streamlined process for the permitting and approval of wireless telecommunications facilities in Hyde County. Wireless Communications Facilities are regulated through the Wireless Telecommunications Facilities Ordinance which can easily be reviewed along with other Hyde County Ordinances at www.municode.com. Recently, Hyde County has approved the construction of (4) new Wireless Telecommunications Towers in Scranton, Engelhard, and Swan Quarter along with a collocation on another tower in Swan Quarter to provide enhanced 4G communication services in Hyde County. A request for new equipment to enhance service on Ocracoke Island is currently in process.