



<https://terrybenjeybicyclingfoundation.org>

## 2023 Year in Review

The Terry Benjey Bicycling Foundation (TBBF) was founded in honor of a long-time cyclist and cycling advocate in the Cape Fear region. Terry was one of the cyclists that formed the Cape Fear Cyclists club in 1972. In the ensuing years he promoted cycling, cycling events and cycling facilities. Unfortunately, Terry was killed in a cycling accident in 2013 and the Foundation was formed to perpetuate his vision and goals for cycling in our region.

It is through the Foundation that Terry's legacy and vision lives on.

### Partners with Cape Fear Cyclists

TBBF works in partnership with Cape Fear Cyclists (CFC) to enhance safe riding opportunities in the region. CFC's primary goal is the creation and implementation of safe rides in southeastern North Carolina. By providing cue sheets, ride leaders and comradery, CFC welcomes bicyclists who want to join club rides several times each week.

CFC board members work closely with TBBF members to report unsafe road conditions or concerns in high traffic areas and more. TBBF is often invited to participate in regional studies of bike lane development, and in turn we inform CFC board members of work on these initiatives.

Proceeds from the annual Tour de Blueberry are shared with TBBF, which provides grants to local non-profit organizations that are focused on bicycle safety in the area.

### TBBF Board and Committees

TBBF board has four committees. Each committee reports at the board's monthly meetings, and all board members work together to achieve the board's goals.

**Advocacy/Outreach** – works with NCDOT, WMPO, municipalities and other partners to bring awareness of unsafe riding conditions or opportunities to improve cycling.

**Funding/Research** – provides information to TBBF and other partners on funding and support that is available for local projects.

**Partnerships** – reaches out to local municipalities and organizations to provide information about TBBF as a resource.

**Safety/Education** – provides Bicycle Rodeos, Traffic Safety Gardens and Safe Cycling classes throughout the region.

## Feasibility Studies

TBBF and CFC Board members sit on several feasibility study groups, as well as local and regional committees. Below is a list of the current studies and committees on which we serve.

**NC 210/East Coast Greenway Feasibility Study** - This group wrapped up in Spring 2023 with a plan submitted to Surf City and Pender County that would extend the East Coast Greenway safely over the Surf City Bridge and through Hampstead to Country Club Road and Hwy 17.

**Kure Beach/East Coast Greenway Feasibility Study** - Currently working together to recommend a safe route that continues the Carolina Beach Greenway through Kure Beach to Fort Fisher.

**Downtown Trail Phases 2 and 3 Feasibility study** - This study is looking at expanding the new Downtown Trail to continue along Burnt Mill Creek. Their work should wrap up in late Spring 2024.

**Gullah Geechee Heritage Trail Feasibility Study** - This study is working to create a bikeway from Navassa to the Brunswick Nature Park. The communities of Navassa, Leland, Belville and Brunswick County are involved. Most of this trail will be MUP, with access to the parks in the communities along the way. The next round of public comments will be in April 2024.

**Pender Country Bike/Ped Plan** - This group wrapped up in Fall 2023, with the successful adoption of the first-ever bicycle/pedestrian plan for Pender County. No specific bike paths are funded or approved, but the fact that the commissioners adopted the plan as submitted is a step in the right direction.

## TBBF Committee Work

**The Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO)'s Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee** is composed of individuals appointed to provide expertise on local bicycle and pedestrian matters. TBBF has four board members on this committee, and TBBF/CFC has one voting member on the WMPO Board.

**BikeWalkNC** – is a state-wide organization that works with NCDOT, municipalities and the state legislature to improve bicycle and walking safety across the state. One of the TBBF board members joined the BWNC board this year. CFC and TBBF co-sponsor BWNC's annual safety summit and several members attend each year.

**LCI Certification/Training** – CFC and TBBF provide funding for members to obtain their League Certified Instructor designation. LCI training is extensive and once completed, an LCI can oversee bicycle rodeos, traffic garden events and safe cycling classes. TBBF has 3 LCI's and is planning to provide support for two more individuals to obtain certification. This certification is provided by the League of American Bicyclists. CFC is a member of the League.

**Kure Beach Bike/Ped Committee** - To assist the Town Council of Kure Beach in the planning, funding, development and implementation of facilities and programs that will result in the increased safety and use of bicycle and pedestrian travel as a significant and beneficial mode of transportation and recreation, embracing innovation and being environmentally and socially responsible. Two TBBF board members serve on this committee.

## Grant Funds

The annual Tour de Blueberry raises money for area non-profit organizations. CFC disburses a portion of the proceeds to TBBF, who provides grants to non-profit organizations to further their work in our area. Below is a partial list of organizations that have recently received grant money from TBBF.

**3Wheel Therapy** utilizes an adaptive tricycle to provide free rides to individuals who cannot ride a traditional bicycle. Volunteers pedal while the client enjoys a bicycle ride, which is something they cannot do on their own. The cost of the tricycle is approximately \$13,000. 3Wheel Therapy has paid 25% of this so far, but still needs to secure funding for the remaining balance. TBBF provided \$2,500 toward the purchase of a tricycle for their clients.

**Special Pedals, Inc** is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit bike shop working toward an inclusive community where adults with disabilities are employed at jobs that offer equal hours, pay and quality of life. The Terry Benjey Bicycling Foundation (TBBF) provided a \$5,000 grant so Special Pedals could complete the construction of their storefront on Red Cross and N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street. The store opened in November 2022.

**New Bike Rack** – When TBBF learned the bicycle rack at Ft. Fisher Ferry Park was deteriorating, a new rack was purchased and installed with signage indicating TBBF and CFC are the donors.

If you know of a non-profit organization that is seeking a small grant to enhance bicycling safety, please complete the grant application, and the board will vote on the request.

[TBBF Grant Application](#)

## Safety & Education

The Safety & Education Committee chair serves on the TBBF board and as CFC Safety & Education liaison. Tammy Swanson is a League Certified Instructor and leads a committee with representatives from NHC Safe Kids, WMPO/Go Coast, Wilmington PD and NHC Sheriff's Department, as well as two members with LCI designations.

This committee works with municipalities, churches, and organizations to host safety events, such as Bike Rodeos or Traffic Gardens. These events are situated in a large parking area, where the committee has put road signs, and road "hazards." Children ride the course, learning how to stop and look both ways, how to use correct hand signals, how to react to a barking dog and more.

The Safety & Education Committee can also host Smart Cycling 101, which is a pre-requisite course for anyone who wants to receive their LCI designation. The League of American Bicyclists provides curriculum for Safe Cycling and Administers LCI training and certification.

In 2023, the Safety & Education Committee hosted or participated in 16 events: 8 bicycle rodeos; 1 traffic garden; 2 junior fire academy bicycle classes; 1 Ride of Silence; 1 National Night Out; 3 Coffee & Cars shows. This committee receives funding from TBBF and CFC so they have the equipment needed for these events.

If your group would like to request a bike rodeo or a safety education event, please complete this form.

[Bike Rodeo Event Request](#)

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## Other Successes and Updates

**Gordon Road** - In 2021/22, TBBF and CFC board members worked with BikeWalk NC and NCDOT to improve their plans for widening Gordon Road. This project is slated to begin in 2024, and the original plan called for a Multi-Use Path (MUP) on the north side of Gordon Road.

There were not enough crosswalks to safely get residents from the south side of Gordon Road to the MUP. NCDOT explained that without a “landing zone” on the south side of the roadway, they cannot install crosswalks. A working group made up of NCDOT, New Hanover County, BikeWalk NC, TBBF, CFC and WMPO came together. After a few meetings, New Hanover County agreed to install sidewalks along the south side of Gordon Road. With sidewalks in the plan, NCDOT was able to increase the number of crosswalks from 2 to 5, providing safe crossing opportunities throughout Gordon Road.

As a result of this coalition coming together to improve a plan, the entire 2.5 mile stretch of Gordon Road from Market Street to NC 132 will have a MUP on the north and sidewalk on the south side.

**Letters of Support** - TBBF and CFC provide letters of support when groups are applying for funds to improve bicycle safety. Letters of Support were recently provided to NC DOT’s request for \$200 million toward a Cape Fear Memorial Bridge replacement. If these funds are granted, the new bridge will have a separate bike lane and will connect to the Belville River Walk in Brunswick. TBBF and CFC also provided letters of support for several of the feasibility studies in which we are involved.

## TBBF Board of Directors

**Eileen McConville** – President. Member of CFC since 2004 and on CFC Board since 2008, two terms as CFC president.

**Adrienne Harrington** – Vice President. Funding/Grants Committee chair. Owner, Smart Moves Consulting.

**Michael Brown**, CPA– Treasurer.

**Eileen Clute** – Secretary. Partnerships Committee. Kure Beach Bike/Ped Committee.

**Jim Bailey**, LCI – Safety/Education Committee member

**Sam Burgess** – Partnerships Committee. WMPO Bike Ped Advisory Board

**Mo Linqvist** – Partnerships Committee, WMPO Bike/Ped Advisory Committee, BikeWalk NC Board of Directors

**Bill McDow** – Advocacy/Outreach Committee, City of Wilmington Associate Transportation Planner

**Wyatt Richardson** – Funding/Grants Committee. Town of Leland Community Enrichment Director.

**Al Schroetel** – Advocacy/Outreach Chair. Past President, TBBF. CFC Board Member since 2004.

**Tammy Swanson**, LCI – Safety & Education chair, TBBF and CFC

**Steve Zinder** – Funding/Grants Committee. WMPO Bike/Ped Advisory Committee Vice Chair.

To communicate with us at any time, please send an email:

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