PUBLIC INFORMATION

ITEM NO. 2.

DATE OF MEETING: November 15, 2010

REQUESTED BY: Monique Baker, Pender County Tourism Authority

SHORT TITLE: Presentation of Visitor's Center and Public Event Facility Schematic Plan

BACKGROUND: The Tourism Development Authority completed schematic plans for a future tourism and visitor's center for Pender County during the last fiscal year. One of the action items resulting from the BOCC retreat in January, 2010 was to expand the scope of the visitor's center concept to include public meeting and event space. Combining a central county visitor's center with adequate public meeting and event facilities would provide for a cost effective and practical way to meet the needs of both facilities. Capital facilities such as parking could be shared, as well as taking advantage of operational and staffing efficiencies.

Ms. Baker, along with the TDA has been working with Architect Warren Wilson to develop schematic plans for the facilities. The objective was to present the plans to the BOCC prior to December 31, 2010 and thus the project is a little ahead of schedule.

After incorporating BOCC and TDA input for finalizing the schematic plans, the next steps will include: finalizing a project budget, evaluating and identifying an appropriate location for the facility, and identifying and securing funding/financing for the facility. The project is included in the capital facility planning model that will be reviewed by the BOCC at its planning summit scheduled for January.

Ms. Baker is present along with Warren Wilson and TDA members for the presentation.