



WILMINGTON URBAN AREA Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Citizen Advisory Committee November 10, 2009 Minutes

Members:

City of
WILMINGTON
Lead Planning Agency

Town of
CAROLINA BEACH

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County

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LELAND

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NAVASSA

BRUNSWICK
County

PENDER
County

CAPE FEAR
Public Transportation
Authority

North Carolina
BOARD OF
TRANSPORTATION

Members in attendance:

Howard Capps
Eric Coffey
Scott Cromartie
Al Freimark
Howard Loving, Co-chair
Paul Martinez
John Melia
Steven Stanton
Stuart Smith
Ryan Rhodenhiser
Mike Roberts, Co-chair

Members not in attendance:

William Ballard
Donald Sellers

Others in attendance:

Joshuah Mello, WMPO Staff
Adrienne Walters, City Intern

1. **Approval of minutes:** Minutes from October 28, 2009 approved unanimously.
2. **Discuss roadway congestion mitigation projects to be carried forward for study for each focus area:**
 - a. Focus Area 5 discussion: College Road – longest continuous road in NHC
 - North College Road shown as severely congested in 2020
 - Interchanges with terminus of I-40 shown as severely congested (114% to 136% on the stretch by Kings Grant)
 - Intersection of Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway and North College Road is performing extremely poor today and more so in 2020
 - South College Road to Monkey Junction is shown as over capacity – it has already been widened to the maximum possible from Wilshire Boulevard to Oriole Drive
 - Significant intersection delay at Oleander Drive, Randall Parkway and Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway
 - Option is to convert North and South College Road to more of an expressway- or freeway-type facility
 - Need to look at TDM alternative transportation way to mitigate congestion
 - North and South Kerr Ave as an alternative – project is funded (widening North and South Kerr Avenue from Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway to Randall Parkway). No funding identified for section south of Randall Parkway
 - Widen North Kerr between Martin Luther King Parkway and Murrayville Road/Bavarian Lane intersection. Continue to connection at Oleander Drive
 - South College Road overpass at Oleander Drive with no left/right turn options – must use South Kerr Avenue for turn movements

- Relocate South Kerr Avenue in westerly direction – away from intersection/go toward 41st Street – problem is residential area
- I-40 to Carolina Beach – Cape Fear River Parkway (start at Memorial Bridge with interchange using port roads and come down and tie into River Road)
- Upgrade Independence Boulevard to freeway to pull traffic off of South College Road
- Park and ride lots with express buses running on North and South College Road every 10-15 minutes (lots at Monkey Junction, Castle Hayne, Blue Clay/CFCC and UNCW). Need high-tech buses to make it possible for commuters to work while riding
- Mixed-use to connect retail and residential
- Multi-modal: use bike trails as well park and ride. North College Road multi-use path

Summary: Put effort on Independence Boulevard and potentially the Cape Fear River Parkway (River Road). Get those up to free-flow expressway/freeway. Independence Boulevard has great access control – few business front and driveways and relatively easy to convert to expressway type facility. That would be north-south corridor and we would humanize South College Road and make it more transit and bike and pedestrian friendly and make it more “main street” for our county with a mix of land uses. Need to get out of “widening” as a solution.

b. Focus Area 6 discussion: Wrightsville Avenue and Oleander Drive (from South 17th Street to Military Cutoff Road)

- City of Wilmington is in the process of Wrightsville Ave Corridor Study – transportation and land use study. Recommending road diet in 4-lane section between Dawson Street and Independence Boulevard and put in bike lanes and center turn lane. ROW not available for widening the corridor – public wants two-lane road
- Oleander Drive is four-lanes from South 17th Street to Independence Boulevard, six-lanes from Independence Boulevard to Pine Grove Drive and five-lanes from Pine Grove Drive to Military Cutoff Road
- Do not let people get off Wrightsville Avenue with a block of Oleander Drive and College Road. Two big problems – not enough capacity on South College Road between Wilshire Boulevard and Shipyard Boulevard (only two northbound lanes and three south bound lanes). There are three intersections: Wrightsville Avenue, Peachtree Avenue and Oleander Drive

3. Other business: None.

4. Adjournment