



## WILMINGTON URBAN AREA Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Meeting Date: January 13, 2010

### Members:

City of  
WILMINGTON  
Lead Planning Agency

Town of  
CAROLINA BEACH

Town of  
KURE BEACH

Town of  
WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH

NEW HANOVER  
County

Town of  
BELVILLE

Town of  
LELAND

Town of  
NAVASSA

BRUNSWICK  
County

PENDER  
County

CAPE FEAR  
Public Transportation  
Authority

North Carolina  
BOARD OF  
TRANSPORTATION

Subject: Cape Fear Commutes 2035 Committee (CAC) Meeting

Attendees: George Alexiou, Martin Alexiou Bryson  
Than Austin, Martin Alexiou Bryson  
Howard Capps  
Eric Coffey  
Al Freimark  
Dorsey Jones  
Howard Loving, Co-chair  
John Melia (via phone)  
Joshuah Mello, Secretary  
Ryan Rhondenhiser  
Mike Roberts, Co-chair  
Stuart Smith  
Steve Stanton

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### Meeting Summary

The Committee met to discuss the mass transit projects, project prioritization, cost estimates, and policy language for inclusion in the LRTP. The following comments represent the committee's discussion on these issues.

- M/A/B gave a presentation on projects, funding options, and project cost estimates.
- As part of the analysis of funding for the LRTP, a percentage of funding by mode will be discussed and established. Roadway and mass transit projects will be further broken down by categories.
- Different funding scenarios were discussed, based on potential funding sources, including new or alternative funding streams.
- There are multi-jurisdictional issues with different kinds of funding sources. These will be worked out as the Plan continues to develop.
- A key factor is whether the public understands how transportation funds are passed down and the related impacts and needs for locally funded projects.
- The mass transit project list will be prioritized by general category, or technology (i.e., local bus, express bus, bus rapid transit, etc).
- For routes that go outside the WMPO boundaries that are not funded by the WMPO, local support for the funding of those routes should be required.
- The heavy rail projects listed should be listed as unfunded priorities in the Mass Transit Element of the LRTP.
- The Committee reviewed the mass transit project cost estimates prepared by M/A/B.

- Improvements such as reduced headways, bus stop amenities, and other enhancements can improve the image of transit and potentially get more people to use existing services.
- The benefit of adding new service as compared to improving existing transit services and routes was discussed.
- Building existing ridership will be an important factor in qualifying for federal funding programs, such as the New Starts program. The New Starts programs and its various iterations were reviewed by M/A/B and discussed by the Committee.
- The downtown area may be the only viable candidate for a New Starts project. The possibilities of a streetcar line downtown were discussed, including examples from other cities, such as Denver, San Francisco, and Portland.
- A downtown streetcar project should be evaluated as a possible starter project for one of the identified BRT/LRT projects.
- The Committee reviewed each of the proposed mass transit projects and gave feedback in terms of project descriptions, locations, and the various ranking criteria.
- It was agreed that M/A/B would work with WMPO staff to update the project maps and revise the ranking criteria to more accurately reflect transit conditions and needs. These items will be presented at the next meeting.

The Committee was unable to complete discussion of all of the agenda items. Therefore, the next meeting date (January 27, 2010) will be used to finish the agenda items for this meeting, including revised and updated maps and project priorities, as well as the discussion of policy language and breaking down funding by mode.