

**Minutes of the Wilmington Urban Area  
Transportation Advisory Committee  
Date: April 24, 2003**

**Members Present:**

Harper Peterson, Chairman, Mayor, City of Wilmington  
Lanny Wilson, Board of Transportation Member  
Jane Gilbert, Council Member, Leland  
Bill Sue, Brunswick County Commissioner  
Dick Scott, Wilmington Transit Authority  
Gary Doetsch, Town of Carolina Beach  
Jason Thompson, Council Member, City of Wilmington  
Melvin Walker, Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Navassa

**Staff Present:**

Mark Tinkler, Senior Transportation Planner, Wilmington MPO  
Jonathan David, Associate Transportation Planner, Wilmington MPO  
Lawless Bean, TDM Coordinator

**Citizen Advisory Committee Members Present**

Kristi Tomey, Co-Chair, CAC

**1. Call to Order:**

Chairman Harper Peterson called the meeting to order at 5:12pm. Mayor Peterson welcomed Jonathan David, the new Transportation Planner.

**2. Approval Of Minutes:**

No corrections were noted for the minutes from the March 27th meeting. Mr. Sue made the motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Gilbert seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

**3. Old Business:**

**a. Distribution of fully executed MOU**

Mr. Tinkler told members we have received our copy of the MOU back from the Attorney General with completed signatures. Copies will be mailed to the member various clerks in the next few days. We have also made copies for distribution to members for inclusion in the TAC Information Manual notebook.

**4. Public Comment Period:**

No one was present that wished to address the TAC Committee.

**5. Report from Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC):**

Ms. Kristi Tomey, Vice Chair, presented a report from the last meeting of the CAC on Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. Members appointed officers for the committee. Mr. Harold King was appointed Chairman, Ms. Tomey, Co-Chairman, and Ms Sara Brooks, Secretary. Members decided that for their next meeting, each one will bring a list with 10 items of importance regarding transportation issues from their respected areas for the CAC to review. They are also working

on formulating the mission statement for the committee. Mayor Peterson suggested that the CAC sent meeting notification to Mr. Wilson to invite him to attend a meeting so that he might make a short presentation.

#### **6. 2004-2010 Transportation Improvement Program**

The transit element of the TIP was approved on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March. Since that time, the FTA 5307 Urban Capital Grant Program amounts were announced. The purchase of the Trolleys and the three replacement buses for 2006 are being moved to the funded category because funding has now been assured, subject to City approval of local match.

On the highway side, the College/Oleander feasibility study and the Military Cutoff feasibility are included in the TIP. Mr. Wilson said the College/Oleander is not a feasibility study, but it is moving directly onto the agenda for the Board of Transportation. Mr. Wilson also told members that additional projects are going to be added to the TIP. Funding has been located and it will give the opportunity for these additions. Mr. Wilson recommended waiting until the next meeting to vote on the TIP.

#### **7. Draft of NC Moving Ahead Resolution as directed March 27<sup>th</sup>:**

Mr. Tinkler told everyone he had drafted the resolution but felt perhaps members would like to review it before it was official. He did not receive comment back from anyone regarding the content and intent when he sent out the draft by email. Mayor Peterson asked Mr. Wilson if the NC Moving Ahead initiative had been well received around the state. Mr. Wilson said the House Transportation Committee unanimously approved the Moving Ahead Program this week. Mr. Tinkler said when the Mayor signs the resolution of support, he will send it to everyone in the delegation and the appropriate officials

#### **8. Presentation on Middle Sound Loop bicycle lanes and request for resolution of support – Mr. Vic Bain:**

Mr. Tom Landis told members he was standing in for Mr. Vic Bane. He gave a brief presentation regarding the need for the proposed bicycle lane. Mayor Peterson asked if it had been determined the how the maintenance on the lane will be handled once it is build. Mr. Landis told Mayor Peterson it was his understanding it would be done by NCDOT. Mayor Peterson questioned that and asked Mr. Wilson if he had comment on who would maintain the bike lane. Mr. Wilson told him it would be the State. Ms. Gilbert asked where the funding was coming from. Mr. Landis told her the funding was coming from the NCDOT discretionary funds to accomplish the project. Mayor Peterson moved the resolution. Ms. Gilbert seconded the motion. Mr. Wilson informed Chairman Peterson that he is abstaining from voting on this resolution because he owns property in the area. There was no further discussion on this resolution. The vote carried unanimously in favor for the resolution of support.

#### **9. Spring Transportation Summit / Kickoff for Long Range Transportation Plan Update**

July 23<sup>rd</sup> was selected as the new date for the Spring Transportation Summit. A tentative draft agenda for the Summit was presented to the members for discussion and suggestions by Mr. Tinkler. Mr. Tinkler told members that Secretary Tippet and Pat Simmons, head of the Rail Division, NCDOT have confirmed they will be speaking at the Summit on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July. Mayor Peterson suggested the Citizen Group (CAC) be included in the organization/presentations for the Summit. He suggested to Ms. Tomey that perhaps the CAC manage the 9:30 to 10:30 time slot. Mayor Peterson told Mr. Wilson he felt it is important to

capsulate the Governor's initiatives to reinforce the big picture for the people attending the Summit. Mr. Tinkler suggested we identify key TAC members to accept responsibility for each particular area or focus to help guarantee its success. Mayor Peterson suggested meeting again in mid-May to work on planning the summit. Mr. Tinkler said he would bring these suggestions to the TCC at their next meeting for input/suggestions and discuss a date for both groups to get together for a planning session.

#### **10. TAC member attendance**

Mayor Peterson recognized Mr. Thompson. Mr. Thompson told members that he had mentioned the issue of meeting attendance and the problems with obtaining a quorum for voting to Mayor Peterson. Mr. Thompson made the suggestion that the chairman write letters to the members of the MPO and ask that they select alternates to attend TAC meetings. Mayor Peterson said he would call the representative and speak to them about their attendance.

Ms. Gilbert told members she felt that Section II – Quorums and Majority Vote portion of the By-laws was a very complicated process for determining numbers needed for voting. She suggested that we consider using the figure of 2/3 of the membership to constitute a quorum/majority to be a much simpler process. Mayor Peterson said he would like to see it be just a simple majority. Mr. Tinkler said we could indeed amend the by-laws if the members agreed. Mr. Thompson made the motion that Article V, Section II be amended to state “a simple majority” be present. Mayor Peterson seconded the motion. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **11. CSX non-voting membership**

Mr. Tinkler told members that he had cleared the issue of adding a non-voting member from a private company with the state agencies involved. It is the decision of the TAC members if they wish to add a representative from CSX. Mr. Tinkler said he is waiting to hear from Mayor Willis regarding a contact for the CSX. Mayor-Pro-tem Walker said he will speak to Mayor Willis and have him contact Mr. Tinkler.

#### **12. Project Updates:**

##### **a. Regional Travel Surveys**

Mr. Tinkler told members the External Cordon Travel Survey project is moving along at a fast pace. We are working with a very experienced team and they are doing a good job. The Household Travel Survey is also moving along smoothly with lots of good information being compiled.

##### **b. Wilmington Multi-modal Transportation Center**

The Consultant Selection Committee met on April 23<sup>rd</sup> to interviewed three consultant teams. The team led by Louis Berger was selected and sub-consultants are Lawrence Group, CP Engineering and Ervon Associates. There will be a meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup> to conduct scope and fee negotiation with the consultant. Mr. Tinkler told members that the process is moving forward but it is taking time.

Mr. Scott said that he hopes we are getting “buy-in” from the Community College so that they are comfortable with the research taking place. Mayor Peterson reassured everyone that they are being included in the complete process.

### **13. New Business:**

1. Mr. Thompson asked to bring up a topic for New Business. Mr. Thompson told members he is concerned about traffic on Military Cutoff Road. He told members he has several letters from several businesses along the corridor regarding traffic in the MayFair area, a 300 acre tract under development. They have asked that we accelerate the installation of the stop light at the intersection leading into the area or install a temporary signal. Mr. Thompson told members he has already talked to Mr. Allen Pope and he will give him some alternative solutions to the problem some time in the next two weeks. Mr. Thompson reported according to figures compiled for the last 12 months – April to April, there have been 200 crashes on Military Cutoff Road, with 6 crashes within 550 feet of the intersection in question. He told members he intends to draft a letter to bring back to the next meeting to address this problem. Mayor Peterson said he knows that Mr. Wilson, as well as Mr. Pope, are aware of the problems regarding traffic on the road. He knows NCDOT is currently looking at the situation. Mayor Peterson suggested Mr. Thompson take the lead on this issue and perhaps we should adopt a resolution or some type of motion saying we strongly urge all participating entities in this road development to look at short term solutions. Mr. Wilson suggested that we draft a letter stating that we are asking the Department of Transportation to work with other agencies to come up with solutions to deal with traffic congestion until the road is opened in 2006. Mayor Peterson agreed that this would be the best approach. Mr. Wilson said he would be happy to help arrange a meeting with Mr. Pope and Mr. Tinkler to facilitate a meeting with the City and the MPO and anyone that may have input in dealing with the problem.
2. Still under new business, Mr. Scott said he would like to let members know that Mr. Albert Eby is in California right now watching the 1<sup>st</sup> new bus roll off the production line right now. We hope to have the first new bus in Wilmington by the first week in May, with the rest of the buses arriving in June.
3. Mr. Wilson said he would like to mention the Governor Easley is coming down to make several very significant transportation announcements that are more regional than local, on Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Also in addition, Governor Easley is calling a Transportation Forum on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, to look at multi-modal means of transportation and promoting the Ports. The May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting will be held in the UNCW Marine Science Center.
4. Mr. Don Eggert said he wanted to make an announcement. The UNCW is holding a Quality of Life Conference May 9<sup>th</sup>. It is a daylong event looking at the Quality of Life in an 8 county region. It is being held at the university.

Mayor Peterson said one item we did not address is the minutes for the April 8<sup>th</sup> special meeting. Mr. Sue made the motion to approve the minutes with Mayor Peterson seconding the motion. With no discussion the minutes were approved unanimously.

Mayor Peterson asked Ms. Bean if she would like to update members on the activities in the TDM program. Ms. Bean said the pilot Park and Ride Program, serving commuters in the southern portions of the City and the County, is scheduled to kick-off on Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. She wants to invite everyone to attend the ribbon cutting.

Mr. Wilson said he had one more thing. When Secretary Tippett comes in on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May, he will be giving an award, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, to a gentleman who deserves a lot of recognition for his contributions to area. Mr. Foy donated land for the construction of by-pass from I-40 back to Hwy 17. But for his efforts in the donation of this land to the Department of Transportation, the project would have been delayed for several years at cost of millions of dollars to tax payers.

**15. Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Mr. Sue moved to adjourn and Mayor Peterson seconded the motion, with that, the meeting adjourned at 6:18.

Respectfully submitted

Mark Tinkler  
TAC Secretary

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