

**Minutes of the Wilmington Urban Area
Transportation Advisory Committee
Date: June 26, 2003**

Members Present:

Lanny Wilson, Board of Transportation Member
Jane Gilbert, Council Member, Leland
Bill Sue, Brunswick County Commissioner
Gary Doetsch, Council Member, Town of Carolina Beach
Melvin Walker, Mayor Pro-Tem, Town of Navassa
Trey Jordan, Council Member, Wrightsville Beach
Betty Medlin, Mayor, Kure Beach
Harper Peterson, Mayor, City of Wilmington
Jason Thompson, Council Member, City of Wilmington

Staff Present:

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

1. Call to Order:

Chairman Harper Peterson called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

2. Approval Of Minutes:

Mr. Sue made the motion to approve the May 22nd meeting minutes and Mr. Doetsch seconded it. Ms. Gilbert advised members she had noted a possible typo. In the first sentence on page 3, paragraph b., the word incorporation should be incorporate. With this correction noted, the motion to approve the minutes carried unanimously.

3. Old Business:

Mr. Sue said the only old business was not approving the TIP at the last meeting because the Governor was making the announcement of projects that would be added to the plan. He said the plan had already gone to Raleigh and this would be post-facto, but it still needs to be addressed. Mayor Peterson made the motion to approve the TIP. Mr. David told members there were some mistakes in the transit element of the TIP. He received a memo today from Mr. Albert Eby, General Manager of Wilmington Transit Authority. The plan will need to be amended before the September Board of Transportation meeting and he will present the changes/corrections at the next meeting. Mr. David asked Mr. Wilson for his recommendations. Mr. Wilson advised the approving the TIP and make any amendments to it in September or October. With this advice noted, Mr. Doetsch seconded the motion. With there being no further discussion, the vote carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment Period:

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

5. CAC Mission Statement:

Mr. David reported that the CAC postponed acting on the mission statement at the last meeting due to a lack of attendance at that meeting. The group plans to address the Mission Statement at the upcoming meeting in September. Mayor Peterson said he will follow-up with Mr. Harold King, the CAC Chairman, regarding participation/attendance of the appointed members to the CAC. He also would like to discuss their participation in the upcoming transportation summit program with him.

6. Wilmington City Council and New Hanover County have considered an Inter-local Agreement to join their transit services. Both bodies have approved the Agreement.

Mayor Peterson advised members this item is just an update statement for TAC members.

7. MTIP – Transportation Improvement Program 2004-2010:

This item of business was covered during the discussion of Old Business. Mr. Wilson told members the felt it was significant to note the addition of the four projects that were added to the TIP.

1. The extension of Independence Blvd to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Pkwy beginning in 2010
2. In 2005-2006, doing intersection improvements at Wrightsville Avenue at Independence Boulevard
3. Planning and environmental study for Village Road (west of Navassa Road) and Blue Clay Road interchange on I-140 (Route 17 Bypass)
4. The feasibility study for the extension of Military Cutoff Road into the bypass

Another item in the TIP that will have a significant impact on Brunswick and New Hanover County is the study of Highway 17 from the South Carolina border to the Cape Fear River. This study has already begun and is anticipated to cost \$650,000. Mr. Wilson told members Mr. Sue had been instrumental in pushing this project.

9. Transportation Summit – July 23rd:

Mayor Peterson suggested that members walk through the final draft for fine tuning. After discussion, it was decided that the individual sessions should be shortened so the summit would wrap up around 1:30. Members concurred that the topic of intelligent transportation should be included in the program. Mr. David said he and Mr. Tinkler will make the changes suggested by members and meet again with Mayor Peterson for finalization.

10. Gateway Rest Area northern New Hanover County – June 17th meeting:

Mr. Wilson told member that he attended the June 17th meeting with interested parties and state officials from Raleigh regarding building a new rest area to help promote tourism in the area. Positive and negatives aspects of locating a rest stop in this area were discussed. Upgrading the existing facility at Warsaw was suggested as a possible solution. It services a large portion of Southeastern North Carolina. The cost to upgrade the existing facility is estimated to be a million dollars. To construct a new facility will cost an estimated 4 to 5 million dollars and if manned 24 hours a day, it will take \$250,000 a year out of the division's maintenance budget, which means less money to go into filling potholes. The committee agreed to meet again and continue discussions at a later date.

11. New Business:

Mr. Wilson said he had two items of new business. Good news for the citizens of the Leland and Belville areas. The bids for the improvements to Village Road at US 17/74/76 (W-4436) were opened this week. The project should get underway in the next six weeks.

The other item Mr. Wilson wanted to mention was a letter to Mayor Peterson from the Department of Transportation asking the city for direction in how to address the issue of crashes at the interchange of Wrightsville Avenue and Colonial Drive/Country Club Drive. NCDOT has come up with 5 different options for addressing the problem and would like to have recommendations from City Council and the MPO. This intersection has been identified as one of the most unsafe intersections in the City. The Department of Transportation is seeking funding from High Hazard Elimination or Spot Safety funds for this project.

Mr. Wilson said he was glad to report that Pate Butler and her entire staff have been reassigned to Division 3. She had been previously responsible for 3 of the 14 divisions across the state as Area Traffic Engineer. Due to the number of requests coming from this area and the amount of proactive studies underway, they have been reassigned and will be moving here to handle Division 3 projects.

Mayor Peterson said he and Mr. Thompson, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Allen Pope and other DOT Staff members participated in a Town Meeting in the Military Cutoff area to talk about conditions and seek input from citizens. Safety and efficiency issues were the topics for the meeting. There will be a follow up meeting will be July 30th at 9:00 until 12:00. They will be tackling a couple issues. One of these issues will be landscaping at various areas around the City. Members of the DOT will be attending this meeting and share ideas for the future plans for the area.

Mayor Peterson said he had another item to cover. It is a borrow pit located in the Creekwood area on Kornegay Avenue. The construction company has taken timber and vegetation from the site and created a huge pile. It is a health and safety hazard. Citizens in the area have requested help with the issue. Mayor Peterson said he has spoken with Mr. Allen Pope regarding the situation but he wanted to mention this issue in hopes that Mr. Wilson might be of assistance in handling the problem.

8. FY 2004 PWP Amendment – Town of Navassa Collector Street Plan (to carry forward from FY 2003 PWP), RFP has been issued:

Mr. Thompson made the motion to adopt the resolution. Mr. Sue seconded the motion. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

12. Announcements:

Mayor Peterson asked Ms. Bean if she had any items to comment on regarding the projects she is working on. Ms. Bean told members that the new Park & Ride Project is up and running. They are also working on offering limited service to Belville and Leland.

Ms. Pat Melvin gave a brief update on the inter-local agreement for a joint city and county public transportation system.

13. Adjournment:

With there being no further business, Mr. Sue moved to adjourn and Ms. Gilbert seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 4:55.

Respectfully submitted

Mark Tinkler
TAC Secretary

/pb