

# Minutes

## Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee

Date: September 25, 2003

### **Members Present:**

Jim Cain, Mayor, Town of Belville  
Gary Doetsch, Council Member, Town of Carolina Beach  
Jane Gilbert, Council Member, Town of Leland  
Betty Medlin, Mayor, Town of Kure Beach  
Harper Peterson, Mayor, City of Wilmington  
Nancy Pritchett, Commissioner, New Hanover County  
Bill Sue, Commissioner, Brunswick County  
Eulis Willis, Mayor, Town of Navassa

### **Staff Present:**

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

### **1. Call to Order:**

Chairman Harper Peterson called the meeting to order at 4:01pm.

### **2. Approval Of Minutes:**

Mr. Sue made the motion to approve the July 31<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes and Mr. Doetsch seconded the motion. The vote to approve the minutes carried unanimously.

### **3. Public comment Period:**

#### **a. Mr. Marvin Grainger**

Mayor Peterson recognized Mr. Marvin Grainger. Mr. Grainger made a presentation regarding excessive use of sirens and flashing lights by emergency vehicles, as well as requesting the purchase of property between Independence Blvd. and South 17<sup>th</sup> Street for the purpose of building a cut-through road to the hospital. After the presentation, Mayor Peterson thanked Mr. Grainger for his suggestions.

### **4. Old Business**

Ms. Gilbert asked Mr. Tinkler if he had composed the letter to Congressman McIntyre to thank him for his support of the TAC projects in the area. Mr. Tinkler told her he had been talking with Mr. Wilson regarding the specific efforts Congressman McIntyre has made on our behalf. With that information in hand, Mr. Tinkler said he will be able to compose a meaningful letter to express our thanks for his continued support. He will forward the letter to her tomorrow.

### **5. 2006-2012 TIP call for projects:**

#### **a. Project prioritization criteria**

Mr. Tinkler distributed a copy of the Biennial STIP Update Process to members to show exactly where we are in the process. We are at the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the two year TIP process. It is time for each MPO to send their priority list to DOT by January 1<sup>st</sup>. The NCDOT has also scheduled public meetings to receive public input. The comment was made that it seems like parallel processes when the NCDOT is also a key player in the

MPO process. The NCDOT Public Input meeting for Division 3 projects is on October 30<sup>th</sup> at Brunswick Community College in Bolivia.

The Cape Fear RPO has formed a working committee to come up with a simple process to provide objective information on the projects and provide input for decision making. Mr. Tinkler referred members to the 2<sup>nd</sup> page of the memo titled 2006-2012 TIP Process and Project Prioritization produced by the RPO. This information is a draft of suggested prioritization criteria and weighting values. Detailed measures have not yet been finalized. He said the TCC reviewed the information and decided to confirm that this is the direction the TAC wished to follow before they invested more time in refining it. After reviewing the memo, Mr. Tinkler asked member what their thoughts were.

Mayor Peterson agreed this is a good approach and asked other members how they feel.

Mayor Willis told members the projects that are of great importance to the Navassa area will have less significant impact in the overall regional picture. For that reason, he has problems with this process as outlined.

Mr. Tinkler told members there still will be room for flexibility within the ranking process for local municipalities. As a first step, information could just be provided in these categories and then this information forwarded to the TAC for the ranking process.

Mr. Sue said his concern was why open up the list when we have a list of projects that would not be done before 2012. We need to look long and hard before we begin to set new priorities. Some of the projects have been on the list for years and are not yet completed. Ms. Gilbert said it was important that projects be included in the list for the future. Mr. Sue agreed but is concerned that new projects will be moved ahead of the projects currently ranked. He said unless it is a major, major problem, he does not agree with taking a new item and inserting it ahead of another that is already on track.

Mr. Doetsch said he agreed with what Mr. Sue was saying but we also must be flexible enough that when new projects, such as the new Interstate, we must be able to respond.

Mayor Medlin said she believes this process will take several more meetings before a decision on how to prioritize projects can be determined.

Mr. Sue said each entity needs to put together the projects that they are talking about and the towns put together the criteria which will help you to rank them according to the list and then someone get together and fine tune the things and put the numbers to them and bring them back to this group for ranking.

Mr. Tinkler told members we are a year off with the long range plan. The long range plan is due early the second year of the TIP and we are currently in the first year. Because of this, Mr. Sue's idea is good in that we can just stay the course for another year.

With regard to the future projects that need to be addressed, Mayor Peterson asked Ms. Gilbert to bring back information associated with the need for widening of NC 133. He suggested that when we come back to the next meeting, that we talk about how we are going to pay for the roads through the next 5 years with local funding opportunities. The state has their hands full and we need to look within for funding sources.

Mr. Tinkler asked members their wishes regarding the official MPO response for the October 30<sup>th</sup> DOT TIP Public Input Meeting. He asked if we should confirm the official record of the priority list and convey it in an official letter for our response for information for

the first draft of the State TIP. Or, should we direct local governments to act individually with their list of priorities. Mayor Peterson said he felt the MPO should be unified in responding to the request for priorities.

Mr. Doetsch agreed but without funding, forecasting priorities is pointless. He felt we should take the current priority list and present it as our response to State and put our concentration into finding funding sources for projects.

Mayor Peterson moved that we reaffirm our support of this priority list after Mr. Tinkler clarifies the exact placement of the Village Road project on the list. Mayor Medlin 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and with no further discussion the vote was approved unanimously.

#### **6. PWP Amendment to carry over Regional Travel Survey funds to FY 2004 (\$28,371):**

Mr. Tinkler told members the next item is a book-keeping amendment for the Planning Work Program. The Regional Travel Survey ran into this physical year and funding needs to be addressed. Mr. Sue moved to approve the item and Mayor Medlin seconded the motion. With no further discussion the vote carried unanimously.

#### **7. MPO PL fund reimbursements and member invoices:**

Mr. Tinkler reported that final invoices were sent to all member agencies for the second half of last fiscal year. Mr. Tinkler asked if anyone had any questions regarding the invoices.

#### **8. Public Participation Policy:**

Mr. David told members that based on the comments from them at the last meeting; he went back and included the suggestions for more information on the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), the TAC and TCC, and their respective membership lists into the document. He reported the he also made three minor changes as suggested by the Federal Highway Administration. They also suggested the policy name be called Public Involvement Policy rather than Public Participation Policy and he should have a 45 day comment period for revision to the document.

After further discussion, Mayor Peterson moved to adopt the policy. Ms. Gilbert seconded the motion. Ms Pritchett told members she would abstain from the vote due to not yet having an opportunity to review the policy. Mayor Peterson called for the vote. Seven members voted in favor, one abstained, and thus the policy was adopted.

Mayor Peterson asked Mr. Tinkler and Mr. David to ask Mr. Harold King, Chairman of CAC, to attend the TAC meeting or send a report from their monthly meetings to the TAC.

#### **9. Military Cutoff Extension feasibility study:**

Mr. Tinkler gave a report from the feasibility study meeting in Raleigh on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September. The recommendations contained two potential routes for the thoroughfare connection. The two routes varied only in the southern third of the corridor. One option bridges Ogden Park and extends Military Cutoff Road at its north terminus at Market Street. The other is routed along the western edge of Ogden Park and the elementary school, then crosses Gordon and Market to intersect Military Cutoff Road. The cross-section of the proposed facility will be a 4-lane divided roadway with a speed limit of 45 miles per hour and will have a 150-foot right-of-way. Mr. Tinkler pointed out the two proposed corridors on the map and gave a brief description of the issues being

considered for each of the two options. The study should be completed in six to eight months. Mr. Tinkler said the timeline for the project could be 8 to 9 years to completion. Mr. Tinkler told members he is participating in the study committee and he will keep everyone updated on the details.

#### **10. Project Updates:**

**a. Transit Service Master Plan – public meetings, Tues., Sept 9<sup>th</sup>**

Mr. David updated members on the progress of the Transit Service Master Plan meeting. Mr. David distributed copies of the comments from stakeholders and the public from their last meeting. Future meetings are planned to offer the public alternatives to react to and give an opportunity for participation in the process.

**b. Navassa Collector Street Plan**

Mr. Tinkler said he will be meeting with Mayor-Pro-Tem Walker and the consultant to work out contract questions. Everything has been taken care of administratively and after these details are decided, they will be ready to sign the contract.

**c. Carolina Beach North End Traffic and Circulation Study**

Mr. Tinkler reported that nine firms submitted proposals. The selection committee will be meeting tomorrow afternoon to select a consultant.

#### **11. New Business:**

There were no new items of new business.

#### **12. Announcements:**

Mr. David said he had one announcement. There will be a dedication of the opening of the River Road bicycle lanes on October 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.

Mr. Tinkler told members the next scheduled TAC meeting for October 30<sup>th</sup> conflicts with NCDOT TIP Public Input Meeting being held in Bolivia at 2pm - 4pm on that day. He suggested that the TAC meeting time be change to 5pm so that everyone will have time to return from the NCDOT meeting. He also told members that our priority list needs to be submitted to that meeting. He suggested scheduling a short meeting for voting on the priority list for the NCDOT Input Meeting. Mr. Tinkler suggested holding a short special meeting for this purpose. He will contact everyone with details.

#### **13. Adjournment:**

With there being no further business, Mayor Peterson moved to adjourn and Mayor Medlin seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:20.

Respectfully submitted

Mark Tinkler  
TAC Secretary