

# Minutes

## Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee

Date: October 30, 2003

### **Members Present:**

Jim Cain, Mayor, Town of Belville  
Jane Gilbert, Council Member, Town of Leland  
Eulis Willis, Mayor, Town of Navassa  
Nancy Pritchett, Commissioner, New Hanover County  
Harper Peterson, Mayor, City of Wilmington  
Lanny Wilson, Board of Transportation

### **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 5:05 pm.

### **2. Approval Of Minutes for September 25<sup>th</sup> and October 9<sup>th</sup>:**

Ms. Gilbert made the motion to approve the September 25<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes and Mayor Cain seconded the motion. The vote to approve the minutes carried unanimously.

Mayor Peterson made the motion to approve the October 9<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting Minutes and Ms. Gilbert seconded the motion. The vote to approve the minutes carried unanimously.

### **3. Public Comment Period:**

There was no one in attendance that wished to speak.

### **4. Old Business**

#### **a. Projection Prioritization:**

Mr. Tinkler reviewed the letter sent to Mr. Calvin Leggett that conveyed our final priority list for inclusion into the 2006-2012 TIP. He told members that at the last TAC meeting Mayor Peterson requested that we create a list on the current status of the projects on the Project Priority List that was adopted on 2001. He distributed copies for members to review.

Mr. Wilson suggested that Mr. Tinkler make a distinction in projects that are pre-TIP. They are College and Oleander intersection and the Village Road Widening projects

Mr. Tinkler told members that the Gordon Road project should have been included on the list on page 3. It is also a NC Moving Ahead project. He will send a revised copy to members after DOT have a chance to review.

**b. Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Update:**

Mayor Peterson asked Mr. David to update TAC members on the CAC Meeting held October 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. David told members that the CAC approved their mission statement. The group invited the Chief of Police to attend their meeting to discuss traffic and safety issues within the city.

Mayor Peterson told members that he wanted to mention that there are eleven members appointed to the citizens committee and only about six members are participating. He said we want each of the TAC members to have an active participant on the CAC. It may be a good time to re-evaluate the person appointed to the CAC.

Ms. Pritchard suggested perhaps we send a letter to those who have not participated and see if they would like to have someone else appointed to the committee.

Mr. David said he thought Mr. King had already started that process.

**5. Route 17/NC133 growth presentation and discussion – Ms. Gilbert:**

Mayor Peterson turned the meeting over to Ms. Gilbert.

Ms. Gilbert distributed copies of maps showing the potential growth anticipated in the area and related development data. Statistically, Brunswick County is anticipating new development potential of 12,156 residential lots and 258 commercial lots. This growth will generate additional population in excess of 31,000 people to the area. Leland is expecting 18 to 20 thousand people in the next twenty years just inside of the current corporate limits. The demand on NC133 will be significant and planning for this increase is very crucial to the area. The Southern Bridge will also have a considerable impact on the area and we must begin now to be ready for the future.

Mayor Peterson said some sort of step-by-step action is needed to begin the process from the specific town and city councils. He and Mr. Wilson suggested involving the developers that are building along the corridors. Mr. Wilson told Mr. Gilbert that a new driveway manual that was adopted in the last two months is more restrictive and may provide some help with dealing with this development. He told Ms. Gilbert he would get her a copy of the new manual.

Mayor Peterson suggested that the two Towns and the County get on top of the issue quickly. There are strategies available. You can invite the development community to provide additional lanes. They can pay for them as part of their permitting process. Other cities and municipalities require facility fees / impact fees. Adequate Public Facility Policies and Ordinances require new developments to either wait until facilities are in place before they can build, or they can participate in the cost of building the road facilities upfront. They do it all over the nation and we need to start thinking ahead because this is a perfect example where you will come to a screeching halt, gridlock will happen and property values will take a nose-dive. It needs to get started at a local level and this group needs to be involved in the process.

**7. Traffic counting equipment replacement request (moved ahead):**

Mr. Tinkler explained that MPO staff provides traffic count data to member municipalities. We have had several equipment failures recently and the remaining equipment is technologically out of date. The machines still operate on the old DOS systems and present a challenge to download the information into any usable format. To meet the data collection needs, we need to purchase ten (10) new counters. Mr. Tinkler told members we are asking for approval to purchase five new traffic counters in the amount of \$5,700 with the remaining five to be funded in next years budget.

Mr. Wilson made the motion to approve the request for replacement equipment. Mayor Peterson seconded the motion. Ms. Pritchett asked if there were adequate funds in the budget. Mr. Tinkler assured members there were funds available. With no further discussion, the vote was approved unanimously.

**8. Draft 2004 Meeting Calendar (moved ahead):**

Mayor Peterson asked Mr. Tinkler if this item required action today. Mr. Tinkler said he recommended that members review the calendar draft and consider finalizing at the December meeting.

**Meeting Note:**

Mayor Willis excused himself from the meeting at 5:55 due to a schedule conflict.

**5. Route 17/NC133 growth presentation and discussion – Ms. Gilbert: (continued)**

Mayor Peterson suggested we go back to item 5. He said he would like to recognize Mr. Tinkler for a few comments.

Mr. Tinkler wanted to say at the last Technical Coordinating Committee meeting, staff started looking at this problem. Mr. Tinkler told members he wanted to inform them on the things that are going on presently regarding the situation. DOT has a Route 17 Corridor Study across all of Brunswick County in progress. It begins in the area at 74/76 all the way to South Carolina and they are going to focus on access management. Belville is part of that of that study. Given that, he also talked to Mr. Sue and he wants to formally request a feasibility study for NC133. For now, Mr. Tinkler suggested we take the opportunity to meet with all parties involved to formulate a plan and make recommendations as to how to proceed. Mr. Tinkler told members that he suggested doing a collector street study to make sure there is a system of roads put in place that can support growth and alleviate everything being tied into 133 and 17. They will put information together and bring back to the December meeting.

**6. Re-program of funds for Military Cutoff Road extension preliminary engineering study:**

Mayor Peterson turned the meeting over to Mr. Tinkler.

Mr. Tinkler told members thanks to Mr. Wilson's efforts, the feasibility study for Military Cutoff Extension scope has been expanded such that it will cover all preliminary engineering investigation type issues. There is nothing we can add to the study by spending the MPO money assigned to the project so he suggested the money be re-programmed. One possibility is the recommendation we would like to make regarding the issue we just covered in Brunswick County. He said there may be other projects for funding that we can bring to the December meeting. Mr. Tinkler recommended we move this item to the December meeting.

**Meeting Note:**

Mayor Jim Cain excused himself from the meeting at 6:00 due to a schedule conflict

Mayor Peterson suggested we continue all the remaining items on the agenda until the December meeting because only four members remain. It was agreed on by the members still present and the meeting suspended at 6:05 pm

Respectfully submitted

Mark Tinkler  
TAC Secretary

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