

Minutes

Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee

Date: April 28, 2004

Members Present:

Lanny Wilson, Board of Transportation, Chair
Laura Padgett, Council Member, City of Wilmington, Vice-Chair
Lynette Carlisle, Council Member, Town of Leland
Gary Doetsch, Council Member, Carolina Beach
Nancy Pritchett, Commissioner, New Hanover County
Jim Quinn, Council Member, City of Wilmington
Bill Sue, Commissioner, Brunswick County

Staff Present:

Jonathan David, Associate Transportation Planner, Wilmington MPO

1. Call to Order:

Mr. Wilson called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM.

With only 5 members present, Mr. Wilson delayed the approval of the minutes until another member arrives. Mr. Wilson suggested moving on to the next item on the agenda.

3. Public Comment

Mr. Wilson welcomed visitors to today's meeting. He asked if anyone had any comments for the meeting. There was no one present who wished to make any comments. Mr. Wilson thanked everyone for attending today's meeting.

4. Old Business

Mr. Wilson asked members if there were any items of old business.

Mr. Doetsch told members the Town of Carolina Beach is having a workshop on pursuing grant funding at 4:00 in Town Hall tomorrow (April 29th) and everyone is invited to attend.

Mr. Wilson told members he would like to mention a couple of significant statutory changes that are going to be submitted in the Short Session in the State Legislature.

The MPO supported changes to the Highway Trust Fund, which will make the entire Intra-State System trust fund eligible, has been drafted. This will be very beneficial to our area.

DOT is seeking authority to issue GARVee Bonds, which is grant anticipation revenue vehicle. These bonds are based on the future stream of income coming in from the Federal Highway Department. Congress has granted the authority to states to issue these bonds on this revenue.

There is also a provision to allow municipalities, counties and non-profits to lend DOT money to accelerate a project on the TIP. It stipulates that the monies are to be paid back within 7 years. He told members this item might be of interest locally.

Mr. Wilson asked if there were any other items of Old Business. There were not.

With the arrival of another committee member during the old business, Mr. Wilson went back Item 2, to seek approval of minutes from the last meeting.

2. Approval Of Minutes for March 23rd (delayed)

Mr. Sue made the motion to approve the March 23rd meeting minutes. Mr. Doetsch seconded the motion, and the vote carried unanimously.

5. 2004-2005 Planning Work Program (PWP) Adoption

Mr. Wilson turned the meeting over to Mr. David for this item. Mr. David told members that Mr. Tinkler distributed copies of the PWP at the last meeting. Mr. David asked if there were any comments or suggested revisions regarding the plan. If not, then the plan needs to be adopted.

Ms. Padgett moved adoption of the PWP and Mr. Doetsch seconded the motion.

Mr. Sue asked Mr. David what the bottom line for each municipality will be in the plan. Mr. David referred to page 21 that shows local cost at \$62,765.00. Mr. Sue said he is requesting cost by entity. Mr. David told him he did not know how the cost broke down per municipality but he will have Mr. Tinkler get him that information as soon as possible.

With no further discussion, Mr. Wilson called for the vote. The motion to adopt the 2005-2005 PWP was approved unanimously.

6. Regional Growth Forecast Project

Mr. David told members that Mr. Dexter Hayes with the New Hanover County Planning Department will give a presentation on the Demographic and Economic Forecasts report prepared by Dr. Tommy Hammer. Mr. David distributed copies of the executive summary of the report.

Mr. Hayes told members he was impressed by the work put into the report. He said Dr. Hammer's report provided an overall framework to make local projections for the Transportation Analysis Zone information. Mr. Hayes explained that Dr. Hammer provided us with a look at the growth indicators going on with population and employment nation-wide, and then gave us the breakdown on a regional level. Mr. Hayes went on to cover some of the most important statistics that are contained in the summary report.

7. 2004 Enhancement Program:

Mr. David told members there will be an Enhancement Program this year. There was a video conference held on the 22nd at UNCW detailing the projects possible for the enhancement grant. Mr. David also referred members to their web page for to see the various projects eligible. There are a total of 12 projects categories available for grant funding. The deadline for applications is June 4th and the BOT will make funding awards on October 6th and 7th.

The material will need to be prepared in advance of the next meeting for the TCC. Mr. David said he and Mr. Tinkler will email information to members of the TCC and prepare their feedback ready for the TAC for the next meeting on May 26th.

8. Project Update:

Mr. Wilson told members before we got the Military Cutoff Widening he wanted everyone to know there will be a meeting on June 8th on the Wrightsville Avenue/Independence Blvd. widening project. A meeting was held in March and there were some concerns. The DOT is in the middle of doing a community impact assessment to determine what impact the widening will have on the Forest Hills neighborhood. Depending on the outcome of the June 8th meeting, DOT will either move forward with the project as is currently scheduled on the TIP or will have to go back and make some additional modifications.

Mr. Wilson told members the analysis of existing conditions portion of the Hwy 17 Corridor Study is complete. There is going to be meeting on May 25th in Brunswick County regarding the study. He said he will send a copy to Mr. David and if anyone would like a copy, please contact Mr. David.

A meeting to look at the preliminary plan for Market Street from Eastwood Road back to New Center Drive will be held at the Division Office at 9 AM on May 17th.

a. Military Cutoff Widening:

The bids for this project came in on April 20th. They only had one bidder on the project and it came back in 39.3% over the engineers estimate.

Mr. Wilson said he had been in contact with the Highway Administrator and they are going to move forward with being prepared to advertise that project in May for a 4 week and hopefully in June they will receive a good bid back. Mr. Wilson said they went back and had three different groups at DOT estimate the project and they were all consistent with the original estimate.

Mr. Wilson told members that the Moving Ahead projects for the area all came in approximately 30% over estimates so they will also be re-advertised.

Mr. Wilson told members they appreciate the action by the New Hanover County Commissioners to assist in preserving the corridor. The draft feasibility study will be complete in May. The final report will be out in June. They have identified the source of funding that will allow the project to be carried into the planning and environmental stages.

Mr. Wilson went on to suggest that the TAC take a hard look at the list of transportation priorities and up date the list. He pointed out that the Military Cutoff project is not currently on the priority list.

9. NCDOT presentation – The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Transportation Funding Process in North Carolina:

Mr. Wilson introduced Mr. Mike Stanley with the NC Department of Transportation who was presenting today program on the TIP process.

Mr. Stanley told members he had been invited today to give a presentation on funding, where it comes from, how it is allocated and he was also going to talk a little bit about the TIP process. Mr. Stanley distributed copies of handouts to aid in his presentation.

Following the presentation, Mr. Wilson and several other members of the TAC thanked Mr. Stanley for coming down and giving this very important program.

10. New Business:

There were no items of New Business.

11. Adjournment:

With there being no further business, Mr. Sue moved to adjourn and Mr. Doetsch seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:35.

Respectfully submitted

Mark Tinkler
TAC Secretary
/pb