

Minutes

Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee

Date: May 26, 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
Betty Medlin, Mayor, Kure Beach
Nancy Pritchett, Commissioner, New Hanover County
Jim Quinn, Council Member, City of Wilmington
Bill Sue, Commissioner, Brunswick County
Eulis Willis, Mayor, Town of Navassa

Staff Present:

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

1. Call to Order:

Mr. Wilson called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

With only 5 members present, Mr. Wilson delayed the approval of the minutes until we had a quorum in attendance. Mr. Wilson suggested moving on to the next item on the agenda. He said he would like to take this opportunity to welcomed visitors to today's meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

During the introductions, two additional members of the TAC arrived.

2. Approval of Minutes for April 28th Meeting

Ms. Padgett made the motion to approve the April 28th meeting minutes. Ms. Carlisle seconded the motion, and the vote carried unanimously.

3. Old Business

Mr. Tinkler told members he had no items of old business. Mr. Wilson asked if anyone had items of old business. There were none.

4. Public Comment

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

5. Navassa Collector Street Plan – Presentation and Final Report

Mr. Tinkler told everyone the Navassa Collector Street Plan is one of the MPO funded planning projects that is coming to a close with today's final presentation. Mr. Tinkler turned the meeting over to the consultant team of Mr. John Ponder & Mr. Haskell Rhett.

Mr. Ponder gave everyone a brief history of the development of the plan by his and Mr. Rhett's firms. After the presentation Mr. Wilson asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Sue asked Mayor Willis if the town was satisfied with the study. Mayor Willis told members they were more than satisfied. They feel now they have a plan they can give to developers to give direction for progress in the future. Mayor Willis told members he appreciates the TAC for helping get this report done.

6. Annual Traffic and Accident Report (Johnston)

Mr. Tinkler introduced Mr. Bruce Johnston, Transportation Engineering Technician for the City of Wilmington, who is the staff person responsible for compiling the information for the Wilmington MPO Traffic Count and Accident Report.

Mr. Johnston distributed copies of the report to all members. Mr. Johnston told members the report has been redesigned to incorporate the entire MPO. He said the first part of the report is traffic count information and the second part is traffic accident report information.

Mr. Johnston told members if they have any other questions, please contact him.

7. Endorsement of Town of Leland application for NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant

Mr. Tinkler told members the Town of Leland was the only applicant from the MPO area. The application is for the amount of \$20,000 with a \$4,000 match. They are asking for TAC's endorsement for this project, which is a requirement for the application process. Mr. Quinn moved the motion. Ms. Padgett seconded the motion and with no further discussion, the vote carried unanimously.

9. Carolina Beach North End Traffic & Circulation Study – Final Report (moved ahead)

Mr. Tinkler distributed the final report document for the Carolina Beach North End Traffic & Circulation Study. The town has already accepted and endorsed the plan. Mr. Tinkler called for questions and told members there were no significant changes from the first presentation made to the TAC. This was also an MPO funded project.

8. Enhancement Grant application endorsements – brief presentations

Mr. Tinkler introduced Mr. Scott Chase, Director, Town of Carolina Beach Planning Department. Mr. Chase gave a presentation for their enhancement grant application, which includes much of Phase II and Phase III of the above North End Traffic and Circulation Study.

Mr. Chase gave a brief presentation in support of their grant application for bicycle and pedestrian improvements to the North End of Carolina Beach. After the question and answer period, Mr. Wilson thanked Mr. Chase for the presentation.

Mr. Wilson called for the next presentation.

Mr. Tinkler introduced Mr. Wade Kirby who is here to talk about the City of Wilmington's application for a bicycle path on Eastwood Road between Military Cutoff and the Wrightsville drawbridge that would connect the beach to the funded paths on Eastwood and Military Cutoff Roads.

Mr. Kirby told members the City of Wilmington is seeking \$512,000 for the project. Mr. Kirby referred to maps showing the selected route for the bicycle path to follow. He gave a brief presentation and then called for any questions.

After the question and answer period for the City of Wilmington project, Mr. Wilson called for the next presentation.

Ms. Julie Wilsey, Deputy Director, Wilmington International Airport, explained that the airport is seeking grant money to enhance the entrance to the Wilmington Airport. They are seeking \$148,000 in funds with a match of \$37,000 from the Airport Authority. They will provide the contracting, design and construction administration for the grant. They will also take responsibility for maintaining the right of way. After the brief presentation, she called for questions. After she answered questions for the TAC, Mr. Wilson thanked her for the informative presentation.

Mr. Tinkler presented the next application for enhancement grant funding from the Town of Leland. He told members that during the last round of enhancements, the Town of Leland was awarded a grant to build a bicycle-pedestrian project on Town Hall Road connecting Old Fayetteville Road and Village Road. They would like to add landscaping, benches and street lighting to enhance the already successful project. When asked the total cost, Ms. Carlyle told members it will be \$40,650 total cost.

With no further questions regarding the Town of Leland project, Mr. Wilson asked Mayor Medlin if she would like to take this opportunity to present information regarding the request Kure Beach will be making for Enhancement Grant funding.

Mayor Medlin told members they will be trying to address problems with sidewalks that are not ADA compliant in the town. They have a steep incline and must be brought into compliance. This request for funds is very short notice but she will be happy to answer questions regarding funds needed for the project if anyone would like to contact her at her office tomorrow.

Mr. Sue told members he had reservations endorsing the Kure Beach project without information. Ms. Pritchett suggested perhaps Mayor Medlin might email the information regarding their application for the grant to members so it could be included in the TAC endorsement.

In the meantime, Mr. Sue said he would move to endorse the 4 projects that were presented today. Ms. Carlyle seconded the motion and with no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wilson asked what was the decision regarding the request for the Kure Beach application.

The consensus of the group was that the information would be sent to all TAC members for review and then the members could respond back to Mr. Tinkler as to whether or not they would support the application. Mr. Tinkler said this needed to be done by the end of this week in order to meet the deadline. Mayor Medlin said she thought her staff was prepared and this would not be a problem. (**NOTE:** No additional follow-up information was received from the Town of Kure Beach.)

10. Pender County (Hampstead) request to discuss joining the MPO

Mr. Wilson told members that last August the community of Hampstead requested a meeting with DOT officials in Raleigh to discuss reconsidering the feasibility study for the Hampstead bypass. Between the time when the original feasibility study was complete and that meeting, a golf course was developed, so there had been some discussion at one point of taking the project off the TIP.

As a result of the August meeting, DOT committed funds to moving forward with a project to reevaluate the Hampstead bypass. One significant point to mention is that it will connect up to the same point on I-140 as the Military Cutoff Road Extension.

There have been several meeting with DOT to discuss traffic related issues in Hampstead. In April, a group in Hampstead, led by Al Freimark, chairman of a homeowners group, invited NCDOT and MPO staff to a forum in Hampstead.

After the last census was completed it was suggested that Hampstead be included in the Wilmington Area MPO boundaries. However, the MPO did not move forward with the suggestion and now the community is requesting that the MPO consider including them. Mr. Wilson said with the next census, a portion of coastal Pender County will be required to be included into the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Mr. Wilson introduced Mr. Andy Hedrick, Pender County Manager, who came to speak regarding their letter of interest in becoming part of the Wilmington MPO. Mr. Hedrick told members they are only here, at this point, to investigate options of mutual benefit and explore issues of boundaries. He told members that he had asked Mr. Tinkler to attend an upcoming Pender County Commissioners Meeting to provide information on the MPO.

Mr. Al Friemark, also from Hampstead, concurred with all Mr. Hedrick said. He said it's a fact that Hampstead is part of the Wilmington Metro Area and they need to act as quickly as possible.

Mr. Wilson suggest that the group approve Mr. Tinkler having meetings with the Pender County group and moving forward with coming back to the TAC with a presentation that includes the financial impact and a proposed map showing specific boundaries. Everyone concurred with Mr. Wilson's suggestion.

11. Project Update

There were not project updates

12. New Business:

There were no items of New Business.

13. Announcements – Public project meetings

- a. Brunswick County US 17 Traffic Study (May 25th, 1:30, 4:00 ,5:00)
Mr. Sue gave a brief summary of information from the meeting yesterday. Mr. Tinkler told everyone he also attended those meetings. The plans success is very dependent on the land use plans of the local towns and counties. Mr. Wilson said if anyone wants a copy of this innovative study, contact Mr. Tinkler and it can be forwarded to you on email.
- b. Kerr Avenue Widening (June)
Mr. Wilson told members they are in the process of rescheduling this meeting and a date has not yet been set. (**NOTE:** Meeting held June 24th.)
- c. College & Oleander – existing conditions (June)
Mr. Wilson told members the project is well under way. Mr. Tinkler told everyone the John Ponder is working on the team. His firm was hired by the state to look at alternative options for College and Oleander. They have just completed their existing conditions engineering analysis. They are looking at alternatives in the next step. (**NOTE:** Meeting held June 2nd to review existing data collection – existing conditions analysis not complete.)
- d. Wrightsville Avenue at Independence Blvd. (June 8th, 4:00)

There is going to be another citizen information workshop. The outcome of that workshop, will determine whether the project is delayed or moves forward on its current schedule.

- e. NC Forum on Freight Mobility and Prosperity (June 21st, NC A&T)
If you are interested in information regarding this upcoming meeting, contact Mr. Tinkler and he will be happy to get it to you.

14. Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted

Mark Tinkler
TAC Secretary
/pb