

# Minutes

## Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee

Date: October 27, 2004

### **Members Present:**

Lanny Wilson, Board of Transportation, Chair  
Lynette Carlisle, Council Member, Town of Leland  
Gary Doetsch, Council Member, Town of Carolina Beach  
Elly Lister, Council Member, Town of Belville  
Laura Padgett, Council Member, City of Wilmington  
Nancy Pritchett, Commissioner, New Hanover County  
Bill Sue, Commissioner, Brunswick County  
Jim Quinn, Council Member, City of Wilmington  
Eulis Willis, Mayor, Town of Navassa

### **Staff Present:**

Mark Tinkler, Senior Transportation Planner  
Jonathan David, Associate Transportation Planner

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

Mr. Wilson called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. Because there is not a quorum in attendance right now he said we will begin with item number 3.

### **3. Public Comment**

Mr. Wilson thanked everyone for attending today's meeting and asked that they take this opportunity to introduce themselves. After the introductions, Mr. Wilson asked if anyone would like to make any comments to the group. There was no one present who wished to speak.

### **4. Old Business**

#### **a. NC MPO Conference Report**

Mr. Wilson told members he wanted to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Tinkler and his staff for the outstanding job they did last week in hosting the North Carolina Association of MPOs Conference. He said it was probably the largest participation ever with over 240 individuals in attendance for the conference. Mr. Wilson said he attended several of the work sessions and we were certainly fortunate to have Congressman McIntyre come and speak at the closing session. It was a real good turn out and Mark did an outstanding job.

Mr. Tinkler reminded members the PowerPoint presentations used in the conference have been uploaded to the internet site. <ftp://ftp.dot.state.nc.us/Dept-Units/TPB/Presentation/>

Mr. Wilson asked Ms. Padgett if she had anything she would like to add. Ms. Padgett said she was impressed with the attendance for the conference. Even on the last day there were a great many people attending the closing sessions. She thought it was a good conference.

Mr. Wilson told members now that we have a quorum, he would back up on the agenda and seek approval of the minutes from the September meeting.

## **2. Approval of Minutes for September 29th Meeting**

Ms. Carlisle made the motion to approve the September 29th meeting minutes. Mr. Doetsch seconded the motion, and the vote carried unanimously.

## **4. Old Business (continued)**

Mr. Wilson told members we will move back to Old Business. He then asked if there was any other old business.

Mr. Tinkler said he read in the paper that Alderman Mowbray resigned from the Wrightsville Beach Town Council. He is their representative on the TAC. Ms. Pritchett said she believed he had moved out of town. Someone had been appointed to fill his seat but she was not sure who.

Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Tinkler to get in touch with Mayor Roberts to find out who has been appointed to the committee.

## **5. MPO PL Fund Local Match Invoice Schedule**

Mr. Tinkler told members this is the item tabled at the last meeting. Mr. Doetsch had made the motion to submit local match invoicing once per year. Mr. Quinn suggested we talk to the Finance Director for the City before we made a decision. Mr. Tinkler reported that the question was posed to the City Finance Director, Mr. Brent McAbee. Mr. McAbee said annual invoicing was fine except that he would like any local contributions over \$5000.00 annually to continue to be billed more frequently. That stipulation will only affect New Hanover County.

Mr. Quinn asked if this information helped everyone with making their decision and asked if we would need to make an amended motion.

Mr. Doetsch said he would amend his original motion to say anything over \$5000 will be billed more frequently. Mr. Quinn seconded the motion and with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

## **6. Wave Transit (CFPTA) Progress Report Presentation**

Mr. Tinkler told members the Ms. McNamee of the Wave Transit Board requested to update TAC members on the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority.

Ms. McNamee told members the agency had been very busy this year and wanted to give everyone an update on all the accomplishments that have taken place in the past year. Handouts were given to everyone to follow along with the presentation.

Ms. McNamee shared with members that CFPTA is in the midst of preparing a strategy to provide funding for the downtown multi-modal center. They are also in the process of working on becoming the Grantee for FTA and NCDOT funds.

Another strategy they are currently working on is to create expansion funding and monies for capital expenditures in the future by seeking support for legislation at the state level to create a local act to allow the authority to collect a \$5.00 vehicle registration fee. This will allow the authority to deal with cash flow problems and be able to regulate the amount of monies that they would be asking local governments for match in the future.

Mr. Quinn asked if she had any figures on what that would generate. Ms. McNamee said yes and Mr. Eby said that Jonathan did some estimates when he did the short range transit plan. The year-one tax was estimated, if implemented county wide, to generate \$750,000.00.

Ms. McNamee said over time it would allow them to be responsible for capital expenditures. She went on to say that there is a limit of \$15.00 total of which the City of Wilmington already charges \$5.00, so there would actually be a cap of an additional \$10.00.

Ms. Padgett reminded everyone this would leverage additional state and federal dollars. You will get \$750,000 but it is worth a lot more.

Ms. McNamee said it will allow them to pull down the additional dollars that they are currently leaving on the table.

Mr. Doetsch asked if this would happen before or after we get a full service route county wide.

Ms. McNamee said once the transfer facility is built, they hope to expand throughout the county. She told everyone she is not sure how long it will take to get support for this legislation, but they are hoping it will occur at approximately at the same time as the expansion so people will see the value they will be getting for their dollars.

Ms. Padgett said the monies will be critical in getting the additional service through the county but we cannot get to that point without having the ability to raise those funds.

Mr. Quinn asked if any other cities have that set up where the \$5.00 registration fee comes to the authority like that. Mr. Eby said there is already the ability to within the legislation they were created under for them to get the \$5.00 tax within the City of Wilmington but they hope to do is be allowed to collect this county wide.

Ms. Padgett said they hope this will be seen as the authority requesting the \$5.00 fee. She went on to say that counties also have the legislative authority to impose the fee but the Authority Board feel like it will be better if the Authority, as an entity, has the ability to impose the fee. That is the primary change they are seeking in the legislation. As it stands right now, either the City or the County, or both, can currently levy up to \$15.00 because this legislation is already in place. She said they feel like it would be better since the Authority would be the one using the money, if the Authority had the ability, so all they are asking the legislature to do is to add the local Authority to the list.

Mr. Doetsch said he certainly support it county wide for the transit system and he thinks citizens at Carolina Beach will be supportive, especially all the people who don't drive.

Ms. McNamee told members they will also need to have the continued support for annual operating expenses from both the City and the County and as they expand services, they will need to have additional support from the other local governments.

After completing her presentation, Ms. McNamee asked if anyone had any questions. There were no questions.

Ms. Padgett said she had one comment. She would like to remind everyone that this transit system has come a long way. This System is now on the cutting edge of mid-size cities in providing good transportation to its citizens.

Ms. Pritchett told members this has been a great group to work with. She said they have all pitched in and worked well together.

## **7. Brunswick Route 17 Corridor Study**

Mr. Wilson turned the floor over to Mr. Tinkler.

Mr. Tinkler said the DOT Corridor Study Steering Committee for managing the 48 mile long corridor of Highway 17 through Brunswick County met last Friday. They presented their concept alternatives for the corridor. The concepts discussed were:

- Super-street concept: at grade level, restriction of left turning movements, installation of u-turns
- Expressway concept: interchanges at major access points at minimum design standards (not Interstate design standards but minimum design standards) and minor streets that will have regular surface access
- Freeway concept: access only at high-speed interchanges

Mr. Tinkler passed around the website address with the location of the power point presentation for these corridor concepts. Mr. Wilson told members he has a disk of the whole presentation that Mr. Tinkler can copy if anyone is interested. Mr. Tinkler told members that there will be a public officials meeting and a public workshop on November 18<sup>th</sup> at the Brunswick County government center in Bolivia. Mr. Tinkler went on to explain the differences in the concepts as explained at the meeting. He told members he is presenting this information to TAC members today so they can start thinking about what policy position they want to support for the Route 17 between I-140 bypass and 74/76.

Mr. Wilson said he wanted to add that this is the same issue they are facing with respect to Route 17 up in Porters Neck and Scotts Hill areas. The reason they want to move quickly in making a decision is that if the project could get funding as part of loop funds, it would mean the project could be done without taking money away from future projects. This Super-street concept is identical to what is being proposed for that section. Mr. Wilson suggested that it might pay to have someone from the group at DOT who is strongly advocating that we move toward this direction for the future, come do a presentation. Mr. Tinkler said he would arrange for that presentation at the November TAC meeting.

## **8. LRTP Update**

Mr. Tinkler distributed hard copies of 2 sections of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and said three more sections will be ready to mail to everyone by the end of the week.

## **9. Project Updates**

### **a. NC 133 and US17 Area Collector Street Plan**

Mr. Tinkler told members they received seven proposals for the study which they short listed to three. The committee interviewed the three. After more research and referencing, the committee selected Kimley Horn and they are currently negotiating the contract. They should have it approved through City Council on November 16th. The steering committee for this project will include Cameron Moore from Leland, Stuart Smith from Belville, a district engineer with DOT, someone from the Transportation Planning Branch of NCDOT, Mr. Tinkler, and Don Eggert with the Cape Fear RPO.

### **b. Route 17 (Porter's Neck to Scott's Hill) Access Management Plan meeting Tuesday, 10/26, 2pm, Division 3 NCDOT, Division Drive, Wilmington**

Chairman Wilson told member because this project has been discussed earlier today, we will move on to New Business. Mr. Wilson suggested that Mr. Tinkler send a note to ask that they come down to make a presentation to the group. Mr. Tinkler said he will contact Mr. Jim Dunlop.

## **10. New Business:**

Mr. Wilson called for any new business.

**a. Announcements**

Mr. Wilson said he wanted to mention that there will be a program in Durham on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December put on by the FHA in conjunction with DOT and other partners concerning Public/Private Partnerships on Transportation. Mr. Wilson told everyone an agenda that has been put together for the meeting and maybe it can be forwarded to everyone prior to the meeting.

**13. Adjournment:**

With there being no other business, Mr. Sue moved to adjourn and Mr. Doetsch seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:04.

Respectfully submitted

Mark Tinkler  
TAC Secretary  
/pb