

# **Meeting Minutes**

## **Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee**

**Date: February 24, 2005**

### **Members Present:**

Lanny Wilson, Board of Transportation, Chair  
Lynette Carlisle, Town of Leland  
Elly Lister, Council Member, Town of Belville  
Laura Padgett, Council Member, City of Wilmington  
Bill Kopp, Commissioner, New Hanover County  
Jim Quinn, Council Member, City of Wilmington  
Eulis Willis, Mayor, Town of Navassa

### **Staff Present:**

Jonathan David, Associate Transportation Planner  
Mike Kozlosky, Associate Transportation Planner  
Lawless Bean, TDM Coordinator

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

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

### **2. Approval of Minutes for the January 26th Meeting**

Ms. Carlyle made the motion to approve the January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Ms. Padgett seconded the motion, and the vote carried unanimously.

### **Public Comment Period:**

Mr. Wilson thanked everyone for attending today's meeting and asked if anyone would like to make any comments to the group. There was no one present who wished to speak.

### **3. Old Business**

#### **a. Wave Transit Resolution**

Mr. Kozlosky told members today's resolution endorses Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority (CFPTA) as the recipient for Federal Transit Administration and NCDOT public transportation funds. Also included in today's packet is a copy of the Inter-local agreement between CFPTA and the Brunswick Transit System. Mr. Kozlosky said Mr. Eby, who is in attendance, will be happy to answer any questions.

Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Eby if he had been able to contact Mr. Sue. Mr. Wilson said Mr. Sue had called him to let him know he was unable to attend today's TAC meeting because the Brunswick County Commissioners Retreat is today.

Mr. Eby said he had not been in direct contact with Mr. Sue regarding these two documents because Mr. Sue had been in attendance when the BTS Board met with CFPTA to draft the inter-local agreement. The agreement was approved by both boards.

Mr. Wilson asked if this item will need MPO endorsement through a resolution. Mr. Kozlosky said yes.

Mayor Willis asked what impact the resolution and inter-local agreement will have on the Brunswick Connector.

Mr. Eby said he and Ms. Hatcher are already working together to try to figure how to make the project continue past June 30<sup>th</sup> when the funding will end. According to the terms of the interlocal agreement, approximately 5.02% of the annual FTA allocation would be available to BTS. A portion of these monies could be used to pay for half the Brunswick Connector. The local match from Brunswick County is an issue that still needs to be resolved.

Mayor Willis said he is looking for some sort of assurance that the Brunswick Connector will keep going.

Mr. Wilson asked if we couldn't add a paragraph to the resolution that would direct that the funds be utilized for the Brunswick Connector to continue.

Mr. Kozlosky said we could condition the approval upon those funds or a portion thereof being attributed to the Brunswick Connector.

Mayor Willis said he wanted to make sure that the northern portions of Brunswick County have some kind of public transportation.

Mr. Eby said the only portion of Brunswick County that is eligible for federal public transportation funds is northern Brunswick County. What they tried to craft the inter-local agreement to say, was that BTS can have access to these funds and use them for whatever eligible public transportation their boards see fit in northern Brunswick County, whether it's into Wilmington or it's exclusively in Brunswick County. Mr. Eby told members of the WAVE Board that he did not feel it was their place to say how BTS needs to spend the funds, it's up to them.

Mr. Wilson said since this body is the one that establishes the transportation priority for this region, could we not specify that the funds that are appropriated for Brunswick County be utilized for the Brunswick Connector.

After further discussions members agreed to add a paragraph to the resolution to address Mayor Willis' concerns.

Mr. Kozlosky suggested the phrase "that 5.02% be contributed to the Brunswick Connector or public transit provided to northern Brunswick County".

Mr. David said he would like to suggest a caveat be added to the inter-local agreement to protect Wave Transit in the event that if the money was not used, that it would revert back to CFPTA, and we don't lose the money.

Mr. Kozlosky suggested the addendum be added following the:

"WHEREAS, all federal and state funds received by the Authority will be programmed through the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) through the Unified Planning Work Program, and the Transportation Improvement Program."

Then add: "WHEREAS directing that 5.02% or any portion thereof be contributed to the Brunswick Transit System or public fixed-route transit service serving northern Brunswick County within the MPO boundary."

Mr. Wilson called for a motion to adopt the resolution subject to including the additional language as discussed. Ms. Padgett moved the motion and Mayor Willis seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

**b. TIP Update Cycle (2006-2012 Draft TIP review, 2007-2013 input)**

Mr. Kozlosky told members staff has been notified that the draft 2006-2012 TIP will be released on April 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Wilson explained that there has been several financial issues that DOT are currently or will be dealing with and will be over the next month. The new target amount for regions/divisions will be coming out next week but it will be a challenge to determine exactly what projects are going to be delayed in some areas as a result of the financial situation. There are three big issues: 1) the equity formula adjustment, which will result in benefit in our area; 2) cash flow and cash management, which is an immediate problem at DOT; and 3) one additional issue that will be coming out before long. All three of these issues will impact the Transportation Improvement Program for the next six years. There will be a TIP for the next six years, and there will be another TIP next June. We will then be back on the seven year cycle at that point in time. You will hear a lot more information about it in the coming weeks and because NCDOT is on such a tight time schedule. They will be combining the Divisional TIP meetings for each of the seven regions in the state to receive public input.

**4. Comment on 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan**

Mr. Kozlosky told members at the last meeting this committee opened the public comment period for the Long Range Transportation Plan. The MPO staff held four public input sessions throughout the planning area. The public comment period is scheduled to close tomorrow. Staff will bring the LRTP back to this committee in March for approval after they incorporate the comments into the planning document.

**5. Project Updates**

**a. NC133 and US17 Area Collector Street Plan**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that staff has received a copy of the draft plan from the consultant and the steering committee will meet to review the plan on March 7<sup>th</sup>. The steering committee's comments will be forwarded to the consultant after that meeting. Mr. Kozlosky said Kimley-Horn will likely make a presentation to a joint meeting with the Town of Leland, the Town of Belville and the Brunswick County Commissioners on March 29<sup>th</sup> and then the TAC at the regular meeting on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Kozlosky said they are also working with Mr. Cameron Moore from Leland to do a Request For Qualifications for a collector street plan for the Town of Leland.

**b. Military Cut-off Extension**

Mr. Kozlosky said staff has reviewed the eleven proposals they received regarding the surveying and preliminary engineering of the interchanges for Military Cut-off Extension. We know there is some eminent development looking to encroach on that corridor and we have actually begun negotiations with the LPA Group to begin the project.

Mr. Wilson asked when staff anticipated having the corridor map completed so that the City can record the map in order to protect the corridor.

Mr. Kozlosky said the time frame identified in the proposal is 15 weeks from the notice to proceed, but because the scope of the project has been changed, it may be done quicker than initially thought.

Ms. Padgett asked if the City could delineate a section of the corridor at a time as opposed to having the full corridor map completed.

Mr. Wilson said some new funds will be put in the new Transportation Improvement Program to help out in dealing with the issue of early property acquisition and whenever we are forced to make a determination whether to buy property or allow development to proceed. There would be advanced acquisition funding available, but if we don't go ahead and move forward in a timely fashion on getting the map recorded, then there won't be anything to preserve. Mr. Wilson agreed that Ms. Padgett suggestion is a good idea.

Mr. Kozlosky said he will go ahead and request that the consultant do the preliminary engineering for the portion of the corridor adjacent to Market Street. Staff will check and see if the City can adopt that portion of the map, and then continue on from there with the northern part. He said he will report back at the next TAC meeting if this is a possible solution.

### **c. Carolina's I-73 Summit**

Ms. Padgett told members that the South Carolina DOT and the North Carolina DOT came to an agreement where I-74 and I-73 will cross the line into South Carolina. North Carolina agreed to complete sections of I-74.

Mr. Wilson told members that NCDOT and SCDOT have agreed to move in a parallel fashion. There is a study underway to bring the Carolina Bays Parkway to the boarder. NCDOT had provided some additional funds to complete that study but SC has not executed it yet, and SCDOT is trying to use that as leverage in getting NCDOT to move forward with the I-73. North Carolina had wanted South Carolina to consider I-20 extension, but they were able to get an agreement to move forward with I-73 and I-74 in a parallel fashion, realizing that both interstates are important to both states. The South Carolina board has agreed to take a look at Interstate 20 and consider a feasible study. It was not part of the agreement, but indicated they would at least be willing consider I-20.

### **d. Cape Fear Skyway**

Mr. Wilson told members he and Mr. Kopp were at the meeting when they announced the selection of the Cape Fear Skyway as one of the projects to move forward with by the Turnpike Authority.

The General Assembly introduced legislation in both the Senate and the House that would allow the Turnpike Authority to build up to six projects. Senator Julia Boseman was one of the sponsors of that piece of legislation.

Mr. Wilson said he thinks the Turnpike Authority is looking to use some alternative building methods and contracting that will allow the project to be expedited. By using permit/design/build, public/private partnership or what ever it takes, they hope it will put the attention and emphasis on the project to help it become a reality.

## **6. New Business**

### **a. 2006-2012 Public Transportation – Draft TIP Update**

Mr. Kozlosky told members they received an update of the draft of the 2006-2012 TIP from CFPTA. The highlights of the update are an added expansion trolley to provide service from the Multi-modal Center to the north end/convention center, added operating assistance/routine capital grants assistance in FY 2011-2012, and adding the purchase of four additional busses because of the expansion of services for UNC-W. They are all unfunded projects. Mr. Eby told Mr. Kozlosky that he has already sent a copy of the list to DOT's Public Transportation Division. Mr. Kozlosky said he is requesting the TAC to approve these amendments to the Draft TIP.

Mr. Wilson called for a motion. Ms. Padgett made the motion and Mr. Quinn seconded it. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

**b. Multi-modal Site Evaluation**

Ms. Padgett reported that Wilmington City Council voted 5-2 to locate the Multi-modal Transportation Center on Site #5 in the Louis Burger study, which is the site between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> on the south side of the railroad right-of-way. She said with that done, she will now make the motion for the MPO to show support for the site selected by City Council. Mr. Wilson called for a second to the motion. Ms. Lister seconded the motion.

Mr. Wilson called for any discussion.

Mr. Quinn asked Mr. Wilson to give him his best guess as to when he anticipates the funding to become available.

Mr. Wilson told members according to an email from Pat Simmons, it would be single digit years (less than 10 years) to building the facility on the site. Mr. Wilson said he believed there will be a commitment to find the funds in order to buy the right of way as soon as they can get the exact location nailed down. The design will be the next step in the process.

Mr. Wilson told members that they are hoping to come down soon to meet with city leaders to determine what the city perceives and actually supports regarding the size of the facility and to get some better direction.

Following further discussion, Mr. Wilson called the question and the motion carried unanimously.

**c. Thoroughfare Plan Amendment (I-40 to Martin Luther King Parkway)**

Mr. Kozlosky told members staff is proposing a thoroughfare plan amendment that would provide a link from I-40 to Martin Luther King Parkway. The link would provide an alternative North/South route that will connect with Independence Boulevard or Kerr Avenue. The TCC voted to approve the amendment conditioned upon additional studies being done before it goes to the actual Board of Transportation for approval.

Mr. Wilson said he would ask that we consider amending it to take I-40 into Martin Luther Parkway or to Kerr Ave. at the intersection with Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway on either Independence or to Kerr and show it as either way because there is already a TIP project. It would involve less impact to wetlands if we go to the Kerr Avenue location and is right down the road. There is also already a TIP project sitting there to take the stop light out and build the interchange.

Ms. Padgett made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Quinn. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

**7. Announcements**

- a. **There will be a Public Meeting for the Oleander Drive/ College Road project at Roland-Grise Middle School on the last Monday in March. The meeting starts at 4:00.**
- b. **DOT has begun studies for the replacement of portions of the bridge to Wrightsville Beach. They must start planning for it now even though the project is not anticipated to begin for seven years. There will also need to do some major upgrades to the decking of the Memorial Bridge.**

**8. Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:18.

Respectfully submitted

Mike Kozlosky  
Senior Transportation Planner  
/pb