

Meeting Minutes

Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee

Date: June 29, 2005

Members Present:

Lanny Wilson, Board of Transportation, Chair
Catherine Brunjes, Council Member, Wrightsville Beach
Lynette Carlisle, Council Member, Town of Leland
Bill Kopp, Commissioner, New Hanover County)
Betty Medlin, Mayor, Kure Beach
Laura Padgett, Council Member, City of Wilmington
Bill Sue, Commissioner, Brunswick County

Staff Present:

Mike Kozlosky, Senior Transportation Planner

1. Call to Order

Mr. Wilson called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes for the May 25th Meeting

Mr. Kozlosky advised members that Mayor Eullis Willis' name needed to be added to the attendance list for the May meeting. With that addition, Ms. Medlin made the motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Padgett seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Comment Period

Mr. Wilson thanked everyone for attending the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves. After introductions, Mr. Wilson asked if anyone would like to make any comments to the group. No one in attendance wished to speak.

4. Old Business

Mr. Kozlosky told members there were no items of old business.

Mr. Wilson asked if the Transportation Impact Analysis item in the Long Range Transportation Plan that was discussed in March had been addressed with Mr. Quinn. Mr. Kozlosky said he had contacted Mr. Quinn and he was satisfied with the Long Range Plan as written.

5. Project Updates

a. Military Cutoff Road Extension

Mr. Kozlosky introduced Mr. Mark Kistler with the LPA Group, who updated the committee on the project. Mr. Kistler told members the LPA Group was in the process of completing the Transportation Corridor Official Map. The map will create a tool to protect the future roadway corridor. The corridor map will be presented to City Council on July 11th and recorded following the public hearing scheduled for August 2nd.

b. Leland Area Collector Street Plan

Mr. Kozlosky told members a public meeting was held on June 28th to gather citizen input on the first stages of the plan. It was a very successful meeting with about 20 people in attendance. The next stage will be to work on the implementation strategies and then bring the plan back for adoption by the TAC.

c. College Road/Oleander Drive

Mr. Kozlosky said at the last meeting the steering committee voted to endorse the Quadrant Approach for the intersection. Copies of the functional design are available for review. The project is programmed for right-of-way acquisition in 2009 and construction in 2011. The next step is to do the environmental document and then NCDOT complete the final design on the project.

d. US 17 Corridor Study Meeting-Brunswick Transportation Summit

Mr. Don Eggert, with the RPO, told members there was well over 100 people in attendance for the summit. Mr. Nathan Phillips from Congestion Management, Mr. David Wasserman from the Transportation Management Branch and Dr. Joe Hummer with NC State gave presentations on super streets, the Highway 17 corridor and the idea of strategic highway corridors. All presenters were great and staff received a lot of positive feedback from the meeting.

e. WAVE Designated Recipient

Ms. Padgett told members WAVE Transit is now the designated recipient for transit funds. This Federal designation enhances the authorities ability to move forward to provide transportation to a wider area and in conjunction with the transportation services in Brunswick County.

f. 5th Avenue Bridge Ceremony

The groundbreaking ceremony was held Monday morning, June 27th and was well attended. The contractor's date of availability is July 5th. Work should begin very soon.

g. Cape Fear Skyway

Mr. Wilson said the consultant with the Turnpike Authority has been in the region for the last couple days. They are meeting with the counties and municipalities involved with the project. They are beginning the first step of the process to establish the "purpose and need" for the project.

6. New Business

a. Associate Transportation Planner vacancies

Mr. Kozlosky told members that a candidate has accepted the position and will be down July 5th for his physical. Contingent on passing the pre-employment physical, he will likely start the 2nd week in August.

b. Change of August Meeting Date

Mr. Kozlosky told members the next scheduled meeting date is August 31st. Because this meeting will conflict with that of the Board of Transportation's schedule meeting, it is requested that the TAC reschedule to another date. After discussions, members decided to hold the meeting on Tuesday, August 30th at the regular meeting time.

The NCDOT Rail Division will be giving a presentation on the restoration of the Old Wilmington-Weldon Railway Line from Castle Hayne to Wallace and the alternative route across the river. This alternative route would carry traffic in a more direct route from Navassa to the Port of Wilmington.

c. Thoroughfare Plan Amendment – 1-40 to Martin Luther King Parkway

Mr. Wilson told members that DOT has already begun the feasibility study for the extension of Interstate-40 into Kerr Avenue. When the thoroughfare was originally planned, the interchange

connection was shown at Independence Blvd. and Martin Luther King Parkway. The design as drawn would create runway approach issues for the airport.

Mr. Wilson said he would also like to request that we modify the resolution to include a statement that the MPO supports the upgrade of Martin Luther King to a fully controlled access facility. Ms. Padgett made the motion to approve the resolution with the addition that Martin Luther King Parkway be upgraded to a fully controlled access facility. Mr. Sue seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

d. Resolution deterring the use of Highway Trust Funds

Mr. Kozlosky told members it was requested that the MPO take a stance on transferring funds from the Highway Trust Fund to the General Fund. Currently it is being done to help pay for non-transportation related projects. Mr. Sue made a motion to approve the resolution and Ms. Medlin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Eggert to take the issue before the RPO.

7. Discussion

a. MPO Planning Area Boundary Expansion

Mr. Kozlosky said staff is investigating expanding the MPO planning area boundary in parts of Pender County as well as areas for possible annexation by the Town of Leland.

At their last meeting, the Pender County Board of Commissioners voted against joining the MPO. Mr. Meadows, Chairman of the Pender County Commissioners, told TAC members the commission plans to bring the issue back to the full board at their August County Commissioners meeting. Mr. Kozlosky told members if the Pender County Commissioners vote in favor of joining the MPO, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will have to be approved by each of the local municipalities and government agencies. If the Commissioners approve the expansion, staff plans to have the boundary expanded by December of this year.

b. Transportation Projects Prioritization

Mr. Kozlosky stated the last prioritization of projects was done in 1999. A draft prioritization of projects list was done on Oct. 24, 2002, but it was never considered. Each member of the TCC was asked to submit a list of projects for consideration by June 25th. The list in the packet includes the projects identified in the Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Kozlosky said he is requesting input from TAC members regarding this list. He will take the information back to the TCC to prioritize the projects and then bring the prioritization list to the TAC for final approval. He also suggested that it might be helpful to prioritize bicycle/pedestrian projects separate from highway projects because if enhancement projects funds become available, we may have projects ready to submit.

c. Military Cutoff

Ms. Padgett said she would like to request information regarding Military Cutoff. She understands that Mr. Roger Hawkins is looking at the offset light and the intersection with Airlie Road. There are several establishments on the other side and it's a three way light. Traffic along there is getting worse and development is increasing. She is concerned that someone is going to be killed along this section of roadway. Right now you are going to have three driveways and none of them line up with the light. She said she is requesting that someone from DOT look at the entire quarter-mile strip.

8. Announcements

- a. **5th Street Bridge Ceremony – June 27th**
- b. **Leland Area Collector Street Plan Public Meeting – June 28th**

9. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15.

Respectfully submitted

Mike Kozlosky
Senior Transportation Planner
/pb