

Meeting Minutes

Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee

Date: February 22, 2006

Members Present:

Tim Fuller, Mayor, Town of Kure Beach
Bill Clark, Mayor, Town of Carolina Beach
Bill Kopp, Commissioner, New Hanover County
Laura Padgett, Council Member, City of Wilmington
Chuck Thurlow, Commissioner, Town of Belville
Tommy Wallace, Commissioner, Town of Leland
Eulis Willis, Mayor, Town of Navassa

Staff Present:

Mike Kozlosky, Senior Planner
Joshuah Mello, Associate Planner
Aruna Reddi, Associate Planner
Lawless Bean, TDM Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Ms. Padgett called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes for the December 12th Meeting

Mr. Thurlow made the motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Clark seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Comment Period

Ms. Padgett asked if anyone would like to make any comments to the group. No one in the audience requested to speak.

4. Presentation – SAFETEA-LU and Truck Stop in Belville

Mr. Dan Cameron gave a presentation to request support from the MPO in applying for a grant under the SAFETEA-LU, Section 1305 which will provide funding for overnight truck parking in areas demonstrating a dire need for truck parking. The proposed truck stop is to be located in the Town of Belville.

5. Old Business

a. Expansion of the WMPO Planning Area Boundary - Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Kozlosky told members initially in the proposed MOU there were two voting members from New Hanover County because they contribute the second largest amount (35.7%) of the funding to the MPO. At the last meeting, staff was requested to look at making a representative from the public transportation system a voting member of the board.

Ms. Padgett told members she had made that request for the change to the initial MOU because Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority (CFPTA) constitutes a great deal of impact on transportation and they serve on a regional basis. Ms. Padgett said this has come about because with the addition of the voting member from Pender County there will be a possibility of a tie vote. As growth continues to occur, CFPTA should have direct representation on the TAC. A good deal of the planning funds goes to the public transportation authority.

Mr. Kopp told members he has discussed the proposed change with his fellow commissioners and they feel the new member should be a New Hanover County appointee. Mr. Kopp made the motion to approve the MOU as written. There was no second to the motion. Ms. Padgett made a substitute motion to approve the MOU with the voting member be appointed from Pender County and a

member from the Cape Fear Public Transportation. Mr. Willis seconded the motion. The motion carried with six members voting in favor and Mr. Kopp voting against the motion.

Mr. Kozlosky told member the MOU will be changed and then submitted to each of the local municipalities for adoption as well as Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority.

b. Scenic Byway Designation

Ms. Padgett told members the request for scenic byway designation was approved on February 21st by the Wilmington City Council. The item was held over from the last meeting to get direction from the City Council before the TAC take action. Mr. Willis made the motion to support the City of Wilmington's efforts to acquire the Scenic Byway designation on the proposed route. Mr. Wallace seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

c. Innovative Financing Methods – Transportation Projects

Mr. Kozlosky reviewed the highlights from the information he distributed to members at the last meeting regarding innovative financing methods to help pay for the cost of the Skyway project. He told members he will bring this information back to the board after the traffic and revenue forecast is completed.

6. New Business

a. Statewide Element of MTIP

Mr. Kozlosky told members that when the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program was adopted, the Statewide Element was not included. The Department of Transportation is now requesting that each MPO adopt the Statewide Element. It should not impact any projects in the Wilmington MPO, but to be proactive staff is requesting adoption of the statewide element now as opposed to having to come back in the future. Mr. Willis made the motion to approve the motion for adoption. Mr. Thurlow seconded it and the motion carried unanimously.

b. 2007 Planning Work Program

Mr. Kozlosky covered the highlights of the Planning Work Program for board members. Staff anticipates completion of the transportation model by the end of November; therefore, they would like to rewrite the Long Range Transportation Plan to incorporate the model as well as new projects that need to be included in the long range plan. He said they also anticipate hiring a consultant to work on the Corridor Management Plan for the Scenic Byway designation if the byway is approved by the NCDOT. Also included in the budget is the funding for the Senior Engineering Technician position. Mayor Willis moved to approve the 2007 Planning Work Program. Mr. Wallace seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

c. Kerr Avenue Widening

Mr. Kozlosky told members that NCDOT is currently working on the Kerr Avenue widening project and requested that the MPO consider amending the limits of that project to only include the segment between Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway and Randall Parkway. Mr. Kozlosky pointed out the need to widen the corridor to Wilshire Boulevard. The resolution also requests the MPO explore other funding alternatives for that portion of the widening. Ms. Padgett stated that money had been earmarked to this TIP for a couple of City of Wilmington projects, so there had to be some give and take so that the entire MPO retained its funding. Kerr Avenue widening was one of the projects that was suggested be changed to make that happen. Mr. Thurlow moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Wallace seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

d. Appointment of a Statewide Coordinator for the Safe Routes to School Program

Mr. Kozlosky told members Secretary Tippet appointed Terry Canales as the Statewide Coordinator for the Safe Routes to School Program yesterday.

e. Support for tolling I-74 in Brunswick County

Ms. Padgett told members this resolution will give support to use tolls as a means of moving along the creation of the Interstate 74 corridor. Mr. Kozlosky told members the Alliance of Brunswick County Property Owners Association (ABCPOA) made a request that the Turnpike Authority consider tolling Interstate 74. The Brunswick County Commissioners endorsed a resolution for support. Mr. Kozlosky said Mr. Wilson requested that this board also consider a resolution supporting the tolling to construct, operate and maintain I-74 in Brunswick County. With no other discussion, Mr. Kopp made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Wallace seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Project Updates

a. NCDOT Project Updates

Ms. Padgett asked Mr. Kozlosky for an update regarding the timeline for landscaping at the property on Martin Luther King Parkway Jr. Parkway and the former A&P site. Mr. Kozlosky told members he has been contacted by the NCDOT's Landscape Architect. They are currently working on the landscape design for the property.

There were no other questions regarding the update.

8. Announcements

Ms. Padgett told members the Columbus Connector Ribbon Cutting is to be held March 22nd. The location has not yet been determined.

Ms Padgett welcomed the visitors to the Transportation Advisory Committee and asked them to introduce themselves.

There were no announcements.

9. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05.

Respectfully submitted

Mike Kozlosky
Senior Transportation Planner
/pb