

Meeting Minutes

Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee

Date: April 26, 2006

Members Present:

Lanny Wilson, NC Board of Transportation - Chairman
Catherine Brunjes, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Bill Clark, Town of Carolina Beach
Laura Padgett, City of Wilmington
Bill Kopp, New Hanover County
Mac Montgomery, Town of Kure Beach
Bill Saffo, City of Wilmington
Bill Sue, Brunswick County
Chuck Thurlow, Town of Belville
Tom Wallace, Town of Leland

Staff Present:

Joshuah Mello, Associate Planner
Aruna Reddi, Associate Planner
Lawless Bean, TDM Coordinator

1. Call to Order

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

2. Election of Officers

Mr. Sue nominated Mr. Wilson for Chairman. Ms. Padgett seconded the nomination and Mr. Wilson was elected Chairman unanimously.

Ms. Brunjes nominated Ms. Padgett to be Vice-chair. Mr. Thurlow seconded the nomination and Ms. Padgett was elected Vice-chair unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes for the March 29th Meeting

Ms. Brunjes made the motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Padgett seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment Period

Mr. Wilson asked everyone to introduce themselves. Mr. Wilson thanked everyone for attending and opened the public comment period.

Mr. John Hinnant, who lives in the 200 block of North 23rd Street, told members that he and other residents in the area asked the DOT to reinstall the traffic light at North 23rd and Chestnut Streets. If not, they would like to see flashing lights installed at this intersection. Mr. Hinnant said the residents of the area would also like to see better signage for the speed limits as well as "no through truck" signs installed. Residents of the neighborhood also asked that the speed limit between Market Street and Princes Place Drive be lowered from 35 mph to 25 mph to meet the city's neighborhood traffic policies. Mr. Aaron Martin, who resides at 216 North 23rd Street, also voiced his concerns regarding the intersection.

Mr. Don Bennett, City Traffic Engineer, explained the criteria used by the City and Department of Transportation to determine the removal of the traffic signal was warranted. Mr. Patrick Riddle, DOT Project Manager for Division 3 said the circumstances of last weeks accident at that intersection were discussed at the Incident Management Meeting. Mr. Riddle said the accident is under investigation and they will keep members informed of the results.

5. Old Business

a. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Mr. Mello told members the MOU has been amended to include the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority (CFPTA). It was agreed that the CFPTA representative to the TAC would be appointed by New Hanover County as a compromise to the suggestion that New Hanover County be added as the additional member. Ms. Padgett made the motion to approve the motion and Mr. Thurlow seconded the motion. Mr. Kopp said he feels strongly that transportation needs in this area are vital and elected officials need to serve on this board, not appointed persons. He told members because the CFPTA appointee will now be a member of the New Hanover County Commission, he will support the MOU. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Brunjes asked if the board was OK with the chairman of the CFPTA signing it rather than a county commissioner as stated on page 15. Mr. Mello explained that they were signing it as a representative of the transportation authority but that does not affect who the appointee will be to the TAC. The appointee to the TAC will be a New Hanover Commissioner. The president of the CFPTA board will have to sign on behalf of the board.

6. New Business

a. East Coast Greenway designation

Mr. Mello told members the East Coast Greenway is an urban alternative to the Appalachian Trail which is proposed to be an off-road facility stretching from Maine to Florida primarily for bicyclist and pedestrians. The NC route is proposed to enter from Virginia and travel down through Fayetteville, following the Cape Fear River to Wilmington, using the Fort Fisher Ferry, run through Brunswick County to Myrtle Beach, SC then on the Florida. Staff met with the Bicycle Advisory Committee and formalized the proposed route for the Wilmington urban area. Mr. Mello told members this is run by a non-profit national organization and there is no funding attached to the designation. Ms. Padgett made the motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Montgomery seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

b. Removal of the US17 Business from S. 3rd Street and reassignment to N. 3rd Street

Mr. Mello said at the completion and opening of the I-140 bypass, it will be re-designated as US 17. The US 17 designation will be removed from Market Street through the entire City of Wilmington and re-designated as US 17 Business. Residents along South 3rd Street have voiced concerns about heavy truck traffic in the residential area. The resolution is proposing to remove the US 17 Business designation from South 3rd Street and reassign this designation to North 3rd Street. This wouldn't restrict all trucks on South 3rd Street, but it would sign US 17 Business up North 3rd Street through the business district across the Isabel Holmes Bridge and to US 17. Ms. Padgett moved the resolution and Mr. Sue seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Upgrade of future median on Eastwood Road

Mr. Mello told members that with the approval of the Autumn Hall development, the developer will be required to install a monolithic concrete median on Eastwood Road between Rogersville Road and Cardinal Drive. The City of Wilmington council members feel it is in the City's best interest to seek additional funding for a landscaped median similar to the median near the Landfall development. The resolution is seeking additional funding for the aesthetic improvements which will include plantings and landscaping over and above what the developer will be required to contribute for the concrete median.

Mr. Saffo told members that Councilmember Thompson brought forward a resolution for the enhancement at the last City of Wilmington Council meeting. Mr. Saffo pointed out that the city has spent a lot of time and effort in improving our corridors throughout the City because citizens

have said the improvements are important. Mr. Wilson told members the resolution is asking area legislators to consider using the state-wide contingency fund money for the project. Mr. Saffo made the motion to approve the resolution requesting the upgrade to the median and Mr. Kopp seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

d. 23rd Street and Chestnut Street

Mr. Wilson asked if anyone had any other questions regarding this item that was covered in the earlier discussions during the Public Input portion of the meeting. There were none.

7. Project Updates

Mr. Wilson told members the equity formula adjustment may be on the agenda when the General Assembly goes into short-session in a few weeks. He said the major urban areas are pushing to change the formula and he would like to encourage members to take a look at what is being proposed and pass resolutions encouraging our elected-delegation not to support any changes to the equity formula.

Mr. Kopp made a motion to draft a resolution to the elected delegation asking that they resist any type efforts to change the formula in the short-session. Mr. Clark seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

a. Wilmington Multi-modal Transportation Center

Mr. Mello told members the City received site plan application for a 17-unit development located on two essential tracts of the proposed Multi-modal facility. Staff is working with the Department of Transportation and the State Attorney General's office to preserve the site.

b. US17 Corridor Study

Mr. Mello told members staff has selected a consultant and had the kick-off meeting for the US 17 Corridor Study. They will study road diet measures on Market Street, that include potential for narrowing it down to one lane in each direction within the mansion district, installing bike lanes and aesthetic improvements. The study will also analyze the possibility of reverting 16th and 17th Streets back to two-way traffic. There will be public meetings regarding the study and staff will keep members informed once the dates have been determined.

c. NCDOT Project Updates

There were no questions regarding the update.

8. Announcements

a. NC RPO Association meeting- BCC Leland - April 27th and 28th

b. Bike to Work Week- May 1st - 5th

c. Thelma L. Bull Bridge dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony- May 5th @ 9 am

d. Custom Bike Show/River to the Sea Ride - May 6th @ 8 am - Thalian Hall

e. Dan Cameron Memorial Bridge dedication - May 15th @ 4:30 pm

f. NCSITE- Wrightsville Beach - June 1st and 2nd

Ms. Bean announced the upcoming Bike to Work Week – May 1st – May 5th

9. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted

Mike Kozlosky
Senior Transportation Planner
/pb



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

April 12, 2006

Subject: Projects Update

1. **MLK Pkwy:** U-0092 A
MLK Pkwy: U-0092 B

Open to traffic
Open to traffic

2. **US 17 Wilmington Bypass:** R-2405 A Scheduled Comp. **Date 6-16-2006**
Prime-Barnhill (US 17, near Scotts Hill to I-40)

US 17 Wilmington Bypass: R-2633 CC **Open to traffic**
Prime-APAC/Atlantic (I-40 Interchange)

US 17 Wilmington Bypass: R-2633 CB **Open to traffic**
Prime-C.M. Lindsay (from US 117 to NC 132)

US 17 Wilmington Bypass: R-2633 CA **Comp. Spring/Summer 2006**
Prime-GLF (Big Bridge portion)

US 17 Wilmington Bypass: R-2633 B Brunswick County
(From US 421 to US 74/76)

The plans are in the Planning Unit and are getting ready to move to Design.

US 17 Wilmington Bypass: R-2633 A Brunswick County
(From US 74/76 to US 17)

In the Planning stage and the alignment has been selected.

Signing: Division and Raleigh Signing are revisiting the signing for the Parkway and the Bypass. Authorization for funding is being requested and will be in the June BOT agenda.

3. **Military Cutoff (U-2734)**, constructing a multi-lane facility from US 17 (Market Street) to US 74 (Eastwood Drive). First phase of construction is the intersection of Military Cutoff & Market Street (US 17) & Gordon Road. The traffic has been shifted near Mayfaire Town Center to construct the other half of the culvert. The Contractor is on schedule.

Estimated Contract Completion Date May 2007

5. **B-3496:** "Bradley Creek", replace Bridge #10 over Bradley Creek. **Open to Traffic**

Estimated Contract Completion Date May 15, 2006

6. **U-4702 A:** construct a concrete median island from SR 2649 (Martin Luther King Parkway) to SR 1272 (New Center Drive). Contract has been awarded to Kinston Contractors. **Estimated Contract Completion Date June 2006**

NCMA:

1st year NCMA Brunswick County:

- **SR 1130 (Mt. Pisgah Rd) & NC 904** These are widening and resurfacing projects. **Work complete**

- **NC 211** We will be widening & resurfacing NC 211 from the entrance of St. James to NC 133 (Doscher Cutoff). The portion of the project from the Doscher Cutoff to NC 133 (Long Beach Road), will be completed by May 15, 2006. *(This is a revision from the original contract. The contractor is now allowed to accomplish this work during daylight hours. The only time restriction is from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM).* The work will consist of connecting the existing 3-lane sections by widening and resurfacing the roadway. The portion of the project from NC 133 (Long Beach Road) to the Entrance of the Town of St. James, will be completed by November 15, 2006. The work will consist of resurfacing and some widening at the intersection with the entrance to St. James. The current approximate cost of the project is \$3,300,000.00.
- **NC 130** there will be left turn lanes install at four locations; **Seashore Road, Boones Neck Road, Oxpen Road & Sabbath Home Road**. Included with this contract are two roads in Shallotte, **Bridges Street (SR 1349) and Sellars Street (SR 1234)**. We will be resurfacing widening and resurfacing Bridges Street. We will be resurfacing Sellars Street. Currently, under construction. **Work complete**

2nd year NCMA Brunswick County:

- **NC 87** from Boiling Springs Lakes southern city limits to NC 133, we will be resurfacing. The availability date is January 5, 2005 and the completion date is November 1, 2005. The Contractor will not be allowed to work from May 27th to September 5th. **Work complete**
- **SR 1303 (Hickman Road)** from South Carolina State Line to US 17, widen 2' each side and resurface. There will be turn lanes placed at four locations; Indigo Farms, Hickman's Crossroads, Shingletree Road and Crow Creek. Letting is November 2004. The availability date is January 5, 2005 and the completion date is November 1, 2005. **Work complete**

2nd year NCMA Pender County:

- **NC 210** from US 17 to NC 50 (going to the beach) will be widen and resurfaced. Pipe replacement work has been completed. Contractor about 95% complete with the work.
- **NC 133** from US 117 to NC 210 will be widen and resurfaced. State forces to place pipe in the lateral ditch at certain areas. Pipe replacement work has been completed. Project has been let and the availability date is February 7, 2005. Contractor will begin work in 2006.
- **US 421** from NC 210 to Sampson County Line, resurface. Project has been let and the availability date is February 7, 2005. Contractor will begin work in 2006.

1st year NCMA New Hanover County:

- **SR 1322 (Murraysville Rd) & SR 1402 (Edgewater Rd)** are in the December letting. These are widening and resurfacing projects. Project has been let and the availability date is February 7, 2005. **Work complete**

County Resurfacing Projects:

Brunswick County:

- **US 17** the Shallotte Bypass and ramps. The Contractor will not be allowed to work on the weekends. The Contractor is limited to night work from Monday to Thursday. The availability date is January 5, 2005 and the completion date is November 1, 2005. **Work complete**
- **NC 133** from SR 1190 to Oak Island Bridge and from Oak Island Bridge to 0.1 mile south of NC 211. The Contractor will not be allowed to work from May 27th to September 5th. The availability date is January 5, 2005 and the completion date is November 1, 2005. **Work complete**
- Turn lanes at four locations; SR 1210 (**Old Bridge Road**), SR 1101 (**Fish Factory Road**), SR 1217 (**Sea Pines Road**) and **Faith Boulevard**. The grading and asphalt widening work is complete and the resurfacing of NC 133 will cover this widening. **Work complete**

Pender County:

- **NC 210** from the Bladen County line to US 421. Contractor will begin work in 2006.

US 17 Super Street Project (Leland): Work has begun; signal poles, drainage and grading. The contractor is on schedule to have traffic in the “Super Street” alignment with temporary signals by Memorial Day. There will be days when the traffic is reduced to a single lane. The speed limit has been reduced to 45 mph. Contractor has estimated that traffic will be in the final alignment soon after the Memorial Day weekend.