

Meeting Minutes

Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee

Date: May 24, 2006

Members Present:

Lanny Wilson, Chairman, NC Board of Transportation
Catherine Brunjes, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Tim Fuller, Mayor, Town of Kure Beach
Alan Gilbert, Town of Carolina Beach
Bill Saffo, City of Wilmington
Tommy Wallace, Commissioner, Town of Leland
Eulis Willis, Mayor, Town of Navassa
Chuck Thurlow, Town of Belville
Bill Sue, Brunswick County
Bill Kopp, New Hanover County

Staff Present:

Mike Kozlosky, Senior Planner
Adrienne McTigue, Administrative Technician

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes for the April 26 Meeting

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

3. Public Comment Period

Mr. Wilson asked if anyone would like to make any comments.

Mr. Conrad Lohman spoke to the group regarding access problems on Stephens Church Road. He addressed the group previously but his issues remain. He requested an answer to why Stephens Church Road is not given fair access to the super-highway. Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Allen Pope if he would address Mr. Lohman's concerns. Mr. Pope said he had talked to Joe Blair today and the only solution to the southern access is to close it.

Charlotte Buckley of BASE introduced their organizations new CEO, Mr. Calvin Peck. Mr. Peck told members he is looking forward to working closely with the TAC in the future.

4. Old Business

a. Overnight Parking Facility in Belville

Mr. Kozlosky told members Mr. Dan Cameron from Noremac gave a presentation to this board regarding the overnight parking facility in Belville at February TAC meeting. Mr. Cameron asked to be placed back on the agenda to provide an update to the committee on his request for support of his grant application.

Mr. Cameron gave a brief presentation regarding his efforts in obtaining federal transportation funds from the SAFETEA-LU legislation for a truck stop and overnight parking facility. He explained that he is requesting a grant through the MPO and asking that the TAC consider supporting his request by endorsing the grant application for \$750,000.

Mr. Thurlow told members he has been contacted by property owners expressing concerns regarding the proposed truck traffic. Mr. Wilson told members he had also received many email on this parking facility. He asked Mr. Kozlosky if he had anything in writing stating that this project will not be taking money from any of the other transportation improvement projects. Mr. Kozlosky said that he has been told it would not impact the equity formula because it is a competitive grant. Mr. Wilson suggested tabling the item for 30 days to give staff an opportunity to get a statement from FHWA confirming that this project will not impact the equity formula and time to hold a public meeting for citizens affected by this application.

Mr. Sue made the motion to continue the item for 30 days until the next TAC meeting, which will be held June 28th. It was seconded by Mr. Willis and passed unanimously.

5. New Business

a. Wrightsville Beach Bike Plan

Mr. Kozlosky told members the Wrightsville Beach Association commissioned a study in 2004 to develop a Wrightsville Beach Bike Plan that would identify bike routes in the Town of Wrightsville Beach. The Wrightsville Beach Town Council adopted the plan in 2005 and is now requesting that the MPO endorse the plan. This endorsement will make it easier for the town to receive grants to implement the plan.

Ms. Brunjes made the motion to accept the Wrightsville Beach Bike Plan. Mr. Sue seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Request for Lighting on the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge

Mr. Saffo told members he is requesting a resolution of support for lighting the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge. The project could be very beneficial to the city and tourism, especially with the views from Riverwalk. He has received a great deal of positive feedback from citizens in support of the project. Mr. Wilson told members that DOT has requested time to study the proposal and identify a funding source. Mr. Saffo made a motion to support the feasibility of the installation of lighting on the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge. Mr. Kopp seconded it and the motion passed unanimously.

c. Amendment to MPO Bylaws

Mr. Kozlosky told members the previous MPO bylaws stated that the TAC shall meet once every three months on the 4th Thursday or when it was deemed appropriate at 5:00 pm. He said he has changed the language to read, "Regular schedules will be adopted by the TAC at the first meeting of the calendar year". He told members there have been some issues with MPO's and RPO's meeting quorum requirements. The State Attorney General drafted language on quorums. It includes, "A quorum is required for transaction of all business, including conducting meetings or hearings, participation in deliberations or voting on or other wise transacting public business. A quorum consists of 51% of the members of the TAC plus any additional members that may be required to insure the 51% of the possible votes are present". This revised language is also in the revised Bylaws.

Ms. Brunjes made the motion to approve the amendments to the bylaws. Mr. Sue seconded it and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Project Updates

a. Expansion of MPO Planning Area Boundary

Mr. Kozlosky said staff is currently seeking endorsement from local municipalities on the revised MOU. They are waiting for approval from Pender County and placement on the agendas of the remaining municipalities.

b. Wilmington Multi-modal Transportation Center

Mr. Kozlosky told members the MPO staff has prepared the draft map for adoption. NCDOT is currently working on the setting a public hearing date for consideration of the transportation corridor official map for the project. Staff has provided a list of 614 names within a quarter-mile area. DOT will be handling the mass mailing notifying residents.

c. Transportation Model Development

Mr. Kozlosky told members the project has been delayed. The model was anticipated to be complete in November, however It is now anticipated to be complete in March of 2007. The consultants and DOT indicated that the data will be available in November allowing the consultant to be able to update the projections for the Cape Fear Skyway.

d. NCDOT Project Updates

Mr. Allen Pope updated member on the status of projects within the MPO planning boundaries.

7. Announcements

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

8. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:16.

Respectfully submitted

Mike Kozlosky
Senior Transportation Planner
/pb