

# **Meeting Minutes**

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

**Date: January 24, 2007**

### **Members Present:**

Lanny Wilson, Chairman, NC Board of Transportation  
Eulis Willis, Town of Navassa  
Catherine Brunjes, Town of Wrightsville Beach  
Tim Fuller, Town of Kure Beach  
Bill Clark, Town of Carolina Beach  
Laura Padgett, City of Wilmington  
Nancy Pritchett, Cape Fear Public Transit Authority  
Bill Saffo, City of Wilmington  
Bill Sue, Brunswick County  
Dennis Taylor, Town of Belville  
Tommy Wallace, Town of Leland

### **Staff Present:**

Mike Kozlosky, Senior Planner  
Joshuah Mello, Associate Planner

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

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

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Sue made the motion to approve the minutes from the November 15<sup>th</sup> meetings and Mr. Wallace seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **3. Public Comment Period**

Mr. Wilson opened the meeting for public comment.

Mr. Richard Mandell, a resident of The Cape, asked to address the group. Mr. Mandell expressed his concern on the proposed moving of River Road by Newland Development and the increased traffic this project will bring to River Road. He asked the TAC members to consider doing a master traffic plan that will include River Road, Sanders Road and Independence Blvd. before the project is built.

The MPO and NCDOT have been in conversations with the developer and attended several meetings regarding the relocation of the road. Mr. Wilson said the other issue that has not been discussed is the fact that there would be a certain amount of enhanced value associated with the relocation of the road. He said he does not believe the state will give up the right of the road being moved without doing an appraisal on the property before and after. There are a lot of issues that will have to be worked through and he said he would like to encourage every member of the TAC to work with the New Hanover County Commissioners since they are the ones approving the development. It will coming before them on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Pritchett told members she has been battling Sanders Road for 6-months with the proposed day-care center because they have no business putting it on that road as narrow as it is, as sandy as it is and as crowded as it is. There is a serious problem in the area and there is not a long-range plan.

Mr. Wilson suggested the TAC ask the MPO staff to do a collector street study to look at how the proposed development will impact the entire system. The zoning for the property is a county function and not a proper function for this board.

Ms. Pritchett asked if it would be appropriate for this board to ask for a general overview of the area and a long range plan from DOT. Mr. Wilson said he thought it would be appropriate to look at the collector street to see how the streets will tie together to make sure there will be proper interconnectivity. At one time it had come before the MPO to make this a scenic byway. Ms. Pritchett said it is a beautiful stretch along the road and it is a shame we are moving the public away from the scenery.

Mr. Sue asked if the developers will have to provide a TIA and if there is any way the MPO could work with those developers to do an overall master plan to determine how their development will impact the entire area. Mr. Wilson said he felt that will be required in the scope of the TIA, the developer would negotiate with DOT in looking at what other intersections to study as a part of their site plan and look at the impact it would have. The department is also serious about looking at the appraised value before and after because if you just allow people to move roads, the tax payers are giving up something, plus you are dealing with an additional half-mile of maintenance that is not on the system if the road is not moved. Mr. Pope said the Department of Transportation has only agreed in concept. Mr. Sue asked if a resolution from this group would help the situation. Mr. Wilson said yes. Mr. Sue said he would like for staff to prepare a resolution along the lines that have been discussed; that in cooperation with the Department of Transportation and the TIA for those proposed developments, that we look at the overall traffic issues in the area, the connectivity and what is happening to the scenic view, as well as the maintenance aspects as a result of moving the road. Mr. Sue said all those parts are important to the resolution. Mr. Saffo pointed out that we could not act on this until the next meeting and it will be too late. Mr. Sue made a motion that staff prepare a resolution and we authorize the Chairman to sign that resolution. Mr. Wilson said we could send it to everyone based on the comments that Mr. Sue made on tape because there is not a lot of time. Ms. Padgett seconded Mr. Sue's motion. The motion carried unanimously to approve the resolution and Mr. Wilson directed staff to send the resolution to everyone before the New Hanover County Commissioners next meeting.

#### **4. Old Business**

##### **a. 2007 Meeting Calendar**

Mr. Kozlosky presented the proposed meeting calendar for 2007. Ms. Pritchett made to motion to approve the calendar and Ms. Padgett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

##### **b. Wilmington Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee**

Mr. Mello told members in October of 2006 the TAC endorsed a resolution that would create the Wilmington Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee. The original proposal would have included 21 voting members. Since that time, staff has realized that with 21 members, it would be hard to get a quorum every month. Staff went back and examined the membership. Staff is proposing to reduce the membership to 14. Each TAC member will appoint one member to the committee. The MPO staff will serve as a secretary to the committee and also be a voting member on the committee. The resolution is just to reformat the membership. Ms. Padgett made the motion to approve the changes. Ms. Brunjes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### **5. New Business**

##### **a. Election of Officers**

Mr. Sue nominated Mr. Wilson to the office of Chairman. Mr. Wallace seconded to nomination. The vote to approve Mr. Wilson as Chairman of the TAC was unanimous.

Mr. Saffo nominated Ms. Padgett to the office of Vice-chair. Ms. Pritchett seconded the nomination. The vote was unanimous to elect Ms. Padgett as Vice-chair.

**b. National League of Cities infrastructure Report (Laura Padgett)**

Ms Padgett attended the National League of Cities meeting held in October of 2006. She currently serves on the policy committee's steering committee. Key issues discussed during the meeting were public/private partnerships, freight movement and the push to get funding and transportation security. There were discussions regarding rail safety, limiting the length of trains and custom fees to provide improvements to the State Ports and cargo handling.

**c. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the SAFE-TEA-LU legislation has changed and staff has been asked to amend the MOU to include the changes. Mr. Sue made the motion to approve the changes to the MOU. Mr. Wallace seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Kozlosky told member staff will take the MOU around to each of the local municipalities for endorsement.

**d. Amendment to 2006-2007 Planning Work Program**

Mr. Kozlosky told members 2006-2007 Planning Work Program had programmed monies to complete the Scenic Byway Corridor Management. It will be March before the MPO receives notification regarding the Scenic Byway designation approval. That will not allow adequate time to complete the corridor management plan. Staff is requesting the PWP be amended to appropriate \$35,000 in the special studies line item to do a corridor study/analysis for a bicycle or multi-use path along Blue Clay Road. The road is identified as NC Bicycle and Highway #3 and does not have bicycle facilities. Staff would like to identify and develop a plan for implementing a bicycle facilities along the corridor. Mr. Sue made the motion to approve amending the 2006-2007 Planning Work Program. Ms. Brunjes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**e. Resolution supporting funding for improvements to the Causeway (R-3601)**

Mr. Wilson told members the division scraped, pooled, cut and trimmed the budget and were able to find funding to do improvements to the Causeway and add it to the TIP. Brunswick County, Leland, Belville and Navassa have all been requesting improvements to the Causeway due to the tremendous growth in Brunswick County. The causeway is seeing significant traffic congestion due to the opening of the Martin Luther King Parkway and the Wilmington Bypass over to US Highway 421. This resolution is asking DOT to consider upgrading the causeway to 6-lane facility between the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge and US 74/76. Mr. Sue made the motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Wallace seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**f. Resolution supporting delaying \$2.58 million out of TIP**

Mr. Wilson told members there is a chance that all this might be rescinded in the budget that is being worked on in Congress. As you recall there were numerous earmarks in the last SAFE-TEA-LU legislation that went through. One of the earmarks was for an unfunded project in the City of Wilmington and due to the equity formula, you have to shift money that was already allocated to an area and you have to take something out. It is not new money, it's money that was already coming to the area. As a result of that earmark, we now have to take \$2.58 million out of the TIP in order to allow the City to spend the \$2.58 million that they had earmarked in the legislation.

Mr. Kozlosky told members because we are going to have to delay a project that currently has funding, staff is proposing to delay construction of the Kerr Avenue widening project from Randall Parkway out to Martin Luther King Parkway that has funding in 2012.

Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Pope if it would be wiser to take some of the money off the Market Street improvements. With \$10 million having been allocated for the project, perhaps we should look at using part of those funds rather than delaying the Kerr Avenue widening. Mr. Saffo asked if the traffic counts had been done to determine the current counts for Market Street. Mr. Saffo said he would prefer to see the \$2.58 million taken from the Market Street project and we not delay the Kerr Avenue widening.

Mr. Sue made the motion to modify the current resolution to take the \$2.58 million from the Market Street median project. Mr. Saffo seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**g. City of Wilmington 20-Year Transportation Needs**

Mr. Kozlosky distributed copies of the City of Wilmington 20-Year Transportation Needs to TAC members. He told members staff developed the 20-year transportation needs document to be used as a guide for the City of Wilmington in the development of the city's Capital Improvement Project budget.

**h. MPO Public Information Manual**

Mr. Kozlosky distributed updated information manual to members.

**7. Project Updates**

**a. NCDOT Project Updates**

(attached)

Mr. Wilson suggested having someone from program development attend a meeting later this year to review the sources of funding for Department of Transportation projects from enhancements to the various spot safety money again and how it can be spent.

**8. Announcements**

**a. NCDOT Public Information Workshop on February 13<sup>th</sup> – Access Management**

**Improvements on Market Street –**

**9. Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:12

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

January 10, 2007

Subject: Projects Update

1. **MLK Pkwy:**U-0092 A, awaiting signal mast arms before completing signal work and opening the second left turn lane onto the Isabel Holmes bridge, off 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, from downtown Wilmington.
2. **US 17 Wilmington Bypass:** R-2405 A...US 17, near Scotts Hill to I-40 contractor has recently opened the "Super-Street" section from Porter's Neck interchange to approximately 0.5 mile north of SR 1571 (Scott's Hill Road). We are still awaiting right of way for the completion of bulb-outs, for U-turn movements.

**This opens the corridor from US 17 north of Wilmington to US 421 northwest of Wilmington.**

3. **Military Cutoff (U-2734)**, constructing a multi-lane facility from US 17 (Market Street) to US 74 (Eastwood Drive). 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. **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 Sprign 2007**

**NCMA Brunswick County:**

- **NC 211** We will be widening & resurfacing NC 211 from the entrance of St. James to NC 133 (Doscher Cutoff). 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 \$3,600,000.00. **Work Complete**

**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. **Work Complete**
- **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. **90% Complete**
- **US 421** from NC 210 to Sampson County Line, resurface. Project has been let and the availability date is February 7, 2005. **95% Complete**

**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 Doshier Cutoff Road**, patch and resurface from NC 87 to NC 211. **Work complete**
- **US 17 Super Street Project (Leland)**: signal poles, drainage and grading. The speed limit has been reduced to 45 mph. **Work complete**
- **SR 1342 (Big Macedonia Road)** patching and resurfacing from NC 211 to SR 1343 (Little Macedonia Road). **Work complete**
- **NC 87** patch and resurface from 0.3 miles north of US 17 to 0.03 miles south of US 74/76. Also included in the same contract:
  - SR 1167 (Persimmon Road)** resurface from US 17 to NC 179.
  - SR 1120** (Sabbath Home Road) resurface from 0.06 miles northeast of NC 130 to SR 1122 (Varnamtown Road).
  - SR 1513** (Danford Road) patch and resurface from US 17 Business to east Bolivia City Limit.
  - SR 1245** (Maple Creek Road) patch and resurface from SR 1115 (Stone Chimney Road) to the end of state system.
- **SR 1426 (Mt. Misery Road)** resurface from northwestern city limit to SR 1419 (Northwest Road). **Work complete** Also included in the same contract:
  - SR 1443 (Broadway Street)** widen and resurface from SR 1434 (Main Street) to SR 1435 (Navassa Road).
  - SR 1423 (Vernon Road)** resurface from SR 1426 (Mt. Misery Road) to SR 1422 (Blue Banks Loop).
  - SR 1190 (Oak Island Drive)** resurface from 46<sup>th</sup> Street to 65<sup>th</sup> Street. Contract awarded to Barnhill, under construction
- **Bridge Painting Contract**: removing the existing lead base paint and painting structures #7, #43 and #96, in Brunswick County. Bridge #7 is the fly-over near the Memorial Bridge and has an intermediate completion date of May 26, 2006 (only nighttime lane closures will be utilized). Bridge #43 is the over pass on US 74/76, just after the US 17/74/76 split and does not have an interchange. Work has begun. Bridge #96 is the fly-over for US 17 southbound at the US 17/74/76 split. **Work Complete**

**New Hanover County:**

- **NC 132** College Road from SR 1318 (Blue Clay Road) to the beginning of the divided highway. **Work complete**
- **Signing Project**: Division and Raleigh Signing are revisiting the signing for the Parkway and the Bypass. Authorization for funding has been approved. Sign structures are in design and we have ordered the signs. Let on August 8, 2006.
- **SR 1272 (New Center Drive)**: widening the 4-lane portion of the roadway to 5-lanes. **Estimated completion date Spring 2007.**
- **US 421** mill and resurface from West Lake Shore Drive (non-system) to Greenfield Street (non-system). Letting 12/19/2006.

- **SR 2048 (Gordon Road)** resurface from SR 1175 (Kerr Ave.) to SR 2698 (Netherlands Drive). Letting 12/19/2006.
- **SR 1411 (Wrightsville Ave.)** resurface from US 117 to West Huntington Road (non-system). Letting 12/19/2006.

**Pender County:**

- **NC 210** from SR 1101 (Point Caswell Road) to US 421. **Work complete**
- **NC 210** resurface from Bladen County line to SR 1101 (Point Caswell Road). Awarded to S. T. Wooten. Revised Completion Date 5/15/2007.
- **NC 210** mill patching from I-40 to 0.2 mile northwest of US 17. Let 12/19/2006
- **SR 1571 (Scott's Hill Loop Road)** widen and resurface from US 17 to US 17.  
**Work complete**