

Meeting Minutes
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
Transportation Advisory Committee
Date: April 25, 2007

Members Present:

Lanny Wilson, Chairman, NC Board of Transportation
Mike Ballard, Town of Navassa
Catherine Brunjes, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Tim Fuller, Town of Kure Beach
Alan Gilbert, Town of Carolina Beach
Bill Kopp, New Hanover County
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
Anthony Prinz, Associate Planner
Lawless Bean, TDM Coordinator

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Kopp made the motion to approve the minutes from the March 28th meetings and Mr. Wallace seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Comment Period

No one requested to speak.

4. Presentations

a. Transportation Funding Overview

Mr. Wilson introduced Mr. Burt Tasaico, with the North Carolina Department of Transportation who will give a presentation on the status of funding for highways from both the state and federal prospective.

Mr. Tasaico told members North Carolina is the 10th most populated state in the country. Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) have increased between 1970 and 2005 by 240%, and at the same time the population for the state has grown by about 45%. If you take the 2005 state dollars and adjust for inflation back to 1970, you will see that revenue has not kept up. North Carolina has the 2nd largest publicly maintained road system, with about 78,000 center-line miles. North Carolina has three main sources for funding for transportation. They are the Highway Use Tax, Gas Tax, and fees and interest on funds balances. That funding falls into three fund sources, the Highway Fund, the Federal Aid money, and the Highway Trust Fund. The Federal Highway Trust will become insolvent in Federal Fiscal Year '09 or '10 and they are currently searching for other sources for funds. The State's transportation revenue source funds are generated from three sources. 55% of the funding comes from the motor fuel tax, 25% from highway use tax and 20% of the funding is generated from fees collected. Funds allocation is handled by balancing available funds and all the needs. When referring the

funding gap, what use to be a \$30 billion gap, is now a \$65 billion gap. Revenue is just not keeping up. Construction inflation has increased 65% since 2001. He told members they are currently working on ideas to help generate additional funding sources.

Mr. Tasaico told members if anyone would like to have copies of today's presentation to contact him.

b. US 17 Business Corridor Study

Mr. Kozlosky introduced Mr. Brock LaForty with STV/Ralph Whitehead who gave a presentation on the US 17 Business corridor study.

Mr. LaForty told members the initial study looked at road diet measures on Market Street and the possibility of reverting 16th and 17th Streets back to two-way traffic. The conversion of 16th and 17th Streets proved not to be possible so the study focused on "road diet" measures on Market Street. As part of the study, it was determined that once Independence Boulevard Extension and Military Cutoff Extension are complete, it would be feasible to revert Market Street back to more of a neighborhood street and implement a median island and decrease the number of lanes from two to one in each direction and install bike lanes and parking. The steering committee consisted of MPO Staff, City of Wilmington Department Staff, Chamber of Commerce and NCDOT members. The consultant conducted stakeholder interviews and held two public workshops during the process, in which they received feed back from those attending. They also did project newsletters to mail to residents along the corridor. The steering committee and residents felt the project should be implemented in phases, with the first phase being 17th Street to Covil Avenue.

Mr. Kozlosky told members the report was posted on the www.wmpo.org website.

5. Old Business

No items of old business

6. New Business

a. Consideration of US 17 Business Corridor Study

Mr. Kozlosky suggested bringing the resolution supporting the adoption of the plan back to the TAC to request adoption at the next meeting. That will give everyone an opportunity to review the document.

b. Request for NCDOT to appoint a permanent Safe Routes to School Coordinator

Mr. Kozlosky told members the program was established in the SAFETEA-LU legislation and funded in fiscal years 2005 through 2009. It is 100% grant funded and will allow for the installation of improvements for pedestrian and bicycle safety within two miles of K-8 schools. Funding has been allocated; however, NCDOT will not allocate funds until a permanent Safe Routes to School Coordinator has been appointed. MPO staff met with the New Hanover County PTA on January 30th to discuss potential improvements at area schools. Holly Tree and Parsley Elementary Schools are very interested in participating in the program. Today's resolution is requesting that the appointment be made so that we can begin to take advantage of the funding that has been allocated for these projects.

Ms. Padgett made the motion approval of the resolution. Mr. Sue seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

c. Old Market Street functional classification modification

Mr. Kozlosky told members with the construction of the Wilmington Bypass there was a portion of Market Street that remained in-tact. It connects US 17 with Futch Creek Road. The New

Hanover County Planning Department is requesting that the functional classification for this section of road be changed. Currently it is identified as a principal arterial with a 90-foot right-of-way and 24-feet of pavement width. The vehicle count is approximately 2,000 vehicles per day. In discussions with Federal Highway, they recommend reclassifying it as a collector street. Staff and the TCC also recommend the reclassification.

Mr. Kopp made a motion to endorse the modification and Ms. Padgett seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously.

d. US 17 Bypass Special Highway Overlay District

Mr. Kozlosky told members through discussion with Mayor Willis, staff has taken the initiative to develop a special highway overlay district for the US 17 Bypass from US 421 to US 17 in Brunswick County. Staff is requesting that members take this proposal back to their local planning boards for discussion. This ordinance was developed using the special highway overlay district that was established for US 17 in New Hanover County as well as language from the City of Raleigh and the City of Wilmington.

Mr. Wilson said it is important that they look at this now because once DOT firms up exactly where the right-of-way is going to be, they will start acquiring the right-of way. New Hanover County did such a great job of protecting it from billboards and other encroachments being located on that portion of the Interstate-140. Mr. Wilson said he believes Mayor Willis has a great suggestion and it would be appropriate at the next meeting that some of those issues that are important with respect to limiting signage on the bypass should be considered.

Ms Padgett stated she hoped the TAC will pass this and make this road as attractive as possible.

Mr. Sue said they have just adopted a unified development ordinance in Brunswick County and they have overlays for the major thoroughfares. Billboards cannot be put but every 3,000 feet. They will need to review this proposed overlay and what they already have in place for comparison.

Mr. Kozlosky said staff will look at the final UDO adopted by Brunswick County and try to incorporate that language, as well as any additional language staff feels could enhance the corridor into a more synchronized document.

e. Wilmington Metropolitan Bicycle Facilities map

Mr. Kozlosky distributed copies of the Wilmington Metropolitan Area Bicycle Facilities Map. He told members the map is being distributed throughout the community. It is the first map in 17 years and was a joint project with Cape Fear Breeze, the BAC and the MPO. It was designed specifically as a map for commuters. Staff anticipates updating the map every two years.

f. Wilmington MPO Brochure

Mr. Kozlosky distributed copies of the new Wilmington MPO brochure. The brochure was created to help give an overview of the MPO organization and how it serves to help facilitate the transportation planning process. Additional copies are available for distribution.

7. Project Updates

a. Update on Blue Clay Road Bicycle Corridor Study

Mr. Kozlosky told members the MPO has hired Greenway, Inc. who has teamed with Parson Brinkerhoff to complete the Blue Clay Road Bicycle Corridor Study. They had the first steering committee meeting this week. Representatives attending the meeting included persons from New Hanover County, the MPO, DOT and CSX. The project competition date is December of this year, with the report being brought back in January of 2008 for endorsement by the TCC and TAC.

b. NCDOT Project Updates

(attached)

8. Announcements

a. Public Informational Meeting – Hampstead Bypass – April 23rd

b. Public Informational Meeting – Military Cutoff Extension – April 24th

9. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:43pm

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

March 28, 2007

TIP Projects:

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 3rd Street, from downtown Wilmington.
2. **US 17 Wilmington Bypass: R-2405 A**...US 17 north of Wilmington, 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 all the 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. **Estimated Completion August 2007**
4. **R-3601 US 17/74/76**: Widening across the "causeway", between Leland and Wilmington. Just beginning the planning process. We will move into the merger process afterwards and then to design. A scoping meeting will be held in the next couple of months. The TIP schedule has R/W for 2011 and Construction for 2012
5. **U-4902 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 Spring 2007**
6. **U-4902 B**: construct a concrete median island from SR 1402 (Porter's Neck Road) to Colonial Drive (non-system road). Project is in the planning process. **A Public Workshop was held on February 13, 2007 at Noble Middle School.**
7. **B-0682**: Bridge to Sunset Beach over the intercoastal waterway. Letting date 4/17/2007.
8. **R-2245**: Second bridge to Oak Island over the intercoastal waterway. Letting date 5/15/2007.

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 \$3,610,000.00. **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 widened 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. **99% Complete (Placing the pavement marking Spring 2007)**
- **US 421** from NC 210 to Sampson County Line, resurface. Project has been let and the availability date is February 7, 2005. **99% Complete (Placing the pavement marking Spring 2007)**

Brunswick County Resurfacing Projects:

- **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**
- **SR 1426 (Mt. Misery Road)** resurface from northwestern city limit to SR 1419 (Northwest Road). **Work complete on all these maps**

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 46th Street to 65th Street.
- **NC 87 (Maco Road)** patch and resurface from 0.3 miles north of US 17 to 0.03 miles south of US 74/76. The patching is almost complete on NC 87.
Also included in the same contract: (Completion Date 8/1/2007)
 - 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.

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. Under construction Completion Summer 2007
- **SR 1272 (New Center Drive)**: widening the 4-lane portion of the roadway to 5-lanes. **Estimated completion date Summer 2007.**
- **US 421** mill and resurface from West Lake Shore Drive (non-system) to Greenfield Street (non-system).
Also included in the same contract: (Let Date 12/19/2006...Comp. Date 6/1/2007)

SR 2048 (Gordon Road) resurface from SR 1175 (Kerr Ave.) to SR 2698 (Netherlands Drive).

SR 1411 (Wrightsville Ave.) resurface from US 117 to West Huntington Road (non-system).

NC 210 mill patch from I-40 to 0.2 miles northwest of US 17. (Length 13.05 miles)

Pender County:

- **NC 210** from SR 1101 (Point Caswell Road) to US 421. **Work complete**
- **SR 1571 (Scott's Hill Loop Road)** widen and resurface from US 17 to US 17. **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**