

Meeting Minutes
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
Transportation Advisory Committee
Date: June 27, 2007

Members Present:

Lanny Wilson, Chairman, NC Board of Transportation
Catherine Brunjes, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Tim Fuller, Town of Kure Beach
Bill Kopp, New Hanover County
Laura Padgett, City of Wilmington
Nancy Pritchett, Cape Fear Public Transit Authority
Bill Saffo, City of Wilmington
Tommy Wallace, Town of Leland

Staff Present:

Mike Kozlosky, Senior Planner
Joshuah Mello, Associate Planner
Anthony Prinz, Associate Planner
Lawless Bean, TDM Coordinator
Jim Flechtner, Traffic Engineering

Others Present

Grady Rankin, NC Turnpike Authority
John Merritt, Senior Assistant to Governor Easley
Allen Pope, NCDOT
Travis Marshall, NCDOT
Shane York, NCDOT

1. Call to Order

Mr. Wilson called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Pritchett made the motion to approve the minutes from the May 30th meetings and Mr. Wallace seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Comment Period

Mr. Ricky Meeks addressed the committee regarding road issues around Prospect Cemetery.

4. Presentations

a. Safelight Presentation

Mr. Jim Flechtner gave a presentation on the Safelight Program for the City of Wilmington. He demonstrated the importance of this program. Accident totals at Safelight intersections have been reduced 31% on average.

b. Cape Fear Skyway Traffic and Revenue Forecast

Mr. Grady Rankin, CFO for the NC Turnpike Authority, gave a presentation on the financial analysis for the Cape Fear Skyway Traffic and Revenue Forecast.

Mr. Rankin told members the traffic and revenue forecast was completed by Wilbur Smith and Associates. The total cost for the project is \$971 million. The project is 55% self supporting from toll revenues but will have a funding gap of \$439 million (45% of the cost of the project). Mr. Rankin suggested that this board ask the general assembly to fund the gap for this project with new source of revenue that will not adversely impact the equity formula.

Mr. John Merritt, Senior Advisor to Governor Easley, told members the state must come up with alternatives for financing new roads. Part of that cost must be born by the citizens themselves in these urban areas. Some of this gap may come from the General Assembly but ultimately local municipalities must come up with matching funds to make projects possible. Tolling these roads could be a financing mechanism that would put more of the burden back on the taxpayer by means of a user fee.

Mr. Rankin said every project in the United States over \$500 million is now being considered for tolling.

Mr. Kopp made the motion to request the General Assembly to assist with gap funding for the Cape Fear Skyway. Ms. Padgett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

5. Old Business

No items of old business

Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Kozlosky to update members on the Dawson/Wooster Small Area Study. Mr. Kozlosky told members he spoke to Mr. Pope regarding funding for the plan. The charrette will begin with the first public meeting on July 24th and recommendations will be presented on July 26th. It is anticipated that the plan will be completed by late September.

6. New Business

a. Request for General Assembly assistance to fill the gap for the Cape Fear Skyway

See Presentation item # b.

b. Resolution recommending acceptance of Pedestrian Planning Grant

Mr. Kozlosky told members the City of Wilmington was awarded a grant in the amount of \$39,000 from NCDOT for the completion of a Pedestrian Plan. The local match will be \$26,000. That amount was included in this current fiscal year adopted budget. The Wilmington City Council will consider a resolution, as well as a municipal agreement and budget ordinance to appropriate the funding. The resolution today is to recommend acceptance of the Pedestrian Planning Grant to do a city-wide pedestrian plan. Ms. Padgett made the motion to accept the grant and Mr. Saffo seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Request to allocate funding for the River to Sea safety improvements

Mr. Mello told members the resolution is to address the safety concerns for the crossing at Dawson Street near Time Warner Cable, between Wrightsville Avenue and Oleander Drive. There are bicycle signs on either approach but no crosswalk. Staff has heard from bicyclists and walkers that this deters them from using the trail because they cannot get across that section of the street. Each DOT division receives funding to make pedestrian safety improvements and this request is to ask the Department of Transportation to investigate using those funds to correct the safety issues at this crossing on Dawson Street. Ms. Padgett made the motion to request NCDOT consider using Hazard Elimination Program funds and/or Spot Improvement Program funds to improve the existing River to the Sea Bikeway Crossing at Dawson Street. Ms. Pritchett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

d. Resolution supporting the Transportation, Community and Systems Preservation Grant

Mr. Kozlosky told members there was an announcement for a Transportation, Community and Systems Preservation Grant opportunity on the Federal Registry in March. The grant will provide a comprehensive initiative to research and investigate relationships between the

transportation community and systems preservations plans and practices. Staff looked at access to the existing Port, as well as the future International Port in Southport, as a potential project for the grant opportunity. The MPO submitted a grant application in the amount of \$500,000 for that purpose. Congressman McIntyre's office submitted a letter of support for the grant request and the Ports have contacted Senator Burr and Senator Dole's offices to request letters of support for the grant initiative. Staff is requesting the TAC to endorse the resolution supporting the Transportation, Community and Systems Preservations Grant initiative. Ms. Padgett made the motion to support the resolution and Mr. Kopp seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Project Updates

a. Dawson/Wooster small area study

Discussed under Old Business

b. Update on Blue Clay Road Bicycle Corridor Study

Mr. Kozlosky told members the steering committee will be meeting tomorrow to analyze the alternatives the consultant has developed along and adjacent to Blue Clay Road. A meeting will be held July 19th at the North Campus of the Cape Fear Community College to present these alternatives to the public.

c. Cape Fear Historic Byway Study

Mr. Kozlosky told members staff interviewed two engineering firms interested in completing the Cape Fear Historic Byway Corridor Management Plan. They plan to have the consultant selected by the end of the week and begin work on the project by the end of July.

d. WAVE Satellite Station Site Evaluation Study

Mr. Kozlosky told members the short range transit plan, completed by Kimley-Horn and Associates in 2004, identified the need for three satellite locations throughout the community to allow for the restructuring of routes to better serve the community and increase ridership. Staff received four proposals. They plan to begin work on the project in early August.

e. Brunswick Connector

Mr. Kozlosky told members in an effort to find a permanent solution to the funding shortfall for the Brunswick Connector, staff was able to calculate how much of the route runs through each of the jurisdictions using GIS technology. Using that figure as a percentage value, staff was able to calculate a service-miles formula determining the cost for each jurisdiction. Staff has made presentations to Brunswick County and the Town of Navassa. Both have agreed to look for funding for the route. Staff will be making presentations to the Town of Leland and the Town of Belville in July. The Town of Belville has already agreed to contribute \$3,000 to continue the project. Staff is also exploring a potential grant from Wal-Mart.

f. NCDOT Project Updates

(attached)

8. Announcements

a. Blue Clay Road Bicycle Corridor Public Workshop – July 19th

b. Dawson/Wooster Small Area Plan Charrette – July 24th and 26th

9. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45pm

Respectfully submitted

Mike Kozlosky
Senior Transportation Planner



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

June 7, 2007

TIP Projects:

1. **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.

2. **Military Cutoff (U-2734)**, constructing a multi-lane facility from US 17 (Market Street) to US 74 (Eastwood Drive).
Traffic will be in the final pattern by July 2007.
Estimated Completion September 2007
3. **Military Cutoff Road Extension (U-4751) and Hampstead Bypass (R-3300):** extending Military Cutoff Road from Market Street to the Wilmington Bypass, with an interchange at the Bypass. Also, from this interchange extend the multi-lane roadway to US 17 north of Hampstead. Right of way is scheduled for 2012.
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.
Work Complete
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.
7. **B-0682:** Bridge to Sunset Beach over the intercoastal waterway. **Letting date 7/17/2007**
8. **R-2245:** Second bridge to Oak Island over the intercoastal waterway. **Letting date 6/19/2007**
9. **R-4063:** widen SR 1472 (Village Road) from SR 35 (South Navassa Road) to SR 1438 (Lanvale Road) to multi-lanes. Right of Way 2012 and Construction 2013.

NCMA Brunswick County:

- **NC 211** We will be widening & resurfacing NC 211 from the entrance of St. James to NC 133 (Doscher Cutoff). **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. **Work Complete**
- **US 421** from NC 210 to Sampson County Line, resurface. Project has been let and the availability date is February 7, 2005. **Work Complete**

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.
Work complete
- **NC 133 Doshier Cutoff Road**, patch and resurface from NC 87 to NC 211.
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 and intermediate course complete.**

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
- **US 74/NC 133:** installation of a signal "Mast Arm" pole on bridge #11 (Isabel Holmes Bridge) and connecting it to an existing signal system. **Letting May 8, 2007**
- **SR 1272 (New Center Drive):** widening the 4-lane portion of the roadway to 5-lanes. **Work Complete**

- **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)

- **NC 132 (North College Road), SR 1322 (Murrayville Road), SR 1327 (Farley Street) and SR 1322 (Bavarian Drive):** roadway improvements for better flow of traffic. Public Workshop was held on 4/17/2007. Work is scheduled to begin Summer 2007.

Pender County:

- **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.
Work Complete

- These are in the same contract: **Letting April 10, 2007**
 - **SR 1561 (Sloop Point Road)** widen to install a 1.5' paved shoulders from US 17 to SR 1563 (Sloop Point Loop Road). Also, widen 1.5' on SR 1563 from SR 1561 to the change in pavement at the school.
 - **SR 1520 (Shaw Highway)** construct short overlays from NC 210 to the Wildlife Boating Access Road.
 - **SR 1332 (Penderlea Highway)** mill patch at various spots from SR 1400 (Highsmith Road) to SR 1345 (Cora's Grove Road).
 - **US 17** mill patching at various spots from SR 1565 (Country Club Drive) north to the divided section of US 17.
 - **NC 11** mill patching at various spots from US 117 toward SR 1001 (Willard Road).