

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
**Transportation Advisory Committee**  
**Date: August 29, 2007**

**Members Present:**

Lanny Wilson, Chairman, NC Board of Transportation  
Mike Ballard, Town of Navassa  
Catherine Brunjes, Town of Wrightsville Beach  
Alan Gilbert, Town of Carolina Beach  
Bill Kopp, New Hanover County  
Mac Montgomery, Town of Kure Beach  
Laura Padgett, City of Wilmington  
Nancy Pritchett, Cape Fear Public Transit Authority  
Bill Saffo, City of Wilmington  
Bill Sue, Brunswick County  
Chuck Thurlow, 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 4:02 PM.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The motion to approve the minutes from the June 27, 2007 meeting carried unanimously.

**3. Public Comment Period**

Mr. Andy Koppel asked the board if the email recently sent regarding South Carolina's intentions relating to I-73 has created any analysis relative to Interstate priorities in southeast North Carolina, and especially the extension of I-74 as it heads in a southeastern direction. He told board members he would like to encourage the board to look in that direction.

**4. Presentations**

**US 17 Association – Marc Finlayson**

Mr. Finlayson told members the Highway 17 Association has been in existence since 1975. It had been managed by local government leaders up and down the corridor who were trying to make improvements to the road. In 2006 the US 17 Association opened an office and hired an advocate to try to be more influential about getting Highway 17 improved. Mr. Finlayson was hired in October of 2006 and they have made great progress since that time. The goal of the Association is to create a fully controlled access expressway for US 17 from Virginia to South Carolina. The Association is working with the Department of Transportation Board Members who represent the corridor in Divisions 1, 2 and 3 and elected officials in efforts to find additional resources to move the Highway 17 projects along.

**5. Old Business**

No items of old business

**6. New Business**

**a. Resolution amending the Long Range Transportation Plan to modify the Cape Fear Skyway as a toll facility**

Mr. Kozlosky told members at the request of the NC Turnpike Authority, the MPO is requesting that the TAC endorse a resolution that will allow the MPO to amend the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan and identify the Cape Fear Skyway as a toll facility. This will allow for the additional analysis during the environmental review to study the toll plazas and their footprints, noise, impacts on air quality, as well as the diversion caused because the Skyway will be a toll-facility. Mr. Sue made a motion to amend the Long Range Transportation Plan and Ms. Pritchett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**b. Resolution requesting Governor Easley to call a special session of the General Assembly to discuss local, regional and statewide transportation funding issues**

Mr. Saffo told members we desperately need improvements to our roads systems across the state of North Carolina. Because the funding shortfall is expected to continue and additional funding sources are needed to construct important transportation projects, the General Assembly needs to address the issue. We need to urge Governor Easley to call a special session to discuss local, regional and statewide transportation funding. Mr. Saffo made the motion to request the governor call a special session on the General Assembly to discuss transportation funding issues. Ms. Pritchett asked if this resolution should include the bridge structure safety issues as another reason for calling a special session. Mr. Saffo agreed and amended his resolution so that it will include bridge safety issues. Ms Padgett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**c. Resolution supporting the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners efforts to levy a .4 percent land transfer tax in Brunswick County**

Mr. Sue told members he has been asking for a land transfer tax for many years. Brunswick County will put this before the voters this fall. The money will be placed in a special capital reserve fund only to be used for roads, school construction or roads and school debt service. He is requesting the support for this land transfer tax from the MPO. The biggest single need in Brunswick County right now is the roads.

Mr. Kopp told members he is happy Brunswick County has the opportunity to vote on either the land transfer tax or the sales tax for infrastructure needs. He has helped the state association to make this happen in the legislature. The vehicle that got us here today was taking the Medicaid reimbursement off the back of the counties. Some counties are not going to come out as well as others, so this little piece went in the legislation allowing a referendum in which voters will have an opportunity to consider a land transfer tax or an additional sales tax. He said he would like to encourage people in Brunswick County to vote for this, he is just not sure this board should be involved in Brunswick County politics. We could ask and encourage the Brunswick County Commissioners that if it is successful, they may want to consider using some of that money for roads. Mr. Kopp said he is not sure this regional board should be encouraging the citizens of Brunswick County to vote one way or the other.

Mr. Sue said he feels this board needs to encourage and make the people aware that this is one possible solution. We are supposed to be the road-authority in the metropolitan area and we need to support efforts to improve roads. It might help if this board passes the resolution because it will encourage voter support.

Mr. Montgomery said he agrees with Mr. Sue in that traffic is coming from all over the region so we are no longer separate areas. What affects Brunswick County is going to also affect New Hanover County. Mr. Gilbert said he also agrees with Mr. Sue because the voters will have the final decision and this is an innovative solution.

Mr. Thurlow made the motion to support the Brunswick County Commissioners efforts to levy a .4% land tax in Brunswick County. Mr. Ballard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**d. Resolution Supporting the Town of Leland's Request for a Median, Marked Bicycle Lanes and Provision for Sidewalks Along Village Road Between South Navassa Road and Lanvale Road**

Mr. Wallace requested to add a resolution supporting the Town of Leland's request for a median, marked bicycle lanes and provision for sidewalks along Village Road between South Navassa Road and Lanvale Road. It is Phase II of the Village Road project. Mr. Wallace made the motion to support the resolution and Mr. Thurlow seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

**e. Piner Road/College Road Intersection at Monkey Junction**

Ms. Pritchett told members she has been approached by business owners in the shopping center across from the new Home Depot in Monkey Junction. The median on Piner Road has just been extended and is preventing access to business. She has discussed this with Mr. Pope. Mr. Pope told members DOT has held two meeting with adjacent property owners. There has been an identifiable accident history at that intersection because of the increased traffic volumes due to the redevelopment in the area and the increased square footage of commercial property. DOT felt it was necessary to divide that section of the road but the state's traffic engineer is going back to look at the possibility of a left-turn into the strip shopping center. Mr. Pope said he will update the TAC on the decision at the next meeting.

**7. Project Updates**

**a. Blue Clay Road Bicycle Corridor Study**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the 1<sup>st</sup> public information workshop was held July 19<sup>th</sup> at the North Campus of the Cape Fear Community College. Staff has learned that the county has a sewer easement along that corridor and they are working with staff to implement this multi-use path in portions of that sewer easement. The focus has been shifted from defining the specific corridor to needed intersection improvements, as well as moving toward an engineering direction for the project.

**b. Cape Fear Historic Byway Study**

Mr. Mello told members URS Corporation along with Greenways Incorporated and Development Services for the Lower Cape Fear were selected as the consulting firms for the corridor management plan. The plan will look at aesthetics, traffic flow, safety, outdoor signage, streetscape improvements, and marketing along the corridor. The contract will be signed within a few weeks and work will begin within the month.

**c. Dawson/ Wooster Small Area Plan**

Mr. Pope told members the consultant is still working on the plan. He met yesterday with Ms. Padgett and Ms. Linda Pierce, who is a resident of 6<sup>th</sup> Street, to discuss the option of removing parking on Wooster and Dawson streets. DOT has requested the consultant evaluate this potential solution and he anticipates the plan should be completed soon. Mr. Kozlosky said the draft plan presentation may have to be delayed until the October meeting so the consultants can evaluate this possible solution.

**d. WAVE satellite station site evaluation study**

Mr. Prinz told members they are currently in the process of identifying three potential sites for satellite transfer facilities. The consultant firm, Martin/Alexiou/Bryson, has been hired to do a detailed study of each of the identified locations. Staff is currently in the process of setting up a

steering committee and should have their first meeting in early October. This project should be completed in January 2008 and presented to the TAC at their January meeting.

**f. Brunswick Connector**

Mr. Kozlosky told members they have received the funding from the local municipalities to continue the operation until July 1<sup>st</sup>. Staff is currently working on developing a funding strategy to continue the operation in future years. Staff also submitted a grant application to Wal-Mart for a community assistance grant. They are working with the district manager to obtain grant funding in the amount of \$10,000. Mr. Kozlosky said it is equally important for area municipalities to remember to identify their share of the necessary funding during next years budgeting process.

**g. NCDOT Project Update**  
(attached)

**8. Announcements**

**Safe Routes to School Workshop- September 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Wilmington Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee- September 20<sup>th</sup>**

**9. Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:18pm

Respectfully submitted

Mike Kozlosky  
Senior Transportation Planner



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY  
GOVERNOR

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

LYNDO TIPPETT  
SECRETARY

August 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 to be shifted so that there are 2-lanes NB from Arboreteum Drive to Gordon Road. Estimated Completion September 2007**
3. **B-4990:** replacement of the moveable span's electrical control system. The covered signs are for detouring traffic when the bridge is closed. They are still up because they have to close the bridge periodical throughout the project's length.

**Contract Completion Date February 29, 2008**

4. **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. NCDOT and the merger team are scheduled to have selected a preferred alternative by spring 2009 and complete the final environmental impact statement by fall 2009. Right of way is scheduled for 2012.
5. **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
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 all bids rejected because they were too high. To be re-let.**
8. **R-2245:** Second bridge to Oak Island over the intercoastal waterway. Under construction. Availability Date 8/6/07 **Contract Completion Date December 31, 2009**
9. **R-5021:** NC 211 widening, from NC 87 to SR 1500 (Midway Road). Right of Way 2012 tentative Public workshop in June 2008.

10. **R-4002:** widen SR 1472 (Village Road) from SR 1437 (Old Fayetteville Road) to SR 1435 (South Navassa Road) to multi-lanes. Also, construct dual left turn lanes on Village Road turning onto US 17 NB ramps. **Letting date 9/16/2008**
11. **R-4063:** widen SR 1472 (Village Road) from SR 1435 (South Navassa Road) to SR 1438 (Lanvale Road). Right of Way 2012 and Construction 2013
12. **B-4223:** replace Bridge # 21, over the Northeast Cape Fear River. Under construction  
**Contract Completion Date December 31, 2009**

**Brunswick County Projects:**

- **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 Projects:**

- **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.

***Estimated Contract Completion Date 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.

***Estimated Contract Completion Date October 2007***

- **US 421** mill and resurface from West Lake Shore Drive (non-system) to Greenfield Street (non-system). **Cape Fear Paving – NC 210 complete...scheduled to complete Wrightsville Ave. July...then move over to US 421...then move over to Gordon Road.**  
**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 Projects:**

- These are in the same contract: **Contract Completion Date August 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).