

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
**Transportation Advisory Committee**  
**Date: October 30, 2007**

**Members Present:**

Lanny Wilson, Chairman, NC Board of Transportation  
Catherine Brunjes, Town of Wrightsville Beach  
Bill Kopp, New Hanover County  
Alan Gilbert, Town of Carolina Beach  
Bill Sue, Brunswick County  
Chuck Thurlow, Town of Belville  
Tommy Wallace, Town of Leland

**Staff Present:**

Mike Kozlosky, Senior Planner  
Lawless Bean, TDM Coordinator

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The motion to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2007 meeting carried unanimously.

**3. Public Comment Period**

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

Ms. Linda Pierce spoke to the members regarding issues along the Dawson/Wooster corridor and her concern regarding the dangers involved in crossing those busy intersections in their neighborhood. She is asking that the traffic signal at 8<sup>th</sup> and Wooster remain in place because it has provided help by providing a break in the flow of traffic on Wooster. She is also request parking spaces closest to the 6<sup>th</sup> Street intersection be eliminated to offer better sight distance when crossing the streets. She told members she feels these two measures are successful and eliminates the need for the barrier currently in place. She is requesting that these measures be put in place for a test period of two months.

Ms. Constance Reeves told members her father owns a tract of land that will be affected by the outer loop in Brunswick County. She is here at her father's request. He received a rezoning request to rezone his property from C-1 to Rural Residential. The property has been on hold for acquisition since 1997 and they would like to know why the property is up for rezoning, who requested the rezoning and how will it affect her fathers property value now? Mr. Sue suggested she contact Mr. Leslie Bell in the Brunswick County Planning Department.

Mr. Andy Koeppel identified that Mr. Wilson has been appointed to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Transportation Committee.

Mr. Wilson recognized Ms. Lethia Hankins, Council Member for the City of Wilmington, who is attendance today.

**4. Presentations**

**a. Dawson/Wooster Corridor Plan**

Mr. Kozlosky introduced Mr. Michael Rutkowski with Kimley-Horn and Associates, who gave a presentation on the Dawson/Wooster Corridor Plan.

Mr. Rutkowski told members Kimley-Horn and Associates became involved in the project due to the lack of public outreach at the local level by NCDOT. The community was not aware of what was going to happen or what the options were for solving the problem at 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Wooster Street. The plan also developed short-term aesthetic improvements at the intersections throughout the corridor, as well as a long-term vision for Dawson and Wooster corridors.

A 4-day planning charrette was held in July and the corridor master plan summary report was developed from those meeting. The guiding principals established during the meetings were to preserve neighborhood quality and community, corridor safety, aesthetic enhancements and making recommendations functional and implementable.

One of the things identified in the document was to phase the implementation and how to work through the process. One of the immediate needs in this process was to address the crash problem at 6<sup>th</sup> and Wooster Streets. The plan recommends using the "pork-chop" half median as the best solution to solve the crash problem at the intersection. It will allow traffic to go north-bound on 6<sup>th</sup> Street and addresses the safety problems associated with south-bound traffic.

Mr. Wilson asked if a reduction in speed limit would make a difference along the corridor. Mr. Rutkowski said because there is nothing to impede traffic, there is nothing to keep traffic from racing through to the bridge.

Mr. Sue told members it seems that because the signal was installed at 8<sup>th</sup> Street and the duracurb was put in place at 6<sup>th</sup> Street at the same time, we will not get the opportunity to see if the suggestion to remove parking blocking the sight-line at the intersection will work.

Mr. Rutkowski reminded members that the signal at 8<sup>th</sup> Street was warranted by diverting traffic from 6<sup>th</sup> Street to 8<sup>th</sup> Street.

Mr. Kozlosky told members it is important to point out that these intersections were the 56<sup>th</sup> and 120<sup>th</sup> "most hazardous intersection locations" in the state. NCDOT addressed both intersections in the improvements. If you remove the barrier at 6<sup>th</sup> Street, then you must remove the signal at 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Sue asked why? Mr. Kozlosky told members that was NCDOT's position.

Mr. Cumbo, NCDOT Division Traffic Engineer, told members that you must combine both projects in order to warrant the signal under federal highway guidelines. Ms. Hankins told members that the traffic is not being diverted over to 8<sup>th</sup> Street and there is now potential for all kinds of accidents. She suggested that somebody needs to use some "common-sense" modeling and realizing what is actually happening.

Mr. Gilbert said he feel the signal at 8<sup>th</sup> Street alone has the potential to solve the problem at 6<sup>th</sup> Street with people trying to get across. He said right now, functionally we don't know if the traffic light at 8<sup>th</sup> Street alone will solve the issue.

Mr. Sue said we don't know because it has not been tried. Mr. Sue told members this is a City of Wilmington problem and there is no one here representing the City today. He said he thinks this should be referred to the City of Wilmington for direction.

Mr. Wilson told members he agrees that we need to have input from the City representatives to this board before we take action. Mr. Sue made the motion to table the resolution until we receive direction from the Wilmington City Council. Mr. Kopp seconded the motion. The motion to table the resolution carried unanimously.

## **5. Old Business**

### **a. Resolution supporting the adoption of the Dawson/Wooster Corridor Plan**

(see above)

### **b. Resolution encouraging College Road/Piner Road Collector Street Plan**

Mr. Kozlosky told members Staff took the initiative to develop a collector street plan for the College Road/Piner Road intersection. It was suggested that the plan be expanded to include more of the Monkey Junction area. The boundary will be expanded over to the Cape Fear River, which would incorporate the River Road development, and extend almost over to the intercoastal waterway. Mr. Kozlosky said staff will still need to hold public outreach meetings to solicit input regarding the interconnectivity. The draft a plan will include the information on why we are encouraging interconnectivity.

Mr. Gilbert asked if staff would consider expanding the boundary to the south to include the schools. Mr. Kozlosky stated that staff will expand the boundary further to the south if it is the wish of the TAC. However; staff would like to proceed immediately with the smaller area study around Piner Road because of the problems with the development taking place in that immediate area.

Mr. Wilson asked what changes have taken place to the Piner Road Collector Street Plan since the last meeting. Mr. Kozlosky said staff removed the connection from Woodbridge Road due flooding and drainage issues. Staff also relocated the Wood Duck Circle extension over to Greg Taylor's property. Mr. Kozlosky reminded members that this plan is only a draft concept plan. Staff needs direction from the TAC before the plan can be taken to the public for input.

Mr. Kopp said he does not wish to co-mingle the two issues. He sees the number-one issue is the Piner Road situation and the merchants trying to address their problems right now. Tomorrow we need to deal with collector streets and this whole entire area. He asked what was going to be done to help these merchants today.

Mr. Wilson told members that Kevin Lacy, the State Traffic Engineer, came down and looked at the situation and has agreed to explore some alternatives that will be considered. He does not know the current status. Mr. Gilbert told members he has a copy of a letter/fax being sent out today that has questions pertaining to that meeting.

Mr. Kopp asked if the adoption of this resolution encouraging a master plan for collector streets in this area really has anything to do with the Piner Road issue. Mr. Kozlosky said staff could take all the information discussing Piner Road out of the resolution and make it so this board directs the MPO to conduct a collector street plan. Mr. Kopp said he would like that plan to be expanded as discussed earlier and he would make that in the form of a motion. Mr. Sue seconded the motion. The vote on the resolution carried unanimously.

## **6. New Business**

### **a. Resolution supporting the modification to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan to identify the I-40 Extension as an unfunded project**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the Long Range Transportation Plan, which was adopted in March 2005 included the extension of I-40 to either Kerr Avenue or Independence Boulevard. Recognizing that it is impractical for this project to be completed by 2030, staff is requesting modification of the LRTP to identify the project as unfunded.

Mr. Wilson told members NCDOT already has a feasibility study underway to examine where the end of Interstate 40 terminates down to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway and New Center Drive and upgrade that instead of extending I-40.

Mr. Sue made the motion to approve the modification to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan to identify the I-40 Extension as an unfunded project. Mr. Wallace seconded the motion and the vote carried unanimously.

**b. Resolution supporting the Town of Wrightsville Beach, Carolina Beach and Kure Beach submitting grant applications for NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grants**

Mr. Sue made the motion to approve the resolution supporting the Towns of Wrightsville Beach, Carolina Beach and Kure Beach submitting grant applications for NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grants. Ms. Brunjes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**c. Resolution supporting the re-alignment of Blackwell Road and installation of a landscaped median on NC 133**

Mr. Thurlow told members a master plan has been developed for Belville. Part of the discussions involved relocating Blackwell Road about 700 feet south of US 17, which will allow for the installation of a traffic light. It will all be funded by Belville and private funding. The re-alignment will make it much easier for residents on Chapel Loop Road and Blackwell Road to exit and get on US 17. The Department of Transportation has scheduled making this intersection right-in/right-out if the re-alignment is not completed. Members of the church were concerned about the alignment. This will not have any impact on the church or any residents on Blackwell or Chapel Loop Roads. It will make it easier for them to get out on to NC 133.

Mr. Thurlow made the motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Gilbert seconded the motion. The resolution carried unanimously.

**d. Resolution supporting transportation improvements at Bavarian, Farley and NC 132 intersections**

Mr. Kozlosky told members this resolution is to make intersection improvements on College Road which include dual-lefts on Bavarian Road, dual-lefts and installation of a median on Farley Road, as well as intersection improvements at North Kerr Avenue and NC 132. Mr. Wilson and NC Senator Julia Boseman have identified funding to make these improvements. Mr. Kopp made the motion to approve the resolution supporting transportation improvements at Bavarian, Farley and NC 132. Mr. Thurlow seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**e. Resolution supporting NCDOT's installation of a roundabout at the intersection of Edgewater Club and Porters Neck Roads**

Mr. Wilson told members this item is before this board because one of the developers has contributed \$50,000 and another has not yet contributed funding because of the sewer moratorium. The price is now estimated at \$450,000. Mr. Wilson said some of the funding may come from the spot-safety funds and contingency funding. Mr. Chris O'Keefe, Planning Director from New Hanover County, told members when this project was planned, the entire amount would have been paid for by the developers. Mr. O'Keefe said he would need to check on the agreement to see if they have paid their entire amount.

Mr. Thurlow asked if this was the best project for which to spend \$450,000? Mr. Kopp said he thought this is a worthy project and it is very important that this be done. Mr. Wilson said this has been brought to light because of all of the rezonings that has occurred at the intersection of Porters Neck Road and Market Street. Residents have been organized and had meeting with the New Hanover County Commissioners. DOT tried to deal with some of the issues. The roundabout is the best solution for the intersection because the dynamics of how the roads come together.

Mr. Kopp made the motion to approve the resolution and asked Mr. O'Keefe to get in touch with the developers and see if we can leverage funding to get this project moving. Mr. Gilbert seconded the motion and the vote carried unanimously.

**f. Resolution adopting the Safe Routes to School report for Bradley Creek, Parsley and Holly Tree Elementary**

Mr. Mello told members Bradley Creek, Holly Tree and Parsley Elementary Schools have been identified as 3 of 32 demonstration schools in North Carolina to implement the "Safe Routes to School" program. Grant funds ranging from \$100,000 to \$250,000 are available for improvements at each school. Staff will submit grant applications to NCDOT for potential improvements at each of these elementary schools.

Mr. Thurlow made the motion to approve the resolution to adopt the Safe Routes to School report for Bradley Creek, Holly Tree and Parsley Elementary Schools. Ms. Brunjes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**g. Resolution supporting bicycle and pedestrian facilities at all public schools within the MPO planning area boundary**

Mr. Mello told members this resolution came about after staff saw the preliminary designs for the new school in Castle Hayne area. Those plans did not include any bicycle and pedestrian facilities to access the school from the surrounding neighborhoods. Subsequently, the school board assured staff that bicycle and pedestrian facilities have now been included in the design. The Wilmington Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee have already endorsed the resolution. Mr. Sue made the motion adopt the resolution. Mr. Thurlow seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**7. Discussion Items**

**a. Update of Long Range Transportation Plan and Comprehensive Transportation Plan – Development of a Citizen's Advisory Committee**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the Long Range Transportation plan requires public input into the process. As part of the public process, staff encourages that we once again form a new Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). He asked members to consider creating a new CAC that will be appointed by each of the active TAC Members to steer the development of the Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Kozlosky said there will be a resolution presented at the next meeting to formalize this request.

**b. Cape Fear Breeze Employers Group**

Mr. Kozlosky told members Mr. Howard Loving requested to be placed on the agenda to discuss the Cape Fear Breeze Employers Group.

Mr. Loving told members he and Mr. John Phelps conducted the meeting for the Cape Fear Breeze Employer Group with participants from GE, Corning, New Hanover County Schools, New Hanover County and UNCW. During the meeting the group reviewed the 2008 work plan. They asked participants to review the plan and come back to the next meeting and discuss what items they would like to concentrate on. It was the intent to also share best practices with everybody. There has been a memo sent out by the City Manager that modifies Ms. Bean's job description. Mr. Loving said he was charged by the City Manager to make sure that all members of the Cape Fear Breeze Employer Group understood the fact that we will continue to concentrate on the efforts through the Cape Fear Breeze and we expect their input. There was unanimous support. The next meeting will be held in December.

**8. Project Updates**

**a. Cape Fear Historic Byway Study**

Mr. Mello told members a kick-off meeting was held with the consultant and steering committee on October 10<sup>th</sup>. A public meeting is scheduled for November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> to develop a vision for corridor enhancements and begin the development of the corridor management plan. The corridor management plan must be completed before the MPO can apply for National Scenic Byway or All American Road status. Staff will also apply for grant funding for the South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street pedestrian and streetscape improvements, which is also part of the Scenic Byway.

**b. City of Wilmington Pedestrian Plan**

Mr. Kozlosky told members staff selected Toole Design Group to complete the citywide Pedestrian Plan. Staff anticipates completion of the plan in September 2008.

**c. Dow Road Widening**

Mr. Kozlosky told member staff received 15 proposals from engineering firms to complete the corridor study. Staff will interview selected firms in the next few weeks and anticipates having a contract in place by the next meeting.

**d. Wilmington Bypass**

Mr. Wilson told members right of way for both sections remain on schedule although all of the urban loops are once again facing funding challenges.

**e. NCDOT Project Update**

Attached

**8. Announcements**

**Wilmington Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee – November 15<sup>th</sup>**

**9. Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm

Respectfully submitted

Mike Kozlosky  
Senior Transportation Planner