

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
**Transportation Advisory Committee**  
**Date: December 17, 2008**

**Members Present:**

Laura Padgett, Vice Chair, City of Wilmington  
Jonathan Barfield, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority  
Bill Sue, Brunswick County  
Tommy Wallace, Town of Leland  
Jim Dugan, Town of Kure Beach  
Jason Thompson, New Hanover County  
Bill Saffo, City of Wilmington  
Alan Gilbert, Town of Carolina Beach  
Chuck Thurlow, Town of Belville  
Lanny Wilson, Chairman, NCBOT

**Staff Present:**

Mike Kozlosky, Senior Transportation Planner  
Anthony Prinz, Transportation Planner  
Joshuah Mello, Transportation Planner

**Others Present:**

Nancy Pritchett

**1. Call to Order**

Ms. Padgett called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Gilbert told members his name was not listed as attending the October 29<sup>th</sup> meeting and he was present. With that correction noted, the motion to approve the minutes from the October 29<sup>th</sup> and the December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting carried unanimously.

**3. Public Comment Period**

Mr. Andy Koepfel told members he would like to direct the TAC's attention to the final report for the 2009 General Assembly from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Transportation Committee regarding restoration of the Castle Hayne-Wallace Rail Line. The restoration of the line is not only important for passenger service from Wilmington to Raleigh, but the most vital aspect will be its economic impacts on the shipment of goods from the state port. He suggested this committee pass a resolution supporting the restoration of the Castle Hayne-Wallace Rail Line and emphasize its economic importance to this region of the state.

Mr. Ray Fountain, President of the Jackson Landing Home Owners Association in Leland told members he has concerns about the traffic problems on Eagle Island and crossing the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge from Brunswick County. He asked the TAC to take the initiative and do something about this problem.

**4. Presentation –**

**a. Recognition of TAC members**

Ms. Padgett presented a certification of appreciation to Ms. Nancy Pritchett for her years of dedicated service to the TAC.

**5. Old Business**

**a. Resolution supporting the location of the Air Force One Museum and White House Photo Gallery in Wilmington, North Carolina**

Mr. Kozlosky told members at the direction of this board, staff drafted a resolution supporting the location of the Air Force One Museum and White House Photo Gallery in Wilmington. He

said that this would provide an opportunity for enhancement funding which will be outside of the equity formula.

Ms. Padgett pointed out that the museum is to be privately funded. Mr. Thurlow suggested adding wording to the resolution stating that the land will revert back to the NC Department of Transportation if they can not build the museum.

Mr. Thurlow made the motion to support locating a privately-constructed Air Force One Museum and White House Photo Gallery on North Carolina Department of Transportation property near the intersection of north Kerr Avenue and Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway in Wilmington. Mr. Ballard seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

## **6. New Business**

### **a. Adoption of the 2009 TAC meeting calendar**

Mr. Thurlow made the motion to accept the calendar. Mr. Saffo seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### **b. Resolution supporting the allocation of State Transportation Improvement Program funds for stormwater improvements on S. College Road**

Mr. Kozlosky told members included in the College/Oleander intersection improvements project were stormwater improvements that are being coordinated with the City's Cedar Avenue out-fall project. Staff is proposing to leave \$500,000 in the College/Oleander intersection improvement project for the completion of those stormwater improvements. He said the resolution also requests that the Department of Transportation evaluate other alternatives for that intersection to improve capacity and safety. Mr. Thurlow made the motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Gilbert seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **c. Resolution supporting the City of Wilmington's application for Safe Routes to School grant funding**

Mr. Mello told members there has been another call for Safe Routes to School grants. Staff is proposing to submit an application for Holly Tree Elementary School. The project will continue a sidewalk that was partially extended and make improvements to the pedestrian and bicycle entrance at the rear of the property. Mr. Thompson made the motion to support the City of Wilmington's application for the Safe Routes to School grant funding for Holly Tree Elementary School. Mr. Barfield seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### **d. Resolution supporting the use of NCDOT funding to partner with the City of Wilmington for the construction of sidewalks along Wooster Street**

Mr. Mello told members the City of Wilmington has completed the design for sidewalks on Wooster Street between S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Oleander Drive. The City of Wilmington has budgeted \$150,000 for the construction of the project. Staff is proposing to partner with NCDOT to install these sidewalks using Pedestrian Safety funding. Mr. Kozlosky told members this is consistent with the Dawson/Wooster Corridor Plan that was completed in 2007. Mr. Saffo made the motion to support requesting the use of NCDOT funding to partner with the City of Wilmington for the construction of sidewalks along Wooster Street. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**e. Resolution encouraging North Carolina Turnpike Authority, North Carolina Department of Transportation, City of Wilmington and/or Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization work collaboratively to acquire the property for the proposed Madison Place Apartment complex and work to preserve the future Cape Fear Skyway corridor from encroaching development**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that on January 24, 2006 the City of Wilmington filed a Transportation Official Corridor map to preserve the Cape Fear Skyway corridor from the encroaching Madison Place Apartment complex. The 3-year preservation period for the property is set to expire in October 2009, leaving only 9 months to purchase this property before the developer begins construction. This resolution encourages the North Carolina Turnpike Authority, North Carolina Department of Transportation, City of Wilmington and/or Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization to work collaboratively to acquire the property and work to preserve the future Cape Fear Skyway corridor. Mr. Gilbert said this committee needs to task someone to lead the project. Ms. Padgett suggested the resolution include language directing the Wilmington MPO's Executive Director serve as the key liaison to ensure the acquisition of the Madison Place Apartments and the preservation of the Cape Fear Skyway corridor. Mr. Ballard made the motion to approve the resolution with the addition of directing Mr. Kozlosky facilitate the process. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion and the vote carried unanimously.

**f. Resolution supporting Economic Stimulus projects in the Wilmington Urban Area**

Mr. Kozlosky told members this resolution is requesting consideration for critical regional transportation projects to be included in an economic stimulus package. The City of Wilmington is also developing a list of local transportation project they will be submitting. Mr. Sue asked about projects in Brunswick County. Mr. Kozlosky told members the list must be projects that are "ready to go" within a year. Mr. Saffo told members it is his understanding that these projects must be within a 90 day time period to getting out the door. Mr. Pope told members the first criteria is that the project must be on the national highway system. The Department must have a contract that is ready to go "on street" within 180 days and pay-out must be paid out within a 24 month period. Mr. Gilbert asked if members of the MPO were solicited for project requests to be included on the list of projects. Mr. Kozlosky said staff took the list from DOT project list and other projects in the area. Mr. Saffo made the motion to support the resolution. Mr. Sue asked Mr. Pope where Phase 2 of Village Road stands. Mr. Pope said it may fall within the criteria for projects. Mr. Sue offered a substitute motion adding the Village Road project to the list if it qualifies. Mr. Ballard seconded the substitute motion and the resolution carried unanimously.

**7. Discussion**

**a. Safety concerns with the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge**

Mr. Saffo told member the City of Wilmington has concerns about the speed limit on the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge. He suggested the Department of Transportation consider reducing the speed limit due to the safety concerns. Ms. Padgett told member staff has drafted a resolution requesting that the Department of Transportation evaluate and implement safety and incident management improvements for the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge. She suggested including the request for the reduction of the speed limit on the bridge to 35 mph. Mr. Kozlosky said the resolution is asking DOT analyze the safe concerns and determine what can be done to address the problems. The resolution would leave it up to the Department's professionals to develop any strategies that can be implemented. Mr. Sue made the motion to support the resolution as written. Mr. Ballard seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

## **8. Project Updates**

### **a. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Transportation Committee**

Mr. Kozlosky reviewed several of the suggestions included in the report from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Transportation Committee. The General Assembly will be considering the recommendations beginning in January during the long session.

### **b. Market Street Corridor Study**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the corridor study presentations to the local municipalities will take place in January and February.

### **b. Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)**

Mr. Mello told members the CAC has elected their chair and vice chair and members have also been looking at preliminary alternatives for access to the new port in Southport.

### **c. Bike/Pedestrian Committee**

Mr. Mello told members the Bike/Ped committee members are working on a Pedestrian Safety awareness project with WAVE transit.

### **d. NCDOT Project Update**

attached

## **9. Announcements**

- a. Election of Officers – January meeting**
- b. Wilmington Bike/Pedestrian Committee meeting- January 8<sup>th</sup>**
- c. Wrightsville Beach Bicycle Facilities Study – Open House – January 12<sup>th</sup>**

## **10. Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm

Respectfully submitted

Mike Kozlosky  
Executive Director  
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization