

**MINUTES OF
THE WILMINGTON URBAN AREA
TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
June 12, 2002**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Don Bennett, Traffic Engineer, City of Wilmington
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County Planning
Joe Blair, Construction Engineer, NCDOT
Wayne Clark, Director, Development Services, City of Wilmington
Jane Daughtridge, Town of Carolina Beach
Albert Eby, General Manager, WTA
Jim Flechtner, Traffic Engineer, City of Wilmington
Jane Gilbert, Council Member, Town of Leland (Representing David Hewett)
Roger Hawkins, Roger Hawkins, Traffic Engineer, NCDOT
Dexter Hayes, Dexter Hayes, Planning Director, New Hanover County
Kimberly Hinton, Statewide Planning, NCDOT
Andrea Surratt, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Mark Tinkler, Senior Transportation Planner, City of Wilmington
Penny Tysinger, Cape Fear COG
Melvin Walker, Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Navassa (Representing Michael
Ballard)

OTHERS PRESENT

Lawless Bean, TDM Coordinator, City of Wilmington
Don Eggert, Cape Fear COG

MEMBERS ABSENT

David Bender, NCDOT Rail Division
Dan Thomas, Statewide Planning, NCDOT
Jeff Crouchley, NCDOT, PTD
Vickie Gooch, Town Clerk, Belville
Cris Mowrey, Director, State Ports Authority
Julie Wilsey, Wilmington International Airport
Dave Weaver, Asst. Manager, New Hanover County
Pat Strong, Federal Highway Administration
Allen Pope, Division Engineer, NCDOT

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Everyone was asked to introduce himself/herself.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 8, 2001 Meeting

Mr. Bennett made a correction on page 3, 7th paragraph, line 2, “He pointed out that the coating on the poles cost \$1,200 if galvanized and \$700 if just coated and are more wind resistant.” A motion was then made by Mr. Clark and duly seconded that the minutes be approved as amended. The vote carried unanimously.

URBAN AREA BOUNDARY

Mr. Tinkler said this item did not require TCC action.

Ms. Hinton reviewed the map. She stated that the orange line represented new proposed boundaries which include Carolina and Kure Beaches. In Brunswick County, it includes the Bypass. She explained that the boundaries are flexible. The MPO boundary must reflect the 2000 urbanized area as well as the additional area likely to be urbanized in twenty-five (25) years.

Ms. Gilbert pointed out that Leland has plans for expanding/annexations.

Ms. Hinton said that technically, the TCC does not have to officially recommend approval of the boundaries until next year. However, we would like to finalize these now to assist us with our travel demand model data updates as well as the update to the MPO Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to include Carolina Beach and Kure Beach.

Ms. Tysinger recommended that a clause be inserted stating that all annexations be included in the RPO.

Ms. Hinton stated that it would be desirable to establish a boundary now that would include likely annexations. However, the boundary could be adjusted in the future should annexations extend beyond the boundary of the MPO.

Mr. Bennett asked if Federal Paper had plans to build its own community in Brunswick County. He commented that it would be important to include such developments in our modeling updates.

Ms. Hinton said that they would be included.

Mr. Tinkler stated that the boundary map would be drafted in more detail and would be distributed to the TCC and TAC members.

RELEASE OF DRAFT 2004-2010 TIP

Mr. Tinkler highlighted three projects that were delayed from the target schedules shown in the final 2002-2008 TIP.

1. Military Cutoff widening – delayed one year;
2. Gordon Road widening to multi-lanes – delayed two to four years; and
3. Bridge over Bradley Creek - delayed for one year.

Mr. Eggert stated that there is another round of TIP public hearings scheduled for this Fall.

Mr. Hayes was concerned with the delay of the Gordon Road project. He feels it is a critical project and that it is essential to the northern side of the County.

TIP AMENDMENT – NCDOT PROJECT R-4701, TRAFFIC SYSTEM OPERATIONS PROJECT PROGRAM

Mr. Tinkler said that recently, \$132 million was endorsed by Statewide Planning for maintenance of traffic signals. Ms. Hinton noted that Wilmington has been recognized as having one of the best maintenance systems in the State.

Mr. Bennett briefly described the maintenance program and the levels of service. He feels that the City of Wilmington's level of service for maintenance is B and A in some areas. He said the level of service is calculated on a sliding scale. With this available funding, Mr. Bennett said levels of service can be brought up to level B, whereas they have been funded only at level of service D. He thereby moved that this item be approved and forwarded to the TAC. The motion was duly seconded and the vote carried unanimously.

ENHANCEMENT GRANT APPLICATIONS

Mr. Tinkler said he has received three (3) applications from the City of Wilmington, one from Leland, and one from the Town of Navassa. Ms. Daughtridge said she also had a completed application from Carolina Beach, and Ms. Surratt stated that Wrightsville Beach will also have one.

Ms. Bean explained that one of the City's applications is for a bike lane to provide access to the University.

Mr. Tinkler explained that another of the City's applications was for landscaping treatments for College Road south of Shipyard Boulevard. The third application in the City is from the Wilmington Railroad Museum.

Ms. Hinton asked if that item had been brought before the Bicycle Advisory Committee. Ms. Bean said yes. The bike lane is to get people safely across Wrightsville Avenue and College Road.

Ms. Bunch said Brunswick County will have seven applications going to the RPO.

Ms. Gilbert said they are proposing a bike lane around their Town Hall and the park. The cost of the project is \$80,000. Mr. Walker explained that Navassa's application requests funding for sidewalks on Broadway Street. The estimated cost is \$50,000.

Ms. Hinton recommended that the TCC wait and get all projects together so that it can review all of them at one time.

Mr. Clark made a motion to table this item until all Enhancement applications have been received and reviewed. The TAC would be notified that the TCC could not recommend endorsement until such time as the TCC could review all applications. Due to the timing of the Enhancement deadline and TCC/TAC meeting schedules, this was not possible today. The motion was then seconded by Mr. Bennett and the vote carried unanimously.

MARKET STREET SPEED LIMIT TRANSITION

Mr. Tinkler stated that Mayor Peterson requested that the speed limit transition on Market Street between the railroad tracks and Colonial/Barnard Drives be placed on the TAC agenda. Ms. Bean pointed out that this issue was raised at a Town Hall meeting.

Mr. Walker suggested that the speed limit be changed to 45 mph throughout Market Street. Mr. Hawkins stated that an adjustment in the speed limit would require a resolution.

Mr. Hawkins stated that current signage informing motorists of the speed limit reduction meets all accepted engineering standards.

Mr. Clark suggested that the TCC notify the TAC of the fact that current signage does meet standards. He suggested that the TCC be notified also of the three (3) possible courses of action: 1) raise speed limit, 2) do nothing – meets standards, and 3) add additional warning signs.

Mr. Tinkler said he would pass this information on to the TAC.

ORIGIN AND DESTINATION SURVEYS RFP

Mr. Clark stated that we will not be able to do this survey before the end of this fiscal year due to staffing concerns. It had been previously thought that the City needed to encumber the funds by the end of this fiscal year. However, this is not the case. Now that we have the appropriate staff, we will take the time to revise and issue the RFP.

Mr. Tinkler stated that staff will present the RFP for TCC/TAC approval in July, advertise the RFP the month of August, and select the consultant in September. Also, he stated that a PWP amendment would be forthcoming to increase the funding level of this project.

LONG RANGE PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Tinkler stated that federal requirements mandate the completion of our LRP update by 9/2004. However, staff is planning to request that we submit documentation of our continuing planning program according to "simplified procedures" so that we can extend the 9/2004 deadline. The reason for extension is so that we can complete the full update of the travel demand model in sync with the City's Land Use Plan Update. The extension will allow us to both continue to receive federal planning funds and to submit a long range transportation plan of the highest quality reflecting the community's vision as well as thorough technical analyses.

Ms. Hinton said she discussed this item with the Federal Highway Administration who said that there would be no problem as long as we are proceeding with the project.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Tinkler
Senior Transportation Planner

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