

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Meeting Notes for January 8, 2003**

Members Present:

Bill Bennett, NC State Ports
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County Planning
Cameron Moore, Town of Leland Planning
Joe Blair, Division Construction Engineer, NCDOT
Don Bennett, City Traffic Engineer, City of Wilmington
Dexter Hayes, Director, New Hanover County Planning
Albert Eby, WTA
Andrea Surratt, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Penny Tysinger, Cape Fear COG
Mark Tinkler, Senior Transportation Planner, City of Wilmington
Lawless Bean, TDM Coordinator, City of Wilmington
Renee Roach, DOT Area Traffic Operations and Safety
Jane Daughtridge, Planning and Development, Carolina Beach
Julie Wilsey, Deputy Director, Wilmington International Airport
Darrell Hensdale, Statewide Planning, NCDOT
Kevin Denny, Senior Long Range Planner, City of Wilmington

Staff Present:

Penny Bray, Administrative Support Technician

1. Call to Order:

Chairman Mark Tinkler called the meeting to order at 10:07am.

2. Approval Of Minutes:

Corrections were needed to the December 8th minutes: Don Eggert's name should be moved off the members present list because he is not a member of the TCC. Also, page 2, paragraph 2, the word "and" should be added to item # 2 on The Top 5 Items on the Transportation Priorities List. It should read: 2. Widening and extension of Kerr Ave. Corrections will be made to the minutes, with that, Helen Bunch moved to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Bill Bennett and carried unanimously.

3. Old Business:

a. Review of Special TAC meeting of 12/10/02

- Review of options for Military Cutoff Road Extension. Normal NCDOT project development schedule would likely lead to a possibly 14-year time frame. If we are to acquire the portion of the potential corridor between Gordon Road and Murrayville Road, we will have to act locally.

b. Review of TAC meeting of 12/19/02

- Resolution approved to form Southern Bridge Action Group to pursue obtaining federal funding for feasibility study and to initiate contact with the new North Carolina Turnpike Authority.
- Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) appointments were made. The organizational meeting will be January 23rd, 1/2 hour before the regular TAC meeting. This committee will meet quarterly

beginning in March a few weeks before the March TAC meeting and the chairman of the group will report to the TAC.

- TAC approved 15-minute public comment period at beginning of TAC meetings.
- Group made a presentation for the lighting of the Memorial Bridge prior to the regular meeting.

4. 2003-2004 Planning Work Program (PWP)

- PWP approval by TAC is due in late February. DOT would like a draft in the next couple weeks. Members were asked to take the proposed PWP back to respective jurisdictions for review. Even though draft is submitted to DOT the beginning of February, it will still be subject to discussion. We will work through it at next meeting and then make recommendation to TAC for adoption the end of February.
- Focus of the PWP for the next year will be the development of the Travel Demand Model and Long Range Plan Update that is due September 2004.
- Mr. Hensdale reported that DOT will start traffic count programs and data collection in the spring of this year.
- Mr. Hayes said County is also working on the update of Comprehensive Plan due for 2003/2004.
- Funding may be available for assistance in the collection of land use data and forecasting. We will need to verify census data in our transportation analysis zones and update with data on land use and development that has occurred from April 2000 to April 2003. Will need to add/adjust NCDOT count station locations.
- Mr. Hensdale explained workings of MPO Transportation Plan as opposed to old Thoroughfare Plan to members – he encouraged members to bring local traffic issues before MPO to determine if feasible to coordinate efforts in providing assistance.
- Mr. Tinkler discussed the funding available and a proposed allocation of those funds between staff salaries and consultant projects. It is important to hold some funding in reserve for contingencies that might arise as we develop the travel demand model and Long Range Transportation Plan update. Next year's allocation to the Wilmington MPO indicates an increase of \$41,839 over last year.
- NC Ports addressed the TAC at the December meeting – asking for freight O & D study – expecting doubling of freight in next 5 years. Last study was 7 years ago. Feel better numbers are needed for tracking freight. Types of information needed – origin, destination, routes, final O & D. Should be possible as well as efficient to include needed information for ports into the travel survey that has already been planned. This information should help with future planning for the MPO. Mr. Tinkler will address this possibility with the consultants to cover this in a possible add-on for the survey planned for this year.
- Clarification for new members – Budget estimates shown for the MPO Staffing reflect funding for Transportation Planner is estimated at 30% city time/funding and new position is 20% city time/funding
- TAC approved resolution to advance the Military Cutoff extension feasibility study to be included in the TIP process up for approval by MPO in March. New Hanover County Planning has been working to preserve a partial corridor for past couple years. We must have primary engineering study to deal with environmental issues and the impact of the exact alignment before the county can proceed.

Project could receive some funded from private development especially once the corridor is established.

- Need to address the upgrade of the traffic signal control system in the City of Wilmington for next draft TIP. Current system was installed 1995. Entire system will need upgrade to fiber-optic within 7 to 10 years. NCDOT replacement estimate is 8-10 Million dollars. In a few years the current system will not be maintainable because it will be obsolete.

5. & 6. MPO Projects Update and Regional Project Updates:

- Received draft copy of Transit Merger Feasibility report for WTA and NHTS. Recommendations are to combine boards as the 1st step. Combined Boards will take next steps to merge the two systems.
- Last year MPO boundary was extended because the census showed the urbanized area boundary had grown since 1990. The MPO and NCDOT are authorized to approve an adjusted urbanized area boundary to be used for planning purposes. Roadway functional classification must then be adjusted to match the new urbanized area boundary. Functional classification is also revisited as a rule every 10 years as well that review and adjustment is taking place now.

7. Spring Transportation Summit:

- TAC Chairman, Mayor Peterson would like to have another transportation summit to be modeled after the last in 1999 sometime in mid-May. He would like to select a date in which the Secretary of Transportation, Lyndo Tippett can attend as guest speaker. The all day event will have a number of sessions during the day to discuss topics of interest. Suggested topics included future economic development, the Toll Authority/Southern Bridge, regional transportation issues, I-74's development, and alternative transportation modes and including bikeways and trails and the added benefits they can provide.

8. Meetings and Other Announcements:

- MPO/NCDOT TIP review session will be held March 6th in Raleigh. Chairman Peterson and Vice-Chairman Sue will attend.

9. New Business:

- Mr. Moore volunteered to help Mr. Tinkler develop a web page for the MPO. Mark will send everyone the address for the current MPO site. Development of this site could prove to be a great resource to provide interested citizens with regional information pertaining to transportation issues and updates. The site could also include TDM information for coordination of ride sharing and a source for alternate transportation information.

10. Adjournment:

With there being no other items of new business, Ms. Tysinger made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Bunch seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:50am.

Respectfully submitted

Mark Tinkler
TCC Chairman