

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Meeting Notes for April 9, 2003**

Members Present:

Don Bennett, Traffic Engineering, City of Wilmington
 Dexter Hayes, Director, New Hanover County Planning
 Albert Eby, General Manager, WTA
 Penny Tysinger, CFCOG
 Mark Tinkler, Senior Transportation Planner, City of Wilmington, MPO Coordinator
 Lawless Bean, TDM Coordinator, City of Wilmington
 Jane Daughtridge, Planning & Development, Carolina Beach
 Tracie Davis, Town of Wrightsville Beach
 Cameron Moore, Town of Leland
 Allen Pope, Division Engineer, NCDOT
 Deborah Houston, New Hanover Transportation Services
 Bill Bennett, NC State Ports
 Don Eggert, Cape Fear RPO (ex-officio)

1. Call to Order:

Chairman Mark Tinkler called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

2. Approval Of Minutes:

Corrections were needed for the minutes from the March 12th meeting. With corrections noted, the motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Penny Tysinger and Mr. Dexter Hayes seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

3. Old Business:

Mr. Tinkler updated everyone on the TAC meetings that were held on 3/27 and 4/8.

d. - v. Special TAC Meeting 4/8 (moved forward):

A special meeting was held on 4/8 to present members with more information for consideration for the funding of the External Travel Survey. Estimated total cost for the Household Travel Survey and the External Cordon Travel Survey combined is \$283,000. Mr. Tinkler reviewed funding information within four funding scenarios covered in the memo he sent to members. After discussions and questions, members chose to approve the following funding scenario for the External Cordon Travel Survey:

Scenario 2: \$160,000 consultant contract
NCDOT Statewide Planning (SPR) funds = \$30,000
 Cost subject to local match = \$130,000; 20% local match = \$26,000
"new" MOU funding share formula

Local Match Breakdown	Remaining 2002-2003 Budgeted Contribution available for External Cordon Travel Survey (\$150,000-\$123,000) (\$27,000*.2=\$5,400)	Additional 2002-2003 Contribution (\$103,000*.2=\$20,600)
City of Wilmington	\$2,813	\$10,733

New Hanover County	\$1,928	\$7,354
Brunswick County	\$189	\$721
Carolina Beach	\$157	\$597
Leland	\$130	\$494
Wrightsville Beach	\$81	\$309
Kure Beach	\$49	\$185
Navassa	\$43	\$165
Belville	\$11	\$41

a. Signed MOU is back from NCDOT:

MOU was returned yesterday. Copies will be included in the TCC Information Manual we are working on for distribution to all members. Copies are being mailed to all clerks for various boards and commissions with a cover note and copies will be distributed to TAC members at their next meeting the end of the month.

b. Disposition of College and Oleander PWP project:

Mr. Wilson confirmed that it will go on the May Board of Transportation agenda to be approved as a feasibility study in the upcoming TIP and will be funded outside our MPO money. Scope will include the approach corridors to the intersection and cost will exceed the \$50,000 mentioned earlier for the full-scale project. A steering committee is being organized and it will include County, City and MPO members for input into the project.

c. TIP – Transit Element adopted:

The transit element of the TIP was approved at the TAC meeting on the 27th of March. Since that time, the FTA 5307 Urban Capital Grant Program amounts were announced. The purchase of the Trolleys and the three replacement buses for 2006 are being moved to the funded category because funding has now been assured, subject to City approval of local match. The state will also fund a service vehicle, as well as funding for two additional buses from surplus funds. Because of the population numbers in the newly published 2000 census, the 5307 annual allocation increased from \$960 thousand to \$1.4 million because of the population increase.

d. Resolutions adopted:

Mr. Tinkler said the TAC resolved some of the issues that led to conflict at the February meeting. Members decided they are not going to worry about prioritizing projects until fall and they decided to pull out the signal replacement project until that time.

Other resolutions passed at the meeting included support for Congressional Earmarking for the Port of Wilmington Internal Access Road and Front Street Improvement Project and the Regional Transit Facility, and accepting enhancement funds for those projects in the current TIP. The TAC also decided to create a resolution in support of the NC Moving Ahead Program.

e. Middle Sound Bicycle Lane presentation:

Mr. Vic Bane was unable to attend the meeting, therefore this item was postponed until the April 24th TAC meeting.

f. CAC presentation:

The Citizen Advisory Committee had their first meeting the week before the TAC meeting. Temporary officers were appointed and the next meeting date was set for April 21st. Mr. Harold King, acting Chairman, presented a report to TAC members summarizing the CAC meeting. Mr. Tinkler told members he will forward minutes he receives from CAC to TAC members each month.

4. FY 2003-2004 PWP Amendment – Site Feasibility Study for Wilmington Regional Transit Administration Maintenance and Administration Facility

Public Transportation Division has indicated that this study should be in the PWP. That will be coming to TCC members to approve at a future meeting.

5. Consideration of MPO Pedestrian and Bicycle resolution:

Mr. Tinkler passed out copies of the letter and resolution regarding Pedestrian and Bicycle Consideration passed by the NC Association of MPO's to NCDOT in which they are supporting the fact that they feel this is a critical part of any construction. Several other MPO's have passed similar resolutions and Mr. Tinkler said he is bringing this forward for TCC consideration to determine if the Wilmington MPO should formulate a position as well.

Mr. Pope said indeed bicycle and pedestrians are important, but if these modes of transportation are included in the everyday operation of North Carolina Transportation System without additional infusion of funds, it will remove funding from everyday operations. It is great to consider this in places but it does come at a cost.

Mr. Tinkler said he felt that this is an effort to encourage the philosophy of always considering this by default first as opposed to making the decision later in the project that pedestrian and bicycle paths should be added.

Mr. Pope agreed and felt that since the Board of Transportation had already passed a similar resolution that unless you change the wording to show support in a different fashion, he did not foresee the need for an additional resolution of support.

Mr. Pope said he thinks from the MPO standpoint, we would be better served to let our resolutions be more specific than to be making broad general resolutions. Mr. Tinkler suggested that we could do something as simple as an official letter to the Secretary to say we support the board's resolution. Mr. Pope said his purpose in bringing up this discussion up was to clarify what extra benefit would it provide. Ms. Tysinger agreed that we could support these considerations in the form of a letter. Ms. Daughtridge told members she hoped these resolutions are being done because they are going to be the guiding principals by which revisions begin to be made from and if what this is saying is that we would like to see a shift from pure vehicular focus to a more balanced approach to allocating the resources and, by the way, we would like to get more of the resources, then it serves a useful purpose. If not, then maybe it would not be worthwhile but, if it is representative of a shift in guiding principals, then she strongly supports it. Mr. Tinkler said he would write a letter that supports the resolution that he would bring back to the next meeting for consideration.

7. New NCDOT study of Route 17 in Brunswick County: (moved ahead)

Mr. Pope reported that he and Mr. Lanny Wilson attended the Brunswick County Commissioner meeting Monday. The Commissioners passed a resolution of support. It is hoped that the outcome would be to come back with recommendations that the County can support and enact through zoning ordinances and the department could use as a stepping stone to look at ways of trying to maintain the mobility along 17. This study is estimated to cost approximately \$600,000. TCC general consensus was that the steering

committee should also include representation from the towns along the corridor. The start date should be June and it will take approximately 18 months to complete.

6. Transportation Summit – new date July 23rd

Mr. Tinkler told members that the new date for the Transportation Summit will give everyone involved an opportunity to focus more on the local transportation issues and community vision. Mr. Tinkler told members he would like to hear any ideas/direction members may have to increase focus on community vision. Some of the modifications include the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new busses will be held June 3rd in conjunction with the NC Public Transportation Association Conference being held here at the Hilton. Mr. Tinkler told members it had been suggested that we include information on "Incident Management" on the agenda. Ms. Bean suggested that within the subject of incident management, we should incorporate information on safety. Mr. Tinkler asked Mr. Pope who was chairperson for the state wide incident management program. Mr. Pope said Ms. Elizabeth Hedgepeth is the chair of the state-wide program and he is sure someone from that office could come down to give a program during the summit. Ms. Bean also suggested including information on the *Safelight* program. Mr. Tinkler said he feels the primary focus of this summit should be a kickoff for long range transportation planning and to give direction as to what the community wants in terms of capacity vs. access vs. community character, design and all these types of things. Mr. Cameron Moore suggested a simple survey be included sometime during the day so that we could find out what citizens consider important and volunteered to help. Ms. Tysinger said she would like to encourage that we make sure we reach out to the entire MPO. She suggested the name for the summit reflect more than the "Wilmington" Transportation Summit. It should be named and advertised in broad terms so that it reflects the area and regional topics that the MPO addresses. Ms. Tysinger said citizens should have an opportunity to voice their opinion, some type of focus or format during the program for the citizen to give feedback. She also said this is a good opportunity to provide information regarding alternate forms of transportation. Mr. Tinkler told members the summit will be taped for future broadcasting to all area government TV channels and this will provide an excellent opportunity to educate the general population regarding the future of transportation in the area. Mr. Tinkler thanked members for the great suggestions and he will draft a new version for presentation to the TAC.

8. Project Updates:

b. Multi-modal Transportation Center:

The Consultant Selection Committee, made up of representative from the funding partners, NCDOT, City of Wilmington, and Cape Fear Community College, met on Monday, April 7th and short-listed three firms for interviews on April 24th. The selection included Louis Berger, Wallace Blend Design Group and Trans Systems. Mr. Tinkler said the Community College feels strongly about bringing someone new to come aboard. It is important to the college for this to be a fresh look at design concepts. The Community College Board did approve a commitment of at least \$20,000 toward the study.

a. Transit Merger and Master Plan

City Council and County Commissioners approved a resolution that directed both boards and city and county staff to work together to develop an inter-local agreement that will be presented to City and County by the end of this physical year. They are work toward a joint board meeting in mid-May. The steering committee will get together after the joint board meeting and they are given direction by the boards.

c. Household Travel Survey

The Household Travel Survey is underway and going well. The first retrievals were being done today for the people who traveled on Monday.

d. External Cordon Travel Survey

Mr. Tinkler gave members copies of the scope and said they should be able to issue a contract next Wednesday morning. The kick-off meeting will be next Thursday, April 17th to confirm site selection and other details. The survey will hopefully run between May 5th and 10th. There will be roadside intercept for all stations except for I-40. At I-40, video capture of all the license plate data will then be processed through DMV for addresses and mail-back surveys will be used. The roadside intercept survey stations will have tabloid PCs where they can actually point on the map to locate where they going. Post cards will also be distributed from the guard stations for the Port. The contract amount is \$160,000 and will have the information gathered by July from both surveys. Mr. Tinkler told members he would keep everyone posted as the surveys progress.

10. New Business:

Mr. Tinkler told members he had three items of new business.

1. The first is the announcement of Representative Mike McIntyre's support of the bringing I-74 into Wilmington and the I-20 from Florence to Whiteville. Mr. Pope told members about the upcoming meeting next month with NCDOT and SCDOT to discuss issues of their borders. Mr. Pope said he believes the BOT will approve next month the funding to partner with South Carolina's feasibility study to tie into 17.
2. At the last TAC meeting Mayor Willis of Navassa asked that CSX be included as a non-voting member of the TAC. Mr. Tinkler told him he would check to see if it is possible. Based on the opinion of State Wide Planning, they felt it made sense at the TCC level but if the TAC wanted to add them at that level, they would not have a problem with it but suggested he write a letter to TAC members to see their opinion on the possibility.
3. The last thing was that Mr. Hayes had an item regarding the recommendation of the Route 17 bypass committee. The Commissioners asked them to write a letter before construction is too far along with the bypass, to have a temporary crossing at Crooked Pine. They would like to provide a North/South access. Mr. Pope said he is not aware of all the issues but there are two problems, one is that he is within a month of having his permit signed and within two months of letting the contract and it is not included in the contract. It is probably a 5 to 10 million-dollar addition. Mr. Pope said he would like to say as a general statement – they will not do anything to hold up that project.

Mr. Tinkler asked if anyone had any other items of discussion. Ms. Bean brought up the subject of possibly including Yvonne Hatcher with Brunswick Transportation Service as a member of this group. We have representatives from NHTS and WTA as members, so we should think about adding Brunswick County to the membership. Mr. Tinkler told members that the TCC could invite anyone. Ms. Tysinger suggested we make it the same status as NHC and she made the recommendation that we invite someone to represent BTS to participate. Mr. Tinkler asked if we had any discussion regarding adding that position to the TCC. With there being no discussion a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Tinkler said he would contact Ms. Hatcher.

Ms. Bean asked Mr. Tinkler if she could make a couple general announcements regarding TDM activities. Mr. Tinkler turned the floor over to her.

Park and Ride program is to begin May 12th. A kick off event will be at 7am in the Lowe's Home Improvement parking lot. The initial route will include service to New Hanover County Schools Complex, New Hanover Regional Medical Center, Health Department, DSS and then on to

downtown at Thalian Hall. There are some legal issues still to be worked out with Lowes to be brought before the County on the 5th and with the City on the 6th of May.

She also said she wanted to put in a plug for the Bike-to-Work Week which starts the 12th of May also. The main activities will be on the 13th the BAC is going to contact local officials to see if they are willing to participate.

She told members she had good news she wanted to share regarding funding for Ride Matching Software. The state looked at purchasing a statewide license and offering it to any community who might be interested in participating. This will save us the local match. They are purchasing it outright for the statewide level and have very generously agreed to provide ongoing fees. The Triangle Transit Authority will be the lead agency to make it move more quickly and we are looking at implementation for them in the summer and probably us sometime in the fall.

11. Adjournment:

With no further new business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:52am.