

**Wilmington Urban Area  
Technical Coordinating Committee  
Meeting Notes for October 15, 2003**

**Members Present:**

Lawless Bean, TDM Coordinator  
Bill Bennett, NC State Ports  
Don Bennett, City Traffic Engineer, City of Wilmington  
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County  
Tom Cunningham, Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce  
Jonathan David, Transportation Planning, City of Wilmington  
Traci Davis, Planning, Wrightsville Beach  
Albert Eby, Wilmington Transit  
Dexter Hayes, New Hanover County  
Bruce Johnston, City of Wilmington  
Cameron Moore, Town of Leland  
Jonathan Parker, NCDOT  
Mark Tinkler, City of Wilmington, MPO Coordinator  
Penny Tysinger, CFCOG  
Julie Wilsey, Wilmington International Airport

**1. Call to Order:**

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

**2. Approval Of Minutes:**

Mr. Cameron Moore made the motion to approve the minutes from September 10<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Don Bennett seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

**3. Old Business:**

**a. 2006-2012 TIP Public Input Meeting solicitation – Project Priority List:**

The TAC decided to forward their existing list of priorities to the public input meeting being held in Bolivia, October 30 by the DOT in the interim until we have our long-range plan update completed. After review of the list being forwarded for input, there was realization of the need to include the Southern Bridge to that list, so they held a special meeting on October 9<sup>th</sup> and amended the list to include the Southern Bridge in place of College and Oleander.

Mr. Tinkler told members the concept for College and Oleander is still under development and the study commissioned by the DOT has been awarded to a consultant and the scope is being reviewed now. Mr. Don Bennett, Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Tinkler are all on the steering committee. They will keep this group informed on the progress of that project.

**b. Public Participation Policy:**

Mr. David told members that the TAC approved the Public Participation Policy. It will be going into the paper for the 45-day review.

**c. Web Page update:**

E-Search was selected to provide support for the MPO web page. They are a local company and they are willing to grow with us. The soft ware should arrive at the end of this month to get the web page up and running.

**4. Roundabout design workshop summary (Don Bennett):**

Mr. Tinkler turned the meeting over to Mr. Bennett for a report on the roundabout workshop.

Mr. Bennett gave members a brief history of roundabouts and their uses in the smooth movement of traffic. Mr. Bennett told members that roundabouts rarely exceed 80 to 100 feet in diameter. Another defining character is that traffic has to yield on entry; thereby, the inside does not clog up, not allowing people from the outside to get in. Because of their small size, speeds are kept very low; design speeds they were looking at were in the 20 to 25 mph range. By keeping the low speeds, the two benefits are that 1) if pedestrians are hit, the survival rate is much better; and 2) if vehicular traffic is involved in a conflict, damage is relatively low with no personal injury usually involved. Roundabouts are found to be more efficient than a traffic signal because of the time delay with the cycling light change. They will handle traffic volume up to 55-60 thousand cars a day. Roundabouts are a very effective alternative to traffic signals because they do not need ongoing maintenance or use electricity. Mr. Bennett answered questions from TCC members following his presentation.

**5. NC 133 growth and development issues – regarding feasibility study request (Cameron Moore):**

Mr. Tinkler told members that the TAC brought up the issue of NC 133 in Brunswick County and the development pressures that it will be facing soon. Mr. Tinkler turned to meeting over to Mr. Moore for his presentation.

Mr. Moore distributed copies of maps and development data showing the potential growth anticipated in the area generally along Routes 17 and 133 and the land area in between. Statistically, Brunswick County anticipates new development growth potential for 12,156 residential lots and that will generate a population growth of 31,000 people in the area. Leland is expecting 18 to 20 thousand people in the next twenty years just inside of the current corporate limits. The Southern Bridge will have a big impact on the area and it will be important to widen Hwy 133.

**6. FY 2004 PWP – funding available from Military Cutoff Extension preliminary engineering feasibility project (\$70K):**

Mr. Tinkler and Mr. Hayes attended the DOT kick-off meeting for Military Cutoff Extension. He distributed maps showing the two alternative routes being studied for this project. RK&K Engineers out of Raleigh was hired for the feasibility study. When they finish this study, they will have the footprint, all the environmental issues, and the trade off between the two corridors identified. According to their assessment, there is nothing we can add to it by spending the MPO money assigned to the project.

There are two issues to discuss related to this project; 1) give you an update on what is happening with the project, and 2) is there something else that we should recommend to the TAC to reprogram those funds to.

In terms of updating the project, Mr. Hayes told members the project is underway. The County's Technical Review Committee has provided this information to the area developers so they will be aware

of the traffic studies and can incorporate the information into their plans. Mr. Hayes said Mr. Wilson, who is a member of the Board of Transportation, was very helpful in getting this project on the fast-track.

Mr. Tinkler suggested members think about possible projects to apply the money to between now and the December meeting.

#### **7. Request for traffic counting equipment replacement (Bruce Johnston):**

Mr. Tinkler introduced Mr. Bruce Johnston who is the Traffic Engineering Technician. Mr. Johnston came to make a special funding request for new traffic counters.

Mr. Johnston distributed information regarding the need for the new equipment and the cost. He explained that the current counters are experiencing numerous equipment failures, and they are technologically out of date. They still operate on the old DOS systems and it is a challenge to download count information into any format usable by department. To meet the present data collection needs, we need to have 18 traffic counters in operation. Mr. Johnston said he is requesting the purchase of a total of ten (10) new ADR 1000 counters for the department. He is here today to ask for recommendation to purchase five new counters in the amount of \$4,940 with the remaining five needed to be funded in next years budget. It is his plan to phase out the old counters completely in time.

Ms. Tysinger asked if there was money in the budget that could be allocated to purchase the equipment. Mr. Tinkler said there were funds available. Ms. Tysinger made the motion the forward the request to purchase 5 new counters to the TAC for approval. Mr. Hayes seconded the motion. With no further discussion the vote was approved.

#### **8. AMPO Membership:**

Mr. Tinkler told members he had an inquiry as to why we are not members of the organization. We have been members in the past and perhaps the membership lapsed due to cost of dues. AMPO has since made changes to its dues structure to accommodate smaller MPOs. With the new process, membership should be only \$860 per year for our MPO. Mr. Tinkler said he felt the organization would be of benefit to our MPO. The item was continued until the December meeting and Mr. Tinkler agreed to provide information on how many other North Carolina MPOs are members of AMPO at that time.

#### **9. NCAMPO Conference summary (Jonathan David and Bruce Johnston):**

Mr. Tinkler told members that Mr. David, Mr. Johnston and Mr. Parker attended the NCAMPO conference in Asheville October 1<sup>st</sup> through the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Everyone reported that it was truly a worthwhile event and they found the workshops to be both informative and interesting. Mr. David said it will give us insight into planning the next NCAMPO Conference being held here in 2004.

Mr. Tinkler advised members that there will be an organizational meeting for the Conference Committee consisting of MPO staff, Mr. Don Eggert with the RPO, and anyone else who is interested, on October 22<sup>nd</sup> to begin planning for the 2004 conference. The MPOs and the RPOs will jointly host the conference and the dates are October 20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>. It will be held downtown at the Hilton here in Wilmington. Mr. Tinkler asked that everyone think about the event and participate in planning process because we want this to be the best quality conference possible. We can expect attendance in excess of 250 people.

#### **10. 2004 Meeting Calendar:**

Mr. Tinkler distributed a copy of the proposed TAC and TCC meeting calendar for next year. He asked members to check these dates with their calendars and bring back for discussion at the next meeting. Once the long-range plan is adopted, he is also recommending that the TCC meet monthly and the TAC go to quarterly meetings. Mr. Tinkler said he thinks this will help both groups function better.

## **11. Project Updates:**

### **a. Transit Service Master Plan – public meetings, Tuesday, Dec. 4th**

Mr. David told members the Transit Service Master Plan is currently underway. We have received the first two chapters to edit. There will be a stakeholders meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup> at WTA and they will be holding public meeting later that same day.

Mr. David also updated members on a related project. They are working on the Administrative Maintenance Transfer Facility project and the RFP is with Mike Kozak for review. They hope to get the RFP out early next week. Proposals will be due November 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **b. Navassa Collector Street Plan:**

Mr. Tinkler told members the contract should be signed this week. There will be two major public meetings as part of the project to provide input into the collector street plan.

### **c. Carolina Beach North End Traffic and Circulation Study:**

The committee selected Wilbur Smith & Associates and the contract should be signed this week.

### **d. Regional Travel Survey reports to be delivered this month:**

Mr. Tinkler told members he will forward the final versions to everyone in PDF format as soon as he gets it back from the consultant.

### **e. Other member agency projects:**

Ms. Bean told members she has a draft schedule for the Brunswick Connector Project. The final date has not yet been set but they hope to launch in early November. She will advise everyone when the date has been decided.

Ms Bean also informed members that the ride-match software funding was approved by the Board of Transportation at their most recent board meeting.

## **12. New Business:**

There were no items of new business.

## **13. Announcements:**

The Citizen Advisory Committee will be meeting again on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. David told members the topic for the meeting will be safety and enforcement issues. He has invited the Chief of Police and the District Attorney to attend the meeting to make a presentation to the group.

## **14. Adjournment:**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:38am.