

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Meeting Notes for February 11, 2004**

Members Present:

Mark Tinkler, City of Wilmington, MPO Coordinator
Lawless Bean, TDM Coordinator
Bill Bennett, NC State Ports
Don Bennett, City of Wilmington
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County Planning
Tom Cunningham, Chamber of Commerce
Jonathan David, Associate Transportation Planner, City of Wilmington
Don Eggert, Cape Fear RPO
Dexter Hayes, New Hanover County
Jonathan Parker, NCDOT Statewide Planning
Patrick Riddle, NCDOT Division 3

1. Call to Order:

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

2. Approval Of Minutes from January 14th:

The motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Hayes and seconded by Mr. Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Old Business:

a. TAC Approval for 2004 Calendar:

Mr. Tinkler told members the TAC did approve the 2004 Calendar. Meetings have now been shifted to the 4th Wednesday as apposed to the 4th Thursday of the month.

There were not other new items of Old Business.

4. 2004-2005 Planning Work Program Schedule – call for planning projects:

Mr. Tinkler reminded members the deadline for PWP projects has been extended from March 1st to May 1st due to the uncertainties in the reauthorization of the Federal Transportation Bill. Mr. Tinkler told members that thus far the only project that has come to his attention is the request for a Collector Street Plan update for the Town of Leland.

Mr. Tinkler asked if anyone else had any other projects to be considered for the PWP. No one had any other projects to add at this time. Mr. Tinkler told members if something did come up that needed to be included in the call for projects, please email to him and he will circulate it among TCC Members.

5. Transportation Planning Branch MPO Evaluation Report:

Mr. Tinkler turned the meeting over to Mr. Parker.

Mr. Parker told members he wanted to make an announcement. State Wide Planning Branch is now called the Transportation Planning Branch, a more appropriate name for clarification of the Branch functions.

Mr. Parker distributed copies of the Review of MPO Boundaries, Structure and Governance. This is a legislative mandated review of each MPO. It is done after the census results and it is tied to the update of the MAB Boundaries. The document encourages cooperation between planning agencies and also encourages consolidation of neighboring or adjacent MPOs. This does not apply to Wilmington and will not need to be taken before the TAC for action but he said he would like to get comments from the TCC members after they get a chance to review it.

Mr. Parker suggested emailing any comments/suggestions to him by the 19th so he can have it ready for distribution at the next TAC meeting.

6. NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative:

Mr. Parker distributed copies of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative. He told members he would like to cover some of the highlights of the initiative. The NCDOT is announcing the initiation of a new program to encourage the development of comprehensive municipal bicycle plans and pedestrian plans. A total of \$750,000 will be available over the next two years for this matching grant program. All North Carolina municipalities are eligible and are encouraged to apply. He did stress that this is only for municipalities; regional entities are not eligible for the funds.

He told members that more information and the link to resources are available at the NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative website at www.itre.ncsu.edu/ptg/ncdot/index.html

April 2nd is the deadline for application submittals.

7. Wilmington MPO Logo:

Mr. Tinkler referred to the example board for the suggested MPO logos. The majority of the TCC members preferred the example A.

8. Southern Bridge/Tunnel – NC Turnpike authority Meetings March 18th:

Mr. Tinkler asked Mr. David to update everyone on what transpired at the last TAC meeting regarding the proposed Southern Bridge logo for use at the Turnpike Authority Meeting in March.

Mr. David told members that the TAC felt it was important to remember that the project may be a tunnel instead of a bridge and that should be reflected in the logo for the project. Mr. David told them he would go back to the City graphic person and ask her to look at redesigning the logo.

After discussion on the redesign of the logo, the general consensus of the TCC was that the logo should be kept simple and recommended that the bridge logo approved at the last meeting should be used for the March Turnpike Authority meeting.

Mr. Tinkler said he will talk with Lanny Wilson and get input on how to proceed with the logo.

9. Projects Updates

a. Transit Service Master Plan and WTA/NHTS Merger:

February 16th is the joint County / City presentation on the merger. The presentation will focus on the first year plan, primarily the merging and expansion of services. The target for implementation of the Master Plan is July 1, 2005.

b. WNHTA Administration/Maintenance/Transfer Facility:

Mr. David told members they selected Trans Systems as consultant for the analysis of the facility and in the process of rewriting the scope and negotiating the fee. They will be looking at keeping the facility in one location or possibly splitting it into two separate location because of land acquisition costs and possible traffic impacts. Ted Reek will be the project manager. The first phase of the study will begin immediately and not have to wait for the municipal agreement between the City and the State to be put in place.

c. Multimodal Transportation Center:

Mr. Tinkler updated everyone on the Bus Tour of other multimodal center around the state on February 10th. The trip was very informative and everyone seemed to find it helpful.

d. Military Cutoff Road widening project:

Mr. Riddle distributed copies of the map from the NCDOT regarding the project. He told members he recently spoke to Roger Hawkins and the intersection of Town Center Drive and Caymon Court will have a new signal installed as part of the project. Another item of importance is that the part of the project from Gordon Road up to Market Street is going to be Phase I and it will be "let" in April.

e. I-140/Route 17 Bypass – I-40:

Mr. Riddle told everyone that everything is on schedule for the bypass. The A portion of the MLK Parkway has a completion date of August 2005 and the B portion completion date is December of 2005. The first portion from Scottshill to I-40 has been awarded to Barnhill and they are already working. The other three projects to take you from I-40 to 421, have completion dates for: **1)** US117 to 132 completion to be July of 2005, **2)** the large bridge project completion date November 2004, **3)** the interchange project completion date is summer/fall of this year.

Mr. Riddle suggested touring the new bridge project if the TCC is interested. Everyone in attendance indicated they would like to tour the bridge. Mr. Riddle said he would contact O.T. Anderson to make arrangements and call Mr. Tinkler with the details as soon as possible. Mr. Tinkler suggested they also include members of the TAC.

f. Navassa Collector Street Plan:

Mr. David told members the next public meeting for the Collector Street Plan will be February 18th at 7:30pm. He is currently working on the land use part of the plan with Haskel.

g. Other member agency projects:

Mr. Riddle also wanted to let everyone that the NC Moving Ahead projects have been let and the bids are coming in very high. Some projects are coming in 20 to 30 percent higher than anticipated.

10. 2004 NCAMPO Conference Planning update:

Mr. Tinkler told members Mr. David attended the NCAMPO Board Meeting on January 30th. Mr. Tinkler said he will be conference calling John Tippet, who is the Chair, regarding the keynote speaker. They

may not be comfortable with an inspirational speaker being the keynote. Mr. Tinkler said he will discuss this and will update TCC members on the outcome of the discussion.

11.& 12 New Business/Announcements:

Mr. Tinkler asked members if anyone has any items of New Business.

Mr. Riddle said he wanted to mention the Carolina Bays Parkway Meeting was rescheduled for the 24th of February, 4:30 to 7:30 at the Jessie May Monroe Elementary School.

Mr. Eggert told members he had a couple things. He and Mr. Tinkler are meeting with the transportation planner with Waccamaw Planning and Development Commission Friday to share information. He also said he wanted to mention Si Cantwell article a couple weeks ago regarding the I-73/74 association. He and Mr. David attended a meeting a couple weeks ago with the counties and cities along the corridor. Congressman McIntyre will be attending the upcoming meeting regarding the corridor media blitz on the March 29th to help increase awareness on the project.

Mr. Don Bennett informed members that the North Carolina Section for the Institute of Transportation Engineers is having a local meeting March 12th in New Hanover County. They are developing an agenda and would appreciate suggestions for items. Mr. Tinkler suggested that someone make a presentation on implementation of the new Driveway Manual. Mr. Bennett said if anyone had any other suggestions, to please get in touch with him.

13. Adjournment:

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:58am.