

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Meeting Notes for March 10, 2004**

Members Present:

Mark Tinkler, City of Wilmington, MPO Coordinator
Bill Bennett, NC State Ports
Don Bennett, City of Wilmington
Pate Butler, Area Traffic Engineer, NCDOT
Scott Chase, Planning Director, Town of Carolina Beach
Tom Cunningham, Executive Director, Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce
Jonathan David, Associate Transportation Planner, City of Wilmington
Dexter Hayes, Planning Director, New Hanover County
Cameron Moore, Planning Director, Town of Leland
Jonathan Parker, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch
Penny Tysinger, Director, Planning & Development, Cape Fear Council of Governments

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes from 2/11/04

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

3. Old Business

a. TAC meeting 2/25/04

Mr. Tinkler updated everyone on the February 25th TAC Meeting. The meeting was held at Carolina Beach Town Hall. Mr. Calvin Peck, Town Manager, gave a brief presentation on the Carolina Beach North End Traffic and Circulation Study that was funded by the MPO. There were other items to note from the meeting that will be covered later in the agenda.

b. MPO PL fund reimbursement request and member agency invoices submitted

The MPO planning fund reimbursement request was submitted to the NCDOT and member agency invoices have been sent for the period July 1 to December 31st.

4. 2004-2005 Planning Work Program (PWP)

Mr. Tinkler told members the target date for TAC approval is the April 28th meeting. There were three projects submitted for consideration. The first project suggested was to update the Leland Collector Street Plan and include the unincorporated areas just west of the town limits in the study. The second project is rerouting of Business Route 17 through Wilmington. The third project suggested was to assess streetscape improvements for North 3rd Street in Wilmington.

Because funding is not available for all three projects, Mr. Tinkler recommended selecting the updating of the Leland Collector Plan and the rerouting of Business Route 17 for forwarding to the TAC. He said voting was not necessary at this time but he would like to have input on the projects to recommend to the TAC. The group concurred with his recommendations and official voting for the projects will be done at the next meeting.

5. **NCAMPO Discussion - NCDOT PL Fund Allocation – Resolution**

Mr. Tinkler distributed copies of a letter from the North Carolina Association of MPOs requesting support for a new formula for distribution of FHWA Section 104(f) "PL" funds by the NCDOT. They are requesting each MPO review this matter in preparation of voting at their next meeting on March 26th.

Mr. Tinkler made a presentation explaining the NCAMPO discussion regarding this issue and a question and answer session followed. The current formula is 50% equity and 50% by population. The largest MPOs are seeking to change the formula to increase their allocations by reducing the equity portion, a stronger population component, and the balance according to TMA status and air quality non-attainment status. After the discussions on the request, Mr. Tinkler asked members for their recommendations. Mr. Moore made the motion to oppose any amendment to the NCDOT Section 104(f) PL Fund Distribution Formula that would reduce current or future funding to the Wilmington Urban Area and Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the vote to oppose carried unanimously.

6. **Resolution – Thoroughfare Plan Amendment: Add Magnolia Street in Brunswick County as an Urban Collector**

Mr. Tinkler told members this item was introduced by Commissioner Bill Sue. Mr. Tinkler said there was discussion at the last TAC meeting regarding this resolution and he was instructed to draft this resolution for the next meeting. The proposal is to add Magnolia Street and its extension west to Lincoln Road and Mount Misery Road from Old Mill Road as a minor thoroughfare in the Town of Navassa and Brunswick County.

After a discussion of the proposed resolution by all present, Mr. Parker recommended that this proposal be tabled and more technical analysis be conducted prior to TAC action. Mr. Tinkler acknowledged the recommendation for further study but told members that Commissioner Sue will move this forward to a vote.

Mr. Parker made a motion to table this item until a technical analysis can be done before amending the plan. Mr. Hayes seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion to table the resolution was unanimous.

7. **TIP Amendment – Add Transit Administration, Maintenance, and Transfer Facility**

Mr. Tinkler distributed the revised resolution. He told members it would be taking the project from the Unfunded TIP list and moving it to the TIP. Mr. Cunningham made the motion to approve the TIP amendment and Mr. Moore seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

8. **Southern Bridge/Tunnel – NC Turnpike Authority Meetings March 18th**

Mr. Tinkler told members the Turnpike Authority meeting will be next Wednesday and Thursday. All the arrangements have been made. The meeting of the NC Turnpike Authority will commence at 9:30am on Thursday. The Governor is then expected to arrive at 10:40am to address the group. The public hearing will follow. It will be carried live on Wilmington Government Television (GTV).

9. **Project Updates**

a. **Transit Service Master Plan and WTA/NHTS Merger (David/Eby)**

Mr. David told members the final draft has been received. They are in the process of compiling comments and getting it back to the consultant. Hopefully it should be completed within the few weeks.

b. WNHTA Administration/Maintenance/Transfer Facility (David/Eby)

Mr. David told members they have hired a consultant for the project. They are still in the fee negotiation process. Mr. Eby, the new Transit Director, will be taking over as the project manager.

c. Other member agency projects

Mr. Tinkler told members there was a meeting last week about the Middle Sound Loop roundabout. He told members he did not know a lot of the details but it looks like progress is being made.

Mr. Tinkler said he and Mr. Don Bennett were at a kick-off meeting for the College and Oleander intersection study to look at new alternatives.

Mr. Tinkler informed everyone that there was a meeting last night with the NCDOT on the project to widen Wrightsville Avenue at Independence.

Mr. Hayes told members they have an appeal on the reservation on the Military Cutoff Extension. The appeal will be coming up at the April 19th meeting. Mr. Tinkler told Mr. Hayes that he would invite TAC Chairman, Mr. Lanny Wilson, to come and testify to the commissioners.

10. 2004 NCAMPO Conference Planning update

Mr. Tinkler updated members on the progress thus far on the upcoming conference to be held here in the fall. Deposits for the event locations and the Keynote Speaker have been paid and we are currently working on negotiations with the caterer.

11. New Business

Mr. Tinkler called for items of new business.

Ms. Tysinger introduced Mr. Scott Chase, the new Planning and Development Director from Carolina Beach. Mr. Tinkler welcomed Mr. Chase to the TCC.

Mr. Cunningham wanted to remind everyone that Representative McIntyre will be in the area on the 29th to rally support for I-20/I-74. The meeting will be held at the Chamber of Commerce.

12. Announcements

a. I-140/Route 17 Bypass Northeast Cape Fear River Bridge tour, Thursday, March 11th, 9:30am, NCDOT Division 3 Offices, Division Drive.

Mr. Tinkler reminded everyone of the upcoming tour of the Cape Fear River Bridge tomorrow morning at 9:30.

b. MPO Website

Mr. David reminded members that the new MPO Website is up and running.

13. Adjournment:

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:37am.