

**Wilmington Urban Area  
Technical Coordinating Committee  
Meeting Notes for May 25, 2004**

**NOTE: Meeting date later changed to May 25<sup>th</sup> to accommodate MPO endorsement of Enhancement Program applications.**

**Members Present:**

Don Bennett, City of Wilmington  
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County Planning  
Scott Chase, Town of Carolina Beach  
Tom Cunningham, Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce  
Tracie Davis, Town of Wrightsville Beach  
Albert Eby, Wave Transit  
Dexter Hayes, New Hanover County  
Erick Kellon, Town of Carolina Beach  
Cameron Moore, Town of Leland  
Jonathan Parker, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch  
Mark Tinkler, City of Wilmington  
Penny Tysinger, Cape Fear Council of Governments  
Julie Wilsey, Wilmington Airport

**Special Guest:**

Terry Brothers, Wilbur Smith Associates

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Tinkler called the meeting to order at 10:01am.

**2. Approval of Minutes from 4/14/04**

Mr. Tinkler asked there were any addition or corrections to the minutes from the April 14th meeting.

Mr. Parker said he would like to make a minor correction to the minutes from last month. On page 2, agenda item 8, the line should read:

“Mr. Parker distributed a copy of the ~~Long Range~~ Comprehensive Transportation Plan format example for the City of Locust, NC.”

With the correction made, Mr. Parker made the motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Ms. Bunch. The motion carried unanimously.

**3. Old Business**

**a. TAC meeting 4/28/04**

Mr. Tinkler updated members on last TAC Meeting. Items covered were:

- The PWP for the fiscal year 2005 was approved.
- There was a presentation made on the TIP funding process by Mike Stanley, Program Development Unit, NCDOT.
- Mr. Hayes gave a summary of the Regional Growth Forecasting report for the TAC members.

There were no other items of old business.

**4. Annual Traffic & Accident Report:**

Mr. Tinkler introduced Mr. Bruce Johnston, the Transportation Engineering Technician for the City of Wilmington. He told members that Mr. Johnston compiled the information for the Wilmington MPO Traffic Count and Accident Report for 2003 that is being distributed today.

Mr. Johnston told members the report has been redesigned to incorporate the entire MPO. He said the first part of the report is traffic count information and the second part is traffic accident report information. Mr. Johnston invited members to review the information and he would be happy to answer any questions.

Mr. Tinkler mentioned that this information is kept in CityView as well which is the City's intranet mapping application accessible by the development review project managers. He also indicated that the data was available electronically to any members.

**5. Endorsement of Town of Leland application for NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant**

Mr. Tinkler told members that the Town of Leland submitted an application for this grant. A required element of the application is to get MPO endorsement for the application. He turned the floor to Mr. Moore.

Mr. Moore told members the application is for \$20,000 - \$16 thousand from the state with a \$4 thousand match. They have already sent in the application and are now requesting letters of support.

Mr. Tinkler called for a motion to forward the item to the TAC. Ms. Tysinger made the motion and Mr. Hayes seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

**6. Enhancement Grant application presentations ( all applicants):**

Mr. Tinkler informed members that the applications for these grants are due on June 4<sup>th</sup> and in past years the state allowed a longer period of time for review and comment. The schedule has now been compressed and the endorsements now must also be included with the application on the due date.

Mr. Tinkler said he was made aware of three applications that were being prepared for submittal.

1. The City of Wilmington – Eastwood Road Multi-Use Path - presentation by Mr. Wade Kirby
2. The Town of Carolina Beach – North End Bicycle and Circulation Project – presentation by Mr. Scott Chase and Terry Brothers of Wilbur Smith Associates
3. The Airport Authority Entrance Enhancement Project – presentation by Ms. Julie Wilsey

Mr. Tinkler turned the floor over to the presenters.

Mr. Wade Kirby told members the City of Wilmington is submitting an application for \$512,000 to build an Eastwood Road – Military Cutoff Road to Wrightsville Beach Multi-Use Path. After Mr. Kirby brief presentation, he answered questions from TCC members.

For the next presentation, Mr. Tinkler turned to the floor over to Mr. Scott Chase, Planning Director for the Town of Carolina Beach.

Mr. Chase distributed copies of the application they are submitting for The Town of Carolina Beach – North End Bicycle and Circulation Project. Mr. Chase gave a brief presentation of facts prepared for the enhancement grant application and then turned the floor over to Mr. Terry Brothers with Wilbur Smith and Associates, the firm who prepared the Town of Carolina Beach – North End Traffic and Circulation Study. Mr. Brothers gave a presentation on the study elements related to the enhancement grant application and answered questions from members.

Mr. Tinkler told members that when they have the final report, he will be happy to send out links to the PDF file so you could see the whole report.

The third presentation was made by Julie Wilsey with the Airport. Ms. Wilsey told members their application is for a beautification project for the entrance at the airport. Passengers to and from the airport are currently greeted by the view of razor wire fencing at the prison as well as the foul odors from the waste water treatment plant located just down the road. It is economically impossible to relocate the entrance to the airport so hopefully this beautification project will enhance the current entrance. Total cost for the project is \$185 thousand and the Airport Authority will provide the 20% local match. The Airport will also provide the contracting, design and construction administration for the grant. They will also take responsibility for maintaining the right of way.

Mr. Moore told Mr. Tinkler that the Town of Leland was in the process of completing an enhancement grant application as well for Phase II improvements for their Town Hall Drive Multi-Use Path. Phase II is part of the transportation master plan for the Town of Leland. They will have the information ready for presentation at tomorrow's TAC meeting.

Following the presentation by the applicants, Mr. Tinkler called for a motion. Ms. Bunch moved to recommend endorsement for the project applications to the TAC and Mr. Hayes seconded the motion. With no further discussing, the motion carried unanimously.

**7. Navassa Collector Street Plan – final report:**

Mr. Tinkler told members the Navassa Collector Street Plan was endorsed by the town last Thursday. Representatives from Navassa will make a presentation to the TAC at tomorrow's meeting.

**8. Carolina Beach North End Traffic & Circulation Study – final report:**

This item was covered during the discussion of their enhancement grant applications by Mr. Chase.

**9. Coastal Pender County request to discuss joining MPO:**

Mr. Tinkler informed the members of the initiative coming from the Hampstead area to explore MPO membership on their behalf by Pender County. Mr. Tinkler distributed copies of the hypothetical Local Match Funding Share Table if Pender County joined the MPO. The Hampstead area is quickly becoming more urbanized and they acknowledge how closely they interface as a bedroom community to Wilmington and how their issues are inter-related with the MPO's.

**10. Project Updates:**

**a. Member agency projects:**

Mr. Hawkins said the Military Cutoff project will be "re-let" in June.

Mr. Eby told members ridership for the transit system is up about 45%. Service to the Monkey Junction has started with stops in the Lowes/WalMart parking lot.

Ms. Wilsey said US Air will be adding new flights due to the increase in passengers.

**11. 2004 NCAMPO Conference - "Working Together Keeps NC Moving":**

Mr. Tinkler updated everyone on the progress thus far with the upcoming NCAMPO Conference to be held here in October. The theme has been selected and they are currently working on a flier for use as an early announcement for the conference. They are still working on finding a keynote speaker and will keep everyone posted as details are finalized.

**12. New Business**

Mr. Tinkler told members the TEA-21 reauthorization conference committee has been formed in Congress and has held its first meeting.

**13. Announcements**

Upcoming Project Meetings:

- a. **Brunswick County US 17 Traffic Study (May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1:30,4:00,5:00)**
- b. **Wrightsville Avenue at Independence Blvd. (June 8<sup>th</sup>, 4:00)**
- c. **Kerr Avenue Widening (June 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm)**
- d. **NC Forum on Freight Mobility and Prosperity (June 21<sup>st</sup>, NC A&T)**

**14. Adjournment:**

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:45am.