

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Meeting Notes for February 9, 2005**

Members Present:

Lawless Bean, City of Wilmington, Regional TDM Coordinator
Don Bennett, City of Wilmington Traffic Engineering
Tom Cunningham, Chamber
Jonathan David, City of Wilmington
Yvonne Hatcher, Brunswick Transit
Dexter Hayes, New Hanover County Planning
Mike Kozlosky, City of Wilmington
Cris Mowrey, NCSPA
Jonathan Parker, NCDOT
Patrick Riddle, NCDOT
Julie Wiley, ILM

Others Present:

Steve Chandler, BASE

1. Call to Order

Mr. Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 10:04am.

2. Approval of Minutes from 1/12/05

Mr. Kozlosky called for any corrections or additions to the minutes. Mr. Parker told members Mr. Tyler Gray's name was misspelled in item #5, it should be Bray not Gray. With there being no other corrections, a motion was made to approve the minutes by Mr. Hayes and seconded by Mr. Riddle. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Old Business

a. Wave Transit

Mr. Kozlosky turned the floor over to Ms. Bean.

Ms. Bean told members at the last TAC meeting the members decided to table the request by WAVE Transit to become the designated recipient for funding. Before that the City and the County had been re-designated as recipients pending discussions between Brunswick Transit System and WAVE to share information and also come to an agreement about some other items.

The primary issue regarding the recipient designation is a portion of northeastern Brunswick County is in the urbanized area and it must be determined who will be responsible for providing service in that area and receive the funding for providing the service. At their meeting on January 31st the BTS board reviewed an inter-local agreement with WAVE. The agreement stated the WAVE would become a designated recipient but also mentioned that should BTS become interested in providing services in that urbanized area, that they would have access to those funds. The DOT determined that approximately 5% of the urbanized area is in that portion of Brunswick County and the corresponding funds that go along with it are about \$72,000 and the Federal guidelines require a 50% local match. The BTS board approved the inter-local agreement and it will be considered by the WAVE board at their meeting tomorrow. Ms. Bean told members from what she understands from Mr. Eby, the resolution that was approved by this group designated WAVE at the recipient, reflects the language of the inter-local agreement and so that same version will be to the TAC.

Mr. Kozlosky told member they will take the resolution that was endorsed by this committee to the TAC at their February meeting.

Mr. Kozlosky said he would like to add the TIP Schedule to the old business items. He told members they have been notified by the DOT and their Financial Section, that they are planning to release the draft 2006-2012 TIP on April 6th or 7th. There was also an article in Sunday's paper about the DOT cutbacks because they are over-expending the funds so that may delay some of the projects in the current TIP that were programmed for 2005.

Mr. Riddle told members he had talked to Mr. Randy Garris with the Project Services Unit and all the Moving Ahead Projects that were pending for the March "letting" have been pulled. They are awaiting word about which projects will be affected.

4. Comments on 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the last public participation meeting was last night in the City Council Chambers. The 30 day comment period was opened by the TAC on January 26th and will close on February 25th. Comment sheets are available to anyone who wishes to make comments regarding the plan. The written comments will actually be included in the appendices of the document.

Mr. David told members the document and the blank comment sheets are also available on the MPO web-site. The comment sheets can be emailed to him. He said he will be making changes and it will then be submitted to the TCC and TAC for final approval in March. Mr. David said they do plan to go through the process to have the plan adopted by the various jurisdictions within the MPO and get their endorsement.

Mr. Kozlosky told member the one component the plan is missing. It is the Transportation Model that evaluates each of the transportation projects. He said they plan to go back after the plan is adopted to discuss the project schedule for the model for the Wilmington Urban Area. The tentative schedule for completion is December. They will update the plan in a year to a year and a half once the model is completed and evaluate the projects and then go through this process again.

5. Project Updates

a. NC 133 and US17 Area Collector Street Plan

Mr. Kozlosky gave a brief history thus far with the plan. Kimley-Horn held a charrette at Belville Elementary School on January 12th and 13th. They also met with the local development community to receive feedback on the Brunswick Forest area and the planning area within the study scope which was 32 square miles. Based on the feedback they received from the meetings, they have prepared a preliminary document, excluding the maps. They plan on having the draft document out by late February and we will bring that to the TCC in March. It will also go to the Belville Town Council and the Leland Town Council for approval and adoption.

Mr. Kozlosky said they had an excellent turn out for the meeting and lots of discussion.

b. College Road/Oleander Road Study

Mr. Kozlosky told members that DOT met with Martin/Alexiou/Bryson and the local staff through out the MPO to discuss this project. There was a presentation made by the consultants in December. Based on that presentation, the committee preferred the median u-turn and the quadrant approach. The quadrant approach would route traffic up Parkway Drive and potentially eliminate left turns on to Oleander from College. The NCDOT and consultant are planning to present these two selected

options to the public and begin soliciting input some time in March. They are still researching dates and sites for these meetings and he will keep everyone posted as plans are finalized.

c. Wilmington Bypass Update (I-140)

Mr. Kozlosky told members the project is actually in the planning and environmental stages right now and going through the merger process. The merger team held a meeting on January 20th. At that meeting, they allowed the Spring Hill Community time to speak about the impacts of the project as proposed on its current location. Based on those discussions, the committee agreed to have the consultant go back and study a third alternative route that would swing out beyond the Goodman Plantation and it would not impact any of the Spring Hill Community. It will also avoid bridging the wetlands. They will bring the recommendations of the third site study back to the next merger team meeting.

d. Military Cut-off Extension

Mr. Kozlosky asked Mr. Hayes to update the group on what transpired at the meeting Monday night.

Mr. Hayes told members the commissioners endorsed the cities efforts to precede with the survey for the corridor preservation map.

Mr. Kozlosky told members the city will actually file the official transportation corridor map and the state will reimbursement the City for the expenses for filing that map and any costs associated with that. Mr. Kozlosky said they sent out a request for proposals and the city has received 11 proposals from surveying and engineering firms to survey the 3.7 mile corridor and provide preliminary engineering for the interchanges at I-140 and Market Street. They have a meeting Friday morning to go over the proposals. There is some encroaching development and they are trying to move as quickly as possible to preserve the corridor.

e. Moving Ahead Update

Mr. Kozlosky asked Mr. Patrick if he would update members on the Moving Ahead Projects.

Mr. Patrick said he will email an electronic copy he prepared to everyone. The members agreed that they find that format very useful and appreciate his sending the updates to them.

Mr. Patrick told members the construction work taking place on the portion of the bypass between I-40 and Castle Hayne Rd. has encountered delays and will not open this spring as anticipated. It originally was scheduled to complete in July of this year and it now looks like it will be summer before it's completed. The other portions of the project are on schedule. He told everyone he is arranging for a tour of the new bridge for UNC-W and there will be some seats available. He will let members know the date closer to time if anyone is interested in seeing the progress that has been made since the last visit to the site.

6. New Business

a. 2006-2012 Public Transportation – draft TIP Update

Mr. Kozlosky told members the attached update was submitted by WAVE Transit. It is his understanding that a few months ago the committee went over the Draft TIP and Mr. Eby submitted this update in which they added four busses, the expansion trolley and some regular operating assistance in FY 2011-2012. This is in preparation of possibly becoming a TMA after the next census and with that, the possibility of losing the 5307 funds for operations. Mr. Kozlosky said the planning for the four busses is for the possibility of expanding services to UNC-W.

Mr. Kozlosky called for a motion. Mr. Hayes made the motion to forward this Draft TIP update revisions to the TAC. Mr. Mowrey seconded the motion and with no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

b. Multi-modal Site Evaluation Report

Mr. David told members on January 25th the Louis Berger Group gave a presentation on the site evaluations for the Multi-modal Transportation Center. Mr. David said the consultants looked at the two previous studies in preparing for this site evaluation report. It was determined that the preferred site would be within the downtown core area. They evaluated six sites and the sites were weighted using 12 different criteria. City staff is reviewing the document and will make its recommendation to the Wilmington City Council for their meeting on the 15th of February.

c. Thoroughfare Plan Amendment (I-40 to Martin Luther King Parkway)

Mr. Kozlosky told members today's package includes a map of the corridor the would go from I-40 to Martin Luther King Highway, somewhere in the vicinity of either N. Kerr or Independence Blvd. There has been some discussion of this in the past, including an article written in the newspaper. What this proposed corridor will do is provide another North/South connection through town and it will alleviate some of the congestion on College Road. Staff is proposing to do a thoroughfare plan amendment so that this project can be forwarded to NCDOT for a feasibility study. At that time, it will allow DOT to evaluate the alternatives of bringing it into N. Kerr or Independence Blvd. Mr. Kozlosky said they are trying to just get the project on the table.

Mr. Kozlosky said he is asking for a recommendation from the TCC to forward this amendment to the thoroughfare plan that will include this connection to the TAC.

The consensus of the group was that this should have a technical analysis included with the recommendation to the TAC. Mr. Parker suggested that we could make a motion to approve the amendment and include some comment to say a technical analysis should be done and they can take action from there.

Mr. Kozlosky asked if there was any more discussion he would entertain a motion.

Mr. Mowrey said he would like to make the motion that this group recommends to the TAC that a North/South connection as proposed be added to our Thoroughfare Plan but that be somewhat contingent upon doing a more technical study of it. In essences, endorse the concept, but it should be subject to a technical review. Mr. Hayes seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

7. Announcements

- a. NC Turnpike Authority Meeting on February 16th.
- b. NC Transportation Forum in Charlotte on March 23rd and 24th. Mike will send out registration forms and agenda.
- c. Carolinas I-73 Summit in Myrtle Beach this coming Friday.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Kozlosky asked if there were any other items of business. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:33.