

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Meeting Notes for March 16, 2005**

Members Present:

Helen Bunch,
Jonathan David, City of Wilmington
Albert Eby, CFPTA
Don Eggert,
Yvonne Hatcher, Brunswick Transit
Dexter Hayes, New Hanover County Planning
Mike Kozlosky, City of Wilmington
Travis Marshall,
Cris Mowrey, NCSPA
Melinda Powell,

Others Present:

Steve Chandler, BASE

1. Call to Order

Mr. Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

2. Approval of Minutes from 2/9/05

Mr. Kozlosky called for any corrections or additions to the minutes. The motion was made to approve the minutes by Mr. Hayes and seconded by Mr. Mowrey. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Old Business

a. 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan

Mr. Kozlosky told members the public comments have been reviewed and all applicable comments have been incorporated into the document. The resolution endorsing approval of the plan is included in today's packet for forwarding to the TAC. If it's adopted by the TAC, the next step in the process is to forward this resolution on to the local municipalities for endorsement.

Mr. David said there will be some minor changes to the document making it more visually appealing before giving it to the TAC.

Mr. Kozlosky said all the maps and planning document will be revised with the update of the model. Staff has budgeted for the development of a revised Long Range Transportation Plan that incorporates the model development and we plan on having a revised LRTP adopted in June 2006. We will use the model to evaluate each of the projects that is actually identified in that planning document. Right now, we just need to have a planning document adopted so we don't relinquish any federal funding.

Mr. Kozlosky called for a motion to forward the resolution. Mr. Mowrey moved the motion and Mr. Eby seconded. With no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

4. Project Updates

a. College Road/Oleander Road Study

Mr. Kozlosky told members there will be a public workshop on March 28th at Roland-Grise Middle School from 4 to 7 pm. The consultant, Martin/Alexiou/Bryson, will present two alternatives which

are the median u-turn and the quadrant approach. They will receive citizen feedback to help determine which approach the community prefers. It is also important to point out that the quadrant approach would allow for an overpass if needed in the future. Mr. Kozlosky told members the entire study prepared by the consultant is on the MPO website.

b. Military Cut-off Extension

Mr. Kozlosky told members that city staff has been in negotiations with the LPA Group to complete the preliminary engineering and surveying for the official transportation corridor map. Based on the revised fee and project schedules, it looks like the LPA Group could have the actual map adopted for the full corridor in July, contingent upon the notice to proceed being issued in April. Staff is evaluating looking at adopting a map for the first interchange at Market Street and Military Cutoff Road, but that would only expedite the process by about 4 weeks and you would have to hold two public hearings. It maybe would be more beneficial just to hold off. The developer, who met with staff, went to DOT and discussed a proposed project. With that proposed project, the developer will have to do a TIA that would likely have to go to NCDOT's Congestion Management Section because it's within the TIP project, and is a significant size development. Mr. Kozlosky said because of that, he thinks the corridor could be preserved without going through the official transportation corridor map in separate phases.

c. NC 133 and US17 Area Collector Street Plan

Mr. Kozlosky told members the consultant completed the draft report. The steering committee met on March 7th and reviewed comments. Staff is awaiting the final draft. The consultant will make a presentation to the TAC and possibly the elected officials.

5. New Business

a. Wilmington/Columbus County Public Transit Connection

Mr. Kozlosky told members the proposed connector between Wilmington and Whiteville/Columbus County is to bring in skilled workers to the area. The unemployment rate in Columbus County is rather high and with the local unemployment rate being so low, it is hoped that this will encourage workers to come to Wilmington to find employment.

Mr. Don Eggert told members the idea started with the Chamber of Commerce and City Councilmember Laura Padgett. Preliminary discussions were held with Mr. Charles Patton in Columbus County, Mr. Eby, DOT and himself. They will be holding another meeting tomorrow because of the deadline for the grant is approaching quickly.

Ms. Bunch asked about funding.

Mr. Eby said currently there is a Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) Grant that could fund 50% of the cost for this route. The application for the grant request is due April 8th. The other 50% is where staff is still struggling. The WAVE Transit Board of Directors gave him the authorization, if the local match can be found, to file for a charter grant on behalf of WAVE Transit. The application cannot be submitted unless they have the match. The estimate the cost for running the route twice daily, five days a week using the full size bus will be approximately \$41,000 and they will also have to look at the Columbus aspects. There is a lot of support thus far for the project and it will be a matter of finding the local funding for the match. It has been suggested that perhaps construction companies and developers maybe interested in contributing to the cost of operating the route or perhaps solicit help from different parties benefiting from this service.

Mr. Kozlosky told members the funding issues were not included in today's resolution because right now they are looking for support for the project.

Mr. Eby made a motion to forward the resolution to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Hayes seconded the motion and with no further discussions, the vote carried unanimously.

b. Brunswick Connector

Mr. Kozlosky told members that Mr. Eby has provided written history on the Brunswick Connector. It also identifies that the project is set to terminate on June 30th.

Mr. Eby said the ridership numbers continue to rise, but we need to proceed with trying to find some funding solutions for this project. They have done a good job of making people aware that the service is available.

Mr. Eggert asked how much local match will be needed to keep the connector operating.

Mr. Eby said the total project is estimated to cost between \$65,000 and \$70,000 for next year, less the fare-box revenue. We are looking for the municipalities to come up with roughly \$37,500 for the match.

Ms. Hatcher told members she feels the municipalities are looking for someone to come to them with some sort of plan saying this is what we are asking for,. They are not going to step up to provide the funding.

Ms. Bunch asked who is taking the lead role to make a decision.

Mr. Eby said they are reluctant to take the lead on this and they are trying to look at some consolidated leadership involving all parties. He thinks everybody is looking at the MPO for solutions because this was set up through the MPO.

Mr. Kozlosky asked if they should come up with options for the next meeting and then make a recommendation to the TAC as to a preferred option. June 30th is approaching quickly and we need to identify a funding source.

Ms. Bunch suggested forming a "working group" to talk through possible solutions.

Mr. Eby said he supported the "working group" idea but the question is, where do we start? Are the towns willing to put in any money and if so how much as apposed to just going out and saying this is going to cost you this much under Plan A, B or C.

Mr. David said he also supported the "Working Group".

Ms. Bunch made a motion to that the TCC have a "Working Group" to move this project forward and reach a resolution with regard for funding for the Brunswick Connector. Mr. Eggert offered the suggestion that group consist of TCC representatives from the affected jurisdictions, plus Mr. Eby and Ms. Hatcher. Mr. Eby seconded the motion and the vote carried unanimously.

c. FY 2006 – Section 5307 Budget

Mr. Eby told members most of the projects have been modified due to the changes in population density that came from the 2000 census. He provided members with a copy of the request for changes to the Section 5307 budget. The annual Section 5307 allocation went from \$704,000 to \$1.5 million. He reviewed the general expansion project changes requested in the TIP update. Mr. Hayes made the motion to forward this item to the TAC. Mr. Eby seconded the motion and the vote carried unanimously.

d. FY 2006 – Planning Work Program

Mr. Kozlosky told members the total for the Planning Work Program and Section PL-104 Budget is \$275,250. The Section 5303 proposed budget is \$39,150, which is the amount allocated to the City. The highlighted projects included in the budget are updating the Long Range Transportation Plan and provide assistance in the completion and development of the transportation model for the Wilmington Urban Area. There are also two projects under Special Studies line item. The first is the US17 Corridor Study, which was actually budgeted in last years budget, but was not completed due to staff turnover and availability. Staff will be reprogramming the funds for this year's budget. There is also funding for data collection for the area of Pender County to which the MPO is planning to expand the boundary within the next upcoming months.

Mr. Eby moved the Planning Work Program to be forwarded to the TAC and Ms. Bunch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Announcements

- a. College /Oleander Road Public Workshop – March 28, 2005
- b. Wilmington Bypass Citizen Informational Meeting – March 31, 2005
- c. Spring "Litter Sweep" Roadside Cleanup – April 16-30

Mr. Kozlosky told members the College /Oleander Road Public Workshop is at Roland-Grise School. The Wilmington Bypass Meeting is being held at Leland Middle School and attached in the packet is information on the upcoming "Litter Sweep" Roadside Cleanup.

7. Adjournment

Mr. Kozlosky asked if there were any other items of business. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20.