

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Meeting Notes for October 12, 2005**

Members Present:

Don Bennett, City of Wilmington
Tom Cunningham, Chamber of Commerce
Albert Eby, Wave Transit
Don Eggert, Cape Fear RPO
Mike Kozlosky, City of Wilmington
Cameron Moore, Town of Leland
Cris Mowrey, NCSPA
Melinda Powell, Town of Wrightsville Beach
David Smith, NCDOT
Penny Tysinger, Cape Fear COG
Julie Wilsey, Wilmington Airport

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes from August 17, 2005

Mr. Moore made the motion to approve the August 17th meeting minutes. Ms. Powell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Old Business

a. Amendment to the Bicycle Map

Mr. Kozlosky said discussions were held at the last meeting regarding bicycle facilities from the Love Grove area to Chestnut Street. Staff went back to the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) for input. The BAC suggested routing the path across Burnt Mill Creek and connecting each of the parks over to 23rd Street. If this routing is approved, it will go to the City Attorney to look at access for multi-use path. Mr. Hayes made the motion to forward the recommendation to amend the Bicycle Map to include the route from Love Grove to 23rd Street to the TAC. Ms. Tysinger seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Project Updates

a. Leland Area Collector Street Plan

Mr. Kozlosky told members the Collector Street Plan will provide interconnectivity between developments, as well as provide regulations for subdivision and site plan review. This will incorporate all three plans (Navassa, NC 133/ Us 17 and Leland) into one document and one map. The 2nd public meeting was held in September. The next step will be Kimley Horn finalizing the recommendations and implementations policies, and then staff will bring the document back for adoption to this board.

b. Expansion of the MPO Planning Area Boundary

Mr. Kozlosky said TAC members held discussions at their last meeting regarding how the expansion of the boundaries would impact the funding for public transportation and the possible loss of current funding. They requested population projection estimates for 2010. Using a growth rate of 1.95 % for New Hanover County, and 3.094% for Brunswick County, the Long Range Planning Staff estimated that by 2010 the New Hanover County and Brunswick County MPO's planning area will have a population of 210,000. Based on these projections, we will exceed the 200,000 limit and become a designated Transportation

Management Area. The boundary expansion will bring the population to approximately 223,000.

Mr. Eby told members they anticipate a push during the next re-authorization, to either increase the numbers for the population for a TMA, or other possible alternatives to delay the loss of operating assistance. Staff will continue to watch and prepare as best they can.

c. Prioritized List of Unmet Needs

Mr. Kozlosky told members at the last TAC meeting members endorsed a transportation project list for 2007-2013 highway needs, as well as bicycle needs. There were some modifications to the list for the highway projects. The TAC agreed on the following order for the highway projects prioritization:

- Priority # 1: US 17 Wilmington Bypass (from US 421 to US 17)
- Priority # 2: Independence Boulevard Extension
- Priority # 3: Village Road Widening (2nd Portion)
- Priority # 4: Cape Fear Skyway
- Priority # 5: Military Cutoff Extension
- Priority # 6: Gordon Road Widening
- Priority # 7: Dow Road Widening
- Priority # 8: Kerr Avenue Widening
- Priority # 9: Traffic Signal Control System Upgrade
- Priority # 10: US 133 to US 17/74/NC 133 Interchange

d. NCDOT Project Update

Mr. Kozlosky and Mr. Smith updated members on Department of Transportation projects.

5. New Business

a. Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority- Wilmington MPO Agreement

Mr. Kozlosky told members CFPTA has already taken action on the agreement. Mr. Eby said this is a requirement and it will allow the transportation authority to have a strong voice in the process for public transportation planning. Mr. Eby made a motion to forward the agreement on to the TAC for approval. Mr. Moore seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Resolution of Appreciation- Roger Hawkins

Mr. Kozlosky told members they have put together a resolution of appreciation for Roger Hawkins and his many years of service to the Department of Transportation. He retired August 31st. He was instrumental in the many aspects of transportation planning and safety related issues for Division 3 area. Ms. Tysinger moved to forward the resolution to the TAC and Mr. Hayes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Resolution supporting "Superstreet" Design in Brunswick County

Mr. Kozlosky said Mr. David Smith with the Department of Transportation is presenting information on what is happening with the new Wal-Mart and other construction along US17 corridor in Brunswick County related to the new "Superstreet". Mr. Smith distributed copies of the presentation from Dr. Joseph Hummer, from North Carolina State University, and an excerpt from a traffic impact study that was done on US 17. Construction of the superstreet is planned during the off-peak season to help minimize the effects on traffic. Following the discussions, Mr. Moore moved to forward the resolution to the TAC. Mr. Bennett seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

d. Resolution requesting for a Feasibility Study to Widen NC 133

Mr. Kozlosky said with the development in the Brunswick Forest area, the next resolution identifies the need for a feasibility study to upgrade the NC 133 corridor. There was a resolution endorsed by the TAC and Brunswick County in 2003 requesting this feasibility study. To date, nothing has been done. We wanted to bring this to the Board of Transportation, identifying it as a priority due to its importance to the Cape Fear Skyway construction schedule. Mr. Moore made the motion to forward this resolution to the TAC and Mr. Hayes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

e. Resolution requesting a Feasibility Study to upgrade US 17 from the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge to the interchange of US 74/ 76/ NC 133 in Leland

Mr. Kozlosky told members the resolution is to request for a Feasibility study o upgrade US 17 from the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge to NC 133. In looking at the traffic volumes for the "Superstreet" concept as well as the level on this corridor, it ranges for a level of service "C" to "F" based on the PBS&J study. With the development occurring in Brunswick County there is need to upgrade this facility. Mr. Hayes suggested we add something about the bridge crossing of the Brunswick River. The bridge has a very low clearance and by raising the bridge, we could have a good recreational boating access. Mr. Kozlosky said it would be a good time to explore the options when doing the study. Mr. Hayes made the motion to forward the resolution and Mr. Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

f. Resolution removing the possibility of an interchange at College Road/Oleander Drive

Mr. Kozlosky told members staff suggested removing the interchange at College Road and Oleander Drive from the long range plan. He said this is not eliminating the quadrant approach for the intersection, but given the land uses and other associated issues at the intersection, it has been deemed almost impossible to construct an interchange at that location. Mr. Kozlosky suggested that we may want to add language to explore finding aother practical alternative to College Road for the future. Mr. Bennett moved to forward the resolution with the additional language modification and Ms. Wilsey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

g. Resolution ending the Kerr Avenue Widening Project at Wrightsville Ave.

Mr. Kozlosky told members the section of Kerr Avenue paralleling College Road is one of the busiest regions of Wilmington. In looking at the intersection design for the College and Oleander improvements, if the Kerr Avenue widening ends at Wrightsville Ave., there will be less impact on traffic and no impact to the church. Mr. Bennett said he would like to recommend that we go back and look at the U-4718 analysis with the volumes that were projected for that area. Mr. Kozlosky asked if the committee wished to table the resolution because of the need to do more study? Ms. Tysinger made the motion to table the resolution. Mr. Hayes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

h. Resolution Supporting Local Communities to submit for the NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Initiative

Mr. Kozlosky told members that DOT sent out an email requesting applications for bicycle and pedestrian grants. The grants will require a local match based on population. The Town of Leland plans to submit a grant application. Mr. Moore told members the application deadline is December 3rd. Ms. Tysinger moved to forward the resolution to the TAC. Mr. Moore seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

i. Wilmington MPO Delegation of Authority

Mr. Kozlosky told members the Department of Transportation has requested that we choose new Primary and Alternate Designees for the Delegation of Authority to receive funding and sign off on reimbursement requests, budget amendments, and revisions. Mr. Kozlosky suggested that the City Manager for the City of Wilmington be the designee, the alternate designee be the Finance Director for the City of Wilmington because the city is the lead planning agency and the alternate-alternate designee be the MPO Coordinator. This is only for the 5303 funds. Ms. Tysinger made the motion to forward the names to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Hayes seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Other Items

Mr. Kozlosky requested adding another item to the agenda. He told members the Ports has received \$2.4 million in SAFETEA-LU funding for access improvements and he wanted to bring the item before the TCC. They have looked at initial access improvements, however, if the request for funding is submitted, it will impact the equity formula because it is identified as a high priority project. If it affects the equity formula, it will delay one of the projects currently programmed in the TIP. DOT is asking for a decision about which project to delay if the Port proceeds with access improvements. Mr. Mowery told members they are looking for a means to get the north gate moved closer to the bridge through their property. In this last minute reauthorization, Congressman McIntyre's office advised them it would not be eligible if it was inside of their property. The suggestion was made to focus the money outside on Front Street and Brunette Blvd. in dealing with roughly the same traffic but in a more community encompassing fashion. Their big concern is that as the bypass gets done, all the traffic will funnel in across the bridge and will end up on Front Street. They believe this will be a way to better deal with the traffic. Mr. Mowery told members he is waiting on information from the Congressman's office as to what they expect to do and timing issues. Mr. Eggert told members he is not sure this group has enough information right now to make a recommendation. Mr. Bennett asked if members could have a list of other projects in the area. Mr. Bennett made a motion to table the item until more information can be provided. Mr. Mowery seconded the motion. The motion carried.

6. Announcements

- a. **Opening of Martin Luther King Parkway**
- b. **Martin Luther King Parkway Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – Oct. 28th at 11:00am(Tentative)**
- c. **Community Design Standards Public Workshop – Town of Leland – Oct. 12th at 7am**

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45.