

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Meeting Notes for January 11, 2006**

Members Present:

Mike Kozlosky, City of Wilmington, Chairman
Lawless Bean, Cape Fear Breeze
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County
Dexter Hayes, New Hanover County
Monica Kerr, NCDOT
Frank Palmer, Pender County
Patrick Riddle, NCDOT
Penny Tysinger, Cape Fear COG

Staff Present:

Joshuah Mello
Aruna Reddi

1. Call to Order

Mr. Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 10:07am.

2. Approval of Minutes from November 30, 2005

Ms. Tysinger made the motion to approve the November 30th meeting minutes. Mr. Riddle seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Old Business

a. Kerr Avenue Widening

Mr. Kozlosky told members they originally were anticipating stopping the Kerr Avenue widening project at Wilshire Blvd. Today he received an email from Mulkey Engineering stating that the Department of Transportation is considering terminating the project at Randall Parkway (Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway to Randal Parkway). In light of that information, Mr. Kozlosky suggested the resolution be tabled until discussions can be held regarding the change. Ms. Tysinger made a motion to table the item. Mr. Hayes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Innovative Financing Mechanisms

Mr. Kozlosky told members the NC Turnpike Authority is anticipating having the Traffic & Revenue forecast back by the end of March. This forecast will permit the Turnpike Authority to go to Wall Street and identify a bondable rate for the Skyway project. This report will identify how much the tolls will cover and how much is going to be needed in order to construct the project. It is anticipated that there will be a need for local participation in the project. Mr. Wilson requested staff explore innovative financing methods to aide in the construction. It is anticipated the total project will cost around \$600 million. The project is Loop Fund eligible and will not impact our equity formula. Mr. Wilson anticipates using Gravee Bonds for the project. The funding amount from the Garvee Bonds for Wilmington and Jacksonville is \$64.1 million. It has also been agreed upon that the money for access improvements to the Port (SAFETEA-LU legislation) has been allocated to the Skyway Project.

Mr. Kozlosky said staff has looked at a \$10.00 vehicle registration fee for Brunswick and New Hanover Counties. It could raise approximately \$2.5 million dollars annually. Mr. Hayes

suggested some type of district tax that would be from the MPO and could also help with other transit project needs in the MPO district. Mr. Kozlosky said that a 1% real estate fee has been considered to help raise revenue. Ms. Bean suggested contacting employer groups in an effort to aid employees in their timely commute to work. She also suggested contacting the Dulles Airport Authority regarding the toll road serving the airport because it was built very quickly. Mr. Kozlosky asked members to contact him with any ideas regarding financing mechanisms.

4. **New Business**

a. **Election of Officers**

Mr. Hayes nominated Mr. Kozlosky to remain as Chairman for the upcoming year, with the Chairman's designee being Vice-chair. Ms. Tysinger seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

b. **Traffic Signal Improvements**

Mr. Kozlosky told members there is no funding in the current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for installation of a new traffic control system in Wilmington. The last signal system was installed in 1995 and a new system will cost approximately \$12 million. The City of Wilmington identified that it will contribute 20% of the cost for the project. The project must be included in the TIP in order to get DOT funding. Mr. Kozlosky told members there is a resolution requesting that the NC Department of Transportation amend their TIP to include the installation of a new traffic control system for the City of Wilmington. Mr. Hayes made the motion to forward the resolution on to the TAC for consideration. Ms. Tysinger seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

c. **Scientific Park Drive connection**

Mr. Kozlosky identified a proposed connection from 23rd Street to Kornegay Drive in the Creekwood Neighborhood. When constructed, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway had a crossover that provided access via Kornegay into the Creekwood Neighborhood. The Department of Transportation has since closed that crossover and allows only right-in/right-out movement. The ultimate goal is to make the road a completely controlled access. Staff is proposing a connection from Scientific Park Drive over to the Creekwood Neighborhood. This will be a City project with some potential for DOT participation. Ms. Bunch made the motion to forward the resolution on to the TAC for consideration. Ms. Tysinger seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

d. **Scenic Byway Designation**

Mr. Joshua Mello told members that staff has identified a preliminary route through Downtown along 3rd Street and Carolina Beach Road to Greenfield Lake Park. Staff will submit the routing to the Department of Transportation for review as a potential scenic byway. The application deadline is March. The final application to USDOT will be submitted later in the year. Once it is designated as a North Carolina Scenic Byway, it will be eligible for federal scenic byway funding. There is a \$26 million pool of grant money available each year for these byways. Grants average from \$50,000 to \$200,000, and subject to the 80/20 match. Grants could be used for marketing, streetscape improvements, historic street lighting, and other things of that nature. Mr. Kozlosky told members this would be the first urban corridor in North Carolina. Mr. Mello pointed out the North Carolina typically does not utilize the funds that are appropriated by the state for scenic byways.

e. **SAFETEA-LU Legislation – Randall Parkway Funding**

Mr. Kozlosky told members Congressman McIntyre was instrumental in getting funding for the Randall Parkway widening in the amount of \$4 million. Three million of this amount is

identified as a "High Priority Project" and will count against the equity formula for roadway improvements within the Wilmington Urban Area. As part of that, the MPO will likely have to delay a project from the current TIP. There are three possible projects that can be delayed: the College and Oleander Road project, the Market Street improvement project, or the Kerr Avenue widening project. Mr. Kozlosky told members he would like to get feedback for a recommendation to the TAC.

Ms. Tysinger asked about the Kerr Avenue project being delayed. Mr. Kozlosky said he has been in discussions with the Department of Transportation regarding the limits of the project from Martin Luther King Parkway to Randall Parkway. If that is done, that portion could progress quickly.

Mr. Riddle told members there is a big push for the Market Street improvements and he has a scoping meeting regarding the project coming up soon. Mr. Kozlosky suggested not delaying the meeting because the city has \$6 million programmed in the CIP budget for this project beginning in '08. Mr. Hayes said he believes there is enough commitment on the Market Street improvements that you don't want to jeopardize what is already underway.

Ms. Tysinger asked if the College and Oleander intersection isn't the public's perception of the worst traffic intersection in town. Mr. Kozlosky said it functions at a level of service "F" right now and is the worst intersection in the City of Wilmington. Mr. Tysinger said in her opinion that project should stay in place.

Mr. Hayes said in consideration that the Kerr Avenue project is the lowest ranking on the priority list of the three, he made a motion to recommend delaying the Kerr Avenue project. Ms. Tysinger seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Project Updates

a. Expansion of MPO Planning Area Boundary

Mr. Kozlosky told members the boundary expansion was presented to the TAC at their last meeting. Mr. Wilson recommended that the expansion be tabled until Pender County selects someone to serve on the committee. Mr. Kozlosky said he will carry this item back to the TAC once the selection is made by their county manager.

b. NCDOT Project Update (Riddle)

Mr. Riddle reviewed the project update. (attached)

6. Announcements

Mr. Riddle told members that Mr. David Smith is leaving the NCDOT. He has accepted a job with the FBI. Mr. Roger Hawkins will be filling in temporarily for this position.

7. Adjournment

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10am.



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

W. LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

January 4, 2006

1. **MLK Pkwy:** U-0092 A
MLK Pkwy: U-0092 B

Open to traffic
Open to traffic

2. **US 17 Wilmington Bypass:** R-2633 CA **Comp. Spring 2006**
Prime-GLF (Big Bridge portion)
US 17 Wilmington Bypass: R-2633 CB **Open to traffic**
Prime-C.M. Lindsay (from US 117 to NC 132)
US 17 Wilmington Bypass: R-2633 CC **Open to traffic**
Prime-APAC/Atlantic (I-40 Interchange)
US 17 Wilmington Bypass: R-2405 A **Scheduled Comp. Date 6-16-2006**
Prime-Barnhill (US 17, near Scotts Hill to I-40)

3. **Military Cutoff (U-2734)**, constructing a multi-lane facility from US 17 (Market Street) to US 74 (Eastwood Drive). First phase of construction is the intersection of Military Cutoff & Market Street (US 17) & Gordon Road. The traffic has been shifted near Mayfaire Town Center to construct the other half of the culvert. The Contractor is on schedule.

Estimated Contract Completion Date May 2007

4. "Allen Creek" (**B-3116**): completed the bridge replacement, but on the approaches the pavement is settling and cracking on the causeway. We will utilize the same detour route. Project was let on August 9, 2005, availability September 12, 2005.

Open to Traffic

5. **U-4702 A:** construct a concrete median island from SR 2649 (Martin Luther King Parkway) to SR 1272 (New Center Drive). Contract has been awarded to Kinston Contractors. **Estimated Contract Completion Date March 2006.**

6. **U-4702 B:** Market Street median from SR 1402 (Porter's Neck Road) to Colonial Drive (City Street) and access improvements.

NCMA:

1st year NCMA Brunswick County:

- **SR 1130 (Mt. Pisgah Rd) & NC 904** These are widening and resurfacing projects. **Work complete**
- **NC 211** has been through the letting, with APAC as the low bidder. The project has been awarded. This is a widening & resurfacing project. The limits are from the entrance of St. James to the Doscher Cutoff. The initial scope included the two bridges (#76 over Beaver Dam Creek & #24 over Dutchman's Creek) and the culvert. Due to the construction costs and environmental regulations we have modified the scope. The project limits will be the same, we will widen the roadway, but we will not be able to construct the new bridges. The contractor has begun minor piping of ditches and has scheduled to increase efforts Spring 2006.
Estimated Contract Completion Date November 2006

- **NC 130** there will be left turn lanes install at four locations; **Seashore Road, Boones Neck Road, Oxpen Road & Sabbath Home Road**. Included with this contract are two roads in Shallotte, **Bridges Street (SR 1349) and Sellars Street (SR 1234)**. We will be resurfacing widening and resurfacing Bridges Street. We will be resurfacing Sellars Street. Currently, under construction. **Work complete**

2nd year NCMA Brunswick County:

- **NC 87** from Boiling Springs Lakes southern city limits to NC 133, we will be resurfacing. The availability date is January 5, 2005 and the completion date is November 1, 2005. The Contractor will not be allowed to work from May 27th to September 5th. **Work complete**
- **SR 1303 (Hickman Road)** from South Carolina State Line to US 17, widen 2' each side and resurface. There will be turn lanes placed at four locations; Indigo Farms, Hickman's Crossroads, Shingletree Road and Crow Creek. Letting is November 2004. The availability date is January 5, 2005 and the completion date is November 1, 2005. **Work complete**
- **SR 1524 (Chappell Loop) & SR 1566 (Ploof Road)** patch and resurface the roadways. Letting was February 8, 2005. The low bid was APAC and they were 12% over the engineer's estimate. We are currently reviewing their bid and whether or not to award the project. There is additional funding, Small Urban project for \$40,000.00 to patch & overlay portions of both roadways. **(On-Hold)**
- **SR 1443 (Broadway Street)** from SR 1434 (Main Street) to SR 1435 (Navassa Road) widen and resurface. There is additional funding, Small Urban project for \$60,000.00 to widen the roadway 4' for bike lanes. This project is included in the contract w/ Chappell Loop and Ploof Road. **(On-Hold)**

2nd year NCMA Pender County:

- **NC 210** from US 17 to NC 50 (going to the beach) will be widen and resurfaced. Pipe replacement work has been completed. Project has been let and the availability date is February 7, 2005.
- **NC 133** from US 117 to NC 210 will be widen and resurfaced. State forces to place pipe in the lateral ditch at certain areas. Pipe replacement work has been completed. Project has been let and the availability date is February 7, 2005. Contractor will begin work in 2006.
- **US 421** from NC 210 to Sampson County Line, resurface. Project has been let and the availability date is February 7, 2005. Contractor will begin work in 2006.

1st year NCMA New Hanover County:

- **SR 1322 (Murraysville Rd) & SR 1402 (Edgewater Rd)** are in the December letting. These are widening and resurfacing projects. Project has been let and the availability date is February 7, 2005. **Work complete**

County Resurfacing Projects:

Brunswick County:

- **US 17** the Shallotte Bypass and ramps. The Contractor will not be allowed to work on the weekends. The Contractor is limited to night work from Monday to Thursday. The availability date is January 5, 2005 and the completion date is November 1, 2005. Currently, under construction.

Work about 95% complete

- **NC 133** from SR 1190 to Oak Island Bridge and from Oak Island Bridge to 0.1 mile south of NC 211. The Contractor will not be allowed to work from May 27th to September 5th. The availability date is January 5, 2005 and the completion date is November 1, 2005. **Work complete**

- Turn lanes at four locations; SR 1210 (**Old Bridge Road**), SR 1101 (**Fish Factory Road**), SR 1217 (**Sea Pines Road**) and **Faith Boulevard**. The grading and asphalt widening work is complete and the resurfacing of NC 133 will cover this widening. **Work complete**

Pender County:

- **NC 210** from the Bladen County line to US 421. Contractor will begin work in 2006.