

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Meeting Notes for January 17, 2007**

Members Present:

Mike Kozlosky, City of Wilmington, Chairman
Travis Marshall, NCDOT
Julie Wilsey, Wilmington International Airport
Steven Spruill, Town of Leland
Don Eggert, Cape Fear COG
Albert Eby, WAVE Transit
Don Bennett, City of Wilmington
Brian Chambers, City of Wilmington
Tim Owens, Carolina Beach
Jill Stark, FHWA
Chris O'Keefe, New Hanover County

Others Present:

Joshuah Mello, City of Wilmington
Tom Cunningham, Wilmington Chamber of Commerce
Melanie Cook, Home Builders Association

1. Call to Order

Mr. Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 10:06 am.

2. Approval of Minutes from November 8, 2006

Ms. Wilsey made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Spruill seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Old Business

a. Resolution Delaying \$2.58 million out of the TIP

Mr. Kozlosky told members that Mr. Wilson asked that we delay making a decision on moving \$2.58 million out of the TIP until the final breakdown by region could be determined based on the equity formula. We are proceeding with recommending the delay of the Kerr Avenue widening project and it will present to the TAC at the January meeting.

4. New Business

a. Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Kozlosky told members the SAFE-T-LU legislation has changed and staff has been asked to amend the MOU to include the changes. The changes included the number of voting members on the TCC and to move some of the Department of Transportation members who are not able to attend regularly to advisory member status rather than voting members on the TCC. This can be modified when needed in the future. Mr. Kozlosky suggested moving Mr. Eby to voting member because the TAC has a public transportation member serving as a voting member. Mr. Spruill made the motion to approve the recommended changes to the MOU and forward it to the TAC for their consideration. Ms. Wilsey seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mr. Kozlosky asked members to please forward the name of the designee by position and name.

b. 2006-07 Planning Work Program Amendment

Mr. Kozlosky told members it will be March before the MPO receives notification regarding the Scenic Byway designation approval. That will not allow adequate time to implement the corridor management plan. Because of that, staff is requesting an amendment to the 2006-2007 Planning Work Program special studies line item to allow the MPO to do a corridor study for a bicycle or multi-use path along Blue Clay Road. It does not have bicycle facilities and staff would like to identify and develop a plan for implementing a bicycle facility along the corridor. Mr. O'Keefe made the motion to recommend endorsement of the change and forward to the TAC for consideration. Ms. Wilsey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

c. Wilmington Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Mr. Mello told members in October of 2006 the TCC and TAC endorsed a resolution that would create the Wilmington Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee. The original proposal would have included 21 voting members. Since that time, staff has realized that with 21 members, it would be hard to get a quorum every month. Staff went back and examined the membership and is proposing to reduce the membership to 14. Each TAC member will appoint one member to the committee. The MPO staff will serve as a secretary to the committee and also be a voting member on the committee. This resolution is just to reformat the membership. Mr. Spruill made the motion to recommend endorsement of the change and forward to the TAC for consideration. Ms. Wilsey seconded the motion and it passed in a 10 to 1 vote.

d. Resolution supporting funding improvements to the Causeway (R-3601)

Mr. Kozlosky told members that Brunswick is requesting improvements to the Causeway due to the tremendous growth in Brunswick County. The causeway is seeing significant traffic congestion due to the opening of the Martin Luther King Parkway and the Wilmington Bypass over to US Highway 421. This resolution is asking DOT to consider upgrading the causeway to 6-lane facility between the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge and US 74/76. A feasibility study was done in 2001 and updated in 2003. This resolution will provide our support for the \$10 million project. Mr. Eggert made the motion to recommend endorsement of the resolution and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Spruill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

e. Pedestrian Crossing on Military Cutoff Road

Mr. Mello told members there have been some repeated concerns about crossing Military Cutoff Road in the vicinity of the New Hanover County Northeast Library, the Forum Shopping Center and Mayfaire Center. The Military Cutoff Road widening is currently under construction. As part of that project there will be a multi-use path that ends just north of the library. The planned sidewalk will connect with the multi-use path and it terminates just before the library. This would be an un-signalized pedestrian refuge island with no crosswalk. It would be handicapped accessible. The bus-stop is currently located at the entrance of the library and they envision moving it a little further north to allow access to both the multi-use path, the sidewalk, the library and access between Mayfaire Town Center and the library. The goal is to provide an easier way to cross the street without interrupting traffic flow. These islands will allow pedestrians to cross one direction of traffic at a time and have somewhere safe to stand. This will be a pilot project, if it is successful, we could look at it for other locations.

Mr. Eby voiced concern because there will not be a signal at the location. He said he feels it would be dangerous. Mr. Mello told members there are not any crosswalks anywhere on Military Cutoff Road. Mr. Kozlosky said the intention is to come up with a solution to moving pedestrians across Military Cutoff Road. A bridge over the road will cost about \$2 million

dollars and he does not anticipate council support for that solution. The installation of pedestrian heads to get pedestrians across Military Cutoff Road will impact the delay of traffic. The road currently functions at a level of service F. When the widening is complete it will function at a level of service F so we are trying to come up with a solution that can accommodate pedestrians but also not negatively impact the corridor. Mr. O'Keefe told members this is one of the few places in the City and County where we have major roadways that are impediments to pedestrians and bicycles. He said he thinks we should put the money we would spend on this refuge island into a fund to move toward building an overpass. Mr. Mello said the fact of the matter is that people are crossing this road and standing in the center turn lane. To provide a pedestrian island is a simple solution that will cost less than \$20,000. This is an attempt to make this as safe as possible. Mr. Bennett told members this is not the optimum way to accommodate pedestrians but it is a safer way to handle movements that people are already making.

Ms. Wilsey suggested that we table this item. Mr. Mello said he could come back next month with some examples from other cities where this method is being used. Mr. Eggert made the motion to table the item until the next meeting to give staff the opportunity to return with additional information. Mr. Spruill seconded the motion. The motion to table the item passed unanimously.

f. **City of Wilmington 20-Year Transportation Needs**

Mr. Kozlosky told members staff developed a 20-year transportation needs document for the City of Wilmington. The document will be used as a guide in the development of the city's Capital Improvement Project budget.

g. **MPO Informational Manual**

Mr. Kozlosky told members staff has prepared an updated information manual for the TAC members. They will be distributed at their next meeting on January 24th.

h. **Election of Officers**

Mr. Eggart made the motion that the officers for the next year remain the same. Mr. O'Keefe seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. **Project Updates**

a. **NCDOT Project Update (Riddle)**

(attached)

6. **Announcements**

(No announcements)

7. **Adjournment**

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 am.



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

January 10, 2007

Subject: Projects Update

1. **MLK Pkwy:** U-0092 A, awaiting signal mast arms before completing signal work and opening the second left turn lane onto the Isabel Holmes bridge, off 3rd Street, from downtown Wilmington.
2. **US 17 Wilmington Bypass:** R-2405 A...US 17, near Scotts Hill to I-40 contractor has recently opened the "Super-Street" section from Porter's Neck interchange to approximately 0.5 mile north of SR 1571 (Scott's Hill Road). We are still awaiting right of way for the completion of bulb-outs, for U-turn movements.

This opens the corridor from US 17 north of Wilmington to US 421 northwest of Wilmington.

3. **Military Cutoff (U-2734)**, constructing a multi-lane facility from US 17 (Market Street) to US 74 (Eastwood Drive). 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**

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 Sprign 2007**

NCMA Brunswick County:

- **NC 211** We will be widening & resurfacing NC 211 from the entrance of St. James to NC 133 (Doscher Cutoff). The work will consist of resurfacing and some widening at the intersection with the entrance to St. James. The current approximate cost of the project is \$3,600,000.00. **Work Complete**

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. **Work Complete**
- **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. **90% Complete**
- **US 421** from NC 210 to Sampson County Line, resurface. Project has been let and the availability date is February 7, 2005. **95% Complete**

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. **Work complete**
- **NC 133 Doshier Cutoff Road**, patch and resurface from NC 87 to NC 211. **Work complete**
- **US 17 Super Street Project (Leland)**: signal poles, drainage and grading. The speed limit has been reduced to 45 mph. **Work complete**
- **SR 1342 (Big Macedonia Road)** patching and resurfacing from NC 211 to SR 1343 (Little Macedonia Road). **Work complete**
- **NC 87** patch and resurface from 0.3 miles north of US 17 to 0.03 miles south of US 74/76. Also included in the same contract:
 - SR 1167 (Persimmon Road)** resurface from US 17 to NC 179.
 - SR 1120** (Sabbath Home Road) resurface from 0.06 miles northeast of NC 130 to SR 1122 (Varnamtown Road).
 - SR 1513** (Danford Road) patch and resurface from US 17 Business to east Bolivia City Limit.
 - SR 1245** (Maple Creek Road) patch and resurface from SR 1115 (Stone Chimney Road) to the end of state system.
- **SR 1426 (Mt. Misery Road)** resurface from northwestern city limit to SR 1419 (Northwest Road). **Work complete** Also included in the same contract:
 - SR 1443 (Broadway Street)** widen and resurface from SR 1434 (Main Street) to SR 1435 (Navassa Road).
 - SR 1423 (Vernon Road)** resurface from SR 1426 (Mt. Misery Road) to SR 1422 (Blue Banks Loop).
 - SR 1190 (Oak Island Drive)** resurface from 46th Street to 65th Street. Contract awarded to Barnhill, under construction
- **Bridge Painting Contract**: removing the existing lead base paint and painting structures #7, #43 and #96, in Brunswick County. Bridge #7 is the fly-over near the Memorial Bridge and has an intermediate completion date of May 26, 2006 (only nighttime lane closures will be utilized). Bridge #43 is the over pass on US 74/76, just after the US 17/74/76 split and does not have an interchange. Work has begun. Bridge #96 is the fly-over for US 17 southbound at the US 17/74/76 split. **Work Complete**

New Hanover County:

- **NC 132** College Road from SR 1318 (Blue Clay Road) to the beginning of the divided highway. **Work complete**
- **Signing Project**: Division and Raleigh Signing are revisiting the signing for the Parkway and the Bypass. Authorization for funding has been approved. Sign structures are in design and we have ordered the signs. Let on August 8, 2006.
- **SR 1272 (New Center Drive)**: widening the 4-lane portion of the roadway to 5-lanes. **Estimated completion date Spring 2007.**
- **US 421** mill and resurface from West Lake Shore Drive (non-system) to Greenfield Street (non-system). Letting 12/19/2006.

- **SR 2048 (Gordon Road)** resurface from SR 1175 (Kerr Ave.) to SR 2698 (Netherlands Drive). Letting 12/19/2006.
- **SR 1411 (Wrightsville Ave.)** resurface from US 117 to West Huntington Road (non-system). Letting 12/19/2006.

Pender County:

- **NC 210** from SR 1101 (Point Caswell Road) to US 421. **Work complete**
- **NC 210** resurface from Bladen County line to SR 1101 (Point Caswell Road). Awarded to S. T. Wooten. Revised Completion Date 5/15/2007.
- **NC 210** mill patching from I-40 to 0.2 mile northwest of US 17. Let 12/19/2006
- **SR 1571 (Scott's Hill Loop Road)** widen and resurface from US 17 to US 17.
Work complete