

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Meeting Notes for September 12, 2007**

Members Present:

Mike Kozlosky, City of Wilmington
Travis Marshall, NCDOT
Stephanie Ayers, NC Ports Authority
Albert Eby, WAVE Transit
Chris O'Keefe, New Hanover County
Don Eggert, COG
Michael Zehner, Town of Belville
Ken Vafier, Pender County
Jill Stark, FHWA
Lawless Bean, Cape Fear Breeze

Others Present:

Anthony Prinz, City of Wilmington
Sam Burgess, New Hanover County

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2007 meeting carried unanimously.

3. Old Business

a. Special Highway Overlay District – US 17 Bypass

Mr. Prinz told members staff began working on a Special Highway Overlay District for the Wilmington Bypass at the request of Mayor Willis from Navassa. The proposed overlay district is considered a "tool-box" for local governments and will provide recommendations for guidelines so that local governments can take the listed recommendations and make amendments to their land development codes as they see fit. This special highway overlay will offer continuity throughout the entire corridor within Brunswick County. Staff sent email requesting comment on the recommendations and received only one response. Mr. Eggert suggest including Leland in the list of local governments under applicability. Mr. Eggert said he would like for someone from those jurisdictions to be in attendance today for discussions on this issue. Mr. Kozlosky told members this item has been on the agenda for the last three months. Staff has not received any comment from them regarding the overlay district. The TAC has voiced their support for the Special Highway Overlay District guidelines. Based on his discussion with Brunswick County and the other municipalities and the fact this is just recommendations and not requirements, Mr. Kozlosky told members he proposes that the TCC proceed to move forward with it. Mr. O'Keefe said he agreed with Mr. Kozlosky but suggests language be inserted in the documents purpose to further describe the "tool-box" nature of the guidelines. Mr. O'Keefe made the motion to recommend approval of the Special Highway Overlay District for Brunswick County, the towns of Belville, Leland and Navassa and forward to the TAC for consideration with the additional language regarding the "tool-box" nature of the document in the purpose of the document. Mr. Eggert seconded the motion and the motion carried in a 9 to 1 vote.

4. New Business

a. 2009-2015 List of Unmet Needs

Mr. Kozlosky told members the list included in the agenda is developed bi-annually to assist DOT in prioritizing projects for this region. The transportation model is not complete so it was not used in the development of these projects. Staff used the 2007-2013 list of prioritized needs and based on the perceived-need, prioritized these projects. The list is broken down into Highway Projects and Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects.

Highway Projects

Order: Project Description

- #1 US 17 Wilmington Bypass between US 421 in New Hanover County and US 17 in Brunswick County
- #2 Independence Boulevard extension between Randall Parkway and Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway
- #3 Cape Fear Skyway between US 17 in Brunswick County and US 421 in New Hanover County
- #4 Widening of the Brunswick River causeway between NC 133 and US 421
- #5 Military Cutoff Road extension between Market Street and the US 17 Wilmington Bypass
- #6 South College Road and Oleander Drive intersection improvements
- #7 Traffic signal control system upgrade
- #8 Village Road widening between South Navassa Road and Lanvale Road
- #9 Kerr Avenue widening between Oleander Drive and Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway
- #10 Dow Road widening and extension

Mr. Eggert asked about the ranking of the Hampstead Bypass. Mr. Kozlosky said it is a project that is identified on the list however it is outside the top 10. Mr. Vafier asked what the methodology was to rank these projects. Mr. Kozlosky said it was based on funding that is currently allocated for projects and what we perceive as the need for the community just based on transportation improvements. These projects are all located within the current Transportation Improvement Program so there is a better opportunity for funding to be programmed to the projects as opposed to projects that are not currently in the TIP.

Ms. Bean pointed out that there is other funding also tied to these projects and they have a greater potential for getting completed than those with other funding sources.

Mr. Kozlosky said this list is used by the Board member and DOT to try to evaluate and identify projects for this region and help in prioritizing those projects. Mr. Kozlosky told members the Hampstead project does have \$3 million programmed in 2012 and if we would like to move that project up, he could see it as perhaps # 10 and move Dow Road off.

Mr. Eggert said his thoughts were that maybe it should at least be added to the list as project # 11. He said he thought folks from the county would have some concerns about the Hampstead Bypass not being on the top-10. If it could be added as project #11, he thinks the folks in Pender County will feel better about that.

Mr. Kozlosky said it could be added. He reminded members that this is just a recommended list and it will go to the TAC for approval at their next meeting, then on to Department of Transportation and the Board of Transportation so they may utilize it to help prioritize projects.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects:

Order: Project Description

- #1** Improvements to the River to the Sea Bikeway
- #2** Eastwood multi-use path between Military Cutoff Road and drawbridge
- #3** Blue Clay Road improvements
- #4** Dow Road multi-use path
- #5** Cross City Trail between Cameron Art Museum and McCrary Park

Mr. Kozlosky told members the Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee reviewed and developed the list for recommendation.

Mr. Eggert made the motion to recommend the Highway Project Priority List be adopted with the addition of the Hampstead Bypass as project #11 and that we accept the recommendation for Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects Priority List from the MBPC and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Vafier seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Resolution supporting the re-installation of the rail line between Castle Hayne and Wallace

Mr. Kozlosky told members in 2004 NCDOT's Rail Division released a study that identified two routes for passenger rail service to Wilmington, one via Goldsboro and one via Fayetteville. The department is currently examining the potential and the impact of reconstructing 27 miles of railroad tract between Castle Hayne and Wallace. The reconstruction of this railroad tract will allow for the movement of freight between the Port of Wilmington, the new international port in Southport and major population centers to the north and west. This will also allow for the reintroduction of rail between Wilmington and Raleigh via Goldsboro. The reconstruction of the tracts will have a significant economic impact to this region. He told members he would like to introduce a resolution in support of reinstallation of the track and NCDOT pursue this as a viable option.

Mr. O'Keefe told members he supports the resolution but we should also consider using the rail corridors for a multi-use path. He said it is a great opportunity and suggested we include language requesting that in the interim the corridor be used for multi-modal path and once rail is provided on the corridor that there also be a parallel multi-modal path.

Mr. Eggert made the motion to support the reconstruction of the railroad tracts between Castle Hayne and Wallace with the added language to the effect that in the interim the corridor be used for multi-modal path and once rail is provided on the corridor that there also be a parallel multi-modal path where feasible adjacent to the track. Ms. Ayers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

c. Resolution supporting the East Coast Greenway designation for the Carolina Beach Greenway and Aquarium Trail

Mr. Kozlosky told members we currently have sections of the Riverwalk, as well as Greenfield Park designated as the East Coast Greenway. We are working to provide a connection through Carolina Beach to Southport. Staff is requesting the Carolina Beach Greenway and the Aquarium Trail be designated as portions of the East Coast Greenway. If the TAC takes action at their next meeting, it could be designated at the next meeting of the National East Coast Greenway in November. Mr. O'Keefe made the motion to support the designation and forward to the TAC for consideration. Ms. Ayers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

d. Resolution support the completion of a Market Street Overlay District study

Mr. Kozlosky told members DOT currently has a project to develop and implement access management strategies along Market Street between Colonial Drive and Porters Neck Road. With the development that we have seen occurring in the past several years, we recognize that there is the lack of unified ordinance along Market Street that will promote interconnectivity and allow for the assessment of proposed rezonings and land-use decision in the area. The Board member has indicated a willingness to provide funding for completing a unified overlay zoning district for that portion of Market Street in collaboration with DOT, County and City officials. Mr. O'Keefe suggested extending the study further to the north. Planning efforts that include Porters Neck Road might want to go as far as Futch Creek Road because there is already some interconnectivity there. Mr. O'Keefe made the motion to support the completion of a Market Street overlay district study out to Futch Creek Road and the utilization of DOT funds for this project. Ms. Ayers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

e. Resolution endorsing a modification to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan to identify the 1-40 Extension as an unfunded project (added to the agenda)

Mr. Kozlosky told members when the long range transportation plan was completed, staff recognized the need to move I-40 off of its current terminus which is at Gordon Road. We have interstate traffic coming into the College Road and Martin Luther King Parkway intersection. The project was identified at \$150 million project in the LRTP. There are concerns with the configuration and construction of the interchanges because interstate regulation do not allow for interchanges to be constructed within a mile of each other. There are also issues with the funding. The feasibility study that was actually in the Transportation Improvement Program has been taken off the books. With the development of our model, if we have this as an identified funding project, then it is anticipated to be complete by 2030 with all these other projects. Recognizing that it is impractical for this project to be completed by 2030, we would request that we modify the LRTP to move the project as unfunded. Mr. Eggert moved that we recommend it to the TAC. Mr. O'Keefe seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

5. Project Updates

a. Blue Clay Road Bicycle Corridor Study

Mr. Prinz told members the 1st public information workshop was held in July and it was well-attended. The focus has been shifted from defining the specific corridor to needed intersection improvements, as well as moving toward an engineering direction for the project. Staff in is the process of modifying the scope of the project to look more at the design of the facility, rather than the alignment.

b. Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan

Mr. Kozlosky told members URS Corporation has been selected to complete the corridor management plan and contracts were signed in early September. A kick-off meeting will be scheduled for early October and the project is anticipated to be complete in March 2008.

c. WAVE Satellite Station Site Evaluation Study

Mr. Prinz told members staff is currently work on a project that will expand on the recommendations or the WAVE Short-Range Transit Plan that was completed in 2004. The purpose of the project is to conduct a parcel-level analysis of three locations within the city and county to locate satellite transfer stations for the restructured routes in January 2008. The consultant firm, Martin/Alexiou/Bryson, has been hired to do a detailed study of each of the identified locations. Staff is currently in the process of setting up a steering committee and their first meeting will be October 4th. This project should be completed in December and presented to the TAC at their January meeting.

d. Dawson/Wooster Small Area Plan

Mr. Kozlosky told members due to public outcry over the installation of the barrier at 6th and Wooster Street the TAC asked the Department of Transportation to partner with the MPO to do an area plan along the Dawson/Wooster corridor. A charrette was held in July where recommendations were developed to address concerns from the community. Opportunities were identified that would reconfigure the island to allow for the north-bound movement but restrict the south-bound movement. Mr. Pope met with Ms. Padgett and Ms. Linda Pierce, who is a resident of 6th Street, to discuss the option of removing parking on Wooster and Dawson streets. DOT has asked the consultant evaluate this potential solution. Based on that, the draft plan presentation will be delayed until the October 31st TAC meeting.

e. Dow Road Widening RFQ

Mr. Kozlosky told members the MPO was just release a RFQ to hire a qualified consulting firm to do a location analysis for the alignment of the 4-lane divided facility between the Snows Cut Bridge and the curve at K Avenue and then extend a 2-lane section from K Avenue down to Fort Fisher. This project will alleviate congestion along Hwy 421 in the Town of Carolina Beach and the Town of Kure Beach. We are looking at alternative sources to complete this project. This is one of the projects that was identified in the legislation that will allow for with the ½-cent sales tax.

Staff met with representatives from Sunny Point who has a blast-zone located in that area. After a great deal of discussion, staff was able to convince them of the need for the extension. They indicated that if we could possibly move the alignment closer to the ocean, they could potentially support that location. The analysis will allow the Army to take the proposed location to the General and possibly to Washington to garner support.

f. Safe Routes to School Program

Mr. Kozlosky told members there will be a Safe Routes to School workshop tomorrow. Mr. Mello has been working with Bradley Creek, Holly Tree and Parsley Elementary Schools who have expressed interest in participating in the program.

g. NCDOT Project Update

(included as part of the packet)

6. Announcements

- a. **Safe Routes to School Workshop- September 13th**
- b. **New Hanover County Castle Hayne Small Area Plan meeting – September 13th**
- c. **Wilmington Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee- September 20th**

7. Adjournment

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 11:14 am.