

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

**Members Present:**

Mike Kozlosky, City of Wilmington  
Stephanie Ayers, NC Ports Authority  
Albert Eby, WAVE Transit  
Sam Burgess, New Hanover County  
Penny Tysinger, COG  
Michael Zehner, Town of Belville  
Ken Vafier, Pender County  
Emelina Wiley, NCDOT  
Shane York, NCDOT  
Patrick Riddle, NCDOT  
Allen Serkin, Town of Navassa  
Tim Owens, Town of Carolina Beach

**Others Present:**

Anthony Prinz, City of Wilmington  
Joshuah Mello, City of Wilmington  
Eulis Willis, Town of Navassa

**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 September 12, 2007 meeting carried unanimously.

**3. Presentations**

**a. Wilmington Monorail**

Mr. Pop Wolf narrated a video on the history and operation of the Monorail in Europe. Mr. Wolf is interested in establishing a monorail system in New Hanover County.

**4. Old Business**

No items of old business

**5. New Business**

**a. College Road/Piner Road Collector Street Plan**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the developers installed a median-island on Piner Road at intersection of Piner and College Roads back to the last driveway for the Home Depot. NCDOT did not notify business owners and residents before the construction of the median along the corridor. The business owners have a petition of approximately 3,000 signatures in opposition to the installation of the median. They requested that NCDOT analyze a left-over movement into the J. Michael's Deli driveway. The State Traffic Engineer determined that it was not feasible due to the close proximity of the signal, as well as the need to protect the storage of vehicles in the dual left-turn lanes traveling on to College Road. NCDOT has agreed to consider a left-out of at this driveway at off-peak times.

At a meeting last week Mr. Kevin Lacey, the State Traffic Engineer, agreed to look at the left-out from J. Michaels Philly Deli. They discussed signal functions during peak and off-peak

hours and the driveway would potentially function as a right-out only during peak-hours. He has also agreed to look at signaling one of the driveways for Home Depot further down the road on Piner in the future.

Mr. Kozlosky told members NCDOT is also considering reconfiguring the through lane to a u-turn lane, reconfiguring the right turn land to a through lane and constructing a u-turn-bulb. If the median is closed, it will allow for a safer u-turn movement at this location.

NCDOT recommended the MPO complete a collector street plan for this area. They also recommended that New Hanover County not approve rezonings in the area until the collector street plan is completed. Staff, in cooperation with New Hanover County and Department of Transportation, has completed a draft collector street map that recommends locations for interconnectivity. The resolution is requesting TAC endorsement for staff to proceed with the study of the College Road/Piner Road Collector Street Plan efforts.

Ms. Tysinger suggested the whole area needs to be studied rather than just the Piner Road/College Road intersection. Mr. Kozlosky said they have already met with county staff and are developing a scope for the entire Monkey Junction area.

Mr. Owens made the motion to recommend approval of the resolution encouraging the development of a College Road/Piner Road Collector Street Plan and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**b. Resolution supporting the adoption of the Dawson/Wooster Corridor Plan**

Mr. Kozlosky told members due to public outcry over the installation of the barrier at 6<sup>th</sup> and Wooster Streets the TAC asked the Department of Transportation to partner with the MPO to complete a small area plan along the Dawson/Wooster corridor. Kimley Horn was hired to complete the study. Staff received a copy of draft plan identifying the solution at 6<sup>th</sup> and Wooster as being the "pork-chop" type diverter island. This diverter island will still allow for the signal at 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Wooster Street and will allow the north bound movement on 6<sup>th</sup> Street. It is a compromise between NCDOT and the community. The plan also developed short term aesthetic improvements at the intersections throughout the corridor, as well as long-term vision for Dawson and Wooster corridors.

Kimley Horn is currently making the recommended changes to the plan and the final copy of the plan will be presented to the TAC at their October 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Riddle made the motion to recommend the adoption of the plan and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Owens seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**c. Resolution supporting Wrightsville Beach submitting a grant application for a NCDOT Bicycle Plan Grant**

Mr. Kozlosky told members in addition to the request for support from Wrightsville Beach, the MPO has received requests to support grant applications for Carolina Beach and Kure Beach. Mr. Burgess made the motion to support the grant applications for Wrightsville Beach, Carolina Beach and Kure Beach. Mr. Riddle seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**d. Resolution supporting the re-alignment of Blackwell Road and installation of a landscaped median on NC 133**

Mr. Zehner told members the Town of Belville just adopted a Vision 2020 plan. Two of the main items identified in the plan are the re-alignment of Blackwell Road further south from the

intersection with US 17/74/76, the widening of NC 133 to a 4-lane divided facility and adding streetscape improvements. They are seeking MPO support for these improvements

Mayor Willis told members some of the residents of Chapel Loop Road are concerned that the realignment will require New Providence Church to be moved. Mr. Zehner said the realignment is east of Chapel Loop Road and the church is outside the Town of Belville.

Mr. Riddle told members the Department of Transportation has some spot-safety improvements scheduled for Blackwell Road at NC 133.

Mr. Kozlosky told members some of the property owners have already sold their property and developers would like to relocate the road. The Town of Leland will be discussing the Village Road widening at their next meeting. The Town of Belville and the MPO staff would like to see the potential improvements on Village Road continued south of the interchange along NC 133.

Mayor Willis said he is still concerned about the Chapel Loop Road and Blackwell Road realignment and he would like to have input into that particular issue. He said it seems like we have two different efforts going and they are conflicting with each other. Mr. Kozlosky agreed that NCDOT's spot-safety improvement project is conflicting with Belville's Vision 2020 Plan. However, it would be a good opportunity for Belville's vision to be incorporated into NCDOT's planning process.

Mr. Riddle told members Pate Butler and Dan Cumbo are leading the spot-safety project and he is not completely sure of the project's status. He said he will contact them and see if it is something they could consider in the planning phase.

Ms. Tysinger said she feels everyone is interested in anything that can be done to make the area safer, it's just a matter of how we accomplish that goal. Mr. Kozlosky told members the spot-safety project is an unfunded project and he feels that if the MPO makes this recommendation to NCDOT, it may change their idea from the "super-street" concept to the potential to construct a median divided facility that is landscaped and improves the character of the neighborhood. It will also be consistent with Town of Belville's vision for the community.

Ms. Tysinger asked if we could move on this but somehow tie it in with the spot-safety improvements that Mr. Riddle talked about.

Mr. Kozlosky suggested re-wording the resolution to say the TAC would also encourage coordination with the Department of Transportation in their efforts to install spot-safety improvements at this location.

Ms. Tysinger made the motion to support the resolution as reworded and forward it to the TAC or consideration. Mr. Zehner seconded the motion. The motion carried with 10 members voting in favor and Mr. Eby and Mr. Serkin voting against the motion.

**e. Resolution supporting transportation improvements at North College Road, Bavarian Road, Farley Road, and North Kerr Avenue intersections**

Mr. Riddle told members the Department of Transportation has received requests to make improvements to the intersections of North College Road and Bavarian Road; Bavarian Road and Farley Drive; and Bavarian Road and North Kerr Avenue due to the traffic congestion and safety hazards. NC Transportation Board Member Lanny Wilson and NC Senator Julia Boseman have identified funding to make these improvements.

Ms Tysinger made the motion to support the transportation improvements and strongly encourage coordination with the Murrayville Villas and the other development, taking place in the area. Mr. Eby seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**f. Resolution supporting Safe Routes to School report for Bradley Creek, Parsley and Holly Tree Elementary**

Mr. Mello told members Bradley Creek, Holly Tree and Parsley Elementary Schools have been identified as 3 of 32 demonstration schools in North Carolina to implement the "Safe Routes to School" program. Grant funds ranging from \$100,000 to \$250,000 are available for improvements at each school. Staff will submit grant applications to NCDOT for potential improvements at each of these elementary schools.

Ms. Tysinger made the motion to support the adoption of the Joint Safe Routes to School workshop recommendations for the three schools. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**g. Resolution supporting bicycle and pedestrian facilities at all public schools within the MPO planning area boundary**

Mr. Mello told members this resolution came about after staff saw the preliminary designs for the new school in Castle Hayne area. Those plans did not include any bicycle and pedestrian facilities to access the school from the surrounding neighborhoods. Subsequently, the school board assured staff that bicycle and pedestrian facilities have now been included in the design. The Wilmington Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee have already endorsed the resolution. Ms Tysinger made the motion to support the adoption of the resolution. Mr. Owens seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**6. Discussion Items**

**a. Update of Long Range Transportation Plan and Comprehensive Transportation Plan- Development of a Citizen's Advisory Committee**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the Long Range Transportation plan requires public input into the process. As part of the public informational process staff encourages that we once again form a new Citizen Advisory Committee. Each member will be appointed by the active TAC representative. It is an important and intricate part of the development of both the LRTP and the CTP. Staff will be bringing the request to the TAC for discussion at the next meeting.

**7. Project Updates**

**a. Cape Fear Historic Byway Study**

Mr. Mello told members a kick-off meeting was held with the consultant and steering committee on October 10<sup>th</sup>. A charrette has been scheduled for November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> to develop a vision for corridor enhancements and begin the development of the corridor management plan. The corridor management plan must be completed before the MPO can apply for National Scenic Byway or All American Road status. Staff will also apply for grant funding for the South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street pedestrian and streetscape improvements, which is also part of the Scenic Byway.

**b. City of Wilmington Pedestrian Plan**

Mr. Mello told members staff selected Toole Design Group to complete the citywide Pedestrian Plan. They should be signing contracts within the month. Staff anticipates completion of the plan in September 2008.

c. **NCDOT Project Update**

8. **Announcements**

7. **Adjournment**

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 am.