

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Meeting Notes for August 12, 2015**

Members Present:

Mike Kozlosky, City of Wilmington
Suraiya Rashid, TDM Coordinator
Ed Parvin, Town of Carolina Beach
Ken Vafier, New Hanover County
Robert Waring, Town of Leland
Megan O'Hare, Pender County
Trey Burke, Town of Navassa
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County

Don Bennett, City of Wilmington
Athina Williams, Town of Belville
Allen Serkin, CFCOG
Patrick Riddle, NCDOT
Megan Matheny, WAVE Transit
Zach Steffey, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Adam Snipes, NCDOT Planning Branch

Others:

Loretta Barren, FHWA

1. Call to Order

Mr. Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 10:03am.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the meeting July 8, 2015 were approved unanimously.

3. Presentation

a. **Cape Fear River Rail Relocation, Glenn Harbeck, City of Wilmington**

Mr. Glenn Harbeck, Director of the Planning, Development and Transportation Department for the City of Wilmington gave a presentation entitled "Moving the Rail, Transforming Greater Wilmington." In his presentation, Mr. Harbeck reviewed the purpose behind the initiative and the economic benefits that relocation of the rail will offer the City of Wilmington, the Port of Wilmington and CSX.

Following his presentation a brief question/answer and discussion session was held.

4. Consent Agenda

- a. **Resolution supporting the submittal of Prioritization 4.0 Project Modifications**
- b. **Resolution supporting the submittal of Prioritization 4.0 Preliminary Intersection/Interchange Projects**
- c. **Resolution supporting Prioritization 4.0 Region B and Division 3 Potential Alternative Criteria**
- d. **Resolution adopting Local Functional Classification Maps**
- e. **Opening of the public comment period for the STIP/MTIP Amendments**

Ms. O'Hare asked that item 4.a. and b. be pulled for discussion.

Ms. Williams made the motion to approve items 4.c, d, and e on the consent agenda and forward to the TAC for consideration. Ms. O'Hare seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

In regard to item 4.a, Ms. O'Hare told members that the elected officials from Pender County expressed interest in the segmenting the Hampstead Bypass. She asked if it's possible for the Hampstead Bypass

to go as a single project. Mr. Kozlosky stated that staff talked with NCDOT and that is not a viable solution.

Ms. O'Hare asked why the US Business 17 safety project was being segmented. Mr. Riddle told members that the project is an overlap. It runs from the old Porters Neck Road interchange to the Onslow/Pender county line. The Department has already discussed improvements to the Porters Neck interchange to Scotts Hill. He noted that during the scoring criteria discussions held by, everyone agreed that the project would score better if it were broken into smaller segments.

Ms. Rashid told members that the group also discussed the need to do different things with different segments within that project. She noted that at this point all that is being asked is how the WMPO wants to split up/modify the US 17 Safety Improvement projects. Ms. Rashid said the resolution may need to be modified based on those discussions. Instead of just segmenting the project at Scotts Hill Loop and Sloop Point Road, the committee suggested splitting it up into six parts. They suggested segmenting it from the Wilmington Bypass to Scotts Hill Loop Road, from Scotts Hill Loop Road to Washington Acres Road, from Washington Acres Road to Sloop Point Loop Road, from Sloop Point Road to NC 210 and from NC210 to the Onslow County line.

Ms. O'Hare made the motion to approve item 4.a. as amended for the submittal of Prioritization 4.0 Project Modifications and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Serkin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ms. O'Hare told members Pender County would request that NC210/Island Creek Road Intersection (R-109) be added back to the list for consideration. She made the motion to support the submittal of Prioritization 4.0 Preliminary Intersection/Interchange Projects with the addition of the R-109 project. Mr. Snipes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

5. Regular Agenda

- a. **Resolution supporting the allocation of Unified Planning Work Program funds in the amount of \$100,000 to complete a Feasibility Study to Relocate the Rail line from the City of Wilmington, improve access to the Port of Wilmington and to Recommend Alternative Transportation Uses for the Existing Rail Line**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that staff will request that the TAC support allocating funds for a feasibility study to relocate the rail line. The proposal is for a 3-way commitment between the WMPO, City of Wilmington and NCDOT. If approved, the contribution would be \$100,000.00 each. He said the funds be not be allocated unless there is also a commitment from the City and NCDOT.

Mr. Waring made the motion to support the allocation of Unified Planning Work Program funds in the amount of \$100,000 to complete a Feasibility Study to Relocate the Rail line from the City of Wilmington, improve access to the Port of Wilmington and to Recommend Alternative Transportation Uses for the Existing Rail Line. Ms. Matheny seconded the motion and it carried unanimously

- b. **Resolution requesting the North Carolina Department of Transportation and/or North Carolina General Assembly fund the Scientific Park Drive Extension**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the Salvation Army desires to relocate to a site off the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway. This relocation will make the property they own downtown available for private use and capital investment. They are asking the City of Wilmington and the Department of

Transportation to expedite the extension of Scientific Park Drive. That will allow safer access to the Creekwood North neighborhood. It will also allow the State to close the Kornegay Drive access onto the Martin Luther King, Jr Parkway at some time in the future.

Mr. Serkin made the motion to support the resolution requesting the North Carolina Department of Transportation and/or North Carolina General Assembly fund the Scientific Park Drive Extension and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Burke seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

c. **Resolution requesting the North Carolina Department of Transportation study the I-74/US 74 Corridor in Brunswick and Columbus Counties**

Mr. Serkin told members that NCDOT's Transportation Planning Branch will begin studying various corridors throughout the state. Because the I-74/US 74 corridor is an important corridor in our region, he would like to request that it be added to their study list. He noted that the RPO approved a resolution supporting the request at their last meeting.

Ms. Bunch made the motion to support the resolution requesting NCDOT study the I-74/US 74 Corridor in Brunswick and Columbus counties and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Serkin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

6. Discussion

a. **Prioritization 4.0 Deletions**

Ms. Rashid told members that NCDOT is asking that we review the projects being carried over from P 3.0 to P 4.0 as part of the pre-submittal process. The Department divided the projects into three categories. The first category is Committed Project. These projects are programmed in the first 5 years of the 10-year STIP. They will not need to go through the prioritization process again. The next category is Existing Projects. These projects are not programmed in the first 5 years of the STIP; however, they may be switched out for another project if members so desire. The final category is Removed-placed in Holding Tank. They had been added to the list in an earlier version of Prioritization or by the Division 3 Office. These projects will not be kept in the SPOT database. However, there will be an opportunity to re-enter a limited number of these projects into the P 4.0 process if desired. Ms. Rashid stated that the current understanding is that we will be allowed to add 13 projects per mode into the process.

Ms. Rashid told members staff is requesting feedback in terms of any of the Existing Project(s) that the committee would be OK with deleting in order to have another project to submit in October. Staff will bring a resolution to the next meeting supporting any deletions if desired. Mr. Kozlosky asked members to contact staff regarding any request for deletion by September 1st.

b. **Prioritization 4.0 Local Input Methodology**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that a Local Input Methodology was created for P 3.0. Modification can be made to the methodology for P 4.0. Mr. Kozlosky said staff is proposing to modify our Local Input Methodology by using the SPOT 3.0 score, multi-modal accommodations, P 3.0 points, Consistency with the plans, and status of the project in development. Mr. Kozlosky stated that if this is agreeable with TCC members, staff will bring these revisions to the TAC for review, then send them to the Department for comments. Mr. Kozlosky noted that staff will bring a resolution to adopt the final methodology once comments are received from NCDOT.

Consensus of the members was to forward the proposed changes to the P 4.0 Local Input Methodology to the TAC and NCDOT for review and comments.

c. Wilmington MPO Call for Projects/Studies

Mr. Kozlosky told members that a few months ago there was significant discussion regarding how to handle a call for planning projects for the UPWP. Staff reached out to see how the call for planning projects was conducted by other MPOs. He noted that in an effort to establish a process, staff proposes to solicit a call for projects. A draft UPWP must be submitted by December 31st. The final submittal must be to NCDOT by February 28th. He noted that there may be some changes made in the future to the dates in order to meet FTA deadlines. Mr. Kozlosky said staff is proposing to initiate a call for any projects and planning studies on September 1st with submittals due back to the MPO by September 30th.

Consensus of the members was that they were in agreement with the process that staff will put in place for the call for projects and studies.

7. Updates

Updates are included in the agenda packet.

8. Announcements

9. Adjournment

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35am.

THE ABOVE MINUTES ARE NOT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

THE ENTIRE PROCEEDINGS ARE RECORDED ON A COMPACT DISC AS PART OF THIS RECORD.