

Meeting Minutes
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
Transportation Advisory Committee
Date: May 28, 2008

Members Present:

Lanny Wilson, Chairman, NCBOT
Laura Padgett, Vice-Chair, City of Wilmington
Bill Blair, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Bill Kopp, New Hanover County
Mac Montgomery, Town of Kure Beach
Bill Saffo, City of Wilmington
Mike Ballard, Town of Navassa
Allen Gilbert, Town of Carolina Beach
Chuck Thurlow, Town of Belville

Staff Present:

Mike Kozlosky, Senior Transportation Planner
Joshuah Mello, Transportation Planner
Anthony Prinz, Transportation Planner

1. Call to Order

Mr. Wilson called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes from the March 26th meeting carried unanimously.

3. Public Comment Period

Mr. Wilson asked if anyone would like to make any comments.

Mr. Alvin Rogers requested the opportunity to address his concerns regarding the College Road and Oleander Drive Intersection. He told members he would like to request a second public hearing on the College and Oleander intersection study so that the public can have an opportunity to offer their input. Mr. Kozlosky told members NCDOT is planning on holding a public hearing on the intersection improvements in July. Ms. Padgett asked Mr. Kozlosky to get a copy of the Department of Transportation's evaluation for the intersections to Mr. Rogers.

Ms. Ilse Henagan addressed the board regarding the Cape Fear Historic Scenic Byway. She told members she would like to thank members of the TAC for having the foresight, vision and the dedication to initiate the Cape Fear Historic Scenic Byway. Staff has done a great job and this is a wonderful addition to the City of Wilmington.

4. Presentation – NC Ports Authority – Bill Bennett

Mr. Wilson introduced Mr. Bill Bennett with the North Carolina Ports Authority.

Mr. Bennett gave a presentation to update the committee on the plans for the new terminal in Brunswick County. The presentation included information on the plans for the terminal and the impacts that have been identified. Mr. Bennett told members the property has been purchased and they have hired an international engineering/consulting firm, specializing in port planning and design, to develop the business plan. The total cost estimate is in the range of \$2.3 billion, which includes rail improvements, highway improvements and dredging. The time-line for the new terminal to be in operation (Phase I) is 2017. Mr. Bennett said if anyone is interested in more information, they may contact him through their web site – www.ncports.com.

5. Old Business

No items

6. New Business

a. Municipal Agreement with NCDOT for the Market Street Corridor Plan

Mr. Kozlosky told members on March 6th the Board of Transportation awarded the City of Wilmington and the Wilmington MPO \$275,000 to complete a corridor study on Market Street. The study will focus on ways to better integrate transportation and land use planning. The funds are being moved from the U-4902 project. It is the first time in the state that funds have been programmed in this manner. The focus will be recommendations for access management strategies, interconnectivity, improved development standards, as well as the development of collector streets for improving mobility and safety along the Market Street corridor. The U-4902 funding is programmed for right-of-way acquisition in 2009 and construction in 2010. This item will go before the Wilmington City Council on June 3rd.

Mr. Montgomery made the motion to adopt the resolution. Ms. Padgett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

b. Resolution requesting NCDOT consider Safe Routes to School funding for bicycle/pedestrian improvements at Independence Boulevard/Park Avenue

Mr. Mello told members staff has received repeated request from residents of Forest Hills for pedestrian amenities at Park Avenue and Independence Boulevard in order for them to walk or bicycle over to Empie Park and schools that are on the east side of Independence Boulevard. Staff received a cost estimate of \$43,000 for the proposed options for the project, which include a short multi-use path, some pedestrian signal-heads and a marked crosswalk across Independence Boulevard. Division 3 has \$200,000 per year in Safe Routes to School (SRTS) funds and this project is eligible because it is within two miles of three K-8 schools. Ms. Padgett made the motion to request NCDOT consider Safe Routes to School funding for bicycle/pedestrian improvements at Independence Boulevard/Park Avenue. Mr. Montgomery seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

c. Resolution discouraging the use of the Adrian B. Rhodes Reserve Center as transitional housing and service center for the tri-county region

Mr. Kozlosky told members the Cape Fear Historic Byway was designated as a North Carolina Scenic Byway in April 2007. It is the first entirely urban scenic byway in the State of North Carolina. The Cape Fear Historic Byway Corridor Management Plan was prepared and adopted by the Transportation Advisory Committee and later adopted by the Wilmington City Council. The plan provides recommendations for corridor improvements that will be used to as a guide to improve the visitor experience. With the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), the Adrian B. Rhodes AFRC base, adjacent to the Cape Fear Historic Byway on East Lakeshore Drive is scheduled for closure. It has been proposed that the facility be used as a location for transitional housing and service center for the homeless in the tri-county region. Staff has received input from citizens who feel this proposal will create an unsafe feeling among visitors to the byway and should be further studied. Ms. Padgett told members the City of Wilmington is also discouraging the use of the facility as a transitional housing and service center for the homeless.

Mr. Kozlosky told members this resolution discourages the use of the Adrian B. Rhodes AFRC as a transitional housing and service center for the homeless and encourages a use that would be consistent with the recommendations to implement the Cape Fear Historic Byway Corridor Management Plan. Mr. Montgomery made the motion to support the City of Wilmington and adopt the resolution. Ms. Padgett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

7. Discussion Items

No items

8. Project Updates

a. Dow Road Widening and Extension

Mr. Kozlosky told members that staff held the first steering committee meeting. The first public informational meeting has been scheduled for June 17th at Carolina Beach Elementary School. Advertisements will be placed and property owners will be notified.

b. Monkey Junction Collector Street Plan

Mr. Kozlosky told members that staff has done the data collection and will work on the text for the plan as time becomes available. Most of the feedback received from the public who have been involved in the project has been positive. Staff anticipates the collector street plan to be ready for presentation to the TAC and the county commissioners at the end of this year.

c. NCDOT Project Update

attached

9. Announcements

a. NC Public Transportation Meeting – June 2 – 4

b. NCSITE Mid-year Meeting – June 12-13

c. Wilmington Bike/Pedestrian Committee Meeting – June 12

10. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:14pm

Respectfully submitted

Mike Kozlosky
Senior Transportation Planner