

**Wilmington Urban Area  
Technical Coordinating Committee  
Meeting Notes for April 11, 2012**

**Members Present:**

Mike Kozlosky, City of Wilmington  
Albert Eby, WAVE Transit  
Robert Waring, Town of Leland  
Ken Vafier, Pender County  
Karyn Crichton, New Hanover County  
Sean Ryan, Town of Navassa  
Shane York, NCDOT  
Stephanie Ayers, NC Ports  
Nancy Avery, Town of Kure Beach  
Karen Fussell, NCDOT  
Adrienne Harrington, TDM Coordinator

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the March 14, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.

**3. New Business**

**a. Resolution Adopting the 2012-2013 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the 2012-2013 UPWP includes tasks expected to be completed over the next fiscal year. The budget does include some special studies which were programmed in the current fiscal year, which include the Leland, Belville, Brunswick County Collector Street Plan, the Wrightsville Beach Comprehensive Transportation Study, the Comprehensive Greenway Plan and any other plans completed by the MPO. Those projects were funded in the current year; however, based on our anticipated expenditures, we de-obligated funding in the current year and have put funding into the upcoming fiscal year to complete those studies. This also includes the funding we anticipate receiving from NCDOT for Section 5303.

Ms. Ayers made the motion to support adoption of the 2012-2013 Unified Planning Work Program and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. York seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**b. Resolution Adopting the Public Transportation MTIP/STIP Amendment**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the amendments include the replacement of the LTVs, funding for routine capital, as well as some additional funding for the operations facility that is planned off Division Drive. The required 30-day public comment period has ended and no comments were received. The resolution will be support the amendment of the 2012-2018 State Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program to fund these public transportation related initiatives.

Mr. Vafier made the motion to support adoption of the MTIP/STIP Amendment for Public Transportation and forward to the TAC for consideration. Ms. Ayers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**c. Resolution Requesting NCDOT further evaluate the E-H-1 Potential Alignment for the Hampstead Bypass**

Mr. Kozlosky told members NCDOT received a request from a property owner to evaluate a change to the E-H Alignment for the Hampstead Bypass. TAC Vice-chair Lambert requested that the resolution be placed on the agenda for the next TAC meeting.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that NCDOT completed a GIS screening of the proposed new alignment (E-H-1) and determined that it will result in greater impacts to the natural environment, including wetlands, 100-year flood plain, protected species and impaired streams. The E-H-1 alignment will also require a slightly greater amount of property. He told members that if the Merger Team agrees to reopen consideration of this new alignment, it will delay the Military Cutoff Road extension project for two years. The Military Cutoff Road extension project and the Hampstead Bypass projects are being completed under one Environmental Document. The purpose and need for the project is to improve the level of service on Market Street and US 17 within the study area. The Military Cutoff Road extension project is currently identified for funding for right-of-way acquisition in 2014 and 2015, and construction in 2017, 2018 and 2019. The funding associated with the Hampstead Bypass for right-of-way acquisition is in 2017.

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the Department is at a point in the merger process where the environmental agencies have agreed on the study alternatives. They are approaching the point when they will determine the least environmental damaging practical alternative. To go back now and reopen alignment studies will take the project back to Concurrence Point 2 and it would also take concurrence from the environmental agencies.

Mr. Kozlosky said that because this would delay the Military Cutoff Road extension project and the Hampstead Bypass project for 2 or more years, the Department has asked that the MPO make the decision to evaluate the E-H-1 alignment.

Mr. York noted that the key issue here is the red-cockaded woodpecker foraging grounds. The E-H-1 alignment impacts 35 acres of foraging area and that alone will probably eliminate it as a possible alignment.

Mr. Vafier told members that Pender County does not support the resolution based on the increased impacts to the environment. In addition to that, these two projects have been prioritized in the top-5 in the last two prioritization cycles.

Ms. Ayers stated that she had reviewed the E-H-1 alignment information and could not see any advantages. She asked if the project could possibly lose funding if delayed 2 year. Mr. Kozlosky said that was a potential outcome.

Mr. Bennett told members he did not see any benefits with the new alignment. He made the motion to not support the request to evaluate the E-H-1 Potential Alignment for the Hampstead Bypass. Ms Ayers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**d. Resolution Supporting the Naming of US 17 as the “The Colonial Highway”**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the TAC heard a presentation from Mr. William Holt with the Colonial Highway and Revolutionary Trail Organization. The group, in cooperation with a number of historical and cultural resources on or in the vicinity of US 17 are working to enhance the of Colonial Revolutionary history along the US 17 corridor in North Carolina. The US 17 corridor in South Carolina and Virginia are acknowledged for their historical and cultural resources and completion of the US 17 corridor north and south across North Carolina will help to improve historical tourism and acknowledge these cultural resources. The TAC requested that staff bring a resolution back to the board at their next meeting for consideration.

Mr. Vafier told members there are currently two other efforts under way through the US Highway 17 Association in naming the US 17 corridor. The Golden Leaf organization is seeking national heritage status for the corridor and if it's successful, they could provide funds to market the designated corridor area and promoting tourism destinations. The other effort is an economic impact study for the corridor through the Highway 17 Association. Mr. Vafier asked if we should delay supporting the efforts by the Colonial Highway and Revolutionary Trail Organization to name the corridor "The Colonial Highway" until these two endeavors are completed in case there is a recommendation in naming or designation the corridor by the Highway 17 Association. The studies should be completed by the end of this calendar year.

Ms. Ayers told members she is a member of the Down East RPO and US 17 runs through that region and she has not yet seen a resolution like that at DERPO. She said she has been in meetings with Marc Finlayson, who is the Executive Director of Highway 17 Association and they have been having a lot of discussions about how to best market Highway 17. She said she agrees that it would probably be best to defer this item and give the Highway 17 Association time to move forward with their efforts.

Mr. Bennett made the motion to recommend tabling the resolution until the US Highway 17 Association and the RPOs and MPOs along the corridor have completed their studies and make their recommendations for the corridor. Mr. Vafier seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

#### **4. Updates**

Project updates for the Wilmington MPO/City of Wilmington, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority and NCDOT are included in the agenda packet.

#### **5. Announcements**

#### **6. Adjournment**

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35am.

**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.**