

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Meeting Notes for November 19, 2014**

Members Present:

Mike Kozlosky, City of Wilmington

Adrienne Harrington, TDM Coordinator

Ed Parvin, Town of Carolina Beach

Megan Matheny, WAVE Transit

Helen Bunch, Brunswick County

Stephanie Ayers, NC Ports

Dylan McDonnell, New Hanover County

Patrick Riddle, NCDOT Division 3

Nora McCann, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch

Whitney Prease, Wilmington International Airport

Robert Waring, Town of Leland

Athina Williams, Town of Belville

Nancy Avery, Town of Kure Beach

Allen Serkin, Cape Fear COG

Kyle Breuer, Pender County

Zach Steffey, Town of Wrightsville Beach

Trey Burke, Town of Navassa

Others Present:

Joe Breault, Town of Belville

1. Call to Order

Mr. Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 10:07am.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the October 15, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously.

3. Presentations

a. Wilmington MPO Logo Development, Bethany Windle, WMPO

Ms. Windle gave a presentation on the Wilmington MPO logo development. Following the presentation in which Ms. Windle presented several options for the new logo design, members discussed the possibility of a name update for the MPO that would better reflect the organization's purpose. Mr. Kozlosky told members that staff asked the City's legal staff to review the MOU to determine what steps would be necessary to change the name. He said staff will bring the proposed changes to the TAC members for discussion at their next meeting.

4. Consent Agenda

a. Resolution approving the STIP/MTIP Amendment (October)

b. Resolution supporting the Brunswick Battleship Connector

c. Resolution approving WAVE's STP-DA funding allocation

d. Resolution adopting the 2015 TCC/TAC meeting calendar

e. Opening of 30-day public comment period on "Work Cape Fear: Expanding Commuter Options in the Cape Fear Region" TDM Short Range Plan

Mr. Warring requested that Item b on the consent agenda be pulled for discussion.

Mr. McDonnell made the motion to approve items a, c, d and e on the consent agenda and forward it to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Warring seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ms. Ayers requested that she be recused from Item b: Resolution supporting the Brunswick Battleship Connector. Ms. Williams made the motion to recuse Ms. Ayers from voting on Item b. Ms. Bunch seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Warring told members he thought the Brunswick Battleship Connector was an interesting project and it has a lot of positive attributes. He noted that some questions have come up and he would like to see more information about the project. He asked if the Eagle Island Coalition is comfortable that the environmental issues for the project will be addressed. Mr. Warring also asked if this project would impact the route selection process currently underway for the Cape Fear River crossing.

Mr. Breault told members the Brunswick Battleship Connector is a concept and the environmental studies still have yet to be done. He noted that the concept route is not firm and if the Town of Belville does not receive a grant from the NC Ports Authority, the project will not go forward. He told members the Town is looking for people to say they support the concept and that's the purpose of the resolution under consideration.

Mr. Kozlosky told members that Mr. O'Keefe asked if the Bike/Ped Committee has given consideration to supporting the project. Ms. Harrington said the project has not come before the Bike/Ped Committee. Mr. Kozlosky suggested that the concept be considered by them before it comes to the TCC for support. Ms. Harrington said she would include it on the agenda for their December meeting.

Mr. Breuer made the motion to send the resolution of support for the Brunswick Battleship Connector concept plan to the WMPO Bike/Ped Committee for consideration at their next meeting. Ms. McCann seconded the motion and it carried with all voting in favor except Ms. Ayers who was recused from voting.

5. Regular Agenda

a. Resolution encouraging NCDOT to complete a feasibility study to evaluate relocating the rail line across the Cape Fear River

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the CSXT rail line begins at Davis Yard and then travels in a "U" shape through the City of Wilmington and ties in with the NC Port of Wilmington. He said the resolution encourages the City of Wilmington, the MPO, NCDOT and CSXT to complete a feasibility study to evaluate relocating that rail line across the river, thus eliminating thousands of vehicle conflicts with rail on a daily basis. He noted that the move will also create opportunities for redevelopment in the City along that rail line if it were to be abandoned and the resolution would support the initiation of that feasibility study. He told members that at their last meeting, the Wilmington City Council adopted a resolution supporting the feasibility study.

Ms. Ayers made a motion to support the feasibility study. Ms. Williams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

6. Discussion

a. Draft 2015 UPWP

Mr. Kozlosky told members that NCDOT requested that the Section 5303 budget be submitted by January 30th. Staff felt it was important to also develop a budget for the Planning Work Program funds and SPT-DA funds. He noted that the next step in the process will be for staff to take the draft 2015 UPWP to the TAC's December meeting and request that they open the 30-day comment period.

b. Cape Fear Transportation 2040

I. MTP Prioritization

II. MTP Alternative Funding Mechanisms

Ms. Rashid told members that staff ran the list of recommended projects submitted by each of the modal sub-committees through the prioritization methodology tool. Ms. Rashid, Ms. Harrington and Ms. Windle reviewed the percentage allocations assigned to each criterion used in each of the modal prioritization tools and the resulting prioritized list of top scoring projects by mode. She reminded members that the list is a starting point for conversations and asked members to review the ranked lists found in the agenda packet for discussion and consideration at the January meeting.

Ms. Rashid told members the MTP for 2040 must be fiscally constrained. The first step in meeting that requirement was for staff to develop funding projections by mode between 2015 and 2040. The next step was to analyze the information and determine exactly what projects could be funded. Ms. Rashid stated that staff also looked for other ways to fund additional projects. She reviewed other possible alternative funding mechanisms for consideration. She said staff will bring that list to the TAC and ask for a final recommendation on what they see as viable options for raising additional revenue to build additional projects.

Mr. Kozlosky told members that staff will be asking the TAC members to provide a recommendation on how proceed and what alternative financing mechanisms they can support at their December meeting. That information will be used in developing the financial element of the MTP.

Ms. Rashid told members the next steps for the MTP 2040 plan is for the TAC to review and approve a draft fiscally-constrained project lists in preparation for holding public input meetings in March or April.

c. Draft STIP/MTIP

Mr. Kozlosky told members the Draft STIP/MTIP will be released on December 4th. Staff will hold discussion with TAC members at their December 10th meeting.

d. County maintenance of sidewalks and multi-use paths

Mr. Kozlosky told members the Mr. Breuer requested that the item be added to the agenda.

Mr. Breuer said when looking at the MTP and local bike and pedestrian plans as a county government, it becomes very evident that there is not a sustainable funding-stream for operation and maintenance of sidewalks and multi-use paths. He noted that Pender County has been able to be creative in looking at grant funds with local matches working with private development, but he can foresee this becoming an issue. He noted that this also seems to be a statewide issue in urbanizing areas. He asked that TCC

members start thinking about how to implement an overall regional strategy to address maintenance of sidewalks and multi-use paths.

e. STP-DA and TAP-DA Balance and Monthly Reporting

Ms. Strait reminded members that STP-DA and TAP-DA funds have a “shelf-life”. It’s the fiscal year they are awarded, plus three years. She told members with STP-DA in fiscal year 2013, the unobligated balance is \$660,924.00. That must be obligated by FY16 or it would expire. For FY14, the balance was \$35,657.00. Ms. Strait told members for the TAP-DA funds, there is only a balance for FY14 in the amount of \$37,164.00.

Mr. Kozlosky told members the problem the WMPO will run into is if we haven’t obligated FY13 funds by FY16, then the funds must be returned. He stated that he would like to get a recommendation from the TCC on what they would propose that we do with the funds in order to get them obligated. Mr. Kozlosky told members staff would like to hold more in-depth discussion on the options available for obligating the funds at the next meeting.

7. Updates

Updates are included in the agenda packet.

8. Announcements

9. Adjournment

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 12:02pm.

**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.**