

Meeting Minutes
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
Transportation Advisory Committee
Date: October 29, 2014

Members Present:

Laura Padgett, Chair, City of Wilmington
Pat Batleman, Vice-chair, Town of Leland
Hank Miller, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Eulis Willis, Town of Navassa
Earl Sheridan, City of Wilmington
Frank Williams, Brunswick County
Woody White, New Hanover County
John Lennon, NC Board of Transportation

Staff Present:

Mike Kozlosky, Executive Director

1. Call to Order

Ms. Padgett called the meeting to order at 3:02pm.

2. Conflict of Interest Reminder

Ms. Padgett asked if any members had a conflict of interest with any items on the meeting agenda. No members reported having a conflict of interest.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the September 17th meeting were approved unanimously.

4. Public Comment Period

No one requested to speak during the Public Comment Period.

5. Presentations

a. NCDOT/Governor's 25 Year Transportation Plan, Susan Pullium, NCDOT

Mr. Kozlosky told members Ms. Pullium was not able to attend the meeting. He said he will invite her to attend the next TAC meeting on December 10th.

b. Eagles Island Path, Joe Breault, Town of Belville

Mr. Kozlosky told members Mr. Joe Breault was unable to attend today's meeting and he requested to reschedule the presentation to the December meeting

c. TDM Plan, Adrienne Harrington, WMPO

Ms. Harrington gave a presentation on the progress of the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Program. Ms. Harrington told members that staff is working to complete both the short-range TDM plan, as well as working on the TDM long-range plan that will be published within the Cape Fear Transportation 2040 Plan. Ms. Harrington said the time line for the short-range plan includes incorporating comments from the TDM Committee into the draft document and bringing it to the TCC

and TAC for review and comment at their October meetings. The final document will then come before both groups for approval.

6. Consent Agenda

- a. **Resolution approving the STIP/MTIP Modification (September)**
- b. **Resolution approving the STIP/MTIP Amendment (September)**
- c. **Resolution supporting a revised Section 5303 agreement between the MPO, City and CFPTA**
- d. **Resolution supporting the Town of Topsail Beach's efforts to secure NCDOT grant funding for the completion of a bike/pedestrian plan**
- e. **Resolution supporting amendments to Cape Fear Commutes 2035 Transportation Plan for bike/pedestrian initiatives in Pender County**
- f. **Opening of 30-day comment period for STIP/MTIP Amendment (October)**

Ms. Padgett told members that item 6.d. is a request from the Town of Topsail Beach. They are asking the WMPO to consider a resolution of support for their grant application to NCDOT for funding a bike/pedestrian plan.

Mr. Frank Williams made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Dr. Sheridan seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

7. Regular Agenda

- a. **Resolution providing additional comments to NCDOT regarding the Strategic Transportation Corridors Initiative**

Ms. Rashid told members that the TAC adopted a resolution that provided comments on the draft Strategic Transportation Corridors Initiative at the July meeting. From the list of comments submitted by the WMPO, only two of the requested changes were addressed. They included the portion of US 74 as one of the top facilities in the initiative. They also addressed the concern that the Strategic Highway Corridors Initiative was part of the NEPA documentation and other base documentation for projects moving forward through the environmental review or funding processes. The Department indicated that they would adopt that portion of the Strategic Highway Corridor Initiative by reference so that it wouldn't negate any of the environmental work that has been done on existing projects.

Ms. Rashid told members that after receiving the revised Draft Strategic Transportation Corridors plan, staff felt that many of the comments from the July resolution had not addressed. Ms. Rashid said the Department indicated that comments would still be accepted until the final document is approved by the Board of Transportation. She said today's resolution provides additional comments to NCDOT regarding the plan.

Mr. Frank Williams made the motion to adopt the resolution providing additional comments to NCDOT regarding the Strategic Transportation Corridors Initiative. Ms. Batleman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

b. Resolution encouraging NCDOT to fund the Kerr Avenue widening from Randall Parkway to Wrightsville Avenue and the extension of Kerr Avenue to Oleander Drive

Ms. Padgett told members that the TAC adopted a resolution supporting the NCDOT widening of Kerr Avenue to a multi-lane facility from the Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway to Randall Parkway in February of 2006. She said the original project went further than that but due to funding issues part of the project had to be tabled. The decision was made to eliminate the portion from Randall Parkway to Wrightsville Avenue and the extension of Kerr Avenue to Oleander Drive. She noted that as time goes on, it's clear that the City of Wilmington needs Kerr Avenue widened its entire length and extended.

Dr. Sheridan made the motion to adopt the resolution encouraging NCDOT to fund the Kerr Avenue widening from Randall Parkway to Wrightsville Avenue and the extension of Kerr Avenue to Oleander Drive. Mr. Frank Williams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

c. Resolution encouraging the Governor, North Carolina General Assembly and North Carolina Department of Transportation to fund the Hampstead Bypass if the General Assembly approves the borrowing of \$1 Billion for rural transportation projects

Mr. Frank Williams made the motion to adopt the resolution encouraging the Governor, North Carolina General Assembly and North Carolina Department of Transportation to fund the Hampstead Bypass if the General Assembly approves the borrowing of \$1 Billion for rural transportation projects. Mr. Miller seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

8. Discussion

a. Cape Fear Transportation 2040

- i. Follow-up on bike, Pedestrian, Aviation, Roadway and Financial Considerations**
- ii. Freight/Rail**
- iii. Ferry**
- iv. Mass Transportation**

Ms. Rashid, Ms Harrington and Ms Windle presented a comprehensive update on the progress made to date on the Cape Fear Transportation 2040 Plan by the modal subcommittees for Freight/Rail, Ferry and Water Transportation and Mass Transportation.

Ms. Rashid told members that at the last meeting Ms. Batleman suggested that the replacement for the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge should be included on the Roadway project list for the 2040 plan. Ms. Rashid said staff spoke to engineers with the Department and they indicated that with regular maintenance, the bridge should last an addition 35 to 50 years.

Ms. Batleman said even with regular maintenance, the bridge is aging and she would like to see its replacement added to the list. Ms. Rashid said the bridge replacement will be added to the list.

Ms. Rashid, Ms Harrington and Ms Windle presented the recommendations from the Ferry and Water Transportation Modal Subcommittee, the Freight/Rail Modal Committee and the Mass Transit Modal Subcommittee to the committee. Ms. Rashid also provided information on potential alternative funding mechanisms. Ms. Rashid said the next step in the process is to review the project lists and develop costs estimates associated with the projects and then run them through the prioritization process. Staff will bring the results back to the TAC for consideration.

b. Strategic Transportation Investment Results (Regional and Division Tiers)

Mr. Kozlosky told members that NCDOT will release the draft STIP on December 3rd. The draft scoring matrix is included in the packet for review. Staff will bring the information to the December TAC meeting for discussion.

8. Updates

Project updates for the Crossing over the Cape Fear River Work Group, Wilmington MPO, CFPTA and NCDOT Division and Planning Branch are included in the agenda packet.

Closed session

Ms. Padgett told members there is a need to waive the rules and enter into a closed session pursuant to the provisions of GS #143-318.11 A3 in order to consult with Attorney Matt Nichols regarding the legal matter of Jamestown Pender, LP vs. North Carolina Department of Transportation and Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, Pender County file 14CVS528.

Ms. Batleman made the motion to waive the rules and enter into a closed session. Ms Padgett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Call back to order

Ms. Padgett called the meeting back into open session. She told members no action was taken other than to consult with Attorney Matt Nichols regarding the MPO's responses to the legal matter of Jamestown Pender, LP vs. North Carolina Department of Transportation and Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

10. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm

Respectfully submitted
Mike Kozlosky
Executive Director
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

**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.**