

Meeting Minutes
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
Transportation Advisory Committee
Date: December 10, 2014

Members Present:

Laura Padgett, Chair, City of Wilmington
Jon Tait, Town of Leland
Eulis Willis, Town of Navassa
Earl Sheridan, City of Wilmington
Joe Breault, Town of Belville
Frank Williams, Brunswick County
David Piepmeyer, Pender County (non-voting today)
Gary Doetsch, Town of Carolina Beach
John Lennon, NC Board of Transportation
Jonathan Barfield, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority

Staff Present:

Mike Kozlosky, Executive Director

1. Call to Order

Ms. Padgett called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

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 October 29th meeting were approved unanimously.

4. Public Comment Period

No one requested to speak during the Public Comment Period.

5. Presentations

a. Recognitions of former TAC member David Williams

Ms. Padgett presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. David Williams for his dedicated service to the Transportation Advisory Committee from 2007 to 2014.

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

Ms. Pullium, NCDOT's Director of Strategic Planning gave a presentation on Governor McCrory's 25 Year Vision for North Carolina – "Mapping our Future". She told members that the 25-year plan recognizes four regions within the state and identifies specific infrastructure solutions needed to make the state more globally competitive. The plan provides a regional breakdown of targeted investments in multi-modal solutions that will help to create a strong and reliable transportation network that will enhance the overall quality of life in North Carolina. Ms. Pullium said the Governor and his staff began a cross-state tour following the plan's release in December.

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

Mr. Joe Breault from the Town of Belville addressed members regarding the proposed Eagles Island Path. He said the project is an effort to connect the Battleship Memorial Park with the Brunswick Riverwalk. The connection will provide access to wetlands and offer educational opportunities, as well as provide an opportunity for future inter-connectivity of recreation facilities and trails on both sides of the Cape Fear River.

d. WMPO Logo, Bethany Windle

Ms. Windle gave a presentation on the Wilmington MPO logo development. She presented several options for the new logo design and discussed the possibility of changing the MPO's name so that it would better reflect the organization's purpose. Mr. Kozlosky said staff asked the City's legal staff to review the MOU to determine what steps would be necessary to change the MPO's name. He said staff will continue working on the name and logo design and bring back suggested changes for discussion at their next meeting.

6. Consent Agenda

- a. **Resolution approving the STIP/MTIP Amendment (October)**
- b. **Resolution approving WAVE's STP-DA funding allocation**
- c. **Resolution adopting the 2015 TCC/TAC meeting calendar**
- d. **Opening of 30-day public comment period on "Work Cape Fear: Expanding Commuter Options in the Cape Fear Region" TDM Short Range Plan**
- e. **Opening of 30-day public comment period on DRAFT 2015-2016 Unified Planning Work Program**

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

7. Regular Agenda

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

Ms. Padgett told members that the City of Wilmington is dealing with several issues created by the numerous rail crossings throughout the City. At their last meeting, the Wilmington City Council passed a resolution requesting that the Department look at completing a feasibility study to evaluate relocating the rail line across the Cape Fear River. Ms. Padgett explained that one issue is the completion of Independence Boulevard as an alternate north/south route through the city. The size and type of project for Independence Boulevard is being dictated because of the railroad crossings. She noted that there is also the issue of access to the Ports. Currently the railroad has 31 roadway crossing intersections, creating potential conflict and safety issues.

Ms. Padgett made the motions to approve the resolution encouraging NCDOT to complete a feasibility study to evaluate relocating the rail line across the Cape Fear River. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

8. Discussion

- a. **Cape Fear Transportation 2040**
 - i. **MTP Prioritization**
 - ii. **MTP Alternative Funding Mechanisms**

Ms. Rashid told members that staff evaluated the lists 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 lists of top scoring projects by mode. She reminded members that the lists are a starting point for conversations and asked members to review the ranked lists found in the agenda packet for discussion and consideration.

Ms. Rashid told members the plan 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 funding mechanisms for consideration. She told members that staff will send out an e-mail request for feedback on what members think their jurisdictions would be willing to support to raise additional funding.

Ms. Rashid asked members if it would be possible to have a workshop in January to discuss the project prioritization process and the alternative funding mechanisms in detail. Ms. Padgett told members this is an important process and encouraged members to attend the workshop. Mr. Kozlosky suggested holding a workshop the first full week in January and he asked members to e-mail their availability.

b. Regional Transportation Demand Management Efforts

Mr. Kozlosky told members staff has been working with the Town of Leland and WAVE Transit to kick off the Park and Ride efforts in our area. He noted that three park and ride lots will be opening on January 5th in Leland. Staff will be sending out a press release prior to event.

c. Draft 2015-2025 STIP/MTIP

Mr. Kozlosky told members the Draft 2015-2025 STIP/MTIP was released on December 4th. Ms. Padgett suggested that the Chair and Vice Chair and two other members travel to Raleigh to meet with NCDOT representatives to discuss the draft list. She said to contact her if anyone is interested in going.

9. 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 update members 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. Padgett made the motion to waive the rules and enter into a closed session. Dr. Sheridan 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 update members 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 5:00pm

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.**