

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
**Transportation Advisory Committee**  
**Date: September 17, 2014**

**Members Present:**

Laura Padgett, Chair, City of Wilmington  
Pat Batleman, Vice-chair, Town of Leland  
Gary Doetsch, Town of Carolina Beach  
Hank Miller, Town of Wrightsville Beach  
Eulis Willis, Town of Navassa  
Earl Sheridan, City of Wilmington  
Frank Williams, Brunswick County  
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 3:02pm.

**2. Conflict of Interest Reminder**

Ms. Padgett asked if any members had a conflict of interest with any items on the meeting agenda. Mr. Doetsch requested to be recused from voting on Item 5.a.

Mr. Frank Williams made the motion to recuse Mr. Doetsch from voting on Item 5.a. Ms. Batleman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for the August 27<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved unanimously.

**4. Public Comment Period**

Mr. Andy Koeppel addressed members regarding Item 6.b. (Resolution supporting the interim use of the rail corridor for a trail and greenspace). He stated that he was concerned that the word compatibility is used relative to the day when rail service is restored. He requested that language be added to say that the presents of rail would have priority over the presents of the trail should a choice have to be made.

**5. Consent Agenda**

- a. **Resolution approving the STIP/MTIP Modification (August)**
- b. **Resolution authorizing an agreement between the Wilmington MPO, City of Wilmington and Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority to provide funding to the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority for Long-Range Transportation Planning**
- c. **Opening of 30-day public comment period for STIP/MTIP Amendment (September)**

Ms. Padgett made the motion to pull Item 5.a from the consent agenda. Dr. Sheridan seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Frank Williams made the motion to adopt items b. and c. on the consent agenda. Mr. Doetsch seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Barfield made the motion to approve Item 5.a. on the consent agenda. Mr. Frank Williams seconded the motion and it carried with 7 members voting in favor and Mr. Doetsch abstaining from the vote.

## **6. Regular Agenda**

### **a. Resolution encouraging NCDOT to incorporate a landscaped median and sidewalk/multi-use trail into the design plans for Market Street**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that NCDOT is working on the access management improvements along Market Street from Eastwood Road to Porters Neck Road. The section between Marsh Oaks Drive and Porters Neck Road is currently under construction. The plans for the landscaped median only include grass, as well as only replacing the sidewalks where they currently exist.

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the Market Street Corridor Study, adopted in 2011 recommends aesthetic enhancements and multi-modal considerations that include landscaped medians and sidewalks/multi-use trail. The access management improvements between the Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway and Porters Neck Road are identified for funding and NCDOT anticipates construction to begin in 2016. He noted that the Department is currently developing the design plans for the improvements. In an effort to follow the complete streets policy that was adopted by the Board of Transportation, the resolution encourages NCDOT to incorporate a landscaped median and sidewalk/multi-use trail into the design plans for the Market Street corridor.

Mr. Doetsch made the motion to encourage NCDOT to incorporate a landscaped median and sidewalk/multi-use trail into the design plans for Market Street. Mr. Frank Williams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### **b. Resolution supporting the interim use of the rail corridor between McRae Street and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street for a trail and greenspace until the rail-line can be restored and encouraging a future rail with trail, if compatible, within the rail corridor**

Ms. Padgett said in reference Mr. Koeppel's concerns expressed during the public hearing, the wording in the resolution states that the trail is an interim use of the corridor in anticipation of getting rail. Mr. Frank Williams told members he shares the concerns expressed by Mr. Koeppel; but, he feels they are already addressed.

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the purpose of the resolution is to get the concept on the table for an interim use of the corridor from 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to McRae Street, recognizing that it may be several years before rail is established. He noted that the project was identified in the adopted Wilmington/New Hanover County Comprehensive Greenway Plan. If the resolution is approved by the TAC, staff will take a resolution to the Wilmington City Council for consideration.

Mr. Barfield made the motion to support the interim use of the rail corridor between McRae Street and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street for a trail and greenspace until the rail-line can be restored and encouraging a future rail with trail, if compatible, within the rail corridor. Mr. Doetsch seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**c. Resolution requesting NCDOT to provide funding to assist with the construction of the Masonboro Loop Road Multi-use Trail**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that Board of Transportation member Michael Lee approached staff regarding the possible use of funds that had been identified by NCDOT for small construction projects. Mr. Kozlosky said after reviewing several projects, staff recommended constructing a multi-use trail along Masonboro Loop Road from the northern terminus of Masonboro Sound Road and the City limits. That project is identified in the Walk Wilmington: A Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan, as well as the Comprehensive Greenway Plan. The trail is part of the City of Wilmington's Potential Transportation Bond package and the funds would offer an opportunity to partner with NCDOT.

Dr. Sheridan made the motion to request NCDOT provide funding to assist with the construction of the Masonboro Loop Road Multi-use Trail. Mr. Doetsch seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**7. Discussion**

**a. Cape Fear Transportation 2040**

**i. Financial Considerations**

**ii. Bicycle/Pedestrian- Draft Project List**

**iii. Aviation- Draft Project List**

**iv. Roadway- Draft Project List**

Mr. Howard Loving, Chair of the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) addressed members regarding the role of the CAC in the update of the Cape Fear Transportation 2040 Plan. He told members the committee has been involved throughout the entire process, from seeking community feedback to meeting with the various municipalities included in the process once the projects are identified for consideration.

Ms. Rashid, Ms. Harrington and Ms. Windle presented a comprehensive update on the progress made to date by three of the Modal Sub-committees. Ms. Rashid noted that the Cape Fear Transportation 2040 Plan was kicked off in May of 2013 with the Public Input Process. During that time, staff received over 4,000 survey responses to the 16-question survey. The Citizen Advisory Committee members and the Modal Subcommittees reviewed the surveys and used the information to help compile project lists for the Plan. Staff presented the recommendations from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Modal Subcommittee, the Aviation Modal Sub-committee and the Roadway Modal Sub-committee, as well as an overview of potential alternative funding mechanisms.

Ms. Batleman said she did not find any mention of replacement for the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge in the roadway project list. She told members that by 2040 the bridge will be in dire need of replacement. She stressed that the project should be included in the Cape Fear Transportation 2040 Plan. Ms. Rashid stated that staff will add the project to the listing.

Ms. Padgett reminded members of the importance of having projects included in the long range plan. She noted that if projects are not included in the plan, we have no standing when projects are to be funded. She urged members to review the projects lists and let the staff know if there is any projects that should be added or removed.

Ms. Rashid told members that staff will present updates from the Ferry Modal Subcommittee, the Freight/Rail Modal Committee and the Mass Transit Modal Subcommittee at the October meeting.

**b. MTIP/STIP Modifications (September)**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the modification is to delay right-of-way and construction of bicycle/pedestrian improvements for the Middle Sound Loop project from FY 2014 to FY 2015 to allow

additional time for design. Because it's a modification to the MTIP/STIP, it does not require a 30-day public comment period. He said staff will bring the proposed modification to the TAC in October.

**c. College Road Corridor Improvements**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the Department has 4 separate projects funded under the STI on College Road. The projects include the College Road access management improvements between Gordon Road and Carolina Beach Road, the addition of a northbound through-lane from Shipyard Boulevard to Wilshire Boulevard, and the interchange at College Road and Oleander Drive. He noted that a project to add capacity on College Road from Gordon Road to New Center Drive with an interchange at Martin Luther King, Jr Boulevard may also be coming into the STI from the state-wide tier.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that staff met with NCDOT on September 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss how the Department will release the request for consultant services to develop the Environmental Document for the projects. The Department will break this up into a study from Gordon Road to Carolina Beach Road, excluding the area between Wilshire Boulevard and Shipyard Boulevard and then a separate report for the section between Wilshire Boulevard and Shipyard Boulevard. He said staff will provide updates on the projects as they move forward.

**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. Padgett made the motion to waive the rules and enter into a closed session. Mr. Frank Williams 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 4:51pm

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.**