

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Meeting Notes for October 15, 2008**

Members Present:

Mike Kozlosky, City of Wilmington
Chris O'Keefe, New Hanover County
Stephanie Ayers, NCSPA
Don Eggert, Cape Fear RPO
Don Bennett, City of Wilmington
Shane York, NCDOT
Coke Gray, NCDOT
Patrick Riddle, NCDOT
Travis Barnes, City of Wilmington
Jill Stark, FHWA

Others Present:

Joshuah Mello, City of Wilmington
Nora McCann, NCDOT

1. Call to Order

Mr. Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 10:09 am.

2. Approval of Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes for the September 10, 2008 meeting carried unanimously.

3. Old Business

a. Resolution supporting amendments to the functional classification system for U-4434, U-4758 and U-4751

Mr. York told members the Department of Transportation made changes to the items. The changes include removing the word "other" to describe Military Cutoff Extension.

Mr. York said on Independence Boulevard Extension (U-4434), DOT agreed that the new portion will be an urban-principal arterial. DOT is not sure about the southern portion because the design has not yet started, though we do know it will be a four-lane divided facility with access control. DOT decided to ask Wilmington to just accept the northern-half now and put off the southern-half until there is a design. Mr. Kozlosky asked how this would impact the funding. Ms. Stark told members FHWA does not fund proposed, it will not receive funding until it's constructed. That is when it makes it into the HPMS. All you are doing is supplying the state with information on what is proposed in the state. Mr. Mello asked if it would affect the design if the southern piece between Randall Parkway and Market Street was classified as a principal arterial. Mr. York responded that it would require a certain amount of access control to get a principal arterial. Mr. Mello stated that the long-term goal is to develop all of Independence Boulevard as an urban principal arterial as an alternative to College Road. Mr. Kozlosky asked about Mr. York's thoughts on extending this all the way to Oleander Drive. He said he would like to see that happen. Mr. Kozlosky said he would like to request that we move forward with the urban principal classification from Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard all the way to Shipyard Boulevard. The classification will drive the design of how we want it to look in the future and urban principal arterial is how we want the corridor to look in the future.

Mr. York said the last item is the Cape Fear Skyway. The New Hanover County portion is called an urban freeway/expressway from the Cape Fear River to where it ties into US 421. Because the Brunswick County portion is rural by Census definition, it must be called a rural principal

arterial even though it is still the same facility as the New Hanover County freeway/expressway portion.

Mr. Kozlosky made the motion to move forward with the urban principal arterial designation on Military Cutoff Extension, the urban principal arterial designation on Independence Boulevard Extension from Shipyard Boulevard to the Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway, and the proposed rural principal arterial on the section of the Cape Fear Skyway from US 17 to our urbanized area boundary and then the proposed urban freeway expressway designation from the urbanized area boundary to the intersection of US 421 and Independence Boulevard in New Hanover County. Ms. Ayers seconded the motion and the vote carried unanimously.

4. **New Business**

a. Resolution Supporting Getting Connected's efforts in New Hanover County

Mr. Kozlosky told members this resolution is requesting New Hanover County and NCDOT work collaboratively to fund and implement bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements to the roadways of/around Covil Farms, Hawk, Old Fort, Cannon, Red Cedar, Middle Sound Loop and Darden Roads. It also includes the round-a-bout project in front of Ogden Elementary School. Commissioner Kopp requested the resolution be brought to the TCC and the TAC. Mr. Kozlosky said the TAC members acknowledged the need for additional bicycle and pedestrian improvements throughout the community and the region. It will require a cooperative effort in working out the details on funding for the construction, as well as maintenance of the facility. Mr. O'Keefe made the motion to support the resolution and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Riddle seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

b. Resolution supporting the Town of Carolina Beach's Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning Grant

Mr. Kozlosky told members NCDOT has initiated a call for municipalities throughout the state to create bicycle and pedestrian plans. They have identified funding in 2009 for this initiative. Mr. O'Keefe made a motion to support the Town of Carolina Beach's grant request and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Riddle seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

c. Resolution supporting the Town of Kure Beach's Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning Grant

Mr. O'Keefe made the motion to support the Town of Kure Beach's grant request and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Riddle seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

d. Resolution supporting the Town of Navassa's Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning Grant

Mr. Riddle made the motion to support the Town of Navassa's grant request and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. O'Keefe seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

e. Resolution Requesting the North Carolina Turnpike Authority, North Carolina Department of Transportation and the Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization Work Collaboratively to Secure Funding to Purchase the Property for the Proposed Madison Place Apartment Complex and also Work to Preserve the Future Corridor for the Cape Fear Skyway

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the TAC supported the City of Wilmington in filing the Transportation Official Corridor Map due to the development of the 8-acre property for Madison Place Apartments in 2006. Mr. Kozlosky said that the three-year reservation period for the Transportation Official Corridor Map on the Madison Place Apartment Complex will expire in October of 2009. Staff would like to get input from the TCC on bringing a resolution before the TAC requesting that the Department of Transportation, the MPO and the NC Turnpike Authority work collaboratively to secure funding to purchase the property for the Madison Place Apartments as well as the future corridor for the Cape Fear Skyway. Mr. Kozlosky said the City of Wilmington

may need to be involved in the purchase of the property in order to preserve of the corridor. Staff has been working to file a map for the section between Independence Boulevard and Carolina Beach Road and the Cape Fear River. As this region continues to grow, it will become essential to have an additional crossing of the river. This will be an important corridor for this region and we need to do what's necessary to preserve the corridor for the future.

Ms. Ayers told members she is very supportive of the resolution but suggested adding the wording in the 4th whereas to say ".....and provide for improved access to the Port facilities for commercial and military deployments." Mr. Kozlosky said he would make the change.

Mr. O'Keefe asked if the corridor protection could be extended after the three-year period. Mr. Kozlosky said once the three-year period expires, a decision must be made to either acquire the property or allow the construction of the 200-unit complex to go forward and that would be a significant cost increase for the project.

Ms. Ayers made the motion to support the resolution requesting the North Carolina Turnpike Authority, North Carolina Department of Transportation, the Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization and the City of Wilmington work collaboratively to secure funding to purchase the property for the proposed Madison Place Apartment complex and also work to preserve the future corridor for the Cape Fear Skyway. Mr. Riddle seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

5. Discussion Item

a. Televising Transportation Advisory Committee meetings

Mr. Kozlosky told members the request to televise the TAC meetings came from a citizen at the last TAC Meeting. Members will be discussing the possibility of televising the meeting at their October 29th meeting. Staff is researching the costs involved in the broadcast of the meetings.

6. Project Updates

a. Market Street Corridor Study

Mr. Kozlosky told members the first public information workshop was held October 7th - 9th. Staff has developed ideas for possible improvements and ways to integrate transportation and land use planning along the section of the Market Street Corridor between Colonial Drive and Gordon Road. The next meetings will be held October 28th - 30th and will focus on the section of Market Street from Gordon Road to the New Hanover/Pender County line. Staff will have information available at the meeting for the entire corridor.

b. Dow Road Corridor Study

Mr. Kozlosky told members that at the last TAC meeting, the members voted to reduce the scope of the project to between Snows Cut Bridge and K Avenue. Staff has received a revised scope of work. The cost is approximately \$90,000 and \$33,000 has already been spent on the development and analysis of the extension of the corridor. He said in his opinion the study will be reduced to more of a capacity analysis on Dow Road to determine what improvements can be made in the short-term to help alleviate congestion, as well as look at interconnectivity of the existing streets. He told members staff will try to reduce the scope down to \$30,000. Because the area is currently experiencing economic hardship, and based on the feed back received from the Town of Kure Beach, staff plans to take a second look at how we move through this study.

c. NCDOT Project Update

attached

d. Signal System Update

Mr. Bennett updated the group on the progress of the signal system update for the City of Wilmington. Phase 1 is scheduled to begin in March of 2009. All phases will be complete by October 2010.

e. Super Street Study

Mr. York told members he attended a meeting last month with ITRE and NC State where Dr. Hummer spoke about doing a research project to study the analysis of super streets as a whole. Students will be counting traffic at the super street in Brunswick County as one of the study areas for the project in May 2009. Other study areas will include sites in Michigan, Texas and Florida. The report should be complete by fall of 2010.

e. Pedestrian Refuge Island

Mr. Mello told member the first Pedestrian refuge island is under construction this week on Dawson Street for the River to Sea Bikeway. NCDOT will also be putting in dual-right turn lanes onto Wrightsville Avenue from Dawson Street.

7. Announcements

a. Market Street Corridor Study Public Meeting – October 28th

b. Market Street Corridor Study Public Meeting – October 30th

8. Adjournment

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 11:02 am.