

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Meeting Notes for January 23, 2008**

Members Present:

Mike Kozlosky, City of Wilmington
Stephanie Ayers, NC Ports Authority
Albert Eby, WAVE Transit
Sam Burgess, New Hanover County
Allen Serkin, Town of Navassa
Ken Vafier, Pender County
Jill Stark, NCDOT
Shane York, NCDOT
Patrick Riddle, NCDOT
Don Bennett, City of Wilmington
Tom Cunningham, Chamber of Commerce

Others Present:

Anthony Prinz, City of Wilmington
Joshuah Mello, City of Wilmington
Bill McDow, City of Wilmington
Joey Raczkowski, Pender County

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 from the December 5, 2007 meeting carried unanimously.

3. **Old Business**

none

4. **New Business**

a. **Election of Officers**

Mr. Cunningham nominated Mr. Kozlosky as chairman of the TCC and Mr. Eby seconded the nomination. The nomination carried by a unanimous vote. Mr. Riddle nominated Mr. Don Bennett as Vice chairman and Mr. Eby seconded the nomination. Mr. Bennett's nomination carried by unanimous vote.

b. **Resolution supporting the filing of the Independence Boulevard Corridor Map**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the project is currently in the design phase and is anticipated to be complete by the end of the year. There has been some development activity along the proposed corridor. Staff is proposing filing the Transportation Official Corridor Map to preserve the corridor for a period of three year time period from the time that any development proposals are submitted.

Mr. Burgess made the motion to support approval of the resolution and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Riddle seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

c. Resolution supporting the 6-laneing of US 17 in Pender County

Mr. Kozlosky told members he and Mr. Robert Vause, NCDOT District Engineer, attended a meeting in Pender County to discuss a request to analyze the possibility of a six-laneing the US 17 Corridor in Pender County from county line to county line. The Congestion Management section of NCDOT identified that there is a possibility for gridlock on the US 17/NC 210 corridor based on the developments that have been approved. They recommended the consideration of an additional lane in each direction on US 17 to accommodate the growth and development along the corridor.

Pender County Board of Commissioners endorsed a resolution urging NCDOT for fully fund and accelerate the Hampstead Bypass project, fund a study of the US 17 corridor and explore alternatives to improve safety before the bypass can be constructed other than the 6-laning of Highway 17.

Based on Congestion Management's review, we do feel the need for a feasibility study to look at the corridor and identify the necessary improvements. The TIAs that were reviewed and Congestion Management's recommendations were that an additional lane in each direction be considered, otherwise there could be gridlock along the US 17 corridor in Pender County.

Mr. Kozlosky told members the resolution recognizes that based on the approved development along the entire corridor, there will be an additional increase of approximately 200,000 trips per day. After DOT's Congestion Management review, they recommended the possibility of a 6-lane cross section along the US 17 corridor to provide additional capacity. The resolution requests a feasibility study in order to identify the feasibility of upgrading the US 17 corridor in Pender County.

Mr. Raczkowski told members he respects what DOT is saying about the necessity to upgrade the facility, but the only way Pender County could support the resolution today is if the 6-lane facility verbiage is removed and it is more broad-based where the resolution states a feasibility study. Mr. Raczkowski suggested amending the resolution to say the TCC supports the request for a feasibility study to evaluate up-grading US Highway 17 in Pender County. Mr. Raczkowski made a motion with the amendments. Mr. Eby seconded the revised motion and it carried unanimously.

d. Resolution supporting the installation of a traffic signal at Market Street and Marsh Oaks Drive

Mr. Kozlosky told members NCDOT has conducted a traffic signal warrant analysis at the Marsh Oaks Drive and Market Street intersection. They identified that the intersection meets the warrants for the installation of a traffic signal. The Department is requesting support of a resolution pursuing funding for the installation of the traffic signal.

Mr. Burgess made the motion to support the installation of a traffic signal at Market Street and Marsh Oaks Drive and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Riddle seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

5. Discussion Items

a. Dawson Street Refuge Island

Mr. Mello told members that the River to Sea Bikeway crosses Dawson Street, between Wrightsville Avenue and Oleander Drive. There are visibility issues which makes it dangerous for people using the bike path. Staff has been working with DOT to develop a plan for a refuge island at that location. The plan is now in the design phase. The Bike and Pedestrian Division in Raleigh have agreed to pay for the pedestrian element and the Division will pay for re-striping the dual right turn lanes.

b. Long Range Transportation Plan Schedule

Mr. Kozlosky distributed the draft schedule for the work-schedule on the Long Range Transportation Plan and briefly reviewed the tentative schedule. He asked members to review the schedule and submit any comments back to him. He told members that the next LRTP update is not due until March 2010 but staff is trying to get ahead of the curve and utilize the information in order to complete this project in a timely manner.

c. Citizen Advisory Committee

Mr. Kozlosky told member the ads seeking interested citizens for the Citizens Advisory Committee are running in newspapers next week.

d. 21st Century Transportation Committee

Mr. Kozlosky told member that he attended the second 21st Century Transportation Committee meeting on January 15th in Charlotte. At that meeting Charlotte identified that they have some sever congestion within the region. The next meeting will be here in Wilmington on February 21st. Mr. Cunningham told member the Chamber is working with the group and will host the breakfast on the morning of February 21st.

6. Project Updates

a. Cape Fear Historic Byway Study

Mr. Mello told members staff has the draft plan in hand and are in the process of reviewing it. They will be submitting comments to the consultant by the end of the week and then it will be presented to the steering committee. Presentations to the TCC and TAC will follow by the end of the month.

b. Blue Clay Road Bicycle Corridor Study

Mr. Mello told members the public meeting for the corridor study was held two weeks ago. This is looking at bicycle facilities along Blue Clay Road from North 23rd Street to Holly Shelter Road. There is a lot of development in northern New Hanover County and staff felt it was a good time to get something on paper. The consultant came back with three alternatives. One was mainly a off-road facility, one was mostly on-road and then a hybrid mix version. Staff favors the off-road plan between 23rd Street through the Airport Industrial Park and using the county sewer easements which will almost reach GE on Castle Hayne Road just south of I-140. There will be a spur through Blue Clay Farms over to Laney High School. Staff will be holding an additional meeting with the airport authority and the Blue Clay Farms developer to work on the agreement so we can get the final alignment adopted.

c. Dow Road Widening and Extension

Mr. Kozlosky told member staff interviewed six consultations to complete the corridor study and selected Wilbur Smith and Associates. Staff is in negotiations with the consultant on the fee and scope for the project.

d. WAVE Satellite Stations

Mr. Mello told members that staff is currently looking at satellite transfer station locations near the Independence Mall, Mayfaire and Monkey Junction area. Staff reviewed the plan and sent it back to the consultant with comments. A steering committee meeting will be held February 7th. The second draft will be available at the meeting. They are working with the Mall to secure a site for a temporary transfer facility with the idea of transitioning into a permanent facility. All of the fixed bus routes will be changing and serving new locations by the end of this quarter and we hope to have something on the ground by March or April at the Mall.

e. Cross City Trail

Mr. Mello told members the Mayor introduced the Cross City Trail at a press conference in February of 2007. The trail will be a 10-foot off-road bicycle and multi-use path from Hallyburton Park to the drawbridge at Wrightsville Beach. A meeting was held between staff, the Mayor and UNCW officials Friday because of concerns about the path transverse the UNCW campus. A tentative agreement was reached to allow the trail to traverse the campus, but the university will have the final say over how it get from point A to point B. Phase 1 of the design, running from Hallyburton Park to the Cameron Museum, is currently in design and should be under construction within the year.

d. NCDOT Project Update

attached

7. Announcements

- a. Division 3 TIP Public Hearing- January 29, 2008**
- b. Wilmington Bypass Public Hearing-January 31, 2008**
- c. 21st Century Transportation Committee meeting- Wilmington, Feb. 20-21**

8. Adjournment

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 11:12 am.