

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
**Transportation Advisory Committee**  
**Date: June 25, 2008**

**Members Present:**

Lanny Wilson, Chairman, NCBOT  
Bill Blair, Town of Wrightsville Beach  
Bill Saffo, City of Wilmington  
Nancy Pritchett, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority  
Bill Sue, Brunswick County  
Tommy Wallace, Town of Leland  
Allen Gilbert, Town of Carolina Beach  
David Williams, Pender County

**Staff Present:**

Mike Kozlosky, Senior Transportation Planner  
Joshuah Mello, Transportation Planner  
Anthony Prinz, Transportation Planner

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Wilson called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The motion to approve the minutes from the May 28<sup>th</sup> meeting carried unanimously.

**3. Public Comment Period**

Mr. Wilson asked if anyone would like to make any comments.

Mr. Andy Koeppel requested the opportunity to address his concerns regarding the resurfacing work on Oleander Drive. He asked if part of the project will be restructuring for left turn lanes. Mr. Wilson said DOT determined that they don't need to take out all of the on-street parking. They will only remove the parking where they need the additional storage for the left turns. Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Kozlosky to get Mr. Koeppel a copy of the plan for the Oleander Drive improvements.

Mr. Koeppel said he would also like to ask members of the TAC for any assistance they may provide to help facilitate WAVE Transit's efforts in building the satellite transfer station for passengers at Independence Mall. The transfer station is badly needed and any help they may offer would be greatly appreciated.

Mr. Koeppel went on to say that he is personally distressed because it seems that the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Transportation Committee has fallen by the way-side during the General Assembly's short-session. He asked Mr. Wilson if he could provide any insight. Mr. Wilson told Mr. Koeppel the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Transportation Committee transportation agenda is fully supported by both Governor Easley, and the General Assembly and the committee looks forward to getting back to work in August.

**4. Old Business**

No items

**5. New Business**

**a. Opening of the Wilmington MPO 30-day Public Comment Period for the 2009-2015 Metropolitan and Statewide Transportation Improvement Program**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that June 25<sup>th</sup> is the opening day of the 30-day public comment period for the 2009-2015 Metropolitan and Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. Comments may be submitted to the Department of Transportation starting today. Mr. Sue

made a motion to open the Wilmington MPO 30-day public comment period for the 2009-2015 Metropolitan and Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**b. Resolution Supporting the Installation of a Traffic Signal at the Intersection of US 421 (Carolina Beach Road) and River Road**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the intersection of Carolina Beach Road and River Road has been identified as a safety hazard by the Department of Transportation. The installation of the signal at the intersection will allow for improved safety left turning movements on River Road. The resolution is to request the Department of Transportation to use spot safety funds for installing the signal and, if possible, encourage the Department to accelerated funding for this project.

Ms. Pritchett asked if this is the intersection the fire department uses to access Carolina Beach Road. Mr. Kozlosky said yes. Ms Pritchett asked if we need to include giving the Fire Department the option to over-ride the signal operation during an emergency. Mr. Wilson said that was a good point and should be added to the resolution.

Mr. Pritchett made the motion to approve the installation of the traffic signal with pre-emption given to the Fire Department for emergency access. Ms. Williams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**c. Resolution Supporting the Use of Safe Routes to School and Hazard Mitigation Funds to Improve Bicycle and Pedestrian Access to Carolina Beach Elementary School**

Mr. Mello told members staff met with the town manager of Carolina Beach, the principal of Carolina Beach Elementary School and the Safe Routes to School coordinator to develop solutions to improve bicycle and pedestrian access to Carolina Beach Elementary School that are eligible for funding through the Division's Hazard Mitigation funds, as well as the Safe Routes to School funds. Possible solutions include a small sidewalk on Lake Park Boulevard and a pedestrian refuge island at the intersection of Atlanta Boulevard and Lake Park Boulevard. The resolution is asking the TAC to support using the Division's Hazard Mitigation funds and Safe Routes to School funds. Mr. Sue made the motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Gilbert seconded it. The resolution carried unanimously.

**d. Resolution Supporting Pedestrian Accommodations at the Proposed Round About at Middle Sound Loop Road and Darden Road**

Mr. Mello told members this resolution came out of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee. The residents from the area gave a presentation to the committee to voice their concerns because the proposed round-about does not include pedestrian accommodations. It will be located directly in front of the elementary school. Also, the neighborhood has a long range plan to connect to the multiuse path on Military Cutoff Road. This resolution is supporting the pedestrian accommodations in the design of the round-about. Ms. Pritchett made the motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Wallace seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously.

**e. Resolution Amending the 2008-2009 Planning Work Program**

Mr. Kozlosky told members this board approved the 2008-2009 Planning Work Program (PWP) March 26<sup>th</sup>. The special studies line item of the PWP included funding for the collector street plan for northern New Hanover County, as well as some on-call engineering services for the review of transportation impact analysis. He said because the number of TIAs received for review has slowed in the last few months, the need for the on-call engineering services funding could be reduced. Staff would like to use part of those funds to begin developing a collector street plan for City of Wilmington. The last City of Wilmington collector street plan was completed in 1991 and updated in 1997. Staff is proposing to reallocate funding to

complete a collector street plan for the City of Wilmington. Mr. Saffo made the motion to approve the resolution to amend the 2008-2009 Planning Work Program. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

## **6. Discussion Items**

### **a. Dow Road Widening and Extension Project**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the PWP included funding for the Dow Road Widening and Extension Corridor Study. Mr. Kozlosky told members he received a resolution in the mail from the Town of Kure Beach and was not contacted by or made aware that the resolution was being considered. The resolution opposes the extension of Dow Road beyond K-Avenue through the Sunny Point Buffer Zone. The reasons given in the resolution were the new right of way will pose additional security risks, being outside the Town's jurisdiction, the route will interfere and infringe on the Air Force recreation center at Fort Fisher, the route will divert traffic away from the town's business district and the project will have significant and profound impact on the environmental makeup of the Kure Beach community. Mr. Kozlosky pointed out that over \$9,000 has been spent on the analysis, as well as a significant amount of staff time has been used in collecting turning movement counts in both Carolina Beach and Kure Beach. Mr. Kozlosky told members the Town of Kure Beach solicited public comment and a majority of the comments were in opposition to the extension and so they took this position. Mr. Wilson said because part of this project is in Carolina Beach, we should hear from them.

Mr. Gilbert told member he just heard about it this week and was surprised by the resolution. He has talked to a number of residents along the corridor and they are concerned with the traffic in the area. He said it has been his observation that residents and tourist can't get across the street because of the volume of traffic. His biggest concern is safety.

Mr. Wilson told members that once you take a project like this off the TIP, it's hard to ever get it back. The project has been on the TIP for a long time and town officials have known the plan was there. He said he would like to leave it on the TIP but maybe change the scope. Mr. Wilson suggest staff meet with the town managers of both Kure Beach and Carolina Beach to see if they could work out the issues that Kure Beach may have that we are not aware of before this board takes action. The notices for public meeting scheduled for Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup> have already been sent and it is too late to cancel at this late date.

Mr. Williams said to lose momentum now by removing this project from the TIP seems short-sighted. Mr. Gilbert agreed. He told members he owned a business on the US 421 Corridor. What he hears from visitors is that they cannot get across the street. As a business owner, he is not worried about diverting traffic from his business; his concern is the safety in crossing the street.

Mr. Kozlosky pointed out that the Kure Beach resolution is in favor of the widening of Dow Road from Snows Cut Bridge to K-Avenue. Mr. Wilson said to do that will just create false-capacity. Mr. Wilson told members the reason this committee has been pushing the Dow Road project was because that end of the county really wanted the project. Mr. Saffo said he was also surprised by the resolution and the lack of communication regarding their opposition to the project up until now.

Mr. Wilson said he is in favor of giving staff time to gather input from both towns. Mr. Gilbert suggested putting this back on agenda for next month's meeting and invite members of the Kure Beach council to attend to clarify their position. Mr. Sue agreed. Mr. Kozlosky suggested staff go ahead with the public comment input meeting Monday night and add the item to the August meeting agenda. Everyone agreed.

## **7. Project Updates**

### **a. Market Street Corridor Study**

Mr. Kozlosky told members DOT appropriated funding in the amount of \$275,000 for a corridor study on Market Street between Colonial Drive and the Pender County line. Staff released the request for qualifications and received 12 proposals. The selection committee will interview four firms tomorrow and hope to have a consultant selected by the beginning of August.

### **b. NCDOT Project Update**

attached

## **8. Announcements**

- a. **Dow Road Public Workshop- June 30<sup>th</sup>**
- b. **North Third Street Streetscape Public Meeting- July 22<sup>nd</sup>**
- c. **Wilmington Bike/Pedestrian meeting- August 14<sup>th</sup>**
- d. **Crash Report published for 2007 – copies distributed to members**
- e. **WMPO Web-site updated by Joshua Mello this month**

## **9. Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40pm

Respectfully submitted

Mike Kozlosky  
Senior Transportation Planner