

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Meeting Notes for August 13, 2008**

Members Present:

Mike Kozlosky, City of Wilmington
Sam Burgess, New Hanover County
Kyle Breuer, Pender County
Don Eggert, Cape Fear RPO
Allen Serkin, Town of Navassa
Don Bennett, City of Wilmington
Melody Jennings, Town of Leland
Leslie Bell, Brunswick County
Jill Stark, FHWA
Patrick Riddle, NCDOT
Shane York, NCDOT
Pate Butler, NCDOT
J. D. Chance, NCDOT
Coke Gray, NCDOT

Others Present:

Josh Mello, City of Wilmington
Anthony Prinz, City of Wilmington

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes for the June 11, 2008 meeting carried unanimously.

3. Old Business

a. Policy and Resolution for amendments to the adopted Functional Classification Map

Mr. Kozlosky told members staff developed a policy for reclassification of roadways to create guidelines on how to go about this process.

Mr. Mello told members there is not a policy in place regarding the updating of the Functional Classification map. Staff has had two requests from developers to reclassify certain segments of roadways in order to increase density in their developments in New Hanover County. Because there is not a policy in place, lengthy discussions were held in the TCC and TAC. A policy will put some order into the process. The map will be updated after the census data is released, which is required by FHWA and also in conjunction with the Long Range Transportation Plan, Comprehensive Transportation Plan and the development of regional travel demand models. Interim updates would be allowed at the request of the WMPO Staff, NCDOT or FHWA. Updates could also be done if the planning area is expanded and we don't currently have the roads classified; as well as for newly constructed roadways or improved roadways. We would also update with a written request from a member of the TCC or the TAC.

Mr. Burgess made the motion to recommend adoption of the policy and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Riddle seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

4. New Business

a. Resolution supporting an amendment to the scope of work for the Dow Road Corridor Study to focus on capacity improvements between K Avenue and the Snow's Cut Bridge

Mr. Kozlosky told members the MPO received a resolution from the Town of Kure Beach opposing the extension of Dow Road from K Avenue to Fort Fisher Boulevard. The reasons given in the resolution were that the new right of way will impose additional security risks, 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.

Staff is proposing to amend the scope of work to focus the efforts between Snow's Cut Bridge and K Avenue. This will look at capacity analysis for the intersection along the corridor and develop recommendations for short and long-term improvements. The Town of Carolina Beach supports the study. Mr. Bennett asked about the bicycle improvements along the corridor. Mr. Kozlosky told members the towns of Carolina Beach and Kure Beach have developed a plan for bicycle improvements outside this corridor study.

Mr. Riddle made the motion to recommend approval of the resolution to amend the scope of work for the Dow Road Corridor Study and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

b. Resolution adopting the 2009-2015 Statewide and Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Eggert made the motion to recommend adoption of the resolution and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Chance seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

c. Resolution supporting amendments to the 2009 Statewide and Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Kozlosky told members since the adoption of the 2009-2015 there have been several amendments to the State and Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program that have modified the schedules and/or funding for the replacement of Bridge No. 26 over the CSX railroad (B-3881), Randall Parkway widening (U-4920), Wilmington computerized signal system (U-5017) and Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority Transfer/Administration facility. The amendments were approved by the Board of Transportation in July and would need to be included prior to adoption by FHWA. Mr. Chance made the motion to recommend approval of the resolution supporting the amendments to the 2009-2015 STIP and MTIP and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Eggert seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

d. Resolution supporting the streetscape enhancement project on North and South 17th Streets between Dock Street and Grace Street

Mr. Kozlosky told members this enhancement project will help improve safety, reduce the lateral shift at the 17th Street and Market Street intersection and improve pedestrian safety. The community has helped in the development of this plan. Staff met with the Board of Transportation member from this region and he indicated that he would try to secure funding for this project if it is approved by the City of Wilmington.

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

e. Resolution supporting the construction of temporary improvements at the intersection of North and South Kerr Avenue and Market Street

Mr. Prinz told members the intersection of Market Street and Kerr Avenue is the highest crash location in the entire Wilmington MPO region. Staff began looking for any short-term solution to the problems at the intersection. Staff found the primary cause for accidents is the unrestricted movements along that section of the roads near the intersection. Staff talked with NCDOT about installing a temporary center island to restrict left turns. Staff is requesting input and support from the TCC and the TAC regarding the short-term improvements before approaching NCDOT to implement the improvements.

Mr. Mello told members there is enough room for u-turn movements along Market Street because there are three lanes. Market Street is the only location where you would have u-turning movements because the Kerr Avenue approaches have alternative driveway access to all properties. It will not restrict access to any properties, just moving the access north and south away from the intersection. The North 17 Shopping Center is interconnected with the gas station on the corner and it also has several driveways further away from the intersection. The same is true for Whitey's at the northeast corner. The main u-turn movements will be at the Market Street eastbound, making the u-turn movement to Market Street westbound. Mr. Prinz told members that staff will look to NCDOT to determine the logistics for the islands. Staff feels these improvements will help reduce the number of crashes at the intersection by about half.

Mr. Bennett made the motion to recommend approval of the resolution to construct temporary improvements at the intersection and forward to the TAC with for consideration. Mr. Chance seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

f. Resolution requesting a Feasibility Study for Scientific Park Drive extension

Mr. Kozlosky told members in June of 2005, the TAC endorsed a resolution supporting Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway being a fully-controlled access facility. Following the opening of the Parkway, NCDOT eliminated the left-over into the Creekwood neighborhood. However, to make the Martin Luther King Parkway facility fully controlled, the right-in and right-out movement at Kornegay Drive needs to be eliminated. The only way to do that is to provide additional access into the Creekwood neighborhood. Staff has identified the extension of Scientific Park Drive into the Creekwood neighborhood as a feasible option and is requesting the Board of Transportation support the completion of a feasibility study. Access is also available to the neighborhood by 30th Street, which is off Market Street. Mr. Chance made the motion to recommend approval for the request of the feasibility study and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Eggert seconded the motion and it carried unanimously

g. Resolution requesting NCDOT immediately fill the Safe Routes to School Coordinator position

Mr. Mello told members the Safe Routes to School Coordinator resigned last week. Last time the position was vacant, it took several months to fill the position. The MPO has four very important projects in the works right now and staff is encouraging a resolution requesting NCDOT to immediately fill the position. Mr. Eggert made the motion to recommend adoption of the resolution and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

h. Resolution endorsing Executive Director position title

Mr. Kozlosky told members the current title for the executive officer of the MPO is Senior Transportation Planner. Because MPO staff conducts transportation planning for over 400 square miles, with a population of over 200,000, the Board of Transportation member recommended changing the title to Executive Director. This new title would provide a designation that would be more influential when dealing with local, state and federal officials. Mr. Burgess made the motion

to recommend adoption of the resolution and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Serkin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

4. **Discussion**

a. Development in Brunswick County and potential impact to the Cape Fear Skyway

The MPO staff is working to preserve the corridor from encroaching development. There is a proposed development in Brunswick County that could impact the corridor. A possible solution to preserve the corridor is to have the City of Wilmington file a Transportation Official Corridor Map on behalf of Brunswick County as well as the City of Wilmington. It would extend from Highway 17 in Brunswick County to the Independence Boulevard and Carolina Beach Road intersection.

Mr. Bell told members he has had discussion with the developers. The project will be going to TRC and then to the Brunswick County Planning Board in approximately six weeks. He said they are working with the developer at the TRC level in hopes of preserving the corridor.

5. **Project Updates**

a. Market Street Corridor Study

Mr. Kozlosky told members that Kimley Horn and Associates has been selected to complete the study. They will be negotiating the scope for the project and plan to have the contract signed by the end of August.

b. NCDOT Project Update

attached

6. **Adjournment**

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