

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Meeting Notes for September 10, 2008**

Members Present:

Mike Kozlosky, City of Wilmington
Chris O'Keefe, New Hanover County
Ken Vafier, Pender County
Stephanie Ayers, NCSPA
Michele James, Town of Kure Beach
Don Eggert, Cape Fear RPO
Allen Serkin, Town of Navassa
Don Bennett, City of Wilmington
Robert Warring, Town of Leland
Shane York, NCDOT
Coke Gray, NCDOT
Albert Eby, WAVE Transit
Travis Barnes, City of Wilmington

Others Present:

Josh Mello, City of Wilmington
Anthony Prinz, City of Wilmington
Sam Burgess, New Hanover County
Tom Cunningham, Chamber of Commerce

1. Call to Order

Mr. Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

2. Approval of Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes for the August 13, 2008 meeting carried unanimously.

3. Presentation: Getting Connected

Ms. Peg Schroeder, Mr. Ed Mondello and Mr. Bret Russell with "Getting Connected", a citizens group pursuing new bicycle and pedestrian paths in the Ogden Elementary School area, gave a presentation to member on their efforts to promote this initiative.

Mr. Mello told members that "Getting Connected" visited the MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee last month. The committee agreed to add these projects to their study list for the region. He said there are currently about 150 projects on the list to be evaluated. Part of this evaluation will be to look at possible sources of funding. The improvements immediately around the school could qualify for Safe Routes to School funding, but maintenance will be an issue that will have to be resolved before NCDOT will build the sidewalk.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that this committee recognizes that need is there for bike and pedestrian facilities, but it all comes down to a funding issue; where do we secure the funds and once built, who will maintain them. He said he would also encourage "Getting Connected" to work the Bike and Pedestrian committee to get this project prioritized on their list of unmet needs.

Mr. O'Keefe suggested that the "Getting Connected" members get in touch with the county's elected officials and let them know county residents are very interested in having pedestrian and bicycle facilities built in the county.

4. **Old Business**

(none)

5. **New Business**

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

Mr. York told members a workshop is scheduled on project U-4434 for November for citizens to make comments on what they would like to see on Independence Boulevard. The Department would like to see a four-lane divided facility. There would be interchanges at Market Street and the Martin Luther King Parkway Jr. Parkway. It functions as an urban-principal arterial on the northern part. There are questions about the southern section.

Mr. Kozlosky asked why are we going trying to reclassify this street. Mr. York stated that we can leave this as it is and reclassify it when the design comes out in 2010 or Wilmington can request the functional classification be reviewed for that portion to determine if it is minor or principal, but that would require the design, which we don't have yet. Mr. Kozlosky asked what is the impact from a financial aspect. Mr. York said at this point it is nothing because it would not actually occur any kinds of changes until they start construction. So for right now, it does not make any difference, it's just a piece of paper. Mr. Kozlosky again asked why are we reclassifying this street. Mr. Mello said we should be looking at the whole entire roadway as a major arterial and widen the southern portion. Mr. Kozlosky said it was his opinion that if we are going to reclassify the northern section from Martin Luther King Parkway to College Road, we reclassify the entire section as urban principal arterial.

Mr. York said the other item is the Skyway bridge. The Long Range Plan has it interstate. You can't have a toll road as interstate. So then we identify it as freeway expressway in the New Hanover and rural principal arterial on the Brunswick County section. Mr. Kozlosky said DOT had to reclassify I-540 in Raleigh because it was becoming a toll facility and so it could not be classified as interstate. Mr. Bennett asked if it is possible that by the time the Skyway bridge is built, is it possible that the development in Brunswick County would make it more urban in nature. Mr. Kozlosky said when the 2010 census comes out, they will identify what is considered our urbanized area boundary. It is based on population so at that time, we will likely have to come back and revisit this issue because our boundary will have expanded into Brunswick County. It is just how far into Brunswick County will the boundary be expanded.

Mr. York said the next project, U-4751, Military Cutoff. There is an issue with the word "other". When he asked why it said other instead of principal, he was told it that it just means it is a facility in an urban boundary other than a freeway or expressway. The rule states that it is to be called "other" rather than principal arterial and it carries the same weight. Mr. York said he will take this back for more clarification.

Mr. Serkin made the motion to table the items. Mr. O'Keefe seconded the motion and the vote carried unanimously.

b. Resolution supporting a feasibility study to evaluate transportation alternatives for the North Carolina International Terminal at Southport

Mr. Kozlosky told members this resolution is supporting the feasibility study for the proposed International Port in Southport. The feasibility study will evaluate alternatives for constructing a connector to the Skyway. Ms. Ayers said it is an exit corridor as well as an access controlled road that will connect the new terminal and the ferry system routed around Southport, taking you to a connector that will then connect to the interstate system. They have asked NCDOT to provide

funding out of their contingency funds to kick off this study which is expected to cost about \$250,000 and take about two years to complete. This is asking the TCC to support in kicking off the feasibility study. Ms Ayers suggested changing the resolution to read International Terminal, not International Port. Mr. Kozlosky said he will change that. Ms. Ayers made the motion to support the feasibility study and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Eggert seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

c. Resolution supporting the implementation of the Blue Clay Road Bicycle Corridor Plan

Mr. Kozlosky told members the MPO adopted the Blue Clay Road Bicycle Corridor Plan that made recommendation for on/off road facilities that will connect 23rd Street out to Holly Shelter Road. This resolution is asking the county to implement the first phase of the project and will require coordination with the Wilmington International Airport. This is the number 2 bicycle priority in the MPO area. Mr. O'Keefe suggested adding the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority to the list of participants cooperating in support and implementing the resolution. Mr. O'Keefe made the motion to support the implementation of Blue Clay Road Bicycle Plan and forward to the TAC for consideration. Ms. Ayers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

d. Resolution supporting the Independence Station as identified in the WAVE Transfer Stations: Evaluation of Site Locations and Planning

Mr. Mello told members the encroachment agreement has been at DOT for 4 months now and there has not been any action. The bus stop site is not handicapped accessible, nor does it have any facilities for riders but a trash can. Riders are either standing around in the parking lot or sitting on the curb. This resolution is asking the Department of Transportation to work cooperatively with the public transportation employees to process this encroachment agreement and get that station out there. Mr. Eby told members they were told they should have comments back from Raleigh sometime next week. They have the shelter ready to be put in place. Mr. Eby made the motion to support the resolution and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. O'Keefe seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

6. Project Updates

a. Market Street Corridor Study

Mr. Kozlosky told members that he met last week with the sub-consultant for Kimley Horn and Associates who is doing the market analysis on Market Street. The first public information workshop will be held October 7th - 9th and the second round of workshops will be held October 27th - 30th. The meeting location has yet to be determined.

b. Dow Road Corridor Study

Mr. Kozlosky told members that at the last TAC meeting members voted to amend the scope of the project to reduce the scope to between Snows Cut Bridge and K Avenue. Staff is working with the consultant to develop a revised scope that is consistent with the TAC's recommendations.

c. NCDOT Project Update

attached

7. Announcements

- a. Kick-off to 2008 Commuter Challenge – Sept 10th**
- b. Wilmington Bike/Pedestrian meeting – Sept 11th**
- c. Neighborhood Traffic Management Program meeting – Sept 23rd**

8. Adjournment

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.