

Meeting Minutes
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
Transportation Advisory Committee
Date: February 25, 2009

Members Present:

Lanny Wilson, Chairman, NCBOT
Bill Sue, Brunswick County
Tommy Wallace, Town of Leland
Mac Montgomery, Town of Kure Beach
Jason Thompson, New Hanover County
Bill Saffo, City of Wilmington
David Cignetti, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Mike Ballard, Town of Navassa
Alan Gilbert, Town of Carolina Beach
Chuck Thurlow, Town of Belville

Staff Present:

Mike Kozlosky, Executive Director
Anthony Prinz, Transportation Planner
Joshuah Mello, 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 for the January 28th meeting carried unanimously.

3. Public Comment Period

Mr. Andy Koeppel told members he would speak about the recent improvements along Oleander Drive between Independence Boulevard and Dawson Street. The Department of Transportation did a first-rate job. They were able to get the left turn signals installed along the road which allows a much better flow of traffic and safer conditions to exist. However, even though that helps the situation, he feels there needs to be left-turn lanes as you're heading west on Magnolia, as well as Acacia. Even though fewer cars make those left-turns, the traffic is delayed when someone does make the turn. He suggested staff study the number of actual parking spaces lost if left-turn lanes are installed at all intersections.

Mr. Bill Jayne told members he is a resident of Market Street. He said he would urge members to consider removing the US 17 Business designation from Market Street, especially west of Colonial Drive. The lanes are simply too narrow in that section of the residential historic district to carry the volume of traffic that the US 17 designation brings. Large trucks traveling along the narrow lanes take up more than one lane and that creates a dangerous situation.

4. Presentation –

a. Reduction in weight limits on area bridges

Mr. Daniel Holderman, State Bridge Management Engineer, gave a presentation on the Bridge Program and the load posting process for bridges on primary and secondary routes in North Carolina.

5. Old Business

None

6. New Business

a. Opening of 30-day public comment period for the inclusion of the Cross-City Trail (ER-5121) in the MTIP and Roadside Environmental Enhancements (ER-5100) in the STIP

Mr. Kozlosky told members in conjunction with the MPO's Public Involvement Policy, staff has opened the 30-day public comment period for the economic stimulus projects for the region. The proposal for the Cross-City Trail is a \$2 million project for the City of Wilmington, with a \$1 million match from the City. The project is to construct improvements from Museum Drive to Independence Boulevard and then to Converse Drive. Additionally the MPO has opened the public comment period for the Roadside Environmental Enhancements so that if there are funds available for roadside environmental planting of trees, we can do that in this community. We will take action on this item at the next business meeting.

b. Resolution requesting the City of Wilmington amend the Transportation Corridor Official Map for the Cape Fear Skyway

Mr. Kozlosky told members the Transportation Corridor Official Map Act was filed January 24, 2006 for the Cape Fear Skyway. The map for the two properties is about to expire. The Turnpike Authority has identified three potential corridors. Staff is proposing that the City of Wilmington move forward with filing a map based on a potential preferred corridor. It is consistent with the feasibility that was completed in 2003. The resolution is requesting the City of Wilmington amend the map that they already have on file to identify a corridor from Independence Boulevard and Carolina Beach Road to the Cape Fear River.

Mr. Wilson told members there was a presentation concerning the Cape Fear Skyway given at the Turnpike Authority meeting last week. Mr. Wilson suggested that Mr. Steve Dewitt, Chief Engineer for the Turnpike Authority, be invited to give the presentation to the TAC at the next meeting.

Mr. Saffo made the motion to approve the resolution requesting the City of Wilmington amend the Transportation Corridor Official Map. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

c. Resolution requesting the North Carolina General Assembly amend North Carolina General Statute 136-44.50 to permit the WMPO to file a Transportation Official Corridor Map Act for any project within the MPO's planning area boundary

(Removed from the agenda)

d. Resolution requesting NCDOT amend the 2009-2015 STIP to include bicycle and pedestrian improvements on Blue Clay Road and River to the Sea Bikeway

Mr. Kozlosky told members funding has become available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. He stated that there is also bicycle and pedestrian funding available for the implementations of improvements within communities. The resolution is requesting NCDOT amend the TIP to include these two projects, so if funding does come available, we could try to secure that funding. Mr. Montgomery made the motion to request NCDOT amend the 2009-2015 STIP to include bicycle and pedestrian improvements on Blue Clay Road and River to the Sea Bikeway. Mr. Gilbert seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

e. Resolution requesting Bicycle Improvements on the Snows Cut Bridge

Mr. Mello told members the resolution is asking NCDOT Division 3 staff, the NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Division, and the Wilmington MPO staff to work cooperatively to address the safety issues for bicycles accessing the Snows Cut Bridge. Mr. Thurlow made the motion to approve the resolution requesting bicycle improvements on the Snows Cut Bridge. Mr. Gilbert seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

f. Resolution support a Statewide TAC Chair Association

Mr. Kozlosky told members there are numerous transportation issues across the state and several RPOs and MPOs have endorsed a resolution of support for the creation of a Statewide TAC Chair organization. The organization will provide MPOs and RPOs with a state-level forum to develop joint legislative agendas, share best practices and address state and federal issues. Mr. Ballard made the motion to support a statewide TAC Chair Association. Mr. Montgomery seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

7. Discussion

a. US 17 "Business" Designation of Market Street

Mr. Kozlosky told members concerns have been raised about the US 17 Business Designation on Market Street from Colonial Drive through the Historic District to Downtown.

Mr. Saffo asked if we could get the trucks off Market Street. Mr. Kozlosky told members if we were to change the designation then the traffic would need to be routed either down College Road, Military Cutoff or Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway. Mr. Wilson asked how it would affect the business owners along the corridor. Mr. Saffo said it would not affect trucks making deliveries. Mr. Kozlosky said there is currently a no-through truck restriction on Market Street. Mr. Saffo said the city has heard some concerns from the neighborhood.

Mr. Pope told members the long range plan at the Department is to continue the 17 Business down Market Street and turn traffic on Independence Boulevard, either to Oleander Drive or back to Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway. That will take the primary designation out of downtown and at this point the Department is asking for the pleasure of the City. Is the City willing to remove US 17 Business off Market Street and out of downtown? Mr. Saffo told members he will need to have the discussion with the Wilmington City Council.

Mr. Pope said even with the designation removed, a truck still has the right to be able to use that route. Service vehicles still have a right to traverse that secondary road if it becomes a secondary road and if they are making a delivery or if that is the most feasible route for making a delivery. Mr. Thompson said if that is the shortest route from a non-truck designated road to the point, then they can use the road too. Mr. Pope suggested going back and looking at how well that restriction has been enforced. Mr. Saffo asked if Mr. Pope felt it might be more of an enforcement issue. Mr. Pope said he did not think a posting by itself would take care of it. If it is not enforced, the posting is ignored. Mr. Saffo said he needs to have discussions with council and the neighbors.

8. Updates

a. Market Street Corridor Study

Mr. Kozlosky told members the public meetings on the corridor study took place on February 18th and 19th and around 100 people attended the meetings. Staff will evaluate the comments received at the meetings and will bring back a plan to the TAC in April.

b. Draft Walk Wilmington: Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan

Mr. Mello told members that staff has received the final draft plan. It was sent to the Department of Transportation for review. They should have DOT comments back by March 13th and staff will take the plan to the Wilmington Planning Commission, City Council and the TAC in April.

c. Wrightsville Avenue Bicycle Improvements

Mr. Mello told members staff reached an agreement with NCDOT Division 3 staff for the City to provide a pavement marking plan for Wrightsville Avenue for after the road has been resurfaced. The pavement marking plan will include bicycle lanes from Military Cutoff Road to Eastwood Road. The road should be resurfaced this summer.

d. Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

Mr. Howard Loving, Co-chair for the committee, updated members on the last meeting of the CAC.

e. Bike/Pedestrian Committee

Mr. Mello updated members on the last meeting of the group.

f. NCDOT Project Update

attached

e. TAC Meeting Date Change

Mr. Kozlosky asked members for approval to move the next meeting date for the TAC to March 26th so that it will follow the closing of the 30-day public comment period for the inclusion of the Cross-City Trail in the MTIP and Roadside Environmental Enhancements in the STIP. Mr. Thompson made the motion to change the meeting date to March 26th. Mr. Ballard seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

9. Announcements

- a. **Bike/Pedestrian meeting – March 12th**
- b. **Citizen Advisory Committee meeting- March 11th**

10. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:38 pm

Respectfully submitted

Mike Kozlosky
Executive Director
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization