

Meeting Minutes
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
Transportation Advisory Committee
Date: March 26, 2009

Members Present:

Lanny Wilson, Chairman, NCBOT
Bill Sue, Brunswick County
Tommy Wallace, Town of Leland
Mac Montgomery, Town of Kure Beach
Bill Saffo, City of Wilmington
Alan Gilbert, Town of Carolina Beach
Jonathan Barfield, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority
Laura Padgett, City of Wilmington

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 4:03 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes for the February 25th meeting carried unanimously.

3. Public Comment Period

None

4. Presentation –

a. Cape Fear Bridge Speed and Crash Safety Analysis Study

Mr. Shawn Troy, Safety Evaluation Engineer with NCDOT gave a presentation on a Speed and Crash Analysis report completed for the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge. Suggested measures recommended by the Safety Evaluation Group for improving the safety on the bridge were:

- Install Radar Units and Dynamic “Vehicle Speed Ahead Is” signs on Eastbound and Westbound approach to vertical crest of the bridge
- Make changes to Messaging on DMS sign to ensure most appropriate and useful information is being displayed for Drivers in Eastbound flow
- Contract Patrols with Towing Firm for Quick Removal of Crashes on Bridge, Section, and Causeway Area
- Model Ramp Metering Operational Characteristics of the Transportation Network in the affected Areas of Influence
 - Northbound NC 133 and Eastbound US 74-76
 - Southbound US 17-421 and Westbound US 74-76
- Solid Lane Lines and Sign for “Maintain Lanes” through Ramp Merge at Northbound NC 133 and Eastbound US 74-76
 - If Ramp Metering Model results are unacceptable
- Install Closed Circuit TV Cameras on Bridge and Signal System to Feed into the City of Wilmington’s Communication Office for quicker response times to Crashes

Following the presentation, Ms. Padgett made the motion to encourage NCDOT to consider installation of solid lane lines and signs to maintain lanes through the ramp merge, make changes to the messages on the DMS signs to warn motorists of conditions on the bridge and installation of

a DMS sign at the westbound approach on Wooster Street, contract with towing company for quick removal of crashes and installation of closed circuit TV camera on the bridge and signal system and feed these cameras into the City of Wilmington's Traffic Signal communication office. Mr. Sue seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

5. Old Business

None

6. New Business

a. Opening of 30-day public comment period for the purchase of (2) 12-passenger expansion vans and re-allocation of funds from state TIP to ARRA

Mr. Kozlosky told members based on our Public Involvement Policy, the MPO is required to provide a 30-day public comment before amending the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) or Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP). Staff is requesting to open the comment-period for the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority to purchase two 12-passenger vans and to move those funds from the STIP to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Program. Mr. Eby told members the van purchase was in the STIP but was not funded. Ms. Padgett made the motion to open the 30-day public comment period. Mr. Montgomery seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

b. Resolution supporting the new proposed route for the Beach to Battleship event

Mr. Kozlosky told members the Beach to Battleship event committee is planning next years event to be held on Saturday, November 7th and they are looking at possible adjustments to the event route. The Department of Transportation is requesting a resolution of support from the MPO before considering the new proposed route. Mr. Bill Scott told members the organization committee recognized there were problems with last year's event. The event committee is proposing to close the southbound lanes on I-140 and divert the southbound US 17 vehicular traffic to Military Cutoff Road/Market Street/Oleander Drive and across the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge in order to alleviate the problems experienced last year. He told members if I-140 could not be closed for the day, then he would like to request closing it for three hours. From a safety standpoint, the event committee is proposing to cone the entire length of I-140.

Mr. Gilbert told members he is against any kind of full closure due to the interruption of commerce by closing a roadway down especially a major connector like I-140.

Mr. Montgomery asked if this must be voted on tonight. Mr. Wilson said the Department of Transportation would like to move forward with this because of its impact on traffic. DOT is requesting MPO input before making a recommendation to FHWA. Mr. Montgomery told members he cannot support closing the entire route. It concerns him that this would affect a major route and there will be a lot of ramifications to shutting I-140 down and rerouting the traffic feeding into Brunswick County. He asked staff if they have any traffic counts for I-140. Mr. Kozlosky told members they currently have the traffic count data for weekdays and could collect weekend data if needed.

Mr. Barfield said he agrees with the closure of only one-lane. That would lessen the impact on the public using I-140.

Mr. Montgomery asked if staff had a recommendation. Mr. Kozlosky told members staff feels it would be more feasible to keep one of the westbound lanes of I-140 open to traffic. Mr. Sue asked about the length of closure. Mr. Scott told members if the closure is only one-lane, they will only need it for three hours.

Mr. Sue made the motion to allow a one lane closed on I-140 and it is limited the closure until noon. Mr. Gilbert seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

c. Resolution amending the 2008-2009 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Kozlosky presented an amended budget for the 2008-2009 Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Saffo made the motion to approve amending the 2008-2009 Unified Planning Work Program and Mr. Montgomery seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

d. Resolution adopting the 2009-2010 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Kozlosky presented the 2009-2010 Planning work program that outlines the anticipated work plan and expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Saffo made the motion to approve the 2009-2010 Unified Planning Work Program and Mr. Montgomery seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

e. Resolution certifying the Transportation Planning Process for FY 2009

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the MPO is required to annually certify that it is completing transportation planning activities in a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive manner and in accordance with Federal guidelines. Mr. Saffo made the motion to certify the Transportation Planning Process for FY 2009. Mr. Montgomery seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

f. Resolution amending the 2009-2015 Metropolitan and State Transportation Improvement Programs to include the Cross-City Trail (EB-5121) and Roadside Environmental (ER-5100)

Mr. Kozlosky told members the 30-day public comment period was opened at the last meeting for amendments to the 2009-2015 Metropolitan and State Transportation Improvement Programs to include the Cross-City Trail and Roadside Environmental. There is a possibility the funding could be allocated to these improvements through the ARRA. Ms. Padgett made the motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Saffo seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

g. 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)

h. Resolution Supporting the North Carolina Department of Transportation Relocating the Transportation Planning Branch's MPO Coordinator from the Central Bureau (Raleigh) to the City of Wilmington Offices

(added to the agenda)

Mr. Wilson told members he would like to bring a resolution forward to request support for NCDOT to relocate the Transportation Planning Branch's MPO Coordinator from the Central Bureau (Raleigh) to the City of Wilmington Offices. He stated that this de-centralization will provide the statewide transportation planners with the opportunity to interact more closely with the community and provide a better understanding of the day-to-day issues.

Mr. Saffo made the motion to approve the resolution to support NCDOT relocating the Transportation Planning Branch's MPO Coordinator from the Central Bureau (Raleigh) to the City of Wilmington Office. Ms. Padgett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

7. Updates

a. Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

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

b. Bike/Pedestrian Committee

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

f. NCDOT Project Update

attached

8. Announcements

- a. Citizen Advisory Committee meeting- March 18th at 4pm
- b. Cape Fear Commutes Press event- March 20th at 2pm
- c. Bike/Pedestrian meeting- April 9th at 5:15pm

9. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:27 pm

Respectfully submitted

Mike Kozlosky
Executive Director
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization