

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Meeting Notes for August 12, 2009**

Members Present:

Mike Kozlosky, City of Wilmington
Sam Burgess, New Hanover County
Ken Vafier, Pender County
Melody Jennings, Town of Leland
Travis Barnes, Town of Navassa
Shane York, NCDOT
Patrick Riddle, NCDOT
Allen Pope, NCDOT
Marc Pages, Brunswick County
Jill Stark, FHWA
Don Bennett, City of Wilmington

Others Present:

Joshuah Mello, City of Wilmington
Bill McDow, City of Wilmington
Anthony Prinz, City of Wilmington
Andy Koeppel, WAVE Board of Directors

1. Call to Order

Mr. Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

2. Approval of Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes for the May 13, 2009 meeting carried unanimously.

3. Old Business

None

4. New Business

a. Resolution adopting the revised Wilmington MPO Public Involvement Policy

Mr. Kozlosky told members the revisions to the Public Involvement Policy were opened for public comment at the last TAC meeting. The policy outlines how public involvement will be conducted, as well as includes the Town of Carolina Beach and Town of Kure Beach and Pender County as members. The policy also will make us SAFETEA-LU compliant. Mr. Vafier made the motion to recommend adoption of the revised public involvement policy. Mr. Barnes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

b. Resolution adopting the Walk Wilmington: A Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan

Mr. Mello told members the plan was completed in partnership with the NCDOT Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation. It was partly funded by the City of Wilmington and NCDOT through their grant program that we received in 2007. It is a comprehensive plan that looks at sidewalks, multi-use paths, pedestrian signals and pedestrian crossing improvements throughout the City of Wilmington. It is a 25-year plan phased in short, medium and long-term recommendations. It was adopted by the Wilmington City Council at their meeting on August 4th. Mr. Burgess made the motion to recommend adoption of the plan and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Pages seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

c. Resolution supporting the City of Wilmington, New Hanover County, University of North Carolina-Wilmington and Town of Wrightsville Beach's TIGER grant application

Mr. Mello told members this program was allocated through the ARRA stimulus package. It is targeted toward innovative projects that reduce energy consumption. Points are also awarded for job creation and partnerships. This grant application was authored by UNCW and is a partnership between UNCW, the City of Wilmington, the Town of Wrightsville Beach and New Hanover County. The grant application is for approximately \$16 to \$17 million to be used to complete the River to Sea Bikeway and the Cross City Trail projects. The application is due September 15th. Mr. Pope made the motion to endorse the TIGER grant application and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

d. Resolution supporting "complete streets" within the Wilmington MPO

Mr. Kozlosky told members "Complete Streets" provide safe and convenient accommodations for pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit riders, and motor vehicle drivers. They are more conducive to the efficient and safe movement of people, than projects designed primarily to move private motor vehicles. Design and construction of new transportation facilities should anticipate future demand for bicycling, walking, and public transit service and not preclude the provision of future accommodations. Mr. Kozlosky said the policy will allow for exemptions only if: 1) bicycle, pedestrian facilities and transit facilities are prohibited by law, or 2) cost of complete streets facilities are excessive or disproportionate to the need or probable use, or 3) sparsity of population and employment and/or level of transit service indicate an absence of future need. Members of the Board of Transportation endorsed a similar policy at their July meeting. Mr. Burgess made the motion to support the resolution for "Complete Streets" within the Wilmington MPO and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Barnes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

e. Resolution requesting federal approval to extend I-20 into Wilmington

Mr. Kozlosky told members that at the May meeting of the TAC, Mr. Andy Koeppel asked the TAC to consider a resolution to request federal approval to extend I-20 into Wilmington. The TAC chairman asked that the item come before the TCC for consideration.

Mr. Koeppel distributed copies of a map outlining his request for the extension of I-20. He said I-20 currently terminates in Florence, SC and it is possible to make I-95 and I-20 co-extensive between Florence and the US 74 corridor by modifying the signage. Because SCDOT has requested NCDOT help bring I-73 into South Carolina from the Rockingham area, that perhaps they will be willing to help North Carolina with regards to the I-20 corridor in exchange for this assistance. .

Ms. Stark asked if this was in the long-range plan. Mr. Kozlosky said it is not currently. Ms. Stark told members it would need to be included. She said this would also need to be included in the state-wide interstate plan. She advised that if it is not in the LRTP, we should hold off until March when it could be added. Once in the LRTP, it would go to Secretary Gene Conti, John Sullivan and Brad Hibbs to consider putting it in the interstate plan. Mr. Koeppel said he understands but that should not preclude this committee from taking any action as the resolution just shows we are favoring a concept. Ms. Stark suggested modifying the language to request that NCDOT begin discussions with the North Carolina Federal Highway Administration, South Carolina Department of Transportation and South Carolina Federal Highway Administration to begin the process of extending I-20 into Wilmington.

Mr. Pope made the motion to support the resolution and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Pages seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

f. Resolution amending the State/Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Programs to fund the installation of a right turn lane on US 76 (Oleander Drive) westbound onto US 117-NC 132 (College Road) northbound (W-5132)

Mr. Kozlosky told members the Board of Transportation approved an amendment to the State Transportation Improvement Program to include the installation of a right-turn lane at the intersection of College Road and Oleander Drive at their July meeting. The MPO opened the 30-day public comment period on August 3rd and it will close on September 2nd. This resolution is to request amending the STIP/MTIP to fund the project. With no discussion, Mr. Bennett made the motion to approve the amendment and Mr. Pope seconded it. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

g. Resolution amending the State/Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Programs to fund the Wilmington Bypass (R-2633A)

Mr. Kozlosky told members funding for this project will be done through the utilization of Garvey Bonds and other DOT funds to fund the section from US 17 to US 74/76. This was also approved by the BOT at their July meeting. Based on the Public Involvement Policy, Staff began soliciting public comment on August 3rd and the comment period ends Sept 2nd.

Mr. Bennett asked if the section from US 17 to US 74/76 are ARRA funded. Mr. Kozlosky said there is some stimulus monies associated with that project. Mr. Pope told members it will take a combination of stimulus, Garvey Bonds and traditional let dollars to fund the “A” project.

Mr. Barnes asked how this particular resolution will affect the “B” section. Mr. Pope said it will not. The 5-year Work Plan will affect the “B” Section because it is not funded in the current let-list. It is funded in the 7-year TIP which will be replaced by the 5-year Work Plan.

Mr. Pages made the motion to amend the State/Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Programs to fund the Wilmington Bypass and Mr. Pope seconded the motion. The motion carried in a 9 to 1 vote with Mr. Barnes voting against the resolution.

h. Prioritization of Highway Projects within the Wilmington MPO planning area boundary

Mr. Kozlosky told members based on Executive Order #2, NCDOT is moving toward a more data driven process to identify transportation priorities throughout the state. The criteria to rank projects will be based on mobility, safety and infrastructure health and the quantitative analysis will be congestion, pavement condition or safety depending on the goal. Mr. Kozlosky said we have been asked to prioritize the top 25 projects within our MPO planning area boundary. Projects within the 5-year Work Plan for NCDOT are not to be included in our prioritization.

Following discussions by the committee members, the following list was determined to be the top 16 priority projects for the area.

Project by Rank	Project Description
1. Wilmington Bypass	<i>new interstate route between US 74/76 and US 421</i>
2. Independence Boulevard	<i>new route from Randall Pkwy to Martin Luther King, Jr. Pkwy</i>
3. Military Cutoff Extension – Market to Martin Luther King, Jr. Pkwy	<i>new route form Market St/US 17 Business to I-40/US 17 Bypass</i>
4. Cape Fear Skyway Project	<i>new interstate route and bridge between US 17 near Spring Hill in Brunswick County and Independence Blvd near Carolina Beach Rd. in Wilmington</i>

5. Six-lane College Road from Gordon to Martin Luther King, Jr Pkwy (U3831)	<i>new interstate route between Murrayville/Gordon Rd and Martin Luther King, Jr. Pkwy</i>
6. Kerr Avenue interchange	<i>interchange at Martin Luther King, Jr. Pkwy</i>
7. Market Street improvements – C-section: College to Military Cutoff	<i>median improvements form Eastwood Rd to Military Cutoff Rd</i>
8. Market Street improvements – B-section	<i>median improvements from Colonial Dr to Kerr Ave</i>
9. Market Street improvements – D-section	<i>median improvements from Military Cutoff Rd to Porters Neck Rd</i>
10. Hampstead Bypass	<i>new route form I-140/US 17 Bypass east to a point east of Hampstead – Terminates at US Hwy 17 in Pender Co</i>
11. Northbound through lane on College – Shipyard	<i>northbound through lane from Shipyard Blvd to Wilshire Blvd</i>
12. Old Fayetteville Rd	<i>add interchange at Old Fayetteville Rd and US 74/76</i>
13. Castle Hayne Roundabout	<i>Construct a roundabout at US 117 and NC 133</i>
14. Castle Hayne Rd/NC 133 Widening	<i>widen from Martin Luther King, Jr. Pkwy to I-140</i>
15. Gordon Rd widening (U-3831)	<i>widen facility form College Rd/I-140 to Market St/US 17</i>
16. Village Rd widening (Navassa to Lanvale Rd)	<i>widen from Navassa Rd to Lanvale Rd</i>

The committee agreed to utilize survey monkey to develop priorities 17-25. Staff will present the top 25 list to the TAC at their next meeting.

5. **Updates**

a. Cape Fear Commutes 2035 (Citizen Advisory Committee)

Mr. Mello updated the group on Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee activities.

b. WMPO Bike/Pedestrian Committee

Mr. Mello updated the group on Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee activities.

c. NCDOT Project Update

attached

6. **Announcements**

a. WMPO BikePed Committee meeting- August 15th

b. Cape Fear Commutes August 19th

7. **Adjournment**

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 pm.