

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Meeting Notes for September 16, 2009**

Members Present:

Mike Kozlosky, City of Wilmington
Chris O'Keefe, New Hanover County
Athina Williams, Town of Belville
Robert Waring, Town of Leland
Stephanie Ayers, NC State Ports Authority
Shane York, NCDOT
Patrick Riddle, NCDOT
Coke Gray, NCDOT
Allen Pope, NCDOT
Tim Owens, Carolina Beach
Brian Chambers, City of Wilmington

Others Present:

Joshuah Mello, City of Wilmington
Anthony Prinz, City of Wilmington
Tom Cunningham, Chamber of Commerce
Andy Koeppel, WAVE Board of Directors

1. Call to Order

Mr. Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 10:07 am.

2. Approval of Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes for the August 12, 2009 meeting carried unanimously.

3. Old Business

a. I-20 Resolution

Mr. Kozlosky told member during discussions at the last TAC meeting, Commissioner Thompson asked questions about weight limits restrictions on interstate designated highways. Mr. Kozlosky said he asked Mr. Gray to find information on those weight restrictions. Mr. Pope told members weight limits are set by federal law and there are no restrictions on interstate highways. There are weight restrictions on other routes in North Carolina. Mr. Pope asked if the TAC wanted any other information other than the weight restriction. Mr. Kozlosky said that was their only request. Mr. Pope made to motion to table this item until the TCC can find additional information for the TAC.

Mr. Koeppel asked why the request for weight restriction information must preclude beginning conversations with South Carolina Department of Transportation about the extension of the I-20 designation. Mr. Kozlosky explained that this board has been tasked with bringing additional information back to the TAC, and as Mr. Pope's motion indicated, we need to try to find the requested information requested prior to any further discussions. Mr. O'Keefe seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

4. New Business

a. Adoption of the Wilmington MPO's Transportation Model

Mr. York told members NCDOT has been in the process of updating the MPO's transportation model for the last year. Staff has used the household information from the 911 database. That

information is more accurate than the old method. The number of households increased from 163,000 to 185,000 households in the MPO area. He said they were also able to obtain more accurate employment information from Info USA. We are now predicting 221,000 jobs and are still seeing that the biggest employment center is Wilmington. NCDOT also looked at minor changes including speed limit corrections, number of lane corrections, capacity corrections and put in the proposed interchange to Market Street and Independence Boulevard. Corrections were made to the model and they now have more accurate information to predict 2035. Staff would like to move forward with the adoption of the model.

Mr. Kozlosky indicated what he would like to see in the presentation to the TAC and pointed out that this model information will be of interest to members of the TAC. We want to make sure the information is accurate.

Ms. Ayers made the motion to move forward with an in-depth presentation to the TAC. Mr. O'Keefe seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

b. Prioritization of Bicycle Projects within the Wilmington MPO Planning Area Boundary

Mr. Kozlosky told members staff has been asked to submit a bicycle and pedestrian project priority list to NCDOT. This list will be prioritized by each of the business units at the Department. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee is currently working to develop a more in-depth list for the update of the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Kozlosky said staff would propose using the list from the adopted 2030 LRTP and then come back with our next submittal from the 2035 LRTP. The list from the 2030 project prioritization list is as follows:

- 1) Bike lanes on Park Avenue between Hawthorne Road and S Kerr Avenue (River-to-the-Sea Route)
- 2) Bike path on Eastwood Road from Military Cutoff Road to ICW Bridge (UNCW Connector)
- 3) Finish installing bike lanes on Greenville Loop Road at Oleander Drive (Soundside Route)
- 4) Bike lanes on Pine Grove Drive between Hollytree Road and Masonboro Loop Road (Soundside Route)
- 5) Bike Lanes on Carolina Beach Road between Snows Cut and Myrtle Grove Road (NC Bike Routes 3 & 5 and the Soundside Route).
- 6) Bike lanes on Dow Road (NC Bike Routes 3 and 5)
- 7) Bike lanes on Masonboro Loop Road between Pine Grove Drive and Myrtle Grove Road (Soundside Route)
- 8) Bike lanes on Myrtle Grove Road between Masonboro Loop Road and Carolina Beach Road (Soundside Route)
- 9) Finish bike lanes on Middle Sound Loop Road (Soundside Route)

Mr. Owens stated that there are bike/pedestrian improvements from the Town of Carolina Beach which are not on the list. He asked how they can move forward with their recommendations. Mr. Kozlosky advised that the town should work with its member on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee. He said the committee has worked very hard to develop a universal bicycle and pedestrian project list throughout the MPO planning area boundary.

Mr. O'Keefe made the motion to forward the bicycle and pedestrian project priority list to the TAC for consideration. Ms. Ayers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

c. Prioritization of Enhancement Projects within the Wilmington MPO Planning Area Boundary

Mr. Kozlosky told members there has not been a call for enhancement projects at this time, but suggested preparing a list of enhancement projects in case the Board of Transportation does identify funding for projects. Mr. Kozlosky recommended that this committee have discussions on any enhancement projects and develop a list.

Mr. Kozlosky said that there are 12 criteria for enhancement projects and projects must meet one of the criteria to qualify. The qualifying activities include:

- 1) Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities
- 2) Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety
- 3) Acquisition of Scenic Easements, Scenic or Historic Sites
- 4) Scenic or Historic Highway Programs (including tourist or welcome centers)
- 5) Landscaping and other Scenic Beautification
- 6) Historic Preservation
- 7) Rehabilitation of Historic Transportation Facilities
- 8) Preservation of Abandoned Rail Corridors
- 9) Control of Outdoor Advertising
- 10) Archaeological Planning and Research
- 11) Environmental Mitigation
- 12) Transportation Museums

Mr. Kozlosky stated that he will send out an email to request projects from the local communities based on the qualifying activities and then bring that information back for discussion at the next meeting.

5. Updates

a. Cape Fear Commutes 2035 (Citizen Advisory Committee)

Mr. Mello updated the group on Citizen Advisory Committee activities.

b. WMPO Bike/Pedestrian Committee

Mr. O'Keefe updated the group on Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee activities.

c. NCDOT Project Update

attached

6. Announcements

a. WMPO BikePed Committee meeting- September 10th

b. Cape Fear Commutes September 16th

7. Adjournment

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 pm.