

**Wilmington Urban Area  
Technical Coordinating Committee  
Meeting Notes for December 2, 2009**

**Members Present:**

Mike Kozlosky, City of Wilmington  
Sam Burgess, New Hanover County  
Robert Waring, Town of Leland  
Shane York, NCDOT  
Allen Pope, NCDOT  
Coke Gray, NCDOT  
Patrick Riddle, NCDOT  
Don Bennett, City of Wilmington  
Travis Barnes, Town of Navassa  
Jill Stark, FHWA  
Eryn Moller, Town of Wrightsville Beach  
Albert Eby, WAVE Transit

**Others Present:**

Chad Kimes, NCDOT  
Ben Hughes, NCDOT  
Joshuah Mello, City of Wilmington

Mr. Allen Pope updated the TCC on the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge painting project. He told members the bridge was last painted in 1985. The proposed preservation work will include cleaning and painting the movable structure of the bridge, rehabbing the span guide rollers, electrical repair and/or replacement of luminaries and the installation of a new HVAC system for the control house. Because the bridge structure contains lead and other hazardous materials that must be contained, the work area must be encapsulated. The project will require a total closure for vehicle traffic during the hours of 7 PM to 6 AM and is scheduled to take place between April 15<sup>th</sup> and June 15<sup>th</sup>. The projected cost is \$8 million.

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 10:18 am.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

With the correction of adding the letter "s" to word "member" in the first paragraph of item 3.a., the motion to approve the minutes as amended for the October 14, 2009 meeting carried unanimously.

**3. Old Business**

None

**4. New Business**

**a. Opening of 30-day Public Comment Period for STIP Amendments for Public Transportation Program**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the TAC will open the 30-day Public Comment Period at their meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup>. There will be a public hearing at the January TAC meeting on the amendments. The NCDOT will be adopting these amendments at their January meeting.

**b. Resolution Opposing Changes to the Transportation Equity Formula**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the NC League of Municipalities Metropolitan Mayors Coalition is circulating a resolution requesting endorsement from MPOs, RPOs and local municipalities

supporting an evaluation and possible revision of the Transportation Equity Formula. Mr. Kozlosky stated he does not believe that it will have a positive impact on this community. A resolution has been prepared opposing any change to the current equity formula. Mr. Pope told members this proposal will benefit the more urbanized areas where there is a higher population density such as Mecklenburg County. Mr. Eby made the motion to support the resolution opposing any changes to the Transportation Equity Formula and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**c. Resolution Supporting Bicycle Lanes on Princes Place Drive and South Front Street (US 421 Truck)**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the Department of Transportation is preparing to resurface Princess Place Drive and South Front Street. South Front Street has been identified as North Carolina Bicycle and Highway 3 and 5. Mr. Pope asked if it was wise to add a bike lane to South Front Street with it being a designated Truck Route. Mr. Mello stated that it was recently re-designated as an alternative to South Third Street and Burnett Boulevard. Mr. Pope suggested moving the bicycle route to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to keep it separate from the truck traffic. Mr. Mello said it was just moved to Front Street as preferable to South Third Street based on volumes and speed of traffic. Mr. Mello said Front Street was also selected because there is the opportunity to add bicycle lanes and you could not on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Mr. Kozlosky said the change was based on the recommendations from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Unit.

Mr. Pope asked if there is room on Princes Place Drive to put standard lanes and bicycle lanes. Mr. Kozlosky stated that staff is working with the department to develop a pavement marking plan that would eliminate the two-way left turn lane. The conversion to add the bicycle lanes is also consistent with the Department's Complete Streets Initiative that was adopted in July.

Mr. Pope suggested that the resolution include a notation that funding has not been identified to widen Front Street to accommodate bicycles and if additional funding is required, the WMPO will pursue that funding.

Mr. Pope made the motion to support bicycle lanes on Princes Place Drive and South Front Street as part of the upcoming resurfacing package with the addition of language regarding funding and forward the revised resolution to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Barnes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**d. Adoption of the 2010 Meeting Calendar**

Mr. Eby made the motion to adopt the 2010 Meeting Calendar and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**e. Federal Transportation Rescission**

Ms. Jill Stark told members the \$8.7 billion rescission was a way to meet federal budgeting parameters. Rescissions from 2004 through 2007 only affected Interstate Maintenance and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality programs. For the first time the Continuing Appropriations Resolution signed in February 2007 included a directive rescinding unobligated program balances by program area. The rescission in 2008 included the National Highway System, Equity Bonus, Recreation Trails and Metro Planning. The rescission in 2009 affected the remaining programs of Safe Routes to School, Highway Safety Improvement Program, Railway Highway Crossing, High Risk Rural Roads and Appalachian Development Highway System. In all instances, the impact of the rescission to states varied depending on the amount of unobligated balances of each state. This was the largest rescission in years and we all need to work together to figure out a way to get our obligations up to the maximum so that nothing gets sent back.

Mr. Kozlosky told members the Wilmington MPO lost over \$188,000.00. We had not obligated some of our funding in hopes of doing larger planning projects and now the Federal Highway Administration has rescinded our planning dollars so we now have an un-obligated balance of \$0. We are still trying to figure out how we are going to address planning in the future. The big lesson to be learned here is that there needs to be better communication between the Federal Highway Administration, the Department of Transportation and their local partners.

Ms. Kozlosky told members that Mr. John Sullivan will be giving a presentation to the TAC at their next meeting and answer questions regarding the rescission.

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

**c. Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority**

Mr. Eby updated the group on Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority activities.

**d. Wilmington MPO/City of Wilmington**

Mr. Kozlosky updated the group on Wilmington MPO/City of Wilmington activities.

**e. NCDOT Project Update**

Mr. Pope updated the group on NCDOT activities.

6. **Announcements**

a. **WMPO BikePed Committee meeting- December 10<sup>th</sup>**

b. **Cape Fear Commutes – December 16<sup>th</sup>**

7. **Adjournment**

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 11:16 am