

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Meeting Notes for February 10, 2010**

Members Present:

Mike Kozlosky, City of Wilmington
Sam Burgess, New Hanover County
Robert Waring, Town of Leland
Shane York, NCDOT
Allen Pope, NCDOT
Eryn Moller, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Tim Owens, Town of Carolina Beach
Don Bennett, City of Wilmington
Katie Hite, NCDOT
Chad Kimes, NCDOT
Travis Barnes, Town of Navassa
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County
Ken Vafier, Pender County
Stephanie Ayers, NC State Ports

Others Present:

Joshuah Mello, City of Wilmington
Bill McDow, City of Wilmington

1. Call to Order

Mr. Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

2. Approval of Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes for the January 10, 2010 meeting carried unanimously with the correction made that Stephanie Ayers was present at the January meeting.

3. Presentations

a. TIPAG Presentation (Transportation Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Group)

Mr. Kozlosky told members the Transportation Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Group was organized in an effort enhance relationships through collaboration and partnerships with local governments, other groups and NCDOT to make the Department a great place to work, to make a network that efficiently moves goods and people, to make the infrastructure last longer and make a safer environment for transportation throughout the state. The objectives are to design and manage a collaborative process to identify policies that result in NCDOT and local governments/transportation partners working more effectively together to establish and direct expert workgroups to explore opportunities for improved policies and practices.

The committee developed three work groups: Communication and Education; Future Transportation Funding Strategy (Reauthorization); and Reduce the Land Use and Transportation Disconnect. He told members that they are also considering forming additional work groups. Two areas being discussed are the evaluation of various organizational boundaries and effective communications with NCDOT and FHWA.

4. Old Business

No items

5. New Business

a. Resolution supporting MTIP and STIP Amendments for EB 5118, ER 5100, and U 5200

Mr. Kozlosky told members staff opened the 30-day Public Comment Period for STIP/MTIP Amendments EB-5118, ER-5100 U5200 and TO-4733 on January 24th. The amendments are:

- EB-5118: Various Routes, Statewide Bike and Pedestrian (STE) facility development Construction FFY 10 \$2,000,000. Added construction in FFY 10 -not previously programmed.
- ER-5100: Various Locations. Landscaping and tree planting Construction FFY 10 - \$5,500,000 (ST). Added construction in FFY 10 -not previously programmed.
- U-5200: Wilmington, 3rd Street, south of Bridge over abandon Railroad to US 17 Business (Market Street), Construction FFY 10 - \$650,000 (ST) No. 35, New Hanover County. Resurface roadway.

Mr. Pope made the motion to support the MTIP/STIP amendments and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

b. Resolution adopting the Kure Beach Parking Study

Mr. McDow told members staff prepared a parking study at the request of Town of Kure Beach. The study looked at the town's parking capabilities and how they could best utilize existing parking. Staff conducted traffic counts and evaluation during the 4th of July weekend.

Mr. Kozlosky said the report looked at the metered parking and parking in the central business district and made recommendations how it could be more efficiently utilized. It also recommended better identification of existing parking lots in the town. The plan was approved at the last Kure Beach Town Council meeting and they anticipate implementing some of the recommended changes as early as this spring.

Mr. Owens made the motion to support the resolution adopting the Kure Beach Parking Study and forwarding to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Barnes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

c. Opening of 30-day Public Comment for 2010-2011 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Kozlosky told members staff will be opening the 30-day public comment for the 2010-2011 Unified Planning Work Program. The program includes \$316,250 in PL funds. That includes the state allocation of \$253,000, as well as \$63,250 in local match. As part of the work program, staff is proposing to conduct a city-wide collector street plan for the City of Wilmington. Staff is also proposing \$10,000 to conduct an organizational analysis of the MPO to see if it can be more effectively and efficiently operated. Mr. Kozlosky said CAMPO completed an organizational analysis in 2003 and they found it very beneficial. Mr. Pope made the motion to support opening the 30-day public comment period for the 2010-2011 Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

6. Discussion

a. Wilmington MPO 2010 Legislative Agenda

Mr. Kozlosky told members he looked at the actions taken by the MPO over the last year and developed the legislative agenda based on those actions and resolutions adopted by the TAC. The agenda includes gap-funding for the Cape Fear Skyway, corridor preservation authority for the Wilmington MPO to file corridor preservation maps for all projects within the MPO planning area boundary, transportation financing which supports the recommendations coming from the 21st Century Transportation Committee, and a local option ½-cent sales tax. Other legislative items

included on the agenda are opposition to the transfer of road-maintenance from the state to the counties without associated funding, federal transportation re-authorization, MPO population thresholds and direct allocations to the MPOs versus through the State.

Mr. Mello told members two things that have come out of the WMPO BikePed Committee are establishing a safe/minimum passing distance when passing a cyclist and a technical correction to the stormwater regulations that were enacted in 2008 to include trail, sidewalks and greenways under public roads category to make it easier to permit them under the stormwater regulations. An item that has come out of the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority meetings is establishing a yield-to-bus law where a transit bus reentering the stream of traffic has priority under the law and vehicles are required to yield to them.

Mr. Pope said he would also like to see the possibility of having dedicated funding for bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Right now, other than NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Division in Raleigh, there is no funding source other than traditional construction and maintenance dollars.

Ms. Bunch said she would suggest adding securing funds for the "B" sections of the Bypass so that it could be completed sooner. She also suggested adding a recommendation to increase the operation and maintenance budget for the Brunswick County's portion of the MPO because they are experiencing problems with standing water on state-maintained roads during heavy rainfall and they need improved ditch and drainage maintenance.

Mr. Kozlosky restated the additions legislation agenda:

1. Safe passing distance for bicycles
2. Technical corrections to the stormwater regulations to include trail and greenways
3. Yield to buses
4. Dedicated funding source for BikePed
5. Accelerating funding for the "B" section of the Wilmington Bypass
6. Increase operations funding maintenance for all counties within the MPO

Mr. Pope said he has a little reservation about vehicles in the travel lane having to yield for bus pull out because vehicles usually have right of way. Mr. Bennett said he also has reservations because it contradicts the normal rules of the road. The consensus of the committee was to strike that from the list.

With no other items to include, Ms. Ayers made the motion support the legislative agenda items and forward the agenda to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Owens seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

7. Updates

a. Cape Fear Commutes 2035 (Citizen Advisory Committee)

b. Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority

d. Wilmington MPO/City of Wilmington

e. NCDOT Project Update

8. Announcements

7. Adjournment

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 am