

Meeting Notes

Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee

Date: March 24, 2010

Members Present:

Jonathon Barfield, Chairman, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority
Laura Padgett, Vice-Chair, City of Wilmington
Bill Sue, Brunswick County
Jack Batson, Town of Belville
Walter Futch, Town of Leland
Bill Saffo, City of Wilmington
Jason Thompson, New Hanover County
Bob Lewis, Town of Carolina Beach

Staff Present:

Mike Kozlosky, Executive Director
Joshuah Mello, Transportation Planner
Anthony Prinz, Transportation Planner
Bill McDow, Transportation Engineer

1. Call to Order

Mr. Barfield called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM. He asked everyone to take a moment to review the TAC mission statement at the top of the agenda.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes for the meetings on March 24th were approved unanimously.

3. Public Comment Period

Mr. Walter Futch, TAC member from of the Town of Leland, told members the reason he is speaking during the public comment period is because at the last meeting the Vice-Chair person who took over after Mr. Barfield left decided to close the debate on items on the agenda. He said he wasn't allowed to speak on it and he noticed the item was not on the agenda for this meeting. He told members he thought it should be old business but it's not on the agenda at all. He told members that he would like to enlighten those of you who would like to hear him. He stated he is not here to force his views on anyone or twist your arms, he just wanted to present a prospective on the Skyway that you haven't heard. If you only want to hear one side he would understand. He said he also wanted everyone to understand that the TAC is not the only venue that he will be going to. He stated that he has already been asked to some city councils and he will be going to the county commissioners meeting and he will be going to the legislature. He said he wants members to understand that his presentation is not going to be just here but he thought TAC members would want to see it first. He told members he was not going to be presenting any new facts. All the information he got, he has gotten off the internet, websites, meeting minutes and resolutions. There is nothing here that you couldn't deduce if you read it carefully. He said he will be offering questions for thought now. He told members that the Town of Leland sent 140 questions to the Turnpike Authority, and as of yet, he has not gotten answers to any of them.

In reference to the last meeting, he stated that when those items were postponed early in the meeting for debate, when it got time to talk about them, Ms. Padgett shut off debate. He said there was no vote by the membership and that was really not proper. What he finds objectionable though is that because we didn't discuss it, the next day Mr. Kozlosky sent those items to members and said we're suppose to ask our councils to vote on it, but we never discussed it. That is not proper and who ever told him to send them out shouldn't have done that. They don't have that authority. That comes from this committee. That comes from us. In addition, one of the resolutions that asked to support the gap-funding hadn't even been approved in that form by the TAC. If you will read that resolution, it is not the

one that was the June 2007 resolution. So that particular form of this resolution that Mr. Kozlosky asked to be passed by the councils, not only isn't correct, it hasn't been passed by this group. He said he can understand why the "powers-that-be" want to shut him up, but it's not just him they are shutting-up; it's you they are shutting-up. You are not getting to hear both sides of the argument. You and the people have that right. You have got to remember we are not running this for us, we are running this for everyone. It's time we heard both sides of it.

Mr. Futch said he has heard it said that the Leland has been involved in every step of the way in picking that northern alternative. Let me tell you, we were never involved in any step of the way until after October 14th when it was publicly announced. Our next meeting was October 15th and we were expected to endorse this resolution that we had one day to look at. If that happened to you guys, you know you would be climbing the walls. He stated that he is and he should be. He told members the Mayor of Wilmington held a meeting of Brunswick County property owners and Leland property owners at the town hall in Wilmington on March 29th. Where was the Leland representative? Not only were we not included in picking this alternative route, but even after it was picked there had been options, there was an option 1 and option 2 apparently, though it wasn't attached to those minutes. So, who picked the options? Was it us? When we were going to paint the bridge, we had a committee. The committee decided what color and then came back to us. We picked something that was part of a \$1.1 billion project, \$200 million or more in property is going to be purchased. Did we get a choice? Did we get an option A or option B? I don't think so. The question is who ought to be making the decisions? Should it be just a few of us or should it be all of us? Should we work on what we see and what we hear, or should we work on facts?

Mr. Futch told members he thinks this process has run amuck from the beginning. He said he will let members decide if they would like to see his PowerPoint presentation and if you don't want to see it, he will understand. He will be more than happy to take it wherever he needs to take it. But you can bet that if you don't see it here today, you will hear about it.

4. Presentation

a. NCDOT Transportation Financing – Mark Foster, CFO

Mr. Mark Foster, Chief Financial Officer for NCDOT, told members he was asked to explain, for the benefit for the new TAC members, how the Department of Transportation get it's funding and how it uses those resources. He said when you look at NCDOTs U _____ it's pretty simple. About 75% of the resources that they get come from state taxes and fees and the remaining 25% comes from federal fees, primarily federal gas taxes. State money goes into two funds, the highway fund and the highway trust fund. The highway fund is primarily sourced by state taxes, mostly gas taxes and is use

5. Old Business

a. Resolution Adopting the Wilmington MPO 2010 Legislative Agenda

6. New Business

a. Resolution Amending the 2010 – 2010 Unified Work Program

b. Opening of 30-day public comment period for Cape Fear Commute 2035 Transportation Plan

7. Updates

a. City of Wilmington/Wilmington MPO

Mr. Kozlosky provided the update on transportation projects in the City of Wilmington.

b. Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority

Mr. Eby provided the update for the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority.

c. NCDOT

Mr. Pope provided the update on the department's projects.

8. Announcements

9. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:48 PM

Respectfully submitted

Mike Kozlosky
Executive Director
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization