

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Meeting Notes for June 16, 2010**

Members Present:

Mike Kozlosky, City of Wilmington
Sam Burgess, New Hanover County
Robert Waring, Town of Leland
Ken Vafier, Pender County
Jill Stark, FHWA
Travis Barnes, Town of Navassa
Shane York, NCDOT
Patrick Riddle, NCDOT
Eryn Molier, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Don Eggett, Cape Fear RPO
Matt Kunic, Wave Transit

Others Present:

Bill McDow, City of Wilmington
Joshuah Mello, 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 April 14, 2010 meeting carried unanimously.

3. Old Business

No items

4. New Business

a. Resolution supporting corridor preservation of Market Street and Military Cutoff Road Extension

Mr. Kozlosky told members the North Carolina Department of Transportation is working on the environmental analysis for Military Cutoff Road extension. They plan to have a record of decision on the project by winter of 2012. The County has received a development proposal for the intersection of Military Cutoff Road and Market Street.

Mr. Burgess told members a multi-family complex project has been proposed for the Pages Creek Marina property. The county is looking at what to do with the project in terms of access with the anticipated Military Cutoff Road extension. This project will consist of over 200-units if it is approved by the county. We feel it would be in the best interest to get some type of preservation of the corridor near the intersection. The rezoning request for the development project will go before the New Hanover County Commissioners on July 12th for consideration.

Mr. Kozlosky to members in 2005 the City of Wilmington, on behalf of New Hanover County, filed a Transportation Corridor Official Map Act for Military Cutoff Road extension. It included the right-of-way on the northwest quadrant. However, it did not include any additional right-of-way on the northeast or southeast quadrant of the intersection. We are currently completing the environmental analysis for Military Cutoff Road extension. Two months ago, the number of alternatives being studied was reduced from 17 down to 5. The possible upgrade of the existing facility was one of the alternatives taken off the table. Staff has been working with the Department of Transportation to

identify potential interchange locations at the Military Cutoff Road/Market Street location. The Department has created three potential alternatives. The Department's preference is M-2 because it ties into the signal at Gordon Road and accommodated the left-turn movements from Military Cutoff Road and Market Street. Staff is proposing to amend the Transportation Corridor Official Map to include the interchange identified in option M-2. The project is funded for right-of-way acquisition in 2014. Staff anticipates construction will probably begin after 2015. However, there is no funding for construction. The Department is currently developing their 5-year Work Plan and the 10-Work Program. This project was the number-1 priority for the Division based on the Strategic Planning Office's transportation prioritization ranking. This corridor preservation will allow the Department a chance to identify funding sources for the acquisition of this property.

Mr. Riddle made the motion to support amending the Transportation Corridor Official map for Military Cutoff Road extension to expand the impacts at the intersection of Military Cutoff Road and Market Street and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

b. Resolution supporting 4-foot bike lanes on Myrtle Grove Road

Mr. Mello told members the Division 3 is currently working on a safety improvement project along Myrtle Grove Road between Piner Road and Carolina Beach Road. The project as proposed will add 2-foot paved shoulders to the roadway. This resolution is asking the District and Division Office to work cooperatively with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Division to find additional funding to expand the shoulders to 4-foot on-road marked bicycle lanes. Bicycle facilities along Myrtle Grove Road is a top-ranking project in the adopted long range transportation plan.

Mr. Riddle made the motion to support 4-foot bicycle lanes on Myrtle Grove Road and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

c. Resolution adopting the Middle Sound Loop trail and greenways alignment map

Mr. Burgess told members this is a wonderful opportunity to set the table for getting pedestrian, bicycle and walkway connections from the southern reaches of Porters Neck down into Ogden.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that New Hanover County was awarded \$243,000 for the completion of the greenway plan and the implementation of bicycle and pedestrian greenway facilities. Two years ago, Mr. Wilson identified discretionary funding in the amount of \$160,000 contingent upon New Hanover County securing \$40,000 for improvements in the Middle Sound area. The county is proposing to utilize the funds and will be preparing the greenway plan in-house as their "in-kind" match. Staff is asking for support for this alignment map which will set the stage for the implementation of the bicycle and pedestrian improvements in the Middle Sound area. Mr. Mello said the projects rank high in the long range transportation plan.

Mr. Riddle asked if there is any flexibility in the width of the lanes. The Department has already done the survey on Covell Farm Road and it is very tight. Mr. Mello told members the community prefers the off-road multi-use path. Staff feels that may not be feasible and the 6-foot wide bike lane could be a compromise. Mr. Kozlosky pointed out that the plan says "or" and we may possibly want to change that to "4 to 6 foot". Mr. Mello said if you look under the "key" on the map, it says undetermined - pending feasibility assessment. Mr. Riddle stated that should give the wiggle-room needed. Mr. Mello pointed out that anything narrower than an 8-foot multiuse path would not be eligible for federal funding.

Mr. Barnes made the motion to support the adoption of the Middle Sound Loop trail and greenway alignment map and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

d. Resolution opposing House Bill 1686

Mr. Mello told members the item originated from the Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee. House Bill 1686 is titled "An Act to Ensure the Safe Operation of Bicycle Being Operated by Groups of Two or More on the State Streets and Highways". It will require cyclist to ride no more than two abreast and if a vehicle approaches from the rear, to move into a single file line to allow the vehicle to pass. It only applies on a laned-roadway, so a local street without pavement markings do not apply. It originated from the Sheriff of Lee County who has concern that groups of recreational cyclists riding on rural roadways may be injured by vehicles coming around corners because they are not riding in a single file line. The Bike/Ped committee's issue with House Bill 1686 is the "contributory negligence" in North Carolina's laws. It means that if you are somewhat, even if only one-percent at-fault when an accident occurs, you can be held somewhat liable for that accident and your damages are reduced. How that applies to this law is if a cyclist is passing a slower cyclist and a vehicle approaches from behind and there is a accident, this particular law would hold the bicyclist somewhat responsible for the accident. The legislation was introduced twice before and was not passed both times. The Bike/Ped committee felt it was important to be proactive on this resolution in case it comes back to the House again next year.

Mr. Burgess asked if there was any data to support the bill. Mr. Mello said the bill was not supported by any data. It was introduced at the behest of the Sheriff of Lee County.

Mr. Barnes made the motion to support the resolution opposing House Bill 1686 and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Waring seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

e. Resolution adopting an agreement between the Wilmington MPO and Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority(CFPTA) regarding Section 5303 funding

Mr. Kozlosky told members an agreement is in place that provides for CFPTA to receive 65% of the Section 5303 funds and the WMPO receives 35%. The TAC requested that this agreement comes back to them on an annual basis for consideration.

Mr. Riddle made the motion to support adoption of the agreement between the Wilmington MPO and the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority regarding Section 5303 funding and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

5. Discussion

a. Transportation Demand Management Visioning

Mr. Kozlosky told members the TDM program was established in 2001. Funding for the initial program was a cost share between NCDOT and the City of Wilmington. In 2008, the City decided to fully fund the program. When the TDM Coordinator accepted another position, the program was moved over to the Parking Division.

Staff met with the City Manager and discussed re-establishment of the TDM program on a regional basis. The first step to re-establish the program is to create a visioning plan for the region. The Department has allocated funding beginning in July to create the visioning plan. Staff wanted to make the TCC aware that the committee was going to be established to develop the plan. The Cape Fear Commutes 2035 transportation plan recommendations include reestablishment of the program and the hiring of a full-time TDM coordinator. Mr. Kozlosky asked anyone who would like to participate in creating the visioning plan to contact him.

b. Citizen Advisory Committee Continuation

Mr. Kozlosky told members the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) was created to develop the long range transportation plan. Now that the plan is finished, members of the committee have asked to

remain active in assisting the MPO. Staff suggested that once the long range plan has been adopted, we will need to develop a strategic plan. The strategic plan will identify performance measures and rank the WMPO based on those measures. Staff would like to see the CAC continue and be utilized to evaluate if the performance measures are being met, as well as review the long range plan and direct staff on how they feel we should implement the plan and then evaluate that implementation. They could also provide continuity between this plan and the update in five years.

Mr. Mello stated that the group has been extremely dedicated over the past two years and would like to see the committee continue. Mr. Kozlosky told member the Citizen Advisory Committee is being recognized as part of the UNCW's Master Program and they have been nominated for an award for the Government Organization of the Year.

The TCC members were in favor of continuation of the CAC and Mr. Kozlosky said he take the TCC's recommendation to the TAC for consideration.

c. Administrative Policies

Mr. Kozlosky told members over the next couple months he will be bringing administrative policies to this committee for review to help clarify some issues and procedures that have recently come up.

6. Updates

a. Wilmington MPO/City of Wilmington

b. Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority

c. NCDOT Project Update

7. Announcements

8. Adjournment

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 am