

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Meeting Notes for August 11, 2010**

Members Present:

Mike Kozlosky, City of Wilmington
Stephanie Ayers, NC State Ports Authority
Sam Burgess, New Hanover County
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County
Robert Waring, Town of Leland
Ken Vafier, Pender County
Jill Stark, FHWA
Shane York, NCDOT
Patrick Riddle, NCDOT
Allen Pope, NCDOT
Katherine Hite, NCDOT
Tim Owens, Town of Carolina Beach
Don Eggett, Cape Fear RPO
Albert Eby, Wave Transit
Don Bennett, City of Wilmington

Others Present:

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 June 16, 2010 meeting carried unanimously.

3. Old Business

No items

4. New Business

a. Resolution Supporting Corridor Preservation of the Cape Fear Skyway

Mr. Kozlosky told members at the last TAC meeting, Mayor Futch indicated that since the resolution adopted in October of 2009 by the TAC provided for a 6-month time frame for the preparation of the map and the filing of the corridor, the TAC should not be discussing it at that meeting. Mr. Kozlosky said he had placed the item on their agenda so TAC members might review the recently received corridor maps. Chairman Barfield then requested that staff bring a resolution back to the next meeting to extend that time frame. Mr. Kozlosky stated that staff prepared a resolution that does not implement a time frame, but acknowledges that the time frame set by the TAC was not met and the resolution also encourages New Hanover County, Brunswick County, the City of Wilmington and the Town of Leland to utilize the statute available to file a corridor map for the Cape Fear Skyway.

Mr. Burgess made the motion to support the resolution and forward to the TAC for consideration.
Mr. Owens seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

b. Resolution Supporting HUD Sustainability Grant

Mr. Kozlosky told members HUD has released a planning grant opportunity for \$100 million to complete a sustainability plan. The County has assembled a consortium made up of people from the housing and transportation interest throughout the community. Representatives are from Pender County, New Hanover County, Brunswick County, the City of Wilmington's Community Development, and the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority. Each participating organization has been asked to endorse a resolution acknowledging and agreeing to provide support and participation on the committee. The resolution authorizes the Executive Director to direct staff resources to assist in the sustainability plan development under the lead of Cape Fear Regional Community Development Council (CFRCDC) upon awarding of the grant.

Ms Ayers made the motion to support the resolution and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Eggert seconded the motion.

Mr. Kozlosky told members the grant application is due August 23rd. The committee is requesting about \$1 million to complete the planning effort. If the grant is awarded to the community, details will be worked out.

Mr. Eggert told members the municipalities have not been involved to any extent thus far. If the grant is awarded, the municipalities will be included to make it a successful endeavor.

Mr. Kozlosky said from a transportation standpoint, staff had envisioned taking Cape Fear Commutes 2035 Long Range Plan and the comprehensive plan that was developed for Brunswick County, and potentially provide some funding to continue to develop the comprehensive transportation plan for Pender County and try to roll it all into one vision for the region.

Mr. Eby asked if funding would be used to hire a consultant. Mr. Eggert told members when the group last met they discussed hiring a consultant to do most the work because no one in the community has the expertise to hit the ground running. Mr. Kozlosky said it would also allow the CFRCDC to hire staff members. He stated that New Hanover County and the Cape Fear Regional Community Development Council are the ones spearheading the effort to receive the grant.

Ms Ayers asked Mr. Kozlosky if the resolution was just giving him permission to allocate staff resources to work on this effort. Mr. Kozlosky said yes.

Mr. Kozlosky called for the vote on the motion and it carried unanimously.

c. Resolution Amending the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Unified Planning Work Program of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Mr. Kozlosky told members the Senate had passed a bill containing a \$2.2 billion reduction in highway contracting authority. The Department released information yesterday on how they are planning on trying to assess the situation. The MPO has \$69,203 in the unobligated fund balance. Staff proposes a budget amendment to move those funds to the management and operations line item, then those funds could not be rescinded. If we decide not to use those funds, we could come back with a budget adjustment prior to March to move the funds or de-obligate those funds. Ms. Stark told members a lot of the MPOs are prioritizing some of local area projects and you must be able to justify what that money is being used for.

Ms. Bunch made the motion to support to resolution to approve the amendments to the fiscal year 2010-2011 Unified Planning Work Program and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Eby seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

5. Discussion

a. Wilmington MPO Draft Ethics Policy

Mr. Kozlosky told members that Mayor Futch from the Town of Leland requested that the MPO develop an ethics policy. Texas is the only state who has an ethics policy in place for MPOs. Staff reviewed the Texas policy and incorporated that into a draft proposal. Mr. Kozlosky suggested that the ethics policy be incorporated as part of the bylaws.

Mr. Kozlosky said he would like the TCC to review the draft policy and suggest improvements or changes to be incorporated. Mr. Pope told members that the Board of Transportation has an extensive ethics policy that might help serve as a model for the MPO. Mr. Owens said the state of North Carolina requires municipal boards to participate in ethics training and that may help as a model for this policy.

Mr. Mello told members he has concerns that all board members are already under an ethics policy and we need to be careful that this ethics policy does not conflict with the one that members already have in place. Mr. Mello pointed that the draft policy included MPO staff and they already operate under the City of Wilmington's ethics policy. Mr. Mello said we need clarification especially regarding any conflict of interest. Mr. Pope suggested that the policy would only be for the TAC board members. Ms. Stark suggested that the policy state that MPO staff is already under the City of Wilmington's ethic policy.

Ms. Ayers suggested that members of the TCC who have an ethics policy could forward it to Mr. Kozlosky.

b. NCDOT Work Plan and Draft STIP

Mr. Kozlosky told members the NCDOT Work Plan and Draft STIP were released by the Department at the Board of Transportation meeting earlier in the month. The Department will provide an opportunity for public comment on the draft STIP in January of 2011 and the final STIP will be adopted in July.

Regional highlights from the plan are:

Project	Right-of-way	Construction
Village Road Phase II (U-4063)	funded for right-of-way acquisition in 2012	construction in 2015
Village Road Widening from the interchange to south of Navassa Road (U-4002)		under construction
Interchange at Old Fayetteville Road (U-3337)	right-of-way acquisition in 2019	
Hampstead Bypass (R-3300)	\$20 million identified for right-of-way acquisition in 2017	
Market Street (U-4902C)		funded for 2012
Market Street (U-4902D)		funded for 2017
Market Street (U-4902B)		funded for 2019
Dow Road	right-of-way identified 2019	

Military Cutoff extension (U-4751)	right-of-way identified 2014 & 2015	construction in 2017,2018 and 2019
Kerr Ave-(U-3338B) Widening from Randall Parkway/Patrick Ave out to MLK	funded for right-of-way in 2012	construction in 2013
Kerr Ave – Interchange(U-3338C)	funded for right-of-way in 2020	
Gordon Road (U-3831)	funding to widen to 3-lane section from Wood Sorrel Drive to the interchange at N. College for 2012	
College Road	funding for upgrade from New Center Drive out to Gordon Rd	2020
Causeway- Widening interchange at 421 to interchange at 133 & US17		2013
N 3 rd Street Bridge- remove bridge and replace with fill		2015
Section “B”- Bypass (Loop project)		funded 2013 all the way out to 2020 for the “B” section
Section “A”- Bypass		2010 - 2013
Multi-modal		2012
Independence Extension		2020

c. North Carolina Mobility Fund

Mr. Kozlosky told members the North Carolina Mobility Fund was approved by the Legislature in the last session. The Mobility Fund’s first project will be Phase II of the Yadkin River Bridge. However, the Department of Transportation is going to be developing criteria and a project selection process for projects to be included in the Mobility Fund. This is not just for highway projects, but all modes of transportation. Mr. Kozlosky said in talking with Susan Coward in the Secretary’s Office yesterday, he believes they will be using a work group that has been developed for the Strategic Prioritization Process – Version 2.0 to review the comments they receive. They are on a tight time frame and must have the final report prepared by December 15th for the joint Legislature Oversight Committee.

Mr. Kozlosky said the Department will be receiving comments from August 9th to September 9th. The work group will take the comments and develop a preliminary report by the end of September. They will release the report by the beginning of October and request the second round of public input. They plan to present the final report to the Board of Transportation on December 2nd. They will present that final report to joint Legislature Oversight Committee on December 15th. Mr. Kozlosky told members they could submit their comments by going through the Department’s website or email comments directly to Don Voelker.

6. Updates

a. Wilmington MPO/City of Wilmington

Mr. Don Bennett updated members on the New Center Drive roadway project. He said the final layer of pavement is down and they will be striping this week with the signal modification put in and he hopes to have the project open by the end of the week.

Mr. Bennett told members 9 of the 13 Safelight locations are nearly complete. They will be enforcing right turns on red because they now have the capability to prove if a vehicle has stopped during the course of the right turn.

b. Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority

Mr. Eby told member they received concurrence from FTA on their environmental document for the operation and maintenance facility on Division Drive. They let a contract last week for design and engineering with TransSystems and the design should be finished within 6 to 9 months. The Wave Station is still on target to open by the end of the year.

Mr. Kozlosky said the DOT has hired a consultant to complete the environmental document for the Multi-modal Transportation Center. They anticipate having the document complete within a year. They will be here the end of August to discuss the project.

c. NCDOT Project Update

Mr. Riddle updated members on the projects for NCDOT. Mr. Kozlosky asked when the Department expected competition on the Wrightsville Avenue project. Mr. Riddle said he spoke to the contractor and work is nearly finished. Mr. Pope told members the project has had some delays due to the deep tie-ins with the water and sewer. Mr. Pope said he anticipated the project wrapping up around Labor Day. Mr. Eby suggested that if there are going to be any more total road closures, it would be very helpful to have directional signs in place.

7. Announcements

8. Adjournment

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am