

**Wilmington Urban Area  
Technical Coordinating Committee  
Meeting Notes for May 11, 2011**

**Members Present:**

Mike Kozlosky, City of Wilmington  
Sam Burgess, New Hanover County  
Ken Vafier, Pender County  
Shane York, NCDOT  
Pat Walsh, Town of Belville  
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County  
Allen Pope, NCDOT

Bill McDow, TDM, Cape Fear Breeze  
Eryn Moller, Town of Wrightsville Beach  
Robert Waring, Town of Leland  
Tim Owens, Town of Carolina Beach  
Albert Eby, WAVE Transit  
Don Bennett, City of Wilmington

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the April 13, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously.

**3. Presentation**

**a. Independence Blvd Extension (U-4434)**

Mr. Pope gave a presentation on the Independence Boulevard Extension. NCDOT will hold a Citizen Information Workshop for the project in June. The date has not been finalized but they anticipate holding the meeting sometime in the middle of the month. He indicated that notices will be mailed to citizens affected by the project. The project is funded partially for right-of-way in 2020 and construction is currently unfunded.

**b. WMPO Local Prioritization Tool**

Ms. Suraiya Rashid gave a present on the development of a local prioritization tool for the MPO. It will be used to help the MPO and ultimately the State to decide on the prioritization of projects to be funded and constructed. The goal of the process is to come up with a data-driven process to produce a prioritized list of projects. She noted that the prioritization tool will not override the TAC's ability to rank projects.

Mr. Kozlosky told members that staff hopes to have a preliminary list of ranked projects to NCDOT in July.

**4. Old Business**

(no items)

**5. New Business**

**a. Sustainable Communities Memorandum of Understanding**

Ms. Rashid told members the MPO received a grant from the Sustainable Communities Consortium in March 2011. Staff anticipated the future release of grant funding for regional collaborations and the resolution will authorize the MPO to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to participate in the Lower Cape Fear Sustainable Communities Consortium efforts in seeking future grant funding.

Mr. Eby made the motion to support the Lower Cape Fear Sustainable Consortium MOU and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Vafier seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**b. Resolution Adopting the newest Prioritization Process at the Earliest time Possible and to Include Current Projects in the Prioritization Process**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the resolution was submitted by the Mayor from the Town of Leland. The resolution recognizes that the Department is currently working through the Prioritization 2.0 process. The current model was adopted by the MPO in September of 2009. He noted that the resolution also identifies that building projects that do not fit into the prioritization model have detrimental economic impacts on road construction and the use of taxpayer dollars to build these projects would be wasteful. The MPO does not wish to waste any funds and build low-priority projects, so therefore the resolution hereby endorses the latest NCDOT or Wilmington MPOs transportation prioritization model for current and future prioritization projects. The resolution also states that any projects that has had less than 30% of the right-of-way acquired for the project shall be reprioritized using the current prioritization process in effect at that time.

Mr. Kozlosky told members his concern is that we don't have a process in place yet.

Mr. Pope asked if the Department is already buying right-of-way for a project, what will you do about those funds that have already been expended. The Department needs direction further out than 35% of buying right-of-way to start and stop a process. They have already expended monies on projects that are currently funded in the TIP based on requests from the local community. That community may not be the same community as it is today but to go back and reprioritize projects may be wasting time, money and effort that are already gone.

Mr. Burgess told members he thought the resolution may be premature. Ms. Bunch noted that we are already looking at the prioritization process so why would we want to adopt the resolution.

Mr. Pope said the way he looks at it is that Mayor Futch wants to go back and re-prioritize those projects that the Department is buying right-of-way on today that have less than 35% of the right-of-way all the way out to 2017 that have already been prioritized within the 10-year Work Plan.

Mr. Waring noted that it's often difficult when there are administration changes and the direction of the elected officials' change. He said he believes the Mayor wants projects scrutinized to make sure they meet the same standards and prioritization to avoid anything that looks facially-irresponsible that may not fit the current needs.

Mr. Pope made the motion that the TCC not support the resolution. Ms. Bunch seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**c. Resolution requesting NCDOT Modify Plans for Section A of the Wilmington Bypass to Keep Goodman Road Open**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the Town of Leland has submitted the resolution requesting that NCDOT modify plans for Section A of the Wilmington Bypass to keep Goodman Road open. The Town contends that the public hearing map did not show that Goodman Road was to be removed. The resolution stated that residents and property owners in Grayson Park will be negatively impacted by the closing because it will restrict access for emergency services vehicles and reduce their property values.

Mr. Waring told members that residents involved were concerned about emergency access and the Town of Leland would like to see access via Goodman Road made available permanently.

Mr. Pope noted that the town has an agreement in place for Fire and EMS services with Brunswick County to assist with the calls. Mr. Owens asked if there was any comment from the Fire Chief and the EMS responders. Mr. Waring said they have had conversations with them but he did not recall what the comments were. Mr. Pope asked if the additional response time had been calculated. Mr. Waring said he didn't think it had.

Mr. Pope told members that the Department felt that the public hearing maps duly show that the road is to be closed; otherwise, they would not have shown the cul-de-sacs. He also noted that the Town of Leland had the public hearing maps posted in their town hall, along with the Record of Decision and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). He stated that the town officials have been a part of the design process. To go back and add a structure to allow Goodman Road to remain open will add an additional \$3 to \$4 million to the construction costs and that does not include right-of-way costs and additional mitigation cost. An amendment would have to be made to the EIS because it will affect the Goodman historical properties.

Ms. Stark asked how long the project had been on the books. He stated that the design public hearing was held in January of 2008 but the project dates back into the early 1990s.

Mr. Pope made the motion to not support the resolution as submitted. Mr. Eby seconded the motion and it carried with 12 members voting to not support the resolution. Mr. Waring voted against the motion.

Mr. Pope told members as a further note of clarification, he knows that Grayson Park homeowners are given a release to sign at closing denoting that the bypass is there though it doesn't specifically address the issue of Goodman Road. Homeowners are made aware of the project and that it may have an effect on their properties.

## **6. Updates**

### **a. Wilmington MPO/City of Wilmington**

Mr. Kozlosky updated members on projects within the City of Wilmington.

- **US 17/NC 210 Corridor Study in Pender County** - Mr. Kozlosky told members a public workshop is scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup> at Topsail High School.
- **Market Street Corridor Study** - Mr. Kozlosky told members that staff held two additional informational workshops on the corridor study on May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Staff will be taking the plan to the Wilmington City Council and New Hanover County Commissioners in June. The plan will then go to the TCC and TAC for consideration.
- **Multimodal Transportation Center** – Mr. Kozlosky told members work is continuing on the environmental assessment.

### **b. Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority**

Mr. Eby updated members on the projects for the transit authority.

### **c. NCDOT Project Update**

Mr. Riddle updated members on the projects for NCDOT.

## **7. Announcements**

## **8. Adjournment**

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40am

**THE ABOVE MINUTES ARE NOT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS.  
THE ENTIRE PROCEEDINGS ARE RECORDED ON A COMPACT DISC AS PART OF THIS RECORD.**