

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Meeting Notes for June 15, 2011**

Members Present:

Mike Kozlosky, City of Wilmington
Karyn Crichton, New Hanover County
Ken Vafier, Pender County
Shane York, NCDOT
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
Travis Barnes, Town of Navassa

1. Call to Order

Mr. Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 10:07 am.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the May 11, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously.

3. Presentation

a. NCDOT 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan

Mr. York gave a presentation on the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan.

4. New Business

a. Resolution Adopting the List of New Highway Projects (2011) to be Submitted to NCDOT for Consideration in NCDOT SPOT Prioritization 2.0

Mr. Kozlosky told members the MPO has been asked to submit up to 15 new highway projects for consideration as part of NCDOT's Prioritization 2.0. The list of projects for consideration came from the quality of life and congestion mitigation projects in the *2035 Cape Fear Commutes Long Range Transportation Plan*. The list does not include projects submitted in Prioritization 1.0, local projects using local funding sources, and loop-fund eligible projects are not included. Using the matrix developed as part of Cape Fear Commutes and the TCC sub-committee, 26 projects were considered in the process for selecting the final 15 projects. Projects will be submitted to NCDOT between July 5th and July 29th.

Mr. Owens made the motion to support the resolution adopting the list of new highway project to be submitted to NCDOT for consideration in NCDOT SPOT Prioritization 2.0 and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Eby seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

b. Resolution Adopting the List of Bicycle Projects (2011) to be Submitted to NCDOT for Consideration in NCDOT SPOT Prioritization 2.0

Mr. Kozlosky told members the Wilmington MPO's Bike/Ped Committee provided recommendations for the list of bicycle projects using the list of bicycle from the *2035 Cape Fear Commutes Long Range Transportation Plan*. He said that we have been asked to submit up to 10 bicycle projects and 10 pedestrian projects. The lists will come back to the committee in October or November to rank the top-5 projects.

Mr. Waring told members the Town of Leland had three additional projects they would like to submit for the project list. The projects are the Village Rd. Loop, the Old Leland Loop and Hwy 17 Superstreet Connections.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Kozlosky suggested pulling the North and South 5th Avenue bike lanes because it falls within the City of Wilmington's resurfacing project. Mr. Barnes agreed and made the motion to replace the North and South 5th Avenue bike lanes with the Village Road Loop project submitted by the Town of Leland. Mr. Owens seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ms. Crichton told members New Hanover County would like to request amending item number 9 to extend the bike lanes from Bald Eagle Lane down Porters Neck Road and connecting to Covel Farm Road and then on to the Cross City Trail. Ms. Crichton made the motion to amend the item number 9 to change the limits of the project. Mr. Barnes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Barnes made the motion to support the resolution adopting the list of bicycle projects with the amended alignment from New Hanover County to be submitted to NCDOT for consideration in NCDOT SPOT Prioritization 2.0 and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Owens seconded the motions and it carried unanimously.

c. Resolution Adopting the List of Pedestrian Projects (2011) to be Submitted to NCDOT for Consideration in NCDOT SPOT Prioritization 2.0

Mr. Kozlosky told members that staff requested a list of projects from each of the municipalities and counties. Staff also used the City of Wilmington's Walk Wilmington Pedestrian Plan and the *2035 Cape Fear Commutes Long Range Transportation Plan* to develop a list of projects. He noted that the Bike/Ped Committee reviewed and recommended the list of projects for submittal to NCDOT.

Ms. Crichton asked to amend projects number 7 and number 8. On project number 7, the county would like to connect Olsen Park, Smith Creek Park and Ogden Park multi-use path using the power-line easement. For project number 8, they would like a sidewalk near downtown Castle Hayne, and extend the sidewalk on Holly Shelter Road to connect with Castle Hayne Elementary and Holly Shelter Middle School.

Mr. Riddle noted that Getting Connected and New Hanover County has been pushing the bike/ped improvements forward for the Covel Farm Multi-purpose Path. The Department has been talking about just widening the road and making a bike lane. The Getting Connected group has a network of connections through Middle Sound Loop and Military Cutoff Road, going all the way through Marsh Oaks. Most of these connections are bike lanes.

Mr. Pope asked if the connections included all of Middle Sound Loop Road. Mr. Riddle said it did not. Mr. Pope recommended adding bike lanes along Middle Sound Loop Road to the list of bike projects. He suggested reopening bike project list discussions because most of those connections are bike lanes.

Mr. Eby made a motion to support the resolution adopting the list of Pedestrian Project with the amendments to project 7 and 8 as stated by Ms. Crichton and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Barnes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Pope, in reference to Item 4b on the agenda, made the motion to incorporate the remainder of Getting Connected's Concept Plan, as well as adding bike lanes to Middle Sound Loop Road as potential bicycle projects to be submitted to NCDOT for consideration in the Prioritization 2.0

process. He noted that they should be added to the current list and not replace items on the list. Mr. Barnes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

d. Resolution Adopting the List of Transit Projects (2011) to be Submitted to NCDOT for Consideration in NCDOT SPOT Prioritization 2.0

Mr. Eby told members that they were asked to take the projects over the next 5 years that are currently in the STIP and come up with scoring process to calculate points after adding new vehicles. There are 8 projects but they have not been ranked.

Mr. Kozlosky told members he would like for the TCC to provide a recommended list to the TAC. Mr. Eby said in speaking with NCDOT, the prioritization process is contrary to the FTA State of Good Repair Initiative. He told members that ranking strictly by points is not the best way to handle this situation.

Ms. Bunch stated that all transit systems are having the same issue in articulating the way rankings are occurring. Mr. Kozlosky stated that because the projects do not have to be ranked until October, he would recommend that the un-ranked list be submitted to NCDOT for consideration.

Mr. Eby made the motion to support adopting the list of the non-ranked transit projects to be submitted to NCDOT for consideration in the NCDOT SPOT Prioritization 2.0 and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Owens seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

e. Resolution Requesting NCDOT Re-evaluate the Prioritization 2.0 Scoring for Port and Military Installations

Mr. Kozlosky told members the resolution is to request that NCDOT re-evaluate the prioritization scoring for port and military installation projects. Bonus points are awarded in the multi-modal scoring category for mobility and modernization projects. We would like to ask that NCDOT go back and look at the bonus point scoring and consider providing additional points for those connections in recognition of the importance of those facilities from a state-wide level.

Mr. Pope made the motion to support the request for NCDOT to re-evaluate the Prioritization 2.0 scoring for port and military installations and forward to the TAC for consideration. Ms. Bunch seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

f. Resolution Supporting the Town of Leland's Request for Transportation, Community and Systems Preservation Program Grant for the Gateway Connector

Mr. Waring gave an overview of the project for which the Town of Leland is submitting for FHWA a grant application.

Mr. Pope made the motion to support the Town of Leland's Request for Transportation, Community and Systems Preservation Program grant for the Gateway Connector and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Eby seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

g. Resolution Adopting Agreement with the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority for Section 5303 Funding for FY 2011-2012

Mr. Kozlosky told members the agreement with CFPTA provides 65% of the funding from the Section 5303 funds and the MPO retains 35% for planning efforts. The agreement is reviewed on an annual basis.

Ms. Bunch made the motion to support Adopting the Agreement with the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority for Section 5303 funding for FY 2011-2012 and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Owens seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

h. Resolution adopting the Town of Carolina Beach Bicycle Multi-use Transportation Plan

Mr. Kozlosky told members the Town of Carolina Beach received a NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian grant in 2009 to develop a comprehensive bicycle plan for the town.

Mr. Eby made the motion to support adoption of the Town of Carolina Beach Multi-purpose transportation plan and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Pope seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

i. Resolution Adopting the Wilmington MPO's FY 2011-2012 Strategic Business Plan

Mr. Kozlosky told members the CAC has been working to develop the 2011-2012 Strategic Business Plan for the MPO for the past several months. The business plan identifies work load measures, efficiencies measure, effectiveness measures and targets for implementing the recommendation of the *2035 Cape Fear Commutes Long Range Transportation Plan* and creates a clear direction for the MPO over the next year.

Mr. Owens made the motion to support the adoption the Wilmington MPO's FY 2011-2012 Strategic Business Plan for the MPO and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Pope seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

5. Discussion

a. Wilmington MPO Potential Funding Issues and Resolutions

Mr. Pope told members in October of last year the Department was made aware of changes to the right-of-way costs for Military Cutoff Road extension. The estimate went from \$18 million to \$68 million. That incident started discussions about right-of-way and construction estimates. He noted that a very significant estimate was missed early on in the preliminary engineering phase for Military Cutoff Road extension. When they went from a functional design to a preliminary design, they did not get the right-of-way estimate or the construction estimate revision. That was the reason for the significant change in the cost estimates for the project.

He told members that he and Mr. Alford were also puzzled as to why costs have increased significantly for this area. Prior to the work plan, the TIP was a seven-year funding plan and Department was delivering at a rate of about 65%. When they went from "Policies to Projects", they developed a five year plan, which is working toward a 95% delivery rate. He reminded everyone that the revenue sources stayed the same and a big majority of projects are being let in 2013 and 2014. Another oblivious reason is that building cost for roadway construction continues to climb.

Mr. Pope stated that the TAC requested the Department value-engineer some of the changes to the Military Cutoff Road extension project. There were two significant scope changes to Military Cutoff Road extension. The project was designed as a 6-lane facility because the traffic volumes. The Hampstead Bypass traffic volumes also required that it be designed as a 6-lane facility from the Wilmington Bypass to NC 210 where it will then drop to a 4-lane facility.

Mr. Pope told members that Causeway Project will also require additional revenue for the two bridges crossing the Brunswick River. Initially they were to be rehabbed and widened to accommodate an additional lane in both directions. Two months ago the Department was made aware that the center pilings for both bridges were put into a "scour-critical" category. It was determined that the bridges should be replaced or crutch bents added to support the span. The crutch bent repair work will cost \$7.7 million and replacement of both bridges is estimated at \$10.8 million. The Department has recommended the replacement of the bridges.

Mr. Pope reviewed the MPO Comparison spreadsheet developed by the Department to help determine project costs for the 10-year plan. The 10-plan is about \$73 million over-budget. He proposed moving everything to an un-funded status except Military Cutoff Road extension, Hampstead Bypass right-of-way acquisition, the Causeway project and Kerr Avenue widening

project. Mr. Pope noted that with these adjustments, it is still \$37 million over-programmed but they anticipate some cost savings on several big projects that are to be let in the next few years. The Division has agreed to apply those cost savings to this 10-year plan in Wilmington.

Mr. Kozlosky told members Mr. Pope will be making the presentation to the TAC at their next meeting. He anticipated bringing resolutions to the August meeting for consideration.

b. Amendment to the Wilmington MPO Bylaws for Special Meetings and Emergency Meetings

Mr. Kozlosky told members that he has held discussions with the City attorney and she recommended that the MPO modify the bylaws to include provisions for special meetings and emergency meetings. Following a review of bylaws and rules of order for several organizations in the area, he drafted an amendment to the bylaws for calling special meetings and emergency meetings.

After reviewing the suggested changes, Mr. Owens made a motion to recommend that the proposed changes be forwarded to the TAC for consideration. Ms Bunch seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

6. Updates

Note: Project updates for the Wilmington MPO/City of Wilmington, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority and NCDOT are available in the agenda packet.

7. Announcements

8. Adjournment

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 11:52am

**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.**