

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Meeting Notes for September 14, 2011**

Members Present:

Mike Kozlosky, City of Wilmington
Sam Burgess, New Hanover County
Shane York, NCDOT
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County
Robert Waring, Town of Leland
Ken Vafier, Pender County
Don Bennett, City of Wilmington
Sean Ryan, Town of Navassa
Julie Wilsey, Wilmington International Airport
Stephanie Ayers, NC Ports
Pat Walsh, Town of Belville
Don Eggert, Cape Fear COG/RPO
Tim Owens, Town of Carolina Beach
Bill McDow, TDM Coordinator
Eryn Moller, Town of Wrightsville Beach

1. Call to Order

Mr. Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the July 27, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously.

3. New Business

a. Resolution Adopting the Village Road Phase II and Gordon Road Phase-A Purpose and Need/Minimum Problem Statements

Mr. Kozlosky told members at the last TAC meeting Purpose and Need/Minimum Problem Statements were adopted for the projects that were submitted for Prioritization 1.0 and Prioritization 2.0. The TAC also de-obligated funding for several projects in the region. With that funding de-obligation, a Purpose and Need/Minimum Problem Statements for Village Road Phase II and Gordon Road Phase "A" must be submitted for the next prioritization process.

Mr. Burgess made the motion to support the resolution adopting the Village Road Phase II and Gordon Road Phase "A" Purpose and Need/Minimum Problem Statements and forward to the TAC for consideration. Ms. Bunch seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

b. Resolution Amending the East Coast Greenway Alignment

Ms. Rashid told members the adopted 2009 East Coast Greenway alignment includes the Riverwalk and the original alignment for the Cross City Trail at Shipyard Boulevard and Independence Boulevard. Because that alignment has changed and the downtown Riverwalk does not allow bicycles on the boardwalk, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee has recommended changes to the East Coast Greenway alignment. If approved, the new alignment will take bicyclist along 5th Avenue, by way of the Ann Street Bicycle Boulevard. The new alignment will also differentiate facilities that are exclusive to bicyclist or pedestrians.

Ms. Ayers told members she felt the new alignment will provide a safer alternative to using Front Street. The Ports has concerns about bicycle routes being designated along that portion of Front Street due to the large number of trucks using that route. She asked the TCC to consider the possibility de-designating Front Street as a bicycle route if this is adopted as the East Coast Greenway Alignment.

Ms. Ayers made the motion to support the resolution amending the East Coast Greenway Alignment and forwarding to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Waring seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Kozlosky suggested that the request to de-designate Front Street as a bicycle route go back to the Bike/Ped Committee for consideration. He noted that this type of initiative is generally taken to them for a recommendation, and then brought to the TCC for consideration.

Ms. Ayers made a motion to request the Bike/Ped Committee consider de-designating of NCDOT Bicycle Routes 3 and 5 on Front Street and reroute them along 5th Avenue to be consistent with the East Coast Greenway Alignment due to safety concerns associated with US 421 Truck Route and NC Port use. Mr. Eggert seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Resolution Amending the Wilmington MPO Bike/Ped Committee Bylaws

Ms. Rashid told members the Bike/Ped Committee felt it was time to update the bylaws. The committee wanted to change the time frame for the election of officers and address the addition of new members to the board representing the Cape Fear Cyclists and the University of North Carolina -Wilmington. The current bylaws state that all changes to the bylaws must go before the TCC and TAC.

Mr. Vafier made the motion to support amending the Wilmington MPO Bike/Ped Committee Bylaws and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Eggert seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

d. Resolution Supporting the Re-establishment of the Rail Line between Wallace and Castle Hayne

Mr. Kozlosky told members in 2007 the TAC adopted a resolution supporting the re-establishment of the rail line between Wallace and Castle Hayne. The NCDOT owns 27 miles of rail corridor that traverses New Hanover, Pender and Duplin counties. It is anticipate that the re-establishment of the rail line will have a positive economic impact on southeastern North Carolina. If the TAC supports this initiative, the MPO staff will work with Representative Hamilton who is trying to secure funding from the NCDOT Mobility Fund to complete the Environmental Document. If the resolution is approved at the next TAC meeting, staff will request support of the resolution from all the counties and municipalities throughout southeastern North Carolina so that Representative Hamilton may take the resolutions to the Legislature.

Ms. Bunch made the motion to support the re-establishment of the rail line between Wallace and Castle Hayne and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Owens seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

e. Resolution Supporting the Dedication of portions of the Cross City Trail in honor of the Cameron Company, Oleander Company and Trask Families

Mr. Kozlosky told member the Cross City Trail is named after Gary Shell, the former Parks and Recreation Director who came up with the concept and vision for the trail. The Cameron Company, Oleander Company and Trask Families have been instrumental in the efforts to establish the Gary Shell Cross City Trail. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee recommended that potions of the facility be dedicated in their honor for their efforts. If approved, a plaque will be installed along the trail to dedicate a portion of the trail to honor the families. A similar dedication was done for Chancellor DePaolo on the campus of UNCW.

Mr. Eggert made the motion to support the dedication of portions of the Gary Shell Cross City Trail in honor of the Cameron Company, Oleander Company and Trask Families and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

f. **Opening of the 30-day Public Comment Period for the US 17/NC210 Corridor Study on October 1, 2011**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the 30-day Public Comment Period for the US 17/NC210 Corridor Study will open on October 1st. Pender County will advertise the opening of the public comment period in the Pender Post and Topsail Voice. Following the 30-day comment period, the plan will go before the Pender County Planning Board and Commissioners for adoption.

4. Discussion

a. **Hampstead Bypass Transportation Corridor Official Maps**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the TAC voted to file the corridor official maps for the Hampstead Bypass at their last meeting. Mulkey Engineering prepared the maps and staff will begin the process for filing the maps. He noted that he will be having discussion with the board on when to hold the public hearing. It may be necessary for the TAC to hold a meeting in November for the public hearing.

b. **Prioritization 2.0 Highway Project Prioritization**

Ms. Rashid told members that staff received the scores back from the Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT) at NCDOT. The SPOT scoring was not consistent with how projects were ranked in the MPO's matrix.

Ms. Ayers asked if there would be value in prioritizing projects regionally before we start giving out points with the possibility of combining the scoring between the MPO and the RPO. Mr. Eggert noted that there could be disadvantages in combining the point scoring. It could be complicated and he is not sure if sharing points is a possibility. Mr. Kozlosky told members NCDOT wants the prioritization information by the end of November and prioritizing projects and sharing points will take several meetings to accomplish.

Ms. Bunch told members that her concern was the amount of time that has been spent in prioritizing projects locally. She said that she thought local prioritization would carry more weight. Mr. Kozlosky noted that the qualitative score assigned to projects has not been included in the SPOT score right now.

Ms. Ayers pointed out that NCDOT's Division 3 office will also be ranking projects in the Division according to their ability to fund projects and consideration will need to be given to how much projects are going to cost. She said if projects benefit the region as a whole, then you're likely to get the Division's support.

Mr. Kozlosky said he wanted to make sure members have the list of projects for review because this committee will need to rank the projects at the next meeting for submittal to the TAC.

5. Updates

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

6. Announcements

7. Adjournment

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