

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Meeting Notes for October 12, 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
Allen Pope, NCDOT
Gary Ferguson, Town of Carolina Beach
Bill McDow, TDM Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Mr. Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 10:06 am.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the September 14, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously.

3. Presentation

- a. **NCDOT 2040 Transportation Plan**

4. Old Business

- a. **Resolution Amending the Wilmington MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Bylaws**

Ms. Rashid told members at the last TAC meeting, members directed staff to make sure the MPO is reaching out to all the bicycle/pedestrian clubs in the area to gauge interest in participating in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. She said that she has contacted all the tri-clubs/bicycle clubs that she is aware of and invited them to participate. She noted that several of the clubs have asked to be on the email list. She told members the TAC also requested a change in language in reference to appointing an organization representing bicycling membership in the area. They requested that the chair of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee make that appointment.

Mr. Pope made the motion to support the resolution to amend the Wilmington MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Bylaws and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. #

5. New Business

- a. **Resolution Requesting the Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee Strongly Encourage the North Carolina Department of Transportation to Prioritize and Accelerate the Construction of the Dow Road Corridor Plan Project**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the resolution was submitted by Mayor Lambeth from the Town of Kure Beach in response to action by the TAC on August 18th that moved Dow Road to the unfunded list in order to cover the funding gap associated with the Military Cutoff Road extension project, as well as the necessary funding to replace the two bridges on the Causeway that were identified as "scour-critical" as part of the upgrade of the Causeway in Brunswick County.

Mr. Riddle noted that the Dow Road projects is ranked as number 13 on the local prioritization list and ranked number 4 on the SPOT list of projects.

Mr. Kozlosky told members the resolution is requesting that Dow Road be funded over Military Cutoff Road extension, or that the Department find some other means necessary in order to accomplish the project in a timely manner. Mr. Kozlosky told members if approved, this will delay the Military Cutoff Road extension project. Mr. Pope noted that there is no environmental document for the Dow Road project and they are close to completing the environmental document for Military Cutoff Road extension.

Ms. Bunch told members it seems we are being asked to do something that "policy wise" we are trying to steer away from. We are trying to look at what needs to be funded as opposed to whether or not some area gets transportation money. She made the motion to not support the Resolution Requesting the Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee Strongly Encourage the North Carolina Department of Transportation to Prioritize and Accelerate the Construction of the Dow Road Corridor Plan Project. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion. #

Mr. Ferguson told members he wanted to know how the committee determined what the priority is the Dow Road project. Mr. Kozlosky said the ranking was based on the local prioritization process developed by a sub-committee to the TCC. Dow Road ranked 13th on that prioritization list. It is up to the TCC to provide a recommendation to the TAC. The TAC will then provide the direction to the MPO on how they want to prioritize these projects.

Mr. Pope noted that the Dow Road project will have to go through the re-prioritization process regardless if the funding was taken away or not. Any project that is not funded prior to 2018 has to go through the prioritization process anyway. Mr. Pope told members it is a very worth-wile project but in his opinion there is no comparison regarding capacity and safety issues. Mr. Pope told members he would like to propose an alternative resolution. He recommended striking the Military Cutoff Road extension project and he would be willing to vote for the resolution.

Mr. Pope made a substitute motion to recommend that the TAC support the prioritization and acceleration of the Dow Road Corridor Plan, finding other alternative methods to complete the project in a timely manner. Mr. Ferguson seconded the motion.

Mr. Kozlosky called for a vote on the original motion to not support the Resolution Requesting the Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee Strongly Encourage the North Carolina Department of Transportation to Prioritize and Accelerate the Construction of the Dow Road Corridor Plan Project. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Mr. Ferguson told members that traffic accidents are becoming problematic due to the volume of traffic on Dow Road. They are approaching over a million visitors per year at the North Carolina Aquarium and Fort Fisher. Increased interest in bicycling, along with the lack of left turn lanes is contributing to the increase in accidents through the area.

Mr. Riddle noted that the Dow Road widening project is also on the list of safety project.

Mr. Kozlosky called for the vote on the substitute motion stating that the Town Councils of both Carolina and Kure Beaches have expressed concern that the Dow Road Corridor Plan is going to be stalled or moved from its priority ranking and the TCC recommends supporting the prioritization and acceleration of the Dow Road Corridor Plan and find other alternative methods to complete the project in a timely manner and strike "over Military Cutoff Road Extension project". Mr. Pope stated that he would agree to the amendment to his motion. Mr. Ferguson seconded the motion and it carried 13 to 1, with Ms. Bunch voting in opposition.

b. Resolution for the Prioritization of Highway Projects for Submittal in Prioritization 2.0

Ms. Rashid told members there are 43 highway projects for prioritization. She noted that there are 1300 points to be spread among the projects selected. She suggested two different strategies for the distribution of the points. The first is to assign the Top 25 projects according to the local prioritization. This would result in losing the projects from the 26th project to the 43rd project. The second method is to review the Top 13 projects on the local prioritization process list and perhaps swap out projects on the Top 13 list. Ms. Rashid stated that after the projects are selected, the committee will re-order the projects to rank them in terms of their importance. Finally, the scores will be assigned based on the ranking.

Mr. Kozlosky suggested that the committee should first decide if they want to rank 25 or 13 projects and then move forward with the assignment of points. Mr. Pope told members in making the determination in assigning points, they should decide what TCC members want the community to look like from a transportation prospective. Mr. Kozlosky told members the list of projects came from the 3,200 surveys received from the community from the *Cape Fear Commutes 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan* and it represents what citizens want the community to look like.

Ms. Ayers suggested determining what projects the MPO must fund and award each of them 100 points. She said if projects are a major regional projects, then give it 100 points and at the end if any points remain, distribute those remaining points to other projects that are important.

The committee reviewed the complete list of project and selected the following projects and point allocation for submittal to the TAC for consideration:

<u>Project Description</u>	<u>TCC Allocated Points</u>
Market Street Access Management (Section C).....	100
Market Street Access Management (Section B).....	100
Market Street Access Management (Section D).....	100
Kerr Avenue & MLK Parkway Interchange.....	100
Hampstead Bypass (US 17).....	100
US 74 Upgrade (I-140 to Whiteville).....	100
Village Road Phase II Widening:	
(Lanvalle Road to S Navassa Road).....	100
Old Fayetteville Road Interchange.....	100
Dow Road Improvements.....	100
Gordon Rd Widening U-3831A.....	100
College Road Widening:	
(New Centre Drive to Gordon Road).....	50
Carolina Beach Road & College Road flyovers.....	50
Isabel Holmes Bridge Interchange.....	50
Gordon Road Widening:	
(College Road to Market Street).....	50
Kerr Avenue Extension.....	50
Scientific Park Drive Extension.....	50

Ms. Bunch made the motion to support the point allocation list developed by the TCC and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. McDow seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

c. Resolution for the Prioritization of Bicycle Projects for Submittal in Prioritization 2.0

Ms. Rashid told members that the Department of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation quantitative evaluation ranked the South 17th Street multi-use path as the number one ranked project in the state.

They also awarded points to the Park Avenue Multi-use path, the Eastwood Road Multi-use path, the Greenville Loop Multi-use path and bicycle lanes on N. 23rd Street.

Ms. Rashid noted that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee submitted a list of recommended Top 5 projects for ranking by the TCC. The projects are:

<u>Brief Project Description</u>	<u>WMPO BPC Rank</u>
South 17th Street Multi-Use Path	1
Park Avenue Multi-Use Path	2
Eastwood Road Multi-Use Path	3
Greenville Loop Multi-Use Path	4
N 23rd Street Bicycle Lanes	5

Mr. Pope made the motion to accept the Top 5 project ranking recommendation from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

d. Resolution for the Prioritization of Pedestrian Projects for Submittal in Prioritization 2.0

Ms. Rashid told members the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee submitted a list of recommended pedestrian projects for ranking by the TCC. The projects are:

<u>Brief Project Description</u>	<u>WMPO BPC Rank</u>
Riverwalk South	1
Wooster Street Sidewalk	2
Main Street Sidewalk (Navassa)	3
Cape Fear Boulevard Sidewalk	4
Holly Shelter Road Sidewalk	5

Ms. Bunch made the motion to accept the Top 5 project ranking recommendation from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

e. Resolution for the Prioritization of Transit Projects for Submittal in Prioritization 2.0

Ms. Rashid told members the Transit Project Prioritization list came from Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority and has recommended that the projects be ranked in the following order:

1. Replacement Bus
2. Expansion Bus - Trolley
3. Expansion – paratransit cutaway
4. Facility – Intermodal Center – new design, acquisition, construction
5. Facility – maintenance and ops – new design
6. Facility – transfer center – Monkey Junction
7. Facility – transfer center – Independence
8. Technology – veh. tracking, passenger info, data comm., traffic signal priority

She told members that the last item fell off the list and should not be considered for prioritization. Ms. Rashid noted that there is 550 points to be distributed between all the projects.

Mr. Kozlosky suggested that the Top 5 projects receive 100 points each and the remaining 2 projects receive 25 points each.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Points</u>
Replacement Bus	100
Expansion Bus – Trolley	100
Expansion – paratransit cutaway	100
Facility – Intermodal Center – new design, acquisition, construction	100
Facility – maintenance and ops – new design	100
Facility – transfer center – Monkey Junction	25
Facility – transfer center – Independence	25

Ms. Bunch made the motion to assign 100 points each to the Top 5 projects and 25 points each to the Facility-transfer center at Monkey Junction and Independence and forward the item to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Waring seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

f. **Resolution for the Submittal of the Safety Projects for Consideration by the North Carolina Department of Transportation for Prioritization 2.0**

Ms. Rashid told members safety projects are not funded as part of the traditional project funding in SPOT. However, we are still requested to submit all safety projects to the SPOT office. They will forward the information to the NCDOT Mobility and Safety Division. The projects will be eligible for High Hazard SPOT Safety funding. Ms. Rashid told members the list was pulled from the adopted *Cape Fear Commutes 2035 Long Transportation Plan*. She suggested submitting the entire list and the list will not need to be ranked.

Ms. Ayers asked if another project could be added to the list. She told members there have been a number of accidents at the intersection of Shipyard Boulevard and Carolina Beach Road with trucks trying to navigate the turn lanes. Mr. Kozlosky told members intersection improvements at that location could be added to the list if the TCC members desire to add the project.

Ms. Ayers made the motion to submit the safety projects and also include intersection improvements at Shipyard Boulevard and Carolina Beach Road to improve the turn radius and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

g. **Resolution Amendment to the Meeting Calendar to Schedule a November 9th Meeting**

Mr. Burgess made the motion to amend the meeting calendar to schedule a November 9th meeting. Mr. McDow seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

h. **Opening of the 30-day Public Comment Period for the City of Wilmington Collector Street Plan**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the 30-day Public Comment Period for the City of Wilmington Collector Street Plan will open on October 26th.

Discussion

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

Mr. Kozlosky told members there will be a public hearing for the Hampstead Bypass on November 15th during the next TAC meeting and also on November 16th in Pender County at Topsail High School Media Center at 245 N. St. Johns Road in Hampstead.

7. Updates

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

8. Announcements

9. Adjournment

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05pm.

**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.**