

Meeting Minutes
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
Transportation Advisory Committee
Date: October 26, 2011

Members Present:

Jonathan Barfield, Chairman, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority
Laura Padgett, Vice-chair, City of Wilmington
Jack Batson, Town of Belville
Pat Batleman, Town of Leland
Brian Berger, New Hanover County
David Williams, Pender County
Mike Ballard, Town of Navassa
Earl Sheridan, City of Wilmington
Lonnie Lashley, Town of Carolina Beach
Marty Cook, Brunswick County

Staff Present:

Mike Kozlosky, Executive Director
Tara Murphy, Associate Transportation Planner
Suraiya Rashid, Associate Transportation Planner
Bill McDow, Staff Engineer

1. Call to Order

Mr. Barfield called the meeting to order at 3:02 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Ms Batleman told members she would request the addition of more detail regarding her concerns over the Village Road traffic counts and capacity data. She stated that she would like to include that in comparing the purpose and need statement with the figures in the 2.0 project with preliminary scores spreadsheet, she noted a discrepancy in the data. She said the spreadsheet indicates an existing volume of 6,800 vehicles per day, with an existing capacity of 17,000 vehicles per day, while the purpose and need statement indicates an existing volume of 9,700 vehicles per day and an existing capacity of 15,200 vehicles per day.

She also noted that she would like to request a little more detail be given on the motion concerning that issue, which is currently worded "Mr. Williams made the motion to adopt the Village Road Phase II and Gordon Road Phase "A" purpose and need minimum problem statement. Ms. Campos seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously." She told members that she requested the motion be considered with the provision that the discrepancies in the volume and capacity numbers would be checked. She said it was the consensus of the attendees that the motion would reflect that and if the number in the purpose and need statement could be verified, the motion as passed would stand. She stated that at this time for the record, she would also like to ask if Mr. Kozlosky could explain the results of that request to check the figures.

Mr. Barfield asked if that was a motion to amend the minutes. Ms. Batleman replied, "Please".

Mr. Kozlosky, in response to Ms. Batleman's request to add more detail to the minutes told members that at the end of the minutes, it indicates that the minutes are not a verbatim record of the proceedings. The entire proceedings are recorded on a Compact Disc as part of this record. He stated that staff can make those changes if that is the desire of the board but he wanted to remind members that the minutes are not verbatim.

Ms. Batleman stated that in her opinion the changes she is requesting are very important in keeping the record clear.

Mr. Williams seconded the motion by Ms. Batleman to approve the September 28th minutes with her requested changes and additions. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Comment Period

Mr. Gordon Hobbs spoke to members regarding his opposition to the Phase II Village Road project. He told members he was asked to appear before the committee to ask the TAC members to leave the church and residents along the corridor alone and use those funds where they are wanted and needed the most.

Mr. Andy Keppel spoke to members regarding the Dow Road resolution. He said he felt the request to prioritize and accelerate the Dow Road Corridor Plan over the Military Cutoff Road extension project was not advisable. The Military Cutoff Road extension project will provide greater benefits and better connectivity for larger volumes of traffic. He said he is in favor of the Dow Road project to address the seasonal traffic volumes and safety concerns if money for the project can be found, but not at the expense of the Military Cutoff Road extension project.

4. Presentation

a. NCDOT 2040 Transportation Plan

Mr. Shane York, NCDOT Transportation Engineer gave a presentation on the NCDOT 2040 Transportation Plan update.

5. Old Business

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

Mr. Kozlosky told members the revised bylaws for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee reflect the requested change in language in reference to appointing an organization representing bicycling membership in the area. Staff has also contacted all the known bicycle/pedestrian clubs in the area to gauge interest in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and invited them to participate. He noted that several of the clubs have asked to be on the email list.

Mr. Ballard made the motion to amend the Wilmington MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Bylaws. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

6. New Business

a. Resolution Requesting the Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee Strongly Encourage NCDOT to Prioritize and Accelerate the Construction the Dow Road Corridor Plan Project

Mr. Barfield told members there are two resolutions before the TAC regarding the Dow Road Corridor Plan project. He stated that he is in agreement with accelerating the plan but not at the expense of the Military Cutoff Road extension project. He noted that he preferred the resolution recommended by the TCC.

Mr. Williams told members he agreed with Mr. Barfield. The Military Cutoff Road extension project will affect many more year-round residents.

Mr. Lashley told members he agreed with Mr. Barfield and Mr. Williams but the Dow Road project is important and should be placed back on the priority list.

Mr. Barfield clarified that the resolution will not place it back on the priority list, but recognizes that the project is a need. Mr. Kozlosky explained that the resolution from the TCC recommends trying to find other funding sources for the Dow Road project.

Ms. Padgett made a motion to support the TCC's recommended resolution to strongly encourage NCDOT to prioritize and accelerate the construction the Dow Road Corridor Plan project. Mr. Lashley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

Ms. Rashid gave a brief over-view on the assigning of points for the Prioritization 2.0 process. She told members that there are 1,300 points to be spread among the projects selected.

Mr. Kozlosky introduced Mr. David Wasserman from NCDOT's Strategic Prioritization Office of Transportation (SPOT) and told members that he would be available to answer questions.

Ms Rashid suggested two different strategies for the distribution of the points. The first is to assign points to the Top 25 projects according to the local prioritization. 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 told members she presented these two options to the TCC for awarding points. Instead, TCC members decided to review the list of the 43 projects and pick the projects they felt were the most important transportation projects in the MPO. They narrowed the list down to 16 projects. They prioritized the 16 projects into two priorities and awarded points accordingly. The most important projects to the area were given 100 points each and the second tier of project was given 50 points each. The TCC ranking of projects is:

<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

Mr. Kozlosky told members the status of the environmental document process was also taken into consideration when the TCC ranked the projects. Some of the projects were determined to be more long-range in nature and were not included in the 2018 through 2022 ranking. They also assigned points based on the recent de-obligation of funds for projects in order to appropriate funds for the

Military Cutoff Road extension project and bridge replacement on the Causeway project due to the scouring issues.

Mr. Batson asked about the ranking of the project. Mr. Kozlosky explained that TAC has not been asked to prioritize the projects, just assign points.

Ms. Batleman asked if SPOT points are based on more recent data. Ms. Rashid said the SPOT data was from 2010 but this was different data than traffic counts.

Mr. Ballard made the motion to accept the recommendation from the TCC and adopt the assignment of points to Highway Projects (2011) to be submitted to NCDOT for consideration in Prioritization 2.0. Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

Mr. Wasserman reminded members that the prioritization process occurs every two years. Right now TAC members are prioritizing projects for 2018 through 2022. He noted that the projects for the first 5 years are included and he explained that those are what NCDOT considers "committed projects". Their goal is to deliver 95% of those projects on time and within budget. Because this process occurs every two years, the important thing is to get a project within that 2018 and 2019 window because when you do this again two years from now, those will be considered "committed" and projects after that will be subject to re-prioritization. Spreading points among fewer projects will give them a higher chance of getting funded.

Mr. Barfield called for a vote on Mr. Ballard's motion. The motion to accept the recommended point assignment for projects from the TCC carried with 9 members voting in favor and Ms. Batleman casting the vote in opposition.

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

Ms. Rashid told members that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee endorsed the Top 5 projects and the TCC recommended approval of the list. 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

Ms. Rashid noted that every MPO and RPO across the state submitted bicycle and pedestrian projects to SPOT. Their ranking had a maximum of 65 points per project. Only 7 projects in the state received the maximum points and the South 17th Street multi-use path was one of those projects. Points were also awarded 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.

Mr. Lashley asked why the Greenville Loop multi-use path and bicycle lanes on N. 23rd Street projects were included in the ranking when two other projects were ranked higher by SPOT. Ms. Rashid stated that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee took the SPOT scoring into consideration, but they also looked at the projects more from the standpoint of regional priorities.

Mr. Batson told members he felt that Mr. Lashley's concern is valid because the two projects at Carolina Beach and one at Kure Beach have a higher SPOT ranking but were not included on the recommended Top-5 bicycle project list. In response, Ms. Rashid told members that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee discussed the Dow Road multi-use path at length. They consider it to be a high priority but bicycle lanes and the multi-use path are part of the Dow Road highway

project and will hopefully receive funding from other sources. Ms. Rashid noted that funding available state-wide for bicycle and pedestrian projects is only \$6 million and the reality is that very few projects will be funded.

Ms. Padgett made the motion to accept the recommended ranking of projects from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the TCC. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it carried with 9 members voting in favor and Mr. Lashley voted in opposition.

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

Ms. Rashid told members that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee endorsed the Top 5 projects and the TCC recommended approval of the list. 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. Padgett told members that the Riverwalk South project has major right-of-way issues with it being in a historic residential area along the river. She requested that the project be pulled from the list. Mr. Williams agreed with removing the project and suggested moving all the projects up one slot and inserting a project for the number 5 position. Ms. Padgett suggested adding the US 117 sidewalk project to the list in the number-5 slot.

Ms. Padgett made the motion to remove the Riverwalk South project from the list of ranked projects, move the remaining projects up one slot, and add the US 117 sidewalk project to the list as the number-5 ranked project. Mr. Berger seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The revised ranked project list of Prioritization 2.0 Pedestrian projects follows:

<u>Brief Project Description</u>	<u>TAC Ranking</u>
Wooster Street Sidewalk	1
Main Street Sidewalk (Navassa)	2
Cape Fear Boulevard Sidewalk	3
Holly Shelter Road Sidewalk	4
US 117 Sidewalk	5

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. They recommended that the projects be ranked as submitted. Ms. Rashid noted that there are 550 points to be distributed between all the projects. The TCC recommended scoring the project as requested by the Authority. The list follows:

<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. Padgett made the motion to accept the recommendation from the TCC and submitted the list to NCDOT for consideration in Prioritization 2.0. Mr. Ballard 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 and Spot Safety funding.

Ms. Rashid told members the list was pulled from the adopted *Cape Fear Commutes 2035 Long Transportation Plan*. She noted that the TCC recommended adding one additional project to the list for intersection improvements at Shipyard Boulevard and Carolina Beach Road that was suggested by the NC Port Authority.

Mr. Wasserman told members SPOT will take the list of projects and send them to the Mobility and Safety Division. The regional traffic engineer for the area will evaluate them through their federal mandate for Hazard Elimination SPOT Safety Projects.

Mr. Williams made the motion to submit the list of safety projects North Carolina Department of Transportation for Prioritization 2.0. Ms. Padgett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

g. Resolution Amendment to the Meeting Calendar to Schedule a November 15th Meeting

Mr. Ballard made the motion to amend the meeting calendar to schedule a meeting on November 15th at 4:00pm. Mr. Batson 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 staff is working on a collector street plan for the City of Wilmington. The TAC is opening the 30-day public comment period to get the word out. Ms Padgett told members she would like to see another workshop scheduled and notifications for the meeting be sent out at least 2 weeks prior to that meeting.

7. Updates

Project updates for the Wilmington MPO/City of Wilmington and NCDOT are available in the agenda packet.

8. Announcements

9. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:53 PM

Respectfully submitted
Mike Kozlosky
Executive Director
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

**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.**