

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
**Transportation Advisory Committee**  
**Date: November 15, 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  
Dean Lambeth, Town of Kure Beach  
David Williams, Pender County  
Earl Sheridan, City of Wilmington  
Lonnie Lashley, Town of Carolina Beach

**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 4:05 PM.

**2. Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes from the October 26, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously.

**3. Public Comment Period**

Ms. Mary Phillips spoke to members regarding Hampstead Bypass Corridor Official Map. She told members she and others attending the meeting are not in agreement with moving ahead on preservation of the corridor. She is concerned about property values and noise if the bypass is constructed.

Ms Denise Furr told members she also has the same concern regarding the Hampstead Bypass especially with the depressed real estate market.

**4. Presentation**

**a. Federal Highway Administration Review**

Ms. Jill Stark gave a presentation on the WMPO review and action steps for improved collaboration for the Wilmington Area MPO.

**5. Public Hearing**

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

Mr. Williams made the motion to open the public hearing. Mr. Berger seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Kozlosky gave an overview of this item. He stated that NCDOT is currently going through the environment studies for the Hampstead Bypass. The draft Environment Impact Statement was signed in July 2011. He stated that the WMPO's preferred alignment is M1 alternative EH. Based on the direction from the TAC, staff has prepared the Transportation Corridor Official Maps for this preferred alignment, but the Merger Team has not yet officially selected the EH alignment as the preferred corridor. Mr. Kozlosky noted that the legislation for the filing of transportation corridor

official maps has changed effective December 1<sup>st</sup>. A public hearing must be held in each of the effective counties in which the corridor would be filed. Along with this public hearing, another public hearing will be held on November 16<sup>th</sup> in Pender County. The next step will be a resolution from the TAC members directing staff to file the Transportation Corridor Official Maps.

Mr. Any Koeppel asked staff to point out the potential foraging area of the red-cockaded woodpecker. Mr. Kozlosky stated that the habitat is contiguous to the Holly Shelter Game Lands. Mr. Koeppel asked if the potential foraging ground will affect the route. Mr. Kozlosky said yes. Mr. Koeppel told members that it was his hope that a potential foraging area would not be allowed to delay the best route for the future highway.

Ms. Mary Phillips asked if there was an appeal process for the proposed route. Ms. Padgett stated that NCDOT has an appeal process in place on property issues. Mr. Kozlosky noted that there is a variance process will be presented at the meeting tomorrow at the Pender County Public Hearing meeting if the TAC board decides to file the maps.

Ms. Padgett told members the concerns that she has heard is that the access to Hampstead is seriously ~~comprised~~ compromised because of the foraging area. Mr. Kozlosky said the current design would not allow south-bound movement on US 17. Ms. Padgett asked if there could be some type of south-bound movement engineered into that connection. Mr. Kozlosky stated that right now the design is based on the potential land available outside of the potential foraging habitat or foraging habitat. Mr. Williams told members he participated in a meeting where discussion were held regarding an alternative design that is a little bit south, but north of the school that may be easier to mitigate the wetlands than deal with the foraging habitat issues. They are trying to come up with an alternative route but the map needs to be filed. The proposed corridor map can be amended later to address needed changes. He stated that he was encouraged that the Department is looking for alternatives and the committee can amend the last portion of the northern section of the corridor map if necessary.

Ms. Agnes Bean asked if there are any alternatives to the west that are being considered. Mr. Kozlosky told the audience that the maps can change. The intent of the corridor preservation is to preserve an area for the bypass but it could move slightly.

Mr. Carter Mebin told members it seems like the eastern route M1-O seems much simpler, so why go northwest. Mr. Kozlosky said it was based on the Draft Environmental Impact (EI) study. Ms. Padgett asked what the impacts were in the M1-O route. Mr. Kozlosky referred to the draft environmental document for that information. He told members he would send out full copies of the draft EI after the meeting for their review.

Ms. Patty Hollifield asked if there was a process in place if she would like to build a garage on her property that lies in the corridor. Mr. Kozlosky told her that it could be considered under the variance procedures if the corridor map is filed.

Everyone being given an opportunity to be heard, Mr. Sheridan made the motion to close the public hearing. Ms. Padgett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

## **6. New Business**

### **a. Resolution Support a Feasibility Study for the Cape Fear Riverway**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the upgrade of River Road between Independence Boulevard and the Snow's Cut Bridge is recommended in the *Cape Fear Commutes 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan*. It recommends upgrading the facility to a four-lane divided facility with a multi-use path. The

resolution requests NCDOT complete a feasibility study to evaluate the Cape Fear Riverway. This would be the first step to get the project on the evaluation list for the TIP. He told members that the resolution supports completing a feasibility study to look at all the impacts associated with the Cape Fear Riverway corridor and determine if it is a feasible project to move forward.

Mr. Sheridan inquired about the time frame for this project. Mr. Kozlosky replied that it is the first step in a long-range planning process and it is many years out if it is deemed a feasible project.

Ms Padgett made the motion to support a feasibility study for the Cape Fear Riverway. Mr. Sheridan seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**b. Resolution Supporting the Town of Wrightsville Beach Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning Grant Application**

Ms Padgett made the motion to approve the resolution supporting the Town of Wrightsville Beach's Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning Grant Application. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**c. Opening of the 30-day Public Comment Period for the STIP/MTIP Amendments**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the committee voted to de-obligate funding for the several projects within the MPO planning area boundary. The modification to de-obligate those funds in the STIP/MTIP requires holding a 30-day public comment period based on the public involvement plan.

Ms Batleman asked Mr. Kozlosky to explain the status of Old Fayetteville Road that is listed under STIP Deletions in the report. Mr. Kozlosky said it is his understanding is that it is just a STIP amendment to de-obligate the funding. The handout (Item N) from the Department is indicating that they will stop work on the project, which would cease all planning associated with it. He said he will follow up and get a response back to her as to why it is identified for deletion.

Ms. Batleman said she did not see how a vote on the item can take place today without the information. Ms. Padgett noted that we are just opening the 30-day comment period not making a decision. Ms. Batleman said she would rather have the record straight before going into a 30-day comment period. She told members this has a tremendous effect on the Town of Leland. Mr. Barfield asked if he understood it correctly that nothing will happen during this 30-day period. Mr. Kozlosky said that was correct. The amendments would not come back until the January meeting. He stated that he will have the answer for Ms. Batleman by tomorrow night's meeting.

Ms. Batleman made the motion to table the item. Mr. Batson seconded the motion. Mr. Sheridan asked Ms Batleman what time frame she was proposing in tabling the item. Ms. Batleman said to table it until all the information regarding how this decision was made to delete the project came about. She told members that the Town of Leland had no knowledge that Old Fayetteville Road was going to be on the chopping block. Ms. Batleman told members that in a comparison of the purpose and need statements for some of these projects, eliminating Old Fayetteville Road makes no sense.

Mr. Kozlosky suggested holding the item over until the meeting tomorrow. If the TAC is not satisfied with the answers he is able to provide, then the opening of the 30-day public comment period can be held over until the January meeting.

Ms. Padgett made a substitute motion to hold this item until tomorrow's meeting. Mr. Sheridan seconded the substitute motion. The motion to table until tomorrow's meeting carried in a 7 to 2 vote with Mr. Williams and Ms. Batleman voting in opposition.

## **7. Discussion**

### **a. Strategic Business Plan Review**

Mr. Kozlosky updated members on the progress being made on the goals established in the MPO's Strategic Business Plan.

Ms. Batleman told members that there is an item regarding establishing a Park & Ride at the Food Lion parking lot on Mt. Misery Road in Leland included in the document. She asked when the decision to pursue a park and ride lot in that area was discussed and with whom. Mr. Kozlosky explained that it was identified as part of the *Cape Fear Commutes 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan* to look at a park and ride lot in that area. The plan did not specifically say the Food Lion. Staff identified the Food Lion as an opportunity because of the space available to sign a park and ride lot. The next step would be to contact the property owner to see if that is viable. This is a strategy and it has been identified as an opportunity and it will take further discussion and study. Ms. Batleman suggested that they meet with Leland town officials to discuss their ordinances. Mr. Kozlosky noted that they have not progressed that far yet and staff is just in the exploration stages.

## **8. Updates**

Mr. Kozlosky noted that included in the monthly update is information regarding the Wilmington Collector Street Plan. He told members that he would like to ask TAC members to extend the 30-day Public Comment Period for the plan. Staff is working to get more participation in this planning effort up-front and has scheduled a second public workshop on December 13<sup>th</sup> to receive additional feedback from citizens.

Ms. Padgett made the motion to extend the 30-day Public Comment Period for the Wilmington Collector Street Plan until December 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Batson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

## **9. Announcements**

## **10. Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 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.**