

Meeting Minutes
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
Transportation Advisory Committee
Date: April 20, 2011

Members Present:

Jonathan Barfield, Chairman, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority
Jack Batson, Town of Belville
Pat Batleman, Town of Leland
Mike Ballard, Town of Navassa
George Brown, Pender County
Brian Berger, New Hanover County
Bill Blair, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Dean Lambeth, Town of Kure Beach
Bill Sue, Brunswick County
Kristi Campos, City of Wilmington

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 4:04 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes:

The motion to approve the March 30, 2011 TAC meeting were approved unanimously.

3. Public Comment Period

Mr. Tyler Newman, representative from Business Alliance for a Sound Economy (BASE) and the Wilmington Home Builders' Association spoke in opposition to the resolution opposing Senate Bill 214. He told members his organization felt the current corridor mapping process could be made more efficient by the Bill. He asked members that instead of out-right opposition, BASE would like to encourage TAC members to give guidance to staff with suggestions for alternatives language for the Bill as the General Assembly moves forward.

Mr. Andy Koeppel noted that conceptually members should not out-right oppose the Bill but should modify it. He noted that property owners are impacted by corridor preservation and he felt that after a certain period of time, if NCDOT does not have funding to build the highway through the corridor then the Department should be willing to pay the property taxes until funds are available for acquisition of the right-of-way. He told members we are extremely behind in the construction of needs throughout the state to build highways that are critically necessary to the state's economy. He asked that members modifying the resolution to reflect the changes he suggested as a means to give the General Assembly the message that there is a middle-ground that could help property owners while at the same time still not hurt our future transportation needs.

4. Presentations

a. Interstate - 74

Mr. Dan Ryan, Southeast Coastal Plain Program Director for The Nature Conservancy gave a presentation on alternative routes developed by a study completed for the Nature Conservancy for

the proposed Interstate-74 corridor that would bypass the Green Swamp and Juniper Creek Preserves.

b. NCDOT Prioritization 2.0

Mr. Kozlosky gave a presentation on the Prioritization 2.0 (P 2.0). He told members that the North Carolina Department of Transportation is building off the foundation of Prioritization 1.0 and expanding the criteria based on input sessions and feedback received last fall. P2.0 will rank projects for years 2018 through 2022. Mr. Kozlosky noted that safety projects will be submitted directly to the state traffic engineer's office with P2.0. He also advised members that the Department is not asking for enhancement projects for prioritization because funds are not available at this time.

In discussion regarding the health and safety projects deemed to be needed by the Department, Ms. Padgett stated that she would like to caution the Department that sometimes the local community doesn't want the Department's intended solution to the safety issue. Community stakeholders would like to have a voice early enough for their concerns to be taken into consideration.

Mr. Kozlosky announced that the Department will be holding educational sessions at several locations in the state next month. Following his presentation, Mr. Kozlosky noted that the presentation will be posted to the WMPO website.

5. Old Business

a. Resolution Opposing Changes to Senate Bill 214

Mr. Barfield told members that because staff needs clear direction from this board on Senate Bill 214, he wanted to open it back up for discussion after members have had time to think things through. He opened the floor for comments.

Mr. Batson noted that his concern is not with the Bill so much as it is with the procedure. He said members voted on the resolution at the last meeting and it was 5 to 5. He thought it was a failed resolution. Ms. Padgett suggested that we start with a fresh resolution that says we have a request that there be changes in the Bill.

Following some discussion, Ms. Campos suggested that Mr. Kozlosky write a letter explaining that we have suggestions that we would like to see incorporated into the Bill.

Mr. Barfield asked members if in taking all of what has been said into account, would the members feel comfortable with the Chair writing a letter to our delegation advising them that the committee has concerns in regards to the time frame and that we would rather see DOT have resources to buy property versus holding people up. He noted that he could word it in that manner, with no resolution included, but just give them thoughts from this collective body indentifying the pros and cons. Ms. Campos asked if members could see the letter prior to sending to the legislators. All members agreed that it would be appropriate. Mr. Barfield directed Mr. Kozlosky to prepare a letter and send it out to TAC members for review.

6. Public Hearing

a. 2011-2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Barfield called for a motion to open the public hearing on the 2011-2012 Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Ballard made the motion and Mr. Sue seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kozlosky told members the 2011-2012 Unified Planning Work Program is the budget for the MPO over the next fiscal year and the budget includes two special studies. They are the update of

the collector street plan for the Town of Leland and the completion of a comprehensive transportation plan for the Town of Wrightsville Beach. He stated that staff conducted the required 30-day public comment period and received no comments on the proposed budget. The budget is due to the Department by the beginning of May. He noted that staff recommends approval of UPWP.

With no one speaking in favor or against the item during the public hearing, Mr. Batson made the motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Sue seconded the motions and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Sue made the motion to adopt the FY 2011-2012 Planning Work Program and Ms. Padgett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Sue made the motion to certify the Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Planning process for FY 2011. Ms. Padgett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. New Business

a. Amendment to the Wilmington MPO Bylaws

Mr. Kozlosky told members staff was directed to look at how items are added to the agenda by TCC and TAC members. At the last meeting, members approved recommended changes that stated that members "may add items along with all pertinent information to the agenda by submitting them no later than 5 PM the first business day of the calendar month in which the item is requested to be considered. Items may also be placed on the agenda for consideration at the end of the meeting by a majority vote of the members present." Mr. Kozlosky noted that changes to the bylaws will require passage by a two-thirds vote and the amendments being considered must be received by each member by at least seven days prior to the meeting.

Ms. Campos made the motion to amend the MPO Bylaws and Ms. Padgett seconded the motion. The motion carried with nine members voting in favor and Ms. Batleman voting no.

8. Discussion

a. Public Involvement Policy

Mr. Kozlosky told members at the last meeting concerns were expressed about the public involvement policy of the MPO as well as the Department of Transportation. The MPO has a Public Involvement Plan that was adopted by the TAC in September of 2009. The plan outlines a number of options for public involvement. Mr. Kozlosky asked members if they would like him to bring the current Public Involvement Plan back for review in an effort to identify additional options in getting the word out to the public regarding events.

Members agreed that the MPO's Public Involvement Plan seems to be satisfactory as written.

8. Updates

a. City of Wilmington/Wilmington MPO

- **US 17/NC 210 Corridor Study in Pender County** - Mr. Kozlosky told members a public workshop is scheduled for May 12th at Topsail High School.

- **Market Street Corridor Study** - Mr. Kozlosky told members staff will be conducting two additional informational workshops on the corridor study. The meetings will be held May 9th and 10th.
- **Multimodal Transportation Center** – Mr. Kozlosky told members work is continuing on the environmental assessment. Ms. Padgett briefed members on the meeting she attended in Raleigh regarding transportation center.

b. Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority

Mr. Eby updated members on the activities for the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority. He told members the grand opening of the Forden Station was held on April 18th. He invited everyone to come tour their new facility.

Mr. Barfield noted that the next TAC meeting will be held at the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority Boardroom on Cando Street.

c. NCDOT

Mr. Pope updated members on the activities for the Department.

9. Announcements

10. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:43 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.**