

Meeting Minutes
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
Transportation Advisory Committee
Date: May 18, 2011

Members Present:

Jonathan Barfield, Chairman, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority
Laura Padgett, City of Wilmington
Jack Batson, Town of Belville
Walter Futch, Town of Leland
Mike Ballard, Town of Navassa
Brian Berger, New Hanover County
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 4:06 PM.

Following the reading of the mission statement, Mr. Futch called a point-of-order. Mr. Futch stated that the TAC operates under bylaws and the bylaws say we follow Roberts Rules of Order. Roberts Rules of Order state that there cannot be a special meeting unless calling a special meeting is in the TAC bylaws. He noted that calling a special meeting is not in the bylaws.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Futch called a point of order. He told Mr. Barfield that minutes could not be approved at a special meeting. Mr. Barfield acknowledged Mr. Futch's objection regarding the approval of the minutes.

Ms. Padgett made the motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Sue seconded the motion. The motion to approve the April 20, 2011 TAC meeting were approved.

3. Public Comment Period

Mr. Susan Harrell told members she is here as a representative from Cape Fear Academy. She told members she is here because they are interested in any project that may affect the safety of the students of the school.

Mr. Ron Mays from Fox Run Farms spoke regarding changes along South College Road. He and his neighbors would like to request that NCDOT install an access for Fox Run Farms and Georgetown residents.

Mr. Andy Koeppel spoke to members regarding the Multi-modal Center and NCDOTs prioritization process. He suggested connecting a rail spur from Blue Clay Road and the Wilmington International Airport into the Multi-modal Center will take advantage of the extra points available in the Department's prioritization process.

4. Presentations

a. Independence Boulevard Extension

Mr. Ted Devens from NCDOT's Project Development Unit gave a presentation on the proposed Independence Boulevard Extension. He noted that a Citizen Information Workshop will be held June 13th at the Rachel Freeman Elementary School on the project.

b. WMPO Local Prioritization Tool

Ms. Suraiya Rashid gave a presentation on the development of a local prioritization tool for the MPO. She stated that the goal of the Local Prioritization Tool is to come up with a data-driven process to produce a prioritized list of projects. She told members that the prioritization tool would not override the TAC's ability to rank projects.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that if TAC members support the methodology for project prioritization, staff will generate a list of project for consideration in identifying the list of 15 projects for the 2018 through 2022 prioritization.

Mr. Pope noted that the list of projects for consideration will not include projects that are already funded in the TIP and projects that are being funding through 2016. The prioritization list will be for projects from 2017 out.

5. New Business

a. Sustainable Communities Memorandum of Understanding

Ms. Rashid told members the MPO received a grant from the NC Sustainable Communities Consortium in March 2011. Staff anticipated the future release of grant funds for regional collaborations and the resolution will authorize the MPO to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to participate in the Lower Cape Fear Sustainable Communities Consortium.

Mr. Kozlosky told members in order to receive the funding awarded with the grant we are required to enter into a MOU. Staff will come back to this committee before submitting for a grant. The resolution is to ensure that there is a MOU between each of the partnering communities in an effort to work together for sustainable initiatives.

Ms. Padgett made the motion to approve the resolution on the condition that TAC members receive regular report on grant activities. Mr. Sue seconded the motion and it carried with 8 members voting in favor and Mr. Futch voting against the motion.

b. Resolution Adopting the Newest Prioritization Process at the Earliest Time Possible and to Include Current Projects in the Prioritization Process

Mr. Kozlosky told members the resolution was submitted by the Mayor Futch from the Town of Leland. The resolution drafted by the Town of Leland recognizes that the Department is currently working through the Prioritization 2.0 process. The current model was adopted by the MPO in September of 2009. The resolution states that building projects that do not fit into this prioritization model has a detrimental economic impact on road construction and to build these projects using taxpayer dollars would be wasteful. The MPO does not wish to waste any funds in building low-priority projects. The resolution endorses the latest NCDOT or Wilmington MPO's transportation prioritization model for current and future prioritization projects. The resolution also states that any projects that has had less than 30% of the right-of-way acquired for the project shall be reprioritized using the current prioritization process in effect at that time.

Mr. Lambert made the motion to adopt the resolution. Mr. Ballard 2nd the motion.

Mr. Sue told members he felt the resolution is contrary to the whole priority process. He asked Mr. Pope to comment on the repercussions for the Department.

Mr. Pope stated that it takes seven to twelve years to get a project to "shovel-ready". NCDOT acts on the priorities set by this MPO for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Work on those projects is based on that priority. To reprioritize projects that are already funded in the TIP would have a negative impact on the Department's ability to deliver projects coming forward.

Mr. Kozlosky noted that the TCC recommended denial of the resolution.

Mr. Futch told members he felt if right-of-way had been purchased on a project then we should spend our time and money in completing that project, not work on another project that does not have funding, except maybe planning money. The Department should not spend money planning projects that may or may not be needed in 2018 to 2025.

Ms. Padgett stated that her cause for concern is if projects are reprioritized every couple years, we will never get to the end of a project.

Mr. Barfield called the question and the motion failed with Mr. Futch and Mr. Lambeth voting in favor and Mr. Barfield, Ms. Padgett, Mr. Batson, Mr. Ballard, Mr. Berger, Mr. Sue and Ms. Campos voted against the motion.

c. Resolution requesting NCDOT Modify Plans for Section A of the Wilmington Bypass to Keep Goodman Road Open

Mr. Kozlosky told members the Town of Leland has submitted the resolution requesting that NCDOT modify plans for Section A of the Wilmington Bypass to keep Goodman Road open. The Town contends that the public hearing map did not show that Goodman Road was to be removed. The resolution stated that residents and property owners in Grayson Park will be negatively impacted by the closing because it will restrict access for emergency services vehicles and reduce their property values.

Mr. Futch told members a public hearing was held in 2008. Mr. Futch told members the maps used during the public hearing do not clearly show that Goodman Road is going to be closed. Goodman Road as depicted in the handout is not diagonally hatched to show it is to be removed. According to the legend, diagonal hatching is existing roadway to be removed. He said that he feels there are inconsistencies in the map. As the Mayor of Leland, he was not aware that the road was being closed and he attended the meeting.

Mr. Futch made the motion to request NCDOT modify plans for Section A of the Wilmington Bypass to keep Goodman Road open. Mr. Batson seconded the motion.

Ms. Padgett asked Mr. Pope about the time-line to go back and re-engineer that piece to resolve the problem. Mr. Pope responded that it could be done but the cost would be \$3 to \$4 million in construction costs alone. The Goodman property is a state historical property. Installation of a tunnel or bridge will require additional right-of-way and that will impact the environmental document. Mr. Pope told members to make the changes requested to keep Goodman Road open will involve \$4 to \$6 million plus time to renegotiate and deal with the environmental document.

Mr. Futch read a letter from the fire chief from the Town of Leland in which he stated that he just found out about the closure two week ago and is concerned about the public safety for residents in the area. Closing Goodman Road would cause an increase in the response time to that area.

Mr. Sue reminded members that this project had been around for years and to delay of the project is his biggest concern. The safety issue could possibly be resolved if emergency services could be contracted with surrounding communities.

Mr. Barfield called the question and the motion failed with Mr. Futch, Mr. Batson and Mr. Lambeth voting in favor and Mr. Barfield, Ms. Padgett, Mr. Ballard, Mr. Berger, Mr. Sue and Ms. Campos voted against the motion.

6. Discussion

a. NCDOT Prioritization 2.0

Mr. Kozlosky told members NCDOT has asked that new projects be submitted between July 5th and July 29th. Between July 29th and August 26th the purpose and need statement must be developed for each of the projects. In October and November, the MPO will be asked to rank and prioritized projects.

Mr. Kozlosky said he will bring a recommended prioritization from the TCC at the next meeting. He also noted that it may be necessary to call a special meeting for the month of July for finalizing the prioritization lists for submittal.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the Department is also requesting submittal of 10 bicycle projects and 10 pedestrian projects and that the MPO rank the top-5 for both categories. He asked members to submit pedestrian projects to staff by June 7th for consideration. Mr. Kozlosky also suggested using the top-10 project lists for bicycle projects from the *Cape Fear Commutes 2035 Transportation Plan*.

b. Wilmington MPO TAC Roberts Rules of Order Training

Mr. Kozlosky told member following discussions with Chairman Barfield, he contacted Ms. Tannis Nelson, a Parliamentarian, to request a scope and fee for training on Roberts Rules of Order. The price quoted was \$1,250.00. It included a review of TAC documents, review of recent minutes and a personalized presentation for a workshop on parliamentary procedures.

After some discussion, members decided training would not be necessary.

c. May 25th TAC Meeting Cancellation

Ms. Campos made the motion to cancel the May 25th meeting. Ms. Padgett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

d. WMPO Bylaws Amendment for Special Meetings

Mr. Kozlosky told members there have been some questions regarding the Chairman calling a special meeting. He suggested that the language in the bylaws could be stronger. He proposed bringing back an amendment to the bylaws for that purpose at the June meeting.

7. Updates

a. City of Wilmington/Wilmington MPO

- **US 17/NC 210 Corridor Study in Pender County** - Mr. Kozlosky told members a public workshop was held May 12th with about 135 to 140 people attending.
- **Market Street Corridor Study** - Mr. Kozlosky told members staff held two additional informational workshops on the corridor study. Staff will bring the plan to the Wilmington City Council and the New Hanover County Commissioners at their regular meetings in June. It will come to TAC following the adoption by them.
- **Multimodal Transportation Center** - Ms. Padgett briefed members on the meeting she attended regarding the transportation center. The historic report will be completed in the next couple days.

b. Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority

Mr. Eby updated members on the activities for the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority.

c. NCDOT

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

8. Announcements

9. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 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.**