

Meeting Minutes
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
Transportation Advisory Committee
Date: June 29, 2011

Members Present:

Jonathan Barfield, Chairman, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority
Jack Batson, Town of Belville
Pat Batleman, Town of Leland
Brian Berger, New Hanover County
Dean Lambeth, Town of Kure Beach
Bill Sue, Brunswick County
Bill Saffo, City of Wilmington
Mike Alford, Board of Transportation
Bob Lewis, Town of Carolina Beach
David Williams, Pender 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 4:00 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Batleman told members she would like to make a point of information regarding the minutes for the April meeting. The minutes were approved at the May 18th special meeting and she asked why they were being approved again. Mr. Kozlosky stated that Roberts Rules indicates that you should not adopt minutes at a special meeting and therefore staff brought the May 18th back to the board for adoption. Ms. Batleman stated that she hoped that would be in the record. She said as far as the meeting on May 18th, there was no recordation of the chairman's response to Mr. Futch's point of order challenging the conduct of the of the special meeting when the MPO bylaws do not contain the provision for so doing. She said she thought that should be recorded.

Mr. Barfield called for the motion to amend the minutes to meet Ms. Batleman's request. Mr. Lewis made the motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Lambeth seconded the motion. The motion to approve the April 20th minutes-as written, and the May 18th minutes-as amended, was approved unanimously.

3. Public Comment Period

Mr. Andy Koeppel told members he recently saw a newspaper article regarding Greyhound, their current facility and the fact that they are in discussions with WAVE to possibly move to the new Forden Center. He told members that it is still the long-term goal of the WAVE Transit Board that Greyhound has a presence in the multi-modal center when it's constructed.

4. Presentations

a. NCDOT 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan

Mr. Shane York gave a presentation on the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan.

5. New Business

a. Resolution Adopting the List of New Highway Projects (2011) to be Submitted to NCDOT for Consideration in NCDOT SPOT Prioritization 2.0

Mr. Kozlosky told member that NCDOT is currently going through the prioritization process and they have requested that the MPO submit up to 15 new projects that will be considered as part of their prioritization process. This excludes any projects that are Loop Fund eligible and any projects that were submitted during Prioritization 1.0. Staff took the list of projects that were fiscally constrained in the adopted *Cape Fear Commutes 2035 Long Range Plan*. Using the new matrix, 26 projects were considered for the process in selecting the final 15 new projects.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the projects will need to be prioritized at the October or November meeting but a non-prioritized list must be submitted to NCDOT no later than July 29th. Staff will bring the purpose and need statements for each of the projects to the August meeting for review.

Mr. Sue asked when the old priority list ends and the new list starts. Mr. Kozlosky said that members will be asked to prioritize projects in FY 2018 -2022. This is a new list of highway projects for inclusion with the list of projects that were previously submitted. NCDOT asked that the board prioritize those projects.

Mr. Williams made the motion to adopt the list of new highway projects to be submitted to NCDOT for consideration in NCDOT SPOT Prioritization 2.0. The motion was seconded by Mr. Batson. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Resolution Adopting the List of Bicycle Projects (2011) to be Submitted to NCDOT for Consideration in NCDOT SPOT Prioritization 2.0

Mr. Kozlosky told members they will be asked to rank the top-5 projects in October or November. The list of bicycle projects was recommended by the Wilmington MPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the TCC.

Mr. Sue made the motion to adopt the list of 10 bicycle projects to be submitted to NCDOT for consideration in NCDOT SPOT Prioritization 2.0. The motion was seconded by Mr. Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Resolution Adopting the List of Pedestrian Projects (2011) to be Submitted to NCDOT for Consideration in NCDOT SPOT Prioritization 2.0

Mr. Kozlosky told members the list of pedestrian projects was recommended by the Wilmington MPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the TCC.

Mr. Williams made the motion to adopt the list of 10 pedestrian projects to be submitted to NCDOT for consideration in NCDOT SPOT Prioritization 2.0. The motion was seconded by Mr. Berger. The motion carried unanimously.

d. Resolution Adopting the List of Transit Projects (2011) to be Submitted to NCDOT for Consideration in NCDOT SPOT Prioritization 2.0

Mr. Kozlosky told members the list of transit projects was developed cooperatively with the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority and was recommended by the TCC.

Mr. Sue made the motion to adopt the list of transit projects to be submitted to NCDOT for consideration in NCDOT SPOT Prioritization 2.0. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lewis and the motion carried unanimously.

e. **Resolution Requesting NCDOT Re-evaluate the Prioritization 2.0 Scoring for Port and Military Installations**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that NCDOT developed a scoring matrix for mobility and modernization projects across the state. Bonus points are awarded for projects that are multi-modal in nature. Staff would like to ask that NCDOT go back and look at the bonus point scoring and consider providing additional points for port and military installation projects. These additional points are in recognition of the importance of those facilities from a state-wide level.

Mr. Sue made the motion to request NCDOT re-evaluate the Prioritization 2.0 scoring for ports and military installations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Williams and the motion carried unanimously.

f. **Resolution Supporting the Town of Leland's Request for Transportation, Community and Systems Preservation Program Grant for the Gateway Connector**

Mr. Kozlosky told member that Federal Highway Administration announced the availability of 11 grants totaling \$430 million. The Town of Leland submitted an application for a Transportation, Community and Systems Preservation Program Grant funding in the amount of \$1.392 million to construct the Gateway Connector.

Mr. Saffo asked to be recused from this item because he has interest in property in Mallory Creek. Mr. Sue made the motion to recuse Mr. Saffo from the item. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Sue made the motion to support the Town of Leland's Request for Transportation, Community and Systems Preservation Program Grant for the Gateway Connector. The motion was seconded by Mr. Williams and the motion carried unanimously.

g. **Resolution Adopting Agreement with the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority for Section 5303 Funding for FY 2011-2012**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the agreement with CFPTA provides 65% of the funding from the Section 5303 funds and the MPO retains 35% of these Section 5303 funds for transportation planning efforts. The agreement is reviewed on an annual basis.

Mr. Lewis made the motion to adopt the agreement with the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority for Section 5303 funding allocation for FY 2011-2012. Mr. Batson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

h. **Resolution adopting the Town of Carolina Beach Bicycle Multi-use Transportation Plan**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the Town of Carolina Beach received a NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian grant in 2009 to develop a comprehensive bicycle plan for the town. The plan will create a mechanism that supports the vision for bicycling and a multi-use path within the Town of Carolina Beach.

Mr. Lewis made the motion to adopt the Town of Carolina Beach Multi-use Transportation Plan. Mr. Lambeth seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

i. **Resolution Adopting the Wilmington MPO's FY 2011-2012 Strategic Business Plan**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the CAC has been working to develop the 2011-2012 Strategic Business Plan for the MPO for the past several months. The business plan identifies work load measures, efficiencies measure, effectiveness measures and targets for implementing the recommendations of the 2035 Cape Fear Commutes Long Range Transportation Plan and creates a clear direction for the MPO over the next year.

Mr. Williams made the motion to adopt the Wilmington MPO's 2011-2012 Strategic Business Plan. Mr. Batson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

j. August Meeting Date Change

Mr. Kozlosky told members the TAC has a significant amount of business already identified for the August meeting and he suggested moving the August meeting to earlier in the month. The purpose and need statements for project submittals are being prepared and it will be important to discuss the items before the August 29th deadline for submittals. Mr. Kozlosky suggested moving the meeting to August 10th.

Mr. Lewis made the motion to move the August 31st meeting up to August 10th at 3:00pm. Mr. Berger seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

6. Discussion

a. Wilmington MPO Potential Funding Issues and Resolutions

Mr. Pope told members in October of last year the Department was made aware of changes to the right-of-way costs for Military Cutoff Road extension. The estimate went from \$18 million to \$68 million. That incident started discussions about the right-of-way and construction estimate process. Based on that result, a value engineering report was prepared that looked at all project within the 10-year Work Program for the Wilmington MPO.

Prior to the work plan, the TIP was a seven-year funding plan and Department was delivering at a rate of about 65%. When they went to "From Policies to Projects", they developed a five year plan, which is working toward a 95% delivery rate. He reminded everyone that the revenue sources stayed the same and a big majority of projects are being let in 2013 and 2014. Another obvious reason is that building cost for roadway construction continues to climb.

The Wilmington MPO 10-year Work Program going before the Board of Transportation to be voted on in August is over-programmed by about \$73 million and the TAC will have to decide how to deal with that over-program in the future.

Mr. Pope reviewed the MPO Comparison spreadsheet developed by the Department to help determine project costs for the 10-year plan. In looking at just mobility, his recommendation is to move everything to an un-funded status except Military Cutoff Road extension, Hampstead Bypass right-of-way acquisition, the Causeway project and Kerr Avenue widening project.

Mr. Pope noted that with these adjustments, the 10-year program is still \$37 million over-programmed. NCDOT anticipates some cost savings on several big projects that are to be let in the Division within the next few years and Mr. Alford has agreed to apply those cost savings to this 10-year plan in Wilmington.

Mr. Sue asked about the parameters used in determining the projects that will move or serve the most people. Mr. Pope said he used his own judgment as the Division Engineer but he could get projected traffic volumes to validate conclusion.

Mr. Pope told members another issue that has come to light regarding the Causeway project is the two bridges that cross the Brunswick River. Initially they were to be rehabbed and widened to accommodate an additional lane in both directions. Two months ago the Department was made aware that the center pilings for both bridges were put into a "scour-critical" category. It was determined that the bridges should be replaced or crutch bents added to support the span. The crutch bent repair work will cost \$7.7 million and replacement of both bridges is estimated at \$12.2 million. The Department has recommended the replacement of the bridges. The \$7 million repair

is a short-term fix, while replacing the bridges can take care of the scour issue and it will not have to be dealt with again.

Mr. Sue asked if the bridges are replaced, could additional height be added for recreational river traffic. Mr. Pope said part of the problem is if the bridges have to be replaced, they will have to build a temporary bridge to be able to maintain two lanes of traffic in both directions at all times. We are already at the threshold for the project permitting and to elevate the bridge will increase the wetland impacts, as well as the temporary impact from the temporary bridges. Mr. Sue noted that if the bridges are being replaced, it would be a shame not to accommodate river traffic. Mr. Pope said he will investigate the impacts that additional height would create. Mr. Sue suggested using a height of 8-feet on high tide and a 30-foot span.

Mr. Batson said that the most important thing is to get the Causeway widened and any additional studies could slow the project completion. He asked if the bridge replacement will cause more delays in the project. Mr. Pope said they do not anticipate any delays to let the project but construction time may take three years longer for replacement of the bridges.

Mr. Pope told members the Board is going to approve the 10-year plan as it is currently in the draft. The issue is that between now and the next draft, you have got to decide what you are going to do with these projects that are currently funded and we're over-programmed. If you take the projects that are funded in the 10-year plan and push it out to unfunded, you now have to reprioritize those projects with all the other projects that are now in unfunded status.

Mr. Kozlosky told members that no action is required today but the item will be coming back to the Committee at the next meeting. If we do have to reprioritize, we would put those projects back into the pool for prioritization at the October or November meeting.

In closing, Mr. Pope told members the process for construction and right-of-way cost estimating has changed. The State Right-of-Way Agent said that he wants to bring right-of-way acquisition into the 21st Century. With the use of today's technology and outside on-call services to expedite the process, construction and right-of-way cost estimating time should be lessened.

b. Amendment to the WMPO Bylaws for Special Meetings and Emergency Meetings

Mr. Kozlosky told members that he had discussions with the City Attorney's office regarding the WMPO Bylaws. They recommended that the MPO modify the bylaws to include provisions for special, as well as emergency meetings. Following a review of bylaws and rules of order from several organizations in the area, he drafted an amendment to the bylaws for calling special meetings and emergency meetings.

Ms. Batleman suggested that a definition of a special meeting be included in the bylaws. She also suggested notifying members of upcoming meetings by e-mail, telephone or faxing the information regarding the meetings as part of the 48-hour notice requirement.

Mr. Kozlosky asked members to email comments to him and he will incorporate them into the language and the Committee can discuss this at the next meeting.

7. Updates

Note: 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 5:23 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.**