

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
**Transportation Advisory Committee**  
**Date: August 10, 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  
George Brown, Pender County  
Mike Ballard, Town of Navassa  
Bill Blair, Town of Wrightsville Beach  
Dean Lambeth, Town of Kure Beach  
Phil Norris, Brunswick County  
Laura Padgett, 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 3:00 PM.

**2. Approval of Minutes:**

The motion to approve the June 29<sup>th</sup> minutes carried unanimously.

**3. Public Comment Period**

No one spoke during the public comment period

**4. Presentations**

**a. Complete Street**

Mr. Kozlosky gave a presentation on the Complete Streets Framework document. The Complete Streets Policy was adopted in July of 2009 by NCDOT. The draft guidelines were released on June 17<sup>th</sup> and comments are being taken by the Department until August 17<sup>th</sup>.

**b. Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority Service Expansion and Long Range Financial Plan**

Mr. Eby gave a presentation on the Service Expansion and Long Range Financial Plan for the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority. He told members that their goal is to gauge community support and receive input from the community on the service expansion plan and to develop a long range financial plan.

Ms. Padgett noted that the vehicle registration fee proposal makes an importation point in that when WAVE was created as a separate authority, it was created with no capital project funds or bond balance. She said the funding for WAVE hangs in the balance every year with funding primarily from the federal government, state government, City of Wilmington and a minor amount from New Hanover County. The proposed vehicle registration fee would provide expanded services to the beach communities, as well as provide opportunities to reduce the time between

some routes and add additional bus stops along routes. This will allow an opportunity to spread the costs of providing the service over the entire area served.

Mr. Ballard suggested that the municipalities in Brunswick County need to prepare now for making contributions to the public transportation system for services received. With the increase in population growth in their area, services will be used by more residents and it will only be fair to help pay for access to regional transportation services.

## **5. New Business**

### **a. Resolution Adopting the State/Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the TAC is required to mutually adopt the State/Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program. The Board of Transportation adopted the STIP/MTIP at their July meeting.

Ms. Padgett made the motion to adopt the State/Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program and it was seconded by Mr. Lashley. The motion carried unanimously.

### **b. Resolution Supporting Amendments to the 10-Year Work Program**

Mr. Kozlosky told members there is a funding shortfall of \$73.1 million within the WMPO boundary. The Department of Transportation developed a proposal for a funding reduction strategy. The strategy included value-engineering the Military Cutoff Road extension. Funding for the Causeway Project will also need to be increased for the two bridges over the Brunswick River due to scour-critical issues. The proposed strategy eliminates funding for the Village Road-Phase II project, the interchange at Kerr Avenue and Martin Luther King, Jr., Gordon Road widening, Market Street access management improvements, Dow Road widening, the Old Fayetteville Road interchange and the North College Road upgrade. These projects will be pushed out beyond the 10-year plan.

Mr. Norris asked if the projects are moved to unfunded status, will they remain on the ranked project priority list? Mr. Pope stated that it will still remain on the project list as a "need" project, but it is outside to 10-Year Plan. However, everything outside the 10-Year Plan will have to be re-prioritized. Mr. Kozlosky told members that this board will be asked to reprioritize projects in October or November.

Mr. Norris asked if it's possible to leave the priority list the way it is, even if the projects are not funded. Mr. Kozlosky told members if the project funding is de-obligated, they will need to be considered for reprioritization.

Ms. Padgett asked if all projects in the Division 3 area are being value-engineered. Mr. Pope stated that all projects in the entire Division 3 area that are over \$10 million are being reviewed in the value-engineering process.

Mr. Lambeth told members Kure Beach and Carolina Beach are suffering through traffic congestion issues and the Dow Road widening project has been promised for 40 years. He asked Mr. Pope if this project is not important enough to be funded. Mr. Pope said he based his recommendations on the funding available with consideration given for projects that would move the most people. Mr. Lambeth told members the current administration for the Town of Kure Beach is desperate for the improvements to Dow Road.

Mr. Norris asked if we have to drop the priorities. Mr. Kozlosky told members that this board will have the opportunity to keep the list in the same order as it was in the past when ranking projects in October or November. Mr. Pope noted that once a project goes to un-funded status,

the next time it comes for prioritization, it has to be reprioritized with all the other needs within this region.

Ms. Padgett made the motion to approve the resolution supporting the amendment to the 10-Year Work Program. The motion was seconded by Ms. Batleman and the motion carried 7 – 4. (Mr. Lambeth, Mr. Lashley, Mr. Ballard and Mr. Norris voted in opposition)

**c. Resolution Adopting the Market Street Corridor Study**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the corridor study was funded by NCDOT and was a collaborative effort between the City, NCDOT, County and MPO. It provided recommendations for land-use and transportation and will include a non-traversable median from Colonial Drive to Porters Neck; however, no funding is available right now. The study included an intersection re-design for Kerr Avenue and Market Street that NCDOT is working to implement. The Market Street Corridor Study has been adopted by the Wilmington City Council and the New Hanover County Commissioners.

Ms. Padgett made the motion to adopt the Market Street Corridor Study. The motion was seconded by Mr. Batson and it carried with 10 - 1. (Mr. Lambeth voted in opposition)

**d. Resolution Amending the 2011-2012 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that staff is proposing a modification to the 2011-2012 Unified Planning Work Program Special Studies line item to hire a consultant to complete a Comprehensive Greenway Plan for the City of Wilmington and New Hanover County. He noted that the City of Wilmington has had great success with the Cross City Trail and there are opportunities to connect parks in the un-incorporated areas. Olsen Park, Ogden Park and Smith Creek Park are in the northern part of the county. There are also several opportunities in the southern part of the county, such as tying into the proposed Island Greenway in Carolina Beach and Kure Beach. Staff approached the County and they are willing to participate with a \$20,000 contribution toward the development of a Comprehensive Greenway Plan. The City of Wilmington has also identified funding and is willing to partner with the MPO and County for the development of the plan. Mr. Kozlosky told members the resolution, if adopted, would amend the Unified Planning Work Program to appropriate \$160,000 to complete a Comprehensive Greenway Plan.

Ms. Padgett made the motion to amend the 2011-2012 Unified Planning Work Program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ballard and it carried unanimously.

**e. Resolution Appointing the Associate Planner as the Wilmington MPO Representation to the Lower Cape Fear Sustainable Communities Consortium (LCFSCC)**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the Wilmington MPO is a member of the Lower Cape Fear Sustainable Communities Consortium. The consortium is a regional planning group for the Wilmington Metropolitan Statistical Area. The TAC adopted a Memorandum of Understanding with the consortium and it states that each governing board will appoint a representative to serve on the consortium. The resolution will allow the MPO Executive Director to appoint an Associate Planner to serve on the LCFSCC.

Ms. Padgett made the motion to appointing the Associate Planner as the Wilmington MPO representation to the LCFSCC with the addition that the TAC receive copies of the consortium meeting schedules and minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Batson. The motion carried unanimously.

f. **Resolution Adopting the Purpose and Need Statements for Highway Projects Submitted to NCDOT for Prioritization 2.0**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the NCDOT is working through Prioritization 2.0. The Purpose and Need/Minimum Problem Statements for each of the projects are ready for submittal to the Department for Prioritization 2.0.

Ms. Batleman noted in reference to the purpose and need statement for US 17/74/76 at SR 1437/ Old Fayetteville Road Interchange, she would like it to be understood that the future plan for the Town of Leland has identified Old Fayetteville Road as the future main street for downtown. The new Town Center will be located at Town Hall Road and Old Fayetteville Road.

Mr. Lambeth told members that the purpose and need statement for Dow Road is showing traffic counts from 2008. He wanted to make members aware that the traffic count numbers have tripled since then and the true need is understated in his opinion. Mr. Lashley agreed and went on to say that over 130,000 cars crossed the Snows Cut Bridge over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. Ms. Rashid explained that the 2008 data was used for the purpose and need statements because the data collected for 2011 is raw-information. It is more accurate to use counts that have been averaged to reflect the average annual daily trips. Mr. Barfield asked if the purpose and need statement could have language added to incorporate current data.

Mr. Kozlosky said the 2008 data is used because it's consistent and can be used across-the-board. 2011 data is not available for every project and it's not based on the transportation model which was used as a qualifier for the purpose and need statements. However, if it is the wish of the board, the 2011 data can be incorporated into the information for Dow Road. Mr. Lambeth said he would like to have that information included.

Ms. Padgett told members if these are statements of purpose and need, there should some provision for local knowledge about things that have changed. It's obvious that you can only use 2008 numbers to be consistent across-the-board. However, if you know there is something changing faster and local governments have made decisions about traffic patterns then this additional information should be included.

Mr. Ballard made the motion to adopt the Purpose and Need Statements for Highway Projects to be submitted to NCDOT for Prioritization 2.0 along with additional language for Old Fayetteville Road and Dow Road prior to submittal as requested by the board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Berger and it carried unanimously.

g. **Amendment to the Bylaws for Special and Emergency Meetings**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the definition of "special and emergency" meeting has been included in the bylaws as requested at the last meeting.

Mr. Batson made the motion to amend the TAC Bylaws for special and emergency meetings and Mr. Lambeth seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

h. **Cancellation of the August 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting**

Mr. Barfield made the motion to cancel the August 31<sup>st</sup> meeting. Mr. Ballard seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**6. Discussion**

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

Mr. Kozlosky told members the Pender County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution supporting corridor preservation for the Hampstead Bypass from the Wilmington Bypass out to US

17 for alternative EH. The resolution from the Pender County Board of Commissioners requested that the MPO file the corridor map. The New Hanover Board of Commissioners and the TAC also adopted resolutions supporting the corridor preservation, but those resolutions did not include language regarding the MPO filing the map. The maps are being prepared and staff expects to have them by the end of August. Mr. Kozlosky asked members for their thoughts on who should file the corridor maps. He noted that the MPO does have the authority to file those corridor preservation maps if directed by the board.

Mr. Lambeth asked what percent of the corridor is in New Hanover County. Mr. Pope said it was around 7%. Mr. Lambeth said with the corridor being 93% in Pender County then he felt that Mr. Brown should have the lead on decision.

Mr. Brown asked what would be the advantage of the MPO filing the map. Mr. Kozlosky said he felt this would streamline the process. Mr. Brown said his board made the request because they thought this would be the fastest way to get the maps filed.

Ms. Padgett made a motion that the MPO file the corridor maps for the Hampstead Bypass and Mr. Batson seconded the motion. The motion carried 10-1. (Ms. Batleman voted in opposition)

### **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 5:00 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.**