

Meeting Minutes
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
Transportation Advisory Committee
Date: March 28, 2012

Members Present:

Dean Lambeth, Vice-chair, Town of Kure Beach
Jack Batson, Town of Belville
Pat Batleman, Town of Leland
Bill Saffo, City of Wilmington
Steve Shuttleworth, Town of Carolina Beach
Bill Sisson, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Jonathan Barfield, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority
George Brown, Pender County
Mike Alford, NC Board of Transportation

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. Lambeth called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the February 29, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.

3. Public Comment Period

Mr. William Holt addressed members regard the designation of US Highway 17 in Pender, New Hanover and Brunswick Counties as "The Colonial Highway." He told members that the Colonial Highway and Revolutionary Trail Organization, in cooperation with a number of historical and cultural resources on or in the vicinity of US 17 are working to enhance the of Colonial Revolutionary history along the US 17 corridor in North Carolina. The US 17 corridor in South Carolina and Virginia are acknowledged for their historical and cultural resources and completion of the US 17 corridor north and south across North Carolina will help to improve historical tourism and acknowledge these cultural resources. He said his organization would appreciate support from the TAC in the naming of US 17 in Pender, New Hanover and Brunswick Counties as "The Colonial Highway."

Mr. Andy Koeppel addressed members regarding his appreciation of the NC Board of Transportation and the members that attend the TAC meetings. He said it is his hope that the NCBOT members will be able to attend the meeting each month.

4. Presentations

a. NC 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan

Mr. Tyler Bray with the NCDOT Statewide Planning Branch gave a presentation on the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan. He told members that work on the plan began in April 2011 and when it's finished, will outline spending priorities and give the Department policy, process and programming direction for the next 30 years. The plan will be available for review later in the spring.

b. Wilmington MPO Website

Mr. Kozlosky told members that during the recent review by the Federal Highway Administration, they recommended that staff review information contained on the WMPO website with the members of the TCC and TAC.

Ms. Rashid told members that the web address for the WMPO is www.wmpo.org. The website's home page contains information about the WMPO, the mission statement, committee membership, up-to-date news on planning projects, and plans and documents for the WMPO. The site also has the agendas and minutes from past meetings, along with a calendar for upcoming meetings. She noted that information on Bike/Ped Advisory Committee meetings and activities can also be found on the website.

5. New Business

a. Resolution Amending the 2011-2012 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Kozlosky told members there were a few modification to the UPWP based on a review of the current budget. Amendments to the budget are allowed until March 31st. Staff is proposing to decrease the Traffic Counts line item by \$40,000, decrease the Special Studies line item by \$100,000 and to increase the Management and Operations line item by \$20,000. The Special Studies funding will be pushed to the upcoming fiscal year. The 2012-2013 budget is currently open for a 30-day public comment period and will be presented for adoption at the April TAC meeting.

Mr. Barfield made the motion to amend the 2011-2012 UPWP. Mr. Shuttleworth seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

b. Resolution Supporting the Town of Carolina Beach's Request for High-visibility Crosswalks

Mr. Kozlosky told members the Town of Carolina Beach has requested high-visibility crosswalks on Lake Park Boulevard (US 421) to accommodate safer pedestrian travel between the residential neighborhoods to the oceanfront. The proposed locations are at the intersection of Lake Park Boulevard and Alabama, Ocean, Tennessee and Carolina Sands.

Mr. Barfield made the motion to support the Town of Carolina Beach's Request for High-visibility Crosswalks. Mr. Shuttleworth seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

6. Discussion

a. WMPO 2nd Quarter Strategic Business Plan

Mr. Kozlosky asked if anyone had question on the WMPO 2nd Quarter Strategic Business Plan that was included in the meeting packet.

Mr. Shuttleworth told members that NCDOT is working on the Snows Cut Bridge and the Town of Caroling Beach is concerned that bicycle lanes has not been added to the bridge.

Mr. Alford told members that the addition of bike lanes to the Snows Cut Bridge will be a difficult task but the Department is continuing to consider alternatives and work on the devising a possible solution.

7. Updates

Project updates for the Wilmington MPO/City of Wilmington, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority and NCDOT are included in the agenda packet.

Ms. Batleman told members it has come to her attention that NCDOT has approached Congressman McIntyre to get some funding for the widening of Village Road from South Navassa Road to Lanvale

Road. She asked what the status was. Mr. Alford stated that he was not familiar with that request and he will have to report back to her.

Mr. Alford told members he would like to tell members that he feels it is imperative that everyone in the MPO's and RPO's in Southern North Carolina be familiar with the NC 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan. It is important to recognize that there is limited funding going forward and it is imperative to realize that other revenue sources are going to have to come to the forefront sooner as opposed to later. If they don't, we're going to be impacted worse in the east than other areas of our state. The demographics and the growth is going that way. We all as members of southeastern North Carolina need to be cognizant of that dynamic and work together accordingly.

Mr. Kozlosky distributed information regarding a request from a property owner asking the Department to evaluate another alternative for the Hampstead Bypass. He told members he was asked to bring a resolution forward to the next meeting to ask the NCDOT to look at this alternative route. Should the TAC Board support the request, the Department estimates that the Military Cutoff Road and Hampstead Bypass projects will be delayed by two years. He will bring a resolution before the board for consideration at the next meeting to ask NCDOT to consider this new alternative.

8. Announcements

9. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:13 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.**