

Meeting Minutes
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
Transportation Advisory Committee
Date: June 27, 2012

Members Present:

Laura Padgett, Chairman, City of Wilmington
Jack Batson, Town of Belville
Pat Batleman, Town of Leland
Steve Shuttleworth, Town of Carolina Beach
Bill Sisson, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Jonathan Barfield, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority
Earl Sheridan, City of Wilmington
George Brown, Pender County
Brian Berger, New Hanover County
Bill Sue, Brunswick 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

Ms. Padgett called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the May 30, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.

3. Public Comment Period

Mr. Andy Koeppel addressed members regarding the proposed MPO boundary expansion. He suggested that Surf City be given an observer status on the TAC Board. He also thanked members for considering the naming of the interchange and associated bridge structure at 23rd Street and Martin Luther King Jr., Parkway in honor of Lanny Wilson. He stated that he strongly supported the initiative because of Mr. Wilson's positive impact to transportation related issues in area.

Mr. Al Freimark addressed members regarding the proposed MPO boundary expansion. He presented a map of Pender County depicting the density per square mile. He told members his job as a member of the TAC's Citizen Advisory Committee is to help forecast where we want to be in 10, 15 or even 25 years in the future. Due to the population density as illustrated by the map, the coastal areas of Pender County need the MPO to guide them with their future transportation growth.

4. Presentations

a. NCDOT Merger Process

Mr. Rob Hanson, Project Development Section Head for the Eastern Region gave a presentation on the merger process used by NCDOT in completing transportation projects.

5. New Business

a. Opening of the 30-day Public Comment Period for the STIP/MTIP Amendment for Section 5317 Funding –Pedestrian Improvements on Front Street

Mr. Kozlosky told members that staff received a Section 5317 grant for pedestrian improvements on Front Street and the STIP/MTIP must be amended. A 30-day public comment period is required prior to the adoption of amendments to the STIP/MTIP.

Mr. Barfield made the motion to open the 30-day Public Comment Period for the STIP/MTIP Amendment for Section 5317 Funding – Pedestrian Improvements on Front Street. Mr. Sue seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

b. Resolution Adopting the Section 5303 Agreement Between the Wilmington MPO and the Lower Cape Fear Sustainable Communities Consortium

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the agreement between the Wilmington MPO and the Lower Cape Fear Sustainable Communities Consortium lays out the responsibilities of the consortium and the Council of Governments, who is the lead agency for the grant and the consortium.

Mr. Barfield's asked Mr. Kozlosky if he had spoken with Chris May at the Cape Fear Council of Governments regarding the agreement. Mr. Kozlosky responded that he had not talked with him. Mr. Barfield stated that at the last County Commissioner meeting they looked at changing some of the verbiage in the agreement from a COG standpoint. They discussed changing the word "will" to "may" with respect to the different groups that are part of the adoption. He said it is his understanding that Mr. May was going to contact everyone.

Ms. Padgett asked that if there are changes coming, can the item be moved to the August meeting. Ms. Rashid told members she has not been advised that any changes to the document had been suggested. Any changes to the agreement will have to be taken back to HUD.

Mr. Sue stated that Mr. May was planning on taking the agreement back to HUD. The issue is that the MOU letter stated that the recommendations that come out of the Consortium will be adopted by the entities that are part of it. As the agreement is written, it takes out the independence and the right of a local elected body to make decisions. Ms. Padgett suggested that the item needs to be continued to the August meeting.

Mr. Sisson asked Mr. Barfield if the Council of Governments has acted on the agreement yet. Mr. Barfield responded that they voted in favor of the amended language. Mr. Sue said that Mr. May was asked to clear that amended language through HUD.

Mr. Sue made the motion to continue the item until the August meeting and invite Mr. May to attend to provide an update from his meeting with HUD. Mr. Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

c. Resolution Adopting the STIP/MTIP Amendments/Administrative Modification Process

Mr. Kozlosky told members the STIP/MTIP Amendment Process clarifies how changes may be made to the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) by either administrative modification or formal amendment. He noted that an administrative modification process identifies that the MPO will notify the Transportation Advisory Committee of STIP/MTIP administrative modifications, however no action is required by the TAC. A formal amendment requires public review and comment, demonstration of fiscal constraint, or a local transportation conformity determination. Mr. Kozlosky stated that the Board of Transportation adopted the policy.

Mr. Sisson made the motion to adopt the STIP/MTIP Amendments/Administrative Modification Process. Dr. Sheridan seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

d. Resolution Requesting Funding for the Miracle Field

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the Miracle League is working to develop a 100% accessible athletic facility at Olsen Park for those with disabilities. It is a local effort that will provide dedicated space for sports, promoting physical activities and camaraderie for children and adults with disabilities. The Miracle League is requesting help to construct an internal road that will provide for drop-off and pick-up for field users. The resolution is asking the NC General Assembly or NCDOT to help fund construction of this road.

Mr. Barfield made the motion to adopt the resolution requesting funding for the Miracle Field. Mr. Berger seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

e. Resolution Supporting Amtrak Service to Wilmington

Mr. Kozlosky told members Amtrak approached staff regarding the opportunity to bring a “rubber wheel” service to Wilmington that will link with their facility in Wilson, NC. They are interested in making Wilmington a destination-city and are asking for a resolution supporting bringing this service to the community. The resolution does not provide the logistics for the service, it just identifies community support.

Mr. Sue made the motion to support bringing Amtrak Service to Wilmington. Mr. Batson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

f. Resolution Request NCDOT Dedicate the Interchange and Associated Bridge Structure at 23rd Street and Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway in Honor of Lanny T. Wilson

Ms. Padgett told members that while serving on the NC Board of Transportation, Mr. Wilson made the effort to make sure that the local leaders of the community serving on the MPO were heard.

Mr. Sue made the motion to request NCDOT dedicate the interchange and associated bridge structure at 23rd Street and Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway in honor of Lanny T. Wilson. Mr. Barfield seconded the motion.

Ms. Batleman told members that she would like to make a substitute motion to request that NCDOT dedicate the interchange and associated bridge structure at 23rd Street and Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway in honor of Frank Capra, Jr. for his outstanding contributions and dedicated service to the community. Mr. Berger seconded the motion.

Mr. Sisson said he felt a little uncomfortable considering the issue just on a moment’s notice. We have not had any discussion in the past. Dr. Sheridan told members he agreed with Mr. Sisson. This is very sudden and he would like a chance to reflect on the resolutions.

Ms. Padgett noted that this is not a name change of the road or intersection. It is installing signage to honor someone at the location.

Mr. Barfield told members he felt that our community has a tremendous void in Raleigh with DOT. Mr. Wilson helped the WMPO get a lot projects moved forward. Dr. Sheridan told members he does not like having to choose one over the other. He suggested looking at it longer and perhaps a solution could be found. Mr. Berger asked if the matter was time sensitive and must be addressed immediately. Ms. Padgett said no.

Mr. Kozlosky told members the resolution to honor Mr. Wilson was a staff generated request. He served with Mr. Wilson on the TAC since 2004. During that time Mr. Wilson was an advocate for

projects within the WMPO and because of that commitment to the area, he thought we should consider naming a transportation facility in his honor. The intersection at Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway and 23rd Street seemed to be the logical choice because it was completed down to 3rd Street under Mr. Wilson's watch.

Ms. Batleman told members she felt that when you have someone like Frank Capra, Jr., who made many contributions to the area, this would be a "win-win". The studio is there on 23rd Street and this would provide an opportunity to let people know we appreciate all he has done.

Ms. Padgett suggested that there are other facilities that are not transportation facilities that could be named for Frank Capra, Jr. Ms. Padgett asked if members would rather wait to consider this, we could address this at the August meeting. Dr. Sheridan asked if a motion to table the item would be needed. Ms. Padgett stated that because there was a motion and a substitute, one of the motions must be withdrawn in favor of waiting until August to vote on the resolution. Ms. Padgett noted that the board is not allowed to have a third motion on an item. Mr. Sue asked if he withdrew his motion, could the committee then have a substitute to the substitute.

Ms. Batleman told members she would prefer to have a vote on her substitute motion. She said she believed the proper line-up was that first you vote on the substitute then you go back to the original motion.

Ms. Padgett called for a vote on the substitute motion to dedicate the 23rd Street and Martin Luther King, Jr. Bridge for Frank Capra, Jr. The motion failed in a tie vote with Ms. Batleman, Mr. Shuttleworth, Mr. Berger, Mr. Sisson and Mr. Batson voting in favor and Mr. Brown, Mr. Barfield, Mr. Sue, Ms. Padgett and Dr. Sheridan voting against the motion.

Ms. Padgett called for a vote on the original motion to dedicate the 23rd Street and Martin Luther King, Jr. Bridge for Lanny Wilson. The motion carried with Mr. Brown, Mr. Sisson, Mr. Barfield, Mr. Sue, Ms. Padgett and Dr. Sheridan voting in favor and Ms. Batleman, Mr. Shuttleworth, Mr. Berger and Mr. Batson voting against the motion.

6. Discussion

a. Wilmington MPO Boundary Expansion

Ms. Padgett told members the NCDOT, SCDOT, Myrtle Beach MPO and some of the beach communities met in Brunswick County to discuss the possible expansion of the Myrtle Beach MPO boundary area to their north to include the towns of Shallotte and Calabash. The question on the table was exactly how far the Myrtle Beach MPO might want to extend. Up to that point Wilmington MPO expansion was not officially at the table. She said that another meeting will be held on July 10th at St. James Town Hall to discuss Southport's interest in joining the Myrtle Beach MPO.

Mr. Kozlosky told members one of the scenarios being considered by the Myrtle Beach MPO is to take in Calabash, Caswell Beach, Ocean Isle, Sunset Beach, and Carolina Shores. The second scenario was expanding to include Holden Beach and Varnamtown and their third option included Southport and St. James.

Mr. Kozlosky told members in addition to the southern expansion, staff needs direction on how to proceed to the north. If the board decides to invite Surf City and Topsail Beach into the WMPO, they will have to adopt a MOU with the WMPO to participate. He noted that he did not want to move forward with the discussions with the elected officials until the TAC determined if it is desirable. Mr. Brown said he would like to move forward with discussion about Surf City and Topsail Beach joining the MPO and determine if there is interest in joining, both to the north and south of the current WMPO boundary.

Ms. Padgett suggested that perhaps members should consider a revision of the current MOU so that votes are weighted by population. Right now we are a very urban MPO and bringing smaller cities and more rural areas in will increase the number of representatives on the board who will have interest that may be in conflict with urban.

7. Updates

Project updates for the Wilmington MPO/City of Wilmington and NCDOT are included in the agenda packet. Mr. Eby updated members on activities of the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority.

8. Announcements

10. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 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.**