

**Wilmington Urban Area  
Technical Coordinating Committee  
Meeting Notes for August 15, 2012**

**Members Present:**

Mike Kozlosky, City of Wilmington  
Robert Waring, Town of Leland  
Karyn Crichton, New Hanover County  
Sean Ryan, Town of Navassa  
Shane York, NCDOT  
Karen Fussell, NCDOT  
Adrienne Harrington, TDM Coordinator  
Don Eggert, Cape Fear COG  
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County  
Ken Vafier, Pender County  
Eryn Moller, Town of Wrightsville Beach  
Stephanie Ayers, NC Ports  
Don Bennett, City of Wilmington  
Tim Owens, Town of Carolina Beach

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Bunch noted that on Page 2, under Discussion Items of the MPO Boundary Expansion, in paragraph 3, the minutes should be corrected to identify Oak Island and not Ocean Isle as part of the second scenario discussed. With that correction, Ms. Bunch made the motion to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2012 meeting. Mr. Vafier seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**3. New Business**

**a. Opening of the 30-day Public Comment Period for STIP/MTIP Amendments**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the amendments were for the Cross City Trail (EB-5544), Middle Sound Loop Road from Ogden Elementary to Oyster Drive (EB-5543), and the Operations and Maintenance Facility for the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority (TD-4942).

Mr. Eggert made the motion to open the public comment period for the STIP/MTIP. Ms. Bunch seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**b. Resolution Adopting STIP/MTIP Amendments**

Mr. Kozlosky told members there are state-wide initiatives, as well as an amendment for the installation of the mid-block crossing and pedestrian refuge island on South Front Street. The amendments have been approved by the Board of Transportation and must be mutually adopted by the MPO.

Ms. Ayers made the motion to support the adoption of the STIP/MTIP amendments and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**c. Resolution Adopting the Smoothed Urbanized Area Boundary**

Mr. Kozlosky told members on July 26<sup>th</sup> the US Census Bureau released the designations of the Urbanized Areas and Urbanized Clusters. As part of Federal Highway Administration's process, the MPO must smooth those boundaries. Ms Stark noted that the process helps to eliminate irregularities in the boundary and maintain logical control points.

Mr. Waring made the motion to support the adoption of the smoothed Urbanized Area Boundary and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Owens seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- d. **Resolution Supporting Twin-Trailers in New Hanover County on US 17 (John J. Burney Freeway) between US 17 Business (Market Street and I-40; US 17 (also I-140) (John J. Burney Freeway) between I-40 and US 421 (Francis Peter Fensel Highway); US 17 (also US 421) (Francis Peter Fensel Highway) between I-140/US17 (John J. Burney Freeway) and US 74/NC 133; US 17 (Also US 74, US 421 and NC 133) between US 74/NC 133 and Brunswick County Line; in Brunswick County on US 17 (also (US 74 and NC 133) between the New Hanover County Line and US 74/76 (Andrew Jackson Highway)**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the request was developed by NCDOT.

Ms. Ayers made the motion to support the resolution and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- e. **Resolution Opposing Twin-Trailers on Market Street between Military Cutoff Road and the Wilmington Bypass and Requesting NCDOT Conduct Additional Public Hearings for Input on this Designation**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that staff has concerns regarding allowing twin-trailers on Market Street between Military Cutoff Road and the Wilmington Bypass given the crash rate on Market Street being twice the crash rate of similar facilities in North Carolina. Access management is also an issue along that corridor. Mr. Kozlosky noted that if 2 or more entities request a public hearing, the Department would conduct an additional public hearing to solicit additional feedback.

Mr. Pope told members he would suggest that if this resolution opposing twin-trailers on this section of Military Cutoff Road is supported then the MPO needs to start the process to remove it from the remainder of Military Cutoff Road. Mr. Kozlosky said he agreed.

Mr. Bennett made the motion to support the opposition to twin-trailers on Market Street between Military Cutoff Road and the Wilmington Bypass and requesting NCDOT conduct additional public hearings for input on this designation and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Waring seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- f. **Resolution Supporting the Application of Airlie Road for a Scenic Byway Designation**

Mr. Owens asked if regulations would come from Airlie Road being designated as a scenic byway. Mr. Kozlosky told members there are no regulations that would come with the designation. Signs depicting the Scenic Byway Designation will be installed and there will also be opportunities for funding that come with the designation. Airlie Road will also be included in NCDOT's booklet that identifies the scenic byways across the State.

Mr. Bennett made the motion to support the City of Wilmington's Application of Airlie Road for a Scenic Byway Designation and forward to the TAC for consideration. Ms. Harrington seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- g. **Resolution Requesting NCDOT Install Crosswalks on All Four Legs of College Road/Oleander Drive**

Ms. Rashid told members the request comes from the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee. They would like to see crossing improvements made to the intersection while the Department is resurfacing at the intersection. The committee anticipates increased pedestrian traffic due to the surrounding area's land-uses and they would like to see a way for people to cross Oleander Drive safely.

Mr. Riddle told members the Department is looking at resurfacing College Road. Along with that, they have a high hazard project to put a right-turn lane on Oleander Drive westbound that will

enable traffic to turn right on to College Road going north. Funding for the turn lane is identified for 2013 to go along with the resurfacing project. Mr. Riddle explained that whenever the Department does resurfacing in urban areas, curb ramps are upgraded to the most recent ADA requirements as part of that milling and resurfacing project. The Department also ensures that the curb ramps and stop bars are placed in the right position in the quadrant. However, the Department does not put in crosswalks and pedestrian signals as part of a resurfacing project.

Ms. Rashid told members that because the addition of the right-turn lane is a TIP project, the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee suggested including pedestrian accommodations in the design for the intersection. Mr. Riddle noted that the project is a high-hazard project that is focused solely on the crash history. Ms. Fussell suggested meeting with staff to discuss possible cost-sharing for the project.

Mr. Owens made the motion to table the resolution requesting NCDOT install crosswalks on all four legs of College Road/Oleander Drive intersection until the City and NCDOT can discuss options for funding the crosswalks. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

#### **4. Discussion**

##### **a. Wilmington MPO Boundary Expansion**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that letters have been sent to Mayor Braxton and Mayor Guy to gauge their interest in joining the WMPO. He said he has also met with the Mayors and Managers of St. James, Southport, Oak Island, Caswell Beach and Baldhead Island at their request to discuss potential expansion of the WMPO boundary to the south. To date, staff has not received any letters requesting to become part of the MPO. He noted that he will present the four potential boundary expansion alternatives to the TAC for discussion at their next meeting.

##### **b. Wilmington MPO Transportation Management Designation**

Mr. Kozlosky told members as of July 18<sup>th</sup> the Wilmington MPO was designated as a Transportation Management Area, which means we exceeded the threshold identified by the Federal Highway Administration of 200,000 in population. Our population is 219,957. He and Ms. Stark have set a meeting to discuss the additional responsibilities that the designation will bring to the WMPO.

##### **c. MAP-21 Transportation Authorization Bill**

Ms. Harrington told members MAP-21 is the new federal transportation bill that was passed in July 2012. The funding is authorized through the end of FY2014. Funding will stay at current levels, plus inflation. Overall, the new transportation bill calls for a more performance-driven, outcome-based approach. There are a fewer number of programs in the new transportation bill. Programs have not been eliminated, they have been categorized under larger programs.

#### **5. Updates**

Project updates for the Wilmington MPO/City of Wilmington and NCDOT are included in the agenda packet.

#### **6. Announcements**

#### **7. Adjournment**

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 am.