

Meeting Minutes
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
Transportation Advisory Committee
Date: May 28, 2014

Members Present:

Laura Padgett, Chair, City of Wilmington
Pat Batleman, Vice-chair, Town of Leland
Dean Lambeth, Town of Kure Beach
Gary Doetsch, Town of Carolina Beach
Hank Miller, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Joe Breault, Town of Belville
Eulis Willis, Town of Navassa
Earl Sheridan, City of Wilmington
Woody White, New Hanover County
Jonathan Barfield, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority

Staff Present:

Mike Kozlosky, Executive Director

1. Call to Order

Ms. Padgett called the meeting to order at 3:32pm.

2. Conflict of Interest Reminder

Ms. Padgett asked if any members had a conflict of interest with any items on the meeting agenda. No members reported having a conflict of interest.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the April 30th meeting were approved unanimously.

4. Public Comment Period

No one requested to speak during the Public Comment Period.

5. Consent Agenda

- a. **Opening of the 30-day public comment period for STIP/MTIP Amendments**
- b. **Resolution adopting STP-DA Project Submittal Guide**
- c. **Resolution adopting TAP-DA Project Submittal Guide**
- d. **Resolution adopting an amendment to the 2014-2015 UPWP**

Ms. Batleman pulled Item b (Resolution adopting STP-DA Project Submittal Guide) and Item c (Resolution adopting TAP-DA Project Submittal Guide) for further consideration.

Dr. Sheridan made the motion to approve the consent agenda excluding Items b and c. Ms. Batleman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ms. Batleman stated that she pulled items b and c for informational reasons. She asked if under eligibility criteria when talking about the co-applicant process, does one of the applicants become the principal applicant and the other the secondary applicant. Is the primary applicant the leader of that particular project and is that determined by population? Ms. Harrington said the primary applicant is not necessarily the municipality with the largest population. They are asking that the project have a primary contact person. Ms. Harrington added that if members are submitting a co-application, both municipalities will need to submit a resolution of support for the project. Ms. Batleman asked if the primary applicant is responsible for the record keeping. Mr. Knight said the Federal Government requires that both municipalities to keep records and both will have equal responsibilities.

Ms. Batleman made the motion to adopt Item b (Resolution adopting STP-DA Project Submittal Guide) and Item c (Resolution adopting TAP-DA Project Submittal Guide). Mr. Doetsch seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

6. New Business

a. Resolution rescinding the request for the Wilmington MPO to the federal designated recipient of Section 5310 funds

Ms. Rashid told members that at the March 26th meeting, the TAC approved a resolution to appoint the Wilmington MPO as the designated recipient of Section 5310 funds. She stated that following additional discussion with the NCDOT Public Transportation Division, FTA and other MPOs, staff was made aware that other MPOs have their local transit authority be the designated recipient for the funds. She told members that staff proposed to divide the responsibilities so that the MPO would manage the decisions regarding how the funds are allocated. Ms. Rashid said that because the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority (CFPTA) already handles the financial management of FTA funding, staff recommended that they be the designated recipient of the funds.

Ms Rashid told members that the proposed changes went to the CFPTA Board at their May 22nd meeting and they passed a resolution requesting to become the designated recipient. Mr. Kozlosky noted that the next step will be to develop a process to administer these funds. Staff will bring that back to the TAC for approval.

Mr. Breault made the motion to rescind the request for the Wilmington MPO to the federal designated recipient of Section 5310 funds. Mr. Miller seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

b. Resolution supporting the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority be the federal designated recipient of Section 5310 funds

Ms. Batleman made the motion to support Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority becoming the federal designated recipient of Section 5310 funds. Mr. Doetsch seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

c. Reschedule September 24th TAC Meeting Date

Ms. Padgett made the motion to reschedule the September 24th meeting to September 17th at 3:30pm. Mr. Breault seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

7. Discussion

a. NCDOT response regarding the removal of certain routes within the Wilmington region from the North Carolina truck network with reasonable access routes designation

Mr. Kozlosky told members the request to remove certain routes within the Wilmington region from the NC truck network was denied by NCDOT. They indicated that they are willing to consider removing

the designation on Oleander Drive from Military Cutoff to College Road, as well as on Carolina Beach Road south of the Port if the TAC desires; however, all other requests were denied. Mr. Kozlosky noted that there is an appeal process to the Secretary of Transportation if the MPO desires.

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the MPO staff heard concerns expressed from the trucking industry, as well as from the Port. Ms. Padgett noted that it was not intended to limit access to the Port but to direct the access away from the busiest parts of the City.

Mr. Doetsch suggested tabling further action until TAC members have the opportunity to discuss the removal of the designation and perhaps invite some of the trucking companies to provide input before moving forward.

Mr. Doetsch made the motion to table further action regarding NCDOT's response regarding the removal of certain routes within the Wilmington region from the North Carolina truck network with reasonable access routes designation. Mr. Lambeth seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

b. Strategic Transportation Investment Formula

Mr. Kozlosky told members that on May 18th the NCDOT released their scores for the highway and non-highway projects. Staff is working through the local prioritization process. Part of the local preference score includes resolutions adopted by each of the local jurisdictions acknowledging local support. Staff is requesting that each of the jurisdictions submit those resolutions of support by June 20th. That will allow staff time to prepare the draft results for presentation to TAC members at the June 25th meeting. He said staff would also request members schedule a meeting for the month of July to approve the draft rankings and begin the public input process. Final adoption will be held at the August meeting. Final scores must be submitted to NCDOT by August 29th. Mr. Kozlosky reminded members that all modes of transportation will compete against all modes for points.

Ms. Padgett told members that this is probably the most important task the TAC will accomplish this year and it is what drives the transportation into the future. She asked members to make a point of reviewing the list of projects and decide their importance so that members send the message that works for the region.

c. Strategic Transportation Corridors

Mr. Kozlosky told members that NCDOT is in the process of updating their Strategic Transportation Corridors. The Department has rated and ranked each of the strategic corridors. The scores were based on system connectivity, mobility and economic prosperity. Mr. Kozlosky stated that the Department is accepting comments and staff has prepared some initial comments. He noted that the comment form was included in the packet and staff will bring the list of comments along with a resolution to the June meeting.

d. Statewide Rail Plan

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the Statewide Rail Plan Survey is included in the packet. The survey will allow members to comment on the State Rail Plan. The public comment survey is due back to the Department by June 15th. They are also accepting additional project submittals.

Ms. Padgett noted that during presentations on alternative transportation held at the NCAMPO Conference earlier in the month, it was abundantly clear that southeastern North Carolina has no projects in the Statewide Rail Plan.

e. Shipyard Boulevard Sidewalk Project

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the Port requested that a sidewalk be constructed from Carolina Beach Road down to WECT. The project will also include bus pull-outs. The Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority identified funds from their 2013 STP-DA allocation. The local match will come from the City of Wilmington's bicycle and pedestrian improvement program. Staff is working to develop a cost estimate for the project. Once the cost estimate is complete, staff will move forward with a STIP/MTIP amendment to identify the project. The design work will be done in-house by MPO staff.

8. Updates

Project updates for the Crossing over the Cape Fear River Work Group, Wilmington MPO, CFPTA and NCDOT Division and Planning Branch are included in the agenda packet.

Other Items:

- a. Mr. Barfield told members it was brought to his attention that NCDOT is surveying the cemetery at Mt. Ararat Church. The Department held a meeting with the church regarding the cemetery. He noted that he has family members buried in the cemetery. He and his family were not informed that a meeting was taking place.

Ms. Fussell stated that the Department is concerned because the construction limits on the original project were getting too close to the cemetery. They are using ground penetrating radar to survey the area in an effort to verify if there is any possibility of un-marked graves. The Department is waiting on the survey results and that information will be shared with the church and any other interested parties.

- b. Mr. Kozlosky asked if TAC members would consider the scheduling of a meeting for the month of July to approve the draft rankings and begin the public input process for the STI.

Ms Padgett made the motion to schedule a July 23rd to the meeting at 3:30pm. Mr. Miller seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

9. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:27 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.**