WMPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

TO: WMPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Members
FROM: Adrienne Harrington
DATE: December 11, 2014
SUBJECT: December 17, 2014 Meeting

A meeting of the WMPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday December 17, 2014 at 10 am. The meeting will be held at 305 Chestnut Street in the 4th Floor Conference Room.

The following is the agenda for the meeting:

1) Old Business – none

2) New Business
   a. Battleship Connector Presentation and resolution of support – J. Breault, 10 min.
   b. Resolution of Support for Westgate Nature Park Phase II grant application, N. Brooks, 5 min.

3) Other Discussion
   c. Bike/Ped Committee tasks for 2015 – A. Harrington, 15 min.

4) Announcements [contact WMPO staff for more information]:
   • WMPO Technical Coordinating Committee, January 14th at 10:00 am.
   • WMPO Transportation Advisory Committee, January 28th at 3:00 pm

5) Next Meetings
   • January 15, 2014 at 1PM

6) Adjournment
WHEREAS, the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization provides transportation planning services for the City of Wilmington, Town of Carolina Beach, Town of Kure Beach, Town of Wrightsville Beach, Town of Belville, Town of Leland, Town of Navassa, New Hanover County, Brunswick County, Pender County, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority and the North Carolina Board of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Belville has proposed a series of interconnected multimodal pathways called the “Brunswick Battleship Connector” connecting the future Brunswick Riverwalk at Belville to the USS North Carolina Battleship Park; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Brunswick Battleship Connector will provide the public with nature and outdoor-based recreational and educational benefits while promoting conservation of natural resources, preservation of wetlands and the historical heritage of the Lower Cape Fear region; and

WHEREAS, the Brunswick Battleship Connector will promote cooperation between the region’s municipal and county governments, applicable State and Federal agencies, and public/private entities such as the North Carolina State Ports Authority, Brunswick Regional Water and Sewer H2G0, The Friends of the Battleship North Carolina, Inc. and the Eagles Island Coalition; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the proposed funding for the “Brunswick Battleship Connector” will consist of State and Federal grants in the areas of recreation, education, conservation, preservation, and historical preservation.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Transportation Advisory Committee hereby supports the development of the “Brunswick Battleship Connector”.

ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee on December 10, 2014.

_________________________________
Laura Padgett, Chair
Transportation Advisory Committee

_________________________________
Mike Kozlosky, Secretary
WHEREAS, the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization provides transportation planning services for the City of Wilmington, Town of Carolina Beach, Town of Kure Beach, Town of Wrightsville Beach, Town of Belville, Town of Leland, Town of Navassa, New Hanover County, Brunswick County, Pender County, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority and the North Carolina Board of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) is intended to help fund improvements in the state’s park system, to fund grants for local governments and to increase the public’s access to the state beaches; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Leland received a 2010 PARTF grant in the amount of $500,000 for Phase I of Westgate Nature Park and completed the park in 2013 to include a 20-space parking lot and trailhead, picnic area, playground for ages 2-12, events lawn, 0.3-mile asphalt and boardwalk multiuse trail, outdoor classroom, interpretive signage and associated site amenities; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Leland proposes Phase II of the Westgate Nature Park to extend the asphalt and boardwalk multiuse trail to connect back to Westgate Drive, creating an approximately 1.5 mile loop trail complete with exercise stations, benches, interpretive signage, shade structures and a restroom/picnic shelter building; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Leland Master Plan identifies this area as essential preserved open space and allocates the land’s highest and best use as conservation land and/or parks and greenways, and this approach is shared in the Leland Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Leland Comprehensive Bicycle Plan ranks trails as the top priority to meet the needs of residents and highlights key bicycle connections at Highway 17 and nearby neighborhoods, which are included in this plan; and

WHEREAS, the Updated Westgate Nature Park Master Plan shows a potential connection to a future greenway trail utilizing the Duke Energy powerline easement and connecting to the Brunswick Forest neighborhood and commercial area, as well as several other regional connections, thus greatly enhancing non-motorized transportation in northern Brunswick County; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Westgate Nature Park Phase II could provide economic and health benefits while improving the quality of life of the region’s residents.
NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee hereby supports the Town of Leland’s application for a PARTF grant for construction of Phase II of the Westgate Nature Park.

ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee on December 17, 2014.
WHEREAS, the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization provides transportation planning services for the City of Wilmington, Town of Carolina Beach, Town of Kure Beach, Town of Wrightsville Beach, Town of Belville, Town of Leland, Town of Navassa, New Hanover County, Brunswick County, Pender County, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority and the North Carolina Board of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control’s (CDC) National Implementation and Dissemination for Chronic Disease Prevention Funding Opportunity will support national organizations and their chapters/affiliates in building and strengthening communities’ abilities to implement community health improvement strategies; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Healthy Communities (CHC) is based at the University of North Carolina Wilmington and is the backbone organization for community collaboratives in Southeastern North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the CHC will submit an application in the amount of $150,000 to support implementation of goals and strategies identified in the five county (Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover, Onslow, and Pender) regional assessment of health disparities;

WHEREAS, obesity is identified as a health disparity and active transportation is identified as a strategy to mitigate obesity; and

WHEREAS, should the grant be awarded to CHC, there are potential planning projects in the region that could receive funding assistance.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee hereby supports the CHC’s application for the National Implementation and Dissemination for Chronic Disease Prevention grant.

ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee on December 17, 2014.