April 16, 2015  WMPO Bike/Ped Committee Meeting Minutes

In attendance:

Committee Members
Adrienne Harrington, WMPO
Joe Boyd, Belville
Steve Whitney, Brunswick County
Karin Mills, City of Wilmington
Katie Ryan, Wrightsville Beach
Trey Burke, Navassa
Shawn Spencer, New Hanover County
Tom Campbell, Carolina Beach
Chris O’Keefe, Transit Authority/NHC
Al Sharp, City of Wilmington
Al Schroetel, Cape Fear Cyclists

Additional Guests
Megan O’Hare, Pender County
Jerry Haire, Carolina Beach
Patrick Riddle, NCDOT
Suraiya Rashid, WMPO
John Townsend, New Hanover County

1) Approval of Minutes – minutes were not included in the agenda packet sent to committee members. March minutes will be approved at the May meeting.

2) Old Business
   a. Bike Month Activities – C. O’Keefe updated the committee about River to Sea Bike Ride event planning. The ride will take place on Saturday May 2nd. Participants will meet in the 100 block of N. Front Street. C. O’Keefe mentioned new sponsors this year, such as Harris Teeter and Stevenson Auto. A. Harrington updated the committee about Bike to Work Week, stating regional goals to include 160 people participating and 55 area employers represented. She asked for help from the committee to distribute packets of information including the River to Sea Bike Ride and Bike to Work Week, also noting there will be a press release sent to media outlets about the River to Sea Bike Ride and Bike to Work Week. There will be several schools participating in Bike to School Day, including Forest Hills Elementary, Holly Tree Elementary, Wrightsville Beach Elementary, and Ogden Elementary.
   b. Cape Fear Transportation 2040 – Fiscally constrained bicycle and pedestrian projects – A. Harrington presented a list of 142 bicycle and pedestrian projects. The first 73 projects (in green on the list) are projects identified as high priority and currently proposed to be included in Cape Fear Transportation 2040. The remaining 68 projects (in red on the list) are identified as medium priority, but can not be included in CFT2040 due to fiscal constraints. A. Harrington informed the committee of the public comment period throughout the month of April. She informed the committee of 7 open houses, and the opportunity to participate in public comment on Cape Fear Transportation 2040’s website – www.transportation2040.org. The committee was provided with an inventory of suggestions provided by various committee members as a result from the ‘homework’ assignment with projects recommended to be moved from red to green (move above the line) and from green to red (move below the line). The committee reviewed the list of projects suggested to move from funded (green/above the line) to
unfunded (red/below the line). P. Riddle confirmed project BP-15 has funding secured as it is a part of the Kerr Avenue widening project, and therefore we can remove it from the list. S. Rashid informed the committee that BP-20 (Independence Boulevard Extension) would help ensure the roadway project would include a multi-use path. The committee agreed to keep BP-20, BP-42 (Eastwood Rd. & Cardinal Dr. intersection), and BP-73 (Old Fayetteville Rd B) on the funded list. The committee agreed to move BP-32 (Isabel S. Holmes Bridge), BP-39 (Independence Boulevard), BP-56 (Airlie Road), and BP-72 (Causeway Drive) to the unfunded list. K. Ryan acknowledged BP72 as Wrightsville Beach’s only project, and they do not have any red (medium priority) projects, as all other WB projects are currently listed as low priority. A. Harrington suggested further discussion with Wrightsville Beach to determine the best option for BP-72. A. Harrington informed the committee that this information will help guide the discussion for the next meeting – determining which unfunded (red/below the line) projects could be moved to funded projects. She informed the committee about the upcoming timeline for the long-range transportation plan: In May the committee will review the public comments and finalize their recommendations. Those recommendations will be presented to CAC in June, and to TCC and TAC in July. Upon their approval, the final draft plan will be presented to the WMPO member jurisdictions in August/September/October for their adoption, then to TAC for their final adoption in December 2015.

3) New Business
   a. Watch for Me NC Resolution of Support – J. Townsend informed the committee of the past due date for the application to NCDOT. He informed the committee of NCDOT’s support of our efforts and encouragement to apply during the next round of applications.
   b. WMPO Bike Suitability Map review – A. Harrington informed the committee that the bike map is still under design. She hopes to have them printed by the May Bike/Ped Committee.

4) Other Discussion
   a. WMPO Bike/Ped Official Voting Members Update – A. Harrington provided an update. David Piepmier needs to be updated at Pender County’s TAC representative.