

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
**Transportation Advisory Committee**  
**Date: January 27, 2016**

**Members Present:**

Pat Batleman, Town of Leland  
Frank Williams, Brunswick County  
Gary Doetsch, Town of Carolina Beach  
Neal Anderson, City of Wilmington  
Emilie Swearingen, Town of Kure Beach  
Skip Watkins, New Hanover County  
Hank Miller, Town of Wrightsville Beach  
Earl Sheridan, City of Wilmington  
Eulis Willis, Town of Navassa  
David Piepmeyer, Pender County  
John Lennon, NC Board of Transportation  
Jonathon Barfield, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority

**Staff Present:**

Mike Kozlosky, Executive Director

**1. Call to Order**

Ms. Batleman called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

**2. Conflict of Interest Reminder**

Ms. Batleman asked if any members had a conflict of interest with any items on the meeting agenda.

Mr. Miller asked to be recused from item 8.b.: Resolution approving the 2016 STP-DA and TAP-DA Allocations. Mr. Doetsch made the motion to recuse Mr. Miller from 8.b. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**3. Introduction of New Members**

Ms. Batleman introduced the new members to the TAC. She welcomed Ms. Emilie Swearingen, from the Town of Kure Beach and Mr. Neal Anderson, from the City of Wilmington to the Board. She noted that Mr. Bill Saffo was not able to attend today's meeting.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for the November 18, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously.

**5. Public Comment Period**

Mr. Andy Koeppel addressed members regarding item 8.b. He said he wanted to let members know how important the construction of the facility is to the City and WAVE Transit. The Multi-modal Center will serve as an economic catalyst for development along the northern portion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street corridor. He told members he would encourage everyone vote in favor of the resolution.

Ms. Laura Padgett addressed members regarding item 8.b. She told members that 19 years ago, Mayor Don Betts suggested that a Multi-modal Center would serve as a critical piece of our transportation network. Mayor

Ham Hicks created a rail task force and the creation of a Multi-modal Center figured importantly in the study to get rail service between Wilmington and Raleigh. She noted that this is a regional project that will provide a place for rail, public transit and other alternate means of transportation. She asked members to support the resolution to allocate the 2016 STP-DA funds to the Multi-modal Transportation Center.

## **6. Election of Officers**

Ms. Batleman opened the floor for nominations for Chairman. Mr. Williams nominated Mr. Gary Doetsch for Chairman. Mr. Breault seconded the nomination. With no other nominations, Mr. Doetsch was elected Chair with all members voting in favor.

Ms. Batleman opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Mr. Doetsch nominated Mr. Frank Williams for Vice-Chairman. Mr. Breault seconded the nomination. With no other nominations, Mr. Williams was elected Vice-Chair with all members voting in favor.

## **7. Consent Agenda**

- a. **Resolution accepting the Final Technical Report for US 17 Business Corridor Study (Market Street Road Diet)**
- b. **Resolution supporting the Wilmington MPO's submission of a NCDOT Transportation Demand Management Grant**
- c. **Resolution adopting STIP/MTIP Modifications (November)**
- d. **Opening of the 30-day Public Comment Period for STIP/MTIP Amendments (January)**
- e. **Opening of the 30-day Public Comment Period for the Draft FY 17 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Watkins made the motion to approve the items on the consent agenda. Ms. Swearingen seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

## **8. Regular Agenda**

- a. **Resolution adopting the Wilmington Urban Area MPO's Comprehensive Transportation Plan**

Mr. Snipes with NCDOT's Transportation Planning Branch gave a presentation on Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). Mr. Snipes told members that projects in CTP come from the adopted Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The CTP includes all the funded projects from the MTP plus all the remaining projects in the MTP that are not fiscally constrained.

Following a brief question/answer period, Mr. Barfield made the motion to adopt the Wilmington Urban Area MPO's Comprehensive Transportation Plan. Mr. Miller seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- b. **Resolution approving 2016 STP-DA and TAP-DA Allocations**

Mr. Knight told members that 2016 funding requests for Surface Transportation Program-Direct Attributable (STP-DA) allocations came from the Town of Leland (two projects), the Town of Carolina Beach and Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority (CFPTA). Mr. Knight said staff reviewed the application submittals using the approved competitive scoring process for the 2016 STP-DA allocation. He told members that with a maximum score of 120 points for Bicycle/Pedestrian projects, CFPTA's Multi-modal Transportation Center scored 91, Leland's Westgate Multi-use Path scored 44

points, and Carolina Beach's St. Joseph Street Bike Lanes scored 40.75. Mr. Knight said Leland's Northgate Intersection Realignment Project was evaluated using the scoring criteria for Intersection Improvement Projects. He noted that the maximum score for Intersections Improvement Projects was 48 points and Leland's Northgate Intersection Realignment project scored 14. Mr. Knight stated that staff recommended allocating \$2.4 million of STP-DA funding to the CFPTA for the Multi-modal Transportation Center.

Mr. Kozlosky told members one of the reasons behind staff's recommendation to allocate funds to the Multi-modal Transportation Center was that funds have been appropriated for FY13, FY14 and FY15; and, currently there is only one project from FY13 that is actually ready to go. The allocation of funds to the Multi-modal Transportation Center would allow local jurisdictions to catch up and get their projects under construction before next year's allocations are awarded. He noted that there is still around \$750,000.00 in NC Moving Ahead Funds that were allocated to the Multi-modal Center by the State in 2004 that has already be committed to this project.

Mr. Knight told members that staff received one request for the Transportation Alternatives Program-Direct Attributable (TAP-DA) funding. The Town of Navassa submitted the only application. Mr. Knight noted that the maximum score for TAP-DA Bike/Ped projects is 135 points and Navassa's Multi-use Path at Navassa Park project scored 22. Their funding request was for \$358,998.00 which is over the amount of funding available. Because there is not enough funding to cover the project, staff recommends holding the funds from the FY16 TAP-DA allocation to roll into FY17. That will allow the next call for TAP-DA projects to be more powerful and attract more applicants.

Mr. Watkins asked if Navassa will have an opportunity to re-submit next year. Mr. Knight said yes. Mr. Barfield asked if the Board could commit now to Navassa's project, as opposed to waiting until next year for the project to be re-scored. Mr. Kozlosky said in order to do that, it would require a local contribution from Navassa. Staff would need to ensure that those funds are in-place.

Mr. Breault said he feels the project should be given special consideration based on the fact that the Navassa project was the first and only submittal for this year's funding. Mr. Watkins told members he agreed. Mr. Kozlosky told members that if it is the Board's desire, staff can bring back a resolution to the next meeting allocating TAP-DA funds for FY16 and FY17 to that project.

Mr. Lennon asked if this was setting a precedent here. He said he is not judging the project, but we may be setting a dangerous precedent. Mr. Watkins told members that he would suggest giving staff the opportunity to find out what the Board can or cannot do in this situation. He suggested tabling it to the next meeting.

Mr. Barfield told members that his concern is that members are making a statement here that we are going to hold the money until next year and putting Navassa's name on it. That will allow us to make a commitment now, or not make a statement. Mr. Watkins said he would like to see if this could be done legally.

Mr. Kozlosky said it may be possible by awarding the \$250,000.00 that is allocated toward the TAP-DA program to the Town of Navassa in this fiscal year and then next year, they can apply for the remaining amount of money. Consensus of the members was to support that option and ask staff to bring it back a resolution at the next meeting.

Mr. Kozlosky told members that staff would ask the Board to consider the resolution supporting the STP-DA allocation for the transit portion of the Wilmington Multi-modal Transportation Center. If the Board desires, staff will bring a resolution to the next meeting allocating the 2016 TAP-DA funds to the Town of Navassa for the Navassa Park Multi-use Path.

Mr. Williams made the motion to approve the allocation for \$2.4 million of STP-DA funding to the CFPTA for the Multi-modal Transportation Center and direct staff to bring back a resolution for the Navassa's Multi-use Path to the next meeting. Mr. Breault seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

## **9. Discussion**

### **a. Organizational Improvements**

- i. Organizational Survey
- ii. Update Strategic Business Plan

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the Organizational Survey is the first step in going forward with the organizational improvements. He asked Mr. Lopez to review the draft survey.

Mr. Lopez told members the draft survey has 26 questions and reminded members that the responses will be anonymous. He said the survey seeks feedback regarding the organization, management and staff, website and committees. Mr. Lopez noted that the information will be used by staff to make improvements to the organization.

A general discussion followed regarding the customer survey and identifying customers who will be polled for information.

Mr. Kozlosky said as part of the update to the Strategic Business Plan, staff would suggest holding a retreat to facilitate updating the plan. He noted that a trained facilitator has agreed to conduct the meeting if the Board were to support holding a retreat.

Following a brief discussion, consensus of the Board was to go forward with planning a 4-hour retreat for the purpose of updating the Strategic Business Plan.

### **b. 2016 Wilmington MPO Legislative Agenda**

Mr. Kozlosky reviewed the proposed 2016 legislative agenda. He noted that 3 of the 4 items are carry-overs from previous years. The only new item on the agenda is regarding the Moped Legislation.

Mr. Williams suggested that the corridor preservation item would be better-served by just making a general statement, rather than mentioning a specific statute. Mr. Kozlosky said staff will make the change and bring it back to the Board for consideration at the next meeting.

### **c. Southport-Ft. Fisher Ferry Rates**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that in 2014 the MPO adopted a resolution supporting an increase in ferry tolls for the Ft. Fisher to Southport Ferry. He noted that some of the ferry tolls in North Carolina are in

administrative code and some are adopted by the NC Board of Transportation by resolution. The Department is pursuing having all of the ferry tolls adopted by the Board of Transportation by resolution.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that in 2014 the TAC requested an increase in ferry tolls. Based on state law, NCDOT had 180 days to implement that increase but they did not. They are now asking if the MPO still supports the increase in the tolls. The Department is asking the Board of Transportation to adopt their resolution for ferry tolls in February. That will move everything to being adopted by the Board of Transportation by resolution, and then, if there is still support for the increase, staff would bring that item back for re-affirmation at the next meeting.

**d. STIP/MTIP Project Modifications (January)**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that House Bill 97 accelerated funding for several projects. These are administrative modifications for projects that were already in the STIP and are being accelerated. They do not require a 30-day public comment period. Staff will bring the item to the February meeting for consideration.

**9. Updates**

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

Ms. Batleman suggested that information regarding the proposed rail-realignment be added to the monthly update.

Mr. Piepmeyer asked staff to keep the ethics reminder note on the meeting agenda.

**10. Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:57pm

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.**