

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Meeting Notes for October 15, 2014**

Members Present:

Mike Kozlosky, City of Wilmington
Adrienne Harrington, TDM Coordinator
Ed Parvin, Town of Carolina Beach
Megan Matheny, WAVE Transit
Stephanie Ayers, NC Ports
Trey Burke, Town of Navassa
Patrick Riddle, NCDOT Division 3

Robert Waring, Town of Leland
Athina Williams, Town of Belville
Nancy Avery, Town of Kure Beach
Allen Serkin, Cape Fear COG
Megan O'Hare, Pender County
Zach Steffey, Town of Wrightsville Beach

Nora McCann, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch

Others Present:

Loretta Barren, FHWA

1. Call to Order

Mr. Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the September 10, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously.

3. Presentations

a. Eagles Island Path, Joe Breault, Town of Belville

Mr. Joe Breault from the Town of Belville addressed members regarding the proposed Eagles Island Path. He said the project is an effort to connect the Battleship Memorial Park with the Brunswick Riverwalk. The connection will provide access to wetlands and offer educational opportunities, as well as provide an opportunity for future inter-connectivity of recreation facilities and trails on both sides of the Cape Fear River. Mr. Breault noted that he contacted many state and federal agencies regarding the conceptual vision and they support the project. He said he has also been working to identify funding sources. He reminded members that when this project becomes a reality, it will offer a valuable link connecting recreational facilities for area municipalities along the river.

b. TDM Plan, Adrienne Harrington, WMPO

Ms. Harrington gave a presentation on the progress of the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Program. Ms. Harrington told members that staff is working to complete both the short-range TDM plan, as well as working on the TDM long-range plan that is published within the Cape Fear Transportation 2040 Plan. Ms. Harrington said the time line for the short-range plan includes incorporating comments from the TDM Committee into the draft document and bringing it to the TCC and TAC for review and comment at their October meetings. The final document will then come before both groups for approval.

4. Consent Agenda

a. Resolution approving the STIP/MTIP Modification (September)

b. Resolution approving the STIP/MTIP Amendment (September)

c. Resolution supporting a revised Section 5303 agreement between the MPO, City and CFPTA

- d. **Resolution supporting the Town of Topsail Beach's efforts to secure NCDOT grant funding for the completion of a bike/pedestrian plan**
- e. **Resolution supporting amendments to Cape Fear Commutes 2035 Transportation Plan for bike/pedestrian initiatives in Pender County**
- f. **Opening of 30-day comment period for STIP/MTIP Amendment (October)**

Ms. Ayers made the motion to approve the items on the consent agenda and forward it to the TAC for consideration. Ms. Avery seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

5. Regular Agenda

- a. **Resolution providing additional comments to NCDOT regarding the Strategic Transportation Corridors Initiative**

Ms. Rashid told members that a resolution was adopted at the July meeting before the NCDOT deadline to update the initiative. Comments included in the resolution are almost exactly the same as the current resolution. Only two of the requested changes were addressed by the Department. They include the portion of US 74 as one of the top facilities in the initiative. They also addressed the concern that the Strategic Highway Corridors Initiative was part of the NEPA documentation and other base documentation for projects moving forward through the environmental review or funding processes. She noted that the Department indicated that they would adopt that portion of the Strategic Highway Corridor Initiative by reference so that it wouldn't negate any of the environmental work that has been done on existing projects that reference the initiative.

Ms. Rashid stated that the I-74 alignment through the Green Swamp has been of particular concern to this area. She said the alignment remains on the map even after the WMPO and the Cape Fear RPO adopted resolution supporting the alignment of I-74 with the Wilmington Bypass.

Ms. Ayers made the motion to support the resolution providing additional comments to NCDOT regarding the North Carolina Transportation Network and the draft recommended Strategic Transportation Corridors and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Waring seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- b. **Resolution encouraging NCDOT to fund the Kerr Avenue widening from Randall Parkway to Wrightsville Avenue and the extension of Kerr Avenue to Oleander Drive**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that in 2006 the TAC adopted a resolution supporting the widening of Kerr Avenue from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway and terminating at Randall Parkway and requesting that the MPO explore other alternatives to fund the Kerr Avenue project from Randall Parkway to Oleander Drive. Mr. Kozlosky said the resolution modifies the desires of the MPO and encourages the Department to continue with efforts to fund the project.

Ms. Avery made the motion to support the resolution encouraging NCDOT to fund the Kerr Avenue widening from Randall Parkway to Wrightsville Avenue and the extension of Kerr Avenue to Oleander Drive and forward to the TAC for consideration. Ms. Williams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

c. Resolution encouraging the Governor, North Carolina General Assembly and North Carolina Department of Transportation to fund the Hampstead Bypass if the General Assembly approves the borrowing of \$1 Billion for rural transportation projects

Mr. Kozlosky told members that when Governor McCrory unveiled the 25-year plan for NDOT, he proposed borrowing \$1 Billion to fund rural transportation project. Mr. Kozlosky said there are questions regarding support for the proposal by the Legislature. However, if the Legislature supports the Governor's proposal, staff wanted to be prepared. Because the Hampstead Bypass was not identified on the list as a potential project, the resolution is to request that it be funded through this initiative if the General Assembly approves borrowing the funds. Mr. Kozlosky noted the Pender County Commissioners adopted a similar resolution.

Ms. O'Hare made the motion to encourage the Governor, North Carolina General Assembly and North Carolina Department of Transportation to fund the Hampstead Bypass if the General Assembly approves the borrowing of \$1 Billion for rural transportation projects. Mr. Serkin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

6. Discussion

a. Cape Fear Transportation 2040

- I. Follow-up on Bike, Pedestrian, Aviation, Roadway and Financial
- II. Freight/Rail
- III. Ferry
- IV. Mass Transportation

Ms. Rashid, Ms Harrington and Ms. Windle presented a comprehensive update on the progress made to date on the Cape Fear Transportation 2040 Plan. Staff presented the recommendations from the Ferry Modal Subcommittee, the Freight/Rail Modal Committee and the Mass Transit Modal Subcommittee, as well as additional information on potential alternative funding mechanisms.

b. Strategic Transportation Investment Results (Regional and Division Tiers)

Mr. Kozlosky told members that NCDOT will release the draft STIP on December 3rd. The scoring matrix is included in the packet for review.

7. Updates

Updates are included in the agenda packet.

8. Announcements

9. Adjournment

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 11:33am.

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.