

**Wilmington Urban Area  
Technical Coordinating Committee  
Meeting Notes for March 12, 2014**

**Members Present:**

Mike Kozlosky, Wilmington MPO  
Robert Waring, Town of Leland  
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County  
Kyle Breuer, Pender County  
Allen Serkin, CFCOG  
Pat Walsh, Town of Belville  
Stephanie Ayers, NC Ports  
Don Bennett, City of Wilmington  
Nora McCann, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch

Adrienne Harrington, TDM Coordinator  
Karyn Crichton, New Hanover County  
Ed Parvin, Town of Carolina Beach  
Megan Matheny, WAVE Transit  
Michelyn Alston, Town of Navassa  
Patrick Riddle, NCDOT Division 3  
Nancy Avery, Town of Kure Beach

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 10:07am.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for the January 15, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously.

**3. Presentation**

**a. Transportation Demand Management**

Ms. Harrington gave a presentation on the Transportation Demand Management Program. She reviewed the goals and objectives set by the Committee. Ms. Harrington told members that staff will continue analyzing data in preparation for writing the 5-year and 25-year plans.

**b. Cape Fear Transportation 2040**

Ms. Suraiya Rashid gave a presentation on the Cape Fear Transportation 2040. She updated members on the continuing progress by the modal subcommittees. Ms Rashid noted that the adoption process for the plan will begin in January 2015.

**4. Consent Agenda**

**a. Opening of the 30-day public comment period for STIP/MTIP Amendment**

Ms. Bunch made the motion to open the 30-day public comment period for the STIP/MTIP Amendment and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**5. New Business**

**a. Resolution amending the 2013-2014 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Mr. Kozlosky told members staff proposes to amend the 2013-2014 UPWP to increase the expenditures in the Traffic Count Volume line item in the amount of \$10,000 and reduce the amount in the Special Studies line item by \$10,000. He noted that this is based on the expenditures to date and the anticipated expenditures through the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Breuer made the motion to amend the 2013-2014 UPWP and forward to the TAC for consideration. Ms. Harrington seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**b. Resolution approving the 2014-2015 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the MPO's budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year includes Section 5303 funds and \$200,000 in flex funds from the STP-DA program. The budget identifies \$70,000 in Special Studies line item, but the studies have not been identified to date. He stated that staff did not receive any comments during the public comment period.

Ms. McCann made the motion to approve the 2014-2015 Unified Planning Work Program and forward to the TAC for consideration. Ms. Avery seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**c. Resolution certifying the Transportation Planning Process**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the MPO is required to conduct the transportation planning process in a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive manner per Federal code. The MPO is required to be in compliance with Title 6 of the Civil Rights Act and also in compliance/consideration of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and the Americans with Disabilities. The MPO is required to have an adopted transportation plan. Our planning horizon is 2035. The resolution certifies that we are in compliance with the Transportation Planning Process.

Mr. Breuer made the motion certifying the Transportation Planning Process and forward to the TAC for consideration. Ms. Matheny seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**d. Resolution supporting New Hanover County's application to be a participant in the "Watch for Me NC" Campaign**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that NCDOT has created the "Watch for Me NC" campaign to reduce pedestrian and bicycle injuries and deaths through a comprehensive and targeted approach for public education and police enforcement. New Hanover County has expressed an interest in applying to be a participant in the campaign.

Ms. Crichton provided an overview on the County's efforts in the application process. If approved, New Hanover will act as the lead-agency for the campaign. The application is due by April 17<sup>th</sup> and the campaign will kick off in conjunction with the start of the school year in August.

Ms. Matheny made the motion to support New Hanover County's application to be a participant in the "Watch for Me NC" campaign and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**e. Resolution adopting the minimum problem statements for new projects in Prioritization 3.0**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that each of the new projects submitted for Prioritization 3.0 must include a minimum problem statement. The problem statements are required for the prioritizing process.

Ms. Rashid told members that in crafting the minimum problem statements, she and Ms. McCann looked at crash rates, volumes, capacities and the existing travel demand modal to get the projected 2035 volumes and then they developed the narrative to justify why each project is needed.

Mr. Breuer noted that the problem statement only addresses volume in the narrative for the NC 210/ Island Creek Road intersection improvements. He suggested adding language regarding the safety issues contributing to the crash rate.

Mr. Breuer made the motion to adopt the minimum problem statements for new projects in Prioritization 3.0, with the addition of language regarding safety issues for the NC 210 and SR1002/Island Creek Road intersection improvements and forward to the TAC for consideration. Ms. McCann seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**f. Resolution requesting the Wilmington MPO as the federal designee for Section 5310 funding**

Ms. Rashid told members the Wilmington MPO receives a direct allocation for Section 5310 funding as a TMA; however, the designated recipient of the funds must be declared. Staff has been working with the FTA and CFPTA on the process for declaring a designee. When the group looked at other TMAs across the state, they found that the MPOs themselves were seeking to become the designated recipients. This funding source is more grant-like and a mechanism must be developed to disperse the funds. The first step is asking the Secretary of Transportation for designated recipient status.

Ms. Avery made the motion to support the resolution requesting that the Wilmington MPO serve as the federal designee for Section 5310 funding and forward to the TAC for consideration. Mr. Serkin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**g. Resolution supporting the increase in tolling fares for the Fort Fisher/Southport Ferry**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that in 2013 the General Assembly mandated that new ferry acquisitions be funded through the Strategic Transportation Investment or by revenue raising initiatives such as tolling, advertising and concessions. The NCBOT approved a tolling methodology that will toll routes by distance traveled and will raise approximately \$5 million a year for ferry replacements. All money collected will go only toward new ferry vessels and ferry improvements.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that because the Fort Fisher/Southport Ferry is currently tolled, the MPO and RPO in this region are not required to adopt resolutions supporting the tolling methodology. However, NCDOT is asking for support to increase the tolling fares for the Fort Fisher/Southport ferry. The funds generated from the tolls would go into an account specifically for the Fort Fisher/Southport ferry.

Mr. Breuer asked if a public hearing was held on the rate increase. Mr. Kozlosky said a public hearing was held in Southport.

Mr. Bennett made the motion to support the increase in tolling fares for the Fort Fisher/Southport ferry and forward to the TAC for consideration. Ms. Bunch seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**h. Resolution supporting the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant for the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority (CFPTA)**

Mr. Kozlosky told members on March 4<sup>th</sup> USDOT announced a call for TIGER Grant funding. CFPTA desires to apply for the grant for the replacement of up to 16 buses with compressed natural gas buses. Mr. Kozlosky noted that the application is due by April 28<sup>th</sup>

Mr. Walsh made the motion to support the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant for the CFPTA and forward to the TAC for consideration. Ms. Harrington seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

## **5. Discussion**

### **a. Surface Transportation Program-Direct Attributable and Transportation Alternatives Program-Direct attributable Selection Criteria**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the MPO has now completed the second year of the STP-DA and TAP-DA funding cycles using the established selection criteria to evaluate projects. Staff has had inquiries regarding modifications to the scoring criteria.

Ms. Harrington asked members for suggestions on how the STP-DA and TAP-DA process might be improved.

Mr. Breuer told members that it's very difficult for county governments when looking at funding structures for the local match. He asked if it's possible to work with a specific developer who may have an interest in the infrastructure surrounding their project. If a developer could partially design or get a project to an engineering level, could a county government then obtain a few more points through this process?

Mr. Kozlosky reminded members that Federal law requires a 20% cash match.

Ms. Crichton told members New Hanover County didn't have the full 20% cash match. They had a project in the Middle Sound Area that the developer had committed \$10,000 for the construction of some facilities. They were able to take that money and the County added additional funds, and that became the 20% match. They were successfully awarded funding through the program.

Ms. Harrington told members that the developer must provide cash, not the commitment to do the design or engineering.

Mr. Kozlosky reminded members that the committee also needs to consider the Modal Target Investment Strategies. This money is coming out of the Division tier of the STI, and if the funds are put on Division projects, it impacts our Division funding allocation. If funds are put on regional projects, it does not impact our funding allocation. The question becomes what regional projects qualify for the STP-DA monies.

Mr. Kozlosky told members he will open the discussion with TAC members at their next meeting to get their thoughts before we make a determination. He will bring back the TAC's comments to the next meeting.

## **6. Updates**

Updates are included in the agenda packet.

## **7. Announcements**

## **8. Adjournment**

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 11:18am.