

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
**Transportation Advisory Committee**  
**Date: January 30, 2013**

**Members Present:**

Laura Padgett, Chair, City of Wilmington  
Dean Lambeth, Vice-Chair, Town of Kure Beach  
Pat Batleman, Town of Leland  
Bill Sisson, Town of Wrightsville Beach  
Earl Sheridan, City of Wilmington  
Frank Williams, Brunswick County  
Joe Breault, Town of Belville  
Eulis Willis, Town of Navassa  
George Brown, Pender County  
Jonathan Barfield, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority

**Staff Present:**

Mike Kozlosky, Executive Director  
Tara Murphy, Associate Transportation Planner  
Suraiya Rashid, Associate Transportation Planner  
Bill McDow, Staff Engineer  
Adrienne Harrington, Transportation Planner

**1. Call to Order**

Ms Padgett called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM.

**2. Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes from the November 26, 2012 and December 12, 2012 meetings were approved unanimously.

**3. Public Comment Period**

Mr. Ricky Meeks addressed members regarding crosswalks at Greenville Loop Road and Oleander Drive. He told members that the bus stops are near the Arboretum and because of the heavy traffic he would like to request that pedestrian signals be installed to help citizens get across the road safely.

**4. Presentations**

**a. Cape Fear Public Transportation Route Restructuring**

Mr. Eby, Executive Director for the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority gave a presentation on their recently completed short-range transit plan. In an effort to better serve the needs of their passengers, the transit plan includes an update to the route structure. Since the last route restructure in 2008, they have experienced a huge increase in ridership. The new route structure will include service to the new VA Clinic, two busses traveling to Monkey Junction, and new service to Pleasure Island. They have also made changes to the

Brunswick Connector that will allow passengers access to more locations within Brunswick County. Mr. Eby noted that the new routes will be introduced on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Dr. Sheridan and Mr. Barfield expressed their concerns regarding the number of stops being eliminated in the Creekwood neighborhood as part of the restructuring. Mr. Eby said they will be closely monitoring the new route restructure. If they find that it has created an adverse impact on a significant numbers of passengers, they will make changes to address the problem.

**b. Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Program**

Ms. Harrington, Transportation Demand Coordinator for the WMPO gave a presentation on the efforts to revamp the TDM program. She told members that the TDM program will undergo some changes from the former Cape Fear Breeze TDM program. This will include modified outreach strategies and rebranding the program to create a closer connection to WAVE Transit. The carpooling website, transit, and walking and biking options will be promoted to various community organizations beginning in March 2013.

**5. Old Business**

No items

**6. New Business**

Mr. Sisson told members an item has come to his attention concerning the entrance into the Town of Wrightsville Beach. He requested adding the item to the agenda. Mr. Frank Williams made the motion to add Mr. Sisson's item of new business to the agenda. Ms. Batleman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**a. Election of Officers**

Ms. Padgett opened the floor to nominations for Chair and Vice-chair of the TAC. Mr. Barfield nominated Ms. Padgett as Chair and Dr. Sheridan seconded the nomination. Mr. Williams made the motion to close the nominations and Ms. Padgett was elected as TAC Chairman unanimously.

Mr. Williams nominated Mr. Dean Lambeth as Vice-chair and Mr. Sisson seconded the nomination. With no other nominations, Ms. Padgett made the motion to close the nominations and Mr. Lambeth was elected Vice-chair of the TAC unanimously.

**b. Resolution supporting a study of a greenway between Fayetteville and Wilmington**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that a collation of MPO and RPO directors, Town Managers, and other staff along the corridor between Fayetteville and Wilmington requested support to conduct a study to evaluate the feasibility of developing a greenway to link Wilmington and Fayetteville.

Mr. Williams asked what the estimated cost of the study would be and who would pay for the study. Mr. Kozlosky said they do not have an estimate at this time and it has not yet been determined who pay for the study. This resolution is an effort to identify if there is support for conducting the study. He told members that the MPOs, RPOs and all the municipalities

along the corridor will also consider a resolution of support for the study. Ms. Padgett noted that the request to pay for a study would come back to the board if the study is supported.

Mr. Williams suggested making an amendment to the resolution. He said in the final paragraph, he would change the wording where it says “.....supports and recommends a study...” to “.....supports and recommends securing proposals for a study”. He made the motion to adopt the resolution with the changes as proposed. Mr. Breault seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**c. Resolution supporting the City of Wilmington’s application for the 2013 Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant**

Mr. Williams made the motion to approve the resolution supporting the City of Wilmington’s application for the 2013 Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant. Mr. Sisson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**d. Resolution requesting the North Carolina Department of Transportation provide funding to assist with the construction of a walkway under the Hiede-Trask drawbridge**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the Gary Shell Cross-City Trail begins Wade Park and terminates at the Hiede-Trask drawbridge at Wrightsville Beach. Mr. Kozlosky noted that where it terminates creates a conflict point with limited shoulder width. The Wrightsville Sound Small Area Plan supports a public walkway underneath the drawbridge to provide an improved crossing for cyclist and pedestrians under Wrightsville Avenue. The resolution requests NCDOT to assist by providing some funding toward the construction of the facility.

Mr. Sisson told members the Town of Wrightsville Beach Board of Alderman support the project.

Mr. Barfield made the motion to adopt the resolution requesting the North Carolina Department of Transportation provide funding to assist with the construction of a walkway under the Hiede-Trask drawbridge. Mr. Breault seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**e. Resolution requesting US 421 be designated as a Strategic Highway Corridor between Wilmington and Dunn**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the North Carolina Department of Transportation has a Strategic Highway Corridor Vision Plan for the State and Southeastern North Carolina. It identifies corridors that are strategic in nature for the movement of people and goods and evacuation routes. Currently the 94 miles of US 421 between Dunn and Greensboro are part of the North Carolina Strategic Highway Corridors; however, the section of US 421 between Dunn and Wilmington is not included in the vision plan. NCDOT will be updating the Strategic Highway Corridor Vision Plan and the resolution requests that they consider this section of roadway to be identified as a strategic highway corridor. Mr. Kozlosky told members the resolution originated with the Town of Clinton and is supported by the Mid-Carolina RPO.

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the resolution requesting US 421 be designated as a Strategic Highway Corridor between Wilmington and Dunn. Mr. Sisson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ms. Batleman told members she considers NC 133 to be a strategic highway because it provides access to Sunny Point and the nuclear power plant. She asked that NC 133 be considered for addition to the Strategic Highway Corridor Vision Plan. Mr. Kozlosky said staff will bring a resolution requesting NC 133 be included in the strategic plan to the next meeting.

**f. Resolution adopting the Alderman Elementary Safe Routes to School Plan**

Mr. Kozlosky told members this is a pilot project for a concept in looking at Safe Routes to School planning. Staff worked closely with the school community at Alderman Elementary to identify problems and solutions. New Hanover County Board of Education adopted the plan at their meeting in January. The long-term vision for the program is to take a more-holistic approach by involving other organizations such as law enforcement, the public health department, traffic engineering, along with the school community and the WMPO.

No one made a motion regarding the resolution; therefore, the item will come back for consideration at the next meeting.

**g. Resolution supporting “No Through Truck” restriction on certain streets in the City of Wilmington**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the resolution originated from the North Carolina Department of Transportation. They have requested support from the MPO and the City of Wilmington on a “No Through Truck” restriction on certain streets within the City of Wilmington. He noted that if the truck driver has a destination along any of the routes, they would be permitted on those facilities; however, if they are just traveling through the city on the routes with no destination along the route, they will not be permitted. Mr. Breault told members he hoped there will be a grace period before sighting truck drivers with a heavy fine for an honest mistake. Ms. Padgett said this item will come before the Wilmington City Council and she will request that the police give a grace period.

Ms. Padgett made the motion to adopt the resolution supporting “No Through Truck” restriction on certain streets in the City of Wilmington. Mr. Sisson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**h. Opening of 30-day public comment period on the 2014 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Sisson made the motion to open the 30-day public comment period on the 2014 Unified Planning Work Program. Dr. Sheridan seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**i. Creation of the Crossing over the Cape Fear River Work Group**

Ms. Padgett told members she had notified members of the appointment Mr. Breault, Mr. Sisson and herself to form a liaison committee to work with NCDOT on the Crossing over the Cape Fear River Environmental Impact Statement. She said this sub-committee will bring back information from the merger process meetings and give the TAC an opportunity to voice concerns as the Department moves through the process.

Mr. Kozlosky told members he would like to ask that they formalize the workgroup with a motion and a vote. Mr. Williams made a motion to create a Crossing over the Cape Fear Work Group with Mr. Breault, Mr. Sisson and Ms. Padgett as the members representing the Transportation Advisory Committee. Mr. Lambeth seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Lambeth asked that the work group update TAC members at each meeting. Ms. Padgett asked Mr. Kozlosky to add that to the monthly agenda.

## **7. Discussion**

### **a. Workshop Date (Merger Discussion and NCDOT Division 3 Organization)**

Mr. Kozlosky told members there were scheduling conflicts with holding the workshop on February 12<sup>th</sup>. He offered alternative dates of February 18<sup>th</sup> or February 21<sup>st</sup>. Members decided that Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup> was the best choice for the workshop.

Mr. Sisson made the motion to amend the calendar to hold the Merger discussion and NCDOT Division 3 Organizational Workshop on Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm. Mr. Willis seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### **b. Metropolitan Transportation Plan**

Ms. Rashid told members that the MTP is due in March of 2015 and staff will be bringing regular updates to the TCC and TAC on the plan's progress going forward. She noted that the most recent discussions on the MTP included the composition of the sub-committees that will develop the project recommendations for the plan, as well as the public involvement approach for the plan. These sub-committees will be based around the different modal units, Transportation Demand Management and Transportation Systems Management. The sub-committees will be responsible for collecting and analyzing data and coming up with initial recommendations for the projects and needs of the stakeholders in the different modal units. The public involvement process will include using local media, TV and radio if possible. The process will also rely heavily on a survey, similar to the one used for the 2035 LRTP, presentations to schools and PTAs, civic clubs and organizations, neighborhood associations, information booths at public outreach events and web-links to the plan information.

### **c. Transportation Alternatives Funding Discussion**

Ms Rashid told members that the MPO will receive Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funding in the amount of \$222,000 annually. It is similar to the STP-DA funding allocation and there is a requirement for a competitive process to be developed for these funds. TAP is a combination of several SAFETEA-LU programs (Safe Routes to School Program, Recreational Trails Program and the Transportation Enhancement Program) and there is broad eligibility for the funds. Staff is requesting direction on how to create a competitive process, to determine requirements and criteria, and develop how to prioritize the funding requests.

Ms. Rashid reviewed four options for creating the competitive process: 1.) excluding STP-DA Eligible Projects 2.) select one type of project 3.) exclude programmatic activities 4.) use existing STP-DA Modal investment targets. She told member that the TCC recommended using the existing STP-DA Modal investment targets for allocating the TAP funds. She noted that this process can be revised next year if desired.

The consensus of the TAC members was for staff to use the existing STP-DA competitive process developed and adopted for evaluation of bicycle and pedestrian projects for the FY

13 allocation of TAP-DA funds as recommended by the TCC. Mr. Kozlosky said he will bring the resolution to the next meeting for consideration.

**d. MPO/RPO Ethics Information**

Ms. Padgett reviewed the ethics requirements and deadline requirements for compliance to the new laws.

**8. Updates**

Project updates for the Wilmington MPO/City of Wilmington, CFPTA and NCDOT are included in the agenda packet.

**9. Announcements**

**Added agenda item**

Mr. Sisson told members the drawbridge construction project at Wrightsville Beach is causing significant disruptions to traffic. He said Mayor Cignotti contacted Chief Evangelous and was told that the Wilmington Police Department has a plan to help deal with the disruptions. Mr. Sisson said he would like to ask for assistance in getting the two police departments to coordinate their efforts in dealing with the problem.

Mr. Sisson told members there was a serious accident on the west side of the bridge where vehicles are allowed to make a left turn onto Airlie Road. The left-turning movement often causes a traffic back-up on the east side of the bridge. Unfortunately vehicles have to stop at the bottom of the bridge which creates the potential for conflicts. Mr. Sisson said his Board is asking if it is possible to close the left turn onto and out of Airlie Road for the duration of the construction.

Ms. Fussell told members the Department will be looking at the issue and the suggestion to help alleviate some of the dangers at the construction site. Ms. Padgett suggested that Mr. Kozlosky send a letter on behalf of the TAC to the Department in support of the suggested closure.

Mr. Sisson made a motion to ask NCDOT to close the left-turn onto and off of Airlie Road until the project is finished. Mr. Breault seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**10. Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM

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.**