

Meeting Minutes
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
Transportation Advisory Committee
Date: December 11, 2013

Members Present:

Laura Padgett, Chair, City of Wilmington
Bill Sisson, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Scott Phillips, Brunswick County
Earl Sheridan, City of Wilmington
Dean Lambeth, Town of Kure Beach
Eulis Willis, Town of Navassa
Joe Breault, Town of Belville
Pat Batleman, Town of Leland
Gary Doetsch, Town of Carolina Beach
Jonathan Barfield, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority

Staff Present:

Mike Kozlosky, Executive Director
Suraiya Rashid, Associate Transportation Planner
Corey Knight, Project Engineer
Bethany Windle, Associate Transportation Planner
Jill Stark, FHWA

1. Call to Order

Ms. Padgett called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

2. Conflict of Interest Reminder

Ms. Padgett asked if any members had a conflict of interest with any items on the meeting agenda. No members reported having a conflict of interest.

3. Approval of Minutes

With no corrections or additions, the minutes for the October 30th meeting were approved unanimously.

4. Public Comment Period

Mr. Andy Koeppel addressed members regarding the Multi-modal Center. He told members he is concerned because the project does not seem to be moving forward. Mr. Koeppel said it's important that State funding for the project be earmarked in order to apply for Federal funds. He asked TAC members to take every opportunity to advocate for the project with political leaders they may come in contact with over the upcoming holidays.

Mr. Bob Corrison addressed members regarding the installation of new speed limit signs on US 17 near Brunswick Forest. He told members he wanted to personally thank Ms. Karen Fussell, with NCDOT for her assistance in placing the 45 mph speed limit signs on US 17 at Brunswick Forest. He told members he would like to request that the Department consider taking the speed limit sign at the Wal-Mart entrance on US 17 and move it back .6 of a mile to expand the reduction in speed limit area.

Ms. Fussell asked Mr. Corrison call her office to discuss his request.

5. Presentation

a. Strategic Mobility Formula

Mr. Patrick Riddle gave a presentation on the new Strategic Mobility Formula. He told members that Governor McCrory's plan to emphasize Education, Efficiency and Economy is the centerpiece of the new legislation to funding transportation infrastructure needs. The plan will help guide the state in strategically investing resources to ensure that state, regional and local transportation priorities are met. Mr. Riddle told members he will send a copy of the presentation to Mr. Kozlosky so that he may email it to TAC members.

6. Old Business

a. Resolution adopting the Federal Functional Classification Maps

Mr. Kozlosky told members that several concerns were brought up at the last TAC meeting regarding the Federal Function Classification maps. He stated that staff incorporated the changes suggested by members, as well as changes requested from the Pender County Planning Department.

Mr. Sisson asked if the upgrade to the road's status will make it more eligible for widening or other type of improvements in the future. Mr. Kozlosky told members the upgrade would allow the use of Federal funds on some of those roads that would not be allowed currently.

Ms. Batleman made the motion to adopt the Functional Classification maps. Mr. Sisson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

b. Resolution adopting the Roadways projects for submittal in Prioritization 3.0

Mr. Kozlosky told members that 7 new projects have been added to submittal list for Prioritization 3.0 as requested at the last meeting. The list now includes the four intersection improvement projects, along with the two additional projects from the Town of Leland and a project from Pender County. He noted that project submittals are due in the system between January 21st and February 17th.

Dr. Sheridan asked for clarification on the Independence Boulevard extension project. Mr. Kozlosky said that the project is from Randall Parkway out to Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway. Ms. Padgett noted that the project will use the Covil Avenue right-of-way, cross over Market Street and use the Montgomery Street right-of-way, going all the way over to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway. Mr. Barfield asked if there was a plan to eventually buy the properties on Montgomery Street. Ms. Padgett said it would be necessary to build the road but the project is currently unfunded.

Dr. Sheridan asked if members are voting on this. Ms. Padgett replied that members are voting to submit the list of roadway projects for Prioritization 3.0 but priority hasn't been assigned to the projects.

Ms. Batleman made the motion to adopt the list of Roadway projects for submittal in Prioritization 3.0. Mr. Breault seconded the motion and it carried with 9 members voting in favor and Dr. Sheridan voting in opposition to the motion.

7. New Business

a. Resolution adopting the revised submittal of Bicycle and Pedestrian projects for submittal in Prioritization 3.0

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the revised submittal list for Bicycle and Pedestrian projects for Prioritization 3.0 was adopted by the Bike/Ped Committee. The list was recommended for approval by TCC members at their last meeting.

Mr. Barfield made the motion to adopt the revised submittal of Bicycle and Pedestrian projects for submittal in Prioritization 3.0. Mr. Breault seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

b. Resolution supporting the submittal of Rail projects for consideration in Prioritization 3.0

Mr. Barfield made the motion to support the submittal of Rail projects for consideration in Prioritization 3.0. Ms. Batleman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

c. Resolution supporting the submittal of Ferry projects for consideration in Prioritization 3.0

Mr. Breault made the motion to support the submittal of Ferry projects for consideration in Prioritization 3.0. Mr. Sisson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

d. Resolution supporting the Town of Leland's application for the 2014 Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative

Mr. Sisson made the motion to support the Town of Leland's application for the 2014 Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative. Mr. Breault seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

e. Resolution adopting the Congestion Management Process for the Wilmington MPO

Ms. Rashid told members as part of the requirements as a new TMA, the Wilmington MPO must adopt a Congestion Management Process (CMP). That process must define what congestion means in our region and create strategies to reduce the congestion. She noted that the CMP will be updated every two years.

Ms. Batleman suggested a change on page 7, paragraph 5. The document states "The Cape Fear River has only two bridges connecting Brunswick County to the rest of the WMPO planning area." She suggested deleting the word "only" and then add after "two bridges" ".....with a third bridge, completing the Dan Cameron Bridge crossing at the I-140, which is scheduled for completion by 2017,....."

Mr. Sisson suggested also including a statement regarding the need for a 4th bridge.

Mr. Kozlosky told members the document can be modified to reflect those change; however, we are required by Federal law to adopt the CMP by January 14th.

Ms. Padgett made the motion to adopt the Congestion Management Process for the Wilmington MPO with the changes in the wording regarding the third bridge as stated by Ms. Batleman, and addition of a fourth crossing is needed to help reduce congestion. Mr. Breault seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

f. **Resolution authorizing an agreement between the Wilmington MPO, City of Wilmington and Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority to provide funding to the Cape fear Public Transportation Authority for Long-Range Transportation Planning**

Mr. Kozlosky told members this is an annual agreement between the Wilmington MPO, City of Wilmington and Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority (CFPTA) for the distribution of the 5303 funds received from NCDOT. 65% of those funds are proposed to go to CFPTA for long-range transit planning.

Ms. Batleman made the motion to adopt the agreement between the Wilmington MPO, City of Wilmington and Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority to provide funding to the Cape fear Public Transportation Authority for long-range transportation planning. Dr. Sheridan seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

g. **Resolution requesting that NCDOT consider lowering the speed limit to 35 MPH on Salisbury Street and other roadways within the Town of Wrightsville Beach's municipal limits on or adjacent to the Heide Trask drawbridge**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the request originated with the Town of Wrightsville Beach.

Mr. Sisson told members the actual speed of cars on that road averages between 36 to 38 mph, rather than the posted 45 mph limit. The decrease will help reduce confusion due to the varying posted speed limits currently on the road.

Mr. Sisson made the motion to request that NCDOT consider lowering the speed limit to 35 MPH on Salisbury Street and other roadways within the Town of Wrightsville Beach's municipal limits on or adjacent to the Heide Trask drawbridge. Mr. Lambeth seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

h. **Resolution supporting NCDOT to conduct a speed study to determine the appropriate speed on Eastwood Road, Wrightsville Avenue and Causeway Drive from the intersection of Pavilion Drive/Eastwood Road to Keel Street and supports lowering the speed limit if the study deems it appropriate**

Mr. Barfield made the motion to support NCDOT to conduct a speed study to determine the appropriate speed on Eastwood Road, Wrightsville Avenue and Causeway Drive from the intersection of Pavilion Drive/Eastwood Road to Keel Street and supports lowering the speed limit if the study deems it appropriate. Ms. Batleman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

i. **Resolution requesting NCDOT consider placing Lumina Avenue, Waynick Avenue and North Lumina Avenue on the 5-year resurfacing plan**

Mr. Barfield made the motion to request NCDOT consider placing Lumina Avenue, Waynick Avenue and North Lumina Avenue on the 5-year resurfacing plan. Mr. Breault seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

j. Resolution supporting NCDOT to pursue safety funds for the preliminary engineering costs to study access improvements in the vicinity of the interchange at the US 17 Wilmington Bypass and US 17 Business (Market Street)

Dr. Sheridan made the motion to support NCDOT in pursuing safety funds for the preliminary engineering costs to study access improvements in the vicinity of the interchange at the US 17 Wilmington Bypass and US 17 Business (Market Street). Mr. Sisson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

k. Resolution adopting the STIP/MTIP Administrative Modifications(October)

Mr. Sisson made the motion to adopt the STIP/MTIP Administrative Modifications (October). Ms. Batleman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

l. Resolution adopting the 2014 Meeting Calendar

Mr. Sisson made the motion to adopt the 2014 meeting calendar. Dr. Sheridan seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

m. Opening of the 30-day Public Comment Period for STIP/MTIP Amendments (December)

Dr. Sheridan made the motion to open the 30-day Public Comment Period for STIP/MTIP Amendments (December). Ms. Batleman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

8. Discussion

a. NC Ferry Division Route Restructuring – Southport to Ft. Fisher

Mr. Kozlosky told members staff was approached by the NC Ferry Division regarding the route restructure request from the US Coast Guard. This will also provide a cost-saving to the Ferry System.

b. MPO Local Input Point Methodology

Mr. Kozlosky told members the MPO has the ability to assign 1500 points at the Regional, as well as the Division levels. The process must be both data driven, as well as provide local input. It must be quantitative, as well as qualitative.

Mr. Kozlosky reviewed the proposed input methodology process as outlined in the memo. He told members that the Department must review and approve the methodology process by May 1st. He stated that if members agree that staff is moving in the right direction, the proposed methodology will be submitted to DOT for review. Following that review, staff will bring DOT's comments back at the January meeting.

Dr. Sheridan made the motion to support the MPO's local input point methodology process as proposed by staff. Ms. Batleman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

9. Updates

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

10. Announcements

11. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:23 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.**