

Meeting Minutes
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
Transportation Advisory Committee
Date: February 27, 2013

Members Present:

Pat Batleman, Town of Leland
Bill Sisson, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Earl Sheridan, City of Wilmington
Joe Breault, Town of Belville
Eulis Willis, Town of Navassa
David Williams, Pender County
Jonathan Barfield, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority
Woody White, New Hanover County

Staff Present:

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

1. Call to Order

Mr. Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM. He told members that due to the absence of the Chair and Vice-chair, members would need to elect a temporary chairman for the meeting. He opened to floor for nominations. Mr. Williams nominated Mr. Sisson. With no other nominations, Mr. Williams made the motion to close the nominations and elect Mr. Sisson as Temporary Chairman for the meeting. Ms. Batleman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

2. Ethics Statement

Mr. Sisson read the conflict of interest statement and asked if members had any conflicts of interest with respect to the matters on the meeting agenda. There were no conflicts of interest reported.

3. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the January 30, 2013 meetings were approved unanimously.

4. Public Comment Period

Mr. Andy Koeppel addressed members regarding the resolution supporting the Brunswick Riverwalk Project. He told members that he would like to encourage supporters of the project to issue a press release so the general public is made aware of the project in order to galvanize additional support from the entire region for the proposed riverwalk.

5. Old Business

a. Resolution supporting the adoption of the Alderman Elementary Safe Routes to School Plan

Mr. Kozlosky told members due to lack of a motion and a second for the resolution at the last meeting, he is bringing it back for consideration. Mr. Barfield made the motion to adopt the

Alderman Elementary Safe Routes to School Plan. Dr. Sheridan seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

6. New Business

a. Resolution supporting the Greenfield Lake Culvert Replacement

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the NCDOT is planning to replace the culvert at the intersection of US 421, Front Street and Burnette Boulevard. The existing culvert was constructed in 1940 and widened in 1955. It was damaged in 1999 by Hurricane Floyd. The Department intends to replace the culvert using bridge maintenance and small construction funds.

Mr. Breault made the motion to adopt the resolution supporting the replacement of the Greenfield Lake culvert. Ms Batleman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

b. Resolution supporting NC Highway 133 as a Strategic Highway Corridor

Mr. Kozlosky told members the North Carolina Department of Transportation has a Strategic Highway Corridor Vision Plan for the State and Southeastern North Carolina, and will be updating the Vision Plan. Mr. Kozlosky noted that at the last meeting, the TAC members requested that NC Highway 133 be considered for addition to the Strategic Highway Corridor Vision Plan. NC Highway 133 is critical to fostering economic prosperity and efficient movement of people and goods in the region. It also serves as an important connection that provides access to Sunny Point and the Progress Energy's nuclear power plant. It has also been designated as an All American Defense Highway.

Mr. Sisson told members the Town of Wrightsville Beach passed a resolution supporting the designation. Ms. Batleman and Dr. Sheridan noted that their respective boards also supported the designation by also passing the resolution.

Ms. Batleman made the motion to adopt the resolution requesting the addition of NC Highway 133 to the NCDOT Strategic Highway Corridor Vision Plan. Mr. Breault seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

c. Resolution supporting the Brunswick Riverwalk Project

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the Town of Belville would like to construct a riverwalk development project that will include a kayak launch, fishing pier, boardwalk, viewing towers, bicycle and pedestrian facilities and parking.

Mr. Breault told members that the Town of Belville considers this to be an economic engine for the entire tri-county region and will be a public/private partnership. He said CAMA and the Department of Natural Resources have flagged the area and they are in the process of doing a 404 survey. He noted that the Town of Belville passed a resolution supporting the project. He told members that the project cost for the project will be \$2.45 million. The private partnership has agreed to invest \$1.5 million. The Town is also seeking funds for the project through grant opportunities and they are asking the TAC to support the initiative.

Mr. Barfield made the motion to approve the resolution supporting the Brunswick Riverwalk Project. Ms. Batleman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

d. Resolution adopting the Transportation Alternatives Program-Direct Attributable Funding Competitive Process

Mr. Kozlosky told members at the last meeting staff was directed to proceed with utilizing the Surface Transportation Program-Direct Attributable criteria for Bicycle and Pedestrian projects and to use the criteria set out in the STP-DA evaluation criteria process for Transportation Alternatives funding. Mr. Sisson asked if the funds will be renewed each year. Mr. Kozlosky said it's an annual direct attributable and as part of this DA allocation, we're required by federal law to develop a competitive process.

Dr. Sheridan made the motion to adopt the Transportation Alternatives Program-Direct Attributable Funding Competitive Process. Mr. Breault seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

e. Resolution supporting the addition of an Accountant position within the Wilmington MPO

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the new Transportation Management Area (TMA) designation will require additional staff time to properly monitor, verify and record expenditures allocated between the multiple funding sources, and to bill member jurisdictions for their share of costs related to the grants and direct allocation funding. The accountant will monitor the Section PL 104 and Section 5303 funding that staff is currently receiving, along with the STP-DA funding requirements. Funding for the position is available through the STP-DA administrative costs that have been set aside.

Mr. White asked if there was a real need for the position. Mr. Sisson explained that when the change to the TMA designation occurred and money was allocated, he was concerned because smaller jurisdictions do not have staff available to support federal requirements for project monitoring. When the administration funds were set up, part of that 15% was to have staff at the MPO level who could furnish that kind of monitoring support; otherwise, the smaller jurisdictions wouldn't be submitting any projects.

Mr. White asked if the work over the last year or two has gotten to such a point that it's unmanageable with present circumstances. Mr. Kozlosky told members under the current operation, staff has seen an increase in the number of grants submitted and received. Additionally, the Federal Highway Administration is auditing more municipalities. They currently are auditing the Randall Parkway widening project and the Bradley Creek Elementary School sidewalk project. The federal requirements are more cumbersome and that, coupled with the creation of this special project fund within the City of Wilmington, has created the need for the position.

Mr. Breault made the motion to approve the resolution supporting the addition of an Accountant position within the Wilmington MPO. Dr. Sheridan seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

f. Opening of 30-day public comment period for the STIP/MTIP Amendments

Mr. Kozlosky told members per the Public Involvement Policy, we are required to conduct a public comment period on any STIP/MTIP amendments.

Ms. Batleman made the motion to open the 30-day public comment period for STIP/MTIP amendments. Mr. Breault seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

7. Discussion

a. Crossing over the Cape Fear River Work Group

Mr. Kozlosky told members that staff is currently working with NCDOT to schedule the first workgroup meeting. He told Mr. Sisson and Mr. Breault they tentative are looking at March 18th at 1:00pm. He noted that when the date has been confirmed, he will notify TAC members.

8. Updates

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

9. Announcements

10. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:52 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.**