

Meeting Minutes
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
Transportation Advisory Committee
Date: June 26, 2013

Members Present:

Laura Padgett, Chair, City of Wilmington
Dean Lambeth, Town of Kure Beach
Bill Sisson, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Steve Shuttleworth, Town of Carolina Beach
Frank Williams, Brunswick County
Eulis Willis, Town of Navassa
Earl Sheridan, City of Wilmington
Michael Lee, NC Board of Transportation
Jonathan Barfield, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority

Staff Present:

Mike Kozlosky, Executive Director
Suraiya Rashid, Associate Transportation Planner

1. Call to Order

Ms. Padgett called the meeting to order at 4:02pm.

2. Ethics Statement

Ms. Padgett 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 for May 29th were approved unanimously.

4. Public Comment Period

Mr. Andy Koepfel addressed members regarding the Governor's Strategic Mobility Formula. Mr. Koepfel told members he believes the new Strategic Mobility Formula will change the way transportation funds are distributed. He said he is concerned about projects that go beyond our Divisions, such as the upgrade of US 74/76 to Interstate standards and rail line restoration between Castle Hayne and Wallace. He noted that it will be important to communicate with other Divisions involved in these projects to ensure that they rise to the top of the priority list for funding.

5. July Meeting Discussion

Mr. Kozlosky told members due to the volume of business needing to come before the board, he would recommend scheduling a meeting in July.

Mr. Frank Williams made a motion to add a July 31st TAC meeting to the calendar. Mr. Sisson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

6. Old Business

a. Resolution supporting the allocation of STP-DA funds to the selected 2013 projects

Ms. Padgett told members she had received a request to table this item from Mr. White because he could not be in attendance for the meeting.

Mr. Frank Williams made a motion to table the resolution supporting the allocation of STP-DA funds to the next meeting on July 31st. Mr. Lambeth seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

7. New Business

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

Mr. Kozlosky told members the Federal Transit Administration desired to have the transit task codes included and broken out by task code in the UPWP. There are no changes to the funding in the budget.

Dr. Sheridan made the motion to amend the 2014 UPWP. Mr. Barfield seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

b. Resolution adopting the Cape Fear Commutes 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan Amendments

Mr. Kozlosky told members that many of the projects submitted for STP-DA funds are not included in the Cape Fear Commutes 2035 Long Range Transportation. Federal Highway Administration requires that the plan be fiscally constrained. Mr. Kozlosky noted that the TCC recommended removing several low ranking projects from the long range plan in order to allow the plan to remain fiscally constrained with the addition of the STP-DA projects approved earlier by the TAC. Projects recommended for removal were the multi-use path between Sturgeon Drive NE and Holly Hills Drive NE in Leland, a multi-use path along Night Harbor Drive SE in Leland, bicycle lanes along Pine Valley Drive in Wilmington, a multi-use path along Shuney Street in Wilmington, bicycle lanes along Dogwood Lane in Pender County, a multi-use path between Timber Lane and Grandiflora Drive in Leland, bicycle lanes along Collector C in Pender County, on-road bicycle lanes on Sidbury Road between Sidbury and US 17, on-road bicycle lanes on Griffith Road between west backage road and US 17 and a multi-use path along the CSX railroad between Navassa Road and US 421.

Mr. Sisson made the motion to adopt the Cape Fear Commutes 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan Amendments. Mr. Lambeth seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

c. Resolution adopting the Regional and Division Evaluation Criteria for the Strategic Transportation Investments

Ms. Rashid told members that the new Strategic Transportation Investment policy allows for quantitative, as well as qualitative and local input to be used for ranking the Regional and Division needs. The Statewide criteria would be ranked 100% on a data-driven process. The Regional criteria will be 70% data and 30% local input. Ms. Rashid noted that in the new policy, Division 3 is paired with Division 2 to create Region B. The Division criteria would be 50% data and 50% local input. She said the MPOs, RPOs and Divisions Engineers were given the opportunity to define their own quantitative criteria and formula

for the quantitative evaluation of Regional Impact Projects and Division Needs Projects. The Eastern Coalition workgroup met to discuss revising the quantitative criteria to better serve the area's plans. The workgroup recommended using the quantitative criteria of 25% Multimodal, 25% Safety and 20% Benefit Cost for the Regional Impact Projects. For the Division Needs Projects, they recommended using the 20% Safety, 20% Congestion and 10% Multimodal for the quantitative criteria. She told members that each of the MPOs and RPOs would have to adopt the same criteria across-the-board for the Regional as well as the Division criteria. If not, it would return to the default criteria currently being developed state-wide. Ms. Rashid noted that the criteria developed by the Eastern Coalition must be adopted by July 1st by all entities.

Mr. Kozlosky told members that to-date, the revised criteria suggested by the Eastern Coalition workgroup has passed each of the MPOs and RPOs in our Division but the Wilmington MPO and the Mid-Carolina RPO.

Mr. Frank Williams made the motion to adopt the Regional and Division Evaluation Criteria for the Strategic Transportation Investments as developed by the Eastern Coalition Workgroup. Dr. Sheridan seconded the motion. Mr. Lee told members that the Board of Transportation will be discussing this request at their next meeting and therefore he would abstain from voting. The motion carried with 8 members voting in favor and Mr. Lee abstaining.

d. Resolution supporting the Community Transformation Grant for the Town of Belville

Ms. Harrington told members that the Town of Belville is applying for a planning grant to create a master plan for the Brunswick Riverwalk Project on the west side of the Cape Fear River. The master plan is necessary to move forward with the project. The Town of Belville is requesting support for their grant application in the amount of \$19,000 to fund the development of the master plan. The Town approved a match of \$5,000.00 for the project.

Mr. Barfield made the motion to support the Community Transformation Grant for the Town of Belville. Mr. Sisson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

e. Resolution supporting the Community Transformation Grant for FOCUS

Ms. Harrington told members that FOCUS is submitting a grant application to request funding for the Cape Fear Regional Gaps Analysis for Active Living and Healthy Eating and they are seeking support for their application. The analysis will provide for data collection on factors to identify local areas that could benefit the most from active living and healthy eating opportunities. FOCUS is seeking support for their grant initiative.

Mr. Sisson made the motion to support the FOCUS' Community Transformation grant to fund the Cape Fear Regional Gaps Analysis for Active Living and Healthy Eating. Dr. Sheridan seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Frank Williams made the motion to open the 30-day Public Comment Period for the STIP/MTIP amendments. Mr. Sisson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

8. Discussion

a. Congestion Management Process and Regional Approach

Mr. Sisson told members this area is so compact and when we are talking about congestion management, one of his concerns is entities making decisions without consulting the other local jurisdictions that will be impacted by those decisions. He noted that it became apparent with the congestion related issues related to lane closures on the bridge into Wrightsville Beach. He told members he would like to make a pitch for a method of collaboration as we go forward with the Congestion Management Process development.

b. Call for 2013 Transportation Alternatives funding

Mr. Kozlosky told members that staff is working to develop the call for projects for Transportation Alternative funding. The request for projects will be issued in the next few weeks.

c. Crossing over the Cape Fear River Potential Alignments – Brunswick County

Mr. Kozlosky told members at the last merger team meeting, the team decided to expand the boundary to include the alternative that had been approved at the last TAC meeting. NCDOT is currently evaluating the alternative; however, the Department has agreed to sit down with the Town of Leland and look at other alternatives, possibly shifting that alignment slightly so it may come back to the TAC for an amendment to the alternative that is being studied.

9. Updates

a. Crossing over the Cape Fear River Work Group

Mr. Padgett told members the next work group meeting is July 22nd.

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

10. Announcements

11. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 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.**