

**Meeting Minutes (corrected)**  
**Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
**Transportation Advisory Committee**  
**Date: July 31, 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  
Joe Breault, Town of Belville  
Woody White, New Hanover County  
Pat Batleman, Town of Leland  
David Williams, Pender County  
Jonathan Barfield, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority

**Staff Present:**

Mike Kozlosky, Executive Director  
Suraiya Rashid, Associate Transportation Planner  
Adrienne Harrington, Transportation Planner

**1. Call to Order**

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

**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 June 26<sup>th</sup> were approved unanimously.

**4. Public Comment Period**

Mr. Bob Corrison addressed members regarding the speed limit on US 17 at Brunswick Forest. Mr. Corrison told members Brunswick Forest is no longer just a residential area. It has become a busy commercial area that is experiencing increased traffic volumes. The number of traffic accidents is also increasing. He asked TAC members to contact NCDOT on behalf of the Brunswick Forest residents to request a reduction in the speed limit to 45mph along that portion of US 17.

Mr. Andy Koeppel addressed members regarding the Governor's Strategic Mobility Formula. Mr. Koeppel told members he is concerned about the upgrade of US 74 to Interstate standards. He said that he spoke to NCDOT officials and the time table for consideration of statewide transportation projects is probably going to be sometime in September or October. Mr. Koeppel told members that it will be important to communicate with planning organizations between Wilmington and Asheville to make sure the project is ranked appropriately when the statewide projects are considered. It will be important to

create a united front for an important corridor project that will greatly benefit our community and the entire state.

## **5. Presentation**

### **a. 2013 Transportation Alternative Program– Direct Attributable(TAP-DA) Call for Projects**

Ms. Harrington gave a presentation on the application process for the 2013 Transportation Alternatives call for projects. She told members the WMPO will be receiving \$222,151.00 annually in TAP-DA funding. Ms. Harrington stated that the call for projects was released on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. In order to apply for the funds, projects must be administered locally and the project must be identified in the long range transportation plan. Projects will require a 20% cash match and a resolution of support from the local jurisdiction must be included with the application. The municipality will also be responsible for any project cost overruns and the design must meet Federal and State guidelines. Ms. Harrington noted that the minimum project cost will be \$100,000 due to administration costs. Jurisdictions can only apply for one project and construction authorization must be within 10 years. She said staff will be reviewing applications up until August 2<sup>nd</sup> in an effort to make sure the application is on track and in compliance with project guideline requirements. The deadline for project submittal is 5PM on August 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Sisson asked if the MPO will offer assistance regarding the local administration for the project. Mr. Kozlosky said yes but municipalities must have a point of contact who will be responsible for taking the project before the jurisdiction's town board.

Mr. Breault noted that it will be difficult for the smaller jurisdictions to meet the \$100,000 minimum expense requirement for a project. Mr. Sisson asked if contiguous jurisdictions can form joint projects. Ms. Stark with Federal Highway Administration told members that would not be problem.

Mr. Shuttleworth said he is also concerned about the \$100,000 minimum threshold for smaller towns like Carolina Beach. He told members that he was hoping we would be looking at something less than the \$100,000 minimum.

Ms. Padgett noted that the 20% match requirement may be a problem for smaller jurisdictions and asked if members would like to consider a different minimum project cost.

Mr. Breault made the motion to decrease the minimum project threshold to \$50,000. Mr. Sisson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ms. Padgett asked if staff could delay the deadline for pre-application submittal to August 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Kozlosky said that would not be a problem and he would send an email to WMPO members announcing the new timeframe and the decrease in the minimum project threshold amount.

## **6. Old Business**

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

Mr. Kozlosky told members at the May meeting TAC members asked staff to gauge the support of UNCW for a pedestrian overpass over S. College Road. Staff received a letter from Chancellor Gary Miller indicating that they are fully committed to working collaboratively to plan

and develop the project. Mr. Kozlosky noted that the project was submitted by the City of Wilmington during the call for STP-DA project.

Ms. Padgett told members she met with Chancellor Miller and Vice-Chancellor Maimone. They told her that they are willing to contribute to the project but they don't know what that would be yet because the project is not designed.

Mr. Lambeth asked when is the next University Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. Kozlosky told him they meet in August and October. Ms. Sharon Boyd with UNCW told members the University's Board will meet August 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Lambeth asked if there were any indications about how the University's Board of Trustees feel about the pedestrian overpass. Ms. Padgett told members the President of the Board of Trustees was at her meeting and she expressed her support for the project.

Mr. White told members he is not convinced that this is anything that is necessary to build. He said the students are served by the Sea Hawk Shuttle and there is no evidence that a pedestrian bridge would be used. Even though we don't know what the ultimate price tag will be, he said he does not think it would be unreasonable to ask their board to consider a resolution of support and state the amount that they might be willing to contribute. The letter from Chancellor Miller does not answer any of those concerns; it simply says subject to the approval. Mr. White said the board members he has talked to, with the exception of the Chairperson, have not heard of this project and some have expressed concerns about it. He suggested that the TAC forgo any action until after the University's Board meets in August.

Ms. Batleman told members she agreed with Mr. White's opinion regarding the letter from Chancellor Miller. She would prefer to wait for their Board of Trustees to meet in August to see if they are willing support the project through a resolution. Mr. Breault also agreed that we should wait until after their Board meets.

Ms. Padgett told members she would like to comment from the City of Wilmington's prospective. She stated that the need is to get the project designed. No one knows what it's going cost, who it would serve, how it would look, and where it would be grounded. All that information would come out of looking at the project and designing it. She said the City of Wilmington was not trying to serve the University per se; there is a safety issue for people in our community. That was the concern when the City requested the project be considered. The only way to know if a pedestrian bridge is feasible and beneficial is to begin the design process.

Mr. White stated that there is no evidence that people would use a pedestrian bridge. He noted that there are fully-functional crosswalks at every intersection interfacing the University. He said before we spend that kind of money, we ought to go through the process of deciding if this is something we need to do.

Mr. Sisson told members he has no doubt this overpass would be used; however, he feels that a more concrete resolution from the University's Board of Trustees is in order.

Mr. Sisson made a motion that the TAC make a final decision on this funding allocation at the next meeting following the meeting of the University's Board of Trustees. Mr. Lambeth seconded

the motion and it carried with 10 members voting in favor and Ms. Padgett voting in opposition to the motion.

## **7. New Business**

### **a. Resolution adopting STIP/MTIP Amendments/Modifications (May/June)**

Mr. Kozlosky reviewed the STIP/MTIP Amendments/Modifications. He told members that a 30-public comment period was held on these amendments and modifications.

Mr. David Williams made the motions to adopt the STIP/MTIP Amendments/Modifications for May/June. Mr. Frank Williams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### **b. Resolution supporting the Wilmington MPO's Transportation Improvement Program Financial Plan FY 2012-2015**

Ms. Harrington told members that the financial plan breaks the MPO funding sources by local, state and federal funds. Mr. Kozlosky pointed out that the financial plan is a "look-back" from 2012 prior to the board actually adopting the resolution to move the projects out to accommodate the funds for the Military Cutoff Extension project.

Mr. David Williams made the motion to support the Wilmington MPO's Transportation Improvement Program Financial Plan FY 2012-2015. Mr. Lambeth seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### **c. Resolution supporting Pender County's Safe Routes to School Project**

Mr. Williams asked members to support Pender County's application for the Safe Routes to School project. He noted that there has been a lot of community support for the project.

Mr. Frank Williams made the motion to support the Pender County Safe Routes to School Project. Mr. Shuttleworth seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### **d. Resolution adopting the Socio-economic Control Totals for the Wilmington MPO**

Ms. Rashid told members the Socio-economic Control Totals will be plugged into the model and used as the Metropolitan Transportation Plan is developed in terms of where staff is expecting the MPO to grow in population and employment. The information is based off the NC Statewide Travel Model.

Mr. Sisson made the motion to adopt the Socio-economic Control Totals for the Wilmington MPO. Mr. Lambeth seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### **e. Resolution adopting the Connecting Northern Brunswick County Collector Street Plan**

Ms. Rashid told members that the Connecting Northern Brunswick County Collector Street Plan was a collaborative effort by the Town of Leland, the Town of Belville, the Town of Navassa and Brunswick County to increase connectivity by identifying needed improvements to the collector street network. Work on the plan began in June of 2012; but, since that time the Town of Belville withdrew from the process. The Town of Leland and the Town of Navassa adopted the plan in June of 2013. Brunswick County adopted a resolution on July 1, 2013 in which they recognized the role of collector streets and support the plan in principle.

Mr. Breault told members the reason the Town of Belville choose not to adopt the plan is that they are 99% developed and the street are not capable of handling the increased traffic that a collector street plan would impose.

Mr. Willis made the motion to adopt the Connecting Northern Brunswick County Collector Street Plan. Mr. Frank Williams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**f. Resolution requesting NCDOT study a modified alignment for the Cape Fear Crossing**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the Merger Team voted to expand the study area on June 24<sup>th</sup>. There were concerns expressed at the TAC meeting about the alignments. Representatives from the WMPO, NCDOT and the Town of Leland met on July 1<sup>st</sup> to review the study area and the potential environmental impacts in an effort to identify an alignment that would minimize the impacts to the environmental features. The resolution is requesting that NCDOT study a modified alignment for the Cape Fear Crossing.

Mr. Barfield made the motion to support the resolution requesting NCDOT study a modified alignment for the Cape Fear Crossing. Mr. Sisson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**8. Discussion**

**a. STIP/MTIP Administrative Modifications (July)**

Mr. Kozlosky told members there were two administrative modifications included in the July handout by NCDOT. The first modification is to delay construction from FY 13 to FY 14 for the Wilmington Bypass to assist with balancing projects lettings. He noted that the delay on the bypass will not impact the overall construction schedule and project **competition** completion date. The second modification is to delay construction for the Kerr Avenue from Randall Parkway to Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway from FY 14 to FY 15 to allow additional time for utility relocations. Staff will bring these modifications back for adoption at the August meeting.

**b. Strategic Mobility Formula**

Mr. Kozlosky told members staff has been working with the Strategic Prioritization Office of Transportation (SPOT) on reviewing prioritization tools. He said he wanted to give members an overview of the schedule in order to get projects programmed in the SPOT process.

Ms. Rashid told members projects will be submitted in January. She stated that all modes of transportation will be looked at together, and will include ferries, airport and rail. She said Bicycle/Pedestrian and Transit slates from last year are going to be wiped clean and we will only be looking at all new project suggestions. Staff will be asking for that information in August. Staff will bring a list of the existing projects and suggestions for new projects to be submitted in the September/October timeframe. Staff will be asking TAC members to adopt a list of projects in all different modes for submittal to SPOT for evaluation. After January, everything will be scored according to NCDOT's quantitative process and those scores will be available for the local input scoring.

Ms. Padgett asked if the major road projects that are already out there are going to remain out there. Is the scoring in January going to score those as well as new projects at the same level, even though some of the older projects have been out there for a very long time?

Ms. Rashid told members road projects that are already in the system from before will remain in the system; however, all those projects will be scored according to the same rules whether they are new projects or projects that have been in there for years.

Mr. Kozlosky noted that anything funded prior to October 1, 2015 is not subject to the new formula.

**c. Trucks with Twin Trailers**

Mr. Kozlosky told members the State Traffic Engineer asked the MPO if they would like to initiate a process of removing the designation on several roadways within the MPO boundary (i.e.: Oleander Drive, Gordon Road, Dawson, and Military Cutoff). He said he wanted to gauge support to remove the designations prior to bringing a resolution before the TAC.

Mr. Sisson said he does not believe twin trailers are appropriate within the City of Wilmington and he supports the removal of the designation. Following a brief discussion, members agreed that the designation should be removed. Mr. Kozlosky said he will bring a resolution to the next meeting.

**d. 2014 STP-DA and TA funding**

Mr. Kozlosky told members staff will bring a resolution regarding the funding allocation "buckets" for the STP-DA and TA funding for FY 2014. Staff is recommending that they remain the same as last year's allocations. He said staff will be bringing that to the next meeting in order to facilitate an earlier call for project in FY 2014.

**e. Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Comprehensive Transportation Plan**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that NCDOT is currently working to complete a Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CMP) update. He noted that it differs from the Metropolitan Transportation Plan because the CMP doesn't have to be fiscally constraint.

**9. Updates**

Project updates for the Cape Fear River Work Group, the Wilmington MPO/City of Wilmington, 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 5:30 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.**