

Meeting Minutes
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
Transportation Advisory Committee
Date: October 28, 2015

Members Present:

Laura Padgett, Chair, City of Wilmington
Pat Batleman, Town of Leland
Joe Breault, Town of Belville
Frank Williams, Brunswick County
Gary Doetsch, Town of Carolina Beach
Skip Watkins, New Hanover County
Hank Miller, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Earl Sheridan, City of Wilmington
Eulis Willis, Town of Navassa
David Piepmeyer, Pender County
Jonathon Barfield, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority

Others:

Karen Collette, NCDOT Division 3 Engineer

Staff Present:

Mike Kozlosky, Executive Director

1. Call to Order

Ms. Padgett called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

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

The minutes for the September 30, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously.

4. Public Comment Period

Ms. Susanne Werner, with Ogden Preservation Group addressed members regarding the resolution to alter the widening plan for north Market Street. They are requesting that members support the resolution to reduce the laneage on Market Street in advance of the Middle Sound Loop Road in order to preserve two important Ogden landmarks, the historic Mt. Ararat AME Church Cemetery and the Ogden Oak. She asked members to honor the unique natural beauty and history that is the soul of New Hanover County.

Mr. Michael Werner, with Ogden Preservation Group addressed members regarding the preservation of the Ogden Oak and to protect the Mt. Ararat AME Church Cemetery because they represent part of our heritage. He told members that the decision is a balance of values. The addition of an island that will protect the Ogden Oak and will still allow 270 feet of right-turn lane to Middle Sound Loop Road. He urged members to consider the balance of values and stand up for our natural heritage.

Reverend Alfred Jackson, Pastor at Enoch Chapel Missionary Baptist Church addressed members regarding the church at 711 Market Street. He told members that the church was established 143 years ago at this location and church members have concerns regarding access to the church and the noise created from vehicles traveling so close to the sanctuary. Reverend Jackson noted that he is concerned about the sign at the church. He said they are asking that NCDOT to take their concerns into consideration when adding the additional lanes to Market Street.

Mr. Andy Koeppel told members he would like to call everyone's attention to the fact that this could be the last meeting that Ms. Padgett will be chairing the TAC. He said he is very grateful for all the fine-work Ms. Padgett has done on transportation issues over the years.

5. Presentations

a. World Health Organization and Walkability Audit, Suzanne Black, AARP

Ms. Black gave a presentation on the benefits of joining the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities. She explained how Wilmington and the surrounding coastal communities will benefit by seeking designation as an Age-Friendly Community through the World Health Organization. Ms. Black also presented the preliminary findings from the walkability audit held during the AARP Active Living Workshop in Wilmington on September 14th and 15th.

6. Consent Agenda

- a. Resolution authorizing the MPO to enter into the FY 15-16 Section 5303 Agreement between the City of Wilmington, Wilmington MPO and Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority**
- b. Resolution supporting amendments to the WMPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee Bylaws**
- c. Resolution supporting to dissolve the Cape Fear Crossing Work Group**
- d. Resolution supporting the Town of Carolina Beach's application for a NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant to complete a Bicycle Plan**
- e. Resolution approving the Wilmington Urban Area MPO's Local Input Methodology for Prioritization 4.0**

Mr. Kozlosky asked that item 6.d. be pulled from the consent agenda.

Dr. Sheridan made the motion to approve items 6. a., b., c. and e. on the consent agenda. Ms. Batleman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Kozlosky said staff requested that item 6.d. be pulled in order to make a modification to the resolution. He told members that the Town of Carolina Beach requested that paragraph five be modified to read ".....for the completion of a Pedestrian Plan".

With no questions regarding the change, Mr. Watkins made the motion to approve items 6. D. on the consent agenda. Mr. Breault seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

7. Regular Agenda

a. Resolution encouraging the North Carolina Department of Transportation to reduce the lanuage on Market Street in advance of Middle Sound Loop Road in order to minimize the impacts to the Mt. Ararat AME Church Cemetery and to preserve the Ogden oak tree near the intersection of Market Street and Middle Sound Loop Road (Continued from September 30, 2015)

Mr. Watkins told members that Mr. Barfield was at an important meeting on behalf of the County Commissioners and he will be arriving later for this meeting.

Ms. Padgett suggested moving item 7.a. to the end of the agenda. Consensus from the members was to move the item down on the agenda.

b. Resolution supporting Aviation Projects Submittals for Prioritization 4.0

Ms. Rashid told members that staff worked closely with Wilmington International Airport to develop the list of projects for Prioritization 4.0.

Mr. Williams made the motion to approve the Resolution supporting Aviation Projects Submittals for Prioritization 4.0. Dr. Sheridan seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

c. Resolution supporting Public Transportation Projects Submittals for Prioritization 4.0

Ms. Rashid told members that staff worked closely with Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority staff to develop the list of projects for submittal for Prioritization 4.0. The list was also developed directly from the MTP. She noted that most of the projects are collections of requests of the installation of bus shelters and amenities at bus stops along specific routes.

Ms. Batleman made the motion to support the Public Transportation Projects Submittals for Prioritization 4.0. Mr. Willis seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

d. Resolution supporting Rail Project Submittals for Prioritization 4.0

Ms. Rashid told members that staff worked closely with CSXT and NC Ports Authority to develop the list of the rail projects for submittal for Prioritization 4.0.

Mr. Doetsch made the motion to support the Rail Project Submittals for Prioritization 4.0. Mr. Watkins seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

8. Discussion

a. Mopeds on State/City Streets in the Region

Mr. Kozlosky told members the item was placed on the agenda at Mr. Barfield's request. He suggested that it should also be moved to later on the agenda. Consensus from the members was to move the item down on the agenda.

b. November Meeting

Ms. Padgett told members the next meeting is scheduled for December 9th. She asked members to consider moving the meeting ahead to November 18th. There will be no December meeting. Ms. Padgett explained that she has a personal interest in one of the items scheduled for the meeting. The MOU for the Multi-Modal Transportation Center will be considered at the meeting and it would mean a lot to her to sign the resolution if approved by the Board

Mr. Piepmeyer made the motion to reschedule the December 9th meeting to November 18th. Mr. Miller seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

9. Updates

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

7. Regular Agenda

a. Resolution encouraging the North Carolina Department of Transportation to reduce the laneage on Market Street in advance of Middle Sound Loop Road in order to minimize the impacts to the Mt. Ararat AME Church Cemetery and to preserve the Ogden oak tree near the intersection of Market Street and Middle Sound Loop Road (Continued from September 30, 2015)

Ms. Padgett told members she would like to request one addition to the resolution. She proposed adding:

“NOW THEREFORE, also be it resolved that the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Transportation Advisory Committee hereby encourages the North Carolina Department of Transportation to fund and construct Lendire Road extension.”

Ms. Padgett told members with that addition, she would make the motion to encouraging the North Carolina Department of Transportation to reduce the laneage on Market Street in advance of Middle Sound Loop Road in order to minimize the impacts to the Mt. Ararat AME Church Cemetery and to preserve the Ogden oak tree near the intersection of Market Street and Middle Sound Loop Road. Mr. Barfield seconded the motion.

Ms. Padgett opened the floor for discussion on the item.

Mr. Watkins told members his primary concern is safety. He said he would like someone from the Department of Transportation to give us their prospective of what this realignment might result in.

Ms. Collette told members that NCDOT planned the terminus for the project to be located at the Middle Sound Loop Road intersection because it was determined to be the proper place to tie in the interchange. In reference to the Lendire Road safety improvements, if the project is stopped in advance of Middle Sound Loop Road, improvements at Lendire Road will no longer be part of the Market Street project. It will need to be considered as a Spot-Safety Project.

Mr. Barfield told members that his concern is that the community has not been educated on what’s going on with the project. He suggested that perhaps NCDOT does not get adequate public input on projects prior to the projects startup.

Mr. Williams asked if staff had information regarding the health of the Ogden Oak. Mr. Kozlosky said the city arborist has looked at the tree and determined that it is healthy.

Mr. Watkins told members he is not in favor of the resolution. While he supports the negotiation with Mt. Ararat AME Church and he understands the desires to save the Ogden Oak, he is looking at what’s going to happen 25 to 30 years from now. He stated that because of the safety issues involved regarding the tree, he will not support the resolution.

Dr. Sheridan told members that often we only look at how we get automobiles from one place to another. We don't look at the surrounding communities and how they are impacted by these road projects. He told members that he felt the changes requested by the resolution will not impact public safety.

Ms. Padgett called for a vote on the earlier. The motion carried with 10 members voting in favor and Mr. Watkins voting in opposition.

8. Discussion

a. Mopeds on State/City Streets in the Region

Mr. Barfield told members he is concerned with the mopeds traveling along city streets holding up traffic. He asked if the TAC could author a resolution to request that the State regulate how mopeds are traveling in the center of travel lanes rather than on the side of the streets.

Ms. Padgett asked staff to bring wording from the laws that have been passed and their implementation dates. She suggested that this be included as an agenda item at the next meeting. Mr. Doetsch suggested to also include golf cart usage.

Consensus of the members was that staff will bring a resolution for consideration regarding mopeds, golf carts and other slow moving vehicles on State and City Streets in the region to the November meeting.

10. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:08pm

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.**