

Meeting Minutes
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning
Organization Board Meeting
Date: October 26, 2016

Members Present:

Gary Doetsch, Town of Carolina Beach
Frank Williams, Brunswick County
Pat Batleman, Town of Leland
David Piepmeyer, Pender County
Skip Watkins, New Hanover County
Eulis Willis, Town of Navassa
Charlie Rivenbark, City of Wilmington
Emilie Swearingen, Town of Kure Beach
Joe Breault, Town of Belville
Hank Miller, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Jonathan Barfield, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority

Staff Present:

Suraiya Motsinger, Sr. Transportation Planner

1. Call to Order

Mr. Doetsch called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

2. Conflict of Interest Reminder

Mr. Doetsch 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 Board Member Excused Absence

Ms. Motsinger told members there were no requests to be excused from today's meeting.

4. Approval of Agenda

With no requested changes to the agenda, Mr. Williams made the motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Batleman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the September 28, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously.

6. Public Comment Period

No one requested to speak during the Public Comment Period.

7. Presentation

a. NCDOT Project Update, Katie Hite and David Leonard, NCDOT

Ms. Katie Hite and Mr. David Leonard, Engineers with NCDOT Division 3 gave a presentation on committed and non-committed projects within the WMPO Boundary in the 10 year State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Ms. Hite reviewed the purpose/goals for each project and the anticipated dates for right-of way acquisition and letting.

b. Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority Locally Coordinated Plan, Vanessa Lacer, CFPTA

Ms. Vanessa Lacer, Mobility Manager with CFPTA gave a presentation on the Draft Locally Coordinated Plan for Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority. She told members that the plan is federally mandated and Sections 3 through 5 of the plan are requirements of the FTA. She reviewed the plan and talked about how the data was collected and the steps involved in developing the plan. Ms. Lacer noted that the public comment period opened October 14th.

c. NCDOT Ferry Division Presentation, Lance Winslow and Catherine Peele, NCDOT Ferry Division's Marine Maintenance Unit

Ms. Peele, Environmental Specialist for the NCDOT Ferry Division gave a presentation highlighting the needs of the Ferry Division's maintenance support fleet that included pictures of the current condition of the Marine Maintenance Unit's vessels. She explained how the maintenance vessels are used to support and maintain the ferry terminals, which include navigation aid maintenance, moving dredging equipment, and maintenance of dolphins, ramps and bulkhead repairs.

Ms. Peele told members that the maintenance vessels include three tugs and three barges. She noted that the tugs range in age from 33 to 39 years and the three barges range from 48 to 52 years of age. Ms. Peele said all the vessels are past the recommended life expectancy age of 30 years and they are asking for help to replace the aging fleet because of safety and efficiency concerns. She noted that they have received support from all three Divisions and several RPOs to include the replacement of the maintenance vessels in Prioritization 4.0.

A general discussion followed regarding the replacement cost for new vessels, cost sharing for that replacement and the condition of vessels currently in use.

Mr. Williams said given that the Board has a resolution to address this need on the regular agenda, he suggested that the discussion should be held at that point on the agenda. The consensus of the Board was to hold the discussion until that time.

7. Consent Agenda

a. Opening of the 30-day public comment period for STIP/MTIP Amendments (October)

b. Resolution approving STIP/MTIP Amendments (August)

c. Resolution approving STIP/MTIP Modifications (September)

d. Resolution amending the adopted 2016 Wilmington Urban Area MPO meeting calendar

Mr. Watkins made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Miller seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

8. Regular Agenda

a. Resolution supporting point sharing with the Cape Fear RPO for the NCDOT Ferry Division's Statewide Support Vessel

Ms. Motsinger told members that the resolution addresses the request made during the presentation by the NCDOT Ferry Division's Maintenance Unit. She told members that according to a preliminary analysis prepared by staff, the point sharing from the Cape Fear RPO will not affect funding for any of the projects in our MPO.

Ms. Motsinger explained that the SPOT Group indicated that they will allow this particular project to get full funding across all Divisions as long as all MPOs and RPOs within the Divisions allocate the maximum allowable points to it. The 16 points from the Cape Fear RPO will give the statewide support vessels the full maximum points necessary to meet the SPOT requirement and the Board will still be able to use its maximum 1500 points.

Mr. Williams made the motion to adopt the resolution supporting point sharing with the Cape Fear RPO for the NCDOT Ferry Division's Statewide Support Vessel project. Mr. Barfield seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

b. Resolution approving the Wilmington Urban Area MPO's Division Needs Point Assignment for Prioritization 4.0

Ms. Motsinger told members that a few changes have been made to the preliminary draft point assignment spreadsheet. The changes include the inclusion of the 16 points allocated from the Cape Fear RPO through point-sharing, along with an explanation regarding the acceptance of those points.

Mr. Williams told members that the widening of NC Highway 133 is an important project in Brunswick County and he requested that additional points be added to that project. He suggested that the 100 points assigned to the new route for the Cape Fear Crossing (SPOT ID# H129646) be assigned to the widening of NC Highway 133 (SPOT ID # H091713). Mr. Williams told members he would like to seek input from Board members on his request before making a motion. Ms. Batleman told members she supported moving points to the NC Highway 133 widening project. She noted that in the analysis for the scoring indicates that the traffic level is beyond what it is constructed to handle.

Mr. Williams made the motion to approve the Wilmington Urban Area MPO's Division Needs Point Assignment for Prioritization 4.0 with the change of moving the 100 points previously allocated to line 12, the Cape Fear Crossing to line 24, the NC Highway 133 widening project. Ms. Batleman seconded the motion.

Mr. Watkins called for discussion on the motion. He asked if the Board takes points from Cape Fear Crossing project, are we confident that moving those points to another project will not hurt that project. Ms. Motsinger said because points were allocated to the Cape Fear Crossing projects at a previous Tier, this Board has demonstrated support for that project. She noted that resolutions were also passed at the last meeting indicating the Boards support for the Cape Fear Crossing project.

Mr. Barfield suggested that pulling points back from the Cape Fear Crossing may be sending mixed signals regarding the project. He noted that the Board must make sure it's consistent in the message being sent to Raleigh. It's important to demonstrate that the Board supports the project at every level.

Mr. Williams noted that he thought about that as well, but considering we have already allocated points at the Regional Tier that is most likely where this project will be funded, it does not fit at the Divisions Needs Point Assignment level given the price tag.

Ms. Motsinger told members to keep in mind that any of bike/ped projects on the list will require a 20% local match from the jurisdiction in which that project resides. That being said, in the Preliminary Analysis of Assignment of Local Input Points for the Division Needs Tier done by staff, it does not look

like there will be any funding for any of the Bike/Ped projects. Mr. Williams said it sounds like it might be feasible to take the 100 points away from a bike/ped project instead of the Cape Fear Crossing.

Mr. Williams told members he would amend his earlier motion. Mr. Williams made the motion to approve the Wilmington Urban Area MPO's Division Needs Point Assignment for Prioritization 4.0 with the change of moving the 100 points previously allocated in line 14, the US 17 & Old Waterford Way/Ploof Road SE Crosswalk project to line 24, the NC Highway 133 widening project. Ms. Batleman seconded the amended motion and it carried unanimously.

c. Resolution authorizing the Wilmington Urban Area MPO to enter into the FY 16-17 Section 5303 Agreement between the City of Wilmington, Wilmington MPO and Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority

Ms. Motsinger told members that this resolution comes before the Board on an annual basis and allows the MPO to share Section 5303 funds with Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority for transit planning functions.

Mr. Watkins made the motion to approve the resolution authorizing the Wilmington Urban Area MPO to enter into the FY 16-17 Section 5303 Agreement between the City of Wilmington, Wilmington MPO and Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority. Mr. Barfield seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

d. Resolution supporting the Wilmington MPO's submission of a NCDOT FY 2018 Transportation Demand Management Grant and provide the required local match

Ms. Batleman made the motion to approve the resolution supporting the Wilmington MPO's submission of a NCDOT FY 2018 Transportation Demand Management Grant and provide the required local match. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

10. Discussion

a. MPO Strategic Business Plan

Ms. Motsinger told members that a draft copy of the objectives and strategies had been emailed out earlier for comments from the Board. She noted that staff received one comment on the plan.

Ms. Batleman told members that in her comment she proposed an additions to Target 3: Cape Fear Crossing. Under Strategies, she said she would like to add an additional strategy: Identify negative consequences of not beginning pursuit of the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge. In other words, the affect it would have on our future economic development, safety and regional mobility.

Mr. Williams suggested staff send out an additional reminder to members for comments.

b. Public Participation Plan

Mr. Lopez gave a presentation on the proposed changes to the Public Participation Plan. He told members that the proposed changes to the plan include adding a table of contents, added information regarding the Bike/Ped committee, and the requirements from the FAST Act. Mr. Lopez said staff also added language regarding Environmental Justice in an effort to provide more information and clarity to the Plan.

A brief question/answer period followed.

c. Social Media Administrative Policy

Mr. Lopez presented information on the new the Social Media Administrative Policy. He reviewed the types of information that can be accessed through the social media sites.

A brief question/answer period followed.

11. Updates

Updates are included in the agenda packet.

12. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:58pm

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.**