

Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Board
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Mike Kozlosky, Executive Director, WMPO
Karen Collette, Division Engineer, NCDOT

1. Call to Order

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

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 Members' Excused Absence

Mr. Doetsch stated that Mr. Joe Breault has requested to be excused from today's meeting.

Mr. Kozlosky advised that Mr. Anderson has been delayed.

Mr. Rivenbark made a motion to excuse the absence of Mr. Breault. Mr. Watkins seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Swearingen made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Williams, and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Comment Period

Mr. Bob White spoke to the Board and requested to remove the Cape Fear River Crossing Alternative F/P due to the concentration of residents and distance from the Port. He expressed concerns regarding a potential bottleneck and noise.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Watkins, Mr. Doetsch confirmed that Mr. Barfield made a motion earlier to omit all crossings related to the existing Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

Mr. Rivenbark pointed out that other agencies may disagree with the Board's recommendation, which would make this input valuable.

Mr. Doetsch commented that NCDOT will hold public hearings and meetings for the public to voice those opinions.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the merger team would meet to determine the Least Environmentally Damaging Practical Alternative (LEDPA). He noted that during the meeting if an agency were to request one of the routes be removed, the MPO Board voted to support removal of the routes with the exception of B, G, MA, NA, and Q.

Mr. Doetsch pointed out that most of today's topics include routes that the Board would recommend for removal.

Mr. Larry Cagle spoke to the Board and expressed concerns regarding Cape Fear River Crossing Alternative F/P and its impact to the Historic District of Wilmington.

Mr. George Edwards, Executive Director, Historic Wilmington Foundation, spoke to the Board regarding the Cape Fear River Crossing and expressed concerns regarding placing it adjacent to the existing Cape Fear Memorial Bridge. He requested removal of Alternatives F/P and V, which would have a negative impact on the region's historic resources.

Mr. Denis McGary, Residents of Old Wilmington (ROW), withdrew his request to speak to the Board regarding the removal of Cape Fear River Crossing Alternative F/P/V.

Mr. Bill Pegg distributed copies and read to the Board his request to remove Cape Fear River Crossing Alternative F/P.

Ms. Caren Gordon withdrew her request to speak to the Board regarding the Cape Fear River Crossing.

Mr. Javoke S. Terrell, Owner, Davis Funeral Home, spoke to the Board and expressed concerns regarding the impact of the Cape Fear River Crossing to his business.

Mr. Piepmeyer made a motion to extend the public comment period to accommodate the two remaining speakers. Mr. Barfield seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Mr. James Wright spoke to the Board and requested that any new bridge be removed from consideration until the completion of the I-140 beltway/outward loop.

Ms. Denise Chadurjian expressed appreciation to the Board for their efforts to protect the interests of the citizens of Brunswick County and New Hanover County. She expressed concerns regarding the impact of Alternative F/P to seniors and citizens who have nowhere else to go. She commented that an additional bridge would be needed in the area of the Port in the future.

6. Presentations

a. MPO Travel Demand Model, Suraiya Motsinger, WMPO

Ms. Motsinger gave an overview of the MPO Travel Demand Model. She noted that data is collected from land use planners, utility professionals, and school districts in member jurisdictions. She added that the model gives a high level view of the region, and is best for locating and predicting areas of traffic congestion, identifying future projects and projecting their impact on the overall network. She noted that this model update will correlate to an update to the MTP (Metropolitan Transportation Plan) and will project to 2045. She added that socioeconomic data sets would be collected this fall.

A brief question and answer period followed.

7. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the March 29, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.

- b. Opening of the 30-day public comment period for STIP/MTIP Amendments (April)**
- c. Resolution approving the STIP/MTIP Modifications (March)**

Ms. Batleman made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

8. Regular Agenda

- a. Resolution adopting the CFPTA's Transit Asset Management Plan and NCDOT's Transit Asset Management Plan Performance Targets and Measures**

Mr. Kozlosky stated that Map-21 and the FAST Act require performance measures for accountability and transparency. He added that MPOs are required to adopt performance measures for the state of good repair by June 30, 2017. He noted that in order to meet federal requirements, adoption of the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority's Transit Asset Management Plan and NCDOT's Performance Targets and Measures is recommended.

Mr. Barfield made the motion to support the resolution adopting the CFPTA's Transit Asset Management Plan and NCDOT's Transit Asset Management Plan Performance Targets and Measures. Mr. Rivenbark seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Anderson arrived at 3:35 p.m.

- b. Resolution supporting a modification in the scope for the Middle Sound Greenway**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that New Hanover County was awarded Transportation Alternative Program Funds for Middle Sound Greenway from Oyster Lane to Middle Sound Village. The original proposal only extended to the driveway at Middle Sound Village, and the County has requested to change the scope to include an additional 300 feet extending it to the property line. He added that the impact of this change will be addressed in the following Item (8C), a resolution requesting an additional \$50,000 from the Direct Attributable reserve funds due to unanticipated charges by NCDOT and the change in scope. He noted that the project was awarded in 2014, and the WMPO continues to work on improving its process for Direct Attributable funds.

Mr. Williams made the motion to approve the resolution supporting a modification in the scope for the Middle Sound Greenway. Mr. Rivenbark seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- c. Resolution supporting the allocation of additional Direct Attributable funds to New Hanover County for the Middle Sound Greenway**

Mr. Williams made the motion to approve the resolution supporting the allocation of additional Direct Attributable funds to New Hanover County for the Middle Sound Greenway. Mr. Barfield seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- d. Resolution supporting the allocation of additional Direct Attributable funds to the City of Wilmington for the 5th Avenue/Dawson Street and 5th Avenue/Wooster Street Intersection Improvements**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that this is a request for additional funds from the Direct Attributable program for the City of Wilmington in the amount of \$113,600. He noted that this request is also for unanticipated cost overruns. He added that it was included in the table presented to the Board.

Mr. Watkins made the motion to approve the resolution supporting the allocation of additional Direct Attributable funds to the City of Wilmington for the 5th Avenue/Dawson Street and 5th

Avenue/Wooster Street Intersection Improvements. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

9. Discussion

a. STIP/MTIP Modifications (April)

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the STIP/MTIP Modification for April is for information purposes only. He explained that it would accelerate right-of-way from fiscal year 2018 to fiscal year 2017, and construction from fiscal year 2021 to fiscal year 2018 for the Dan Owen Drive Extension, which as part of the median project through Hampstead on US-17. Staff will bring the modification to the Board for consideration at their May meeting.

10. Updates

Updates are included in the agenda packet.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Batleman, Mr. Kozlosky stated he would notify the Board once he is informed regarding the Concurrence Point meeting anticipated for May 30-31, 2017. Ms. Rocco noted that NCDOT is coordinating it with the Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that 360 bicyclists participated in the 28th Annual River-to-Sea bike ride.

Mr. Kozlosky requested that appointments to the Citizen Advisory Committee be submitted by June 1, 2017.

Mr. Williams expressed appreciation to Mr. Kozlosky for navigating the Cape Fear River Crossing work session.

Ms. Harrington stated that Bike to Work Week is May 15-22, 2017, which includes an employer challenge component with regional employers.

Ms. Swearingen encouraged members to attend NCDOT's transit meetings.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that he will forward any interest from members to Mr. Eby who is coordinating transportation.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Piepmeyer, Mr. Kozlosky reminded the Board that it adopted a resolution supporting designating US 17 and continuing to designate it so, and the US 17 Bypass as the US 17 Bypass. He noted that the truck designation is separate from the STAA designation, and trucks can deviate from the corridor up to a certain distance. The resolution was adopted several years ago, which he would forward to the group. A question/answer and discussion period was held.

11. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Kozlosky
Executive Director
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization