

**Wilmington Urban Area  
Technical Coordinating Committee  
Wednesday, August 16, 2017  
Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Mike Kozlosky, Wilmington MPO  
Don Bennett, City of Wilmington  
Adrienne Harrington, Wilmington MPO  
Abby Lorenzo, Town of Carolina Beach  
Nancy Avery, Town of Kure Beach  
Danielle Villegas, Wrightsville Beach  
Rebekah Roth, New Hanover County  
Stephanie Ayers, NC Ports Authority  
John Allen, Town of Belville

Ashli Barefoot, Town of Leland  
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County  
Kyle Breuer, Pender County  
Allen Serkin, Cape Fear COG  
Alan Pytcher, NCDOT  
Division of Highways  
Nazia Sarder, NCDOT Planning  
Megan Matheny, Cape Fear Public  
Transportation Authority

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Serkin made the motion to approve the agenda with no changes. Ms. Harrington seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**3. Presentation**

**a. Prioritization 5.0 - Prioritization and Programming, Alan Pytcher, NCDOT**

Mr. Pytcher stated that the SPOT office in Raleigh asked all DPE's (Division Planning Engineers) across the state, of which there are approximately 14, to give a brief presentation on the STIP (Statewide Transportation Improvement Program) and prioritization process. He noted that the current STIP is for 2016-2025, and the current prioritization process is for 2018-2027. He added that the program consists of identifying funding and scheduling of projects in the DOT's capital program.

Mr. Pytcher stated that the first five (5) years of the program are committed projects and the second five years are for scoping and environmental development. He noted that the federal government requested that the state update the STIP every four (4) years; but the NCDOT updates it every two (2) years.

Mr. Pytcher stated that the current STIP contains more than \$28 billion in projects from highway, non-highway, bridges, safety, and interstate maintenance, etc. He noted that Strategic Transportation Investment (STI) Law was passed in 2013 (House Bill 817), which involved prioritization and funding of North Carolina projects in a cascade effect. He added that the law prioritizes NCDOT across all six (6) modes (highway, aviation, rail, public transportation, ferry, and bicycle and pedestrian) and ties funding to prioritization results.

Mr. Pytcher stated that a workgroup has met in Raleigh to discuss prioritization. He noted that prioritization 5.0 consists of representatives of four (4) MPOs, four (4) RPOs, the Metro Mayors Coalition, League of Municipalities, the regional

Council of Governments, Association of County Commissioners, and 12 from NCDOT in addition to those in an advisory capacity.

Mr. Pytcher stated that the workgroup met 18 times this past year from October 3 through June 19. He gave an overview of the tiered workings of the STI. He noted that of the \$28 million, 40 percent goes to statewide mobility, 30 percent to Regional and 30 percent to the Division. He also gave an overview of eligibility definitions and criteria for the various modes. He noted that default criteria would be used and alternative weights would not carry over to P5.0. He added that the Wilmington MPO 19 projects. He gave an overview of relevant dates and contact information. A question/answer and discussion period was held.

#### **4. Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of TCC Meeting Minutes – July 12, 2017**
- b. Resolution supporting the submittal of Rail Projects for Prioritization 5.0**
- c. Resolution amending the Wilmington Urban Area MPO Bylaws**
- d. Resolution authorizing the Chairman to enter into the FY 17-18 Section 5303 Agreement between the City of Wilmington, Wilmington Urban Area MPO and Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority**

Mr. Serkin pulled Item 4a (Approval of TCC Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2017) for further consideration.

Ms. Bunch made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda excluding Item 4a, and to forward it to the Board for consideration. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Serkin identified some typographical errors in Item 4a. He made a motion to approve TCC Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2017 with corrections. Mr. Breuer seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

#### **5. Public Hearing**

- a. Resolution adopting the 2018-2027 State/Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Programs**

Mr. Kozlosky told members that the process for Prioritization 5.0 is similar for that followed for Prioritization 4.0. He reminded the Committee that a 30-day public comment period and public hearing are required.

Mr. Bennett made a motion to open the public hearing, seconded by Ms. Lorenzo, and the motion carried unanimously.

No speakers were present to speak.

Mr. Bennett made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Ms. Matheny, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Breuer made a motion to approve the Resolution adopting the 2018-2027 State/Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Programs, and to forward it to the MPO Board for consideration. Ms. Ayers seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**6. Regular Agenda****a. Resolution Re-affirming Support to increase Ferry Tolls for the Southport/Fort Fisher Ferry**

Mr. Kozlosky reminded the Committee that it has adopted this resolution twice before. However, NCDOT has not changed the ferry tolls. He noted that a request has been made to re-affirm support for an increase. He added that the MPO Board and RPO Board will consider similar resolutions.

Mr. Breuer made a motion to approve the Resolution Re-affirming Support to increase Ferry Tolls for the Southport/Fort Fisher Ferry, and to forward it to the Board for consideration. Ms. Bunch seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**7. Discussion****a. Direct Attributable Programs**

Ms. Kimes gave an overview of the Direct Attributable Programs. She expressed concerns regarding the time lapse between the application submittal process, the design consultant process, and projects being let to construction. She also expressed concerns regarding the gap between funding awarded verses obligated funding, the inaccuracy of high-level engineering estimates, and increased construction costs. She added that the Board has requested that studies also be added to the process. She requested input from members on addressing shortfalls and considering new projects.

A question/answer and discussion period was held. Mr. Kozlosky stated that the Board has expressed an interest in putting existing projects on the ground and improving the current process to avoid these issues. He requested additional time to re-evaluate and expressed concerns regarding impacting project submissions such as for the ports, transit, and aviation.

A question/answer and discussion period was held. Committee members suggested that overages be included in available funds, over-programming be considered, develop a mini-STIP, incentives for good cost estimates and on-time delivery, doing due diligence studies for better estimates, scoring projects in favor of project readiness, and keeping studies separate from projects.

Following a lengthy discussion, Mr. Kozlosky stated that recommendations would be brought back to the Committee at its September meeting. He suggested delaying the call and benchmarking other similar sized MPOs.

**b. MPO Staffing**

Mr. Kozlosky reminded the Committee that the MPO currently has five (5) staff vacancies. He noted that interviews are ongoing for two (2) Associate Transportation Planners and one (1) GIS Analyst. The advertisement for a Senior Transportation Planner is expected to be extended to August 30<sup>th</sup>. He added that the Construction Manager position is undergoing a reclassification to Project Engineer. He noted that the board has requested information regarding staff retention.

**8. Updates**

Updates are included in the agenda packet.

**9. Announcements**

- Next WMPO Bike/Ped Committee Meeting: August 20, 2017
- Next TCC Meeting: September 13, 2017

Mr. Pytcher advised that the contract for the Greenfield Lake project allows the contractor to close the road until mid-December, and that the estimated time for completion is in December as well. He noted that to date the project is on schedule and at 61% complete.

**10. Adjournment**

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

**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.**