

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Wednesday, February 14, 2018
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present:

Mike Kozlosky, Wilmington MPO
Don Bennett, City of Wilmington
Amy Kimes, Wilmington MPO
Ed Parvin, Town of Carolina Beach
Danielle Villegas, Town of
Wrightsville Beach
Granseur Dick, Wilmington
International Airport
Stephanie Ayers, North Carolina
State Ports Authority

John Allen, Town of Bellville
Ashli Barefoot, Town of Leland
Barnes Sutton, Town of Navassa
Kyle Breuer, Pender County
Allen Serkin, Cape Fear
Council of Governments
Nazia Sarder, NCDOT Planning
Megan Matheny, Cape Fear Public
Transportation Authority

1. Call to Order

Mr. Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Bennett made the motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Breuer, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Presentations

a. Airport Presentation – Granseur Dick, Wilmington International Airport

Mr. Granseur Dick introduced himself as the new Planning and Development Director for Wilmington International Airport (ILM). He gave an overview of new and expanded daily and seasonal air service to Dallas/Fort Worth, Chicago/O'Hare, Washington/Dulles and Reagan International starting this spring, with the addition of United Airlines and expanded service from American Airlines.

A question/answer and discussion period was held. In response to inquiries by Ms. Matheny and Mr. Bennett, Mr. Dick stated that a terminal expansion is in progress and will better accommodate TSA and ticketing. He noted that a parking expansion is also planned and equipment is due for replacement. He added that ILM is working in cooperation with NCDOT on its plans to improve 23rd Street as well.

b. Section 5310 Elderly and Disabled Transportation Grant Program – Megan Matheny, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority

Ms. Matheny stated that in 2016 after discussion with the MPO, Wave Transit became the direct recipient of Section 5310 funding, a federal transportation grant program for the elderly and disabled. She noted that the grant used to go to the state for dissemination, but due to changing regulations at the federal level, the state was removed from the equation, and the local transit agencies could apply to become a direct recipient.

Ms. Matheny stated that the program was rebranded in early 2017 as the Wave Connect Program. She noted that the program supports a bus route (#205) that serves the highest number of elderly and disabled riders, and a dedicated staff member to provide travel training to groups or individuals unfamiliar with riding the bus. She added that other governmental agencies and non-profits can apply for funding through this program for non-traditional transit projects. These are evaluated by the Wave Connect Committee and forwarded to the Authority Board for approval.

Ms. Matheny stated that Wave received two grant requests during the annual call for projects; one from New Hanover County Senior Resource Center and the other from the Brunswick Senior Resources. She encouraged members to forward information about this program to eligible organizations that support transportation projects for individuals age 65 and older with or without disabilities. She noted that the projects must support identified unmet needs. She gave an overview of the community grant projects, and the timeline for the grant recommendations. A brief question/answer and discussion period was held.

c. Update on Proposed Interchanges in the Wilmington Urban Area – Chad Kimes, NCDOT

Mr. Kimes gave an update on proposed interchanges in New Hanover County. He pointed out that the interchanges impact one another and must be studied together. He added that several TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) projects must also be taken into consideration.

Mr. Kimes gave an overview of DOT’s process for recommending a final alternate. He displayed examples of various alternates such as Single-Point Urban Interchanges (SPUI) and Quadrants. He gave current right-of-way and let dates, and estimated cost for each project, as follows:

Interchange	ROW Date	Let Date	Current STIP Cost
1. MLK Jr. Pkwy. & Market St.	10/18	2/20	\$38M-\$40M
2. MLK Jr. Pkwy. & Kerr Ave.	5/18	12/19	\$23M
3. MLK Jr. Pkwy. & College Rd.	10/21	6/24	\$26M
4. College Rd. & Oleander Dr.	10/21	6/24	\$55M
5. College Rd. & Carolina Beach Rd.	10/21	6/24	\$25M
6. Eastwood Rd. & Military Cutoff Rd.	FY20	9/21	\$26M

Mr. Kimes stated that all of the projects are funded and have been accelerated to the five-year program.

A question/answer and discussion period was held.

d. Independence Boulevard Extension – Chad Kimes, NCDOT

Mr. Kimes gave an update on the Independence Boulevard Extension from Randall Parkway to the Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway:

Project	ROW Date	Let Date	Current STIP Cost
Independence Blvd. Extension	4/22	8/25	\$150M

Mr. Kimes pointed out that right-of-way costs are expensive at about \$1 per dollar of construction. He noted that project goals include providing a north-south corridor, congestion relief to Kerr Avenue, College Road, Market Street, 3rd Street, 16th Street and 17th Street, and will tie into the urban loop concept once the Cape Fear Crossing is funded.

Mr. Kimes displayed a chart showing that 37,000 cars would start using the Independence Boulevard Extension if it was built today; taking 3,000 cars off Market Street. By 2040, traffic is anticipated to reach 50,000 cars a day without utilizing this new project. He gave some history of the project, and explained the proposed elevated facility. He noted that the exposure index for an at-grade crossing would be 2.8 times the CSX’s operational and safety threshold.

Mr. Kimes displayed three alternatives with various elevations, plus two new bridging options to minimize the effects, with costs yet to be calculated. He noted that any delay would increase the costs rapidly. He also displayed renderings of proposed structures over Darlington Avenue and Hurst Street.

e. Hampstead Bypass – Chad Kimes, NCDOT

Mr. Kimes gave an update on funding and design changes to the Hampstead Bypass/and U.S. 17 Median Project, which are advancing rapidly. He noted that Military Cutoff Road extension is under construction. He added that multiple parts are treated as one project, and include:

- R-3300A section from Wilmington Bypass to NC 210, funded for design, utilities and right-of-way (not construction);
- R-3300B section from NC 210 to North Hampstead, fully funded; and
- U-5732, the median project through Hampstead.

Mr. Kimes stated that the original let date of 2025 was accelerated to September 2020. He noted that the right-of-way goal is 2019 and is currently underway. He added that a new traffic forecast was done last year, which allowed for some major changes including the Midtown Interchange being shifted to the existing Hoover Road; the Northern Interchange minimizing environmental impacts, and the Dan Owen Connection. He displayed some renderings of the project.

Mr. Kimes gave an overview of the median cross-section. He noted that Pender County has participated with sidewalks along the entire length of the corridor.

A question/answer and discussion period was held.

Mr. Kimes gave an overview of projected traffic at various points with and without the projects. He displayed a simulation of the Bypass in 2040. He estimated the

total cost of all three sections at \$300 million and construction at five years. He noted that the goal is to open the Hampstead Bypass from US 17 to NC 210 by 2022-2023, after which the median portion would proceed.

4. Consent Agenda

- a. **Approval of TCC Meeting Minutes – January 10, 2018**
- b. **Resolution approving 2018-2027 STIP/MTIP Modification #18-1**
- c. **Resolution approving the Wilmington Urban Area MPO's Local Input Methodology for Prioritization 5.0**

Mr. Parvin made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and to forward Items 4a through 4c to the Board for consideration. Ms. Kimes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

5. Regular Agenda

- a. **Resolution Supporting the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Recommendation for a Single Point Urban Interchange as the Preferred Alternative at Market Street/Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway**

Mr. Bennett made a motion to approve the Resolution Supporting the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Recommendation for a Single Point Urban Interchange as the Preferred Alternative at Market Street/Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway. Ms. Barefoot seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

- b. **Resolution Supporting the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Recommendation for a Grade Separated Quadrant Interchange as the Preferred Alternative at Military Cutoff Road/Eastwood Road**

Mr. Bennett made a motion to approve the Resolution Supporting the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Recommendation for a Grade Separated Quadrant Interchange as the Preferred Alternative at Military Cutoff Road/Eastwood Road. Ms. Matheny seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

6. Discussion

- a. **TCC Direct Attributable Programs Sub-committee**

Ms. Kimes reported that the Board has agreed to all changes to the Direct Attributable Programs process that were recommended by the Committee. She requested a small group of volunteers for a subcommittee.

Ms. Ayers, Ms. Matheny, and Mr. Breuer expressed an interest in participating.

A member requested that Ron Van Cleef be invited to participate.

Ms. Kimes stated that Ms. Freund from the City of Wilmington expressed an interest in assisting.

Mr. Kozlosky requested that anyone with an interest forward their name to Ms. Kimes by close of business Friday.

b. TCC Bicycle Parking Sub-committee

Ms. Lorenzo stated that the Bike-Ped Committee directed staff to develop a draft model bike parking ordinance for circulation to member jurisdictions. She noted that the Bike-Ped Committee is currently reviewing the draft, and feedback is anticipated by the end of the month. She expressed the desire for a TCC Sub-committee to review the draft as well.

Mr. Kozlosky reminded members that this will be a model ordinance to serve as a guide and to provide additional information to jurisdictions.

Ms. Lorenzo requested that any interested members respond by next Monday.

Ms. Villegas, Mr. Parvin, and Mr. Breuer expressed an interest.

Ms. Lorenzo stated that she would contact sub-committee members in March.

c. 2018 Legislative Agenda

Mr. Kozlosky gave an overview of the 2018 legislative agenda adopted by the Board. He noted that it includes transportation financing, the transfer of maintenance, the moped legislation, and corridor preservation for monitoring during the next legislative session. He added that the President has released an infrastructure proposal as a starting point, which will need to be monitored as well.

Mr. Serkin suggested that the ferry system be added to the agenda.

Mr. Kozlosky pointed out that the Program Evaluation Division released a report contradicting some information received in the past.

Mr. Bennett suggested that the moped legislation be removed from the agenda since it has already passed.

Mr. Kozlosky commented that transportation finance is always challenging. He stated that the County Commissioners have been vocal in opposing the transfer of maintenance without a funding mechanism to maintain the roads. Also, the WMPO has an interest in retaining legislation indemnifying it from any legal actions regarding corridor filings.

Mr. Bennett suggested that the new legislation regarding offsite improvements for school facilities be added, since it will compete for local and division funding.

d. 2018-2027 STIP/MTIP Modification #18-2

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the STIP modification is for informational purposes only and will be brought back at the next meeting for approval.

7. Updates

a. MPO Staffing

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the new Project Engineer will start on March 5th. He noted that interviews have been scheduled for the Senior Transportation Planner position and the TDM Coordinator advertisement closes at the end of the month. He expressed a desire for the MPO to be fully staffed by July 1st.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Ayers, Mr. Bennett and Mr. Kimes stated that they will confirm closure and reopening dates for bridges on River Road.

8. Announcements

- NCDOT's Public Transportation Statewide Strategic Plan Summit: March 21st
- Next WMPO Bike/Ped Committee meeting: April 10th
- NCPTA Conference April 23rd-25th

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the next TCC meeting will be on March 14th at the usual time; but at the Harnett Room of the Main Branch of the New Hanover County Public Library.

9. Adjournment

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 11:49 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.**