



**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, 320 Chestnut Street**  
**Wednesday, February 28, 2018**

**Members Present**

David Piepmeyer, Pender County  
Pat Batleman, Town of Leland  
Neil Anderson, City of Wilmington  
Jonathan Barfield, Cape Fear Public  
Transportation Authority  
Hank Miller, Town of Wrightsville Beach  
Charlie Rivenbark, City of Wilmington  
Donna Schardien, Town of Belville  
Steve Shuttleworth, Town of Carolina Beach  
Skip Watkins, New Hanover County  
Frank Williams, Brunswick County  
Eulis Willis, Town of Navassa  
Landon Zimmer, NC Board of Transportation

**Others Present**

Mike Kozlosky, Executive Director, WMPO

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Conflict of Interest Statement**

Mr. Piepmeyer read the conflict of interest statement and asked if any members had a conflict with any item on the meeting agenda.

Mr. Zimmer stated that he has a conflict with Item 8c due to his membership on the NC Board of Transportation and with Item 9b due to property ownership.

Mr. Williams made a motion to recuse Mr. Zimmer from Items 8c and 9b. Mr. Watkins seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**3. Approval of Board Members' Excused Absences**

Mr. Kozlosky stated that Mr. Ellen has requested to be excused from today's meeting, and that Mr. Miller has been delayed.

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

**4. Approval of the Agenda**

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Batleman, Mr. Piepmeyer advised that no vote would be taken on Item 8a (Resolution Supporting the Naming of the Cape Fear River Bridge on the I-140 Bypass in Brunswick County in Honor of William M. Sue).

Mr. Kozlosky reminded members that this item was added to the Board's last agenda. He noted that staff received a resolution from the Town of Navassa to consider naming the bridge for former Mayor Brown. He added that DOT has suggested that it assemble and host a small group to discuss the naming of the bridge on the I-140 Bypass in Brunswick County, and that it will remain unnamed until a name is agreed upon.

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Ms. Batleman, and the motion carried unanimously.

## **5. Public Comment Period**

Mr. Andy Koeppel, P.O. Box 4443, Wilmington, spoke to the Board regarding Item 9e (Feasibility Study for a Connection between the Wilmington International Airport and Wilmington Multi-modal Transportation Center). He reminded members that he sent an email to them regarding a rail connection from the multi-modal center to the airport. He pointed out that the 2040 Plan does not preclude other projects from consideration, and that the cost should not prevent a feasibility study from being conducted.

Ms. Lydia Mincey, 1906 Market Street, Wilmington, spoke to the Board regarding the Market Street Road Diet and expressed concerns regarding neighborhood traffic. She commented that as a result of population growth, Market Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Street, and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street have become main cut through corridors for traffic moving north and south in Wilmington. She pointed out that these neighborhood roads were neither designed nor intended to accommodate fast moving, dense traffic conditions and congestion. She noted that according to DOT, accident rates have nearly doubled along Market Street between 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Streets. She added that this has contributed to unsafe pedestrian conditions for residents of the Carolina Heights and Carolina Place neighborhoods. She spoke in favor of the Independence Boulevard Extension and the Market Street Road Diet.

## **6. Presentations**

### **a. Hampstead Bypass – Chad Kimes, NCDOT**

Mr. Kimes gave an update on the Hampstead Bypass and US 17 Median Project. He noted that Military Cutoff Road Extension is currently under construction. He added that the project consists of the following parts:

- R-3300A from the Wilmington Bypass to NC 210: unfunded for construction; but funded for design, utilities and right-of-way acquisition;
- R-3300B from NC 210 to north of the hospital: fully funded; and
- U-5732, Business 17 median through Hampstead: fully funded.

Mr. Piepmeyer stated that based on public input, NCDOT accelerated improvements to US 17 prior to the median portion of the project. He commented that this will alleviate safety concerns and improve flow of traffic during the construction of the median portion of the project.

Mr. Kimes pointed out that the improvements between NC 210 and Factory Road will eliminate the types of accidents occurring currently.

Mr. Kimes gave an overview and displayed some renderings the proposed interchanges. He stated that a new traffic forecast was completed last year, which allowed for some major changes including the Midtown Interchange being shifted to the existing Hoover Road; the Northern Interchange being modified to reduce environmental impacts, and the Dan Owen Connection.

Mr. Piepmeyer pointed out that a school on this road will be given a second ingress/egress, which will help alleviate traffic and improve emergency access.

Mr. Kimes gave an overview of the median cross-section. He noted that Pender County has partnered with DOT for approximately six miles of sidewalks along the entire length of the corridor from Sloop Point Road to Washington Acres.

Mr. Kimes gave an overview of projected traffic volumes at various points with and without the improvements. He displayed a simulation of the Bypass in 2040. He noted that the let date was accelerated from 2025 to September 2020. He added that this presentation is available upon request.

**b. Wilmington International Airport Update – Julie Wilsey, ILM**

Ms. Wilsey, Airport Director, gave an update regarding Wilmington International Airport (ILM). She expressed appreciation to the community and agencies that provided letters of support and a total of \$200,000 towards the DOT small community service grant award of \$750,000.

Ms. Wilsey stated that as of April 9<sup>th</sup>, ILM will add a third network carrier (United) with domestic and international connections. She noted that ILM has eight (8) nonstop destinations, seven (7) hubs and six (6) international gateways. She added that the grant adds two flights a day to Chicago and Dulles.

Ms. Wilsey stated that American Airlines responded with a daily flight to DCA (Reagan National Airport) starting May 3<sup>rd</sup>, which has been a request from elected officials, UNCW, and the hospital. She noted that seasonal flights to Dallas/Fort Worth and Chicago have also been added.

Mr. Wilsey pointed out that the goal is to grow nonstop markets and reclaim the 20% of travelers flying from Raleigh. She expressed the desire for the next expansion to include a nonstop flight to Newark.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Batleman, Ms. Wilsey stated that 250 to 270 seats a day each way or seven new flights a day have been added. A brief question/answer and discussion period was held regarding noise abatement.

**c. Section 5310 Elderly and Disabled Transportation Grant Program – Vanessa Lacer, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority**

Ms. Lacer gave a presentation/update on the Wave Connect Program, funded through the Section 5310 Grant Program to improve access to transportation for those 65 and older, or with a disability or barriers to transportation. She stated that the program includes travel training, accessible van services, ADA apps, and community engagement. She gave an overview of grant eligibility requirements.

Ms. Lacer stated that Wave Connect Advisory Committee received two grant requests during the annual call for projects and recommended both to the Board, who approved them last week. She noted that of the \$63,790, New Hanover County Senior Resource Center received \$40,000 and the Brunswick Senior Resources, \$22,790, to provide transportation programs from the senior centers free of charge to participants. Both centers applied and received grant funding last year as well. She added that the grant application will be submitted to the FTA next week and, if awarded, the programs will be implemented in July.

7. **Consent Agenda**

- a. **Approval of WMPO Board Meeting Minutes – January 31, 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. Barfield made the motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 7(a) through 7(c).  
Mr. Watkins seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

8. **Regular Agenda**

- a. **Resolution Supporting the Naming of the Cape Fear River Bridge on the I-140 Bypass in Brunswick County in Honor of William M. Sue**

Mr. Kozlosky reminded members that this item was added to the agenda at the Board's last meeting, where it was tabled. He noted that staff received an additional request from the Town of Navassa to name the bridge for former Mayor Louis Bobby Brown. He endorsed DOT's recommendation that a small group be assembled to come up with a uniform name and position on the request. A question/answer and discussion period was held.

Ms. Batleman stated that Mr. and Mrs. Sue offered to share the naming, and proposed that the US 74/76 portion in Brunswick County be named for Mr. Sue.

Mr. Watkins pointed out that a third entity may be interested in suggesting a name as well.

Following further discussion, Mr. Williams made a motion table the Resolution until a committee formed by DOT provides a recommendation. Mr. Willis seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

- b. **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. Kozlosky reminded members that at its last meeting, the Board received a presentation on a recommendation from NCDOT for a Single-Point Urban Interchange (SPUI) at the intersection of Market Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway. He added that this item has been placed on the current agenda at the Board's request.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Williams, Mr. Kozlosky stated that the SPUI is not a diverging diamond.

Mr. Barfield made the 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. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**c. 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. Kozlosky reminded members that at its last meeting the Board received a presentation from NCDOT regarding this project. He noted that following public input and further review, the Department recommended a combination of the two additional alternatives for a grade-separated quadrant interchange at Military Cutoff Road and Eastwood Road.

Mr. Kimes stated that DOT may be willing to break out and advance the Drysdale Drive extension to reduce the stress on the project.

Mr. Miller advised that he may have a conflict of interest with this item and requested to be recused.

Mr. Rivenbark made a motion to recuse Mr. Miller from Item 8c, seconded by Mr. Watkins, and the motion carried unanimously.

Following further consideration, Mr. Rivenbark made the 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. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**9. Discussion**

**a. Cape Fear Crossing – Toll Facility**

Mr. Kozlosky reminded members that the adopted Cape Fear 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan identifies the Cape Fear Crossing as a toll facility. He inquired about support from the Board for the North Carolina Turnpike Authority and NCDOT to consider to it as such. He noted that this request would allow for data collection and would not obligate the Board to a toll facility.

In response to concerns expressed by Mr. Watkins, Mr. Kozlosky responded that a traffic and revenue forecast would be needed to determine the potential toll.

Following further discussion, Mr. Rivenbark made a motion to support a request for the North Carolina Turnpike Authority and DOT to consider the Cape Fear Crossing as a toll facility. Mr. Watkins seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that given the importance of the Cape Fear Crossing and the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge, both identified in the MPO's strategic plan, the MPO and DOT recommend the sequence of installing the crossing at a new location prior to replacing the existing bridge. He pointed out that diverting traffic to the new facility while the old one was being replaced would cause a significance cost reduction in traffic control. A question/answer and discussion period was held.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the Department has submitted this bridge replacement in prioritization, which will last until 2040. However, the WMPO will need to consider replacing the bridge with the 2045 Plan update. He noted that the Department has identified some concerns and estimates needing to spend \$8 million to repair the deck within the next few months to a year.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Rivenbark, Mr. Kimes stated that alternatives would be developed; however, a fixed span would be preferred.

Board members expressed concerns. Mr. Barfield commented that he would support an option that remains within the same footprint.

It was the consensus of the Board to support the recommended sequencing.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that staff will bring back a resolution of support next month.

**b. Independence Boulevard Extension**

Mr. Kozlosky stated that this is an update on the presentation given to the Board at its last meeting on the Independence Boulevard Extension.

Mr. Kimes distributed some brochures regarding relocation assistance as requested by Mr. Barfield at the Board's last meeting. He noted that a presentation on relocation assistance is available upon request.

Mr. Kimes provided an update on the Independence Boulevard Extension Project. He noted that at the last meeting, an option was given to build a single structure from Market Street to Hurst Street. He commented that of the original alternatives, the best is the second option with Darlington, Market, Princess Place and Hurst Streets all connected to the west side. He noted that new options include building about 3,100 linear feet of bridge from Market Street to Hurst Street, and reducing five "hills" to two. He added that the new options have increased construction costs; but decreased impacts and right-of-way costs.

Mr. Kimes reminded members that the project is funded for about \$150 million with a let date of 2025. He displayed options and rough projected costs for Option 2, and new Options 5 (Tight Urban Diamond Interchange), and 6 (SPUI). He noted that if the cost is within 5%, additional funds may be requested. He reminded members that this project is funded with Division funds and will impact other Division projects, perhaps a year's worth. He inquired whether the Board is interested in including the two new options as true alternates. A question/answer and discussion period was held.

Mr. Shuttleworth made the motion to approve further consideration of the two new options for the Independence Boulevard Extension. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion, and it carried 10-1. (Mr. Barfield voted "No.")

**c. Social Media Policy**

Ms. Lorenzo stated that the WMPO Social Media Policy adopted by the Board in the fall of 2015 has been included in the agenda packet. She noted that it explains the types of information being posted and a procedure for handling inappropriate comments. She requested that the social media sites for the member jurisdictions share WMPO posts to extend the reach. She noted that the intention of social media is to reach an otherwise unreachable demographic and to increase followers.

Mr. Miller requested an e-mail inviting participation.

Ms. Lorenzo gave an update on the WMPO's Facebook page, Twitter feed and the number of followers. She noted that social media will be instrumental in the launch of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan to the public.

Mr. Williams expressed concerns regarding freedom of speech issues. He recommended the School of Government as a good resource. He requested that private messages sent to these accounts be retained for public records.

**d. 2018 Legislative Agenda**

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the 2017 legislative agenda regarding transportation financing, the opposition to the transfer of road maintenance, moped legislation, and corridor preservation are included in the agenda packet. He advised that the moped legislative agenda item was addressed during the last legislative session and could be removed from this agenda.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the TCC recommends including a position on the ferry report for reducing off season crossings, adjusting fares and using partnerships to improve Ferry Division efficiency. He noted that the report was prepared by the Program Evaluation Division of the General Assembly, which included recommendations for the creation of a long-range plan, and evaluation of schedules to identify reductions in off season crossings, ways to maintain and generate additional revenues, and explore partnerships with local governments and the private sector.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the TCC also recommends a position on funding for road improvements adjacent to schools. A question/answer and discussion period was held.

Mr. Barfield and Mr. Rivenbark requested to receive the moped legislation. Mr. Kozlosky responded that it would be forwarded to members.

Mr. Kozlosky inquired if the Board has any items to add to the legislative agenda. He noted that DOT is exploring financing mechanisms regarding borrowing capacity similar to the Federal GARVEE program.

Mr. Williams suggested general indemnification from lawsuits tied to corridor filings. Mr. Kozlosky stated that staff would bring back a recommendation to the board.

**e. Feasibility Study for a connection between the Wilmington International Airport and Wilmington Multi-modal Transportation Center**

Mr. Kozlosky stated that a memo including six options for a evaluating a connection between the airport and the multi-modal center has been included in the agenda packet.

Mr. Piepmeyer suggested incorporating this item into discussions on the 2045 Plan.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Rivenbark, Mr. Kozlosky stated that the 2045 Plan public kickoff event is scheduled for April 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Board will consider adoption in November of 2020.

A question/answer and discussion period was held. Mr. Barfield requested that all stakeholders, including the airport and New Hanover County, be involved in discussions regarding the proposed connection.

It was the consensus of the Board for this request to be considered as part of the 2045 Plan.

f. **2018-2027 STIP/MTIP Modification #18-2**

Mr. Kozlosky stated that this item is for informational purposes only and will be brought back at the Board's next meeting.

g. **2018 River to Sea Ride and Additional Event**

Ms. Lorenzo stated that the MPO's Bike/Ped Committee formed a subcommittee for the River to Sea Bike Ride. She noted that the date of the event will be May 5<sup>th</sup>. She added that proposed changes include only one starting point downtown on Front Street, and an earlier start time at 7:00 a.m. She noted that the Bike/Ped Committee proposes an additional event, possibly in the fall, to highlight the Cross City Trail.

h. **MPO Bike/Pedestrian Committee Appointments**

Mr. Kozlosky reminded members that three appointments are needed to the Bike/Ped Committee – from Mr. Barfield, Mr. Rivenbark and Mr. Ellen.

Mr. Williams requested some information regarding his appointment.

i. **April MPO Board Meeting**

Mr. Kozlosky stated that many WMPO staff members will be attending a conference the week of the April Board meeting, and requested to change the Board meeting date to April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Rivenbark requested to have all meeting dates sent as an email invitation.

Following further discussion, Mr. Rivenbark made the motion to approve a change in the date of the Board's April meeting to April 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Shuttleworth seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

9. **Updates**

Mr. Kozlosky gave an update on WMPO staffing. He stated that the new Project Engineer will start March 5<sup>th</sup> and that the Senior Transportation Planner position is under consideration. He noted that the TDM position closes at the end of the week. He expressed the desire to reach full staffing by July 1<sup>st</sup>. He noted that the other updates are included in the packet.

Mr. Williams pointed out that he and his alternate have a potential conflict with the date of the Board's May meeting. Staff will bring this item back for discussion at the next meeting.

10. **Announcements**

Mr. Kozlosky stated that NCDOT's Public Transportation Statewide Strategic Plan Summit will be held in Raleigh on March 21<sup>st</sup>. He noted that Wave is providing transportation. He noted that the next WMPO Bike/Ped Committee Meeting is April 10<sup>th</sup>. He reminded members that the State Ethics Requirement is due April 15<sup>th</sup>. He added that a NCPTA Conference will be held in Wilmington, April 23<sup>rd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> and the next meeting of the MPO Board will be held March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Piepmeyer requested an update from the attorney at the Board's next meeting. Mr. Kozlosky responded that one will be given. He added that Matt Nichols will be submitting an updated contract.



**11. Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

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.**