

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Wednesday, March 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
Rebekah Roth, New Hanover County
Stephanie Ayers, North Carolina
State Ports Authority
John Allen, Town of Bellville

Ashli Barefoot, Town of Leland
Barnes Sutton, Town of Navassa
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County
Pat O'Mahony, 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 10:05 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Presentation

a. Emerging Technologies (Autonomous Vehicles) – Jason O'Brien, WMPO

Mr. O'Brien gave an overview of five stages of autonomous technology as follows:

1. Automation or assistive technology (current stage);
2. Increased autonomy and assistive technology such as lane centering;
3. Safety critical functions and accident avoidance;
4. Autonomy limited to certain locations and conditions; and
5. Full autonomy/completely driverless vehicles (22nd century).

Mr. O'Brien stated that each stage will dominate for a number of years; although technologies will overlap. He pointed out that the stages can be grouped into eras:

1. Driver assistance (stages 1-3);
2. Limited autonomy (stage 4); and
3. Full autonomy (stage 5).

Mr. O'Brien explained that early stages will operate mostly on highways and expand to more complex environments such as downtowns and local streets. He noted that the first autonomous vehicles will be trucks hauling freight. He also noted that autonomous transit already exists on dedicated routes.

Mr. O'Brien gave an overview of the consequences of autonomous vehicles. He noted that machine vision is confused by pedestrians and the weather. He added that

experts agree that less parking and better curbside management will be necessary by the 4th stage. However, experts are divided on projected outcomes as follows:

- Increased congestion due to the impact of the diminished time cost of driving, resulting in accelerated changes in driver behavior and urban sprawl; and/or
- A decline in private ownership due to the efficiencies of the shared-use model and the cost prohibitive nature of autonomous vehicles.

Mr. O'Brien gave an overview of the impact to public transit. He noted that the current national downward trend in ridership is attributed to ride hailing services such as Uber and Lyft. He pointed out that public transit may improve its prospects and avoid labor issues by embracing autonomous technology to improve efficiencies and fill transit gaps on local routes.

Mr. O'Brien stated that the autonomous vehicle lobby is currently focusing on federal and state levels. However, the federal government is devolving decision making to the states.

Mr. O'Brien stated that autonomous vehicles in later stages will need to communicate with each other and smart infrastructure (intelligent information systems) such as messaging signs. He gave some examples and noted that infrastructure changes are expected to be minor, small and inexpensive, such as paint, markings, embedded sensors, signs and signals. Most changes will occur regarding road management.

Mr. O'Brien stated that many traditional sources of revenue (gas tax, parking fees and fines, traffic tickets/speed traps/moving violations) will become irrelevant. He noted that autonomous vehicles will potentially increase safety and personal productivity, eliminate the need for parking, encourage country-side development, have the potential to eliminate uses such as cycling, walking, and public transit, increase congestion, and necessitate a new demand management approach and a new revenue model. He recommended that members read the American Planning Association's recent article, "Autonomous Vehicles: Planning for Impacts on Cities & Regions."

Mr. Kozlosky stated that this presentation one in a series that will be given to the Citizens Advisory Committee for the development of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

Mr. Bennett stated that Wilmington has three signals that have been upgraded to provide SPAT (Signal, Phase And Timing) information needed for vehicle and infrastructure communications. He noted that all that is needed is the communication technology. He added that one other corridor in Wilmington has been fitted for high resolution data collection.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Serkin, Mr. Kozlosky stated that a drastic change in traffic management will occur during the next 25 years. He noted that some policy recommendations were included with the presentation to the CAC.

Ms. Roth expressed concerns regarding safety and infrastructure design. Mr. Bennett pointed out that two fatalities have occurred due to machine vision.

4. **Consent Agenda**

- a. **Approval of TCC Meeting Minutes – February 14, 2018**
- b. **Resolution approving 2018-2027 STIP/MTIP Modification #18-2**
- c. **Resolution approving 2018-2027 STIP/MTIP Amendment #18-1**
- d. **Resolution supporting an effort to explore the possible sequencing of the construction of the Cape Fear Crossing and replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge**
- e. **Resolution adopting the 2018 Legislative Agenda**

Ms. Bunch made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and to forward Items 4a through 4e to the Board for consideration. Ms. Kimes seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

5. **Regular Agenda**

- a. **Resolution approving the Wilmington Urban Area MPO's FY 19 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Kozlosky reminded members that a draft was presented to the committee in January. Since that time, the STP-DA budget has been increased by \$20,000 to implement recommendations from the compensation analysis. He noted that the Board has directed staff to take this through the City's budgeting process.

Ms. Barefoot made a motion to approve the Resolution approving the Wilmington Urban Area MPO's FY'19 Unified Planning Work Program. Ms. Roth seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

- b. **Resolution Certifying the Transportation Planning Process for the Wilmington Urban Area MPO**

Mr. Kozlosky reminded members that the MPO is required to certify annually its transportation planning process in a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive manner in compliance with federal regulations. He noted that this resolution acknowledges and certifies compliance.

Ms. Bunch made a motion to approve the Resolution Certifying the Transportation Planning Process for the Wilmington Urban Area MPO. Ms. Kimes seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

- c. **Resolution supporting the allocation of Direct Attributable funds to the Town of Carolina Beach for the Cape Fear Multi-use Path**

Ms. Kimes stated that the Town of Carolina Beach bid its second STP-DA project recently and it came in slightly over budget. She noted that this resolution will cover the additional needs.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Serkin, Ms. Kimes stated that contingency is included in all project bids. She noted that the quantities are never exact. She added that sometimes streetscape improvements are included.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the Board has approved the use of FY'18 funds to cover cost overruns.

Following further discussion, Ms. Matheny made a motion to approve the Resolution supporting the allocation of Direct Attributable funds to the Town of Carolina Beach for the Cape Fear Multi-use Path. Mr. Serkin seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

d. Resolution supporting the allocation of FY18 Direct Attributable funds to the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority

Ms. Kimes stated that all of the projects for FY18 funds that were estimated or awarded were reviewed with current estimates. Wave Transit has requested the same allocation as last year. She added that the \$591,000 would be used for ADA improvements such as bus stop enhancements.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Serkin, Ms. Kimes estimated that about \$400,000 would remain as surplus, assuming that all projects go to bid this year.

Mr. Kozlosky pointed out that the modal targets of 20 percent equates to \$591,000. He reminded members that the MPO Board approved the use of surplus funds for overages and for Wave Transit. Although this is the process for this year, the allocation of resources for FY19 still needs to be determined.

Ms. Matheny stated that the STP-DA Subcommittee met to discuss the process for FY19.

Ms. Ayers made a motion to approve the Resolution supporting the allocation of FY18 Direct Attributable funds to the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

6. Discussion

a. Socio-economic Data Projections

Ms. Sarder gave an update on the socio-economic data projections. She acknowledged the presence of members of the socio-economic data committee who have been collecting parcel data for new housing units since. She noted that the last one was received on Monday and will be reviewed and incorporated into the model. She added that employment information was verified as well. She stated that the base year model should be complete by the end of this month and the future model, by June.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Kozlosky, Ms. Sarder stated that the committee will be reconvened for future year data verification.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Serkin, Ms. Sarder stated that a presentation would be given to the TCC and the Board in April.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Bennett regarding an interactive model that could be updated on the fly, Ms. Sarder stated that the current model is merely an update. She noted that the next model would be developed from scratch. She acknowledged that the committee worked diligently to update the model that includes more than 600 TAZs.

7. Updates

a. MPO Staffing

Mr. Kozlosky introduced the newest staff member, Fred Royal, Project Engineer, who started on March 5th.

Mr. Royal expressed appreciation and gave some background information.

Mr. Kozlosky noted that other updates are included in the agenda packet.

8. Announcements

➤ NCDOT's Public Transportation Statewide Strategic Plan Summit: March 21st
Ms. Matheny offered members the option of carpooling to Raleigh.

➤ Next WMPO Bike/Ped Committee meeting: April 10th
Mr. Kozlosky stated that appointments are still needed from the City of Wilmington, the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority and the Town of Kure Beach. He noted that the River to the Sea Bike Ride event has been scheduled for May 5th.

➤ NCPTA Conference: April 23rd-25th
Ms. Matheny stated that the conference would be held at the Wilmington Convention Center. She noted that the keynote speaker will discuss autonomous vehicles and encouraged anyone with an interest to attend.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the next TCC meeting will be on April 11th at the usual time at this location (the Harnett Room of the Main Branch of the New Hanover County Public Library).

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Matheny, Mr. Kozlosky stated that the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is structured the same as in the past. He noted that the kickoff event is scheduled for April 3rd at the Northeast Branch of the New Hanover County Public Library. He added that two speakers have been secured, Board Vice Chair Pat Batleman and CAC Chair Laura Padgett. He noted that the speakers will be sandwiched between two open houses.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that presentations to the boards and member jurisdictions are scheduled for April; five open houses at various locations in May; and public comment will be collected through July 31st. Then, stakeholders in modal subcommittees will meet and develop project lists. Also, the consultant, WSP, has been contracted to help with public outreach and the financial analysis; although most of the effort will be in-house.

Ms. Matheny requested a "save-the-date" for the April 3rd kick-off event to share with members' distribution networks. Ms. Lorenzo stated that one was sent to Ms. Lacer and that it has also been shared on social media.

Ms. Bunch expressed concerns regarding social media and requested that traditional media be used. Mr. Kozlosky responded that a press release is being prepared; and will be distributed.

9. Adjournment

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 11:06 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.**