



WILMINGTON URBAN AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Citizens Advisory Committee
6th Floor Conference Room, 320 Chestnut Street
Wednesday, March 14, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Laura Padgett, Chair, City of Wilmington
David Hollis, Brunswick County
Sallie Rochelle, Pender County
Web Bostic, New Hanover County
Jason Windham, City of Wilmington
Harold King, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Stuart Smith, Town of Belville
Brayton Willis, Town of Leland
Valorie Hatten, Town of Navassa
Vanessa Lacer, Cape Fear Public
Transportation Authority

Others Present:

Mike Kozlosky, Executive Director, WMPO
Michael Madsen, GIS Analyst, WMPO
Abigail Lorenzo, Associate Planner, WMPO
Jason O'Brien, Associate Planner, WMPO
Fred Royal, Project Engineer, WMPO

1. Call to Order

Ms. Padgett called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. She introduced Mr. Brayton Willis representing the Town of Leland. Mr. Willis expressed appreciation and shared some background information about himself.

2. Approval of Minutes – February 14, 2018

Mr. King made a motion to approve the minutes of February 14, 2018, seconded by Mr. Bostic, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Presentation – Emerging Technologies (Aerial Drones)

Mr. O'Brien gave the second presentation in the series of emerging technologies on aerial drones. He reminded members about the expected rapid transformation of transportation through emerging technologies, and commented that many transportation agencies are unprepared for it. He noted that autonomous vehicles are not apparent yet due to the incomplete nature of the technology; whereas drones are ready but banned by federal regulations, which prohibit drone flights over populated areas in the United States. He displayed videos on the drone delivery services of Amazon, Walmart and UPS.

Mr. O'Brien stated that 2,000 new drones are registered by the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) daily, not including toys. He noted that there are currently twice as many registered drones as manned aircraft. He added that the FAA expected 1.3 million licensed drone pilots by 2020. He noted that drone development includes swarms, in-air refueling and repair, nested systems with larger drones deploying smaller ones such as Amazon's unmanned airship, and beaming 5G.

Mr. O'Brien stated that drone technology is advancing and is expected to surpass truck delivery especially for lighter packages over short distances in rural areas, and the first and last mile gaps where truck delivery is inefficient. He noted that the public is excited about the future prospect of rapid delivery, delivery anywhere, and emergency management and humanitarian applications. Concerns are mainly about safety related to malfunctions.

Mr. O'Brien gave an overview of current regulations and noted that exemptions are granted on a case-by-case basis. He explained that air space is divided vertically to restrict unmanned aircraft up to an altitude of 400 feet; 100 feet below fixed wing, manned aircraft. He noted that the laws

are determined by case law. He pointed out that the high cost of flight will not help curb drone use. He displayed a couple of videos of passenger drones in Dubai.

Mr. O'Brien stated that drones are more cost effective and less complicated to operate than autonomous vehicles. He noted that they are expected to outpace and perhaps overtake autonomous vehicles. He pointed out that with the rapid development of drones, their emergence will be dependent on the evolution of regulations and gave a rough timeline for their emergence. He recommended developing a vision, engaging in policymaking and long-range planning, re-evaluating long-term investments in truck freight, incorporating drones into emergency management plans and long-term traffic projections in rural area, and vigilance regarding advancements by other countries in drone use over populated areas.

Ms. Padgett pointed out that this is the first Committee to consider such technologies and their impact. She suggested that members research Masdar City to get a better idea regarding the gap between intention and the current limited reality of autonomous vehicles.

Mr. Kozlosky reminded members that these presentations are merely food for thought.

A question/answer and discussion period was held.

4. Modal Subcommittee Update

Ms. Kozlosky stated that based on requests from members at the last meeting, MPO staff members have been removed from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee, and a Chamber of Commerce representative has been added to the subcommittees. He distributed lists of final subcommittees.

Mr. Willis offered to take Mr. Obrock's place on the Roadway Subcommittee.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the next step would be to reach out to the various entities for them to identify individuals for participation. He recommended that the subcommittees begin meeting in July.

Ms. Padgett pointed out that the subcommittees will determine their own meeting schedules.

Mr. Kozlosky advised that subcommittees met about once a month for the previous plan.

5. Public Involvement Update

Ms. Lorenzo gave a brief update on public outreach. She noted that the kickoff meeting is scheduled for April 3rd from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Oleander Room at the Northeast Branch of the New Hanover County Library on Military Cutoff Road (near Mayfaire). She noted that it will be conducted similar to an open house and will also feature some speakers. She added that staff is working on a press release and advertising to get the word out.

Ms. Lorenzo stated that the event will be followed by brief, five-minute presentations at board meetings of the member jurisdictions. She noted that respective staffs have been contacted and a schedule has been developed. She added that in May, five additional open houses will be held throughout the MPO region to give the public the opportunity to provide input through surveys and participate in the process. She noted that sample promotional materials from the consultant and the finalized MTP survey have been included in the agenda packet.

Mr. Kozlosky pointed out that the survey is available in Spanish as well as in English.

Mr. Madsen stated that the 2045 Plan logo has been updated with the tagline. He noted that it would be featured on all promotional materials, the website and surveys. He displayed a preview of the website, the surveys, links to social media sites, and the interactive map complete with instructions. He added that www.capefearmovingforward2045.org will go live on March 30th, a few days before the kickoff event.

Ms. Lacer requested that all the promotional materials be revised to refer to the "Cape Fear Region." Mr. Kozlosky responded that this revision would be made.

6. Additional Items

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Bostic, Ms. Lorenzo stated that the Facebook page now has 75 followers, and the Twitter feed has 52. She noted that members of the Board have been asked to encourage their jurisdictions to participate.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Bostic, Mr. Kozlosky stated that attendance will be driven by various mechanisms such as press releases, social media, and save-the-date emails. He encouraged the Committee to get the word out as well. He noted that the WMPO has a fairly good relationship with the media, and hoped that it would help preview the kickoff event.

Ms. Padgett encouraged members to make use of the social media resources of their jurisdictions. She requested that members receive something that can be forwarded by e-mail.

Ms. Lacer suggested that the consultant compile a package of promotional materials. Mr. Kozlosky stated that this is in the works.

Ms. Lorenzo reminded the Committee that staff has contacted each of the jurisdictions and requested that flyers be posted at town halls and community buildings, and on social media.

Ms. Padgett encouraged Committee members to attend the open houses in May, especially those held in their represented jurisdictions.

Mr. Kozlosky noted that the schedule of open houses would be distributed to members.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the next meeting of the CAC would be held on April 11th at City Hall in the Lord Spencer Compton Conference Room, 102 N. 3rd Street, since the expected renovations have been delayed.

Mr. Kozlosky introduced the WMPO's new Project Engineer, Fred Royal. Mr. Royal expressed appreciation and gave a brief overview of his professional background.

7. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:48 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.**