

Citizens Advisory Committee
6th Floor Conference Room, 320 Chestnut Street
Wednesday, May 9, 2018
Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

David Hollis, Brunswick County
Web Bostic, New Hanover County
Sallie Rochelle, Pender County
Patrick Boykin, Town of Carolina Beach
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
Neal Andrew, NC Board of Transportation

Others Present:

Nazia Sarder, NCDOT
Mike Kozlosky, Executive Director, WMPO
Abigail Lorenzo, Senior Transportation
Planner, WMPO
Jason O'Brien, Associate Planner, WMPO
Michael Madsen, GIS Analyst, WMPO

1. Call to Order

Mr. Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Election of a Temporary Chair

Mr. Kozlosky advised members to elect a Temporary Chair in the absence of both the Chair and the Vice Chair.

Mr. King made a motion to nominate Ms. Rochelle as Temporary Chair. Mr. Boykin seconded the motion. There being no other nominations, the motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes – March 14, 2018

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

4. Presentation – Emerging Technologies (Public Transportation)

Mr. O'Brien gave a presentation on public transportation, the third in the series on emerging technologies. He reminded members about the expected rapid transformation of transportation through technological advancements. He gave a brief overview of core concepts such as captive and choice riders, trends such as gradually declining ridership for traditional forms of public transit, and more flexible alternatives such as Personal Rapid Transit (PRT), of which he displayed some brief videos.

Mr. O'Brien gave a comparison of public transit alternatives as follows:

- **Four-person PRT line:** 7,200 passengers/hour, scalable on demand, most affordable, potential poor integration with autonomous vehicles;
- **Grade-separated light rail:** 15,000 passengers/hour, not scalable, costly, no conflict with autonomous vehicles; and
- **Heavy rail:** 50,000 passengers/hour, not scalable, costliest, no conflict with autonomous vehicles.

Ms. Lacer expressed concerns regarding the density requirements to support the alternatives. Also, she pointed out the importance of pedestrian feeder systems for any alternative.

A lengthy question/answer and discussion period was held.

5. Cape Fear Moving Forward 2045 Update

Ms. Lorenzo stated that although the committee did not meet in April, staff launched the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) on April 3rd at the Northeast Branch of the New Hanover County Library. She noted that WECT and WWAY covered the event, which was attended by about 35 people. She thanked members for their attendance.

Ms. Lorenzo stated that during the month of April, staff traveled to our member jurisdictions and gave presentations to increase participation. She noted that staff will conduct a series of five open houses across the region in May – the first last week in Carolina Beach, and one last night in Leland.

Mr. Madsen stated that as of yesterday 551 surveys have been completed. He reported that the majority of respondents to date consider transportation options very important (41%), and identify driving to school and/or work as their current mode of transportation, and, car pooling and van pooling as the future mode of transportation.

Mr. Madsen stated that the survey identifies safety as the most important travel priority, followed by convenience and travel time. He noted that most respondents opted to prioritize funding by investing more in cost-efficient alternative transportation modes, particularly in bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and identified revenue streams from impact fees on new developments, followed by a gas tax, and, lastly, a higher property tax (least favorite). He gave an overview of demographic data for respondents.

Mr. Madsen stated that the public input map received 549 hits, more than 165 comments, and 594 votes. He noted that the majority of the comments and votes were in the bicycle and pedestrian category, followed by roadway, public transportation, freight/ rail, aviation and ferry. He gave an overview of some of the comments and votes.

Ms. Lorenzo reminded members that the remaining open houses will be held at the Hampstead Annex, the New Hanover County Senior Center, and Wilmington City Hall from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. She noted that staff plans to occupy a community booth at local events as well as at the New Hanover Regional Medical Center, Mayfaire or Independence Mall, and target the Spanish-speaking population. She added that staff is posting updates weekly on social media.

Mr. King stated that the Town of Wrightsville Beach distributed an e-mail to its mailing list and suggested that the other jurisdictions do so as well.

Mr. Smith suggested targeting the various Nextdoor social networks.

A question/answer and discussion period was held.

Mr. Willis expressed concerns regarding reaching college students. Ms. Lorenzo responded that staff worked with representatives from UNCW and Cape Fear Community College for information to be distributed through their e-mail lists.

Ms. Lacer suggested creating events on Facebook.

A question/answer and discussion period was held.

Mr. Bostic suggested using DOT's variable message boards when not in use.

6. Existing Conditions Analysis

Mr. Madsen gave an overview of current conditions and displayed the updated boundary map to be included in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). He noted that the Wilmington Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is the fourth fastest growing MSA in North Carolina. He commented that Wilmington would have been first in the state if Brunswick County was included. However, the Census includes Brunswick County in the Myrtle Beach MSA. He pointed out that although New Hanover County is more populated, Brunswick County is the fastest growing county in the state.

Mr. Madsen gave an overview of socio-economic data from the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS). He noted that the Wilmington MPO socio-economic scores are higher than the state's. He noted that 97% of individuals within the WMPO use a motor vehicle to commute to work. He gave a breakdown of the various modes of transportation within the WMPO.

Ms. Lorenzo stated that staff has begun reviewing projects from the current MTP as part of this analysis to compile potential project lists for the modal subcommittees.

Mr. Willis expressed a desire for a financial comparison of estimated and actual project costs.

A question/answer and discussion period was held regarding Brunswick County. Mr. Hollis inquired about the earliest transportation plan. Ms. Lorenzo responded that the 2030 Plan may be the earliest. She noted that she would research it and report back to the group.

Ms. Sarder gave an update on the socio-economic data. She reminded members that the current 2040 Travel Demand Model with base year 2010 data is being updated with base year 2015 data to test projects for the 2045 MTP. She noted that a major component of the model is socio-economic data, which relies on local input. She added that a steering committee comprised of Technical Coordinating Committee members has been meeting since November to review the data.

Ms. Sarder stated that employment data was gathered from InfoUSA and was sent to the MPO for verification. She noted that an intern with the MPO contacted more than 300 employers with more than 50 employees to verify data. She added that this data was incorporated into the model and reviewed by the subcommittee. She commented that members were generally satisfied with the data, questioning the number of employees for only a few of the Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZ).

Ms. Sarder stated that ACS (American Community Survey) data was initially used for population. She noted that the ACS data is only an estimate. She added that the Census is accurate, although only available every 10 years, with the last one in 2010. She noted that the subcommittee was satisfied with the overall population number; but not at the TAZ level.

Ms. Sarder stated that the subcommittee proposed to provide tax parcel data for new housing units from 2010 to 2015. She noted that this data was added to 2010 Census with an occupancy rate applied from the Census to calculate the total 2015 population. She added that the data was a close match when compared with the overall ACS data for total population at the county level. She displayed maps of population in the TAZs. She noted that the raw data can be extracted on request for any of the more than 600 TAZs.

A brief question/answer and discussion period was held.

Ms. Sarder stated that an update will be given to the TCC and the MPO Board later this month. She noted that next steps include projecting 2045 future year socio-economic data, which will depend on the subcommittee to identify low, medium and high growth rates in the TAZs. She expressed the desire for the model to be completed by the end of July.

7. Modal Subcommittees

Ms. Lorenzo stated that most of the modal subcommittees will begin meeting in July. She noted that the only exception is the Bike/Ped modal subcommittee, which will start in June, since it's a standing committee without a July meeting. She added that staff will contact potential members to verify participation or find an alternative. She noted that the first meeting agenda will be focus on goals and project criteria.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Lacer, Ms. Lorenzo stated that the Bike/Ped Committee will meet on June 12th at 3:00 p.m. in this room.

8. Additional Item(s)

Ms. Lorenzo introduced Mr. Patrick Boykin representing the Town of Carolina Beach. Mr. Boykin expressed appreciation and shared some background information about himself.

Ms. Rochelle stated that the next meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee will be June 13th.

9. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:43 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.**