

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Wednesday, June 13, 2018
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present:

Mike Kozlosky, Wilmington MPO

Don Bennett, City of Wilmington

Amy Kimes, Wilmington MPO

Danielle Villegas, Town of
Wrightsville Beach

Rebekah Roth, New Hanover County

Stephanie Ayers, North Carolina

State Ports Authority

Athina Williams, Town of Belville

Ashli Barefoot, Town of Leland

Helen Bunch, Brunswick County

Barnes Sutton, Town of Navassa

Travis Henley, Pender County

Benjamin Hughes, NCDOT Division
of Highways

Nazia Sarder, NCDOT Planning

Albert Eby, 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

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

3. Presentations

a. Direct Attributable Project Update – Amy Kimes, WMPO

Ms. Kimes gave a presentation/update on the Direct Attributables (DA) Programs. She stated that STBGP (Surface Transportation Block Grant Program) has funded 20 construction projects totaling \$13.4 million, Wave Transit ADA maintenance and buses totaling \$3.7 million, and studies totaling \$1.6 million including one for the Cape Fear Crossing. She noted that TASA (Transportation Alternatives Set Aside) has funded four projects totaling \$850,000.

Ms. Kimes stated that the combined DA award brought almost \$20 million to the region for transportation projects over the last five years with \$15.87 million from federal funds and \$3.8 million from local jurisdictions. She reminded members that this funding is currently in use by five municipalities, one county, Wave Transit and the North Carolina Department of Transportation. She gave an overview of the projects by jurisdiction and displayed maps.

b. Emerging Technologies for Signals/Signs – Fred Royal, WMPO

Mr. Royal gave a presentation on Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), the fourth and last in the series on emerging technologies. He noted that ITS monitors water and sewer in smart cities, and provides automatic information to users/engineers. He added that this technology is also used in day-to-day operations to manage signal systems and for analytics to report on issues.

Mr. Royal stated that goals of ITS include enhancing/optimizing existing systems; reducing/managing congestion and delays; providing emergency services routing and signal preemption; increasing pedestrian and bicycle safety; and responding to incidents that impact roadway capacity in real-time. He provided some visual examples of monitoring intersections, and manipulating and preempting traffic signals. He commented that this technology assists decision-makers by analyzing the system to improve traffic flow, safety and efficiency, and reduce CO₂ emissions.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Roth, Mr. Royal stated that these technologies can be moved to other intersections.

Mr. Bennett pointed out that www.CountingCars.com makes a small device that can be strapped to a streetlight pole and capture 48 hours of video. He noted that the company can provide a 13-hour count of bikes, pedestrians, trucks and cars for \$198.

4. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of TCC Meeting Minutes – May 16, 2018**
- b. Resolution Approving 2018-2027 STIP/MPO TIP Amendment #18-2**
- c. Resolution Approving 2018-2027 STIP/MPO TIP Administrative Modification #18-5**
- d. Resolution Supporting Targets for Performance Measures Established by NCDOT**
- e. Resolution Supporting the North Carolina Ports Authority's BUILD Grant Application for the Modernization to the Container Gate Complex at the Port of Wilmington**
- f. Opening of the 30-day Public Comment Period for 2018-2027 STIP/MPO TIP Amendment #18-3**

Ms. Ayers made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Items 4a through 4f, and to forward them to the Board for consideration. Ms. Roth seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

5. Regular Agenda

- a. Resolution Requesting the North Carolina Department of Transportation Accelerate the Rail Improvement Project to the CSX Rail Line in Wilmington the Draft 2020-2029 State Transportation Improvement Program**

Mr. Kozlosky stated that this project came from the Wilmington Landside Rail Improvements Study that focuses on upgrades to at-grade crossings, some closures and improving the ability of trains to traverse the city from a current speed of 10 mph to a maximum speed of 25 mph. He pointed out that this is a short-term improvement and will help improve capacity to the Port, enhance mobility and safety, and allow the Ports compete in a dynamic regional and international economy. He noted that the project is currently identified for right-of-way acquisition in 2025 and construction in 2027. He added that the resolution requests the state accelerate the project sooner in order to assist the Ports in efforts to expand and grow.

Ms. Ayers stated that this project would implement recommendations from the Transportation Separation Study (TSS) that examined 33 at-grade crossings.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Bennett, Mr. Kozlosky stated that acceleration of this project could require that another be delayed. However, some funds may be freed by projects that are delayed for other reasons.

A question/answer and discussion period was held.

Ms. Ayers made a motion to approve the Resolution Requesting the North Carolina Department of Transportation Accelerate the Rail Improvement Project to the CSX Rail Line in Wilmington the Draft 2020-2029 State Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Eby seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

b. Resolution Supporting the Allocation of Direct Attributable Funds to the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority for the Wilmington Multi-modal Transportation Center

Ms. Kimes reminded members that on January 27, 2016, the MPO Board awarded the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority \$2.4 million for the construction of the Wave Transit Multi-Modal Transportation Center. She noted that it recently bid and came in over budget, similar to most other construction projects. She added that Wave is requesting an addition \$2.2 million to go ahead with the construction project.

Ms. Kimes gave an overview of remaining balances of the Direct Attributable funds. She stated that the current balance for fiscal year 2018 funding is \$956,000, \$641,000 of which can only be used for the construction of highways, bridges and tunnels. She noted that fiscal year 2019 funds minus 10%, the funds for the UPWP, the Cape Fear Crossing study, and the Wave Transit request leave about \$700,000 for other projects, studies, and overages on construction projects. She expressed concerns that current project costs are estimates only. She added that funding Wave's request would not occur until fiscal year 2019 and that federal funds will be available October 1st.

Mr. Eby stated that the first bid was limited to the 2017 prequalified contractors, who were unable to contract the volume of work, which resulted in too few bids. He noted that it went to an open bid where construction estimates were beaten by 28%. He added that after some value engineering, it went to bid again as a single project, with a due date of July 3rd. He anticipated that negotiation will be necessary with the lowest responsible bidder to divide the work into phases over the next 12 to 18 months.

Mr. Kozlosky pointed out that it takes time to flex money from federal highway to federal transit. Mr. Eby noted that it could take anywhere from four months to 16 months.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Bunch, Mr. Eby estimated the project to cost \$4 million. He stated that some of the work has already been completed with appropriations from DOT such as stabilizing and abating hazardous materials at the Neuwirth and Thomas Grocery Buildings. He added that the project has been approved for construction by the City of Wilmington's Technical Review Committee.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that a commitment to this funding will determine the direction of DA programming. He explained that if approved it would take away resources for Fiscal Year 2019, and staff would focus project selection on 2020-2024.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Bunch, Mr. Kozlosky stated that no additional funds are expected to be needed for the Cape Fear Crossing to obtain the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative.

A question/answer and discussion period was held. Mr. Kozlosky pointed out that the allocation of these funds is consistent with the desire of the Board to build projects that it has funded.

Mr. Eby stated that any surplus could be directed in coordination with the MPO toward additional construction projects such as the Thomas Grocery building.

Ms. Kimes pointed out that Fiscal Year 2019 does not include removing or reducing Wave's traditional ask for ADA compliance and maintenance if the other allocation is approved.

Ms. Bunch expressed concerns regarding the City of Wilmington's participation.

Mr. Eby responded that as a regional project, the majority of the local match has been provided by NCDOT. He noted that the City of Wilmington has contributed \$1 million, although this project will benefit the entire region.

Mr. Kozlosky pointed out that the City's Transportation Bond that passed in 2014 included \$2 million for public transit.

Mr. Eby stated that the Transportation Bond would cover a portion of the local match for nine Compressed Natural Gas buses as a result of the \$3.6 million in 5339-B funds awarded by Federal Transit. He added that UNCW and New Hanover County have agreed to fund the local match for two vehicles in 2019.

Following further consideration, Mr. Eby made a motion to approve the Resolution Supporting the Allocation of Direct Attributable Funds to the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority for the Wilmington Multi-modal Transportation Center. Ms. Roth seconded the motion, and it carried 13-1. (Ms. Bunch voted "No.")

6. **Discussion**

a. **Bike Share Update**

Ms. Lorenzo stated that the Bike Share Selection Committee met at the end of May to discuss its interviews with Lime Bike, Gotcha, and Zagster/Pace. She noted that the committee voted 5-4 to recommend Pace to the Board as the recommended company for the MPO region. She reminded members that this is merely a recommendation for the jurisdictions.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that at the upcoming Board meeting, staff will try to determine interest and connect any interested jurisdictions with resources. He pointed out that all three companies presented a no-cost option.

Mr. Bennett expressed concerns regarding the closeness of the vote. Ms. Lorenzo responded that the vote was divided between Lime Bike and Pace. She noted that Lime Bike offers an array of products including an electric-assist bike in addition to traditional five- or six-speed bikes; although Pace is working to provide electric-assist bikes within the year. She added that Pace and Lime Bike offered similar apps and programs to capture ridership. However, the committee identified Pace as a safer place to start since its bikes are docked and locked, and Lime's bikes are not.

b. **2018-2027 STIP/MPO TIP Administrative Modification #18-6**

Mr. Kozlosky stated that this item is a statewide modification for informational purposes only, and will be brought back for consideration at the next meeting of the TCC.

c. **Prioritization 5.0 Draft Regional Impact Scores**

Mr. Kozlosky reminded the Committee that draft scores are included in the agenda packet. He stated that a slight change has been made. He noted that since the Cape Fear RPO awarded no points to the Wallace to Castle Hayne Rail line improvement, the MPO Board changed the point assignment to include 100 points on that project based on its adopted methodology. He added that public comments are still being accepted and staff plans to bring this item back for consideration at the TCC's July meeting.

d. Cape Fear Moving Forward 2045 Project Submittal Form

Ms. Lorenzo stated that staff has developed a MPO member jurisdiction project submittal form. She noted that staff is also in the process of assembling preliminary project lists for consideration by the modal subcommittees for inclusion in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan update. She added that the submittal deadline is July 31st, which corresponds with the closing date for the map and survey; another potential source of projects. She noted that the list of proposed projects will also include those compiled from adopted plans.

Ms. Lorenzo stated that staff is available to assist jurisdictions with the project submittal form, which also available in a portable document format (PDF).

7. Updates

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the updates are included in the agenda packet.

8. Announcements

- NCDOT Military Cutoff Road/Eastwood Road Interchange Project, College Acres Baptist Church, 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – June 25th
- NCDOT College Road Improvements from Gordon Road to Carolina Beach Road (including the interchanges at Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway, college and Oleander, and Carolina Beach Road and College Road), UNCW, Burney Ballroom, B & C, 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – June 28th

9. Adjournment

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 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.**