

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Wednesday, July 11, 2018
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present:

Mike Kozlosky, Wilmington MPO
Don Bennett, City of Wilmington
Amy Kimes, Wilmington MPO
Nancy Avery, Town of Kure Beach
Danielle Villegas, Town of
Wrightsville Beach
Rebekah Roth, New Hanover County
Stephanie Ayers, North Carolina
State Ports Authority

Barnes Sutton, Town of Navassa
Travis Henley, 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 10:09 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Presentations

a. Cape Fear Moving Forward 2045 MTP - Michael Madsen, WMPO

Ms. Lorenzo gave an update on the Cape Fear Moving Forward 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. She gave an overview of survey responses that indicated a strong preference for having transportation alternatives, and that the primary mode of transportation to work and/or school is by car.

Ms. Lorenzo stated that to date, the top travel priority is safety, followed by travel time and convenience. She noted that responses indicated a preference for funding more cost-effective alternative transportation followed by identifying new revenue sources. Respondents favored investing funds in bicycle and pedestrian facilities and safety, followed by improving the existing transportation network, additional revenue sources included impact fees on new development, followed by higher gas taxes and tolls. Survey participants identified themselves as primarily white, ranging in age from 55 to 64, with an annual household income of greater than \$100,000.

Ms. Lorenzo stated that the public input map has received 1,417 hits. She displayed a usage timeline for online tools and pointed out that the spikes can be attributed to e-mail blasts to the City's e-mail list. She noted that comments were mostly for roadway and bike/pedestrian modes. She gave examples of the most popular comments for each of the six transportation modes.

In response to concerns expressed by Mr. Serkin, Ms. Lorenzo stated that the City's e-mail list extends to residents beyond City residents.

Ms. Lorenzo stated that staff met with the City's Public Information Officer who recommended digital ads at WECT.com and a social media campaign with paid ads on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to reach a younger, more diverse population. She displayed examples of the social media ads.

Ms. Lorenzo stated that Mr. Kozlosky wrote a letter for publication in the six local newspapers throughout the region, in which a paid display ad will run as well. Staff has

also contacted its 12 environmental justice partners for additional outreach to underserved communities, and distributed surveys and flyers to resource centers such as Social Services, the Employment Security Commission, and the Veterans Affairs, and is pursuing outreach to the Wilmington Housing Authority.

Ms. Lorenzo stated that 4,991 total responses have been received to date comprised of more than 1,500 survey responses, 440 comments and 3,000 votes on comments. She reminded members that public outreach period ends July 31st and encouraged members to continue promoting participation.

A brief question/answer and discussion period was held. Mr. Kozlosky stated that staff will present preliminary results and comments in August.

Ms. Lorenzo stated that staff will return with final results in September or October, depending on analysis by the consultant.

4. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of TCC Meeting Minutes – June 13, 2018

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

Mr. Kozlosky pulled Item 4a (Approval of TCC Meeting Minutes - June 13, 2018) for further consideration.

Mr. Serkin made a motion to approve Item 4b (Resolution Approving 2018-2027 STIP/MPO TIP Administrative Modification #18-6) and to forward it to the Board for consideration.

Mr. Bennett seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that Ms. Villegas' first name was misidentified in the TCC Minutes of June 13th. He noted that a correction will be made.

Ms. Avery made a motion to approve the TCC meeting minutes of June 13th as amended, seconded by Ms. Villegas, and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Regular Agenda

a. Resolution approving the allocation of FY 19 Direct Attributable funds to the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority for ADA and Preventative Maintenance

Ms. Kimes reminded the Committee that last month Wave Transit came before the TCC and MPO Board to request \$2.2 million to support the Multi-modal Center downtown. She noted that after considering the potential impact to further funding needs, Wave revised its request to \$1.7 million, and the Board supported it. Now, similar to previous years, Wave is requesting \$500,000 to help support preventative maintenance and ADA compliance.

Ms. Kimes stated that only the Wilmington Fire Department has expressed an interest in applying for funds (for additional pre-emptive signals). She noted that the Wave allocation will complete fiscal year 2019 funds and allow the MPO to move forward with a call for projects for fiscal year 2020 with four projects completed and numerous others under construction.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Bennett, Ms. Kimes stated that the call for projects for the five-year program would be made prior to October of 2019.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Serkin, Ms. Kimes estimated a balance of \$100,000 in FY 2019 funds, allowing for the completion of smaller projects.

Following further discussion, Ms. Matheny made a motion to approve the Resolution approving the allocation of FY 19 Direct Attributable funds to the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority for ADA and Preventative Maintenance. Ms. Avery seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

b. Resolution approving the Regional Impact Local Input Point Assignment for Prioritization 5.0

Ms. Lorenzo stated that an updated draft local input point assignment has been distributed to members. She noted that the Board approved a transfer of 100 points from the Wallace to Castle Hayne project to the Porters Neck/US-17 ramp widening project in the interest of safety and mobility. She added that a change was made to the project limits and cost of the NC 133 Castle Hayne Road widening project, which is also reflected in the updated point assignment. In addition, the southeastern North Carolina passenger rail project from Raleigh to Fayetteville will be awarded additional points from other MPOs that were omitted from the original submission.

Ms. Lorenzo stated that the draft will go before the Board for final approval. She pointed out that the newly announced CSX facility in Edgecombe County might impact the point assignment further.

Following further discussion, Ms. Matheny made a motion to approve the Resolution approving the Regional Impact Local Input Point Assignment for Prioritization 5.0 and to forward to the Board for consideration. Ms. Kimes seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

6. Discussion

a. 2018-2027 STIP/MPO TIP Administrative Modification #18-7

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.

b. Wilmington Urban Area MPO FY 18 Omnibus Funding

Ms. Kimes reminded the Committee members that the MPO began receiving the Direct Attributable (DA) funds in 2013. She noted that in 2018, the Omnibus spending bill appropriated additional money to TMAs (Transportation Management Areas) including the WMPO. She stated that the WMPO's STPBG (Surface Transportation Program-Direct Attributable) program would receive about \$577,000 in additional funding that would need to be obligated for construction by September 30, 2021 for highway, bridge or tunnel projects including designated routes of the Appalachian development highway system and local access roads under Section 14-501 of Title 40 USC.

Ms. Kimes stated that past submissions include 21 bicycle/pedestrian projects and one signal pre-emption project; but no roadway or bridge projects. She pointed out that the timeline is very tight. She noted that a competitive process might be followed to allow all jurisdictions to compete for funding or it could be offered to the DOT for a construction-ready project. She requested direction from the group.

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Bennett suggested a City project to offset lefts at St. Andrews Drive and 17th Street since drainage has increased project costs significantly. He noted that the project would need to be developed further with estimates to see if it's viable given the timeframe.

Ms. Kimes expressed concerns regarding the current availability of City engineers.

Mr. Serkin expressed a preference for a local project to benefit from the funding. He noted that if it were to go to the state, it would benefit the Region or Division tier but not necessarily the MPO. He pointed out that it's not much money for a roadway project.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the MPO might work cooperatively with the state so that it might benefit as well.

Following further discussion, Mr. Kozlosky stated that staff would reach out to the jurisdictions to determine the feasibility of roadway projects that meet the intent. As a back-up, he recommended staff reach out to DOT.

Mr. Serkin suggested pursuing both plans simultaneously.

7. Updates

Mr. Kozlosky reminded members that the updates are included in the agenda packet.

8. Announcements

- NCDOT Castle Hayne Road Widening and Roundabout - July 17th - location changed to Operations Center, 1480 Castle Hayne Road.

Mr. Kozlosky introduced new Associate Transportation Planner, Katie Moore.

Ms. Moore expressed appreciation and gave a brief overview of her professional background.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the next meeting of the TCC will be August 15th.

Ms. Matheny expressed appreciation to the WMPO Board and staff for their efforts. She noted that STP-DA funds were requested to finish the third and final phase of construction/building renovation of the downtown transit facility as part of the larger Multi-modal Transportation Center project. She gave a brief overview of the bid process currently in progress and timeline for the complex construction phase with occupancy anticipated by 2019. She pointed out that this project has been 20 years in the making.

Mr. Bennett suggested compiling the original and construction estimates to help determine a construction cost escalation factor for the jurisdictions. Ms. Kimes responded that the original estimates were perhaps too high level for a comparison. She noted that the City is compiling data for better cost estimating tools.

Mr. Serkin expressed concerns regarding using future costs for estimating DA projects five years out. Mr. Kozlosky responded that an escalation factor will be considered.

9. Adjournment

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 11:02 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.**