



Board Meeting Minutes
6th Floor Conference Room, 320 Chestnut Street
Wednesday, August 29, 2018

Members Present

David Piepmeyer, Pender County
Brenda Bozeman, Town of Leland
Neil Anderson, City of Wilmington
Jonathan Barfield, Cape Fear Public
Transportation Authority
LeAnn Pierce, Town of Carolina Beach
John Ellen, Town of Kure Beach
Skip Watkins, New Hanover County
Frank Williams, Brunswick County
Eulis Willis, Town of Navassa
Mike Alford, NC Board of Transportation

Others Present

Mike Kozlosky, Executive Director, WMPO
Karen Collette, NCDOT Highway Division 3

1. Call to Order

Mr. Piepmeyer called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

Mr. Piepmeyer read the conflict of interest statement and asked if any members had a conflict with any item on the meeting agenda. No members reported having a conflict.

3. Approval of Board Members' Excused Absences

Mr. Kozlosky stated that Steve Shuttleworth, Noreen Slattery, and Hank Miller have requested to be excused from today's meeting. Mr. Watkins made a motion to excuse the absences of Mr. Shuttleworth, Ms. Slattery, and Mr. Miller. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Kozlosky stated that staff sent an e-mail yesterday requesting that the Board consider adding a discussion item to the agenda regarding a recommendation for a letter of support for the Piedmont-Atlantic Intermodal Rail System Project.

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Mr. Anderson, and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Comment Period

Mr. Alvin Rogers spoke to the Board regarding the College Road Improvements Project. He expressed concerns that Kerr Avenue has been omitted from improvements, since the improvement of College Road would impact it as well.

Ms. Laura Trivett, former president of the Carolina Place/Ardmore HOA, spoke to the Board and requested a HAWK beacon at the intersection of 21st and Market Streets. She expressed concerns regarding the current lack of safety in crossing the road at this location and read two e-mails from present and former residents expressing similar concerns.

Ms. Lynn McIntyre spoke to the Board and expressed concerns regarding solar farms in the inner city. Mr. Piepmeyer advised her that this meeting is an inappropriate forum for the topic.

Mr. Kozlosky introduced Mike Alford, newly appointed representative of the NC Board of Transportation. Mr. Alford expressed appreciation and gave the Board a brief overview of his professional background.

Mr. Kozlosky also acknowledged the presence of two alternate members serving today: Councilmember LeAnn Pierce from the Town Carolina Beach and Mayor Brenda Bozeman, representing the Town of Leland.

6. Presentation

a. Military Cutoff Road Extension – Kevin Bowen, NCDOT

Mr. Bowen gave an update on the Military Cutoff Road Extension Project. He displayed a map with ties to the US 17 Wilmington Bypass and alignment with the Hampstead Bypass coming in July of 2020. He noted that the Military Cutoff Road Extension is a \$95.5 million project for six lanes of new location, which began in January of this year and is due for completion in four years (2021). He added that access will be full at two interchanges (Market Street and US 17 Wilmington Bypass) and some limited control of right turn accesses and directional crossovers at Putnam Drive, Lendire Road and Torchwood Boulevard.

Mr. Bowen stated that a typical six-lane divided section from Market Street to one mile north of Torchwood will be curb and gutter with a raised grass median, and multi-use path and sidewalks. He noted that beyond one mile north of Torchwood towards the US 17 Wilmington Bypass, the typical section transitions to a shoulder with ditches. He gave a progress report on the project, which has been impacted somewhat by the weather. He added that 1.9 million cubic yards or 160,000 truckloads of excavated dirt from the north side will be expedited by a conveyor system bridging the Bypass rather than by truck. He noted that utility relocations have also been a challenge.

Mr. Watkins expressed concerns regarding the visibility of traffic to residential neighbors. He suggested that vegetation be used as a buffer.

Ms. Collette stated that residents seemed to have been satisfied with that suggestion.

Mr. Bowen commented that residents were allowed to add plantings to fill in some of the gaps. He displayed photos of the initial work on the project, and examples of a conveyor system similar to the one on site. Currently, a portable concrete barrier is in place to facilitate work on ramps. In addition, work is in progress to connect the multi-use path from Ogden Park Drive to Market Street and Lendire Road.

Mr. Watkins requested an update on improvements to Lendire Road to accommodate the additional traffic.

Mr. Piepmeyer inquired about drainage pertaining to the southern bypass. Mr. Bowen responded that the ponds will be edged with a rock embankment. He noted that DOT is working closely with the developer, who is bringing the ponds to a standard to meet their permitting requirements. He added that drainage from the project is being handled independently from the ponds.

Mr. Barfield inquired about the anticipated Level of Service (LOS) for Market Street. Mr. Bowen responded that he will forward that information when he has access to it.

Mr. Bowen stated that the missing gap in the multi-use path is anticipated to be filled by a shared utility easement. He noted that DOT is in negotiations with the contractor, Balfour Beatty, to haul most of the dirt now in order to avoid conflicts with work on the Hampstead Bypass, Section A, which overlaps this project.

Mr. Bowen gave a brief update on the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge HVB (High Value Bridge) Project. He reported that the project is on schedule. He noted that the Port expressed concerns regarding traffic congestion and safety of the anticipated two-week full bridge closure and planned detour of 22,000 to 23,000 trucks per month to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, College Road, and Oleander Drive to the Port. Although completion will take longer, the work will be done instead during 24 nightly closures (9:00 p.m.-5:00 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, plus two full weekend closures) within a 50-day window starting September 18th. He added that the contractor (PCL) is not anticipated to take all of the additional 42 allowable bridge closures included in the contract. He noted that traffic will have to contend with a rough surface from milling.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Williams, Mr. Bowen stated that DOT will distribute a press release regarding closures.

7. **Consent Agenda**

- a. **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – July 25, 2018**
- b. **Resolution approving 2018-2027 STIP/MPO TIP Administrative Modification #18-7**
- c. **Resolution approving 2018-2027 STIP/MPO TIP Administrative Amendment #18-3**
- d. **Opening of the 30-day Public Comment Period for 2018-2027 STIP/MPO TIP Amendment #18-4**

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Watkins, and the motion carried unanimously.

8. **Regular Agenda**

- a. **Resolution supporting the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee's Draft Model Bike Parking Ordinance**

Ms. Lorenzo stated that a draft model bicycle parking ordinance has been included in the agenda packet. She noted that it was developed by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) with the help of staff over the course of several months. She added that the model ordinance is intended as a fully adaptable resource for any jurisdiction interested in amending its code to include bicycle parking standards.

Ms. Lorenzo stated that the ordinance is designed to accommodate all jurisdictions, from urban to rural (less populated ones). She noted that feedback from members of the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) has been incorporated into the draft. She added that both committees (TCC and BPAC) voted in favor of recommending this ordinance to the Board for approval. A question/answer and discussion period was held.

Mr. Barfield made a motion to approve the Resolution supporting the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee's Draft Model Bike Parking Ordinance. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

b. Resolution amending the Board's adopted 2018 meeting calendar for the September meeting

Mr. Piepmeyer stated that he requested this item to change the date of the Board's September meeting to September 18th.

Mr. Kozlosky reminded the Board that staff requested to change the September 26th meeting due to several conflicts. He noted that a poll was conducted and a quorum was ascertained; although, several representatives are unable to attend the alternate date.

Mr. Ellen made a motion to approve the Resolution amending the Board's adopted 2018 meeting calendar for the September meeting. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

9. Discussion

a. Cape Fear Moving Forward 2045 Preliminary Public Comment Results and Project Submittals

Ms. Lorenzo gave an update on preliminary public comment results and project submittals for the Cape Fear Moving Forward 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). She stated that the public outreach phase that started April 3rd just ended July 31st. She noted that staff attended 26 events and gave presentations over the last four months. She added that outreach included numerous newspaper articles and advertisements, WECT interviews and web ads, a social media meme campaign, and promotional partnerships with member jurisdictions, libraries, Wave Transit, billboards, environmental justice communities, and local universities.

Ms. Lorenzo stated that the online survey that opened on March 30th, closed July 31st with 2,287 responses. She added that the online mapping tool received 1,905 hits, 593 comments and 4,554 votes on comments, for a combined total of 7,404 responses. She noted that staff is in the process of sifting through the results to provide a full presentation on results in the fall. In addition, staff is also in the process of creating preliminary project lists to be considered by the modal subcommittees. She expressed appreciation to member jurisdictions their efforts in promoting public outreach.

b. 2018 Omnibus Funding

Ms. Kimes stated that the MPO was awarded additional FY 2018 Omnibus funds, which will be unable to be used due to a strict timeline and scope of use. She noted that Ray McIntyre of NCDOT recommended that the funds be used on the Kerr Avenue U-3338C Project for a bridge structure in exchange for less restrictive funds.

Following further consideration, Mr. Anderson made a motion to proceed with the recommendation, seconded by Mr. Watkins and the motion carried unanimously.

c. Letter of Support for the Piedmont-Atlantic Intermodal Rail System Project

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the MPO received a request from NCDOT to support the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement Program Grant to the Federal Rail Administration for the Piedmont-Atlantic Intermodal Rail System Project. He noted that this is a regional project with improvements in Union County, Anson County and the City of Wilmington. He added that the project in the City of Wilmington would be to upgrade the beltline.

Mr. Kozlosky reminded members that the Board in June supported a resolution requesting that NCDOT accelerate the beltline improvements. He noted that the project was funded in the Statewide Mobility Tier of the prioritization process for right-of-way in 2025 and construction in 2027. He added that the Ports, this Board and DOT all desire to accelerate the project. He explained that the department requested a letter from the Board to support the grant application to the Federal Rail Administration. (A sample letter was distributed earlier to the Board members.)

Following further discussion, Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the letter of support, seconded by Mr. Barfield and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Piepmeyer stated that this project would have no negative impact on any other project.

9. Updates

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

10. Announcements

➤ WMPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee – September 11th

Mr. Kozlosky stated that DOT has a call for 2019 Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grants, which is due November 2nd. He noted that the grant application requires a resolution of support from the MPO Board. He requested that any interested jurisdiction notify the MPO by October 1st in order to include an item on the agenda of the October Board meeting.

Mr. Kozlosky introduced NCDOT Division Planning Engineer Catlin Marks, who replaced Alan Pytcher. Ms. Marks expressed appreciation and gave a brief overview of her professional background.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that copies of the MPO Annual Report have been distributed to Board members. He also noted that NCDOT will release the Regional Tier of projects tomorrow.

Mr. Piepmeyer reminded members that the next MPO Board meeting will be held on September 18th. He requested that a reminder be sent to members.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that an update on the College Road improvements will be given at the Board's October meeting instead of its September meeting.

11. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:54 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.**