

Citizens Advisory Committee
6th Floor Conference Room, 320 Chestnut Street
Wednesday, January 7, 2019
Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Laura Padgett, Chair, City of Wilmington
John Cawthorne, Vice Chair, Town of Kure Beach
Neal Andrew, North Carolina Board of Transportation
Web Bostic, New Hanover County
Patrick Boykin, Town of Carolina Beach
Harold King, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Vanessa Lacer, Cape Fear Public
Transportation Authority
Sallie Rochelle, Pender County
Stuart Smith, Town of Belville
Brayton Willis, Town of Leland
Jason Windham, City of Wilmington

Members Absent:

Valorie Hatten, Town of Navassa
David Hollis, Brunswick County

Staff Present:

Abigail Lorenzo, Senior
Transportation Planner, WMPO
Amy Kimes, Senior Project Engineer
Zachary Manfredi, Associate
Transportation Planner
Michael Madsen, GIS Analyst
Mike Kozlosky, Executive Director

1. Call to Order

Chairman Padgett called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Willis made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. King, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes – December 12, 2018

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of December 12, 2018, seconded by Mr. Boykin, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Cape Fear Moving Forward 2045 Modal Project List Discussion

- a. **Aviation:** Ms. Lorenzo stated that the first two projects would carry over since they are committed and have been assigned a TIP (Transportation Improvements Project) number and funding.

In response to an inquiry by Chairman Padgett, Ms. Lorenzo stated that the aviation terminal improvements not appearing on the list have already been funded.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the Aviation Project List, seconded by Mr. Willis, and the motion carried unanimously.

- b. **Bike/Ped:** In response to inquiries by Ms. Lacer and Vice-Chairman Cawthorne, Ms. Lorenzo stated that the project list included segments and intersection projects. She explained that the segments are linear such as a multi-use paths, and that intersection improvements include crosswalks and/or ped-heads.

Chairman Padgett requested a list that connects segments and intersections.

Ms. Lorenzo stated that the consultant would assume crossing improvements for any segments traversing intersections. She noted that the proposed 170 projects have been streamlined from a list of nearly 1,000. She added that the subcommittee was tasked with identifying those with a regional perspective that would have particular relevance during the next 25 years. Connectivity and proximity to schools would be considered as part of the scoring criteria.

Ms. Lorenzo stated that the subcommittee is comprised of stakeholders and subject matter experts who are strong advocates of bike-ped facilities. She noted that subcommittee members were given a map of existing facilities and crash data as tools for project selection. Additionally, many of the projects were gleaned from community-adopted plans including the Leland Pedestrian Plan, the New Hanover County Greenway Pedestrian Plan, and the Carolina Beach Pedestrian Plan.

Chairman Padgett expressed concerns regarding the safety of bike lanes on significantly congested roads such as Oleander Drive, 5th Avenue to Greenfield Street, Sidbury Road, and Wilshire Boulevard. She requested that these projects be justified as critical to a particular connector.

Ms. Lorenzo assured Committee members that any project selected for funding would undergo additional engineering analysis to determine the best cross-section. She reiterated that many of the projects, for example Oleander Drive and 5th Avenue, have been pulled from existing plans.

Chairman Padgett requested that the concerns regarding bike lanes be remanded to the subcommittee.

Ms. Kimes addressed concerns of Committee members by pointing out that typically more experienced riders use bike lanes. She noted that these lanes are dedicated and not shared with vehicular traffic.

Following further discussion, Chairman Padgett requested that the safety concerns regarding some of the proposed bike lanes be brought back to the subcommittee for them to identify those segments appropriate for recreational users. She pointed out that some sections of 5th Avenue cannot be widened to accommodate bike riders.

Mr. Willis made a motion to return the list to the subcommittee.

Ms. Lorenzo inquired if any projects could be forwarded to the consultant for financial forecast in the interest of keeping the plan on schedule.

Mr. Willis revised his motion to approve the Bike-Ped Project List with the exception of bike lane projects, in order for the subcommittee to address concerns. Mr. Bostic seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. King, Chairman Padgett stated that driver education is within the purview of NCDOT.

Ms. Lorenzo stated that after completing criteria and metrics the subcommittees would work on policies, which will include education.

- c. **Ferry:** In response to an inquiry by Chairman Padgett, Ms. Lorenzo stated that the criteria would be applied to the five proposed projects in green typeface. She explained that the Southport-Fort Fisher Ferry route is split between the MPO and the RPO. Although the draft STIP has yet to be released, funding has been programmed for a third ferry. Therefore, a fourth ferry would be under consideration for the next 25 years.

Ms. Lorenzo stated that multi-modal considerations have been included in the relevant modal subcommittees.

Chairman Padgett commented that projects that don't make the cut for funding should be listed in the plan since they are opportunities for public-private partnerships.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the Ferry Project List, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, and the motion carried unanimously.

- d. **Freight/Rail:** A brief question/answer and discussion period was held regarding the potential impact of a rail realignment, and the Castle Hayne to Wallace connection.

Mr. Cawthorne made a motion to approve the Freight/Rail Project List, seconded by Mr. Boykin, and the motion carried unanimously.

- e. **Public Transportation:** After a brief question/answer and discussion period, Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the Public Transportation Project List, seconded by Mr. Andrew, and the motion carried unanimously.

- f. **Roadway:** Chairman Padgett expressed concerns regarding the absence of planted medians. Ms. Lorenzo responded that the cross-sections are a high-level cost view only and may change following engineering studies once funded. She noted that the preference for planted medians will be communicated to the subcommittee and that policy recommendations will be presented to the CAC for consideration.

Chairman Padgett pointed out that aesthetic value is an important consideration for economic development and attracting the tech sector industry to the region.

Mr. Smith expressed concerns regarding maintenance of planted medians. Ms. Lorenzo stated that only the capital cost would be forecast.

Mr. Andrew inquired about the Southern Crossing or Skyway Bridge. Ms. Lorenzo responded that automatic carry-over programs are not included on the Roadway and Bike-Ped lists for cost estimate.

Following further discussion, Mr. Andrew made a motion to approve the Roadway Project List, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, and the motion carried unanimously.

5. **Additional Items**

Chairman Padgett inquired about demographics, trends and past plan projects.

Ms. Lorenzo responded that at the request of the Committee, a site was established with the requested information.

Mr. Willis inquired about the population forecast and growth nodes. Mr. Madsen responded that these are broken up by Census tract and American Community Survey.

Chairman Padgett inquired about a decrease in population between 2000 and 2010.

Mr. Madsen explained that the tracts are divided into smaller areas as the population grows.

Chairman Padgett encouraged Committee members to review this data to become aware of areas of projected population growth.

Mr. King inquired about data showing where people live and where they shop. Mr. Madsen responded that a 2045 households and employment data is available.

In response to an inquiry by Chairman Padgett, Ms. Lorenzo stated that an update to the Origin and Destination Study is expected before the next model update.

Mr. Willis inquired about areas of investment that could be impacted by a change or rise in sea level. Ms. Lorenzo stated that this information is available and might be selected as a metric at the modal subcommittee level. She pointed out that resiliency is a federal planning goal that needs to be considered.

Chairman Padgett expressed concerns regarding the impact of fewer people driving cars in 2045 than today on project selection.

A question/answer and discussion period was held.

6. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Abby Lorenzo
Senior Transportation Planner
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

PLEASE NOTE: THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CAC WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 6TH.

**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.**