



Board Meeting Minutes
6th Floor Conference Room, 320 Chestnut Street
Wednesday, January 30, 2019

Members Present

David Piepmeyer, Pender County
Pat Batleman, Town of Leland
Neil Anderson, City of Wilmington
Jonathan Barfield, Cape Fear Public
Transportation Authority
Mike Allen, Town of Belville
Steve Shuttleworth, Town of Carolina Beach
John Ellen, Town of Kure Beach

Hank Miller, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Patricia Kusek, New Hanover County
Mike Forte, Brunswick County

Others Present

Mike Kozlosky, Executive Director, WMPO

1. Call to Order

Chairman Piepmeyer called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

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

3. Approval of Board Members' Excused Absences

Mr. Kozlosky stated that Mr. Rivenbark and Mr. Willis have requested to be excused from the meeting.

Ms. Kusek made a motion to excuse the absences of Mr. Rivenbark and Mr. Willis. Mr. Miller seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Vice Chair Batleman made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Forte, and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Comment Period

Ms. Ruth Fitzsimmons, resident of Windsor Park, spoke to the Board regarding Snug Harbour/Windsor Park. She distributed documents of photos from Windsor Park, nearly a quarter of a mile from the I-140 Bypass. She expressed concerns regarding highway noise, safety, the loss of trees/vegetation, and requested support from the Board for a barrier from DOT. She also read a statement by Julie Bryant Vincent, a neighbor with similar concerns.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Anderson, Mr. Kozlosky stated that the date of public knowledge was prior to the development of Windsor Park. Per the state's noise policy, it did not qualify for a noise wall. He requested that discussion on this topic be delayed until later in the meeting as scheduled on the agenda.

Ms. Debby Correa, resident of Windsor Park, spoke to the Board regarding Snug Harbour/Windsor Park and expressed concerns regarding noise, safety, and requested a barrier. She read statements by two unidentified neighbors with similar concerns.

Ms. Joanne Donaghue spoke to the Board regarding the Cape Fear Crossing and asked for clarification regarding the primary reason for the project.

Vice Chair Batleman responded that the Town of Leland will hold a regular Transportation Oversight Committee meeting on February 7th that will address this topic. She noted that Mr. Kozlosky will be present to answer questions regarding the selection of the corridor for the crossing.

In response to further inquiries by Ms. Donaghue, Mr. Kozlosky suggested that she attend and express her concerns during the public hearings that will be held in the spring. He gave a brief overview of the alternative selection process.

Mr. Jack Edmondson spoke to the Board and stated that his concerns are similar to Ms. Donaghue's regarding the Cape Fear Crossing.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Edmondson, Mr. Kozlosky identified the two alternatives supported by the MPO Board as MA and NA. He added that the environmental impact study is expected to be released in February.

A brief question/answer and discussion period was held regarding the Town of Leland's meeting.

Mr. Ted Hotham, 3065 Yorkstone Court, Leland, spoke to the Board regarding the I-140 barrier. He expressed concerns regarding the lack of guard rails, toxicity, noise, sight and elevation of the highway.

6. Election of Officers

Ms. Batleman nominated David Piepmeyer for Chairman. Mr. Ellen seconded the nomination.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Miller made a motion to close the nominations and elect Mr. Piepmeyer as Chair. Ms. Batleman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Forte nominated Pat Batleman for Vice Chair. Mr. Anderson seconded the nomination.

There being no further nominations, Chairman Piepmeyer closed the nominations. The Board voted unanimously to elect Ms. Batleman as Vice Chair.

7. Presentations

b. Wilmington Urban Area MPO 2045 Travel Demand Model

Mr. Behshad Norowzi, Coastal Plains Group Supervisor, NCDOT Transportation Planning Unit, gave an overview of the Wilmington Urban Area MPO's 2045 Travel Demand Model. He stated that the 2015 model was calibrated from Census socio-economic data (population and employment), which was verified by the MPO's member jurisdictions. For the 2045 model, control totals from the Office of the State Budget and Planning were combined with assessments of high, medium and low growth rates for the Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZ) by MPO staff and member jurisdictions. He noted that the Travel Demand Model will be used as a tool to rank projects for the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

A question/answer and discussion period was held regarding population projections.

c. WAVE Transit's Short Range Transit Plan

Ms. Megan Matheny, Deputy Director, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority, gave an overview of the development of the Short Range Transit Plan. She stated that an outside consultant, Nelson\Nygaard, oversaw the 14-month planning process at a cost of \$150,000. Representatives from the local jurisdictions and partner organizations, such as the Housing Authority and the Community Resource Center, served on the steering committee that also consisted of representatives from the local jurisdictions. The process also included public engagement, market analysis, existing conditions assessment, and peer review of other transit agencies within the region.

Ms. Matheny gave an overview of findings. She stated that the existing regional service is stretched thin and reallocating resources would be a challenge. However, Wave Transit is running efficiently considering available resources, and that scheduled routes are located in the appropriate corridors. She noted that results from analysis were congruent with public input. Needs and priorities include securing local match contributions to leverage state and federal dollars, increasing service frequency, and engaging choice riders (frequency and convenience). She added that the majority of routes operate on an hour headway with the exception of the downtown trolley. One of the fixed routes with the largest ridership has a 30-minute frequency. A mobile app is available and an electronic payment option may be available by the end of the year. Also, amenity upgrades such as bus shelters that have transpired over the last two years will continue.

Ms. Matheny stated that the cost neutral recommendations for the five-year planning horizon, FY2019-2023, assume no additional resources and may include route tweaks and realignments. Independent of this study, the downtown transfer station of the Multi-modal Transportation Center (MMTC) would require realignment of half of the fixed routes that serve the downtown station. Recommendations that would require additional funds include providing services to areas of need identified in comprehensive plans such as the Porters Neck area. In addition to future recommendations, other service areas discussed included Kure Beach and River Road.

Mr. Albert Eby, Executive Director, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority, gave a brief overview of the Authority and some of its challenges including the upcoming loss of rural transit funding and some other funds, increased operation costs for the new MMTC facility, a specialized workforce, and questionable federal reimbursements as a result of services during Hurricane Florence and the recent federal government shut-down. He pointed out that the biggest challenge to public transportation in the region is the availability of a dedicated funding source. He encouraged members to review the "Short Range Transit Plan" and the "Short Term Efficiencies and Long Term Governing Model," both of which can be found online at <https://www.wavetransit.com/documents-and-plans/>.

8. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – November 28, 2018

b. Resolution adopting WAVE Transit's Short-range Transit Plan

c. Resolution approving 2018-2027 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modification #18-9

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

9. Regular Agenda

a. Opening of the 30-day Public Comment Period for the FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Kozlosky stated that this public comment period is for the MPO's budget for the upcoming Fiscal Year. He noted that there is no significant change to the program. He added that \$3,200 was included for an intern to help with data collection activities throughout the region, which can then be provided to the local member jurisdictions. A 3% compensation package has been included as well. The MPO is required to hold a 30-day public comment period and adopt a Unified Planning Work Program by March 31st.

Mr. Barfield made a motion to open the 30-day Public Comment Period for the FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Ellen seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

b. Resolution approving the Cape Fear Moving Forward 2045 Proposed Modal Project Lists for Aviation, Ferry and Water Transportation, Freight Rail, Public Transportation, and Roadway

Ms. Lorenzo stated that the modal subcommittees and the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) have work diligently on compiling lists of regionally significant projects. The Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee is in the process of addressing concerns raised by the CAC, and its list will be brought forward for consideration next month. The approved project lists will be sent to the consultant for a high-level planning cost estimates. In the meanwhile, the CAC is working on criteria and metrics to score and rank the projects.

Mr. Miller requested that a project be added to the list. He noted that the Town of Wrightsville Beach has the match with \$1 million in private funds. He added that the project would improve Salisbury Street (road, sewer, streetlights, landscaping, new restrooms with shower amenities, and underground power lines) from the Banks Channel Bridge to Johnny Mercer's Pier.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the town has expressed an interest in applying for STPBG-DA funds. He noted that the streetscape project was not included in the draft project list; although a round-about at Salisbury Street and Lumina Avenue was included.

Chairman Piepmeyer stated that this is another mechanism for all jurisdictions to have a project considered. In addition, this project will provide an opportunity to spend the money, which has been a challenge in the past in the absence of a local match.

A question/answer and discussion period was held.

Mr. Miller made a motion to approve as amended the Resolution approving the Cape Fear Moving Forward 2045 Proposed Modal Project Lists for Aviation, Ferry and Water Transportation, Freight Rail, Public Transportation, and Roadway. Vice Chair Batleman seconded the motion, and carried it unanimously. [Amendment: Include the project from Banks Chanel Bridge to Johnny Mercer's Pier on Salisbury Drive for consideration and cost estimation.]

7. a. **Recognition of former MPO Board member Skip Watkins**

Chairman Piepmeyer expressed appreciation to Mr. Watkins for his service to and on behalf of the MPO Board. Mr. Watkins expressed appreciation to the Board.

10. **Discussion**

a. **Snug Harbour/Windsor Park**

Mr. Kozlosky stated that in late 2018 the Board heard comments regarding the elevation of the road connection from Military Cutoff Road to Market Street being constructed as part of the Military Cutoff Road Extension and the impact of that road connection on residents of Snug Harbour and Covil Crossing. He noted that Ms. Collette and NCDOT staff have discussed the noise and visual impacts. He added that Vice Chair Batleman has requested that the discussion include Windsor Park. He reminded the Board that in late 2017 or early 2018 the Board received a number of comments regarding noise and visual impacts to Windsor Park from the I-140 Bypass, which were reiterated this afternoon.

Vice Chair Batleman stated that the Board unanimously adopted a resolution of support regarding Windsor Park, which was rejected by NCDOT due to policy. However, NCDOT has become more open to considering the impact Snug Harbour/Covil Crossing. She pointed out that an amendment to the noise policy would benefit other similar situations.

Mr. Kozlosky suggested that staff craft an amendment for approval by the Board and discussion with NCDOT and the Federal Highway Administration.

A question/answer and discussion period was held regarding elevation changes, and the timing of the noise and hydrology studies.

It was the consensus of the Board for staff to proceed with the draft amendment.

b. **Transportation Alternatives Set Aside- Direct Attributable (TASA-DA) Call for Projects**

Ms. Kimes stated that a call for projects was issued in the winter for the \$898,564 available in Transportation Alternatives Set Aside (TASA) funds. She noted that all three of the applications that were received scored well. Although the projects totaled \$950,000, over funding has been found by MPOs across the state to be one way to keep from losing funds. She noted that another rescission is anticipated on October 1, 2019 and recommended awarding all three of the projects.

Ms. Kimes stated that the New Hanover County project is already designed and can be obligated immediately. Also, the Carolina Beach project was designed under another project and will have some simple modifications to obligate the construction money sooner. The City of Wilmington's project is the design of a HAWK signal, which could also go through the design process quickly.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Anderson, Ms. Kimes stated that everyone will have a 20% local match.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that a recommendation would be brought back for consideration at the Board's next meeting.

c. Wilmington Urban Area MPO 2019 Legislative Agenda

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the proposed MPO 2019 Legislative Agenda is very similar to past legislative agendas. He proposed some language regarding electric scooters, upon which the legislature is expected to take some action during the upcoming session. He added that electric scooters are not permitted to operate on public property or in the streets of the State of North Carolina.

Mr. Anderson pointed out that enforcement is very difficult. He requested to leave it to the local jurisdictions.

Mr. Cannon stated that electric scooters are required to be registered and the companies that operate them tend not to register them.

A lengthy question/answer and discussion period was held.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that staff will bring back some language to the Board for consideration at its next meeting.

d. 2018-2027 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modification #19-1

Mr. Kozlosky stated that this item is for informational purposes only and would come back to the Board for consideration at its next meeting.

e. Draft 2020-2029 State/MPO Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the 2020-2029 draft State/MPO Transportation Improvement Program was released in early January. He noted that several delays have occurred to projects from the 2018-2027 STIP, and some new projects have been added to the program (Greenville Loop/ Greenville Avenue Intersection Improvements, City of Wilmington Traffic Signal System, Kerr Avenue Extension, and partial funding for Gordon Road and the Cape Fear Crossing). He reminded members that this is only a draft, which is susceptible to project delays and cost increases that can change it prior to approval in June or July. He added that NCDOT will hold upcoming meetings.

f. Calendaring of Agenda Items for Board Action

Mr. Kozlosky requested feedback from the Board regarding the calendaring of agenda items.

Chairman Piepmeyer expressed concerns regarding the request for action following complex presentations.

Mr. Anderson expressed concerns regarding lengthening and compressing the timeline relative to the complexity of topics.

Chairman Piepmeyer suggested sending out the agenda to all members farther in advance of the meeting.

Mr. Kozlosky pointed out that the agenda would only be a rough draft.

A question/answer and discussion period was held regarding the ordering of agenda items. It was agreed to calendar any closed sessions after the public comment period.

11. Updates

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

12. Announcements

- WMPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting: February 12th
- N.C. Ethics Information: Due April 15th (electronic filing will open in February)
- Greater Wilmington Business Journal's Power Breakfast – Topic: Transportation: March 12th (Mike Kozlosky; Karen Collette, NCDOT Division; Albert Eby, Wave Transit; Paul Cozza, NC Ports; Julie Wilsey, ILM; and possibly Uber)
- WMPO Board Meeting: February 27th

Mr. Ellen stated that Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point (MOTSU) has a draft set of recommendations, one of which is for a representative to participate at WMPO Board meetings.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that a MOTSU representative might participate as a non-voting or ex officio member of the Board and/or the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC). He noted that he would need to review the bylaws.

Mr. Ellen made a motion to waive the rules and enter into a closed session pursuant to the provisions of General Statute Section 143-318.11(a)(3) in order to consult with Attorney Mark Hamlet and Attorney Matt Nichols regarding the legal matter of Jamestown Pender, LP v. North Carolina Department of Transportation and Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, 14CVS528 filed in Pender County, North Carolina. Mr. Miller seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The meeting was recessed and went into closed session.

The meeting was reconvened and went into open session with all members present as mentioned above.

Chairman Piepmeyer stated that no action was taken other than to provide direction to Attorney Mark Hamlet and Attorney Matt Nichols regarding the MPO's responses to the legal matter of Jamestown Pender, LP v. North Carolina Department of Transportation and Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

13. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:22 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.**