

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Wednesday, February 13, 2019
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present

Mike Kozlosky, Wilmington MPO
Don Bennett, City of Wilmington
Nick Cannon, Wilmington MPO
Rebekah Roth, New Hanover County
Stephanie Ayers, North Carolina State
Ports
Athina Williams, Town of Belville
Ashli Barefoot, Town of Leland
Barnes Sutton, Town of Navassa

Helen Bunch, Brunswick County
Travis Henley, Pender County
Allen Serkin, Cape Fear Council of
Governments
Caitlin Marks, NCDOT Division of
Highways
Nazia Sarder, NCDOT Planning
Megan Matheny, Cape Fear Public
Transportation

1) Call to Order

Mr. Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2) Approval of the Agenda

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

3) Consent Agenda

- a. **Approval of TCC Meeting Minutes- January 16, 2019**
- b. **Resolution supporting the allocation of FY 19 Transportation Alternatives Set Aside-Direct Attributable (TASA-DA) funding to the Town of Carolina Beach for the Clarendon Avenue Multi-use path, City of Wilmington for the Market Street at 21st Street signalized pedestrian crossing, and New Hanover County for design of the Ogden Park/Middle Sound Loop Connector Projects**
- c. **Resolution supporting the Section 5310 Community Grant Awards**
- d. **Resolution adopting the Wilmington Urban Area MPO's FY 19 Legislative Agenda**
- e. **Resolution approving 2018-2027 STIP/MPO TIP Administrative Modification #19-1**

Mr. Serkin pulled Items 3c and 3d for discussion.

Ms. Ayers made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 3a, 3b and 3e, excluding Items 3c and 3d, and forward them to the MPO Board for consideration. Ms. Williams seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Serkin inquired about the funding distribution for Item 3c, Resolution supporting the Section 5310 Community Grant Awards.

Ms. Matheny responded that the newer organization that provides fewer trips requested less funding, which required a smaller match. She noted that the Senior Resource Center has a greater capacity.

Mr. Serkin made a motion to approve the Resolution supporting the Section 5310 Community Grant Awards. Ms. Williams seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Regarding Item 3d, Mr. Serkin stated that at the last TCC meeting, he requested an addition to the MPO's FY 19 Legislative Agenda. He noted that his request was to provide advanced right-of-way acquisition funding for larger projects such as the Cape Fear Crossing. This was unclear in the January 16th minutes (Item 7e). He suggested to amend the Corridor Preservation section of the Legislative Agenda to include this information.

Mr. Serkin made a motion to approve the amended FY 19 Legislative Agenda. Ms. Ayers seconded the motions and it carried unanimously. (Amendment: Under Corridor Preservation, add advanced right-of-way acquisition for larger projects.)

4) **Regular Agenda**

a. **Opening of the 30-day public comment period for 2018-2027 STIP/MPO TIP Amendment #19-1**

Ms. Bunch made a motion to open the 30-day public comment period, seconded by Mr. Serkin, and the motion carried unanimously.

b. **Resolution supporting the North Carolina Ports Authority's grant application for the US DOT's FY 19 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) and Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) programs to fund container gate improvements at the Port of Wilmington**

Ms. Ayers gave an overview of the Ports grant applications. She estimated that about \$200 million in infrastructure improvements are underway. Included, is the current effort to expand capacity related to the container gates. One project would build a state of the art new technology complex at the container facility, and reroute some portion of traffic to the north gate. Another project that is in the early conceptual stage would separate the road and the rail at the north gate. This application would pursue USDOT funds to help fund those infrastructure improvements of the Port of Wilmington. She requested the support of the Committee in the form of a resolution for inclusion with the application to USDOT.

Mr. Bennett made a motion to approve the Resolution supporting the North Carolina Ports Authority's grant application for the US DOT's FY 19 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) and Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) programs to fund container gate improvements at the Port of Wilmington. Ms. Williams seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

c. **Resolution supporting the North Carolina Department of Transportation's efforts to fund resilient improvements to Interstate 40 and Interstate 95**

Mr. Kozlosky stated that Hurricane Florence caused flooding on Interstate 40 and Interstate 95. Flooding caused traffic to be rerouted around the state of North

Carolina, and isolated the Wilmington region and three areas of Brunswick County. This resolution would support the Department's efforts to secure state and federal funding for improvements to create resilient and reliable infrastructure for these two corridors. The resolution was crafted in coordination with DOT's Chief Operating Officer.

Ms. Williams inquired about the after effects of the lane reversal.

Mr. Kozlosky responded that a plan was considered to use the shoulders of Interstate 40 instead of a full lane reversal; although it was not implemented by Secretary.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Matheny, Mr. Kozlosky stated that the project cost for Interstate 40 is slightly more than \$100 million, and Interstate 95, which needs interchange improvements, is more than \$500 million. He noted that the State is researching numerous funding sources to address these issues.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Bennett, Mr. Kozlosky stated that the improvements to Interstate 40 would be relevant to the MPO region.

Mr. Serkin made a motion to approve the Resolution supporting the North Carolina Department of Transportation's efforts to fund resilient improvements to Interstate 40 and Interstate 95. Mr. Henley seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

d. Resolution approving the Cape Fear Moving Forward 2045 Bicycle and Pedestrian Modal Project List

Ms. Lorenzo stated that the potential project list for the Bike-Ped Modal Subcommittee has been included in the agenda packet. She noted that the Citizens Advisory Committee's concerns have been addressed by the Bike-Ped Modal Subcommittee. She reminded members that these lists will be submitted to the consultant for high-level cost estimates. She added that the cross-sections from adopted plans could change if projects secure funding.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Serkin, Ms. Lorenzo stated that a web map tool exists for all of the project lists, and links could be sent to members.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Ayers, Ms. Lorenzo stated that the 180 bike-pedestrian projects were selected from a list of about 1,000 projects submitted by the public, member jurisdictions, planning partners, and those excerpted by staff from adopted plans.

Mr. Bennett pointed out that BP-579, Military Cutoff Road/Station Road crosswalk improvement, is required as part of the Arboretum West development.

Ms. Roth requested that the design/construction of the Middle Sound/Red Cedar Road to Publix segment and the design/construction of the Market Street/Marsh Oaks Road to Walmart sidewalk, be included. She noted that New Hanover County has money in its CIP for those projects. Ms. Lorenzo responded that staff has discussed these projects and will make sure that they are on the list.

Ms. Roth made a motion to approve the Resolution approving the Cape Fear Moving Forward 2045 Bicycle and Pedestrian Modal Project List with the caveat that the two projects that she mentioned would be included. Mr. Serkin seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

5) Discussion

a. FY 2020-2024 Direct Attributable Funding Call for Projects

Mr. Kozlosky reminded TCC members that the Board supports the change to a five-year process.

Ms. Kimes stated that the new revised application combines all past applications. She noted that the application will be accompanied by a guidebook or a packet of information for referencing maps, etc. She pointed out that on the last page of the application is a funding year request amount, with the first two years for committed projects and the process will be updated every two years, similar to a mini-TIP. She recommended that applicants consider separating design in a year, and construction in a subsequent year to avoid dedicating the entire match in the first year.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Bennett, Ms. Kimes stated that the 10-year clock starts with the design phase.

Ms. Kimes advised that a 45% contingency is recommended currently, which would decrease as the design phase progresses and surety increases. She expressed a preference for design requests in order to obligate the funds more quickly and to avoid funds being rescinded by the federal government.

Mr. Bennett inquired about process improvements to move forward projects with more detailed or better initial design, which would be considered as part of the match. Ms. Kimes pointed out that the Federal Highway Administration does not reimburse for work already completed. She noted that staff would research it and report back, and that the process remains a work in progress.

Ms. Serkin expressed concerns regarding accelerating design without funding for construction. A question/answer and discussion period continued regarding the phasing of design, construction, and funding.

Ms. Matheny inquired about the timeline and any potential revisions to the percentage buckets. Ms. Kimes responded that the application does not consider buckets. She added that a formal application would be required.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that with the approval of the application and the submittal guide in March, the call for projects would be issued in April.

Ms. Kimes requested that any comments, questions or concerns be emailed to her during the next few of weeks for sharing with the group. She added that staff would consider the input while updating the guide to match the form.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Matheny, Ms. Kimes stated that the call for projects would be open from two to three months.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the money becomes available October 1st. He requested that comments be submitted to Ms. Kimes no later than February 27th.

6) **Updates**

- a. **Crossing over the Cape Fear River**
- b. **Wilmington Urban Area MPO**
- c. **Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority**
- d. **NCDOT Division**
- e. **NCDOT Transportation Planning Division**

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

7) **Announcements**

- a. **NCDOT Draft 2020-2029 STIP Drop-in Period: March 4th-8th**

Ms. Marks stated that the drop-in period would be held at the Division office in Castle Hayne, 5501 Barbados Boulevard. She noted that a comment box would be located up front and that staff would also be available.

- b. **Bike/Pedestrian Committee Meeting: March 12th**

8) **Next TCC meeting: March 13, 2019**

9) **Adjournment**

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 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.**