

**Wilmington Urban Area
Technical Coordinating Committee
Wednesday, May 15, 2019
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present

Mike Kozlosky, Wilmington MPO
Don Bennett, City of Wilmington
Nick Cannon, Wilmington MPO
Jerry Haire, Town of Carolina Beach
Nancy Avery, Town of Kure Beach
Rebekah Roth, New Hanover County
Ashli Barefoot, Town of Leland

Barnes Sutton, Town of Navassa
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County
Travis Henley, Pender County
Caitlin Marks, NCDOT Division of Highways
Nazia Sarder, NCDOT Planning
Megan Matheny, Cape Fear Public
Transportation Authority

1) Call to Order

Mr. Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

2) Approval of the Agenda

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

3) Presentation

a. Prioritization 6.0

Caitlin Marks, NCDOT Division 3 Planning Engineer, gave an overview of Prioritization 6.0. She presented an interactive mock scenario of the prioritization process, beginning with project selection. She noted that project selection is limited to 19 submittals per mode, not including carry-over projects. She added that the project submittal window closes on December 20th. She then gave an overview of the three tiers of projects (Statewide Mobility, Regional Impact, and Division Needs).

Ms. Marks stated that projects considered in the Statewide Mobility Tier have two additional opportunities for consideration. She gave a brief overview of the selection criteria, which differs for each tier and mode. She noted that in the Regional Impact Tier Region B, Division 3 projects compete with Division 2 projects. She explained that the Statewide Mobility is released without an opportunity for input. She gave examples of opportunities to assign points (2,400 points for NCDOT and 1,500 points for the Wilmington MPO) to projects in the Regional Impact Tier (70/30 split weight) and Division Needs Tier (50/50 split).

Ms. Marks stated that projects will be released in November of 2020 for the Regional Impacts Tier, and in April of 2021 for the Division Needs Tier, after which the draft STIP will be released.

A brief question/answer and discussion period was held. Ms. Roth requested that copy of the presentation be sent to her.

4) Consent Agenda

a. Approval of TCC Meeting Minutes - April 10, 2019

b. Resolution approving FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment #1

c. Resolution approving 2018-2027 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #19-2

**d. Opening of the 30-day Public Comment Period for 2018-2027 STIP/
MPO Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #19-3**

Ms. Bunch made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, and to forward all items to the MPO Board for consideration. Ms. Avery seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

5) Regular Agenda

**a. Resolution adopting the Top 5 Resilient Transportation Infrastructure
Priorities for the Wilmington Urban Area MPO**

Mr. Kozlosky stated that in February, the TCC and MPO Board discussed regional resilient transportation infrastructure priorities. He noted that this topic was returned to the Board with suggestions from the TCC in April. He added that after further consideration, the Board indicated its top-five priorities, are: to alleviate potential flooding at Town Creek, US-17 and NC-133 in Brunswick County, create programs and develop capital projects to address drainage improvements, address stormwater maintenance issues, develop active stormwater management programs, and dredge the Intracoastal Waterway.

Ms. Barefoot made a motion to approve the Resolution adopting the Top 5 Resilient Transportation Infrastructure Priorities for the Wilmington Urban Area MPO. Mr. Sutton seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

6) Discussion

a. Supplemental Funding for TMAs - FY19 Appropriations

Ms. Kimes stated that as discussed last month, the MPO swapped existing unobligated funds with NCDOT to address the reallocation planned by the federal government to shift funds in favor of states that have maximized past spending. She noted that the MPO will receive the same amount and type of funds from NCDOT next year, and avoid risking their loss.

Ms. Kimes stated that the rail crossing that was being considered is eligible under the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP). She noted that none of the member jurisdictions nor the NCDOT Rail Division have expressed an interest in using the funds. However, the Port has expressed an interest in using the funds for a project within its gates. She noted that staff is currently researching the appropriateness of that use.

Ms. Kimes stated that this fiscal year has \$2.3 in STBGP funds and \$230,000 in Transportation Alternatives Set Aside funds plus \$1.5 million (\$600,000 in Omnibus fund and the \$900,000 just traded in to NCDOT for additional STBGP funds) to allocate to projects over the next few years. She noted that rail projects may be submitted for the STBGP process with a July deadline.

A brief question/answer and discussion period was held.

b. FY 2019 BUILD Grant

Ms. Moore stated that a notice of funding opportunity for the 2019 BUILD Grant has been included in the agenda packet. She noted that the application is due on July 15th. She added that it takes two to four weeks to sign up at www.grants.gov.

Ms. Moore stated that the projects for construction must be surface transportation projects with a cost from \$5 million to \$25 million. She noted that the funds must be obligated by September 30, 2021, and spent by September 30, 2026. She added that planning funds are available, but must lead to a surface transportation project.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that given the criteria, staff could not identify any projects to submit. Ms. Moore pointed out that the required 20% match is also a challenge.

Ms. Roth expressed concerns regarding building capacity to better respond to such grant opportunities.

Mr. Bennett inquired about previously programmed projects, and using bond funds for the match. Mr. Kozlosky responded that it might be possible.

Ms. Moore stated that the notice of award would be given in November. She noted that spending federal money would be prohibited unless all environmental requirements and approvals have been obtained, including meeting federal procurement standards.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Moore, Mr. Kozlosky stated that the Port had applied for the TIGER Grant in the past.

7) **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 agenda packet.

8) **Announcements**

- a. **Heide Trask Drawbridge Feasibility Study Public Meeting - May 21st**
Mr. Kozlosky stated that NCDOT would be holding a public meeting on May 21st from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Town of Wrightsville Beach to review the feasibility study and to obtain public feedback.
- b. **Bike/Pedestrian Committee Meeting – June 11th**
- c. **Direct Attributable Applications Due – July 1, 2019**
- d. **Next TCC meeting – June 12, 2019 – Harnett Room**

9) **Adjournment**

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 10:34 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.**