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Meeting Minutes
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
December 10, 2024

Members Present:

Adrienne Harrington, Town of Belville
Michelle Howes, NCDOT Division 3
Rodney Kidd, Town of Carolina Beach
Duncan McCabe, City of Wilmington
Karin Mills, City of Wilmington
Al Schroetel, Cape Fear Cyclists
Greer Templer, WMPO
Carol Stein (Chair), Pender County
Steve Zinder (Vice Chair), UNCW

Members Absent:

Brianna D'Itri, Wave Transit
Karlene Ellis-Vitalis, New Hanover County
Mo Linqvist, Town of Kure Beach
Katie Ryan, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Steve Whitney, Brunswick County

Staff and Guests Present

Brad Cannon, Wave Transit
James Chisum, New Hanover County
Tera Cline, WMPO
Tessa Jones, WMPO

- 1. Call to Order**
 - Carol Stein called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.
- 2. Approval of the Agenda**
 - Motion to approve was made by Steve Zinder. Motion was seconded by Al Schroetel. Motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Public Comment Period**
 - There were no public comments at this meeting.
- 4. Approval of minutes from October 8, 2024 Meeting**
 - Motion to approve was made by Steve Zinder. Motion was seconded by Duncan McCabe.

Motion passed unanimously.

5. **Presentations**

- **Gullah Geechee Heritage Trail Feasibility Study | Greer Templer**
Greer Templer, senior planner at the WMPO, presented about the development and findings of the Gullah Geechee Heritage Trail Feasibility Study. The Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor extends from Jacksonville, NC, to Jacksonville FL, and is intended to highlight and protect important historical sites connected to the Gullah Geechee community. NCDOT IMD Paved Trails and Sidewalks Feasibility Study Grant program awarded money to the WMPO for this study in 2023. Partners on the project included the Towns of Leland, Belville, and Navassa, as well as Brunswick County, in addition to the WMPO and NCDOT IMD. A steering committee included Gullah Geechee historians and local cycling interest groups. The feasibility study's objectives were to assess the feasibility of the trail, provide a preferred alignment for the trail that can be moved forward to the design phase, to identify applicable funding sources, and develop an implementation plan. The study area encompasses an area between Phoenix Park in Navassa to Brunswick Nature Park in unincorporated Brunswick County. Community engagement was conducted in two phases with attendance at events, a project website, online comment map, and online surveys. Greer Templer remarked a project in Belville connected to the River Road widening and the Belville Elementary Multi-Use Path are existing projects underway. Remaining trail segments not selected as part of the preferred alignment will still be retained as longer-term projects.

6. **Old Business**

- **35th Annual River to Sea Sponsorship tier options** – Four sponsorship tiers are recommended to support the 35th Annual River to Sea Bike Ride based on 2023 ride costs of \$2,200. Bronze tier is \$50, silver is \$100, gold is \$250, and platinum is \$500, with each tier including escalating benefits for sponsorship, including having logos featured on the t-shirt. A motion to approve the sponsorship options was made by Steve Zinder and seconded by Duncan McCabe. The motion passed to approve the sponsorship tier options. The committee requested a draft sponsorship request email template to assist with sign boosting the call for sponsors.

7. **New Business**

- **Election of Officers** – Steve Zinder was nominated as chair by Karin Mills. A motion to elect Steve Zinder as chair was made by Duncan McCabe and seconded by Brad Cannon. Motion passed unanimously to elect Steve Zinder as Chair. Karin Mills was nominated as vice chair by Al Schroetel, and a motion by Duncan McCabe with a second by Al Schroetel was passed to elect Karin Mills as Vice Chair.
- **2025 Work Plan and Meeting Schedule Discussion** – 2025 work plan items are subject to additions or changes based on local and regional needs throughout the year. For changes, please contact the WMPO. Al Schroetel requested that this committee be informed of and aligned with Bike Walk NC activities and values, and requested the BWNC chair to present earlier in the year. Carol Stein reached out to him last month about a presentation, especially on legislation, but hasn't heard back yet. Rodney Kidd suggested doing a round-robin of updates from each community to share new ideas and best practices. The committee expressed a desire as this is be added as a regular agenda item for each meeting. Steve Zinder made a motion to accept the work plan, and Duncan McCabe seconded. Motion carried and work plan was approved. A motion was made by Duncan McCabe to approve the schedule with a second by Steve Zinder. Motion carried and the schedule was approved.

8. **Updates and Announcements**

- **Cape Fear Cyclists | Al Schroetel** – Al Schroetel submitted a written report and went over it. The Terry Benjey Bicycling Foundation (TBBF) has a change in leadership, Eileen McConville is being

replaced by Sam Burgess as president in January. Cape Fear Cyclists met with Trevor Carroll, the new NCDOT Division 3 engineer. The TBBF gives grants to local organizations, and also received a grant of \$6,900 for bicycle safety education through Let's Go NC curriculum to be conducted in two New Hanover County elementary schools in 2025. Cape Fear Cyclists have rides every week, a casual, shorter ride has been added.

- **WMPO November Project Updates (in packet)**
 - **NCDOT Division 3 Updates (in packet)**
- 9. Next Meeting**
- Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 2pm – 525 N 4th St. in the Board Room.
- 10. Adjournment**
- Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:04 p.m. with a motion by Steve Zinder.