



## WILMINGTON URBAN AREA Metropolitan Planning Organization

P.O. Box 1810  
Wilmington, North Carolina 28402  
910 341 3258 910 341 7801 FAX

### Members:

City of  
WILMINGTON  
Lead Planning Agency

Town of  
CAROLINA BEACH

Town of  
KURE BEACH

Town of  
WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH

NEW HANOVER  
County

Town of  
BELVILLE

Town of  
LELAND

Town of  
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CAPE FEAR  
Public Transportation  
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**TO:** WMPO Citizen Advisory Committee Members  
**FROM:** Joshua Mello, Secretary  
**DATE:** February 27, 2010  
**SUBJECT:** March 3, 2010 Meeting Agenda

A meeting of the WMPO Citizen Advisory Committee (D/B/A *Cape Fear Commutes 2035*) will be held on **Wednesday, March 3 at 3:00pm**. The meeting will be held in the **Traffic Conference Room on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor of 305 Chestnut Street** in downtown Wilmington.

The following is the agenda for the meeting:

1. Adopt minutes from previous meetings [Loving]
2. Discuss potential Transportation Systems Management (TSM) strategies and policies [Mello]
3. Discuss potential Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies and policies [Mello]
4. New business
5. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2010 at 3:00pm



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### Citizen Advisory Committee (D/B/A Cape Fear Commutes 2035 Committee) February 3, 2010 Minutes

#### Members:

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#### Members in attendance:

Howard Capps  
Eric Coffey  
Al Freimark  
Dorsey Jones  
Howard Loving, Co-chair  
Paul Martinez  
John Melia  
Steven Stanton  
Stuart Smith  
Ryan Rhodenhiser  
Donald Sellers  
Mike Roberts, Co-chair

#### Members not in attendance: Scott Cromartie

#### Others in attendance:

Mike Kozlosky, WMPO Staff  
Joshuah Mello, WMPO Staff

**1. Approval of minutes:** Minutes from January 27, 2010 approved unanimously.

#### **2. Discussion of Bicycle Project Prioritization:**

- Mello presented information on the bicycle project prioritization, including the map and table with scoring criteria
- Mello reviewed the scoring criteria for each project (is it in a plan, location of parks, connect to existing, etc.)
- Bicycle projects scored from 2 to 39, with 39 being very high priority
- Capps ask to add the Cape Fear Skyway – committee wanted pedestrian and bicycle accommodations
- Mello explained that projects that scored highest seem to be where people are already riding bicycles
- Stanton asked where the questions from the survey are built into bicycle projects – surveys were included in recommendations
- Mello stated that on-road bicycle lanes on South College Road came from the survey for example
- Mello reviewed the top 10 projects – very high priority projects
- Freimark asked how usage was factored in
- Melia asked if there were different pots of money available for different modes
- Loving requested that the table highlight projects already in progress
- Mello stated need to remove project 115 as it has been completed by the City of Wilmington
- Stanton reminded the committee that Snows Cut Bridge is a barrier between River Road and Pleasure Island
- Committee agreed that preference should be given to projects that are simple restriping – more “bang for the buck”

- Mello recommended adding another criteria for “dollar per point”
- Capps asked is there is any benefit to looking at continuous nature of facilities in scoring criteria – this is accounted for in the criteria

**3. Discuss Pedestrian Project Prioritization:**

- As an example of potential pedestrian projects, Mello reviewed the *Walk Wilmington: A Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan* recommended sidewalk and pedestrian signal improvements with the committee
- Mello noted that Leland has also completed a bicycle plan, but no other area community has a pedestrian plan
- Carolina Beach and Kure Beach have submitted grant application to fund plans, but they have been denied
- Municipalities do have list of projects
- *Walk Wilmington: A Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan* also provides policy recommendations
- Committee may want to recommend filling in the sidewalk gaps as top priority

**4. Discuss Congestion Mitigation Roadway Project Prioritization:**

- Mello reviewed congestion mitigation roadway projects scoring criteria
- Committee discussed scoring
- Consensus was that the scoring matched the logical prioritization of projects

**5. Other Business:** None

**6. Next Meeting:** Next meeting was scheduled for February 17, 2010



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### Citizen Advisory Committee (D/B/A Cape Fear Commutes 2035 Committee) January 27, 2010 Minutes

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#### Attendees:

Howard Loving  
John Melia  
Mike Roberts  
Howard Capps  
Ryan Rhondenhiser  
Al Freimark  
Eric Coffey  
Dorsey Jones  
Don Sellers  
Scott Cromantic  
Joshuah Mello, Wilmington Urban Area MPO, Staff  
Don Bryson, M/A/B  
Than Austin, M/A/B

The Committee met to discuss potential funding scenarios and further refinement of the mass transit projects. The following comments represent the committee's discussion on these issues.

#### Funding Scenarios

- Joshuah Mello, of the WMPO, led a discussion of potential funding scenarios. He presented a draft chart on the division of expected funding by mode and submode, showing how funding could be divided amongst roadway, mass transportation, and bicycle and pedestrian projects.
- The draft percentages by mode were principally derived from the commuter survey responses.
- There should be a balance between mobility goals and other community objectives and transportation needs.
- One option is to give more weight in funding for mass transit and bike/ped projects. The committee discussed whether the public would be in favor of weighting projects that support alternative transportation.
- How this is presented to the public will be important in helping them to understand the options and implications and gaining their support for the plan.

### Mass Transit Projects

Staff from M/A/B led a discussion with the committee about the updated and revised mass transit projects, rankings, and maps. The following comments summarize the discussion:

- Express Bus Projects
  - The park and ride lots along I-140 need to be developed in consultation with the NCDOT to make sure funding works and right-of-way opportunities are taken advantage of.
  - The Vision 2020 recommendations should be reflected in the plan to promote consistency.
  - The Pleasure Island trolley/circulator at Kure Beach should be added as a project, connecting to the proposed express route.
  - Various comments were made related to the project maps.
- Bus Rapid Transit Projects
  - Raised platforms should be investigated for BRT stops.
  - The terminus points on the map of the different BRT lines were discussed. It was concluded that the termini should be illustrated differently to avoid locating specific stations and focus more on the general corridors.
  - Various comments were made related to the project maps.
- Local Transit Projects
  - Access to and through Wrightsville Beach via local bus or trolley was discussed. Options include showing a local route going through Wrightsville Beach and locating a park and ride lot outside of the town.
  - The committee discussed various other potential destinations for local transit, including Mayfaire and North Campus.

### Mass Transit Policies

The committee discussed a list of draft mass transit policies prepared by M/A/B. These policies are intended to promote coordination with land use policies and support the multimodal objectives of the LRTP. The following comments were made:

- Parking policies have an impact on the region's transportation system, especially in key areas like the downtown and at UNCW.
- There needs to be better coordination between the schools and the city transportation systems.
- Other TDM tools, such as promotion of electric vehicles, should be explored and encouraged.
- Funding through this plan should not support recreational bicycling, but should go toward bicycle projects that promote mobility and access.

### Schedule

The committee reviewed the calendar of meetings and discussed the plan for getting the plan adopted. Dates and plans were discussed for outreach to the public and the member jurisdictions.



## WILMINGTON URBAN AREA Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Meeting Date: January 13, 2010

### Members:

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Subject: Cape Fear Commutes 2035 Committee (CAC) Meeting

Attendees: George Alexiou, Martin Alexiou Bryson  
Than Austin, Martin Alexiou Bryson  
Howard Capps  
Eric Coffey  
Al Freimark  
Dorsey Jones  
Howard Loving, Co-chair  
John Melia (via phone)  
Joshuah Mello, Secretary  
Ryan Rhondenhiser  
Mike Roberts, Co-chair  
Stuart Smith  
Steve Stanton

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### Meeting Summary

The Committee met to discuss the mass transit projects, project prioritization, cost estimates, and policy language for inclusion in the LRTP. The following comments represent the committee's discussion on these issues.

- M/A/B gave a presentation on projects, funding options, and project cost estimates.
- As part of the analysis of funding for the LRTP, a percentage of funding by mode will be discussed and established. Roadway and mass transit projects will be further broken down by categories.
- Different funding scenarios were discussed, based on potential funding sources, including new or alternative funding streams.
- There are multi-jurisdictional issues with different kinds of funding sources. These will be worked out as the Plan continues to develop.
- A key factor is whether the public understands how transportation funds are passed down and the related impacts and needs for locally funded projects.
- The mass transit project list will be prioritized by general category, or technology (i.e., local bus, express bus, bus rapid transit, etc).
- For routes that go outside the WMPO boundaries that are not funded by the WMPO, local support for the funding of those routes should be required.
- The heavy rail projects listed should be listed as unfunded priorities in the Mass Transit Element of the LRTP.
- The Committee reviewed the mass transit project cost estimates prepared by M/A/B.

- Improvements such as reduced headways, bus stop amenities, and other enhancements can improve the image of transit and potentially get more people to use existing services.
- The benefit of adding new service as compared to improving existing transit services and routes was discussed.
- Building existing ridership will be an important factor in qualifying for federal funding programs, such as the New Starts program. The New Starts programs and its various iterations were reviewed by M/A/B and discussed by the Committee.
- The downtown area may be the only viable candidate for a New Starts project. The possibilities of a streetcar line downtown were discussed, including examples from other cities, such as Denver, San Francisco, and Portland.
- A downtown streetcar project should be evaluated as a possible starter project for one of the identified BRT/LRT projects.
- The Committee reviewed each of the proposed mass transit projects and gave feedback in terms of project descriptions, locations, and the various ranking criteria.
- It was agreed that M/A/B would work with WMPO staff to update the project maps and revise the ranking criteria to more accurately reflect transit conditions and needs. These items will be presented at the next meeting.

The Committee was unable to complete discussion of all of the agenda items. Therefore, the next meeting date (January 27, 2010) will be used to finish the agenda items for this meeting, including revised and updated maps and project priorities, as well as the discussion of policy language and breaking down funding by mode.