



**Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 31, 2017**

**Members Present:**

Gary Doetsch, Town of Carolina Beach  
David Piepmeyer, Pender County  
Neil Anderson, City of Wilmington  
Jonathan Barfield, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority  
Pat Batleman, Town of Leland  
Hank Miller, Town of Wrightsville Beach  
Charlie Rivenbark, City of Wilmington  
Emilie Swearingen, Town of Kure Beach  
Skip Watkins, New Hanover County  
Frank Williams, Brunswick County  
Eulis Willis, Town of Navassa

**Others Present:**

Mike Kozlosky, Executive Director, WMPO  
Mr. Jay McInnis, Project Development Group Supervisor, NCDOT

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Doetsch called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**2. Conflict of Interest Reminder**

Mr. Doetsch asked if any members had a conflict of interest with any items on the meeting agenda. No members reported having a conflict of interest.

**3. Approval of Board Members' Excused Absence**

Mr. Kozlosky stated that Mr. Landon Zimmer has requested to be excused from today's meeting. He also noted that Mr. Breault resigned yesterday and that the Town of Belville will appoint a new member.

Mr. Rivenbark made a motion to excuse the absence of Mr. Zimmer. Mr. Miller seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Watkins made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Williams, and the motion carried unanimously.

**5. Public Comment Period**

No public comment speakers.

Mr. Anderson and Mr. Barfield arrived at 3:02 p.m.

Ms. Batleman pointed out a copy error on the agenda regarding the minutes for approval.

**6. Presentation**

**a. Cape Fear Regional Bicycle Plan, Allen Serkin, Cape Fear RPO**

Mr. Serkin gave a presentation on the Cape Fear Regional Bicycle Plan. He reminded the Board that about a year ago he presented the concept, which is currently in its final stages of completion. He gave an overview of the plan including background, purpose, planning process, recommendations, and anticipated use.

Mr. Serkin stated that the NCDOT identified the need to link community bicycle and pedestrian plans with a regional plan, and approached the Council of Governments with the task. He commented that the scale of this plan is the first of its kind with a study area approaching the size of Connecticut and an impact to many local governments, MPOs and RPOs. He noted that the steering committee was large and diverse, and the draft plan was disseminated for public outreach and comment, which has led to this proposed final plan connecting all communities to Wilmington and to each other. He added that the plan tries to avoid high volume roadways wherever possible.

Mr. Serkin stated that plan identified 15 short-term priority projects, most of which were outside the MPO area, except the Love Grove Bridge, the Newland to Brunswick Nature Park projects, and some in Wrightsville Beach, Carolina Beach and Kure Beach. He noted that the consultant provided cost estimates for these projects with the hope that they would be of use to local communities. He added that visionary projects such as a Fayetteville to Wilmington Greenway, improvements to the East Coast Greenway, and improvements for cyclists crossing bridges to the beach communities were also considered with the understanding that implementation would be long term.

Mr. Serkin stated that three sub-regional fold-out maps were a product of this plan to take advantage of the tourism component. He noted that these brochures/maps provide an opportunity to promote existing bicycle facilities. He added that the brochures would be printed for communities to distribute to chambers of commerce, and at town halls, county complexes and parks.

Mr. Serkin pointed out that the plan will help inform decision makers for roadway projects, and already has. He noted that project cost sheets and estimates will help communities implement the plan locally. He added that the plan has recommendations for programs, policies, funding, and design of facilities, etc. for the region. Also, it can be cited in requests for grant funding and other funding, and can be used in the transportation prioritization process. He requested that members approve the Resolution adopting the plan, and that it be adopted by local communities as well. He noted that he would contact local staff to assure that it's placed on local agendas.

Mr. Serkin stated that 61 jurisdictions are included in the study area. He noted that an electronic version of the regional plan is available at the Cape Fear Council of Governments website ([www.capefearcog.org/regionalbikeplan](http://www.capefearcog.org/regionalbikeplan)). He added that an executive summary and the brochure/maps will be distributed to the communities with links to the project website and plan document. A brief question and answer period followed.

Mr. Barfield expressed concerns regarding bicycle safety. Mr. Serkin responded that safety tips are included on the suitability maps; although more education and outreach is necessary, especially in high volume areas that are inherently risky. He added that some recommendations for outreach are also included in the plan.

Mr. Doetsch suggested that outreach would be most effective as part of Drivers' Education.

Mr. Rivenbark pointed out that signage is also important. A brief question/answer and discussion period was held.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the County has received and is a partner in the Watch for Me NC program. He noted that the state has a program that may be a way to educate motorists on the rules of the road when interacting with pedestrians. He agreed that it could be included in drivers' manuals and proposed an Item to be included in a future Board agenda to communicate support for it.

It was the consensus of the Board to do so.

Ms. Harrington stated that police involvement is a large component of the Watch for Me NC program. She noted that it's a campaign that targets drivers and pedestrians as well as cyclists. She added that the WMPO has participated for three of the last four years, and materials are expected to arrive shortly, to be followed by billboards in the summer and fall. A question/answer and discussion period was held.

Mr. Piepmeyer suggested that benchmarking data be gathered.

Mr. Doetsch commented that the challenge is cultural in transitioning from a motorist mentality.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that staff would research the item and results would be presented at the Board's June meeting.

## **7. Consent Agenda**

### **a. Approval of WMPO Board Meeting Minutes**

The minutes for the April 26, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously with the change on the agenda from TCC Meeting Minutes to WMPO Board Meeting Minutes.

### **b. Opening of the 30-day public comment period for STIP/MTIP Amendment (May)**

### **c. Resolution approving the STIP/MTIP Amendment (April)**

### **d. Resolution approving the STIP/MTIP Modification (April)**

### **e. Resolution adopting the Cape Fear Regional Bicycle Plan**

### **f. Resolution authorizing the Executive Director to sign the letter of engagement with Smith Moore Leatherwood LLP for General Legal Representation**

### **g. Resolution supporting Alternative MA and/or Alternative NA as the Wilmington Urban Area MPO's preferred alternatives for the Cape Fear Crossing project**

Mr. Williams pulled Item 7g (Resolution supporting Alternative MA and/or Alternative NA as the Wilmington Urban Area MPO's preferred alternatives for the Cape Fear Crossing project) for further discussion.

Mr. Williams made the motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 7a through 7f. Mr. Miller seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Regarding Item 7g, Mr. Kozlosky reminded the Board that staff brought forward this resolution based on discussions at its special meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup>. He noted that during the TCC meeting, the NC Ports requested to add language regarding the height clearance requirement of 235 feet for any southern alignment. He noted that they have since provided a memo that

details a height requirement of 215 feet. He added that a revised resolution has been distributed to the Board.

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the revised resolution. Mr. Miller seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

## **8. Discussion**

### **a. Prioritization 5.0 Bike/Pedestrian Projects**

Ms. Doliboa told members that the list of potential bicycle/pedestrian projects will be submitted for Prioritization 5.0. She noted that all but the last three came directly from the Metropolitan Transportation Plan's (MTP) list of highest ranking unfunded projects. She stated that project #62, Market Street and Middle Sound Loop Road, was added at the request of the Bike/Ped Committee Chair due to a connection with other projects funded on Middle Sound Loop Road – the multiuse path and the greenway, a DA (Direct Attributable) project. She explained that project #47 and project #70 for Brunswick County and Pender County were added to increase the number of regional projects.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that this Item would be brought forward for approval at the Board's next meeting.

### **b. Prioritization 5.0 Highway Projects**

Ms. Motsinger told members that the list of potential highway projects all came from the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), and a discussion with the Division office. She noted that these are the highest priority projects that are not funded or accounted for elsewhere. She added that further discussion with NCDOT's Spot Group will occur, which may impact the list when staff brings it back to the Board in June for approval.

### **c. Prioritization 5.0 Ferry and Waterway Projects**

Ms. Doliboa told members that these projects came from the MTP (Metropolitan Transportation Plan). She noted that Mr. Sterling Baker, Director of the Facilities Management Unit at NCDOT, requested to change the wording of project #F1 from New River Call Vessel to Additional River Call Vessel. She added that these are the same projects that were submitted for Prioritization 4.0.

### **d. Wilmington Bike Share Program**

Mr. Kozlosky reminded members that at its September meeting in Leland a group from Gotcha Bikes gave a presentation on bike share programs, which was also presented to the Wilmington City Council. He added that this program is included in the short-range Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Plan as a medium priority. He noted that the City expressed interest; however, no resources are available. He requested direction from the Board in order to pursue a bike share program. He noted that next steps would include sending out a Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify interested entities that could implement a program.

Mr. Anderson pointed out that it's been a while since UNCW implemented its program. He requested an update.

Ms. Harrington responded that UNCW has reported nearly 15,000 rides in the spring semester that just ended, with 870 active members and two (2) payment plan options. She commented that it started off stronger than others and without negative feedback. She added that the university contracted with Bike Cycles, which has maintained 95

percent of bikes in rotation, significantly higher than the average of one-third out of rotation.

Ms. Harrington stated that UNCW will seek to expand the number of stations available. She noted that currently there are seven (7) stations and 70 bikes on campus. She added that the university started the program by funding it 100 percent, and now plans to seek sponsorships for the future.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that various funding models exist.

Mr. Williams expressed concerns regarding liability. Ms. Harrington responded that it's included in the cost of the bike. She noted that the vendor owns the bikes and stations.

A lengthy question/answer and discussion period was held.

Mr. Anderson requested to see some examples of cities that have had some success with the program.

Ms. Harrington stated that the City of Charlotte has had a bike share program for a number of years and UNCC is implementing one now. She added that Greensboro is also implementing one starting at UNCG, similar to Wilmington. She noted that Raleigh has released its RFP, received vendor presentations, and is in the process of selecting one. Charleston, South Carolina, is also in the process of implementing a program.

Mr. Anderson requested studies of Asheville, Savannah, and Columbia and Greenville, South Carolina, as well. Mr. Kozlosky responded that Greenville has one and assured him that the others will be studied.

Following further discussion, Mr. Williams made a motion for staff to proceed with sending out an RFP for a regional bike share program. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**e. Citizen Advisory Committee Appointments**

Mr. Kozlosky reported that staff has received appointments; however, a few are still missing. A brief question/answer and discussion period was held.

Ms. Motsinger stated that the goal is to hold the first meeting in June. She expressed concerns regarding beginning without representation from the entire region.

Mr. Doetsch suggested that the Committee could proceed with eight (8) members.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Rivenbark, Ms. Motsinger noted that the commitment is for about two (2) hours each month for the next two (2) years.

**9. Updates**

Ms. Harrington reported May Bike Month Events as follows: River to Sea, April 22, 2017 – 365 participants; National Bike to School event with Holly Tree Elementary – 120 participants; and Bike to Work Week – 306 participants (goal: 300).

At the request of Ms. Swearingen, Mr. Kozlosky provided a brief summary regarding yesterday's Concurrence Point meeting on the Cape Fear River Crossing. He noted that the meeting reviewed potential bridge locations, alignments and lengths. He added that a brief

discussion was held regarding removing some alternatives (F, P, VA, and VF); however, none were removed. Although a future meeting to remove alternatives could be held in the future.

Mr. Doetsch stated that the focus of the meeting was primarily environmental and hydraulic.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the group visited locations in Brunswick County to consider culverts versus bridges. He noted that the agencies preferred bridging over a number of culverts identified in the agenda packet. He added that the Department will keep track and note the cost difference.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Batleman, Mr. Ron Lucas, Planning & Environment Engineer with the Federal Highway Authority, stated that he attended yesterday's meeting. He noted that Alternatives F, P, VA, and VF have impacts to the Historic District, which is protected by Section 4F. He pointed out that those Alternatives could not be approved for federal funding, and should be removed, particularly since other options exist.

Mr. McInnis stated that he would discuss dropping some Alternatives with the Corps of Engineers during the next few months.

Mr. Doetsch announced that the next Bike/Ped Committee meeting would be held June 13, 2017 and the next WMPO Board meeting would be held June 28, 2017.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that a special meeting of the WMPO Board would be held on June 15, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. to meet NCDOT Secretary James H. Trogon III.

#### **10. Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:59 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.**