

**Wilmington Urban Area MPO
Technical Coordinating Committee
Wednesday, September 15, 2021
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present (in-person)

Nick Cannon, MPO Go Coast Program
Mike Kozlosky, WMPO Executive Director

Members Present (remotely)

Stephanie Ayers, NC State Ports Authority
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County
Granseur Dick, Wilmington International Airport
Patrick Flanagan, Cape Fear Council of Governments
Adrienne Harrington, Town of Belville
Paula Kempton, Town of Carolina Beach
Matthew Kirkland, Town of Leland
Vanessa Lacer, Pender County
Marty Little, New Hanover County
Caitlin Marks, NCDOT Division of Highways
Megan Matheny, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority
Robert O'Quinn, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Nazia Sarder, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch
Barnes Sutton, Town of Navassa
Denys Vielkanowitz, City of Wilmington

Members Absent

Mandy Sanders, Town of Kure Beach

Others Present (in-person)

Abby Lorenzo, WMPO

Others Present (remotely)

Aubrey Parsley, City of Wilmington
Cheryl Hannah, HDR
Joseph Lewis, VHB
Raquel Ivins, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Regina Hopkins, MPO
Trevor Stewart, MPO

1) Call to Order

Chairman Mike Kozlosky called to order the remote meeting at 10:00 a.m. and took a roll call pursuant to Section 4.31 of Senate Bill 704 (Session Law 2020-3). A quorum was present, as follows:

Present: Stephanie Ayers, Matt Kirkland, Helen Bunch, Nick Cannon, Granseur Dick, Patrick Flanagan, Adrienne Harrington, Mike Kozlosky, Vanessa Lacer, Marty Little, Caitlin Marks, Nazia Sarder, Barnes Sutton and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Absent:** Paula Kempton, Megan Matheny, Robert O'Quinn and Mandy Sanders.

2) Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Cannon made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Bunch seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by roll call, as follows:

Ayes: Stephanie Ayers, Matt Kirkland, Helen Bunch, Nick Cannon, Granseur Dick, Patrick Flanagan, Adrienne Harrington, Mike Kozlosky, Vanessa Lacer, Marty Little, Caitlin Marks, Nazia Sarder, Barnes Sutton and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Paula Kempton, Megan Matheny, Robert O'Quinn and Mandy Sanders.

3) Presentation

a. NCDOT Programming Challenges- Caitlin Marks, NCDOT

Ms. Marks gave a brief presentation on NCDOT's State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), prioritization, cost estimation improvement process (STIP cost review), and next steps. She reminded the committee that last month, the NC Board of Transportation (BOT) decided to suspend Prioritization 6.0 (P6.0) after it receives scores for projects submitted. She assured the committee that the suspension is not a crisis since, by law, the next STIP update isn't due until 2024.

Ms. Marks attributed the suspension of P6.0 to rising construction costs. She noted that this is dissimilar to the temporary hold placed on projects two years ago in 2019 when DOT needed to restore its cash balances that had been impacted by storms, Map Act litigation, and reduced revenues. She added that today, NCDOT has a strong cash balance of nearly \$1.9 billion.

To address rising construction costs, Ms. Marks said that NCDOT will seek better cost estimates with express designs for all projects and will update cost estimates every two years. She noted that the estimates will be centrally located for ease of access. Also, the project development team is tasked with value engineering and value assessments to identify any cost savings. She noted that during the summer, NCDOT has been updating cost estimates for all 450 projects in the STIP, which includes more than 1,000 estimates for right-of-way, utilities, and construction for each project.

Ms. Marks reported that the current 10-year STIP is overprogrammed by \$3 billion in the Statewide Tier, \$540 million in the Regional Impact Tier, and \$242 million in the Division Needs Tier. She noted that committed-only projects are less overprogrammed in the Statewide and Regional tiers, and under programmed by \$76 million in the Division Tier. She explained that committed projects were traditionally those in the first six years of the STIP, but due to some delays in August 2019, projects have maintained a committed status although they fall beyond the first six years of the STIP. Of all the projects in the MPO region, only the Oleander and Greenville Loop Road Project is not committed. She pointed out that this information was the basis for the BOT's decision to suspend P6.0.

Ms. Marks said that NCDOT will work together with planning organizations to discuss true priorities and to develop the best plan for the region. She noted that the MPO will be asked to vote on a new STIP in 2023.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Ayers, Ms. Marks confirmed that project U-5734 is committed.

Mr. Kozlosky said that the MPO will work very closely over the coming months to develop a STIP with the TCC and the Board for a new program with existing projects. He noted that there would be no new projects and prioritization will be necessary.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Bunch, Mr. Kozlosky said he would distribute the presentation to TCC members after the meeting.

4) **Consent Agenda**

- a. **Approval of TCC Meeting Minutes- August 11, 2021**
- b. **Resolution approving 2020-2029 STIP/MPO TIP Amendments# 21-5 and #21-6**
- c. **Opening of the 30-day public comment period for 2020-2029 STIP/MPO TIP Amendments #21-7**
- d. **Resolution approving 2020-2029 STIP/MPO TIP Administrative Modifications #21-8**
- e. **Resolution adopting the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Board's Remote Public Participation Policy and Procedures**

Ms. Lacer made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Items 4a through 4e, as presented, and to forward the items to the MPO Board for consideration. Mr. Flanagan seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by roll call as follows:

Ayes: Stephanie Ayers, Matt Kirkland, Helen Bunch, Nick Cannon, Granseur Dick, Patrick Flanagan, Adrienne Harrington, Paula Kempton (no audio), Mike Kozlosky, Vanessa Lacer, Marty Little, Caitlin Marks, Robert O'Quinn, Nazia Sarder, Barnes Sutton and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Megan Matheny and Mandy Sanders.

5) Discussion

a) Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure Model Ordinance

MPO Associate Transportation Planner Zachary Manfredi gave an overview of the bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure model ordinance recommended by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and prepared by MPO staff and local planning partners. He noted that the purpose of the model ordinance is to have more bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in new developments.

Mr. Manfredi said that staff began work on the model ordinance by researching a broad, nationwide scope, which was narrowed down due to laws and precedents that are particular to North Carolina. He noted that City legal counsel advised against any upfront charges related to transportation. He added that language and land development codes from Greensboro, Charlotte, Raleigh, and others were considered. He noted that the proposed model ordinance is intended as a starting point for local members to incorporate into their own local ordinances. He pointed out that many towns and municipalities may already rely on some of the suggested guidelines.

The next steps include gathering feedback from member jurisdictions and forwarding the feedback to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to incorporate into the model ordinance. The City Attorney from the City of Wilmington will review the proposed changes, and a revised draft will be presented to the TCC/Board for consideration.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Bunch, Ms. Lorenzo said that individual jurisdictions are asked to vet the proposed model ordinance since everyone's codes are different and to provide feedback. Mr. Kozlosky pointed out that this is not the MPO's recommended language, but is intended to introduce the concept, and initiate a conversation with and feedback from technical staff for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to incorporate into a final draft of the model ordinance.

Ms. Bunch pointed out that the competition is increasing for right-of-way space.

Ms. Lorenzo requested feedback from committee members by September 30th.

Mr. Vielkanowitz asked if this is a tool for member jurisdictions to pick and choose what they want. Mr. Manfredi agreed and said that the City of Wilmington just updated its land development code and that it includes almost all of the points in the draft model ordinance. He commented that the model ordinance may be a good starting point for smaller jurisdictions when updating their codes.

Mr. Sutton commented that the Town of Navassa generally supports model ordinances from the MPO and adopted one for bicycle parking. He agreed that it's a good resource.

6) Updates

- a. Wilmington Urban Area MPO
- b. Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority
- c. NCDOT Division
- d. NCDOT Transportation Planning Division

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

7) Announcements

- a. The Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee – October 12th.
- b. The next TCC meeting – October 13, 2021

Mr. Kozlosky added that the River to Sea Bike Ride is scheduled for October 16th, the Commuter Challenge will occur from October 16th through October 30th and the Brunswick Heritage Bike Ride is scheduled for October 23rd.

Mr. Kozlosky commented that virtual meetings have shortened the duration of TCC meetings. He noted that given the Delta variant, remote meetings will continue to be held until the Governor rescinds his executive order. He added that the next TCC meeting on October 13th will be held virtually, and MPO staff will be available in the conference room at 305 Chestnut Street.

8) **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Ms. Ayers made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Bunch and meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m. by roll call as follows:

Ayes: Stephanie Ayers, Matt Kirkland, Helen Bunch, Nick Cannon, Granseur Dick, Patrick Flanagan, Adrienne Harrington, Mike Kozlosky, Vanessa Lacer, Marty Little, Caitlin Marks, Megan Matheny, Robert O'Quinn, Nazia Sarder, Barnes Sutton and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Paula Kempton and Mandy Sanders.

THE ABOVE MINUTES ARE NOT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS.
THE ENTIRE PROCEEDINGS ARE RECORDED DIGITALLY AS PART OF THIS RECORD.