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Create and execute continuing, cooperative and comprehensive regional long-range planning efforts that pro-actively drive transportation decisions to improve safety, connectivity, economic development and quality of life in the Wilmington region.

**Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
Board
Meeting Agenda**

TO: Wilmington Urban Area MPO Board Members
FROM: Mike Kozlosky, Executive Director
DATE: September 23, 2021
SUBJECT: September 29th meeting

A meeting of the Wilmington Urban Area MPO Board will be held on Wednesday, September 29, 2021 at 3 pm. The meeting will be held in the 6th Floor Conference Room at 320 Chestnut Street downtown Wilmington. Due to COVID-19, the meeting is being conducted remotely. PLEASE NOTE: This will be a remote meeting conducted pursuant to Section 4.31 of S.L. 2020-3, SB 704.

The remote meeting will be simultaneously streamed live online so that simultaneous live audio, and video, if any, of the meeting is available to the public at the following URL:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91789885982?pwd=TUNQUTZwTld6RWtHbndmQmNHeVFmdz09>

The public may also dial in and listen to the simultaneous live audio of the remote meeting at the following dial in number: 646-558-8656. And when prompted, enter:

Meeting ID#: 917 8988 5982

Passcode: 464328

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

The following is the agenda for the meeting:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Conflict of Interest Statement
- 3) Approval of Board Member Excused Absences
- 4) Approval of the Agenda
- 5) Public Comment Period

Persons wishing to submit a public comment to be shared during the MPO Board meeting may do so by 5 pm on September 28, 2021 by calling (910) 341-3258 to leave a message or by e-mailing comments to wmpo@wilmingtonnc.gov. The public voicemails will be played aloud and the public comment e-mails will be read aloud by a staff member during the meeting. Per the adopted Public Participation Plan, public comments shall be limited to 3 minutes.

- 6) Presentation

Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

City of Wilmington • Town of Carolina Beach • Town of Kure Beach • Town of Wrightsville Beach
County of New Hanover • Town of Belville • Town of Leland • Town of Navassa • County of Brunswick
County of Pender • Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority • North Carolina Department of Transportation

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- a. Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority Update- Marie Parker, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority
 - 7) Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes from August 25, 2021 (p. 3-8)
 - b. Resolution approving 2020-2029 STIP/MPO TIP Amendments #21-5 and #21-6 (p. 9-12)
 - c. Opening of the 30-day public comment period for 2020-2029 STIP/MPO TIP Amendments #21-7 (p. 13)
 - d. Resolution approving 2020-2029 STIP/MPO TIP Administrative Modifications #21-8 (p. 14-16)
 - 8) Regular Agenda
 - a. Resolution adopting the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Board's Remote Public Participation Policy and Procedures (p. 17-21)
 - 9) Updates
 - a. Wilmington Urban Area MPO (p. 22-28)
 - b. Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority (p. 29)
 - c. NCDOT Division (p. 30-33)
 - d. NCDOT Transportation Planning Division (p. 34-35)
 - 10) Announcements
 - a. Wilmington MPO Bike/Pedestrian Committee- October 12th
 - b. River to Sea Bike Ride- October 16th
 - c. Go Coast Commuter Challenge- October 16th – 30th
 - d. Brunswick Heritage Riverside Ride- October 23rd
 - 11) Strategic Planning Exercise (p. 36-44)
 - 12) Next meeting – October 27, 2021

Attachments

- MPO Board Meeting Minutes- August 25, 2021
- Proposed 2020-2029 STIP/MPO TIP Amendment #21-5
- Proposed 2020-2029 STIP/MPO TIP Amendment #21-6
- Resolution approving 2020-2029 STIP/MPO TIP Amendments #21-5 and #21-6
- Proposed 2020-2029 STIP/MPO TIP Amendments #21-7
- Proposed 2020-2029 STIP/MPO TIP Administrative Modifications #21-8
- Resolution approving 2020-2029 STIP/MPO TIP Administrative Modifications #21-8
- Draft Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Board's Remote Public Participation Policy and Procedures
- Resolution adopting the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Board's Remote Public Participation Policy and Procedures
- Wilmington Urban Area MPO Project Update (September)
- Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority Update (September)
- NCDOT Division Project Update (September)
- NCDOT Transportation Planning Division Project Update (September)
- Strategic Planning Exercise Summary (August 25, 2021)
- Strategic Planning Vision and Priorities (September 2021)



WILMINGTON URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

MPO Board Meeting Minutes 6th Floor Training Conference Room, 320 Chestnut Street, Wilmington, N.C. Wednesday, August 25, 2021

Members Present (in-person)

Mike Allen, Town of Belville
Neil Anderson, City of Wilmington
Brenda Bozeman, Town of Leland
Deb Hays, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority
Hank Miller, Town of Wrightsville Beach
David Piepmeyer, Pender County
LeAnn Pierce, Town of Carolina Beach
Frank Williams, Brunswick County

Others Present (in-person)

Mike Kozlosky, Executive Director, WMPO
Chad Kimes, Division Engineer, NCDOT
Abby Lorenzo, Deputy Director, WMPO
Caitlin Marks, Planning Engineer, NCDOT
Matt Nichols, MPO General Counsel
Jason Orthner, NCDOT Rail Division

Members Present (remotely)

Jonathan Barfield, Jr., New Hanover County
Charlie Rivenbark, City of Wilmington
Eulis Willis, Town of Navassa
Landon Zimmer, NC Board of Transportation

1) Call to Order

Chairman Piepmeyer called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Mr. Kozlosky called the roll. A quorum was present as follows:

Present: Mike Allen, Jonathan Barfield, Brenda Bozeman, Deb Hays, Hank Miller, David Piepmeyer, LeAnn Pierce, Charlie Rivenbark, Frank Williams, Eulis Willis and Landon Zimmer. **Delayed:** Neil Anderson. **Absent:** John Ellen.

2) Conflict of Interest Statement

Chairman Piepmeyer read the conflict-of-interest statement. He asked if any member had a conflict of interest with any of the items on the meeting agenda. No members reported having a conflict.

3) Approval of Board Members' Excused Absences

Mr. Kozlosky said that John Ellen has asked to be excused from this meeting.

Vice Chair Miller made a motion to excuse Mr. Ellen from the meeting, seconded by Mr. Williams and the motion carried unanimously by roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mike Allen, Jonathan Barfield, Brenda Bozeman, Deb Hays, Hank Miller, David Piepmeyer, LeAnn Pierce, Charlie Rivenbark, Frank Williams, Eulis Willis and Landon Zimmer. **Nays:** None. **Delayed:** Neil Anderson.
Absent: John Ellen.

4) Approval of the Agenda

Ms. Bozeman made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented, seconded by Vice Chair Miller, and the motion carried unanimously by roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mike Allen, Jonathan Barfield, Brenda Bozeman, Deb Hays, Hank Miller, David Piepmeyer, LeAnn Pierce, Charlie Rivenbark, Frank Williams, Eulis Willis and Landon Zimmer. **Nays:** None. **Delayed:** Neil Anderson.
Absent: John Ellen.

5) **Public Comment Period**

Andy Koeppel, Wilmington, spoke to the MPO Board regarding bridges. He expressed concerns regarding replacing the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge, and a desire for the MPO Board to consider a resolution requesting that NCDOT conduct a study for the cost to maintain the bridge for the next 50 years, including spare parts. He speculated that maintaining the bridge would cost much less than replacing it with a new one and demolishing the old one. He also requested that the Board consider a resolution to complete the study for a southern bridge crossing and expressed concerns regarding the impact of an unknown route designation to property owners in Brunswick County. He noted that he would discuss the funding of the southern crossing at the next MPO Board meeting.

6) **Presentations**

a. **NCDOT Rail Division Update- Jason Orthner, NCDOT**

NCDOT Rail Division Director Jason Orthner gave an update on NCDOT's Rail Division. He said that the mission of the Rail Division at DOT is the safe and efficient movement of people and goods on North Carolina's railroads through freight, passenger, and safety programs supporting job creation and economic growth. He noted that DOT has more than 3,200 miles of railroads in the state ranging from high-speed/high-capacity freight lines operated by Class 1 railroad companies to branch line/short lines that serve customers and businesses across the state.

Mr. Orthner gave an overview of some of the Rail Division projects. He noted that the FRA grant-funded Piedmont Atlantic Intermodal Rail System Program connects Wilmington to Charlotte, Atlanta, and other points, and supports the North Carolina Ports' growth mindset regarding container operations at the Port of Wilmington. He added that the linchpin project is one that improves the corridor into the Port of Wilmington, otherwise known as the beltline, from 10 miles to hour to 25 miles per hour and improves crossing safety. He noted that the project is being scheduled with CSX to begin construction in June of 2022 and be completed by June of 2024.

Another project is the CCX, Carolina Connector, a premier intermodal facility in Rocky Mount with regional significance for all eastern North Carolina, for converting truck trips to rail trips including those that would originate and terminate at the Port of Wilmington. Mr. Orthner said that the facility is targeted to open in October, which aligns with the significant increase in intermodal shipping volumes observed across the country as long-haul truck trips convert to rail trips for efficiency purposes. He added that this will provide greater options for the Triangle region and all of eastern North Carolina to expand shipping options and drive business to eastern North Carolina as businesses relocate for a premier shipping option. In addition to its partnership with the Ports, the Rail Division is also partnering with the Carolina Gateway Partnership, which is a regional economic development partnership.

Mr. Orthner said the Freight Rail and Rail Crossing Safety Improvement Fund (FRRCSI) statewide program is managed by NCDOT's Rail Division to improve railroad infrastructure, primarily short lines, access for industries, improve safety including crossings, and preservation of state-owned railroad corridors. He noted that the F20 Wilmington Terminal Railway Project will improve intermodal capacity at the Port of Wilmington. He added that FY21 projects were just awarded and include two projects with NC Ports and another with the Wilmington Terminal Railway to ensure viable rail service.

Mr. Orthner said that NCDOT's Rail Division has returned to pre-pandemic levels of service as far as state-supported Amtrak and Amtrak throughway buses across the state are concerned. He noted that there has been a dramatic increase in passenger rail service with the Carolinian service that operates daily between Charlotte and New York, exceeding 2019 levels by a significant percentage. He added that the Rail Division has been working with communities across the state with interest in expanding passenger rail opportunities, service between Wilmington and Raleigh for this region. He noted that state research and federal funds have been provided to update the studies of the route. Stakeholder involvement is planned for the end of this year with the completion of the study at the end of calendar year 2022.

Mr. Orthner explained that funding of railroad projects differs from other transportation projects. He said that Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) is a funding source for Class 1 freight railroad projects at the Statewide Tier. Passenger projects are eligible at the Regional and Division levels. Short lines are not eligible under STI but are funded by FRRCSI funds. He noted that rail projects do not receive formula funding through the federal government like FHWA or FTA does for transit and highway but are funded through competitive grant programs that requires a state or local funding match. During the last couple of years, NCDOT has received \$270 million in this funding. He pointed out that surface transportation authorization and the bipartisan infrastructure bill offer significant opportunities for grant funding to support rail opportunities in the future. Challenges associated with non-formula-based federal grants such as a misalignment with the STI process used for leveraging transportation projects, can be overcome with strategy.

Chairman Piepmeyer reminded the MPO Board that several months ago he requested updates regarding modes of transportation. He expressed appreciation to Mr. Orthner.

b. NCDOT Programming Challenges- Chad Kimes, NCDOT

Mr. Kimes gave an update on NCDOT's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He reminded the MPO Board that NCDOT was most recently undergoing Prioritization 6.0 (P6.0). In August of 2021, the NC Board of Transportation decided to suspend P6.0 and to review the 10-year program. He commented that NCDOT is being proactive and pointed out that is no cause for concern. He added that this is unrelated to the TIP re-prioritization two years ago (storms, Map Act, revenues impacted by COVID).

Mr. Kimes reported that NCDOT's account is \$1.89 billion today, which exceeds the target of \$650 million. He noted that this amount allows NCDOT to proceed with advertising projects and let. He said that the challenge for P6.0 are the increases in costs: Steel has increased 70% over the last year; lumber, 100%; diesel fuel; asphalt, 30%. He noted that estimates can be approved through express design, which will now be done every two years. When increasing costs were identified, NCDOT completed new cost estimates for every project of the MPO.

In response to request by Mr. Zimmer, Mr. Kimes gave an overview of overprogramming of the 10-year program for the WMPO in each of the funding buckets of the STIP as follows:

Tier	Available funding	Programming status
Statewide Mobility	\$9.4 billion	\$3 billion over
Regional Impact (Region B)	\$855 million	\$540 million over
Division Needs (Division 3)	\$506 million	\$240 million over

Mr. Kimes noted that all MPO Division Needs projects are committed and funds will likely be available for Prioritization 7.0:

Tier	Available funding	Programming status
Statewide Mobility	\$9.4 billion	\$2.29 billion over
Regional Impact (Region B)	\$855 million	\$3.53 million over
Division Needs (Division 3)	\$506 million	\$76 million under

Mr. Kimes said that let dates have also been updated. He noted that only one regional project is not committed (Oleander Drive, dual left-turn lanes for Greenville Loop Road). He commented that the acceleration of projects several years ago benefited the MPO. He assured the Board that there is plenty of time and not to panic. The new STIP does not need to be released to the public until the end of 2022. The MPO Board has until spring or early summer to take action.

In the meanwhile, NCDOT is reviewing overprogrammed projects by instituting value engineering to identify cost-cutting measures for every project in the division, such as reducing medians and right-of-way acquisitions. Mr. Kimes estimated that the process will take six to eight months. He commented that NCDOT will work closely with the MPO over the next 15 months.

Discussion was held regarding inflation, catastrophic events, and revenues. Mr. Zimmer pointed out that the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge replacement will be missing from the list for decades. In response to concerns about catastrophic event needs, Mr. Kimes said that costs anticipate for storm response and that every year the allocations are in the account. He agreed that any additional revenue would help greatly.

Mr. Kozlosky pointed out that discussion regarding revenue continues. He noted that the NC First Commission analyzed and presented potential alternative revenue sources, and NC Chamber outlined additional revenue sources in its Destination 2030 Plan. Mr. Kimes said that NCDOT has a team that is working on the revenues other than the gas tax with legislators.

Discussion continued. Mr. Anderson suggested writing legislators. Mr. Zimmer expressed concerns that additional revenue options would be perceived by the public as raising taxes and expressed doubt that the state would take the lead in instigating them. Mr. Barfield expressed hope that the General Assembly would come up with some creative solutions. Mr. Zimmer pointed out that the timing is doubtful in an election year and might rely on other states taking the lead.

Chairman Piepmeyer expressed appreciation to Mr. Kimes.

7) Consent Agenda

- a. **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes from July 28, 2021**
- b. **Resolution approving 2020-2029 STIP/MPO TIP Amendment# 21-4**
- c. **Opening of the 30-day public comment period for 2020-2029 STIP/MPO TIP Amendments #21-6**
- d. **Resolution approving 2020-2029 STIP/MPO TIP Administrative Modifications #21-7**

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Items 7a through 7d. Ms. Bozeman seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mike Allen, Neil Anderson, Jonathan Barfield, Brenda Bozeman, Deb Hays, Hank Miller, David Piepmeyer, LeAnn Pierce, Charlie Rivenbark, Frank Williams, Eulis Willis and Landon Zimmer. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** John Ellen.

8) Discussion

- a. **2020-2029 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modifications #21-8**

Mr. Kozlosky stated that this item is for information purposes only and will be brought back for consideration at the Board's next meeting.

- b. **Prioritization 6.0**

Mr. Kozlosky said that the Board of Transportation at its August 4th meeting decided that it was in the best interest of the state to stop prioritization. He noted that NCDOT will not proceed with Prioritization 6.0.

- c. **Remote Participation Policy**

Chairman Piepmeyer said that this draft policy is an extension of the remote practices from the COVID pandemic to use as an option for those who may be traveling and not have an opportunity to participate in person. However, he encouraged members to participate in person as much as possible.

MPO Attorney Matt Nichols gave a presentation on the proposed remote participation policy and procedures. He noted that the policy consists of the following components:

1. Remote meetings during a declaration of emergency (current circumstances);
2. Electronic meetings in the statutes dating from the late 1970s; and
3. Regular meetings when the State of Emergency is lifted.

Mr. Nichols said that the remote meeting is in a statute that was enacted just after the COVID-19 emergency was declared entitled, "Remote meetings during certain declarations of emergency." He explained that the statute provides a specific definition and criteria for a remote meeting, and only applies when there is a

declaration of emergency by the Governor or the General Assembly. He noted that the Board is acting under the Governor's order, which at some point will be lifted or rescinded.

Mr. Nichols said that an electronic meeting is a little different and the language is somewhat outdated. He noted that it requires that the public go to a specific meeting space to view the meeting, which does not work during a pandemic, although it has some relevancy. He added that for appointed boards, a remote meeting policy is completely at the Board's discretion.

Mr. Nichols said that several articles regarding remote meetings have been posted by the School of Government. He noted that appointed boards are not subject to the same legal limitations that elected boards are. So, local governments have clear authority to provide for remote participation for these types of boards. If remote participation is desired, a policy would provide framework for remote participation. He reiterated that this does not apply to city, town, and county government boards. He cited some other articles.

Mr. Nichols said that the draft policy is modeled like the policy that was recently adopted by the Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority. It includes authorized circumstances such as personal illness, travel out of town, unexpected lack of childcare, family member illness and other circumstances as well as conditions and requirements for remote participation and the actual procedure. He noted that the limit on the number of times a Board member can participate remotely has been left blank, although an allowance may be made for additional remote participation.

Chairman Piepmeyer asked if there was any interest in a remote policy. Mr. Williams commented that a policy is necessary. Mr. Barfield agreed to having the option for remote participation.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Anderson, Chairman Piepmeyer said that in-person is desired. However, this is an opportunity and a tool to facilitate conducting the business of the MPO Board. Discussion followed about the number of allowable remote participations.

Mr. Kozlosky reminded the Board that remote participation would require voting by roll call, which has been indicated in the policy. Chairman Piepmeyer commented that it might not be necessary for unanimous votes. Mr. Miller pointed out that a roll call vote could be called instead. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Rivenbark, Mr. Nichols said that it would not be necessary once the state of emergency is lifted.

Mr. Williams suggested adding quarantine and business obligations to the allowable reasons for remote participation. Ms. Hays pointed out that roll call voting also provides some protection. Chairman Piepmeyer said that the policy could be amended at a future date.

Mr. Rivenbark expressed concerns regarding conducting closed sessions. Mr. Nichols responded that there is a provision in the draft policy for the remote participant to be in a confidential setting. He noted that he would work with Mr. Kozlosky to refine it.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Bozeman, Mr. Kozlosky said that if remote participation is allowed, it will have to be extended to the public.

Ms. Pierce expressed concerns regarding limiting the number of remote participations.

9) 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. He noted that MPO's Annual Report has been distributed to the Board members and it will be distributed to the member jurisdictions as well.

Mr. Kimes left the meeting.

10) Strategic Planning Exercise

Mr. Kozlosky said that the Board adopted the long-range transportation plan in November and the next step is to develop a strategic plan for the next five years. He added that the strategic plan for 2017-2021 will expire at the end of this year. He noted that the MPO contracted with Fountainworks and acknowledged Mr. Warren Miller to facilitate a discussion on the strategic plan with the Board. Some information and survey results from April and May have been included with the agenda packet. Mr. Miller will return in September to facilitate another discussion.

Mr. Miller kicked off the conversation by asking Board members to describe the current state of mobility for the WMPO region, summing it up in a title with a couple of bullet points, and the ideal state of mobility.

Ms. Pierce and Ms. Hays left the meeting for another commitment (TDA).

Mr. Miller led an exercise for strategies for the next five years, with results as follows:

Start doing:

- Using technology to improve safety and reduce costs
- Let's catch up
- More frequent discussions of high-level strategies
- Become a more organized, vocal, cohesive force to and through elected representative in Raleigh and D.C. Try to effect real change
- Find a mechanism to get the public more involved to get buy-in
- Educate the public that public transportation is a good thing
- Have a true bypass around the region
- Make a true multi-modal, multi-modular system

Continue doing:

- Invest in bike and ped safety projects
- Push for needed infrastructure

Do differently:

- Reactionary political infighting

Stop doing:

- Discussion regarding lack of funding

Mr. Miller concluded his exercise.

11) Adjournment

Next meeting – September 29, 2021

Vice Chair Miller mad a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Anderson, and the motion carried unanimously by roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mike Allen, Neil Anderson, Jonathan Barfield, Brenda Bozeman, Hank Miller, David Piepmeyer and Eulis Willis.

Nays: None. **Absent:** John Ellen, Deb Hays, LeAnn Pierce, Charlie Rivenbark, Frank Williams and Landon Zimmer.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:03 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 DIGITALLY AS PART OF THIS RECORD.

Proposed Revisions to 2020-2029 STIP/MPO TIP Programs

**STIP/MPO TIP Amendment #21-5
(July 2021)**

STATEWIDE PROJECT

STIP ADDITIONS

* TM-0036	- STATEWIDE PROJECT	STATEWIDE, 5310 STATE ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS	ADMINISTRATIVE	FY 2022 -	\$567,000	(5310)
STATEWIDE		<u>ADD PROJECT AT THE REQUEST OF THE</u>				
PROJ.CATEGORY		<u>INTEGRATED MOBILITY DIVISION.</u>				
PUBLIC TRANS					\$567,000	

Proposed Revisions to 2020-2029 STIP/MPO TIP Programs

STIP/MPO TIP Amendment #21-6
(August 2021)

STATEWIDE PROJECT

STIP ADDITIONS

* TM-0036 STATEWIDE PROJ.CATEGORY PUBLIC TRANS	- STATEWIDE PROJECT	STATEWIDE, 5310 STATE ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS. <u>ADD PROJECT IN FY 2022 AT THE REQUEST OF THE INTEGRATED MOBILITY DIVISION. NEW PROJECT DEVELOPED FOR FEDERAL FUNDING AWARD.</u>	ADMINISTRATIVE	FY 2022 -	\$567,000 (5310) \$567,000
* TU-0008 STATEWIDE PROJ.CATEGORY PUBLIC TRANS	- STATEWIDE PROJECT	NCDOT, NCSU (ITRE) WILL PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE INTEGRATED MOBILITY DIVISION AND SUBRECIPIENTS. <u>ADD PROJECT IN FY 2022 AT THE REQUEST OF THE INTEGRATED MOBILITY DIVISION. NEW PROJECT DEVELOPED FOR FEDERAL FUNDING AWARD.</u>	PLANNING	FY 2022 - FY 2022 -	\$118,000 (S) \$470,000 (5311) \$588,000
* TU-0009 STATEWIDE PROJ.CATEGORY PUBLIC TRANS	- STATEWIDE PROJECT	NCDOT, NCSU (ITRE) WILL USE THE FUNDS TO PROVIDE TRAINING/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RELATED TO DELIVERY OF ADA TRAINING TO TRANSIT PROFESSIONALS. <u>ADD PROJECT IN FY 2022 AT THE REQUEST OF THE INTEGRATED MOBILITY DIVISION. NEW PROJECT DEVELOPED FOR FEDERAL FUNDING AWARD.</u>	PLANNING	FY 2022 -	\$765,000 (RTAP) \$765,000

Proposed Revisions to 2020-2029 STIP/MPO TIP Programs

**STIP/MPO TIP Amendment #21-6
(August 2021)**

WILMINGTON URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

STIP ADDITIONS

* TL-0017 NEW HANOVER PROJ.CATEGORY PUBLIC TRANS	- WILMINGTON URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION	CAPE FEAR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY - WAVE TRANSIT, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TO SECURE AUTOMATIC PASSENGER COUNTER (APC) TECHNOLOGY FOR THE PURPOSE OF COLLECTING STOP LEVEL BOARDINGS AND ALIGHTINGS FOR FIXED ROUTE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES.	CAPITAL	FY 2022 - FY 2022 -	\$160,000 (BGDA) \$40,000 (L) \$200,000
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**ADD PROJECT IN FY 2022 AT THE REQUEST OF MPO.
NEW PROJECT DEVELOPED FOR FEDERAL FUNDING
AWARD.**

**WILMINGTON URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
BOARD**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING AMENDMENTS #21-5 AND #21-6 TO THE
2020-2029 STATE /MPO TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization provides transportation planning services for the City of Wilmington, Town of Carolina Beach, Town of Kure Beach, Town of Wrightsville Beach, Town of Belville, Town of Leland, Town of Navassa, New Hanover County, Brunswick County, Pender County, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority and the North Carolina Board of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Board has found that the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is conducting transportation planning in a continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive manner; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Board of Transportation adopted the 2020-2029 State Transportation Improvement Program on September 5, 2019 and the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Board adopted the Statewide/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs on October 30, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization desires to amend the adopted 2020-2029 State/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs for Amendments #21-5 and #21-6; and

WHEREAS, the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization has conducted a 30-day public comment period to receive citizen input on these proposed amendments.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization hereby approves amending the 2020-2029 State/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs for Amendments #21-5 and #21-6.

ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Board on September 29, 2021.

David Piepmeyer, Chair

Mike Kozlosky, Secretary

Proposed Revisions to 2020-2029 STIP/MPO TIP Programs

**STIP/MPO TIP Amendment #21-7
(September 2021)**

WILMINGTON URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

STIP ADDITIONS

* HL-0040 NEW HANOVER DIVISION	- WILMINGTON URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION	WILMINGTON, CONSTRUCT A NEW NORTH GATE ON NORTH CAROLINA PORTS AUTHORITY PROPERTY.	ENGINEERING	FY 2022 - FY 2022 -	\$250,000 \$63,000	(BGDA) (L)
PROJ.CATEGORY	<u>ADD PROJECT AT THE REQUEST OF THE MPO.</u>					
					\$313,000	

Proposed Revisions to 2020-2029 STIP/MPO TIP Programs

STIP/MPO TIP Modification #21-8 (August 2021)

STATEWIDE PROJECT

STIP MODIFICATIONS

* C-5702E STATEWIDE PROJ.CATEGORY EXEMPT	- STATEWIDE PROJECT	VARIOUS, NORTH CAROLINA CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY CENTER. EMISSIONS-REDUCING SUB-AWARDS IN ALL CMAQ-ELIGIBLE COUNTIES. <u>ADD NEW PROJECT BREAK AT THE REQUEST OF THE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DIVISION.</u>	IMPLEMENTATION FY 2022 - FY 2022 -	\$1,222,000 \$306,000 \$1,528,000	(CMAQ) (L)
* TO-0003 STATEWIDE PROJ.CATEGORY PUBLIC TRANS	- STATEWIDE PROJECT	STATEWIDE, HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS AND PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVE DISCRETIONARY GRANT AWARDED BY FTA. GRANT WILL ALLOW FOR STATEWIDE TRAINING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A TRAINING PROGRAM FOR TRANSIT EMPLOYEES ACROSS THE STATE ON HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND TO THE SIGNS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING. THE DEPARTMENT ALSO WILL DEVELOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS TO BE POSTED ON TRANSIT VEHICLES AND STATIONS. <u>MODIFY FUNDING IN FY 21 AT THE REQUEST OF THE INTEGRATED MOBILITY DIVISION.</u>	ADMINISTRATIVE FY 2021 - FY 2021 -	\$120,000 \$30,000 \$150,000	(5312) (5307)

Proposed Revisions to 2020-2029 STIP/MPO TIP Programs

STIP/MPO TIP Modification #21-8 (August 2021)

WILMINGTON URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

STIP MODIFICATIONS

*EB-6028 NEW HANOVER PROJ.CATEGORY DIVISION	- WILMINGTON URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION	WILMINGTON, CONSTRUCT SIGNALIZED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT US 17 BUSINESS (MARKET STREET) AND 21ST STREET.	CONSTRUCTION	FY 2022 - FY 2022 -	\$100,000 (TADA) \$25,000 (L)
		<u>AT THE REQUEST OF THE MPO, DELAY CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 21 TO FY 22.</u>			\$125,000
EB-6029 NEW HANOVER PROJ.CATEGORY DIVISION	- WILMINGTON URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION	CLARENDON AVENUE, CONSTRUCT MULTI-USE PATH ALONG CLARENDON AVENUE FROM 4TH STREET TO SR 1573 (DOW ROAD).	CONSTRUCTION	FY 2022 - FY 2022 -	\$516,000 (TADA) \$129,000 (L)
		<u>AT THE REQUEST OF THE MPO, DELAY CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 21 TO FY 22.</u>			\$645,000
U-6235 NEW HANOVER PROJ.CATEGORY DIVISION	- WILMINGTON URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION	WILMINGTON, TRAFFIC SIGNAL PRE-EMPTION FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES PROJECT.	ENGINEERING	FY 2020 - FY 2020 -	\$390,000 (BGDA) \$97,000 (L)
		<u>TO MATCH THE LATEST SCHEDULE PROVIDED BY THE MUNICIPALITY, DELAY CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 21 TO FY 22.</u>	CONSTRUCTION	FY 2022 - FY 2022 -	\$627,000 (BGDA) \$157,000 (L)
					\$1,271,000

**WILMINGTON URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
BOARD**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATIONS #21-8 TO THE
2020-2029 STATE /MPO TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization provides transportation planning services for the City of Wilmington, Town of Carolina Beach, Town of Kure Beach, Town of Wrightsville Beach, Town of Belville, Town of Leland, Town of Navassa, New Hanover County, Brunswick County, Pender County, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority and the North Carolina Board of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Board has found that the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is conducting transportation planning in a continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive manner; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Board of Transportation adopted the 2020-2029 State Transportation Improvement Program on September 5, 2019 and the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Board adopted the Statewide/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs on October 30, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization desires to modify the adopted 2020-2029 State/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs for Administrative Modifications #21-8.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization hereby approves modifying the 2020-2029 State/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs for Administrative Modifications #21-8.

ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Board on September 29, 2021.

David Piepmeyer, Chair

Mike Kozlosky, Secretary

Proposed (Draft Policy): WMPO Board Member Remote Participation Policy and Procedure

WHEREAS, the Board of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO) acknowledges that Board member attendance at Board meetings is essential for Board members to perform their official duties and to add to the diversity of thought and opinion in the Board's deliberations;

WHEREAS, the Board strongly encourages its members to be physically present for all Board meetings, and it is the goal of the Board that Board meetings be held in-person with Board members physically present at the meeting location. The Board recognizes, however, that extenuating circumstances may prevent a Board member from being physically present at a meeting;

WHEREAS, the Board further recognizes that advances in online, audio and video conferencing technology make it possible for Board members in remote locations to communicate and deliberate effectively with each other during meetings via electronic methods which provide for simultaneous communication;

WHEREAS, the Board also recognizes that allowing Board members to participate remotely in meetings will help ensure full participation of the Board at its meetings.

NOW THEREFORE, in order to promote full participation of Board members at meetings while also ensuring access and transparency for the public as required by the Open Meetings Law, the Board authorizes its members to participate remotely in Board meetings subject to the following rules and requirements:

A. AUTHORIZED CIRCUMSTANCES FOR REMOTE PARTICIPATION. The Board authorizes remote participation by its members in any meeting of the Board consistent with the following conditions and requirements.

1. A Board member may attend a meeting and participate in Board deliberations and decisions by remote participation if the member is prevented from physically attending the meeting due to any of the following reasons:

- a. personal illness or disability
- b. out-of-town travel
- c. unexpected lack of child-care
- d. family member illness or emergency
- e. weather conditions
- f. military service
- g. employment or business obligations
- h. an unexpected scheduling conflict

Remote participation is not intended to be used solely for a Board member's convenience.

2. Acceptable means of remote participation include telephone-, Internet-, or satellite enabled audio or video conferencing, or any other technology that provides for simultaneous communication during the meeting and enables the remote member(s) and all persons present at the meeting location to be clearly audible to one another. "Simultaneous communication" shall mean any communication by conference telephone, conference video, or other electronic means. Text messaging, instant messaging, email, and web chat without audio are not acceptable means of remote participation.

3. No Board member may participate remotely more than two (2) times during a calendar year; provided however, that in justifiable circumstances, the Board may, by majority vote, agree to waive this limitation. The two-meeting per year limitation on remote participation in this section does not apply to situations where a Board member is in quarantine or is experiencing a long-term illness.

B. CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR REMOTE PARTICIPATION.

1. A Board member may participate remotely only when the acceptable means of simultaneous communication allows for the member who is participating remotely to do all of the following:

- a. Hear what is said by other members of the Board.
- b. Hear what is said by any individual addressing the Board.
- c. To be heard by all members of the Board when speaking to the Board.
- d. To be heard by all other persons present at the meeting location.

2. A Board member participating remotely will be considered present at the meeting for purposes of establishing a meeting quorum only during the period where simultaneous communication is maintained for that member.

3. A Board member considered present through remote participation will be permitted to vote on any action item at the meeting except:

- a. any item for which the member was not participating remotely during the entire discussion and deliberation of the matter preceding the vote; and
- b. any item that was being discussed when an interruption to the electronic communication occurred, if the Board's discussion was not suspended during the interruption. A brief loss of simultaneous communication will not disqualify the member from voting on the matter under discussion.

4. A Board member may participate remotely in a closed session of the Board provided the member provides assurance to the Board that no other person is able to hear, see, or otherwise participate in the closed session from the remote location.

C. PROCEDURE FOR REMOTE PARTICIPATION.

1. A Board member who desires to participate in a meeting remotely shall use his or her best efforts to notify the Chair or Executive Director at least one business day prior to the meeting so that necessary arrangements for remote participation can be made.

2. The Chair or the Chair's designee at the meeting location shall initiate contact with the Board member prior to the start of the meeting to secure remote participation.

3. The Chair shall announce the remote participant and the means of remote participation at the beginning of the meeting.

4. Any Board member participating remotely must identify himself or herself in each of the following situations:

a. When the roll is taken or the meeting is commenced.

b. Prior to participating in the deliberations, including making motions, proposing amendments, and raising points of order.

c. Prior to voting.

5. The Chair may decide how to address technical difficulties that arise when utilizing remote participation.

6. When possible, the Chair should temporarily suspend discussion while reasonable efforts are made to correct any problem that interferes with the ability of a member who is participating remotely to hear or be heard clearly by all persons present at the meeting location and by any other Board members who may also be participating remotely at that meeting. If, however, the technical difficulties distract from or impede the orderly progress of the meeting, a majority of the members physically present may vote to end the remote participation.

7. A Board member participating remotely shall notify the Chair if leaving the meeting before it is adjourned or rejoining the meeting after a period of absence.

8. All votes taken during any meeting where a Board member is participating remotely will be by roll call voice vote.

9. All remote participation will be noted in the official Board minutes. Any interruption to or discontinuation of the Board member's remote participation will also be noted in the minutes.

10. The Executive Director is directed to provide the technology sufficient to implement this policy in accordance with all applicable laws.

D. NOT EXCLUSIVE. This remote participation policy is intended to apply when there is no declaration of emergency under N.C.G.S. sec. 166A-19.20 in effect. Upon the issuance of a declaration of emergency under N.C.G.S. sec. 166A-19.20, the provisions of N.C.G.S. sec. 166A-19.24 and any other applicable statutes or regulations shall control. This remote participation policy does not apply to remote meetings under N.C.G.S. sec. 166A-19.24.

**WILMINGTON URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
BOARD**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE WILMINGTON URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD'S REMOTE PARTICIPATION POLICY AND
PROCEDURES**

WHEREAS, the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO) provides transportation planning services for the City of Wilmington, Town of Carolina Beach, Town of Kure Beach, Town of Wrightsville Beach, Town of Belville, Town of Leland, Town of Navassa, New Hanover County, Brunswick County, Pender County, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority and the North Carolina Board of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 emergency, the WMPO Board has been conducting remote meetings pursuant to and in accordance with North Carolina General Statute § 166A-19.24, which provides the authority and procedures for remote meetings during declarations of emergency by the Governor or General Assembly and defines a remote meeting as “an official meeting, or any part thereof, with between one and all of the members of the public body participating by simultaneous communication”; and

WHEREAS, as demonstrated by the Board’s remote meetings held during the COVID-19 emergency, the Board recognizes that advances in online, audio and video conferencing technology make it possible for members in remote locations to communicate and deliberate effectively with each other during meetings via electronic methods which provide for simultaneous communication; and

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges that Board member attendance at Board meetings is essential for Board members to perform their official duties and to add to the diversity of thought and opinion in the Board’s deliberations; and

WHEREAS, the Board strongly encourages its members to be physically present for all Board meetings; however, the Board recognizes that extenuating circumstances may prevent a member from being physically present at a meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Board also recognizes that allowing Board members to participate remotely in meetings will help ensure full participation of the Board at its meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to allow Board Members the ability to continue to participate remotely in Board meetings on a limited basis and subject to an adopted Board policy setting forth the requirements, rules and procedures for such remote participation in situations when a State of Emergency is not in effect and North Carolina General Statute § 166A-19.24 does not apply; and

WHEREAS, WMPO Staff has developed the Remote Participation Policy and Procedures to provide for such remote participation by Board members in meetings, and the Board desires to adopt that Policy.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization hereby adopts the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Board’s Remote Participation Policy and Procedures.

ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Board on September 29, 2021.

David Piepmeyer, Chair

Mike Kozlosky, Secretary

**WILMINGTON URBAN AREA
MPO
September 2021**

PENDER COUNTY STREETS PLAN

Project Description/Scope: In January, WSP, Pender County, and WMPO kicked off the development of the Pender County Streets Plan. The final plan will serve as an update to the 2016 Pender County Collector Streets Plan and is envisioned to be a more comprehensive technical document that integrates the recommendations of the Pender County Comprehensive Plan 2.0 with buy in and support from both the development community and citizens. The effort was funded as a special study in the WMPO's adopted FY 21 UPWP, and the schedule for the development of the plan was approximately six months. This plan's development included two public outreach and participation periods. The development of the plan was overseen by a steering committee comprised of stakeholders representing the county staff, the development community, NCDOT, and citizens among others. WSP delivered the final plan document and recommendations in June, and the finished document product has been prepared by WMPO Staff.

Project Status and Next Steps:

- Follow up presentation of final plan recommendations to Planning Commission in early September 2021.
- Presentation of the final plan recommendations to the Board of Commissioners in late September and October 2021.
- Presentation of final plan recommendations to WMPO Board in November 2021.
- Launch of public interactive story map of plan recommendations in winter 2021/2022.

SITE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

Project Descriptions/Scope: The Wilmington Urban Area MPO assists with site development and Transportation Impact Analysis review for the MPO's member jurisdictions. During the last month, staff has reviewed the following development proposals:

- New Hanover County Development Plan Reviews: 2 reviews
- New Hanover County Informal Plan Reviews: 0 reviews
- New Hanover Concept Reviews: 0 review
- Town of Leland Development Plan Reviews: 3 reviews
- Town of Leland Formal Reviews: 3 reviews
- Town of Leland Informal Reviews: 0 reviews
- Town of Navassa Development Plan Reviews: 1 review
- Town of Navassa Formal Reviews: 0 reviews
- Town of Navassa Informal Reviews: 1 review
- Town of Navassa Concept Reviews: 0 reviews
- Town of Carolina Beach Formal Reviews: 0 reviews
- Town of Carolina Beach Informal Reviews: 0 reviews
- Brunswick County Formal Plan Reviews: 0 reviews
- Brunswick County Informal Plan Reviews: 0 reviews
- TIA Reviews: 27 total (23 on-going; 4 new): New Hanover County 7 (2 new), City of Wilmington 7 (2 new), Carolina Beach 1, Town of Belville 1, Town of Leland 5, (1 new) Town of Navassa 0, Pender County 5, and Brunswick County 1
- Pender County Development Plan Reviews: 6 reviews

- Pender County Informal Plan Reviews: 0 reviews
- Pender County Concept Reviews: 0 reviews
- City of Wilmington Formal Reviews: 43 reviews (11 new, 22 on-going)
- City of Wilmington Informal Reviews: 11 reviews (3 new, 8 on-going)
- City of Wilmington Concept Reviews: 0 reviews
- COW Project Releases: 11

**STBGP-DA/TASA-DA FY 2013 to
Present STBGP-DA**

U-5534C - WRIGHTSVILLE AVENUE/GREENVILLE AVENUE TO HINTON AVENUE

Project Descriptions/Scope: The project is for construction of intersection re-alignment improvements at the intersection of Wrightsville Avenue/Greenville Avenue and bike lanes and sidewalks along Greenville Avenue from Wrightsville Avenue to Hinton Avenue.

Project Status and Next Steps:

- Complete review of final design package and submit to NCDOT for review– Summer 2021
- NCDOT final design approval and City to request Construction Funds Authorization – Summer 2021
- 60% Design documents submitted in August 2021
- Begin Construction – Early 2022
- Construction Complete- Early 2023

U-5534D - TOWN OF LELAND - OLD FAYETTEVILLE ROAD MUP

Project Descriptions/Scope: This project is for design and construction of a ten foot (10') wide multi use path, separate but adjacent to Old Fayetteville Road, beginning at or around the corner of the Leland Town Hall Campus and ending at the driveway of the North Brunswick High School.

Project Status and Next Steps:

- Construction commenced October 26, 2021
- Construction in progress
- Project completion extended to December 31, 2022

U-5534F – CITY OF WILMINGTON – PARK AVENUE MUP – PHASE II

Project Descriptions/Scope: This project is for the design and construction of an off-road multi-use path between Audubon Boulevard and Kerr Avenue.

Project Status and Next Steps:

- Began Construction – June 2021
- Project under construction (grading)- August 2021
- Complete Construction – Fall 2021

U-5534G –CITY OF WILMINGTON- HOOKER ROAD MULTI-USE PATH

Project Descriptions/Scope: The project consist of the construction of a 8' wide multi-use path along Hooker Road from Wrightsville Avenue to Mallard Drive/Rose Ave intersection

Project Status and Next Steps:

- 60% design documents submitted in August 2021
- Complete final design package and submit to NCDOT for review–Summer 2021

- Update/renew permits – Summer 2021
- NCDOT final design approval – Summer 2021
- Right of way acquisition complete – Winter 2021/2022
- Begin Construction – Early 2022
- Complete Construction – Early 2023

U-5534H –CITY OF WILMINGTON- HINTON AVE MULTI-USE PATH

Project Descriptions/Scope: This project consists of the construction of an 8' wide multi-use path along Hinton Avenue from Park Avenue to Greenville Avenue.

Project Status and Next Steps:

- 60% design documents submitted in August 2021
- Complete final design package and submit to NCDOT for review–Summer 2021
- Update/renew permits –Summer 2021
- NCDOT final design approval –Summer 2021
- Right of way acquisition complete –Winter 2021/2022
- Begin Construction –Early 2022
- Complete Construction –Early 2023

U-5534I –TOWN OF LELAND- VILLAGE ROAD MULTI-USE PATH EXTENSION

Project Descriptions/Scope: The construction of a 8 foot wide concrete path from the connection at the Brunswick Center in Leland across the front of the library property, down Village Road, ending on the western edge of the First Baptist Church property before the Sturgeon Creek Bridge.

Project Status and Next Steps:

- Construction commenced February 8, 2021
- Supplemental Agreement 4 increased the total estimated project cost to \$254,842
- Construction in progress
- Project completion extended to June 30, 2022

U-5534J – TOWN OF LELAND- OLD FAYETTEVILLE LOOP ROAD PEDESTRIAN LOOP

Project Descriptions/Scope: The construction of sidewalks in three locations: 1) The construction of an 8 foot concrete sidewalk along Village Road from Town Hall Drive to the apartment complex and widening the existing 5 foot sidewalk in front of the apartment complex to 8 feet. 2) The construction of a 6 foot sidewalk along Town Hall Drive from Village Road NE to the sidewalk that exists by the new Town Hall. 3) The construction of a 5 foot sidewalk along Old Fayetteville Road from the existing sidewalk in front of the apartment complex to Village Road NE.

Project Status and Next Steps:

- Construction commenced February 8, 2021
- Construction in progress
- Project completion extended to June 30, 2022

U-5534K – TOWN OF LELAND- LELAND MIDDLE SCHOOL SIDEWALK

Project Descriptions/Scope: The construction of 5 foot wide concrete sidewalk adjacent to Old Fayetteville Road from Ricefield Branch Road to the US Hwy 74/76 overpass after Glendale Drive with connections to Leland Middle School and the surrounding neighborhoods.

Project Status and Next Steps:

- Construction commenced February 8, 2021

- Supplemental Agreement 4 increased the total estimated project cost to \$327,788
- Construction in progress
- Project completion extended to June 30, 2022

U-5534Q –CITY OF WILMINGTON- S. COLLEGE/HOLLY TREE CROSSWALKS

Project Description/Scope: The project will install sidewalk, ADA ramps, curb and gutter, markings and traffic signal revisions required to install actuated pedestrian crossings of S. College Road and crossings on Holly Tree Road.

Project Status and Next Steps:

- Council approved additional funding for project on January 19, 2021
- MPO Board approved funding request on February 24th
- Coordination with YWCA on needed ROW/Easement
- Supplemental Agreement Execution in progress (City/NCDOT) - scheduled for City Council action on July 20, 2021
- Sent 65% City comments on Signal and 65% Plans on June 24, 2021
- Received 75% ROW Plans from AECOM 7th Street to Shipyard Blvd July 26, 2021
- Request ROW Authorization from NCDOT (August 2021)
- Receive 90% Signal Plans (September 2021)
- Request Title Research for YWCA (September 2021)
- Utility Kickoff Meeting in Field to Review Utility Conflicts (TBD)

U-5534S (FORMERLY U-5534M)- TOWN OF WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH- CORAL DRIVE SIDEWALKS

Project Descriptions/Scope: The construction of sidewalks along Coral Drive will install approximately 954 linear feet of 5 foot wide sidewalk on Coral Drive adjacent to Wrightsville Beach Elementary. The Town hired SEPI to complete the design.

Project Status and Next Steps:

- NCDOT has received and approved the requested documents
- Construction authorization has been approved
- Bid opening was held on June 2nd
- The project was re-bid on July 2nd and awarded
- Start of construction on August 30, 2021

U-5534U – TOWN OF NAVASSA- NAVASSA PARK MULTI-USE PATH

Project Description/Scope: This project will construct bike lanes on both sides of Brooklyn Street, a multi-use path connecting Brooklyn Street to the Navassa Park, and a multi-use path through the Navassa Park forming a loop within the park.

Project Status and Next Steps:

- Right Angle provided the 90% plans
- 90% plans and contract documents have been submitted to NCDOT
- CE Document has been approved
- Right-of-way authorization is submitted and awaiting NCDOT approval
- Construction fund authorization request will occur next federal fiscal year (FY 2022)

EB-6025- TOWN OF BELVILLE- RICE HOPE MULTI-USE PATH

Project Description: The project consists of the construction of a multi-use path of eight feet (8') wide located at the western side of NC 133 between Morecamble Blvd and Rice Hope Run.

Project Status and Next Steps:

- The Town has entered into a contract with Withers & Ravenel
- Kick-off meeting was held on November 6th
- A groundbreaking ceremony was held on November 20th
- 30% plans have been completed and approved by NCDOT
- 60% design plans are in development
- Town and NC DOT have resolved ROW issues
- Project remains on track for a September 2022 LET

U-6234 MULTI-MODAL PHASE 1 B

Project Description/Scope: Rehabilitation of the historic structure located at 525 N 4th Street for a transportation purpose

Project Status and Next Steps:

- MPO Board approved additional funding request on February 24th to cover increased estimated costs of construction
- Final design package delivered electronically May 7, 2021
- 100% design plans sent to City Purchasing for review on May 11, 2021
- 100% design plans and specs sent to NC DOT on May 20, 2021
- Revised 100% plans provided on July 22, 2021 and sent to City Purchasing for review
- CE documentation provided on August 11, 2021

U-6235 – City of Wilmington/New Hanover County – Signal Pre-emption Phase 2

Project Description/Scope: The project will install traffic pre-emption equipment at 50 locations throughout the City of Wilmington and New Hanover County and GPS equipment on emergency response vehicles.

Project Status and Next Steps:

- Design contract approved May 5, 2021 by City Council: execution complete.
- Design kick-off meeting held July 23, 2021 with Wilmington Fire Department, Traffic Engineering and Davenport Staff.
- Design expected to start in July lasting through January 2022.

U-6039 – CAROLINA BEACH – ST. JOSEPH BIKE LANES

Project Description/Scope: Construct Bike Lanes along St. Joseph Avenue and Lewis Drive from Lake Park Boulevard to Access Drive in Carolina Beach

Project Status and Next Steps:

- NCDOT funding availability reopened January 25, 2021
- Town Council elected to move forward with the project and will upload information into EBS.
- As of May 3, 2021 funding amounts have been revised to reflect \$457,777 STBGP- DA funds and \$114,445 local match to reflect approved funding
- Design revisions are under discussion with KHA
- Agreement executed with NCDOT on August 18, 2021

TASA-DA

EB- 6026- TOWN OF BELVILLE- BELVILLE ELEMENTARY- MULTI-USE PATH

Project Description: The project consists of the construction of a multi-use path of eight feet (8')

wide located along NC 133 connecting north and south entrances of Hawks Water Development to Belville Elementary School.

Project Status and Next Steps:

- The Town has entered into a contract with Withers & Ravenel
- A Kick-off meeting was held on November 6th
- A groundbreaking ceremony was held on November 20th
- 30% plans have been completed and approved by NCDOT
- 60% design plans are in development
- Town and NC DOT have resolved ROW issues
- Project remains on track for a September 2022 LET

EB-6027 – NEW HANOVER COUNTY -MIDDLE SOUND GREENWAY

Project Description: Design only of the Middle Sound Greenway connection to Ogden Park

Project Status and Next Steps:

- 75% plans sent to NCDOT for review
- Anticipate construction let date in October 2021

EB-6028 —CITY OF WILMINGTON- 21ST STREET/MARKET HAWK SIGNAL

Project Description: Design and construction of a HAWK signal at the pedestrian crossing at Market Street and 21st Street

Project Status and Next Steps:

- Davenport is under contract to complete the design
- Final project plans anticipated by the end of August

EB-6029 – TOWN OF CAROLINA BEACH – CLARENDON AVENUE MULTI-USE PATH

Project Description: Construction of the Clarendon Avenue multi-use path from 4th Street to Dow Road

Project Status and Next Steps:

- The Town is evaluating the scope for the project.
- Design modifications requested to include five foot sidewalk and on street pavement markings in lieu of multi-use path

TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Project Description/Scope: The TDM “Go Coast” program works to increase the use of alternative transportation by WMPO residents and decrease Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). The WMPO Board approved Cape Fear Change in Motion 2020, the short-range TDM Plan which will guide Go Coast initiatives from 2021 to 2025. This plan identifies seven short-range strategies to increase mobility options and reduce traffic in the WMPO region. These strategies are: Alternative Work Schedules, Bike Share Program, Carpool and Vanpool, Consulting for Telecommuting Opportunities, Fostering a Bicycle and Pedestrian Friendly Culture, Improved TDM-Focused Collaboration, and Personalized Commuter Plans.

Go Coast current initiatives and project status:

1. Be A Looker

a. Go Coast’s 2021 “Be A Looker” bicycle and pedestrians safety campaign will take place from May to October.

- b. “Be A Looker” will be promoted through a variety of marketing techniques as well as through in-person educational events. Go Coast is working with the Wilmington Fire Department to hold two “Be A Looker” events each month of the campaign in Wilmington.
- c. TDM Coordinator has also reached out to TCC members to assess possibility for event partnerships with all Member Jurisdictions
- d. <https://www.gocoastnc.org/bealooker/>

2. 31st Annual River to Sea Bike Ride

- a. The 2021 River to Sea ride is scheduled for Saturday October 16, 2021. Registration for the event is now open.

3. Brunswick Heritage Riverside Ride

- a. Planning is underway for an inaugural group bike ride event in Northern Brunswick County from Phoenix Park to Belville Riverwalk Park
- b. The scheduled date of the event is October 23, 2021. Registration will open in early September

4. Cape fear Change in Motion 2020 and TDM Services

- a. Go Coast is continuing to present the adopted short-range TDM plan to member jurisdiction governing bodies in September and October
- b. These presentations will share the strategies outlined in the plan and present member jurisdictions with the opportunity to utilize the WMPO’s TDM program to enhance existing or create any new TDM-oriented initiatives
- c. The Go Coast Committee has asked the TDM Coordinator to contact 10 regional employers about assistance in developing alternative work schedule and telecommuting policies

5. Bicycle Suitability Map Update

- a. The WMPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee has provided a recommended methodology for scoring roadway segments for bicycle compatibility.
- b. Staff has evaluated over 300 roadways in the WMPO region that have been given a score for bicycle compatibility.
- c. The WMPO BPAC will review this draft map and provide input for changes in scoring

6. Go Coast Commuter Challenge

- a. The 2021 Go Coast Commuter Challenge will take place October 16-31.
- b. a new feature “Commuter Challenge” will be available in the Share the Ride NC Mobile app. Participants will be able to join teams to compete in the event
- c. TDM Coordinator is working to gather donations from local businesses to be used as prizes for participants
- d. The Commuter Challenge Subcommittee has developed a marketing strategy to help increase promotion of the event and increase participation

7. The next Go Coast meeting is November 18, 2021



Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority

Project Updates

September 2021

1. Route Enhancements to the Port City Trolley

Route enhancements for the Port City Trolley, including service along Nutt St. from Harnett St. to Red Cross St., were implemented on September 1, 2021. The impetus for the revision was to provide access to major economic drivers and attractions along the Cape Fear Riverwalk including but not limited to, the Wilmington Convention Center, Live Oak Bank Pavilion, Riverfront Park, Wilmington Railroad Museum, Coastline Convention Center, Pier 33 Apartments, Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, and three hotels.

Enhancements also include the addition of nine (9) stops for access to the major destination points as referenced. The current operating hours, and 40-minute service frequency remain unchanged with the recent modifications.

2. Wilmington Regional Microtransit Project

On April 20, 2021, the Authority published a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) for Microtransit Service Planning and Software. The project scope included a regional microtransit initiative providing more efficient and cost-effective public transportation services within, and between, Brunswick County, New Hanover County, and Pender County. The alternative mobility option will result in decreased wait times for customers, fares equivalent to existing services, and availability of smartphone app technology for fare payment and trip reservations.

The vendor partnership, Moovit and Bus.com, was selected during the Authority's July 2021 Board of Director's meeting. Brand development and planning and service design are currently underway.

Service implementation is scheduled for October 2021. The service is funded at 100% through NCDOT's ConCPT and community grants. The pilot project is currently planned for a 12-month period, with options to extend pending availability of grant funds.

3. Network Redesign Slated for July 1, 2022

A joint meeting between Wilmington City Council members and New Hanover County Board of Commissioners was held on April 27, 2021. During the meeting, a vote to delay previously slated service reductions was moved by County officials, giving current administration an opportunity to review and make modifications to changes. The postponement of service changes was supported by City Council during their May 4, 2021 meeting. The revised network will take effect on July 1, 2022.

Authority staff is working through review and revisions of the current transit network to be more efficient and cost-effective. Updates will be published through official press releases, on the homepage of the Authority's website at: <https://www.wavetransit.com/>, onboard revenue vehicles, and at major transfer stations as network revisions are established.

Projects in Development							
Project Manager	Contract T	Committed	TIP	PO	Description	County	<div> <div>Utilities Move Forward</div> <div>ROW Move Forward</div> </div> <div>SAP Let Date</div>
Central	Raleigh		15bpr.19	WMPO	New Hanover 21 on US 76 over Banks Channel	New Hanover	7/20/2021
Central	Raleigh		B-5642	WMPO	Brunswick 65 on NC 87 over Hood Creek	Brunswick	Y Y 12/16/2021
Derek Pielech	DPOC		BP3.R004	WMPO	Brunswick 181 over Sturgeon Creek on SR 1437 (Old Fayettevill Rd) (Previously 17BP.3.R.84)	Brunswick	Y Y 12/16/2021
Central	Raleigh		15BPR.26	WMPO	New Hanover 48 on I-40 E and I-40 W/NE Substructure Repairs	New Hanover	Y Y 1/18/2022
Trace Howell	DDRL	Yes	R-3300B	WMPO/CFRPO	Hampstead Bypass	New Hanover/ Pender	Y Y 1/18/2022
Mike Bass	DPOC	Yes	U-5710A	WMPO	US 74 (Eastwood Road)- construct roadway on new location between US 17 (Military Cutoff Road) & US 74 (Eastwood Road)	New Hanover	Y Y 1/20/2022
Eric Murray	DPOC	Yes	U-5914	WMPO	Widen NC 133 from US 17/74/76 to Old River Rd	Brunswick	Y Y 6/2/2022
Rail Division	Rail	Yes	P-5740	WMPO	Wilmingtion Rail At-Grade Crossing Improvement	New Hanover	Y Y 6/30/2022
David Leonard	DPOC		W-5703E	WMPO	US 117/NC 132 (College Rd) sidewalk between Randall Pkwy and N of University Drive	New Hanover	3D 8/4/2022
Trace Howell	DPOC		W-5703R	WMPO	NC 132 (South College Rd) and Braggs Drive offset lefts	New Hanover	9/15/2022
Eric Murray	DPOC		W-5601DH	WMPO	3rd St and Dock St Intersection	New Hanover	9/30/2022
Eric Murray	DPOC		W-5703C	WMPO	Monkey Junction Pedestrian Improvements	New Hanover	11/17/2022
Krista Kimmel	DDRL		U-5926	WMPO	New Route from 23rd St to 26th St	New Hanover	Y Y 12/19/2023
Brian Harding	DDRL	Yes	U-6202	WMPO	Widen Gordon Rd to 4 lanes from US 17 Market St to I-40	New Hanover	6/18/2024
Lydia	DPOC		I-6036	WMPO	I-140 - US 17 to North of US 74 pavement rehab	Brunswick	10/17/2024
Central	Raleigh		B-5653	WMPO	Pender 14 on NC 133 over Turkey Creek	Pender	1/21/2025
Lydia	DDRL		I-6039	WMPO	I-40 Pavement rehab from Milemarker 420 to NC 210	New Hanover, Pender	4/15/2025
Mike Bass	DDRL	Yes	U-5710	WMPO	US 74 (Eastwood Rd) at US 17 (Military Cutoff Rd)	New Hanover	9/16/2025
Lydia	DDRL		I-6037	WMPO	I-140 from US 421 to I-40 pavement and bridge rehab	New Hanover	2/17/2026
Trace Howell	DDRL	Yes	U-5792	WMPO	MLK at College	New Hanover	6/16/2026
Trace Howell	DDRL	Yes	R-3300A	WMPO	Hampstead Bypass (US 17 from Military Cutoff Rd to NC 210)	New Hanover/ Pender	Y Y 9/15/2026
Brian Harding	DDRL	Yes	U-5954	WMPO	NC 133 at 23rd St Roundabout	New Hanover	6/15/2027

Project Manager Contract T Committed TIP PO				Description	County	Utilities Move Forward	ROW Move Forward	SAP Let Date
Brian Harding	DDRL	Yes	U-5731	WMPO	US 74 at US 17/US 421 Flyover	New Hanover		5/16/2028
Krista Kimmel	DDRL	Yes	U-4434	WMPO	Independence Boulevard Extension	New Hanover		6/20/2028
Brian Harding	DDRL	Yes	U-5729	WMPO	US 421 Carolina Beach Rd Median with intersection improvement at Shipyard and US 421	New Hanover		7/18/2028
Trace Howell	DDRL	Yes	U-5732	WMPO/CFRPO	Hampstead Median: US 17 from SR 1582 (Washington Acres Rd) to Vista Lane	Pender		9/19/2028
Lydia	DPOC		I-6038	WMPO	I-140 from US 421 to US74/US76 pavement rehab	New Hanover		11/16/2028
Krista Kimmel	DDRL	Yes	U-3338C	WMPO	Kerr Ave Interchange at MLK	New Hanover		12/19/2028
Krista Kimmel	DDRL	Yes	U-4902B	WMPO	US 17 Bus - Market St Median - Railroad to MLK	New Hanover		12/19/2028
Krista Kimmel	DDRL	Yes	U-4902C	WMPO	US 17 Bus - Market St Median & Interchange	New Hanover	Y	6/19/2029
Trace Howell	DDRL	Yes	U-5702A	WMPO	College Rd from New Centre to Shipyard	New Hanover		PY
Trace Howell	DDRL	Yes	U-5702B	WMPO	College Rd Access management improvement from Carolina Beach Rd to Shipyard Blvd	New Hanover		PY
Trace Howell	DDRL	Yes	U-5704	WMPO	US 17 (Oleander) at College	New Hanover		PY
Brian Harding	DDRL	Yes	U-5734	WMPO	US 421 Front St Widening	New Hanover		PY
Trace Howell	DDRL	Yes	U-5790	WMPO	Monkey Junction Interchange	New Hanover		PY
Brian Harding	DDRL	Yes	U-5863	WMPO	NC 133 - Castle Hayne Rd from I-140 to Division Dr	New Hanover		PY
Trace Howell	DDRL	Yes	U-5881	WMPO	College Rd from Gordon Rd to New Centre	New Hanover		PY
Brian Harding	DPOC	No	U-6128	WMPO	US 76 (Oleander Dr) and Greenville Loop Rd/Greenville Avenue Dual Lefts	New Hanover		PY
None	DDRL	Yes	U-6199	WMPO	Wilmington Citywide Signal System Upgrade	New Hanover		PY
Krista Kimmel	DPOC	Yes	U-6201	WMPO	Kerr avenue Extension from Wrightsville Avenue to Oleander Dr	New Hanover		PY

PE Work Continuing	
Work Continuing for	
Updating Estimate Only	

Date Completed:

9/6/2021

PO:

WMPO

Contact:

Caitlin Marks

910-341-2001

cmmarks@ncdot.gov

Projects Under Construction						
Contract Number	Resident	TIP/WBS/Program	County	Description	Estimated Completion	Percent Complete
DC00290	Kirsten Spirakis	New Hanover	New Hanover	I-40 at Exit 420 - GRP 2	Jul-21	83.8%
DC00291	Kirsten Spirakis		New Hanover, Pender	I-40 at Exit 420 - GRP 3	Dec-21	71.09%
C204557	Kirsten Spirakis		New Hanover, Pender	I-40 Rock Plating Group 1	May-22	89.12%
C204319	Alex Stewart	U-4902D	New Hanover	Superstreet median on Market St (US 17 BUS) from Marsh Oaks Dr to Lendire Dr	Nov-22	46.67%
DC00309	Daniel Jones	New Hanover	ILM Landscape Improvement - Available August 1		Dec-22	30.00%
C203980	Alex Stewart	U-4751	New Hanover	Military Cutoff Rd Extension from Market St to the Wilmington Bypass with an interchange at the Bypass	Mar-23	55.98%

Resurfacing									
Contract		County	MPO/RPO		Map		Routes		Estimated
Contract Number	Year								Completion Percent Complete
C204409	2021	Brunswick	CFRPO/GSATS/WMPO		0	1	SECTION OF US-17, US-74/76, AND NC-130; AND 11 SECTIONS OF SECONDARY ROADS		TBD 0
DC00304	2021	Brunswick	CFRPO/GSATS/WMPO		0	US 17, NC 904 & VARIOUS SECONDARY RDS.		TBD	0
DC00302	2021	New Hanover	WMPO		0	New Hanover County Resurfacing - Avail May 2021		Jun-22	9.64%
DC00294	2021	New Hanover	WMPO		0	New Hanover County Resurfacing - Avail March 2021		Sep-22	7.54%

Interactive Resurfacing Map can be found here: <https://ncdot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/dfbd3ddde51a4cf4ba6a6334a59806e1>



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

J. ERIC BOYETTE
SECRETARY

September 2021

Nazia Sarder
Transportation Engineer
NCDOT Transportation Planning Division
1 South Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

SEPTEMBER TPD UPDATES WILMINGTON MPO

SEPTEMBER 2021

Brunswick County Model: The Brunswick County Model was completed in February of last year.

Brunswick County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP): The CTP is moving along and we are on schedule. Our last meeting was on 7/22 where we went over the following items:

1. Survey Results
2. Additional Projects from the Survey
3. Future Public Involvement Sessions

The survey closed on June 9th and we collected 6,966 surveys. Our last regular meeting was on 7/22, we will now be meeting on a needs basis going forward. Currently the TPD engineers are creating internal documents for peer review, management review and steering committee review prior to going to public involvement. Post public involvement comments are incorporated, there will be one more round of reviews prior to adoptions and endorsements.

Wilmington Model: The 2045 Travel Demand Model and 2045 Wilmington MPO MTP was adopted on 11/18/2020 by the Wilmington MPO Board.

NCDOT: New State Maps Available, Speed Limit Lowered for Birds: Now is the time to get yourself a new North Carolina State Transportation Map. The cover of the new map features some of North Carolina's most scenic views, including the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Greensboro skyline and Sunset Beach.

The annual summer purple martin roost is underway on the Croatan Sound, and that means drivers are slowing down for the birds. Through the end of the month, the west

end of the William B. Umstead Bridge becomes home to as many as 100,000 purple martins as they prepare for their annual migration to Brazil.

Contract Awarded to Preserve Wrightsville Beach Bridge: The life of the South Banks Channel Bridge will be extended thanks to a preservation project contract that was recently awarded.

The bridge on Causeway Drive over the Banks Channel was built in 1972. Work to preserve it can begin as early as mid-September and is expected to be complete in the fall of 2022.

Coastal Gunitite Construction Company in Maryland was awarded the \$3.7 million contract.

Updates on Coronavirus (COVID-19) in North Carolina: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/>

Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization

Board Retreat

August 25, 2021

Presented by:



Meeting Purpose

The Board of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization convened for a one and a half hour meeting to discuss the Board's vision for the future of the MPO. This meeting was held on August 25th.

The retreat was professionally facilitated by Fountainworks and included the opportunity for participants to interact in open conversation about the organization's future. Comments were captured as the conversation flowed and are summarized in this document.

Objectives:

- Develop a vision for WMPO
- Set priorities to help the organization achieve its vision

Approach:

- Fountainworks facilitated both a Vision Exercise and a Priority Setting Exercise.
- The Vision Exercise gave board members the opportunity to envision what a successful MPO could look like in the next five to ten years.
- The Priority Setting Exercise gave board members an opportunity to outline the projects strategies that the MPO can use moving forward to achieve the vision of the organization.

Vision Exercise

Fountainworks facilitated a vision exercise with the Wilmington MPO Board. The purpose of this exercise was to look into the future and set a vision for where the organization is heading. Vision statements are aspirational guideposts that an organization can use to make decisions about its future. The comments from this exercise are captured below.



Mission

- Regional and cooperative transportation planning

Core Competencies

- Collective wisdom
- Statutory authority
- MPO staff and TCC

Organization

- WMPO rated as effective
- Staff rated as effective
- Opportunities for continuous improvement

Critical Issues

- Hampstead Bypass
- Military Cutoff, Eastwood
- Independence Boulevard
- MLK Kerr
- MLK – Market – Eastwood
- Cape Fear Bridge

Environmental Factors

- NCDOT funding
- STIP restart

Vision

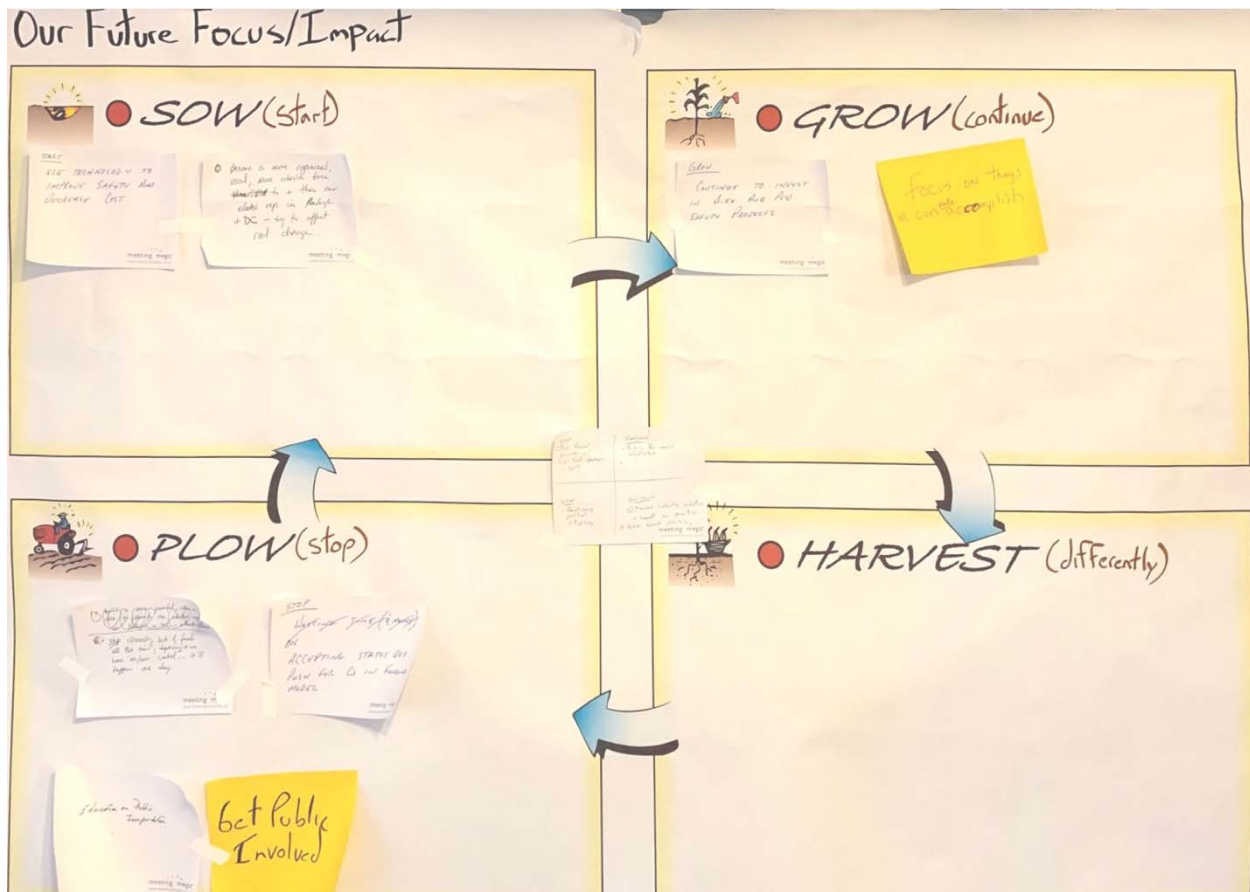
- Catching up
- Mass transportation
 - Interconnectivity rails
 - Ferries
- Seamless, staying ahead of the curve
- Safe transportation
- Fluid organization
- Multi-faceted
- Free flowing transportation
- Nodes of service
 - Planning and design processes
- Rural areas are brought up to speed
- Loop around the region
- Unified voice
- More modes of transportation that can co-exist with current modes
- Public transportation that services those that need other options, provide choices

Future Challenges

- State funding
- Regional growth
- Rapid urbanization

Setting Priorities

Following the vision exercise Fountainworks facilitated an exercise meant to set priorities for Wilmington MPO. This exercise categorized priorities into multiple categories; Sow (priorities to begin working on), Grow (priorities to continue working on), Plow (areas to stop or slow), and Harvest (areas to make changes or do things differently). The comments from this exercise are captured below.



Sow (Start)

- Use technology to improve safety and decrease costs
- Become a more organized, vocal, and cohesive force. To work through our elected representatives in Raleigh and D.C. to try to affect real change.
- More frequent discussion of high-level strategies and goals

Grow (Continue)

- Continue to invest in bicycle and pedestrian safety projects
- Focus on things we can really accomplish
- Pushing for needed infrastructure

Plow (Stop)

- Stop accepting the status quo, push for changes in the funding model.

- Stop discussing lack of funds all the time, we have no control over it and it will change one day.
- Reactionary political infighting

Harvest (Different)

- Members understand and support priorities
- Better educate the public
 - Better public transportation education
- Get public involved

Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization

Draft Vision Statement and Priorities

September 2021

Prepared by:



Purpose

This document provides a draft vision statement and priorities for the Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization. The vision statement and action items are based on discussions at the MPO's planning session on August 25, 2021.

Vision Statement

Vision statements are forward-looking and aspirational statements that are meant to guide an organization and articulate what the organization would like to achieve. Vision statements capture a consensus view of where the organization is going and what is possible in the future.

The following vision statement is based on the comments made during the August 25th mini retreat.

Wilmington MPO Draft Vision Statement:

The Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization seeks to provide safe, reliable, and seamless options for transportation for all in the Wilmington Metropolitan Area. WMPO will speak with a unified voice and work with residents to anticipate the transportation needs of a growing and changing community.

Wilmington MPO Adopted Mission Statement

To create and execute continuing, cooperative and comprehensive regional long-range planning efforts that proactively drive transportation decisions to improve safety, connectivity, economic development and quality of life in the Wilmington region

Priority Action Items

During the August 25th retreat the WMPO board participated in a priority setting exercise facilitated by Fountainworks. Priority setting is necessary for any organization that is seeking to fulfill a mission and achieve a vision. The following outlines draft priorities based on Board comments during the retreat.

Priority Focus Areas

- **Improve Safety**
 - **(Example tactical actions):** Use technology to improve safety and decrease costs.
 - Partner with local communities to address deficiencies in safety
- **A Multi-modal focus**
 - **(Example tactical actions)** Continue to invest in bicycle and pedestrian safety projects (Multi-modal focus)
- **Community Engagement**
 - **(Example tactical actions):** Create more opportunities for community engagement and public education.
- **Regionally Focused**
 - **(Example tactical actions):** Include diverse voices in planning conversations to ensure that minority and rural communities are well served by WMPO.
 - Prioritize areas in need of updated infrastructure.
 - Advocate for infrastructure projects with a high possibility of success.
- **A More Organized, Vocal, and Cohesive Force.**
 - **(Example tactical actions):** To work through our elected representatives at the state and federal level to affect real change.
- **Organization and Operational Effectiveness**
 - **(Example tactical actions):** Place a higher emphasis on member engagement and understanding of all issues that WMPO is involved in.
 - Conduct regular internal meetings to discuss higher-level goals and strategies to improve transportation in the area.
 - Encourage members to research and more fully understand MPO projects and actively support them.
 - Research existing and emerging technologies that can be implemented in the Wilmington Metropolitan Area to decrease overall costs.

Top Project Priorities (*Draft*)

- Hampstead Bypass- How do we maintain or accelerate the A section
- Military Cutoff, Eastwood- How do we accelerate
- Independence Boulevard- How do we accelerate
- MLK Kerr- How do we accelerate
- MLK – Market – Eastwood- Accelerate
- Cape Fear Bridge