

**Wilmington Urban Area MPO
Technical Coordinating Committee
Wednesday, January 12, 2022
Remote Meeting Minutes**

Members Present

Helen Bunch, Brunswick County
Nick Cannon, MPO Go Coast Program
Patrick Flanagan, Cape Fear Council of Governments
Adrienne Harrington, Town of Belville
Paula Kempton, Town of Carolina Beach
Matt Kirkland, Town of Leland
Mike Kozlosky, WMPO
Vanessa Lacer, Pender County
Marty Little, New Hanover County
Caitlin Marks, NCDOT Division of Highways
Megan Matheny, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority
Mandy Sanders, Town of Kure Beach
Nazia Sarder, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch
Denys Vielkanowitz, City of Wilmington

Members Absent

Stephanie Ayers, NC State Ports Authority
Granseur Dick, Wilmington International Airport
Robert O'Quinn, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Representative, Town of Navassa

Others Present

Carolyn Bates
Cheryl Hannah, HDR
Regina Hopkins, WMPO
Scott James, WMPO
Abby Lorenzo, WMPO
Rachel McIntyre, WMPO
Marie Parker, Cape Fear Public Transportation
Authority
Alexandria Sands
Ron Satterfield, City of Wilmington

1) Call to Order

Mr. Kozlosky called the remote meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and took the roll call pursuant to N.C.G.S. Sec. 166A-19.24. A quorum was present, as follows:

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

2) Approval of the Agenda

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

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

3) Election of Officers

Mr. Kozlosky said that currently, he serves as chair, and Mr. Sutton serves as vice chair. He noted that Mr. Sutton has accepted another position and is unable to serve as the vice chair. He added that this is an opportunity for leadership positions.

Ms. Bunch nominated Mr. Kozlosky as chairman. Mr. Kozlosky nominated Ms. Sarder as vice chair. There being no other nominations on the floor, Mr. Kozlosky closed the nominations.

Ms. Marks made a motion to approve the nominations for chair and vice chair. Ms. Harrington seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by rollcall as follows:

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

Mr. Kozlosky expressed congratulations to Ms. Sarder.

4) **Consent Agenda**

- a. **Approval of TCC Meeting Minutes- November 4, 2021**
- b. **Resolution adopting the 2022-2026 Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Strategic Plan**
- c. **Resolution endorsing the Targets for Safety Performance Measures Established by the North Carolina Department of Transportation for 2022**
- d. **Resolution approving the 2020-2029 STIP/MPO TIP Amendments #21-8**
- e. **Resolution approving the 2020-2029 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modifications #21-10**
- f. **Opening of the 30-day public comment period for the 2020-2029 STIP/MPO TIP Amendment# 22-1**
- g. **Resolution encouraging the North Carolina Department of Transportation to include additional bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the design for the Gordon Road Widening Project (U-6202)**

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

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

5) **Regular Agenda**

- a. **Resolution approving Amendment #2 to the FY 22 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Kozlosky said that the second amendment to the FY22 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) includes changes to funding in the special studies line as follows:

1. Decrease by \$80,000 removing the North Brunswick Transit Study
2. Increase by \$38,500 adding the Congestion Management Plan (CMP) Study
3. Increase by \$20,000 for a study of US-17 pedestrian crossings in the Town of Leland
4. Increase by \$5,100 for a compensation study that was requested by the MPO Board as part of its strategic plan

Mr. Kozlosky said that the changes to the UPWP also include increasing the management and operations line by \$16,900.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Vielkanowitz regarding the CMP process, Ms. Lorenzo confirmed that this would again involve a consultant, Kittelson & Associates, to perform floating car studies on all 30 corridors as well as creating an interactive dashboard for the MPO website to allow the public to select a corridor and view the travel time delays that resulted from the CMP.

Mr. Cannon made a motion to approve the second amendment to the work program, and to forward the recommendation to the MPO Board for consideration. Mr. Vielkanowitz seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by roll call as follows:

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

b. Opening of the 30-day public comment period for the FY 23 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Kozlosky said that the MPO is required to adopt the MPO's Unified Planning Work Program, its budget, by March 31st of the fiscal year. As part of the MPO's Public Participation Plan, the MPO is required to conduct a minimum 30-day public comment period. Included in the agenda packet is the draft FY23 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which includes special studies for the completion of a bicycle and pedestrian plan for the MPO area in Pender County as well as funding for the beginning of the development of the MPO's 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The plan also includes funding for compensation and merit, which echoes the focus of the City of Wilmington. He added that the proposed UPWP will require a minimal increase to the MPO's member jurisdictions. A summary of the changes comparing FY22 and FY23 UPWPs has also been included in the agenda packet for review.

Mr. Kozlosky said that a finalized UPWP would be brought back to the TCC at its March meeting for consideration. This item is to open the 30-day public comment period.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Kirkland, Mr. Kozlosky clarified that this item to open the public comment period will be considered by the MPO Board, which will officially begin the public comment period.

Ms. Harrington made a motion to open the 30-day public comment period for the FY23 UPWP, and to forward the recommendation to the MPO Board for consideration. Mr. Kirkland seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by roll call as follows:

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

6) Discussion

a. Direct Attribute Programs Prioritization Criteria

Transportation Planning Engineer Scott A. James noted that the modified methodology for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, & Economic Security Act (CRRSA) geared to weigh in favor of proposals showing hardship due to COVID-19 would not apply to the Direct Attributable (DA) program. He pointed out that this is an opportunity to revise the guidelines for the DA project ranking methodology. He added that six of the seven proposed projects for the CRRSA funds were non-automotive projects (shared use paths, pedestrian safety improvements, etc.). However, the ranking methodology leans heavily toward traditional traffic engineering (traffic congestion, volume to capacity ratios, reported crashes, etc.).

Mr. James inquired if the committee has any interest in modifying the methodology to better rank non-automotive projects. He proposed to canvas the membership to get an idea about the likely proposals, and if any past projects were overlooked due to the current methodology. He noted that the proposal is to revise the parameters to better reflect trends in proposed projects. He added that the traffic engineering metrics will not be eliminated, but rather be augmented with non-automotive metrics to better evaluate projects.

Mr. Kozlosky said that the MPO has seen mostly non-automotive projects, and that the metrics are more automotive and traffic engineering related. He requested guidance from the committee about modifying the criteria to better rank submittals.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Harrington, Mr. Kozlosky clarified that the methodology for the CRRSA funds (including the COVID-19 hardship metric) is separate from and does not apply to the DA methodology. Mr. James noted that the previous methodology, pre-COVID, is proposed for revision.

Ms. Harrington spoke in favor of reviewing the DA applications for relevance to the proposals. Mr. Kirkland concurred and inquired about the trends. Mr. Kozlosky responded that most of DA projects funded are nonautomotive related, aside from a traffic signal improvement, and signal pre-emption. However, most of the projects have been bicycle and pedestrian related.

Ms. Harrington suggested a scoring mechanism for projects that fit in the plans of the local jurisdictions.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Lacer, Mr. James said that projects with a non-automotive focus do not receive any points from automotive-focused metrics. He noted that the automotive metrics are not being used routinely. He explained that it's a matter of appropriately measuring the benefits of the projects. He commented that it may expand the pool of projects and allow for more elements of a given project to be evaluated such as pedestrian access and safety improvements that are currently not being measured. Although the funds are being awarded, elements are being measured that are not the focus of the proposal.

Mr. Kozlosky said that in the past, except for the CRRSA funds call for projects, the MPO has more money available than projects submitted.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Harrington, Mr. Kozlosky said that approximately \$3 million that was allocated to the MPO has in October. He noted that the MPO is trying to determine if it will issue a call for projects with the existing criteria or revise the criteria prior to the call.

Ms. Bunch pointed out that there are automotive needs and inquired about the reason for the lack of submittals. Mr. Kozlosky speculated that the reluctance may be due to cost since automatic projects are more costly and due to the requirement of a match from the local jurisdictions. He noted that the MPO has been able to partner with NCDOT and the city in some cases.

Ms. Lacer expressed support for modifying the criteria to reflect project needs and trends in the region. Regarding NCDOT's safety targets, Mr. Vielkanowitz expressed a desire to include scoring points for projects that address known safety issues.

Mr. Kozlosky said that the TCC's recommendation to modify the criteria will be brought to the Board, and MPO staff will bring forward some recommendations for consideration. He expressed appreciation for the discussion.

b. Bike Share in Wilmington Region

Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Coordinator Nick Cannon gave a brief presentation on bike share in the Wilmington region. He noted that responses to an RFP released in the fall of 2017 were reviewed by MPO staff and the Bike Share Selection Committee, which recommended a vendor for bike share. The City of Wilmington entered into an agreement with Zagster for 100 bicycles across 25 stations. However, the vendor was unable to secure title sponsorships for the program and the agreement was terminated in January of 2020. A new RFP was issued shortly after, but the search was suspended in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Cannon said that funding is one of the challenges of a bike share program. He suggested that compatibility with UNCW's bike share program also be a consideration. He noted that UNCW had a bike share program on campus, but the vendor pulled out when in-person classes were canceled, as many did at other universities. He added that the City of Wilmington is the only jurisdiction that has shown interest in a bike share program, but it can be implemented in any community. He pointed out that the next step would be to release another RFP like the one that was used before.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Vielkanowitz, Mr. Cannon commented that UNCW's bike share program was a success and not bringing personal bicycles to campus was attractive to students. He noted that they have an interest in implementing a new program.

c. 2020-2029 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modifications #22-1

Mr. Kozlosky said that this item is for informational purposes only and will be brought back for the TCC to consider at the next meeting.

7) 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.

8) Announcements

- a. Wilmington MPO Bike/Pedestrian Committee- February 8th**
- b. Next TCC meeting- February 9th**

Additionally, Mr. Kozlosky announced that from April 20th to 22nd the North Carolina Association of MPOs will host its annual conference in association with the RPO. The 2022 conference will be held in Wilmington at the Wilmington Convention Center and anticipates 400 to 500 attendees from across the state and country. MPO staff has been involved with the development of the conference and the program. The MPO has received 80 submissions from presenters.

Ms. Matheny said that during the conference in April, the Public Transportation Authority will provide an update to its Ride Micro Program. She noted that the Ride Micro app will go live January 17th, although it is a holiday, for transit services that will resume on January 18th.

Mr. Kozlosky expressed appreciation to Ms. Matheny.

9) **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Ms. Bunch made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Harrington and meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m. by roll call as follows:

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

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