

**Wilmington Urban Area MPO
Technical Coordinating Committee
Wednesday, March 16, 2022
Remote Meeting Minutes**

Members Present

Stephanie Ayers, NC State Ports Authority
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County
Adrienne Cox, NCDOT Division of Highways
Patrick Flanagan, Cape Fear Council of Governments
Jeremy Hardison, Town of Carolina Beach
Adrienne Harrington, Town of Belville
Matt Kirkland, Town of Leland
Mike Kozlosky, WMPO
Vanessa Lacer, Pender County
Marty Little, New Hanover County
Abby Lorenzo, MPO Go Coast Program
Megan Matheny, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority
Nazia Sarder, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch
Robert O'Quinn, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Mandy Sanders, Town of Kure Beach
Denys Vielkanowitz, City of Wilmington

Members Absent

Claudia Bray, Town of Navassa
Granseur Dick, Wilmington International
Airport

Others Present

Zachary Bugg
Cheryl Hannah, HDR
Regina Hopkins, WMPO
David Hursey
Scott A. James, WMPO
Jamar Johnson, WMPO
Sean Kane
Rachel McIntyre, WMPO
Emma Stogner, WMPO
Tony Sumter

1) Call to Order

Chairman Mike Kozlosky called the remote meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. He acknowledged the presence of new NCDOT Division 3 Planning Engineer Adrienne Cox (in place of Caitlin Marks, who has moved on), new WMPO Associate Transportation Planner Emma Stogner formerly with the Hickory MPO, and WMPO Engineering Associate Jamar Johnson formerly with NCDOT's Division 5 Highway Construction in Raleigh. He took the roll call pursuant to N.C.G.S. Sec. 166A-19.24. A quorum was present, as follows:

Present: Stephanie Ayers, Helen Bunch, Adrienne Cox, Patrick Flanagan, Jeremy Hardison, Adrienne Harrington, Matt Kirkland, Mike Kozlosky, Vanessa Lacer, Marty Little, Abby Lorenzo, Megan Matheny, Behshad Norowzi, Robert O'Quinn, Mandy Sanders and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Absent:** Claudia Bray and Granseur Dick.

2) Approval of the Agenda

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

Ayes: Stephanie Ayers, Helen Bunch, Adrienne Cox, Patrick Flanagan, Jeremy Hardison, Adrienne Harrington, Matt Kirkland, Mike Kozlosky, Vanessa Lacer, Marty Little, Abby Lorenzo, Megan Matheny, Behshad Norowzi, Robert O'Quinn, Mandy Sanders and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Claudia Bray and Granseur Dick.

3) Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of TCC Meeting Minutes- February 9, 2022
- b. Resolution approving 2020-2029 STIP/MPO Amendments #22-1 and #22-2
- c. Resolution approving 2020-2029 STIP/MPO Administrative Modification #22-2
- d. Resolution approving the FY 23 Unified Planning Work Program for the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

- e. **Resolution certifying the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Planning Process**
- f. **Resolution supporting the City of Wilmington's application for the North Carolina Emergency Management's Transportation Infrastructure Resiliency Fund Grant**
- g. **Resolution supporting Pender County's application for the North Carolina Emergency Management's Transportation Infrastructure Resiliency Fund Grant**

Ms. Cox made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Items 3a through 3g as presented, and to forward the items to the MPO Board for consideration. Mr. Flanagan seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by roll call as follows:

Ayes: Stephanie Ayers, Helen Bunch, Adrienne Cox, Patrick Flanagan, Jeremy Hardison, Adrienne Harrington, Matt Kirkland, Mike Kozlosky, Vanessa Lacer, Marty Little, Abby Lorenzo, Megan Matheny, Behshad Norowzi, Robert O'Quinn, Mandy Sanders and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Claudia Bray and Granseur Dick.

4) **Regular Agenda**

a. **Resolution approving Amendment #3 to the FY 22 Unified Planning Work Program**

MPO Deputy Director Abby Lorenzo said that Amendment #3 to the FY22 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) includes several decreases in task line items based on staff's expected expenditures for the remainder of the fiscal year. She explained that these decreases will be offset by an increase in management and operations line item, which will allow staff to make better use of the MPO budget. Additionally, Amendment #3 includes a special study for Wave Transit to study a transition to zero-emissions vehicles, which will use 5304 funding that is required to be distributed through the MPO.

Ms. Ayers made a motion to approve Amendment #3 to the FY22 UPWP, and to forward the recommendation to the MPO Board for consideration. Ms. Matheny seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by roll call as follows:

Ayes: Stephanie Ayers, Helen Bunch, Adrienne Cox, Patrick Flanagan, Jeremy Hardison, Adrienne Harrington, Matt Kirkland, Mike Kozlosky, Vanessa Lacer, Marty Little, Abby Lorenzo, Megan Matheny, Behshad Norowzi, Robert O'Quinn, Mandy Sanders and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Claudia Bray and Granseur Dick.

5) **Discussion**

a. **2020-2029 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modifications #22-3**

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

b. **Wilmington Multi-modal Transportation Center Phase 1B**

Mr. Kozlosky said that the Wilmington Multi-modal Transportation Center Phase 1B has been jointly funded by the City of Wilmington and the Wilmington MPO. He noted that the city held a bid opening in January, and the bid was \$647,000 over the engineer's estimate and outside the project's budget. For the project to move forward, additional funding for the 20% local match and about \$1.8 million in additional Direct Attributable (DA) funding will be needed.

Mr. Kozlosky said that last night, the City of Wilmington agreed to contribute an additional \$165,793 in funding for the local match. He noted that New Hanover County expressed an interest in assisting with the funding of the local match and will consider a request for \$165,793 at its meeting on March

21st. He added that staff also proposes to use some unallocated funds located in the City of Wilmington's project budget to provide the local match.

Mr. Kozlosky said that if both entities agree to support the effort, the MPO Board will be approached for an allocation of \$1,873,469 in additional funds from the DA program.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Matheny, Mr. Kozlosky estimated that the required 20% local match totals about \$468,000. He noted that the city has in its budget \$136,781 in unallocated funds. So, the MPO proposes to use that and reduce the match needed to about \$331,000. The city agreed last night to commit \$165,793 and the county will consider an action to provide the remaining \$165,793 at its meeting on March 21st.

Ms. Matheny inquired about the availability of the funds for capital projects. Mr. Kozlosky responded that the funds are sitting in the account not being used. He noted that staff is currently working on updating the project scoring matrix and the process for the release of DA funds. He added that the next call for projects is anticipated in June, with project selection in September, which would align with the DA funding to become available on October 1st for the next fiscal year.

c. 2022 Legislative Agenda

Mr. Kozlosky requested some feedback from the TCC members on the draft legislative update. He noted that the 2021 agenda included the priority of restoring protections in the statute related to the Map Act. Since the protections were included in the state budget, the priority been removed from the draft update. He noted that the 2022 priorities include:

- Transportation funding:
 - Identify additional revenue sources
 - Implement recommendations of the NC First Commission to fund transportation projects and priorities in the region.
- Priority highway projects:
 - Hampstead Bypass
 - Military Cutoff and Eastwood Road Interchange
 - Independence Boulevard Extension
 - Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway and Kerr Avenue Interchange
 - Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway, Market Street, and Eastwood Road Interchange
- Highest unfunded priority:
 - Replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge
- Opposition to the transfer of state road maintenance to counties
- Funding concerns regarding street improvements for schools to be borne by municipalities (2017 Legislation)
- Moped legislations regulating their use on certain facilities (ie: the causeway) to provide for the safety and welfare of citizens of North Carolina
- Electric scooters, support for safe and responsible e-scooters, opposition to visual clutter and the blocking of ADA facilities

Ms. Ayers said that the Port would like to see the South Front Street Project (U-5729) as a top transportation priority for the region. She noted that the route is handling an increase in freight congestion related to the opening of the Port's south gate and the rerouting of trucks to its north gate. Mr. Kozlosky explained that the Board identified the region's top-five funded projects. However, the TCC's suggestions will be presented to the Board for consideration. Ms. Ayers pointed out that construction was

originally scheduled for 2021, was pushed to 2023, and again to 2029. She commented that Cape Fear Memorial Bridge traffic will be brought to a standstill if no improvements are made soon.

Ms. Bunch expressed concerns regarding the priority of the bridge being below the top-five roadway projects. Mr. Kozlosky pointed out that the bridge is the Board's top unfunded priority. Ms. Bunch requested that information stressing growth be added to the legislative agenda, since many transportation and maintenance needs are due to growth of the region. Mr. Kozlosky said that this would be shared with the Board as well.

Ms. Lacer requested that transportation funding for safety initiatives, pedestrian safety, and Vision Zero be broken out specifically under transportation funding. Mr. Kozlosky responded that staff is working on a priority list from the MPO's strategic plan, which will be brought back to the TCC for input at its next meeting. He added that Vision Zero and safety were identified during the strategic planning exercises. Ms. Lacer asked that it be included in the legislative agenda.

In response to several inquiries by Mr. Vielkanowitz, Mr. Kozlosky confirmed that the portion of Eastwood Road to Cardinal Drive is included officially in the MLK at Eastwood Project #4209C; and municipalities are included as well as counties regarding the transfer of street maintenance. However, municipalities receive money for maintenance through the Powell Bill. He added that e-bikes are not included here as they are included in a separate legislative section, and scooters would fall under local government controls through their respective codes and ordinances.

Mr. Kozlosky expressed appreciation to committee members and noted their comments and suggestions will be summarized in a memo that will be provided to the Board.

6) **Updates**

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

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

7) **Announcements**

- a. **Wilmington MPO Bike/Pedestrian Committee- April 12th**
- b. **Next TCC meeting- April 13th**

Mr. Vielkanowitz inquired about the multi-use path project along 17 Street from Hospital Plaza Drive to Independence Drive. Mr. Kozlosky confirmed that it received funding and is anticipated to move forward.

8) **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Ms. Bunch made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Ayers, and meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m. by roll call as follows:

Ayes: Stephanie Ayers, Helen Bunch, Adrienne Cox, Patrick Flanagan, Jeremy Hardison, Adrienne Harrington, Matt Kirkland, Mike Kozlosky, Vanessa Lacer, Marty Little, Abby Lorenzo, Megan Matheny, Behshad Norowzi, Robert O'Quinn, Mandy Sanders and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Claudia Bray and Granseur Dick.

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