

**Wilmington Urban Area MPO
Technical Coordinating Committee
Wednesday, April 13, 2022
Remote Meeting Minutes**

Members Present

Gloria Abbotts, Town of Carolina Beach
Stephanie Ayers, NC State Ports Authority
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County
Adrienne Cox, NCDOT Division of Highways
Brianna D'Itri, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority
Patrick Flanagan, Cape Fear Council of Governments
Adrienne Harrington, Town of Belville
Matt Kirkland, Town of Leland
Mike Kozlosky, WMPO
Vanessa Lacer, Pender County
Rachel LaCoe, New Hanover County
Abby Lorenzo, MPO Go Coast Program
Mandy Sanders, Town of Kure Beach
Nazia Sarder, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch
Denys Vielkanowitz, City of Wilmington

Members Absent

Claudia Bray, Town of Navassa
Granseur Dick, Wilmington International
Airport
Robert O'Quinn, Town of Wrightsville
Beach

Others Present

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, NCDOT

1) Call to Order

Chairman Mike Kozlosky called the remote meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. He took the roll call pursuant to N.C.G.S. Sec. 166A-19.24. A quorum was present, as follows:

Present: Gloria Abbotts, Stephanie Ayers, Helen Bunch, Adrienne Cox, Brianna D'Itri, Patrick Flanagan, Adrienne Harrington, Matt Kirkland, Mike Kozlosky, Vanessa Lacer, Rachel LaCoe, Abby Lorenzo, Mandy Sanders, Nazia Sarder and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Absent:** Claudia Bray, Granseur Dick and Robert O'Quinn.

2) Approval of the Agenda

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

Ayes: Gloria Abbotts, Helen Bunch, Adrienne Cox, Brianna D'Itri, Patrick Flanagan, Adrienne Harrington, Matt Kirkland, Mike Kozlosky, Rachel LaCoe, Abby Lorenzo, Mandy Sanders, Nazia Sarder and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Stephanie Ayers, Claudia Bray, Granseur Dick, Vanessa Lacer and Robert O'Quinn.

3) Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of TCC Meeting Minutes- March 16, 2022
- b. Opening of the 30-day public comment period for 2020-2029 STIP/MPO Amendment #22-3
- c. Resolution approving 2020-2029 STIP/MPO Administrative Modification #22-3
- d. Resolution adopting the 2022 Legislative Agenda
- e. Resolution supporting the allocation of Section 5310 funding for FY 23
- f. Resolution supporting the Town of Wrightsville Beach's application to the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant for a standalone Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

- g. Resolution accepting the 2022 Wilmington Urban Area MPO's Compensation Study and Recommendations
- h. Resolution requesting an Administrative Modification to the 2020-2029 State/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs for Public Transportation Projects

Ms. Harrington made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Items 3a through 3h 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: Gloria Abbotts, Helen Bunch, Adrienne Cox, Patrick Flanagan, Adrienne Harrington, Matt Kirkland, Mike Kozlosky, Vanessa Lacer, Rachel LaCoe, Abby Lorenzo, Mandy Sanders, Nazia Sarder and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Stephanie Ayers, Claudia Bray, Granseur Dick and Robert O'Quinn. **Abstain:** Brianna D'Itri (Item 3e).

Mr. Flanagan made a motion to recuse Ms. D'Itri, seconded by Mr. Kirkland and the motion carried unanimously by roll call as follows:

Ayes: Gloria Abbotts, Stephanie Ayers, Helen Bunch, Adrienne Cox, Patrick Flanagan, Adrienne Harrington, Matt Kirkland, Mike Kozlosky, Vanessa Lacer, Rachel LaCoe, Abby Lorenzo, Mandy Sanders, Nazia Sarder and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Claudia Bray, Granseur Dick and Robert O'Quinn.

4) Discussion

a. 2020-2029 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modifications #22-4

Mr. Kozlosky said that this item is for informational purposes only and will be brought back for consideration by the TCC at its next meeting. He noted that the item included several public transportation related items, rail safety, and the HOPE Grant in Wilmington.

b. Direct Attributable Scoring Criteria

Transportation Planning Engineer Scott A. James said that staff is working on changing the scoring and weighting for the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program - Direct Attributable (STBGP-DA) and Transportation Alternatives Set Aside – Direct Attributable (TASA-DA) criteria in time for a June call for projects for the allocated funds for the start of the next fiscal year. Due to many non-automotive submissions received in response to the two previous project calls, the MPO Board requested increasing the total score from 83 to 100, increasing points for safety improvements as well as congestion management or capacity improvements, and including metrics for nonautomotive modes. Staff proposes the following:

- 25 points for safety
- 25 points for congestion reduction
- 20 points for multimodal
- 15 points for accessibility

Mr. James added that project status and administration points will be decreased but will distinguish between new and existing or continuing projects. He gave examples of proposals for each of the point categories as follows:

Safety

- Proven or recommended improvements that address an established crash pattern

- Road separation in response to identified conflicts with travel modes
- Existing infrastructure upgrades to meet the standards
- Safe Routes to School

Congestion reduction

- Through capacity or turn lanes
- Restriction of access to minimize conflicts
- Modification or revision of traffic controls

Multi-modal

- Adding nonautomotive capacity
- Extending the bicycle lane from shared to designated
- Adding recreational trails, shared use paths
- Upgrading transit infrastructure
- Reduce vehicle miles traveled

Accessibility

- Sidewalk gaps to be closed
- ADA infrastructure, ramps, and signals
- Existing infrastructure upgrades addressing gaps or barriers

Mr. James said that training for locally administered projects will be brought back annually as:

- i. A high-level introduction to the local area project management
- ii. Required project manager training

He noted that data collection and best practices resources will also be available for application development.

Mr. Kozlosky requested feedback from the committee to bring forward a revised methodology next month for consideration to meet the June call for projects.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Vielkanowitz, Mr. James commented that there is some overlap of multi-modal scoring with congestion and safety.

Ms. Lacer inquired about the opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of this revision after the first round of application submissions or later. Mr. James responded that there is no formal trial and evaluation. However, he anticipated that the average point score will be higher or, if not, a sign that the new categories are not more effective.

c. 2022 Strategic Plan Implementation

Mr. Kozlosky said that last year, the MPO Board worked through the development of a strategic business plan, which it adopted in January. He noted that as a follow up, staff recommends an implementation plan be considered and discussed at the beginning of each calendar year starting with 2022. He gave an overview of the 2022 strategic plan focus areas and action steps as follows:

Focus Area: Safety

- Adopt performance measures and create a dashboard on the WMPO website

- Implement the Traffic Separation Study (NCDOT Rail Division): Provide design review to assure compliance with adopted plans
- Support members' applications for the Vision Zero and the Safe Streets for All People programs

Focus Area: Multi-modal

- Support completion of the Wilmington Multi-modal Center Phase 1B and provide the MPO Board with frequent updates regarding construction of the facility that will become dedicated office space for the MPO.
- Encourage and provide funding for walking, biking, public transportation, and ferry systems through the MPO's Direct Attributable program.

Focus Area: Regional

- Educate the MPO Board and member jurisdictions regarding the services that the MPO provides: Implement a comprehensive Direct Attributable funding and project management training program as well as the annual Board training and updates on services that the MPO provides to its members.
- Work collaboratively with members to complete the ongoing plans: Complete the Navassa Collector Street Plan and Kure Beach Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, and initiate development of the Pender County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, and the MPO's 2050 Plan.

Focus Area: Economic Development

- Support the Ports' efforts to expand and enhance operations by supporting its grant applications, providing funding for design of the north gate improvements, and advocating priorities including South Front Street widening, the rail realignment, US 74 upgrades, and the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge replacement.

Focus Area: Organized and Cohesive Voice

- Develop and adopt the legislative agenda for 2022, which the MPO Board will consider at its April meeting.

Focus Area: Organizational and Operational Effectiveness

- Enhance the use of technology to improve operations: Implement a work from home flexible schedule policy, which suits the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program and Cape Fear 2020 change in Motion Plan
- Complete a compensation study to assure that the MPO is competitive with members and other MPOs around the state
- Continue regular updates from transportation leaders in the region

Ms. Ayers expressed appreciation for the economic development focus in support of the Ports. She noted that some big warehouse development opportunities are also underway at the Port.

5) Updates

a. Wilmington Urban Area MPO

Mr. Kozlosky added that the statewide MPO conference will be held next week, April 20-22, at the Wilmington Convention Center. He noted that about 500 attendees are registered. He expressed appreciation to those who have agreed to moderate sessions. He acknowledged the hard work of staff on the conference and encouraged committee members to attend the informative technical

sessions and mobile tours highlighting projects in the region. He added that previous NCAMPO conferences were held in Wilmington in 2008 and 2014.

b. Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority

Ms. D'Itri announced that Wave Transit was awarded NCPTA's Transit System of the Year at the conference in Charlotte.

c. NCDOT Division

Ms. Cox said that she is representing Division 3 as the new Planning Engineer. She noted that although the project updates in the agenda packet as the same as last month, she has received access to provide better information for the WMPO Board meeting and the next TCC meeting. She encouraged members to contact her with any questions.

d. NCDOT Transportation Planning Division

Ms. Sarder said that NCDOT started work in March on the next Travel Demand Model (2050) for the upcoming Wilmington MPO Metropolitan Transportation Plan. She noted that NCDOT will be working with the MPO and member jurisdictions for socio-economic data verification in the coming weeks.

Ms. Lorenzo said that the MPO had released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for bike share vendors. She noted that the call closed on Monday afternoon and the city received three proposals. She added that she would send an e-mail later today requesting three volunteers to serve on a bike share selection committee to review and score the proposals based on provided criteria, decide on in-person interviews and a select a recommended vendor.

6) Announcements

a. Wilmington MPO Bike/Pedestrian Committee- April 12th

b. Next TCC meeting- May 11th

7) Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Ayers made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Kirkland, and meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. by roll call as follows:

Ayes: Gloria Abbotts, Stephanie Ayers, Helen Bunch, Adrienne Cox, Brianna D'Itri, Patrick Flanagan, Adrienne Harrington, Mike Kozlosky, Vanessa Lacer, Rachel LaCoe, Abby Lorenzo, Mandy Sanders, Nazia Sarder and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Claudia Bray, Granseur Dick, Matt Kirkland and Robert O'Quinn.

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