



**MPO Board Meeting Minutes**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Floor Training Conference Room, 320 Chestnut Street, Wilmington, N.C.**  
**Wednesday, May 25, 2022**

**Members Present (in-person)**

Neil Anderson, City of Wilmington  
Lynn Barbee, Town of Carolina Beach  
Jonathan Barfield, Jr., New Hanover County  
Brenda Bozeman, Town of Leland  
Mike Forte, Brunswick County  
Deb Hays, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority  
David Piepmeyer, Chair, Pender County  
Luke Waddell, City of Wilmington

**Others Present (in-person)**

Adrienne Cox, NCDOT  
Scott A. James, WMPO  
Nikki Cooper, WMPO General Counsel  
Chad Kimes, NCDOT  
Mike Kozlosky, WMPO  
Abby Lorenzo, WMPO  
Denis McGarry  
Matt Nichols, WMPO General Counsel  
Greer Shivers, WMPO  
Emma Stogner, WMPO

**Members Present (remotely)**

Mike Allen, Town of Belville  
John Ellen, Town of Kure Beach  
Hank Miller, Vice Chair, Town of Wrightsville Beach  
Eulis Willis, Town of Navassa

**Others Present (remotely)**

Veronica Carter, Town of Leland  
Patrick Flanagan, COG, RPO  
Cheryl Hannah, HDR  
Lauren Haviland, NCDOT  
Jamar Johnson, WMPO  
Deb LeCompte, Town of Carolina Beach  
Rachel McIntyre, WMPO  
Marie Parker, Wave Transit  
Amy Passaretti, Port City Daily  
R Royster  
Nazia Sarder, NCDOT  
Tony Sumpter, NCDOT-IMD

**a. Call to Order**

Chairman Piepmeyer called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

MPO Executive Director Mike Kozlosky acknowledged the presence of new Board member Luke Waddell, representing the City of Wilmington in place of Charlie Rivenbark, who resigned.

Mr. Kozlosky called the roll, and a quorum was present as follows:

**Present:** Mike Allen, Lynn Barbee, Jonathan Barfield, Brenda Bozeman, John Ellen, Mike Forte, Deb Hays, Hank Miller, David Piepmeyer, Luke Waddell and Eulis Willis. **Absent:** Neil Anderson and Landon Zimmer.

**b. 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.

**c. Approval of Board Members' Excused Absences**

Mr. Kozlosky said that none of the MPO Board members have requested to be excused from this meeting.

**d. Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Barfield made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Ms. Hays seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by roll call as follows:

**Ayes:** Mike Allen, Lynn Barbee, Jonathan Barfield, Brenda Bozeman, John Ellen, Mike Forte, Deb Hays, Hank Miller, David Piepmeyer, Luke Waddell and Eulis Willis. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Neil Anderson and Landon Zimmer.

e. **Public Comment Period**

Mr. Denis McGarry, resident of South Third Street, spoke to the MPO Board regarding the request for stoplights on South Third Street that he made to the MPO Board at its October meeting. He reminded the Board that 55 accidents have occurred along the six-block section of the road this year, and 52 accidents occurred the prior year. Since October, another accident occurred involving a 13-year-old boy from St. Mary's who crossed the street during daylight hours with the pedestrian crossing lights flashing.

Mr. McGarry said that he has collected 670 signatures on a petition requesting stoplights. He noted that NCDOT conducted a study of traffic flow and recommends traffic lights at Orange Street and Ann Street for an estimated cost of \$1.4 million. He commented that NCDOT has added this to its list of projects and the MPO will be asked to add it to its list of projects. He added that funding for the project and the required 20% local match have yet to be identified.

f. **Closed Session**

Chairman Piepmeyer made a motion to enter into a closed session for the purpose of discussing two separate matters.

- i. The first matter is a closed session to discuss personnel matters pursuant to Section 143-318.11 (A) (6) of the General Statutes.
- ii. The second matter is a closed session to discuss with the MPO's attorney matters within the attorney-client privilege pursuant to Section 143-318.11 (A) (3) of the General Statutes.

Mr. Anderson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by roll call as follows:

**Ayes:** Mike Allen, Neil Anderson, Lynn Barbee, Jonathan Barfield, Brenda Bozeman, John Ellen, Mike Forte, Deb Hays, Hank Miller, David Piepmeyer, Luke Waddell and Eulis Willis. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Landon Zimmer.

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Mr. Barfield made a motion to return to open session, seconded by Mr. Anderson, and the motion carried unanimously by roll call as follows:

**Ayes:** Mike Allen, Neil Anderson, Lynn Barbee, Jonathan Barfield, Brenda Bozeman, John Ellen, Mike Forte, Deb Hays, Hank Miller, David Piepmeyer, Luke Waddell and Eulis Willis. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Landon Zimmer.

g. **Consent Agenda**

- a. **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes from April 27, 2022**
- b. **Opening of the 30-day public comment period for 2020-2029 STIP/MPO Amendment #22-4**
- c. **Resolution approving 2020-2029 STIP/MPO Administrative Modification #22-4**
- d. **Resolution approving the 2022 Focus Areas and Action Steps for Implementation of the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan**

Ms. Bozeman made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Items 7a through 7d.

Mr. Barbee seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by roll call as follows:

**Ayes:** Mike Allen, Neil Anderson, Lynn Barbee, Jonathan Barfield, Brenda Bozeman, John Ellen, Mike Forte, Deb Hays, Hank Miller, David Piepmeyer, Luke Waddell and Eulis Willis. **Nays:** None.

**Absent:** Landon Zimmer.

**h. Regular Agenda**

**a. Resolution approving Amendment #1 to the FY 23 Unified Planning Work Program**

MPO Deputy Director Abby Lorenzo explained that Amendment #1 to the FY23 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) includes the continuation of 5304 funds that were incorporated into the MPO's FY22 UPWP. She noted that the funds are part of a contract between the Federal Transit Authority (FTA), Wave Transit, and NCDOT's Integrated Mobility Division (IMD) to be used to develop a zero-emissions vehicles transition plan as well as engineering and design for infrastructure for charging stations. She added that the funds require a 20% local match, which is being provided by the Integrated Mobility Division. She pointed out that there is no additional cost to members and that the workplan for FY23 is being amended to show the pass-through funds.

Mr. Anderson made a motion to approve Amendment #1 to the MPO's FY23 UPWP. Ms. Hays seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by roll call as follows:

**Ayes:** Mike Allen, Neil Anderson, Lynn Barbee, Jonathan Barfield, Brenda Bozeman, John Ellen, Mike Forte, Deb Hays, Hank Miller, David Piepmeyer, Luke Waddell and Eulis Willis. **Nays:** None.

**Absent:** Landon Zimmer.

**i. Discussion**

**a. 2020-2029 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modifications #22-5**

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

**b. Go Coast Committee's Model Policy for Telecommuting and Alternative Work Schedules**

Ms. Lorenzo said that this model policy was developed by the Go Coast Committee over the course of several months in response to a need for navigating a return to the workplace following the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to the pandemic, 25% of MPO area residents reported being able to work from home at least one day a week. By July 2020, the percentage increased to 69%. She noted that many public and private employers lack formal policies for allowing alternative and telecommuting schedules. She explained that the intent of the model policy is to provide a guide for employers seeking to amend or implement a policy. Ms. Lorenzo requested comments from the Board. She noted that a final draft will be brought to the MPO Board for consideration at its next meeting.

**j. Updates**

**a. Wilmington Urban Area MPO**

**b. Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority**

**c. NCDOT Division**

**d. NCDOT Transportation Planning Division**

Mr. Kozlosky acknowledged the presence of the MPO's new GIS Analyst, Greer Shivers. Ms. Shivers expressed appreciation and gave a brief overview of her background.

Mr. Kozlosky displayed an award that was presented at NCDOT's Mobi Award ceremony on May 4<sup>th</sup> to the MPO and the Town of Leland in the Small Urban category for the Old Fayetteville Road Multi-use Path and Resurfacing Project. He noted that the award will be displayed at the MPO offices as well as at the Town of Leland.

Mr. Kimes said that efforts regarding the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement are on track for a presentation to the MPO Board in late July. He noted that the RFI (Request For Information) that was sent out closes tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. He added that NCDOT staff will review submissions next week.

**k. Announcements**

- a. 525 North 4th Street Groundbreaking Ceremony- May 31st**
- b. Wilmington MPO Bike/Pedestrian Committee-June 14th**

Mr. Kozlosky said that the groundbreaking ceremony for 525 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street will be postponed due to some contractual issues that may impact the potential start date. He noted that the City issued a notice to proceed on May 19<sup>th</sup>. He noted that at the pre-construction meeting with the contractor on Thursday, the contractor indicated an anticipated start date of August 15<sup>th</sup>, which conflicts with the City's policy to mobilize within 10 days of the noticed to proceed. Currently, the MPO is working with the City's legal staff and Purchasing Division staff to determine a new start date.

Mr. Kozlosky said that the next Bike/Pedestrian meeting will be June 14<sup>th</sup> and the MPO Board's next meeting will be June 29<sup>th</sup>.

**i. Adjournment**

Mr. Barfield made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Anderson, and the motion carried unanimously by roll call as follows:

**Ayes:** Mike Allen, Neil Anderson, Lynn Barbee, Jonathan Barfield, Brenda Bozeman, John Ellen, Mike Forte, Deb Hays, Hank Miller, David Piepmeyer, Luke Waddell and Eulis Willis. **Nays:** None.

**Absent:** Landon Zimmer.

The meeting adjourned at 4:19 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.**