Wilmington Urban Area MPO
Technical Coordinating Committee
Wednesday, June 15, 2022
Remote Meeting Minutes

Members Present
Stephanie Ayers, NC State Ports Authority
Ashli Barefoot, Town of Leland
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County
Adrienne Cox, NCDOT Division of Highways
Granseur Dick, Wilmington International Airport
Patrick Flanagan, Cape Fear Council of Governments
Jeremy Hardison, Town of Carolina Beach
Adrienne Harrington, Town of Belville
Mike Kozlosky, WMPO
Vanessa Lacer, Pender County
Rachel LaCoe, New Hanover County
Abby Lorenzo, MPO Go Coast Program
Robert O'Quinn, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Marie Parker, Wave Transit
Mandy Sanders, Town of Kure Beach
Nazia Sarder, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch
Denys Vielkanowitz, City of Wilmington

Members Absent
Claudia Bray, Town of Navassa

Others Present
Gerald Carter, TEA
J Dayton
Regina Hopkins, WMPO
Scott A. James, WMPO
Jamar Johnson, WMPO
Sean Kane
Rachel McIntyre, WMPO
Riley Palmer
Amy Passaretti
Emma Stogner, WMPO
Tony Sumter, NCDOT
mwiater

1) **Call to Order**
   Chairman Mike Kozlosky called the remote meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. He took the roll call pursuant to
   N.C.G.S. Section 166A-19.24. A quorum was present, as follows:

   Present: Stephanie Ayers, Ashli Barefoot, Helen Bunch, Adrienne Cox, Granseur Dick, Patrick Flanagan,
   Adrienne Harrington, Mike Kozlosky, Vanessa Lacer, Rachel LaCoe, Abby Lorenzo, Robert O'Quinn, Marie
   Parker, Mandy Sanders and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Absent:** Claudia Bray, Jeremy Hardison and Nazia Sarder.

2) **Approval of the Agenda**
   Ms. Bunch made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Ayers seconded the motion and it
   carried unanimously by roll call, as follows:

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

3) **Presentation**
   a. **Kure Beach Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan – Abby Lorenzo, WMPO**
      Mr. Kozlosky noted that the resolution adopting Kure Beach Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan has been
      included in the consent agenda for consideration.

      Ms. Lorenzo gave an overview of Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan that was developed during the past fiscal
      year by the Town of Kure Beach in cooperation with the MPO and the consultant, Alta. She noted that
      the Town had requested the plan in response to the MPO's call for local transportation planning
      needs in preparation for the MPO's FY22 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Although Kure
      Beach's Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee had completed a walking audit report in 2020, the

committee desired a formal plan that would consider the recommendations and policies of existing regional planning documents as well as the findings of the 2020 report, to identify project needs.

Ms. Lorenzo said that the plan was developed with critical stakeholder input from elected officials, other staff from the Town of Kure Beach, Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point (MOTSU) and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). The planning activity centered around a three-day charette that was held in late fall 2021, which consisted of a site walk, an initial public meeting attended by approximately 100 citizens of Kure Beach, stakeholder meetings, and an additional public meeting discussing the findings of the consultant team. Afterwards, a public survey was made available online through January for additional public input and response to the preliminary recommendations identified during the charette activity, which yielded 444 responses.

Ms. Lorenzo said that project study recommendations with cutsheet descriptions, renderings and cost estimates included the following:

   i. K Avenue Crossing Improvements
   ii. Short Island Greenway Connection
   iii. Island Greenway Extension to Town Hall (K Avenue)
   iv. Island Greenway Extension to Fort Fisher Boulevard
   v. Bicycle Lane Crossing Improvements (along Fort Fisher Boulevard)
   vi. Westside Sound Bike Route
   vii. Feasibility Study for Sidewalks (along Fort Fisher Boulevard)
   viii. Fort Fisher (US 421) Boulevard Crossing Improvements
   ix. Fort Fisher Boulevard Side Path
   x. Boardwalk Widening
   xi. NC State Bike Route 3

Ms. Lorenzo noted that the top three projects were the Island Greenway Extension to Town Hall, K Avenue Cross Improvements, and the Fort Fisher Boulevard Side Path from East Avenue to Fort Fisher. She noted that design guideline resources and potential funding resources for the town are included in the plan. She added that the Kure Beach Town Council adopted the plan at its May 21st meeting, and that the plan will be presented to the MPO Board for consideration at its next meeting.

4) **Consent Agenda**
   a. **Approval of TCC Meeting Minutes- May 11, 2022**
   b. **Resolution approving 2020-2029 STIP/MPO Amendments #22-3 and #22-4**
   c. **Resolution approving 2020-2029 STIP/MPO Administrative Modification #22-5**
   d. **Resolution requesting Administrative Modifications to the 2020-2029 State/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs for Public Transportation Projects**
   e. **Resolution approving the Go Coast Committee's model policy for Telecommuting and Alternative Work Schedules**
   f. **Resolution supporting the Mobility for Everyone, Everywhere in North Carolina (MEE NC) grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (RURAL)**
   g. **Resolution approving the Scoring Criteria and Competitive Process for the Surface Transportation Block Grant-Direct Attributable, Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Direct Attributable, and Carbon Reduction Programs**
   h. **Resolution adopting the Town of Kure Beach Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan**

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

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

5)   Regular Agenda

a.   Resolution requesting the North Carolina Department of Transportation Explore Extending Interstate 685 from Dunn to Wilmington in North Carolina
Ms. Kozlosky said that an effort is underway in the central part of the state to designate US-421 between I-85 and I-95 as Interstate 685, which was included in the Infrastructure Bill that Congress signed as a "high priority" corridor. He noted that this will allow the Department of Transportation to request future interstate designation on this section of the highway through the Federal Highway Administration as well as the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). He noted that US-421 extends from Dunn to Wilmington.
Mr. Kozlosky said that this future interstate proposal would connect larger population centers, enhance economic development opportunities, provide an important connection to the port, as well as improve access to Sunny Point, and provide an approved hurricane evacuation route. He added that the MPO has consulted with Division 3, which is in support of this request.

Mr. Vielkanowitz questioned the numbering convention. He noted that even numbered routes are typically loops. Mr. Kozlosky responded that if this item passes, the MPO would work with other RPOs and MPOs in the relevant area and submit the request to the Department.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Ayers, Mr. Kozlosky said that the only information regarding the source of this request came from the NC Carolina Core. He noted that an effort was underway in the Piedmont region to provide a connection between I-85 and I-95. He commented that another interstate to Wilmington would be a positive thing.

Mr. Dick made a motion to request that NCDOT explore extending I-685. Mr. Kozlosky seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by roll call as follows:

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

6)   Discussion

a.   2020-2029 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modifications #22-6
Mr. Kozlosky said that this item is for information purposes only and will be brought back for consideration by the TCC at its next meeting.

b.   Initial Draft 2024-2033 State/MPO Transportation Improvement Program
Ms. Cox said that the initial draft of the 2024-2033 State/MPO Transportation Improvement Program (STIP/MTIP) is also known as Prioritization 6.0 (P6.0). She gave an overview of the format changes and the prioritization status. She noted that costs of projects have increased significantly and the

previous STIP projects are overbudget by $8 billion (previously by $12 billion). She added that the $3.8 billion from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) helped reduce the overage and that an inflation factor has been added to cost estimates.

Ms. Cox said that Statewide Mobility projects in the southeast do not compete as strongly as more congested cities such as Raleigh and Charlotte. Although the southeast has projects in Statewide funding, it's a smaller percentage than across the state and some of those projects have fallen out of the STIP. She added that Region B is almost $400 million over budget in programming, and Division 3 is $77 million in programming.

Ms. Cox said that the Board of Transportation approved recommendations for process improvements, which came from the review of P6.0, to improve scoring projects, identifying information used for the scoring, and formatting for each iteration. She noted that the process for P7.0 will begin in the fall, and that the projects that drop out of P6.0 will end up in P7.0.

Ms. Cox explained that projects from P3.0, P4.0 and P5.0 that have run out of money and have fallen out of the STIP have become eligible for swapping. These projects are on a separate list and will be available to swap within individual buckets or 10% of the cost so as not to affect the overall budget for the entire program. She pointed out that 80% of projects are still funded, and that the remainder will need to be moved around or set up for P7.0.

Ms. Cox pointed out that the STIP is now available in Excel format that can be more easily sorted. She commented that the new format gives greater flexibility for reviewing priorities. She said that the swap requests will need to be submitted by September 30th. She noted that a revised draft will be provided in December, followed by a public involvement period, and the final document will be considered for adoption in 2023.

Mr. Kozlosky pointed out that thresholds and criteria exist for swapping projects. He noted that projects should be swapped within a region and have the cooperation and consensus of elected officials of the relevant jurisdictions. Ms. Cox explained that two projects of lesser priority might be swapped with one project of greater priority if the projects are of equal cost or within 10% of the cost. She requested that swaps be submitted in writing.

Mr. Kozlosky gave an overview of impacts to the MPO region resulting from the release of the initial draft of the 2024-2033 STIP. He noted that he sent out an updated presentation yesterday afternoon. As a result of the programming exercise, 11 projects became unfunded, nine moved to preliminary engineering (PE) only (no money in the STIP for construction, right-of-way, utilities), seven had schedule changes, and 17 remain unchanged.

Projects that are unfunded include the following:

    i.   South Front Street Widening from the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge to Burnett Boulevard (request from NC State Ports to swap this project)
    ii. Improvements on College Road
    iii. Intersection Improvement on Greenville Loop, Greenville Avenue, and Oleander Drive
    iv. Additional Ferry
    v.   Roundabout at Castle Hayne Road and 23 Street
    vi. Projects at Wilmington International Airport

Projects in PE only include the following:

    i. Flyover at the Isabella Holmes Bridge and US-421
    ii. Improvements to Carolina Beach Road between Burnett Boulevard and Shipyard Boulevard (request from NC State Ports to swap this project)
    iii. Intersection improvements to Carolina Beach Road and Shipyard Boulevard
    iv. Upgrades to Carolina Beach Road in the southern part of the county
    v. Improvements to College Road and Market Street
    vi. Taxiway at ILM

Projects with schedule changes include the following:

    i. Interchange at Kerr Avenue and MLK Boulevard, accelerated by two years to 2027
    ii. Kerr Avenue Extension between Peachtree and Oleander Drive, rescheduled for 2030 (may depend on the intersection of College Road and Oleander Drive)
    iii. Market Street Access Management, B Section (close to downtown), rescheduled ROW to 2027 with same construction schedule.
    iv. Independence Boulevard Extension, from Randall Parkway to the MLK Parkway, rescheduled ROW in 2027, construction in 2029
    v. Traffic Signal System, accelerated construction to 2030
    vi. Interchange at Eastwood and Military Cutoff Road, delayed one year for construction in 2026
    vii. Aviation, extension of runway, delayed of six years to 2028 (request by NCDOT Aviation Division and ILM to swap with AV-5885 rehabilitation project)

Mr. Kozlosky said that of the projects that are unchanged, many are either under construction, ready to begin construction or have construction scheduled to begin within the next few years. Projects with unchanged schedules include the Gordon Road Widening Project, the Interchange of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and College Road, the next phase of the Hampstead Bypass (210 to the Wilmington Bypass), and the superstreet on US 17 between Washington Acres and Vista Drive.

Mr. Kozlosky reminded committee members that the MPO has until September 30th to submit project swaps and that the Department anticipates the release of the draft STIP in December with approval of the final STIP in the Summer of 2023. He asked that members bring ideas about swaps for discussion at the July and August meetings to approve swap submissions at the September meeting.

Following a brief question/answer and discussion period, Mr. Kozlosky pointed out that that he asked the Department to break out project costs for the Interchange at Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard, Eastwood Road and Market Street (U-5880) from the Market Street Access Management Project (U-4209C). He reminded committee members that the MPO Board adopted a list of its top-five funded projects list: Hampstead Bypass, Independence Boulevard Extension, Interchanges at Kerr Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Market Street, Eastwood Road and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Military Cutoff Road and Eastwood Road. During the development of the MPO's Legislative Agenda, the Board also included the Carolina Beach Road Access Management Improvements and the Widening of South Front Street.

7) **Updates**
    a. **Wilmington Urban Area MPO**
        Mr. Kozlosky said that the updates are in the agenda packet.

   b. **Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority**
   Ms. Parker reminded committee members that new bus service starts July 3rd with increased frequency of the 108, 201, and 205 bus routes. She noted that extended trolley service will be offered until 8:00 p.m. Regarding micro-transit, the Town of Carolina Beach will now have virtual stops at all public access points as well as direct access to the boardwalk. In addition, tomorrow is National Dump the Pump Day. She encouraged members to use public transportation or alternative transportation modes.

   c. **NCDOT Division**

   d. **NCDOT Transportation Planning Division**

8) **Announcements**
   a. **Wilmington MPO Bike/Pedestrian Committee – August 9th**
   b. **Next TCC meeting- July 13th**

9) **Adjournment**
   There being no further business, Ms. Lorenzo made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Dick, and meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m. by roll call as follows:

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

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