



**MPO Board Meeting Minutes**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Floor Training Conference Room, 320 Chestnut Street, Wilmington, N.C.**  
**Wednesday, June 29, 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  
John Ellen, Town of Kure Beach  
Deb Hays, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority  
Hank Miller, Vice Chair, Town of Wrightsville Beach  
David Piepmeyer, Chair, Pender County  
Luke Waddell, City of Wilmington  
Frank Williams, Brunswick County

**Others Present (in-person)**

Adam Caldwell, Tom Tillis' Office  
Adrienne Cox, NCDOT  
Natalie English, Wilmington Chamber of Commerce  
Scott A. James, WMPO  
Chad Kimes, NCDOT  
Andy Koeppel  
Mike Kozlosky, WMPO  
Abby Lorenzo, WMPO  
Tyler Newman, BASE  
Jason Reyes, Alta  
Greer Shivers, WMPO  
Emma Stogner, WMPO

**Members Present (remotely)**

Mike Allen, Town of Belville

**Others Present (remotely)**

Stephanie Ayers, NC State Ports Authority  
Amna Cameron, NCDOT  
Veronica Carter, Town of Leland  
Nick Craig  
Jon Dodson, Wave Transit  
Mike Forte, Brunswick County  
Cheryl Hannah, HDR  
Regina Hopkins, WMPO  
Grayson Jackson  
B Johnson  
Bill Kincannon, HDR  
Deb LeCompte, Town of Carolina Beach  
Jody Lewis, VHB Engineering  
Rachel McIntyre, WMPO  
Behshad Norowzi, NCDOT  
Tony Sumter, NCDOT-IMD  
Strat

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Piepmeyer called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. He called the roll, and a quorum was present as follows:

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

**2. 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.

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

Mr. Kozlosky said that no MPO Board members have requested to be excused.

**4. Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Ellen made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by roll call as follows:

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

**5. Public Comment Period**

Mr. Andy Koeppel spoke to the MPO Board in opposition to extending Interstate 685 to Wilmington. He pointed out that the extension would run parallel to the I-40 corridor and the funds might be better used for the interstate between Wilmington and Charlotte. He noted that there is 35-mile missing link between the Monroe Expressway and the Rockingham/Hamlet Bypass, and that ocean freight goes to Charlotte via Charleston instead. He suggested that another project might be an interstate link between Florence, SC, where I-20 terminates, and Wilmington, which would facilitate interstate travel to Atlanta.

**6. Presentation**

**a. TET Coalition/NCDOT Mileage-Based User Fee Pilot for Elected Officials- Amna Cameron, NCDOT**

NCDOT Deputy Director of Strategic Initiatives and Program Support Amna Cameron gave a brief presentation regarding a new pilot program, Mileage-Based User Fee (MBUF), to capture data that would support transportation operations. She said that elected officials can participate anonymously by installing a device in their on-board diagnostics (OBD) port that can capture gas tax share, and by completing an entry and exit survey about their confidence in the data and privacy. She noted that the IIJA, the latest federal reauthorization bill, includes the federal pilot, that Utah and Oregon have existing pilots, and that a third state, Virginia, will implement one on Friday. The end of July is the deadline to sign up to participate in the pilot program, which will run through the end of October.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Anderson, Ms. Cameron said that the mileage rate is \$0.016 per mile.

Mr. Barfield said that the state is in the process of developing a clean transportation plan, for which he is serving on the Vehicle Miles Traveled Subcommittee. He inquired if the pilot will be incorporated. Ms. Cameron said that it is being taken in partnership and will raise awareness about miles drive.

Mr. Barfield expressed concerns regarding paying the MBUF in a lump sum. Ms. Cameron speculated that it might be more like a toll.

Ms. Cameron said that all MPO Board members, spouses and children are welcome to participate. She noted that the tool includes notification about vehicles leaving the county.

Mr. Kozlosky said that the information is included in the packet and that staff will email it as well.

Ms. Cameron noted that the MBUF will not be functional until nationalized.

**b. Town of Kure Beach Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan- Jason Reyes, Alta Planning + Design**

Alta Planning + Design Senior Planning Associate Jason Reyes gave a presentation on the Town of Kure Beach Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. He said the Town and the MPO started working on the plan last fall with support from the Town's Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee, Town Council and other stakeholders. Development of the plan began with a week-long charette to tour the town

with town officials and learn about walking and biking, quality of life and safety issues and opportunities. Eighty people attended the first workshop that followed where feedback was collected on an Island Greenway Extension connecting Carolina Beach with Fort Fisher, crossings on Fort Fisher Boulevard and K Avenue, and other short greenway extensions.

Mr. Reyes said that the walking audit with the Town's Bike and Pedestrian Committee and the MPO's 2045 Plan informed the plan's development. About 450 people participated in the process, which also included representatives from MOTSU, NCDOT and other stakeholders. He added that the charette was augmented with an online map and comment component as well as a survey. Survey responses totaled 444 and identified the Island Greenway Extension from Town Hall to K Avenue as the top priority followed by K Avenue crossing Improvements, and continuing the extension south in the form of a side path on Fort Fisher Boulevard. He commented that it was a challenge to balance the needs of those living near the greenway with other residents of the Town, and mitigation recommendations included a budget for landscaping and improving any drainage issues.

Mr. Reyes gave an overview of other projects such as improved crosswalks at beach accesses, and re-routing cyclists to lower volume and lower speed parallel route where bike lanes or paths are not possible. He noted that that the Town requested to improve the boardwalk access and widening was recommended. He added that regarding funding, a potential partner would be the East Coast Greenway that has received funds to improve trails across North Carolina. He added that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan was adopted recently by the Town.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Barfield, Mr. Reyes said the Island Greenway Extension is about two miles in length. He answered Mr. Barbee's inquiry speculating that the lease with MOTSU for the greenway would be the same as Carolina Beach's and added that greenway signage is recommended to be consistent with Carolina Beach's for continuity.

Mr. Kozlosky said there is a resolution on the Consent Agenda for the Board to consider adopting this plan.

Mr. Ellen said that regarding the boardwalk, CAMA is preparing to change again development and high tide lines in August. He noted that Town Council is requesting a waiver for the boardwalk.

Chairman Piepmeyer expressed appreciation to Mr. Reyes.

## **7. Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes from May 25, 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 FY 23 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**

Mr. Barfield made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Items 7a through 7h. 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, Deb Hays, Hank Miller, David Piepmeyer, Luke Waddell, Frank Williams and Landon Zimmer. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Eulis Willis.

**8. Regular Agenda**

**a. Resolution requesting the North Carolina Department of Transportation Explore Extending Interstate 685 from Dunn to Wilmington in North Carolina**

Mr. Kozlosky said there is interest in the central part of the state to have US 421 designated as Interstate I-685. He noted that the language is included in Infrastructure bill that lists US 421 at the interchange at I-85 in Greensboro to I-95 in Dunn as a high priority corridor. He added that this will allow NCDOT to request future interstate designation from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as well as AASHTO. He added that there was a question as why not extend it to Wilmington. He noted that the resolution identifies the benefits that would be received from the proposed extension.

Chairman Piepmeyer inquired how much it would cost to raise it to interstate standards. That cost was not available.

Mr. Williams expressed concerns that this item would detract from the designation of 74/76 as an interstate. Mr. Kozlosky said that the intent is to enhance the area, provide improved access, connect larger populations, connect military installations, and provide an additional evacuation route. He pointed out that I-685 is dissimilar from 74/76, which is a western route, and is proposed to extend to Myrtle Beach. Mr. Williams pointed out that there is an existing I-74 that goes in another direction and might need to be addressed at a future date.

Further discussion continued. Mr. Anderson pointed out that the I-685 extension would run parallel to I-40 and it might be better to connect to it. Mr. Barfield commented that water and sewer has been run along the US 421 corridor and anything that would attract future businesses that pays good wages is desired. Chairman Piepmeyer noted that US 421 was the last open corridor into Wilmington after Hurricane Florence.

Vice Chair Miller made a motion to request NCDOT explore extending Interstate 685 to Wilmington. Mr. Ellen 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, Deb Hays, Hank Miller, David Piepmeyer, Luke Waddell, Frank Williams and Landon Zimmer. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Eulis Willis.

Mr. Williams requested that if a letter is sent it also mention the importance of the I-74 corridor. A consensus of the board agreed.

**9. Discussion**

**a. 2020-2029 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modifications #22-6**

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

**b. Initial Draft 2024-2033 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)**

NCDOT Division 3 Engineer Chad Kimes gave an overview of the draft 2024-2033 STIP. He noted that cash balances are at a solid \$2.4 billion today. He noted that cost increases were noticed for the 10-year STIP and new estimates were done starting two years ago for the 1,100 projects across the state. The STIP was found to total \$24 to \$26 billion, over programmed by \$12 billion. He added that the federal infrastructure bill and some other revenue provided \$3.8 billion to offset the overage, decreasing it to \$8 billion, which includes adjustments for inflation.

Mr. Kimes said that funding pots relevant to the MPO were impacted. Statewide funds are overprogrammed by \$3.3 billion, Region B overprogrammed by \$391 million, and Division 3 is under programmed. He noted that the Board of Transportation approved measures not to disturb upcoming projects ready to go to construction or right-of-way funded in the first three years through 2026. With the remaining funds, it was decided to add back into the STIP for all three buckets projects starting with the highest ranked ones from Prioritization 3.0 (2013) continuing to the next prioritization and so on, until no money remains. He added that projects began falling out of the STIP in Prioritization 5.0., and any projects that fall out of the STIP will be put into Prioritization 7.0.

Mr. Kimes said that between now and September 30th, project swaps will be considered if they are within 10% of project costs, are within the same boundaries, and have complete coordination between NCDOT and the MPO Board. He added that the draft 2024-2033 STIP is now a more user-friendly format, easier for sorting. He added that the first five years are the only years that are truly committed, and that the last five years allow some money for preliminary engineering (PE) and will still have to compete. Next steps are to discuss potential swaps, submit swaps by September 30th, hold public involvement through the first of the year, and to consider the final draft for adoption by this time next year.

Ms. Kozlosky said that the Department released the initial draft on April 25, 2022. He explained the MPO had 11 projects that moved to unfunded status, nine projects to Preliminary Engineering (PE) only, seven projects with schedule changes, and 17 projects that remain unchanged. He pointed out that in 2020 the Board adopted its five top funded priorities and added two more projects while developing its 2022 legislative agenda, as follows:

- i. Hamstead Bypass
- ii. Independence Boulevard Extension
- iii. Interchange at Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway and Kerr Avenue
- iv. Interchange at Market Street, Eastwood Street, and MLK
- v. Interchange at Military Cutoff Road and Eastwood Road
- vi. South Front Street Widening
- vii. Access Management along Carolina Beach Road

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Anderson, Mr. Kozlosky clarified that the Board will consider these when going through Prioritization 7.0. He gave a more detailed overview of the changes as follows:

Unfunded projects:

- i. South Front Street
- ii. College Road
- iii. Greenville Loop Road
- iv. Ferry

- v. Castle Hayne Road Widening
- vi. Roundabout at 23 Street
- vii. Several projects at ILM (rehab of runway AV-5885. Note: NCDOT Aviation Division and ILM have requested to swap it with AV-5730)

PE only: Holmes Bridge and US 421; several projects along Carolina Beach Road and South College Road; and U-4902C (Market Street), which includes U-5880 (SPUI Interchange at Market Street, Eastwood Street, and MLK). Note: Mr. Kozlosky asked for the cost of the interchange to be broken out from the access management improvements.

Schedule changes: Interchange at MLK and Kerr Avenue (accelerated 2 years to FY27; originally FY29). Kerr Avenue Extension from Peachtree to Oleander (delayed construction 1 year to FY30). U-4902B Market Street Access Management Improvements, College Road to the railroad tracks (right-of-way delayed 5 years, same construction to start in FY29). Independence Boulevard Extension (right-of-way delayed 3 years, construction delayed 1 year to FY29). City's Traffic Signal Systems (same right-of-way in FY28, construction delayed to FY30). Interchange at Military Cutoff Road and Eastwood Road (right-of-way in FY23, construction delayed 1 year to FY26). Runway Extension request to swap (construction in FY28).

Mr. Kozlosky said that many of the projects that have remained unchanged include those currently under construction or scheduled for construction in FY23 or FY24. He noted that the Gordon Road Widening remains programed in FY24. He added that the Drysdale Drive Extension is to be awarded this week.

Ms. Hays inquired about the possibility of stalling the Military Cutoff Road and Eastwood Road Interchange after the Drysdale Drive Extension (U-5710A) is completed. Mr. Kimes responded that it's still on the books, but there will be time to assess it. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Anderson, Mr. Kimes said that NCDOT broke out U-5710A in order to build the interchange.

Mr. Kozlosky said that the first interchanges programed now will be the MLK and College Road interchange, which will be constructed at the same time as the Military Cutoff-Eastwood Road Interchange, followed one year later by the MLK and Kerr Avenue Interchange.

In response to an inquiry by Chairman Piepmeyer, Mr. Kimes said the Military Cutoff Extension overpass contract completion date is spring of 2023 or sooner.

Mr. Kozlosky said that several projects at ILM remain unchanged as well as the Hampstead Bypass and the access management improvements on US 17 through Hampstead. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Anderson, Mr. Kozlosky said that the section of Market Street from Marsh Oaks Drive to Middle Sound is currently under construction. He added that project U-4902C, Station to Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway, was left out (for PE only) and U-4902B, Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway to railroad tracks, is funded for construction in FY29. He pointed out that there will be a gap, a possible project swap for the Board to consider. He noted that some median projects are being built by other projects.

Mr. Kozlosky reiterated that the MPO has until September 30th to submit project swaps. He noted that discussion will be held regarding possible swap scenarios at the Board's next meeting. He added that more information will be brought back to the Board in August and the Board will consider approving project swaps at its September meeting.

Mr. Barfield requested recommendations regarding project swaps. Mr. Kozlosky said that more information will be provided. He reminded the Board that close coordination with the Department of Transportation will be necessary. He pointed out that the Kerr Avenue Extension might be considered for swapping due to the project being in the vicinity of the intersection of College Road/Oleander Drive.

Mr. Williams requested that a list of swaps be sent to Board members separately as well as staff's recommendations in preparation for next month's discussion. Mr. Kozlosky responded that the list and today's presentation will be forwarded.

Mr. Kimes encouraged the Board to consider its priorities. He pointed out that several smaller projects could add up to one of the priorities desired for swapping. A brief discussion was held regarding project gaps. Mr. Kimes advised against them.

Chairman Piepmeyer expressed appreciation.

#### **10. Updates**

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

Mr. Kozlosky said the updates are included in the agenda packet and expressed appreciation to the Board.

Mr. Kimes reminded board members that a presentation on the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge is scheduled at the Board's July meeting.

Mr. Barfield announced that New Hanover County has kicked off its Transit and Trails education program related to the ¼-cent sales tax referendum to be considered by voters in November.

#### **11. Announcements**

- a. **Wilmington MPO Bike/Pedestrian Committee-August 9<sup>th</sup>**
- b. **Next MPO Board Meeting – July 27th**

#### **12. Adjournment**

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 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.**