

**Wilmington Urban Area MPO
Technical Coordinating Committee
Wednesday, September 14, 2022
Remote Meeting Minutes**

Members Present

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

Others Present

Thomas Bradshaw, City of Wilmington
Cheryl Hannah, HDR
Scott A. James, WMPO
Jamar Johnson, WMPO
Bill Kincannon, HDR
Rachel McIntyre, WMPO
Seth Poole, Stantec
Greer Shivers, WMPO
Emma Stogner, WMPO
Tony Sumpter, NCDOT-IMD
Kellis Vitallis
Athina Williams, Town of Belville

Members Absent

Michelyn Alston, Town of Navassa
Adrienne Cox, NCDOT Division of Highways
Granseur Dick, Wilmington International Airport
Vanessa Lacer, Pender County
Mandy Sanders, Town of Kure Beach

1) Call to Order

Vice Chair Nazia Sarder turned the remote meeting over to MPO Deputy Director Abby Lorenzo. Ms. Lorenzo called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and called the roll. A quorum was present, as follows:

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

2) Approval of the Agenda

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

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

3) **Consent Agenda**

a. **Approval of TCC Meeting Minutes- August 17 2022**

b. **Resolution approving 2020-2029 STIP/MPO Administrative Modification #22-8**

Ms. Ayers made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items 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, Patrick Flanagan, Jeremy Hardison, Adrienne Harrington, Mike Kozlosky, Rachel LaCoe, Abby Lorenzo, Robert O’Quinn, Marie Parker, Nazia Sarder and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Michelyn Alston, Helen Bunch, Adrienne Cox, Granseur Dick, Vanessa Lacer and Mandy Sanders.

4) **Regular Agenda**

a. **Resolution Supporting the Allocation of Additional Direct Attributable Funds to the Town of Belville for the Belville Elementary Multi-use Path (EB-6026) Project**

Ms. Lorenzo said that this item is a request from the Town of Belville for additional funds for the Belville Elementary Multi-use Path Project. She noted that based on the design and the probable cost, there is a shortfall in the amount of \$344,866. She added that the town requests an additional \$275,892.80 in State Transportation Block Grant Program – Direct Attributable (STBGP-DA) funds from the WMPO, and the town is committed to the 20% match for the funds.

Ms. Harrington made a motion to support the allocation of additional DA funds to the Town of Belville. Ms. Bunch seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by roll call as follows:

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

b. **Resolution supporting the Town of Leland’s application for the USDOT’s Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program**

Ms. Lorenzo said that the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program is a new program in the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) that was signed into law by President Biden. She noted that the purpose of the grant is to reconnect communities previously divided by transportation infrastructure barriers. She added that there is \$1 billion over the next five years to be awarded in both planning grants, which is what the Town of Leland is applying for, as well as capital construction activity grants. She said that eligible facilities for these grants include highways with high speeds, grade separation, and other barrier type transportation features.

Ms. Barefoot made a motion to support the Town of Leland’s application for USDOT’s Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program. Mr. Kozlosky seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by roll call as follows:

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

5) Discussion

a. 2020-2029 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modifications #22-9

Ms. Lorenzo said that this item is for information purposes only.

b. Revised Draft 2024-2033 State Transportation Improvement Program

Ms. Lorenzo reminded committee members that in June, staff gave a presentation updating the TCC on the proposed draft 2024-2033 State/MPO Transportation Improvement Program (STIP/MTIP), which included the removal of several projects within the MPO region that are currently included in the adopted STIP. After the presentation was given, the North Carolina budget passed, including \$5 billion to \$6 billion in sales tax revenue associated with transportation purchases that will be flexed to the Department of Transportation over the next 10 years. This amount significantly reduces the deficit that was anticipated for the draft 2024-2033 STIP. Therefore, a revised draft STIP was released based on updated anticipated revenues, which will be distributed along with today's presentation to committee members. She gave an overview of the project updates, as follows:

- **Unfunded Projects, 8 total**

- Several taxiway improvements at Wilmington International Airport (ILM)
- Widening of NC-133 Castle Hayne Road from Division Drive to I-140 (U-5863)
- Access management, travel time improvements on College Road from Shipyard Boulevard to Carolina Beach Road (U-5702B)
- Greenville Loop and Greenville Avenue intersection improvement at Oleander Drive (U-6128)
- Additional ferry vessel for the Southport-Fort Fisher Crossing (F-5705)

- **Projects in Preliminary Engineering (PE), 4 total**

- Upgrading of College Road from Gordon Road to New Centre Drive (U-5881)
- Intersection improvements at College Road and Oleander Drive (U-5704)
- Widening South Front Street from the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge to Burnett Boulevard (U-5734)
- Expanding the aviation apron at ILM (AV-5795)

- **Schedule Changes to Projects, 13 total**

- Flyover interchange at US-421 and the Isabel Holmes Bridge (U-5731) – Right-of-way and utilities (R/U) delayed two years to FY26
- Upgrades to Carolina Beach Boulevard (US 421) from Burnett Boulevard to Shipyard Boulevard (U-5729REG) – R/U delayed five years to FY27
- Improvements at the interchange of Carolina Beach Boulevard and Shipyard Boulevard (U-5729SW) – R/U delayed five years to FY27
- Widening of South College Road to Sanders Road and improvements to the intersection of Carolina Beach Road and South College Road (U-5790) – R/U accelerated by two years, and construction by one year
- Access management, travel time improvements on College Road from New Centre Drive to Shipyard Boulevard (U-5702A) – R/U delayed four years to FY28
- Access management, travel time improvements on Market Street between Station Road and just north of College Road (U-4902C) – R/U delayed five years to FY27
- Interchange at Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (MLK) and Kerr Avenue (U-3338C) – construction accelerated three years to FY26
- Extension of Kerr Avenue to Oleander Drive (U-6201) – construction accelerated from post or future year to FY30

- Another segment of access management improvements on Market Street (U-4902B) – R/U delayed five years
- Independence Boulevard Extension (U-4434) – R/U delayed two years to FY26
- Wilmington City-wide signal system upgrade (U-6199) – construction accelerated from post year or future year to FY30
- Modernization of NC-133 from US 17/74/76 to Old River Road in Belville (U-5914) – construction delayed one year to FY23
- Conversion of US 17 in Hampstead between Washington Acres Road and Vista Lane to a Superstreet section (U-5732) – construction accelerated three years to FY26
- **Unchanged Projects, 19 total**
 - US 74 (Eastwood Road) – convert at-grade intersection to interchange at Military Cutoff (U-5710)
 - Lendire Road – realign roadway (U-4751A)
 - Drysdale Drive Extension – construct route on new location (U-5710A)
 - 23rd to 26th St Connector – construct new route on new location between 23rd and 26th Streets (U-5926)
 - Military Cutoff Extension – construct new route on new location (U-4751)
 - Gordon Rd Widening – widen roadway (U-6202)
 - NC 133 (Castle Hayne Rd) – construct roundabout at North 23rd Street (U-5954)
 - US 17 Business (Middle Sound Loop Rd to Marsh Oaks Dr) – access management improvements (U-4902D)
 - MLK at College Interchange – convert at-grade intersection to interchange (U-5792)
 - ILM:
 - Expansion of air carrier apron (AV-5801)
 - Pipe ditches in FBO #2 area (AV-5713)
 - Rehabilitate GA apron north (AV-5702)
 - Upgrade airfield lighting vault (AV-5704)
 - Taxiway improvements (AV-5798)
 - Extend runway 6-24 Ph. 1 (AV-5730)
 - South 17th Street from Harbour Drive to Shipyard Boulevard – construct multi-use path (EB-5600)
 - Hampstead Bypass – new route on new location:
 - US 17 Bypass South of Hampstead to NC 210 (R-3300A)
 - NC 210 to US 17 North of Hampstead (R-3300B)
 - Southport-Fort Fisher – construct mooring facilities (F-5707)

Ms. Lorenzo said that regarding the revised draft STIP, the Department will be holding outreach sessions for the public to submit comments as well as meetings with MPOs and RPOs for project swap considerations, as discussed previously. She noted that there will be an opportunity for project swaps if there is a consensus between the MPO and Division 3. She added that the project swap deadline is March 17, 2023. In the meantime, the MPO will be working with the Division to bring forward any potential project swaps. She added that the revised STIP is scheduled to be released in the spring, followed by an additional public comment period. NCDOT plans to release the final draft in late spring with MPOs and the FHWA considering approval in the summer of 2023.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Vielkanowitz, Ms. Lorenzo confirmed that a schedule change from a post year to a particular year is an acceleration of the schedule.

Ms. Bunch asked about project # R-2633, US 17 south of 87 in Brunswick County, I-40 in New Hanover County, four lane divided freeway on new location. Ms. Lorenzo responded that this segment is complete and GARVEE bonds were utilized for the construction of the project. She added that any additional questions about the changes to the draft STIP should be addressed to Mr. Kozlosky.

6) **Updates**

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

Ms. Lorenzo said that the updates are included in the agenda packet.

Ms. Sarder reported that NCDOT Transportation Planning Division is resuming efforts on the Brunswick County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP,) and that the Wilmington Travel Demand Model (TDM) is on schedule.

7) **Announcements**

- a. **Direct Attributable Project Submittals Due Date - September 15th**

Transportation Planning Engineer Scott A. James encouraged members to submit hard copies of submittals in addition to digital copies by 5:00 p.m. tomorrow.

- b. **Brunswick Heritage Riverside Ride- September 24th**
- c. **Wilmington MPO Bike/Pedestrian Committee- October 11th**
- d. **Next TCC meeting- October 12th**

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

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