

**Wilmington Urban Area MPO
Technical Coordinating Committee
Wednesday, November 16, 2022
Remote Meeting Minutes**

Members Present

Stephanie Ayers, NC State Ports Authority
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County
Adrienne Cox, NCDOT
Patrick Flanagan, Cape Fear Council of Governments
Jeremy Hardison, Town of Carolina Beach
Adrienne Harrington, Town of Belville
Mike Kozlosky, WMPO
Vanessa Lacer, Town of Leland
Abby Lorenzo, WMPO
Marie Parker, Wave Transit
Mandy Sanders, Town of Kure Beach
Nazia Sarder, NCDOT Transportation Planning
Denys Vielkanowitz, City of Wilmington

Others Present

Abie Bonevac, City of Wilmington
Carolyn Caggia, WMPO
Karlene Ellis-Vitalis, New Hanover County
Cheryl Hannah, HDR
Regina Hopkins, WMPO
Scott James, WMPO
Jamar Johnson, WMPO
Rachel McIntyre, WMPO
Linda Painter, City of Wilmington
Amy Passaretti, Port City Daily
Nicole Smith, City of Wilmington
Emma Stogner, WMPO

Members Absent

Michelyn Alston, Town of Navassa
Granseur Dick, Wilmington International Airport
Rachel LaCoe, New Hanover County
Robert O'Quinn, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Vacant, Pender County

1) Call to Order

Chairman Mike Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. He called the roll, and a quorum was present, as follows:

Present: Stephanie Ayers, Helen Bunch, Adrienne Cox, Patrick Flanagan, Jeremy Hardison, Adrienne Harrington, Mike Kozlosky, Vanessa Lacer, Abby Lorenzo, Marie Parker, Mandy Sanders, Nazia Sarder and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Absent:** Granseur Dick, Rachel LaCoe, Robert O'Quinn, representatives of the Town of Navassa and Pender County.

2) Approval of the Agenda

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

Ayes: Stephanie Ayers, Helen Bunch, Adrienne Cox, Patrick Flanagan, Adrienne Harrington, Mike Kozlosky, Vanessa Lacer, Abby Lorenzo, Marie Parker, Mandy Sanders, Nazia Sarder and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Granseur Dick, Jeremy Hardison, Rachel LaCoe, Robert O'Quinn, representatives of the Town of Navassa and Pender County.

3) Consent Agenda

- a. **Approval of TCC Meeting Minutes- October 12, 2022**
- b. **Opening of the 30-day public comment period for 2020-2029 STIP/MPO Amendment #22-7**
- c. **Resolution approving 2020-2029 STIP/MPO Administrative Modification #22-10**
- d. **Resolution adopting the 2023 Meeting Schedule**
- e. **Resolution supporting the endorsement of Safety Target Performance Measures for 2023**

- f. **Resolution supporting Roadway Project Swaps for the 2024-2033 State Transportation Improvement Program**
- g. **Resolution supporting an Aviation Project Swap for the 2024-2033 State Transportation Improvement Program**

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. Lorenzo seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by roll call vote as follows:

Ayes: Stephanie Ayers, Helen Bunch, Adrienne Cox, Patrick Flanagan, Jeremy Hardison, Adrienne Harrington, Mike Kozlosky, Vanessa Lacer, Abby Lorenzo, Marie Parker, Mandy Sanders, Nazia Sarder and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Granseur Dick, Rachel LaCoe, Robert O'Quinn, representatives of the Town of Navassa and Pender County.

4) **Regular Agenda**

- a. **Resolution supporting an amendment to the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Improvement Program and requesting the North Carolina Department of Transportation remove the Clarendon Avenue Multi-use Path (EB-6029) from the State/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs**

Mr. Kozlosky said that this is a request from the town for the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to remove the Clarendon Avenue Multi-use Path (MUP) from the State/MPO Transportation Improvement Program (STIP/MTIP). He noted that this amendment would return funding in the amount of \$545,000 back to the Direct Attributable (DA) account.

Mr. Kozlosky made a motion to support an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program and to request NCDOT remove the Clarendon Avenue MUP from the STIP. Ms. Cox seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by roll call vote as follows:

Ayes: Stephanie Ayers, Helen Bunch, Adrienne Cox, Patrick Flanagan, Jeremy Hardison, Adrienne Harrington, Mike Kozlosky, Vanessa Lacer, Abby Lorenzo, Marie Parker, Mandy Sanders, Nazia Sarder and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Granseur Dick, Rachel LaCoe, Robert O'Quinn, representatives of the Town of Navassa and Pender County.

5) **Discussion**

- a. **2020-2029 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modifications #22-11**

Mr. Kozlosky said that this item for Section 5339 funds is for information purposes only and will be brought back at the next meeting for consideration.

- b. **Military Cutoff Road/Eastwood Road Interchange**

Mr. Kozlosky said that at the MPO Board's October meeting, the Board requested that MPO staff bring back some options for potentially delaying the interchange at Military Cutoff Road and Eastwood Road, and to consider a potential project swap. He noted that the Drysdale Drive Extension from Military Cutoff to Eastwood Road is currently under construction with an anticipated completion date by the end of 2023. He added that the Military Cutoff Road/Eastwood Road Interchange (U-5710) is programmed in the STIP for right-of-way in 2023 and construction in 2025.

Mr. Kozlosky said that after discussions with NCDOT, a potential scenario has been identified to swap in the College Road and Oleander Drive intersection improvements and to swap out the Military Cutoff Road and Eastwood Road interchange. He noted that the proposed swap would move the

Military Cutoff Road and Eastwood Road interchange to Preliminary Engineering (PE) only, and the project would have to compete in Prioritization 7.0.

Mr. Kozlosky said that the Military Cutoff Road and Eastwood Road interchange is currently funded at \$66.4 million and the intersection improvements at College Road and Oleander Drive are funded at \$37.7 million. He noted that if there is a desire for a project swap, the remaining \$28.7 million would go to rebalancing the STIP. He reminded committee members that as requested, the proposed swap would be presented to the MPO Board at its November 30th meeting for consideration. Currently, NCDOT is evaluating the impacts of the delay of the Military Cutoff Road and Eastwood Road project and will present its findings at the next Board meeting.

Ms. Cox said that NCDOT is evaluating the impacts to the overall schedule as well as how the funds will be allocated, and the best course of action to advise the Board's decision to put the funds back into the STIP.

Mr. Vielkanowitz expressed support for the swap based on need. He asked if the region would lose the \$28.7 million. Mr. Kozlosky responded that it would. Mr. Vielkanowitz inquired if there would be an opportunity to swap in another project for up to \$28.7 million. Mr. Kozlosky said that no other project is eligible. He noted however that staff has inquired about accelerating the intersection improvements at Shipyard Boulevard and Carolina Beach Road.

Mr. Vielkanowitz inquired about funding the signal system for \$16 million. Mr. Kozlosky responded that the signal system project is not funded at the Statewide Tier. He commented that identifying project swaps in the same tier has been challenging.

Ms. Ellis-Vitalis asked about the pedestrian improvements on College Road at Randall Parkway. Mr. Kozlosky said that staff has reviewed the projects in the Statewide Tier and found no other projects to swap in. Ms. Lorenzo noted that bicycle and pedestrian improvement projects can only be funded at the Division Tier.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Vielkanowitz, Ms. Cox said that the signal system is in the Division Tier.

c. 2022-2026 MPO Strategic Plan 2022 Accomplishments

Mr. Kozlosky reminded committee members that in April, staff presented to TCC and Board a list of focus areas as well as action steps related to the strategic plan that the WMPO Board adopted. He noted that included in the agenda packet is a list of accomplishments that staff has identified and ways that the organization achieved the desired action steps of the Board. He noted that the 2022 accomplishments have been included for information purposes. He added that staff will bring back a work plan for 2023 and will present it to the TCC and Board in January.

6) Updates

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

Mr. Kozlosky said that the updates are included in the agenda packet.

Ms. Cox said that the Military Cutoff Road Extension is moving forward. She noted that the first layer of the bridge has been erected over Market Street. She added that clearing for and widening of the footprint

for the Drysdale Drive Project (U-5710A) has been completed. She commented that it appears wider than it is where it is adjacent to development.

Ms. Sarder said that the Wilmington Travel Demand Model is proceeding well. She noted that NCDOT has coordinated with the MPO to verify and collect data. She noted that the 2020 Census data should be released in December, and that a link to the website has been included in the updates.

Mr. Kozlosky said that the release of the Census data could impact the MPO's urbanized area or urban clusters as well as its planning area boundary. He noted that although the data has not been released, MPO staff is running various scenarios to anticipate potential changes that may be needed, which may also change the composition of the TCC and the MPO Board. Although it's too early to tell, potential changes will be discussed in greater detail at the beginning and throughout next year.

7) **Announcements**

a. **Direct Attributable (DA) Training- December 6th**

Transportation Planning Engineer Scott A. James said that the Direct Attributable training was set-up primarily for the local project managers. He noted that the all-day training is mandatory for grant award recipients, and will cover the fundamentals of the grant award, reimbursements, and project-specific exercises with subject matter experts. He added that lunch and parking will be included, and invitations will be sent to participants.

Ms. Ayers asked if there would be a make-up session or if the training could be recorded. Mr. James said that no make-up session has been planned due to the in-person nature of the training and the coordination necessary for the many facilitators. He added that a recorded option is being explored along with the meeting location. He recommended that he be contacted if no representative from the member jurisdiction receiving an award is available to attend the training.

Ms. Ellis-Vitalis asked how many participants per agency might be accommodated. She noted that there were many people involved with the application, including those in Finance. Mr. James responded that at least one participant is expected to attend and estimated that a total number of up to 20 participants is anticipated. He asked that each jurisdiction respond with a proposed number of participants. He explained that the intent of the training is to provide information to the local project manager, who will share the information with the jurisdiction, a single point of contact rather than an entire team. He noted that the training will provide fundamental information as well as a takeaway document as a reference for participants who are either familiar with the process and or brand new to it. He added that if there are more participants that the training can accommodate, some delegation of responsibility may be necessary.

As an additional announcement, Mr. Kozlosky said that on December 8th, the MPO will be holding a certification review. He noted that the Infrastructure Bill continues to require that the MPO be certified every four years. He added that representatives from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) as well as NCDOT will be on site on December 8th. He said that they are currently conducting a desk audit and additional information will be provided to the Board before that date.

Mr. Kozlosky noted that the certification review is off cycle and that the last one was completed in April 2020. He added that FHWA is trying a modified cycle in December.

- b. Wilmington MPO Bike/Pedestrian Committee- December 13th
- c. Next TCC meeting- January 11th (tentative)

8) **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Ms. Harrington made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Bunch, and meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m. by roll call as follows:

Ayes: Stephanie Ayers, Helen Bunch, Adrienne Cox, Patrick Flanagan, Jeremy Hardison, Adrienne Harrington, Mike Kozlosky, Vanessa Lacer, Abby Lorenzo, Marie Parker, Mandy Sanders, Nazia Sarder and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Granseur Dick, Rachel LaCoe, Robert O'Quinn, representatives of the Town of Navassa and Pender County.

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