

**Wilmington Urban Area MPO
Technical Coordinating Committee
Wednesday, March 15, 2023
Remote Meeting Minutes**

Members Present

Stephanie Ayers, NC State Ports Authority
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County
Carolyn Caggia, WMPO
Adrienne Cox, NCDOT
Granseur Dick, Wilmington International Airport
Jeremy Hardison, Town of Carolina Beach
Adrienne Harrington, Town of Belville
Mike Kozlosky, TCC Chairman, WMPO
Vanessa Lacer, Town of Leland
Rachel LaCoe, New Hanover County
Robert O'Quinn, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Marie Parker, Wave Transit
Mandy Sanders, Town of Kure Beach
Nazia Sarder, TCC Vice Chair, NCDOT
Denys Vielkanowitz, City of Wilmington

Members Absent

Greg Feldman, Pender County
Cape Fear Council of Governments
Town of Navassa

Others Present

Abie Bonevac, City of Wilmington
Thomas Bradshaw, City of Wilmington
Kim Crouch, NC Alliance for Safe
Transportation
Jon Dodson, Wave Transit
Cheryl Hannah, HDR
Regina Hopkins, WMPO
Ben Hughes, NCDOT
Scott James, WMPO
Jamar Johnson, WMPO
Bill Kincannon, HDR
Jody Lewis, VHB
Abby Lorenzo, WMPO
Bill Marley, FHWA
Bill McDow, WMPO
Rachel McIntyre, WMPO
Kim Nguyen, NCDOT-IMD
Linda Painter, City of Wilmington
Amy Passaretti, Port City Daily
Greer Shivers, WMPO
Nicole Smith, City of Wilmington
Emma Stogner, WMPO

1) Call to Order

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

Present: Stephanie Ayers, Carolyn Caggia, Adrienne Cox, Granseur Dick, Jeremy Hardison, Adrienne Harrington, Mike Kozlosky, Vanessa Lacer, Rachel LaCoe, Robert O'Quinn, Marie Parker, Nazia Sarder and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Absent:** Helen Bunch, Greg Feldman, Mandy Sanders and representatives of Cape Fear Council of Governments and the Town of Navassa.

2) Approval of the Agenda

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

Ayes: Stephanie Ayers, Carolyn Caggia, Adrienne Cox, Granseur Dick, Jeremy Hardison, Adrienne Harrington, Mike Kozlosky, Vanessa Lacer, Rachel LaCoe, Robert O'Quinn, Marie Parker, Mandy Sanders, Nazia Sarder and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Helen Bunch, Greg Feldman and representatives of Cape Fear Council of Governments and the Town of Navassa.

3) Presentations

a. NC Alliance for Safe Transportation- Kim Crouch, NCAST

Kim Crouch, Executive Director, NC Alliance for Safe Transportation (NCAST), gave a presentation on the organization newly formed to draw attention to traffic safety and the safe use of North Carolina's transportation network through marketing and communications efforts. For the remainder of this year, she noted that NCAST will target seven counties including New Hanover County and have a

presence at sporting events across the state, starting with baseball games in April, which happen to coincide with Distracted Driving Month. She encouraged questions via phone (919-349-9476) or email (kim@ncallianceforsafetransportation.org). NCAST

Mr. Kozlosky said that since New Hanover County is one of NCAST's focus areas, staff will arrange a small group meeting in April to facilitate a conversation between NCAST and TCC members to discuss safety concerns in New Hanover County.

Ms. LaCoe said that New Hanover County would be interested in that discussion. Mr. Kozlosky added that the City of Wilmington may be interested as well.

b. 2022 Congestion Management Process- Rachel McIntyre, WMPO

WMPO Associate Transportation Planner Rachel McIntyre gave an update on the 2022 Congestion Management Process (CMP) and the goals of the 2022 Biennial Data Report. She noted that changes from the 2020 report include the addition of three corridors, bringing the total number of corridors to 33. She added that regional goals and objectives, performance measures and metrics were carried over from the 2020 report to serve as a baseline for comparison. She reported that Volume/Capacity decreased for 18 corridors and increased for 12 corridors. Other trends include decreases in AM and PM delay rates, transit (stops and ridership), and bicycle and pedestrian crashes, and increases in travel time reliability, vehicular crashes, and truck volume.

Ms. McIntyre said that since congestion management strategies help inform the next Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), staff determined that it would be beneficial to prepare CMP Biennial Data Reports every five years in between MTP updates, rather than biennially, because changes every two years are minimal, and the nature of roadway improvement projects is long-term.

Mr. Vielkanowitz requested that the north-south portion of Wrightsville Avenue from 17th Street to Dawson Street be removed from the Wrightsville Avenue study corridor due to lack of congestion since a portion of it is a one-way street through a neighborhood. Mr. Kozlosky responded that staff would make a note for the next CMP report in 2027. He reminded committee members that approval of the Data Report is included for consideration in today's Consent Agenda.

c. Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority Ridership- Marie Parker, CFPTA

Wave Transit Deputy Director Jon Dodson gave an update on ridership for Wave's routes - fixed, university, paratransit and RideMICRO, which serve 70,000 trips per month. He noted that system changes made last July have improved service include increased frequency, and redistribution of routes, weekend hours of service, and seasonal schedules. He gave a percent change in ridership for the last six months of FY23 compared to the last six months of FY22 for each route type.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Kozlosky, Mr. Dodson said that changes have contributed to incremental increases, and speculated that ridership would continue to grow, especially with changes for increased efficiency and the implementation of the short-range plan.

City of Wilmington Senior Planner Nicole Smith asked if local jurisdictions could do anything to increase the RideMICRO program. Mr. Dodson said that Wave is happy to partner with local jurisdictions to bring awareness to the public. He noted that Wave has cards and social media and might provide a presence at community meetings.

d. **2023 “Be A Looker” Campaign- Carolyn Caggia, WMPO**

WMPO Associate Transportation Planner Carolyn Caggia gave a brief presentation on the 2023 “Be A Looker” Campaign, a biennial safety campaign for all road users. She noted that according to NCDOT data within a five-year period in the three-county area, there was an average of 90 pedestrian crashes with 12 deaths, and 59 bicycle crashes with four deaths. She added that fatal and suspected serious injury pedestrian crashes doubled over a 10-year period. This year the marketing and outreach campaign will run from April to October. She gave an overview of safety messaging for the different road user categories. She encouraged members to visit the www.GoCoastNC.org website for more information and to access the pledge form.

Due to technical difficulties the slide presentation was not visible to remote viewers. Mr. Kozlosky said that the presentation would be forwarded to members after the meeting.

e. **FHWA/FTA 2023 Certification Review- Bill Marley, FHWA**

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Transportation Planner Bill Marley gave an overview of the FHWA/FTA 2023 Certification Review. He said that FHWA recertified the Wilmington planning process several months ago, which is good for four years from the date of the report, February 23, 2023. He gave some background on the certification review process. He commented that this was a good, successful review with no corrective actions. He noted that the MPO was given two commendations (Citizens Advisory Committee, and Title VI impact analysis map for scoring environmental justice communities), and two recommendations (Title VI quantifiable measurables, and Intelligent Transportation Systems/ITS architecture strategic deployable).

4) **Consent Agenda**

a. **Approval of TCC Meeting Minutes- February 8, 2023**

b. **Resolution adopting the 2022 Congestion Management Process Biennial Data Report**

c. **Resolution adopting the Town of Navassa Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan**

d. **Resolution supporting the North Carolina Department of Transportation’s submission of the rail corridor between Wilmington and Raleigh for the Federal Railroad Administration’s Corridor Identification and Development Program**

e. **Resolution approving 2020-2029 STIP/MPO Amendment #23-1**

f. **Resolution approving 2020-2029 STIP/MPO Administrative Modification #23-2**

g. **Opening of the 30-day Public Comment Period for 2020-2029 STIP/MPO Amendment #23-2**

Ms. Harrington made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented, and to forward the items to the MPO Board for consideration. Mr. O’Quinn seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by roll call vote as follows:

Ayes: Stephanie Ayers, Helen Bunch, Carolyn Caggia, Granseur Dick, Jeremy Hardison, Adrienne Harrington, Mike Kozlosky, Vanessa Lacer, Rachel LaCoe, Robert O’Quinn, Marie Parker, Nazia Sarder and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Adrienne Cox, Greg Feldman, Mandy Sanders and representatives of Cape Fear Council of Governments and the Town of Navassa.

5) **Regular Agenda**

a. **Resolution approving Amendment #3 to the FY 23 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Kozlosky said that this item would amend the current Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). After reviewing expenditures, the proposed changes allocate funds to accommodate existing and projected expenditures for the remainder of FY23.

Ms. Ayers made a motion to approve Amendment #3 to the FY23 UPWP, seconded by Ms. Lacer and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote as follows:

Ayes: Stephanie Ayers, Helen Bunch, Carolyn Caggia, Adrienne Cox, Granseur Dick, Jeremy Hardison, Adrienne Harrington, Mike Kozlosky, Vanessa Lacer, Rachel LaCoe, Marie Parker, Nazia Sarder and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Greg Feldman, Robert O'Quinn, Mandy Sanders and representatives of Cape Fear Council of Governments and the Town of Navassa.

b. Resolution approving the FY 24 Unified Planning Work Program for the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Ms. Lorenzo reminded committee members that staff brought this item to the TCC and MPO Board in January to allow for a public comment period. She noted that no public comments were received. However, two modifications were made based on information presented after the initial draft was considered. She noted that the anticipated 20% local match for state acceptable transportation options is not required for the funding, which results in an increase of \$3,950 in federal funding and a decrease in the same amount from local members. The second change is due to the determination that workers compensation, historically covered 100% by the City of Wilmington, has been found to be allowable in the MPO's operating grant, which results in an increase of \$925 in federal funds and the required match from member jurisdictions. She added that a memo summarizing the changes in member contributions is included in the agenda packet.

Ms. Bunch made a motion to approve the FY24 UPWP. Mr. Vielkanowitz seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by roll call vote as follows:

Ayes: Stephanie Ayers, Helen Bunch, Carolyn Caggia, Adrienne Cox, Jeremy Hardison, Adrienne Harrington, Mike Kozlosky, Vanessa Lacer, Rachel LaCoe, Marie Parker, Nazia Sarder and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Granseur Dick, Greg Feldman, Robert O'Quinn, Mandy Sanders and representatives of Cape Fear Council of Governments and the Town of Navassa.

c. Resolution certifying the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Planning Process

Mr. Kozlosky said that as part of the UPWP, the MPO is required to recertify its Transportation Planning Process. He made a motion to certify the WMPO's Transportation Planning Process. Ms. Harrington seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by roll call vote as follows:

Ayes: Stephanie Ayers, Helen Bunch, Carolyn Caggia, Adrienne Cox, Jeremy Hardison, Adrienne Harrington, Mike Kozlosky, Vanessa Lacer, Rachel LaCoe, Marie Parker, Nazia Sarder and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Granseur Dick, Greg Feldman, Robert O'Quinn, Mandy Sanders and representatives of Cape Fear Council of Governments and the Town of Navassa.

d. Resolution requesting the North Carolina Department of Transportation explore alternative design options for the College Road and Oleander Drive Improvements

Mr. Kozlosky said that over the past few months, there has been discussion related to potential project swaps. In October, the Board requested staff bring back options for swapping out the Military Cutoff Road/Eastwood Road project and staff provided an option for a swap with the College Road/Oleander Drive intersection improvement project. At its last meeting, the Board decided against a swap and questioned the preferred alternative selected for the College Road and Oleander Drive intersection. He noted that this resolution requests that NCDOT explore alternative design solutions.

Ms. Ayers made a motion to request NCDOT explore alternative design options for the College Road and Oleander Drive intersection improvements. Mr. Vielkanowitz seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by roll call vote, as follows:

Ayes: Stephanie Ayers, Helen Bunch, Carolyn Caggia, Adrienne Cox, Jeremy Hardison, Adrienne Harrington, Mike Kozlosky, Vanessa Lacer, Rachel LaCoe, Marie Parker, Nazia Sarder and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Granseur Dick, Greg Feldman, Robert O'Quinn, Mandy Sanders and representatives of Cape Fear Council of Governments and the Town of Navassa.

6) **Discussion**

a. **2020 Urbanized Area (UZA) Census Data- Organizational Boundaries, Structure, and Governance**

Mr. Kozlosky reminded committee members that this item continues to be discussed by the TCC and the MPO Board.

Ms. Lorenzo gave an overview of the code of federal regulations for MPO planning area boundaries, a summary of potential scenarios identified by staff, a table of pros and cons, and maps distinguishing between Urbanized Areas and MPO Planning Areas. She noted that this information was presented to the Board last month, and discussion considering staff reaching out to potential jurisdictions for expansion to determine if there is any interest, a requirement for expansion, was held.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Bunch, Mr. Kozlosky said that the counties should be involved in the discussion as well. He noted that before any meetings are held, it will be necessary to have the Board's direction in discussing potential expansion scenarios with the potential jurisdictions. However, no clear direction has been given by Board yet, and discussion will be ongoing.

7) **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. There were no additional updates from Ms. Parker.

Ms. Cox said that the Military Cutoff Extension is anticipated to open late June or July. Mr. Kozlosky added that at the last Board meeting, Mr. Kimes announced that NCDOT managed to extend the project limits of the Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway and College Road Interchange Project, which is scheduled for construction in 2026. He noted that NCDOT used some funds remaining in the Division Tier to extend the project from Gordon Road to Market Street and allow for construction of additional capacity. He commented that this is great news for the region.

Ms. Sarder said she provided updates in the agenda packet for the Wilmington Travel Demand model and is working with the MPO to verify data and network attributes, which are on schedule. For the Brunswick County CTP, three in-person public involvement sessions will be held in May. She noted that she will forward dates and times to the MPO for distribution. A virtual public input session for the CTP will be available from May 1st through May 15th as well.

8) **Announcements**

- a. **River to Sea Ride- May 6, 2023**
- b. **Next TCC meeting- April 12, 2023**

9) **Adjournment**

Ms. Harrington requested today's presentations and the schedule for the CTP.

There being no further business, Ms. Ayers made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Vielkanowitz and the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. by roll call, as follows:

Ayes: Stephanie Ayers, Carolyn Caggia, Adrienne Cox, Jeremy Hardison, Adrienne Harrington, Mike Kozlosky, Vanessa Lacer, Rachel LaCoe, Robert O'Quinn, Marie Parker, Nazia Sarder and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Helen Bunch, Granseur Dick, Greg Feldman, Mandy Sanders and representatives of Cape Fear Council of Governments and the Town of Navassa.

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