

**Wilmington Urban Area MPO  
Technical Coordinating Committee  
Wednesday, May 17, 2023  
Remote Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present**

Stephanie Ayers, NC State Ports Authority  
Justin Brantley, Pender County  
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County  
Carolyn Caggia, WMPO  
Granseur Dick, Wilmington International Airport  
Marissa Ernst, Town of Leland  
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  
Marie Parker, Cape Fear Public Transit Authority  
Mandy Sanders, Town of Kure Beach  
Nazia Sarder, TCC Vice Chair, NCDOT  
Denys Vielkanowitz, City of Wilmington

**Others Present**

Abie Bonevac, City of Wilmington  
Zachary Bugg, Kittelson and Associates  
Chad Cramer, City of Wilmington  
Cheryl Hannah, HDR  
Regina Hopkins, WMPO  
Ben Hughes, NCDOT  
Scott James, WMPO  
Jamar Johnson, WMPO  
Abby Lorenzo, WMPO  
Kim Nguyen, NCDOT  
Amy Passaretti, Port City Daily  
Eli Sylvester

**Members Absent**

Michelyn Alston, Town of Navassa  
Sam Boswell, Cape Fear Council of Governments  
Adrienne Cox, NCDOT  
Robert O'Quinn, Town of Wrightsville Beach

**1) Call to Order**

Serving in place of Executive Director Mike Kozlosky, WMPO Deputy Director Abby Lorenzo called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. A quorum was present, as follows:

**Present:** Stephanie Ayers, Justin Brantly, Helen Bunch, Carolyn Caggia, Granseur Dick, Marissa Ernst, Jeremy Hardison, Adrienne Harrington, Abby Lorenzo, Rachel LaCoe, Marie Parker, Mandy Sanders and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Michelyn Alston, Adrienne Cox, Robert O'Quinn and Nazia Sarder.

**2) Approval of the Agenda**

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

**Ayes:** Stephanie Ayers, Justin Brantly, Helen Bunch, Carolyn Caggia, Granseur Dick, Marissa Ernst, Jeremy Hardison, Adrienne Harrington, Abby Lorenzo, Rachel LaCoe, Marie Parker, Mandy Sanders, Nazia Sarder and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Michelyn Alston, Adrienne Cox and Robert O'Quinn.

**3) Presentation**

**a. WMPO/Go Coast Digital Communication Updates - Carolyn Caggia**

WMPO Associate Transportation Planner Carolyn Caggia gave an update on WMPO/Go Coast Digital communications including website changes to improve navigation and adding content for [www.wmpo.org](http://www.wmpo.org) and [www.gocoastnc.org](http://www.gocoastnc.org).

Ms. Caggia said that new social media accounts include LinkedIn and Nextdoor, with a potential reach of 368 neighborhoods and more than 100,000 audience members. On average, she noted that each of the last three social media posts has reached 3,000 viewers. She displayed a slide reporting highlights and noted that 93 new “Be A Looker Campaign” pledges were received.

4) **Consent Agenda**

- a. **Approval of TCC Meeting Minutes- March 15, 2023**
- b. **Resolution approving 2020-2029 STIP/MPO Amendment #23-2**
- c. **Opening of the 30-day Public Comment Period for 2020-2029 STIP/MPO Amendment #23-3**

Ms. Ayers made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, and to forward the items to the MPO Board for consideration. Mr. Bunch seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by roll call vote as follows:

**Ayes:** Stephanie Ayers, Justin Brantly, Helen Bunch, Carolyn Caggia, Granseur Dick, Marissa Ernst, Jeremy Hardison, Adrienne Harrington, Abby Lorenzo, Rachel LaCoe, Marie Parker, Mandy Sanders, Nazia Sarder and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Michelyn Alston, Adrienne Cox and Robert O'Quinn.

5) **Regular Agenda**

- a. **Resolution Approving the WMPO FY 24 Direct Attributable Project Submittal Guidelines and Scoring Criteria**

Transportation Planning Engineer Scott A. James gave an overview of the WMPO’s FY 24 Direct Attributable Project Submittal Guidelines and Scoring Criteria, which remain the same as last year. This year, the MPO Board will consider issuing the annual call for projects on July 7<sup>th</sup> with a pre-submittal deadline of August 11<sup>th</sup> and a firm deadline of September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. James said that funds are anticipated to be awarded in October in priority of project ranking, funded 20% locally and 80% subject to federal reimbursement. He noted that although the annual call is for three categories: Surface Transportation Block Grant Program - Direct Attributable (STBGP-DA), Transportation Alternative Set Aside (TASA), and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) from the Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act (IIJA), the funds can be moved across categories with some limitations. He added that the total DA funding is approximately \$5 million, and any unawarded funds will be placed in reserve, same as last year. He noted that the 100-point ranking system prioritizes safety and congestion management projects, and that a detailed work session is planned for June.

Ms. Parker made a motion to approve the WMPO’s FY 24 Direct Attributable Project Submittal Guidelines and Scoring Criteria. Ms. Bunch seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by roll call vote as follows:

**Ayes:** Stephanie Ayers, Justin Brantly, Helen Bunch, Carolyn Caggia, Granseur Dick, Marissa Ernst, Jeremy Hardison, Adrienne Harrington, Abby Lorenzo, Rachel LaCoe, Marie Parker, Mandy Sanders, Nazia Sarder and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Michelyn Alston, Adrienne Cox and Robert O'Quinn.

6) **Discussion**

- a. **2020-2029 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modifications #23-3**

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

**b. Final Draft 2024-2033 State Transportation Improvement Program and Project Changes**

Ms. Lorenzo said that the 2024-2033 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and project changes are based on swaps, revised funding, and schedule adjustments, which have been included in the agenda packet with the draft of the 2024-2033 STIP. She noted that this will be presented to the Board of Transportation for consideration in June, after which MPO staff will bring forward for consideration the MPO Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP).

**c. NCDOT Prioritization 7.0 Update**

With the 2024-2033 STIP coming forward for adoption, Ms. Lorenzo stated that the next round of prioritization begins. She noted that the proposed Prioritization 7.0 (P 7.0) schedule is included in the agenda packet. She added that SPOT online will become available in July for project submittals from MPOs, RPOs, and Divisions. She added that the draft of local input point allotments and number of submittals per MPO, RPO, and Division are also included, and will be considered by the Board of Transportation in June. Ms. Lorenzo said that MPO staff plans to bring forward for discussion in June draft project submittal lists for P 7.0. She pointed out that the MPO's allotment of 20 projects per mode is based on 2020 population, which has increased.

**d. NCDOT Funding Swaps for Federal August Redistribution**

Ms. Lorenzo said that a PowerPoint presentation has been included in the agenda packet for greater detail on NCDOT funding swaps for the August federal redistribution, which is Federal Highway's annual process that occurs at the end of each federal fiscal year (summer). She summarized that the process redistributes unused federal funds from programs that won't use the funds in the current federal fiscal year.

Ms. Lorenzo said that each year, NCDOT sends to the Federal Highway Administration a request for additional funds that may become available and can be used prior to September 30<sup>th</sup>. For reference, she noted that last year, the state of North Carolina received almost \$300 million in new funding that was distributed through the STI formula. She explained that NCDOT makes the largest possible request to maximize the amount of authorized federal funding coming into North Carolina.

Ms. Lorenzo said that one of the biggest challenges is authorizing Direct Attributable funds for MPOs. She added that over the past few years, NCDOT has been working with MPOs to authorize STBGP funds via a revenue- neutral funding swap with other funding types to prevent the loss of funds. Last year, the MPO had a \$9.5 million swap, and, this year, staff reached out to the Board to consider a swap of STBGP funds to pay back a GARVEE bond payment due in April. Additionally, NCDOT is requesting a revenue neutral swap of \$1,599,313 of CRP and TASA funds in return for the same amount of STBGP Any Area-use funds. She requested that the Committee members consider recommending approval of the swaps.

Ms. Ayers made a motion to approve the swaps, seconded by Ms. Sanders, and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote as follows:

**Ayes:** Stephanie Ayers, Justin Brantly, Helen Bunch, Carolyn Caggia, Granseur Dick, Marissa Ernst, Jeremy Hardison, Adrienne Harrington, Abby Lorenzo, Rachel LaCoe, Mandy Sanders, Nazia Sarder and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Michelyn Alston, Adrienne Cox, Robert O'Quinn and Marie Parker.

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

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

Ms. Sarder gave highlights from the NCDOT Transportation Planning Division. She said that the Brunswick County CTP involvement sessions from May 2<sup>nd</sup> through May 9<sup>th</sup> have been completed. She expressed appreciation to Ms. Lorenzo for attending all three sessions. She added that the virtual session closed on Monday, and that she will compile the results for the steering committee to review. After discussion by the committee, the updated report will be presented to all adopting agencies. Also, she reported that the Wilmington Travel Demand Model for the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan is progressing.

Ms. Lorenzo acknowledged that the MPO has a new Senior Transportation Planner, Vanessa Lacer. Ms. Lacer, a former member of the TCC, expressed appreciation and gave a brief overview of her background.

- e. **Announcements**
- a. **Go Coast Committee Quarterly Meeting – May 18th at 3pm**
  - b. **Next TCC meeting- June 14th, 2023**

- f. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Ms. Sarder made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Brantly and the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m. by roll call, as follows:

**Ayes:** Stephanie Ayers, Justin Brantly, Helen Bunch, Carolyn Caggia, Granseur Dick, Marissa Ernst, Jeremy Hardison, Adrienne Harrington, Abby Lorenzo, Rachel LaCoe, Mandy Sanders, Nazia Sarder and Denys Vielkanowitz. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Michelyn Alston, Adrienne Cox, Robert O'Quinn and Marie Parker.

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