

**Wilmington Urban Area MPO  
Technical Coordinating Committee  
Wednesday, June 14, 2023  
Remote Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present**

Stephanie Ayers, NC State Ports Authority  
Sam Boswell, Cape Fear Council of Governments  
Justin Brantley, Pender County  
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County  
Carolyn Caggia, WMPO  
Adrienne Cox, NCDOT  
Granseur Dick, Wilmington International Airport  
Jon Dodson, Cape Fear Public Transit Authority  
Marissa Ernst, Town of Leland  
Jeremy Hardison, Town of Carolina Beach  
Mike Kozlosky, TCC Chairman, WMPO  
Rachel LaCoe, New Hanover County  
Robert O'Quinn, Town of Wrightsville Beach  
Nazia Sarder, TCC Vice Chair, NCDOT  
Denys Vielkanowitz, City of Wilmington  
Athina Williams, Town of Belville

**Members Absent**

Michelyn Alston, Town of Navassa  
Mandy Sanders, Town of Kure Beach

**Others Present**

Abie Bonevac, City of Wilmington  
Cheryl Hannah, HDR  
Regina Hopkins, WMPO  
Jamar Johnson, WMPO  
Abby Lorenzo, WMPO  
Sean Kane  
Vanessa Lacer, WMPO  
Amy Passaretti, Port City Daily  
Nicole Smith, City of Wilmington  
Greer Shivers, WMPO  
Emma Stogner, WMPO  
Eli Sylvester, Town of Belville

**1) Call to Order**

TCC Chairman Mike Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and called the roll, as follows:

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

A quorum was present.

**2) Approval of the Agenda**

Ms. Ayers 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, Sam Boswell, Justin Brantly, Helen Bunch, Carolyn Caggia, Adrienne Cox, Granseur Dick, Jon Dodson, Marissa Ernst, Jeremy Hardison, Adrienne Harrington, Rachel LaCoe, Robert O'Quinn, Nazia Sarder, Denys Vielkanowitz and Athina Williams. **Nays:** None.

**Absent:** Michelyn Alston and Mandy Sanders.

**3) Consent Agenda**

- a. **Approval of TCC Meeting Minutes- May 17, 2023**
- b. **Resolution requesting Administrative Modifications to the 2020-2029 and 2024-2033 State/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs for Public Transportation Projects**
- c. **Resolution requesting Amendments to the 2020-2029 and 2024-2033 State/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs for Public Transportation Projects**
- d. **Resolution approving 2020-2029 STIP/MPO Administrative Modifications #23-3**
- e. **Opening of the 30-day Public Comment Period for 2020-2029 STIP/MPO Amendment #23-4**

f. **Opening of the 30-day public comment period for the 2024-2033 State/Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Improvement Programs**

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

**Ayes:** Stephanie Ayers, Sam Boswell, Justin Brantly, Helen Bunch, Carolyn Caggia, Adrienne Cox, Granseur Dick, Jon Dodson, Marissa Ernst, Jeremy Hardison, Adrienne Harrington, Rachel LaCoe, Robert O'Quinn, Nazia Sarder, Denys Vielkanowitz and Athina Williams. **Nays:** None.

**Absent:** Michelyn Alston and Mandy Sanders.

4) **Discussion**

a. **2020-2029 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modifications #23-4**

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

b. **2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Branding**

WMPO Deputy Director Abby Lorenzo said that staff is working diligently on preparations for kickoff of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). She commented that a large component of the development of the plan is selecting a title, logo, and other branding materials, especially important when reaching out for public comment this summer. She added that staff plans to bring a presentation on planning efforts back next month.

Ms. Lorenzo said that staff has developed a few titles and branding options for the 2050 plan. She requested feedback and consensus on a preferred title and logo scheme. WMPO Associate Transportation Planner Carolyn Caggia to give an overview of the four (4) title and branding options.

After a brief comment period, it was the consensus of the committee to recommend the title, "Cape Fear Navigating Change 2050." Feedback on the branding options was split equally across three options (B3, C3 and D3).

Mr. Kozlosky said that the recommendations would be forwarded to the Board for consideration.

c. **Prioritization 7.0 Project Submittals**

Ms. Lorenzo said that last month, staff provided an update on the upcoming Prioritization 7.0 (P 7.0) cycle including the number of eligible submittals per mode. She noted that since that meeting, staff has met with modal planning partners at Wilmington International Airport, NC Ferry Division, Wave, and the Rail Division to begin drafting project lists for those modes. She added that staff has put out a call for projects from the 2045 fiscally constrained bicycle and pedestrian project lists for members to submit bicycle and pedestrian projects in this cycle. Additionally, to develop the roadway submittals, staff reviewed past roadway priorities as well as projects that are in the fiscally constrained roadway project list that had a higher congestion score as shown in the 2022 biennial scope report.

Ms. Lorenzo said that these preliminary lists have been brought forward today for discussion. She noted that staff plans to continue developing the project lists for the public comment period to be opened in July. She added that staff will bring back finalized project lists in August, giving adequate time to submit them prior to the September 29th submittal deadline.

d. **Military Cutoff Road/Eastwood Road interchange**

Mr. Kozlosky said that NCDOT is reviewing the Military Cutoff Road and Eastwood Road Interchange project to reduce the impacts on surrounding properties. He noted that as part of this effort, NCDOT has identified ways to reduce the impacts on Commonwealth Drive and will present an analysis and conceptual plans to the MPO Board at the end of this month. He encouraged committee members who are interested in learning about these efforts to attend the MPO Board meeting on June 28th.

e. **Wilmington Urban Area MPO Boundary, Governance, and Structure**

Mr. Kozlosky gave an update on the MPO Boundary, Governance, and Structure item. He reminded committee members that, at the Board's direction, staff reached out to potential MPO members based on scenarios to expand the MPO boundary to the north to include Surf City and Topsail Beach, and/or to the west to include Southport, Saint James, Bolivia, Oak Island, and some of the jurisdictions in southeastern Brunswick County. He noted that staff has met with potential members and a subcommittee of MPO Board members has been created to discuss potential changes to the MPO's boundary, governance, and structure.

Mr. Kozlosky said that at its meeting in May, the Board discussed reaching out to potential members and requesting a formal response of interest by July 31st. He noted that once responses have been received, discussions will commence regarding potential expansion. He pointed out that any expansion will need to be agreed upon between the MPO and the member jurisdiction. He noted that staff is still in the information gathering phase.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Bunch, Chairman Kozlosky said that Commissioner Williams, Councilmember Waddell, Commissioner Barfield, Mayor Barbee, and Commissioner Fletcher-Hardee serve on the MPO Boundary, Governance, and Structure Subcommittee.

5) **Updates**

a. **Wilmington Urban Area MPO**

b. **Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority**

c. **NCDOT Division**

d. **NCDOT Transportation Planning Division**

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

Ms. Sarder gave a few additional updates. She said that NCDOT has completed the public involvement sessions for the Brunswick County CTP in May. She noted that the committee will meet end of the month to discuss any final changes received from the public. After those updates are applied, presentations will be made to the local councils and boards before adoption is sought. Additionally, she commented that the Wilmington Travel Demand Model (TDM) for the next MTP is on track and that NCDOT is in the process of verifying SE data with the MPO.

Ms. Cox said that the agenda packet should have most of the information needed regarding the approval last week of the 2024-2033 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) by the Board of Transportation in Raleigh. She noted that the final STIP is available online. She added that NCDOT is looking for projects for the next STIP, P 7.0. She encouraged committee members to review the list and said that NCDOT will talk with its partners at the WMPO to make sure all the projects are considered. She noted that NCDOT will be reviewing the data from September through February.

Chairman Kozlosky reminded committee members that the 30-day public comment period will be opened with the item on the Consent Agenda and that the 2024-2033 STIP and MPO TIP must be mutually adopted. He added that the MPO's Public Participations Plan requires a public hearing, which will be held in July, after which, formal approval will be sought in August.

g. **Announcements**

a. **Wilmington MPO Bike/Pedestrian Committee Meeting- June 13th**

b. **Pender County Bike/Pedestrian Plan Public Comment Period- closes June 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Chairman Kozlosky noted that public outreach for the Pender County Bike/Pedestrian Plan is ongoing. He noted that once complete, the document will be finalized by the end of the month, and a presentation will be made later this year.

h. **Next meeting- July 12, 2023**

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

**Ayes:** Stephanie Ayers, Sam Boswell, Justin Brantly, Helen Bunch, Carolyn Caggia, Adrienne Cox, Granseur Dick, Jon Dodson, Marissa Ernst, Jeremy Hardison, Adrienne Harrington, Rachel LaCoe, Robert O'Quinn, Nazia Sarder, Denys Vielkanowitz and Athina Williams. **Nays:** None.

**Absent:** Michelyn Alston 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.**