

**WILMINGTON URBAN AREA  
MPO  
October 2023**

**CAPE FEAR NAVIGATING CHANGE 2050**

**Project Description/Scope:** The WMPO has begun the planning process for our region's 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Cape Fear Navigating Change 2050. A long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the region is federally required and must be developed, updated, and adopted by the WMPO every five years. The final plan will be used by federal, state, and local governments to guide decision-making for transportation projects in our region over the next 25 years, including which projects receive state or federal funding, the design and location of local roadways, coordinating land use and development, and identifying projects for further plans and studies. Planning activities began in April of 2023 with plan adoption expected in November of 2025.

**Project Status and Next Steps:**

- In June and July of 2023, a Citizen Advisory Committee, to guide public outreach, and a MTP Technical Steering Committee, to guide plan development, were convened. The Citizen Advisory Committee will continue to meet during phases 1 and 2 of public outreach. The MTP Technical Steering Committee will continue to meet for the duration of plan development.
- On August 1, 2023, phase 1 of public outreach began, and will conclude on November 30, 2023. Six public meetings were held in August, five in-person and one virtual. An online survey was launched on August 1, 2023, and is available at [wmpo.org](http://wmpo.org) until November 30, 2023. Phase 1 of public outreach will continue through November 30<sup>th</sup> with stakeholder interviews and focus groups, pop-up events and presentations across the region.
- Phase 2 of public outreach will occur in June 2025 when comments will be sought on the draft plan.

**PENDER COUNTY BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN**

**Project Description/Scope:** Pender County, in collaboration with the WMPO and consultant WSP, seeks to develop a comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan to direct multi-modal development within the southern portion of the County. The final plan will be used to prioritize bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure implementation that will improve mobility, increase safety, and strengthen the connectivity for multi-modal transportation options in southern Pender County. The notice to proceed was issued in late September 2022.

**Project Status and Next Steps:**

- The Draft Plan has been finalized.
- The Plan is expected go before the Pender County Board of Commissioners in October 2023.
- The Plan is expected go before the WMPO Technical Coordinating Committee and Board in November 2023.

**NCDOT IMD FEASIBILITY STUDY GRANTS**

**Project Description/Scope:** In July 2022, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) was allocated \$2 million in one-time funding from the North Carolina General Assembly to establish a Paved Trails Feasibility Study Program. The Integrated Mobility Division (IMD) was also awarded \$500,000 in State Planning and Research (SP&R) funds to support sidewalk and shared-use path feasibility studies. The purpose of the Paved Trails and Sidewalk Feasibility Studies Grant Program is to improve the

pipeline of bicycle and pedestrian projects accessing state and federal funding, resulting in successful implementation of projects led by communities prioritizing multimodal infrastructure.

### **Wilmington Downtown Trail Phases 2 & 3:**

The Downtown Trail will eventually connect the River to Sea Bikeway to the future Multimodal Transportation Center, Cape Fear Community College, and the Riverwalk. In between these locations, the trail will provide a recreational facility for several communities in proximity to the downtown. The project currently consists of three phases. The first phase, from 3rd Street to Archie Blue Park, is in the preliminary engineering phase. The purpose of this study would be to assess the feasibility of constructing Phases 2 and 3. A scoping meeting with NCDOT IMD and the selected consultant, Kittelson, was held on May 2, 2023.

#### **Project Status and Next Steps:**

- The first steering committee is anticipated to take place in October 2023.
- The first public outreach sessions are anticipated to take place in the fourth week of October 2023.
- Final study report anticipated in late spring/early summer 2024.

### **Gullah Geechee Heritage Trail:**

The purpose of this study would be to assess the feasibility of constructing a 10'-12' multi-use path facility in the Gullah Geechee Heritage Corridor from Phoenix Park in Navassa to Brunswick Nature Park in unincorporated Brunswick County. The Gullah Geechee Heritage Corridor is designated as a Cultural Heritage Area by U.S. Congress, presenting an opportunity to educate the public about the history of the Gullah Geechee people and highlight historical sites within Brunswick County. A scoping meeting with NCDOT IMD and the selected consultant, Kittelson, was held on May 2, 2023.

#### **Project Status and Next Steps:**

- The first steering committee took place in September 2023.
- The first public outreach sessions are anticipated to take place in the first and second weeks of October 2023.
- Final study report anticipated in late spring/early summer 2024.

### **SITE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW**

**Project Descriptions/Scope:** The Wilmington Urban Area MPO assists with site development and Transportation Impact Analysis review for the MPO's member jurisdictions. During the last month, staff has reviewed the following development proposals:

- New Hanover County Formal Plan Reviews: 10 reviews
- New Hanover County Informal Plan Reviews: 1 review
- New Hanover Concept Reviews: 2 reviews
- Town of Leland Concept Plan Reviews: 0 reviews
- Town of Leland Formal Reviews: 7 reviews
- Town of Leland Informal Reviews: 0 reviews
- Town of Navassa Formal Plan Reviews: 0 reviews
- Town of Navassa Informal Reviews: 0 reviews
- Town of Navassa Concept Reviews: 0 reviews
- Town of Belville Formal Reviews: 0 reviews
- Town of Carolina Beach Formal Reviews: 0 reviews
- Town of Carolina Beach Informal Reviews: 0 reviews
- Town of Carolina Beach Concept Reviews: 0 review
- Brunswick County Formal Plan Reviews: 0 reviews

- Brunswick County Informal Plan Reviews: 0 review
- Pender County Formal Reviews: 3 reviews
- Pender County Informal Reviews: 2 reviews
- Pender County Concept Reviews: 0 reviews
- City of Wilmington Formal Reviews: 53 reviews (3 new, 50 on-going)
- City of Wilmington Informal Reviews: 18 reviews (3 new, 15 on-going)
- City of Wilmington Concept Reviews: 1 review (1 new, 0 on-going)
- City of Wilmington Full Releases: 5

TIA Reviews: 34 total active (1 new; 29 under review; 2 approved, 2 waived)

- New Hanover County 8 (0 new, 6 under review, 1 approved, 1 waiver),
- City of Wilmington 9 (0 new, 8 under review, 0 approved, 1 waiver),
- Carolina Beach 0,
- Town of Belville 0,
- Town of Leland 4 (1 new, 2 under review, 1 approved),
- Town of Navassa 2, (0 new, 2 under review, 0 approved),
- Pender County 9 (0 new, 9 under review, 0 approved) and
- Brunswick County 2 (0 new, 2 under review, 0 approved)

### **STBGP-DA/TASA-DA/CRRSAA FY2013**

#### **to Present**

#### **U - 5527C NEW HANOVER COUNTY - Middle Sound Loop Extension/Connector Construction & Porters Neck Walmart Connector Construction**

**Project Description/Scope:** construction of bicycle/pedestrian trails along Middle Sound Loop Road from Red Cedar Road to Publix commercial lot. Also construct trails along US 17 Business (Market Street) from Mendenhall Drive to Porter’s Neck Wal-Mart commercial lot.

#### **Project Status and Next Steps:**

- Right of way acquisition is complete and was sent to NCDOT for ROW certification.
- Right of way certification received.
- Awaiting final approval from CFPUA

#### **U-5534C - WRIGHTSVILLE AVENUE/GREENVILLE AVENUE TO HINTON AVENUE**

**Project Descriptions/Scope:** The project is for construction of intersection re-alignment improvements at the intersection of Wrightsville Avenue/Greenville Avenue and bike lanes and sidewalks along Greenville Avenue from Wrightsville Avenue to Hinton Avenue.

#### **Project Status and Next Steps:**

- NCDOT approval of final design elements and right-of-way authorization obtained June 10, 2022
- Advertise for Bid – November 2023
- Begin Construction – February 2024
- Construction Complete- November 2024

#### **U-5534G –CITY OF WILMINGTON- HOOKER ROAD MULTI-USE PATH**

**Project Descriptions/Scope:** The project consists of the construction of a 8' wide multi-use path along Hooker Road from Wrightsville Avenue to Mallard Drive/Rose Ave intersection

**Project Status and Next Steps:**

- NCDOT approval of final design elements and right-of-way authorization obtained June 10, 2022
- Advertise for Bid –November 2023
- Begin Construction – February 2024
- Construction Complete- November 2024

**U-5534H –CITY OF WILMINGTON- HINTON AVE MULTI-USE PATH**

**Project Descriptions/Scope:** This project consists of the construction of an 8' wide multi-use path along Hinton Avenue from Park Avenue to Greenville Avenue.

**Project Status and Next Steps:**

- NCDOT approval of final design elements and right-of-way authorization obtained June 10, 2022
- Advertise for Bid – November 2023
- Begin Construction – February 2024
- Construction Complete- November 2024

**U-5534I –TOWN OF LELAND- VILLAGE ROAD MULTI-USE PATH EXTENSION**

**Project Descriptions/Scope:** The construction of a 8 foot wide concrete path from the connection at the Brunswick Center in Leland across the front of the library property, down Village Road, ending on the western edge of the First Baptist Church property before the Sturgeon Creek Bridge.

**Project Status and Next Steps:**

- Construction commenced February 8, 2021
- Final Payment was sent on August 22, 2023
- Town Staff working with NCDOT Division 3 to close out the project
- Project completion extended to June 30, 2024

**U-5534J – TOWN OF LELAND- OLD FAYETTEVILLE LOOP ROAD PEDESTRIAN LOOP**

**Project Descriptions/Scope:** The construction of sidewalks in three locations: 1) The construction of an 8-foot concrete sidewalk along Village Road from Town Hall Drive to the apartment complex and widening the existing 5-foot sidewalk in front of the apartment complex to 8 feet. 2) The construction of a 6-foot sidewalk along Town Hall Drive from Village Road NE to the sidewalk that exists by the new Town Hall. 3) The construction of a 5-foot sidewalk along Old Fayetteville Road from the existing sidewalk in front of the apartment complex to Village Road NE.

**Project Status and Next Steps:**

- Construction commenced February 8, 2021
- Final Payment was sent on August 22, 2023
- Town Staff working with NCDOT Division 3 to close out the project
- Project completion extended to June 30, 2024

**U-5534K – TOWN OF LELAND- LELAND MIDDLE SCHOOL SIDEWALK**

**Project Descriptions/Scope:** The construction of 5-foot-wide concrete sidewalk adjacent to Old Fayetteville Road from Ricefield Branch Road to the US Hwy 74/76 overpass after Glendale Drive with connections to Leland Middle School and the surrounding neighborhoods.

**Project Status and Next Steps:**

- Construction commenced February 8, 2021
- Final Payment was sent on August 22, 2023
- Town Staff working with NCDOT Division 3 to close out the project
- Project completion extended to June 30, 2024

**U-5534Q –CITY OF WILMINGTON- S. COLLEGE/HOLLY TREE CROSSWALKS**

**Project Description/Scope:** The project will install sidewalk, ADA ramps, curb and gutter, markings and traffic signal revisions required to install actuated pedestrian crossings of S. College Road and crossings on Holly Tree Road.

**Project Status and Next Steps:**

- Received Construction Authorization from NCDOT and Notice to Proceed (NTP) from NCDOT (U-5534Q & EB-6028) on February 8, 2023
- Advertise U-5534Q and EB-6028 on March 8, 2023
- Pre-Bid Meeting on March 21, 2023
- Bid Opening (LET) on April 13, 2023
- One (1) bid submitted and rejected (May 16, 2023 Council Meeting) due to Over/Under difference with Engineer's Cost Estimate.
- Re-advertise w/ EB-6028 on May 18<sup>th</sup>
- Bid Opening (LET) on June 8, 2023
- One (1) bid submitted and rejected due to excessive cost(s)
- Revised bid schedule set for September 6<sup>th</sup>
- Two (2) bids received on September 6<sup>th</sup>, the city and NCDOT agreed to proceed.
- An Ordinance and resolution are being developed for the November 8<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting

**U-5534U – TOWN OF NAVASSA- NAVASSA PARK MULTI-USE PATH**

**Project Description/Scope:** This project will construct bike lanes on both sides of Brooklyn Street, a multi-use path connecting Brooklyn Street to the Navassa Park, and a multi-use path through the Navassa Park forming a loop within the park.

**Project Status and Next Steps:**

- Right Angle provided the 90% plans
- 90% plans and contract documents have been submitted to NCDOT
- CE Document has been approved
- Right-of-way authorization approved
- The consultant is proceeding with the right-of-way acquisition.
- Proposed property valuations have been submitted and have been approved by NCDOT.
- Letters to property owners have been mailed to initiate the acquisition process.
- Construction fund authorization request will occur next federal fiscal year

**U-6234 MULTI-MODAL PHASE 1 B**

**Project Description/Scope:** Rehabilitation of the historic structure located at 525 N 4th Street for MPO offices.

**Project Status and Next Steps:**

- Paragon Building Corp awarded bid and signed the contract
- September 12, 2022, building permit issued
- Right of Way permit has been approved

- Completed North Wall Parapet repairs
- Completed intumescent paint for board room
- Completed 1st half of topping slab
- Removed masonry for 1st floor and 2nd floor entryways on south wall
- Continued work installing second floor
- Masonry repairs underway
- HVAC installation underway

**U-6235 – CITY OF WILMINGTON/NEW HANOVER COUNTY – SIGNAL PRE-EMPTION PHASE 2**

**Project Description/Scope:** The project will install traffic pre-emption equipment at 50 locations throughout the City of Wilmington and New Hanover County and GPS equipment on emergency response vehicles.

**Project Status and Next Steps:**

- Design contract approved May 5, 2021, by City Council and execution is complete.
- Design kick-off meeting held July 23, 2021, with Wilmington Fire Department, Traffic Engineering and Davenport Staff.
- Design started in October 2021 is expected to last through Summer 2023.

**U-6039 – CAROLINA BEACH – ST. JOESPH BIKE LANES**

**Project Description/Scope:** Construct Bike Lanes along St. Joseph Avenue and Lewis Drive from Lake Park Boulevard to Access Drive in Carolina Beach

**Project Status and Next Steps:**

- NCDOT funding availability reopened January 25, 2021
- Town Council elected to move forward with the project
- Agreement executed with NCDOT on August 18, 2021
- Design discussions held with Kimley-Horn & Associates (KHA) on August 31, 2021
- Public meeting held on March 24, 2022, to present three (3) design alternatives for bike path on St. Joseph
- KHA presented to Town’s Bike & Pedestrian Committee summary of comments on April 18, 2022
- KHA presented at Town Council regularly scheduled meeting on May 10, 2022
- Town Council approved Option 3 on May 10, 2022, as presented by KHA
- On May 25, 2022, project managers submit RFLOI to NCDOT prequalified engineering firms with a response deadline of June 8, 2022
- Responses to RFLOI reviewed by WMPO/Town of Carolina Beach
- On July 12, 2022, the Town of Carolina Beach selected KHA as the design firm
- On September 22, 2022, the Town received a Letter of Agreement from KHA for Scope of Services and Project Engineer Design Estimate.
- The Town has uploaded documentation via EBS portal for review and approval.
- The Town has obtained NCDOT approval in January 2023
- Project meeting with consultant held March 2023
- Project survey completed in July 2023

**TASA-DA/CRRSAA/STIP**

**BL-0045 – DOWNTOWN GREENWAY PH. 1 DESIGN**

**Project Description/Scope:** design and engineering for an approximately 2.2 mile long, 10’ to 12’ in width portion of the trail beginning at 3rd street in the Downtown within the NCDOT owned rail

corridor to McRae St (defined in the Wilmington Rail Trail Master Plan); abutting the Dorothy B. Johnson Elementary School western parcel line; traversing east along CSX right-of-way to Archie Blue Park; and continuing north through Archie Blue Park, parallel to the creek and terminating at the Love Grove Bridge multi-use path facility.

**Project Status and Next Steps:**

- Agreement executed by NCDOT on April 20, 2022
- City selected an on-call engineering consultant (WSP) to perform design and engineering. A scope and fee were agreed upon and approved by NCDOT.
- Award of contract by City Council on September 6, 2022.
- Notice to proceed issued on October 2, 2022.
- Supplemental scope of services for project management activities, NCDOT and CSX rail coordination, and additional survey tasks submitted on April 13, 2023 with NTP on additional services issued on June 12, 2023.
- NCDOT Rail Division is contracting with WSP on the preliminary concept design for rail track layout to determine final alignment of the Downtown Trail facility.
- NCDOT Rail Division Staff, City of Wilmington, and WMPO staff met with Cape Fear Community College President Jim Morton on July 24th to discuss both the Rail Division and City's efforts coordinating future passenger rail track and trail layout in the project corridor.

**BL – 0059 TOWN OF KURE BEACH - FORT FISHER BOULEVARD/K AVENUE AND NORTH 3RD STREET PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS**

**Project Description/Scope:** This project entails intersection improvements at Ft. Fisher Boulevard and K Avenue to include high visibility crosswalks, ADA ramps, and pedestrian signals; and filling gaps in the sidewalk network on Ft. Fisher Boulevard and N. 3rd Street that will create a pedestrian network connected to the Ft. Fisher Boulevard and K Avenue intersection.

**Project Status and Next Steps:**

- Agreement finalized and adopted September 2022
- Request for PE Authorization in October 2022
- Request for Letters of Interest to be sent in December 2022
- Four (4) proposals reviewed in January 2023
- PE firm selection February 2023
- Project kick-off meeting in March 2023
- Contract approved by Kure Beach Town Council in June 2023
- Meeting with NCDOT, WMPO, WithersRavenel, and Town of Kure Beach was held on August 8, 2023
- Survey can start in September 2023

**EB-5600 – S. 17TH STREET MULTI-USE PATH**

**Project Description/Scope:** This project consists of the construction of a 10' multiuse path along South 17th Street from Harbour Drive to Shipyard Boulevard and the installation of crosswalks and pedestrian signal heads at the intersection of South 17th Street and Shipyard Boulevard.

**Project Status and Next Steps:**

- Agreement executed with NCDOT on May 24, 2022
- Scope and Fee submitted to NCDOT on September 16, 2022
- Change Request for PE Authorization submitted to NCDOT on September 21, 2022
- Request to use RS&H (COW On-Call) approved by NCDOT on October 10, 2022
- NCDOT approved the scope and fee on November 2, 2022

- Change Request for PE Authorization approved on January 20, 2023
- Contract between City and RS&H executed on January 24, 2023 and notice to proceed issued.
- Design kick-off meeting between City and RS&H staff held on January 31, 2023
- Design criteria and typical section submitted on March 17, 2023.
- Survey work completed on April 27, 2023.
- Natural Resources Technical Report (NRTR)/Environmental Document is in progress.
- Field visit conducted on May 4, 2023.
- 25% Preliminary Plans submitted on June 9, 2023
- Review meeting held on August 10, 2023
- Revised 25% plans submitted on August 28, 2023
- NCDOT provided construction cost estimate on September 8, 2023- currently under review

#### **EB-6025- TOWN OF BELVILLE- RICE HOPE MULTI-USE PATH**

**Project Description:** The project consists of the construction of a multi-use path of eight feet (8') wide located at the western side of NC 133 between Morecamble Blvd and Rice Hope Run.

#### **Project Status and Next Steps:**

- 100% plans approved by NCDOT
- Contract proposal (with cost estimate) approved April 11, 2022
- CEI contract award in October 2022
- Construction authorization February 2023
- CE Consultation approved by NCDOT (revised b/c Tricolored Bat is on the potentially endangered species list. CE Consultation signed by both Withers Ravenel and NCDOT).
- NCDOT approved bid documents.
- Bid solicitation in September 2023
- Anticipated bid award/start of construction December 2023

#### **EB- 6026- TOWN OF BELVILLE- BELVILLE ELEMENTARY- MULTI-USE PATH**

**Project Description:** The project consists of the construction of a multi-use path of eight feet (8') wide located along NC 133 connecting north and south entrances of Hawks Water Development to Belville Elementary School.

#### **Project Status and Next Steps:**

- 100% plans approved by NCDOT
- Contract proposal (with cost estimate) approved April 11, 2022
- CEI contract award in October 2022
- Construction authorization February 2023
- CE Consultation approved by NCDOT (revised b/c Tricolored Bat is on the potentially endangered species list. CE Consultation signed by both Withers Ravenel and NCDOT).
- NCDOT approved bid documents.
- Bid solicitation in September 2023
- Anticipated bid award/start of construction December 2023

#### **EB-6027 – NEW HANOVER COUNTY -MIDDLE SOUND GREENWAY**

**Project Description:** Design only of the Middle Sound Greenway connection to Publix

#### **Project Status and Next Steps:**

- Comments received from CFPWA indicate conflicts with utilities that require design adjustments
- NCDOT issued notice of Construction Authorization on April 12, 2022.



- Level A SUE completed, and results have been reviewed.
- CFPUA is reviewing final plans (were modified based on their comments)
- Right of way acquisition is complete and was sent to NCDOT for ROW certification
- Anticipated construction let date Summer 2023
- Awaiting final approval from CFPUA
- Right of Way Certification received.

#### **EB-6028 —CITY OF WILMINGTON- 21<sup>ST</sup> STREET/MARKET HAWK SIGNAL**

**Project Description:** Design and construction of a HAWK signal at the pedestrian crossing at Market Street and 21st Street

##### **Project Status and Next Steps:**

- NCDOT has approved the 100% project plans
- Received Construction Authorization from NCDOT and NTP from NCDOT (U-5534Q & EB-6028) on February 8, 2023
- Advertise U-5534Q and EB-6028 on March 8, 2023
- Pre-Bid Meeting on March 21, 2023
- Bid Opening (LET) on April 13, 2023
- One (1) bid submitted and rejected (May 16, 2023 Council Meeting) due to Over/Under difference with Engineer's Cost Estimate.
- Bid opening held April 13, 2023
- One (1) bid submitted and rejected due to excessive cost(s)
- Revised bid schedule set for September 6<sup>th</sup>
- Two (2) bids received on September 6<sup>th</sup>, the city and NCDOT agreed to proceed.
- An Ordinance and resolution are being developed for the November 8<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting

#### **HL – 0040 NC PORTS WILMINGTON – NEW NORTH GATE FEASIBILITY STUDY**

**Project Description/Scope:** This project is a feasibility study, early design and NEPA work to determine the high-level alternatives and costs associated with a new North Gate on NC Port of Wilmington property to allow for efficient freight access to and from the General Terminal.

##### **Project Status and Next Steps:**

- Advertisement for on-call consultants, August 14, 2020
- Selection and signed contract with HDR on October 29, 2020
- Kickoff meeting on site with NCSPA on March 10, 2022
- NCSPA/WTRY call on April 5, 2022
- Draft scoping letter to Port on April 5, 2022
- Traffic counts completed April 12, 2022
- Scoping Letter to Agencies on April 18, 2022
- Draft design assumptions & Typical Sections submitted on June 3, 2022
- Draft Limited Environmental Records Review (LERR) submitted on July 5, 2022
- Revised typical sections submitted on July 7, 2022
- Natural Resources Technical Report (NRTR) on August 8, 2022
- Revised Limited Environmental Records Review (LERR) submitted August 15, 2022
- Draft 15% roadway submittal on September 15, 2022
- Preliminary Hydraulics submittal on October 11, 2022
- Revised Roadway plans submitted on November 16, 2022
- Draft traffic analysis submitted December 16, 2022

- Revised Roadway exhibits submitted January 23, 2023
- Revised Roadway exhibits and costs submitted January 31, 2023
- Waiting on SHPO concurrence of no effects
- Traffic noise documentation from NCDOT that Traffic Noise Report not needed.
- Revised and Final CIA to NCDOT on August 11, 2023
- Revised CE document to NCDOT on August 15, 2023
- No Effects letter with conditions from SHPO on August 22, 2023
- Revised CE document to NCDOT on August 30, 2023

#### **TC – 0021 WAVE PASSENGER AMENITIES AND UPGRADES**

**Project Description/Scope:** Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority (WAVE transit) currently has a total of 440 bus stops, 24 benches and 27 shelters. Shelters only represent 6% of our passenger amenities, while other NC agencies average 14%. To meet the peer average for statewide systems, CFPTA needs to install an additional twenty-six (26) benches and twenty (20) shelters. This project will support the installation of a total of nine (9) bus stop benches and ten (10) bus stop shelters along eight (8) transit routes located within the City of Wilmington. The project includes engineering and design, construction of concrete pads, ADA ramps, ADA access, and purchase and installation of durable bench and/or shelter, waste receptacle, and solar lighting, where applicable.

#### **Project Status and Next Steps:**

- The project was awarded funds in November 2021
- NC Board of Transportation approved the flex request in January 2023
- Flex request confirmed end of April 2023
- Letters from NCDOT transmitted May 23, 2023

#### **TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

**Project Description/Scope:** The TDM “Go Coast” program works to increase the use of alternative transportation by WMPO residents and decrease Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). The WMPO Board approved Cape Fear Change in Motion 2020, the short-range TDM Plan which will guide Go Coast initiatives from 2021 to 2025. This plan identifies seven short-range strategies to increase mobility options and reduce traffic in the WMPO region. These strategies are: Alternative Work Schedules, Bike Share Program, Carpool and Vanpool, Consulting for Telecommuting Opportunities, Fostering a Bicycle and Pedestrian Friendly Culture, Improved TDM-Focused Collaboration, and Personalized Commuter Plans.

Go Coast current initiatives and project status:

1. Go Coast Committee - The next Go Coast committee meeting will occur on November 16, 2023, at 3 PM.
2. Be a Looker – WMPO and Go Coast will promote the Be a Looker campaign from April 2023 through October 2023, which encourages safety among all road users including motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians, through attending events, presentations, distributing informational brochures, advertising, and social media. Bicycle helmets received from an NCDOT grant will be distributed during this campaign to children from low-income families. So far there have been 192 Be A Looker pledges from 11 events attended since April as well as online pledges.

3. Get There Greener – The Go Coast committee has worked to rebrand the WMPO’s annual Commuter Challenge. The new name is “Get There Greener” and the focus is on sustainable transportation and replacing single-occupancy vehicle trips with bicycling, carpooling, walking, public transportation, or teleworking. The challenge takes place during the month of October and participants can log their miles traveled by alternative transportation to win prizes donated by local businesses. Visit [gocoastnc.org/get-there-greener](http://gocoastnc.org/get-there-greener) for info.
4. Brunswick Heritage Riverside Ride – The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Brunswick Heritage Riverside Ride took place Saturday, September 30, 2023. This 16-mile casual-paced ride travels along the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor in northern Brunswick County. This year, there were 131 riders.