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**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
**Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee**  
**June 13, 2023**

**Members Present:**

Karin Mills, City of Wilmington  
Carol Stein, Pender County  
Rodney Kidd, Town of Carolina Beach  
Katie Ryan, Town of Wrightsville Beach  
Brad Cannon, Wave Transit  
Mo Linqvist, Town of Kure Beach  
Al Schroetel, Cape Fear Cyclists  
Sam Burgess, Cape Fear Cyclists  
Steve Zinder, UNCW  
Emma Stogner, WMPO  
Duncan McCabe, City of  
Wilmington  
Adrienne Cox, NCDOT

**Staff and Guests Present**

Carolyn Caggia, WMPO  
Greer Shivers, WMPO  
Vanessa Lacer, WMPO  
Abie Bonevac, City of Wilmington  
Sally Thigpen  
Michelle Howes, NCDOT  
Kenneth Garm  
Karlene Ellis-Valis, New Hanover  
County

- 1. Call to Order**
  - C. Stein called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm and roll was called.
- 2. Approval of the Agenda**
  - Motion to approve was made by Al Schroetel.
  - Motion was seconded by Duncan McCabe.
  - Motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Public Comment Period**
  - There were no public comments.

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4. **Approval of minutes from February and April 2023 Meetings**

- Motion made to approve by Al Schroetel, seconded by Steve Zinder.
- Motion passed unanimously.

5. **Presentations**

- Emma Stogner gave a presentation about NCDOT's Complete Streets Policy as a refresher for committee members. Karin asked if this applies to state versus local roads. Emma explained this does not apply to local roads, just to DOT roads, not city or private owned roads. Adrienne added Counties do not own roads. Carol asked about Gordon Road. Adrienne said it went through the complete streets process and is slated for having a multi-use path on the north side and a sidewalk on the south side. Duncan asked about the matrix, inquiring if all new projects at a minimum would have a paved shoulder. Emma and Adrienne answered: not necessarily, if there's intermittent/no activity, it doesn't warrant one, especially on rural roads. Adrienne said it still falls into the matrix as low need unless it was identified in a plan where there's a school or trail nearby to indicate need. Duncan mentioned 17 past the Pender line as an ideal candidate for accommodations. Adrienne mentioned a multi-use path in New Hanover County and conversations with the County's Parks and Recreation Department. Emma mentioned Pender's 17 will have bicycle and pedestrian recommendations to be considered in the future through the Pender County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Emma showed additional Complete Streets resources on NCDOT's website. Adrienne also mentioned the resource of the cost estimation tool. Adrienne said the Board of Transportation approved P6.0 for 2024-2033. Emma will send a link out about city versus NCDOT streets, as well as additional information about the Complete Streets Policy.

6. **Old Business**

- Emma Stogner gave an update on the 2023 River to Sea Bike Ride, sharing that it had a record turnout. Online registration reached maximum capacity a few days after the event went live. This year, WMPO staff also captured drone footage and attended the farmers market after the ride. Karen had feedback about more announcements when it's time to leave Wrightsville Beach, the PA system is not super effective so maybe walk around with it. Carol said we will start planning the ride earlier. Carolyn suggested pinging phones/watches using Constant Contact or Eventbrite. Emma will send out a doodle poll to schedule a separate planning meeting for the 2024 ride this summer.
- Carolyn updated the committee on Bike Month, sharing stats from participants using Strava. Committee members asked about e-bike usage; Carolyn responded she would ask participants about their usage next year. Additionally, Carolyn welcomed the committee members to participate in the Bike Month Subcommittee next year to plan for Bike Month 2024.

7. **New Business**

- Emma shared that the Brunswick Heritage Riverside Ride is tentatively scheduled on September 30th. Carol suggested at the start of the ride, reaching out to a coffee/pastry vendor to fuel riders and that it does not necessarily need to be free. Al said Tour de Blueberry uses First Bites to give breakfast items. The WMPO could also work with a shaved ice truck after the ride. Emma mentioned the WMPO collaborating with the 501c3 to create a Gullah Geechee cultural/historical/trail handout to distribute to riders. Adrienne mentioned a scavenger hunt; perhaps WMPO staff could collaborate with the 501c3 to make tours available of places like Reaves Chapel after the ride. Vanessa suggested emailing R2S riders for interest. Adrienne suggested tapping into Cape Fear Cyclists for events or bike shops. Al said rules for all rides including Tour de Blueberry is that e-bikes are okay if they are not throttle only, they must be pedal or pedal assist.

- Emma shared that the WMPO is preparing an application for the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program to develop a safety action plan for road users in the WMPO boundary. She requested a motion to support the WMPO's application. Mo motioned that the BPAC support the application, which Duncan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Carolyn shared that the WMPO received 100 bicycle helmets from NCDOT's Bicycle Helmet Initiative program. She asked committee members for recommendations for distribution in addition to events already identified by WMPO staff. Members suggested reaching out to A Bike for Every Child and Special Pedals. Food banks are also an opportunity, if done on a recurring basis.
- Emma shared that the MTP 2050 Plan is starting, and the first round of public engagement will start in August. Vanessa updated the committee on their role in this cycle of the MTP. Instead of having a subcommittee, the BPAC will act as an ongoing stakeholder group to inform the MTPC. These stakeholder meetings will take place during regular meetings.

#### **8. Updates and Announcements**

- Emma shared that the Pender County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan is open for public comment through June 23<sup>rd</sup> and encouraged committee members to spread the word and look at the draft plan. Carol suggested reaching out to bike shops to help distribute the draft.
- Al mentioned that in the past 25 days, CFC and TBBF have supported 4 safety events – bike rodeo at Independence Mall with NHC Health Department, Kure Beach Traffic Garden, Bike Rodeo for Taren Woods, and a Bike Rodeo for Brunswick County at Waccamaw Township Park. They have 3 LCIs, Tammy Swanson, Kitty Cole, and Jim Bailey. If your community would like to conduct a bike safety event, they'd be happy to help with bike safety trailers (cones, extra bikes of all sizes) and can bring at least one LCI, just provide additional volunteers for the event. The Tour de Blueberry is this Saturday, looking at 600+ participants. Next adopt a highway pickup is June 24. Mo shared that this is the second year Kure Beach has done a traffic garden and has nailed down the logistics. There were about 30 volunteers. Spotlights Three Wheel Therapy who does wheelchair tricycles (Al mentioned one of these bikes costs \$13k, and they asked for TBBF's assistance to purchase another, receiving a grant from TBBF of \$2.5k). Rodney Kidd requested adding Nicole from Three Wheel Therapy to agenda next time as a public comment for a presentation.
- WMPO Technical Coordinating Committee, Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 10am
- WMPO Board Meeting, Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at 3pm

#### **9. Next Meeting**

- Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at 2PM

#### **10. Adjournment**

- Motion to adjourn was made by Duncan McCabe.
- Motion was seconded by Karin Mills.
- Motion passed unanimously.