



MPO Board Special Meeting Minutes
Friday November 3, 2023
Via Zoom

Members Present Remotely

Lynn Barbee, Town of Carolina Beach
Mike Allen, Town of Belville
John Ellen, Town of Kure Beach
Hank Miller, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Brenda Bozeman, Town of Leland
Dane Scalise, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority
Luke Waddell, City of Wilmington

Members Absent

Wendy Hardee-Fletcher
Landon Zimmer
Eulis Willis
Jonathan Barfield, Jr.
Neil Anderson
Frank Williams
Mike Forte

Others Present Remotely

Veronica Carter, Town of Leland
Abby Lorenzo, WMPO
Tera Cline, WMPO
Mike Koslosky, WMPO
Cam Grimes
WECT News
Brayton Willis
Mark Hairr
Tyler Newman
Alan Rusher
Stephanie Walker
Julian Griffee
Jennifer Harris

1) Call to Order

Chairman Hank Miller called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. MPO Deputy Executive Director Abby Lorenzo called the roll, and a quorum was present as follows:

Present Remotely: Chairman Hank Miller, Mike Allen, Lynn Barbee, Brenda Bozeman, Dane Scalise, Luke Waddell, John Ellen, **Absent:** Wendy Fletcher- Hardee and Landon Zimmer, Neil Anderson, Jonathan Barfield, Jr., Frank Williams, Mike Forte, and Eulis Willis.

2) Regular Agenda

Resolution supporting the North Carolina Department of Transportation's application to the US Department of Transportation's Bridge Investment Program (BIP) for the Replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge

Abby Lorenzo, WMPO, presented the resolution for approval supporting the North Carolina Department of Transportation's application to the US Department of Transportation's Bridge Investment Program (BIP) for the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge. The Bridge Investment Program was established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in 2021, making \$40 billion dollars available over 5-years for replacement, rehabilitation, preservation, and protection activities for some of the nation's most important bridges. The Bridge Investment Program has three categories of awards: planning level projects, bridge projects costing less than \$100 million, and large bridge projects costing more than \$100 million. Eligible bridge projects within these categories are those aiming to increase the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of people and freight through improving bridges in poor or at-risk condition; bridges not meeting current geometric design standards; and bridges unable to accommodate the traffic volume requirements of the regional transportation network. A call for applications for FY 23 and 24 funding for the large bridge projects category, which the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge replacement meets the criteria for, is ongoing and will close on November 27, 2023. More than \$9.6 billion will be awarded for fiscal years 2023 through 2026 in this project category. Projects considered within this category are eligible for an award amount of up to 50% of the total project cost. Other federal funding can be used with non-federal funding to cover remaining project costs, so long as the federal share does not exceed 80%. The North Carolina Department of Transportation has requested resolutions of support to accompany their application for the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge from the WMPO Board. The Cape Fear Memorial Bridge replacement project is the Board's top unfunded priority. Passage of the resolution is recommended by staff and is consistent with both the Board's priorities and supportive of the ongoing collaboration between the WMPO and NCDOT to explore all possible funding mechanisms for the project.

Mr. Waddell requested clarification on which project plan and design would be submitted.

Abby Lorenzo, WMPO, stated NCDOT has proposed the one hundred and thirty-five (135) foot clearance option with a six (6) lane cross section and a fifteen (15) foot multiuse path. The estimate for completion of the project is in the ballpark of four hundred million dollars and the match for this grant program would be around two hundred million.

Mr. Allen asked when letters of support from other agencies were due to NCDOT, and it was noted that the deadline is November 17, 2023

Mr. Scalise made a motion to approve, and Mr. Ellen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Mr. Ellen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Scalise, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Kozlosky

Executive Director

Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

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