



**WMPO Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, March 27, 2024**  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor Training Conference Room  
320 Chestnut Street, Wilmington, NC 28401

**Members Present**

Mike Allen, Town of Belville  
Lynn Barbee, Town of Carolina Beach  
Jonathan Barfield, Jr., New Hanover County  
Brenda Bozeman, Town of Leland  
Brad George, Pender County  
Frank Williams, Brunswick County  
Bill Rivenbark, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority  
Bill Saffo, City of Wilmington  
Luke Waddell, Vice Chairman  
John Ellen, Town of Kure Beach (Remote)

**Others Present**

Chad Kimes, NCDOT  
Mike Kozlosky, WMPO  
Abby Lorenzo, WMPO  
Scott James, WMPO  
Tera Cline, WMPO  
Regina Hopkins, WMPO  
Vanessa Lacer, WMPO  
Michelle Howes, NCDOT  
Carolyn Caggia, WMPO  
Greer Shriver, WMPO  
Matt Nichols, MPO General Counsel  
Allen Oliver, Town of Kure Beach

**Members Absent**

Eulis Willis, Town of Navassa  
Hank Miller, Town of Wrightsville Beach  
Landon Zimmer, NC Board of Transportation

**1) Call to Order**

Vice Chairman Waddell called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. Mike Kozlosky, WMPO then called roll.

**Present:** Mike Allen, Lynn Barbee, Brenda Bozeman, Jonathan Barfield, Jr., Frank Williams, Luke Waddell, Brad George, Bill Rivenbark, and Bill Saffo.

**Present Remotely:** John Ellen **Absent:** Chairman Hank Miller, Eulis Willis, and Landon Zimmer.

**2) Conflict of Interest Statement**

Vice Chairman Waddell read the conflict-of-interest statement and asked if any Board member has a conflict of interest. No one indicated that they had a conflict.

**3) Approval of Board Member Excused Absences**

No excused absences.

**4) Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Barfield made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Ms. Bozeman and the motion carried unanimously.

**5) Public Comment Period**

No sign ups.

**6) Presentations**

**a. Brunswick County Comprehensive Transportation Plan- Nazia Sardar, NCDOT**

Nazia Sardar, NCDOT, presented the Brunswick County Comprehensive Transportation Plan. She stated the purpose of this presentation is informational only for the WMPO. The plan study area includes all of Brunswick County, minus the WMPO area. The adopting agencies will be adopting the main report , which includes multi-modal maps and recommendations. Ms. Sardar went over what a CTP is noting it's a 25-to-30-year long range, multi-modal transportation plan that assesses Brunswick County's existing and future transportation needs, including roadways, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities.

The CTP identifies transportation deficiencies, setting short- and long-term transportation priorities and establishing a relationship between local and regional expectations. It reinforces and supports other local and regional planning and funding initiatives. She stated the CTP provides a framework for local governments , regional planning organizations, and NCDOT to work together on a long-range vision for transportation facilities. It is also used to identify priority projects for funding and construction that will eventually connect to achieve a larger vision for the transportation network as well as lower scale projects that are important to the local area. A major benefit of having a CTP is the eventual submittal of projects to NCDOT for funding that we know as Prioritization.

Ms. Sardar stated that the Brunswick County CTP consists of 54 pages of the main report and 359 pages of Appendices. She noted a lot of information, and details went into creating the CTP since 2020 including multi-modal maps, including highway, bicycle, pedestrian, and rail/transit. The CTP also includes bridge crash and Title VI maps and environmental data.

She stated that the steering committee included 63 members from the adopting agencies. They met for almost one year straight twice a month to create the CTP. There was also a NCDOT Division 3 committee that provided the needs of the area and local transportation network. There was a process called Interagency Coordination Protocol, where subject matter experts from local, state, and federal agencies reviewed the CTP during the entire process and provided feedback.

Ms. Sardar stated that members of the public who live and visit the county were encouraged to offer feedback. An online and paper survey were available and around 7,000 surveys were completed. The in-person events were well attended with over 100 people attending them. Those sessions were hosted in Calabash, Bolivia, and Saint James.

She noted the adopting agencies and mentioned the Cape Fear RPO is endorsing the CTP. Adoption presentations started back in January and the goal is to complete local adoptions by the end of March. Then the CTP will go to NCDOT Board of Transportation in April or May. She then shared the QR code to view the entire CTP. She stated that there are 176 projects that are being recommended in the next 25 to 30 years throughout Brunswick County across all modes. She shared a map displaying the various facility types that are being recommended, such as freeways, expressways, boulevards, etc. The next map she displayed was the recommendations map, which goes into detail about the type of recommendation that is being made from the previous map. For example, whether it's due to congestion, access management, safety, or modernization.

She mentioned that the WMPO has been a part of the process as well. Abby Lorenzo participated in every steering committee meeting since 2020, to ensure continuity and connectivity at the border and ensuring projects coming from the boundary are the same recommendations that are in the MPO's MTP.

Ms. Sarder noted that each map ID is associated with the description on the project list. On the appendix of the report, project sheets are also included that contain every kind of detail that you can imagine on a specific project.

She stated that Brunswick County depends on a Dial and Ride program right now offered through Brunswick County Transit that serves the residents of the county as a demand response transit option. The county has a vision to accommodate for seasonal months and is proposing a park and ride which does not exist right now, and it would only run during the summer months.

She said the only rail recommendation is to have the Carolina Line, also known as the RJCS. This is an abandoned line from Whiteville to Malmo and is being proposed for re-establishment. Between those locations is a strategic economic development opportunity to complete a link in the network.

Ms. Sader presented the final set of recommendations which are bicycle and pedestrian facilities. She stated that previous CTP recommendations, local bicycle, and pedestrian recommendations from local plans, as well as state and regional plans, such as the East Coast Greenway Plan have been incorporated.

Mr. Williams stated this was something Brunswick County had pushed for quite a few years, because they are split between two MPO's and an RPO. He stated it was very important to have a cohesive plan. Commissioner Williams thanked everyone for their participation and is looking forward to the CTP coming into fruition.

## **7) Consent Agenda**

- a. **Approval of Board Regular Meeting Minutes- February 28, 2024**
- b. **Resolution approving 2024-2033 STIP/MPO Amendment #24-1**
- c. **Resolution approving 2024-2033 STIP/MPO Administrative Modifications #24-2**

Ms. Bozeman made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Mr. Barbee seconded, motion carried unanimously.

## **8) Regular Agenda**

- b. **Resolution approving Amendment #2 to the FY 24 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Koslosky stated adjustments to the work program could be made until the end of March. All projected expenditures have been looked at and are included in the packet. It includes adjustments to the PL program as well as the STBG program. This is simply just cleaning up our PWP (Planning Work Program), he then stated that Regina Hopkins, senior accountant, is on the phone, who can answer any questions.

Mr. Barbee made a motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Barfield seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

- c. **Resolution adopting the FY 25 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Koslosky stated that staff presented the draft FY 25 Unified Planning Work Program to the Board in January and conducted the required 30-day public comment period. Staff also requested feedback from the Board in February and did not receive any.

Mr. Barfield asked if the money came from the State. Mr. Koslosky stated it is a combination of federal, state, and local funds and is broken down into different programs. He said it is federal money that is passed through the state. A portion of transit funds do come from the state as well as local funds.

Mr. Barfield asked what the total amount is that will be received. Regina Hopkins stated the total amount of the budget is \$2,160,666. There is an additional \$500,000 from FY 24 that will carry over, and those are the Safe Streets for All funds. The combined total is \$2,660,666.

Mr. Barfield made a motion to approve, and Mr. Allen seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

c. **Resolution certifying the WMPO Transportation Planning Process**

Mr. Koslosky stated that the MPO is required to annually certify that they are conducting transportation planning in accordance with federal Law. There is a checklist included as part of the certification process.

Mr. Barfield made a motion to approve, and Mr. Barbee seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

9) **Discussion**

a. **2024-2033 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modifications #24-3**

Mr. Kozlosky said this item is for information purposes only and will be brought back for consideration at the Board's next meeting.

10) **Updates are all included in the Agenda Packet**

a. **Wilmington Urban Area MPO**

Mr. Kozlosky stated to the Board that a copy of the adopted legislative agenda is included with their packet and a copy will be sent to our state and federal delegation. He also gave an update on moving to Skyline Center. There was then a discussion on parking for meetings at the building once completed. The WAVE transit bus station located behind the MPO building was mentioned as a parking idea. Mr. Kozlosky stated he would follow up with WAVE and discuss that possibility.

b. **Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority**

Updates included in the packet.

c. **NCDOT Division**

Chad Kimes, NCDOT, expressed his appreciation to all on the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Preservation project. He stated things were going as planned and adjustments would be made accordingly. He also offered the Board a field trip to the bridge to see the progress that has been made.

**NCDOT Transportation Planning Division**

Nazia Sarder, NCDOT, indicated that related to the Wilmington Travel Demand model, the MPO is working with the counties to verify the socio-economic data. Once that has been sent back, the department will incorporate it into the model, and she will present it to the TCC and the Board. The Pender County CTP steering committee have started a meeting. All other updates are included in the packet.

**11) Announcements**

- a. **Wilmington MPO Metropolitan Transportation Plan Technical Steering Committee (MTPC) meeting- March 28, 2024**
- b. **WMPO Bike/Pedestrian Committee- April 9, 2024**
- c. **NC Ethics Information Due- April 15, 2024**
- d. **Wilmington MPO Metropolitan Transportation Plan Technical Steering Committee (MTPC) meeting- April 25, 2024**
- e. **River to Sea – Saturday, September 7, 2024**
- f. **Brunswick Heritage Riverside Ride – September 28, 2024**

**12) Closed Session**

Mr. Waddell made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to the provisions of GS 143-318.11 (a) (3) in order to preserve attorney-client privileges. Ms. Bozeman seconded the motion carried unanimously.

**Next meeting – May 1st, 2024**

The meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m. Motion made by Mr. Barfield and seconded by Mr. Williams.

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.**