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WMPO Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

525 N 4th Street

Wilmington, NC 28401

Members Present, In person

Luke Waddell, Vice Chairman, City of
Wilmington
Mike Allen, Town of Belville
Frank Williams, Brunswick County
John Ellen, Town of Kure Beach
Lynn Barbee, Town of Carolina Beach
Dane Scalise, Cape Fear Public
Transportation Authority
Brenda Bozeman, Town of Leland
Landon Zimmer, NC Board of
Transportation
Bill Rivenbark, New Hanover County

Members Present, Remote

Hank Miller, Chairman, Town of
Wrightsville Beach
Kevin Spears, City of Wilmington

Members Absent

Brad George, Pender County
Eulis Willis, Town of Navassa

Others Present, In Person

Mike Kozlosky, WMPO
Abby Lorenzo, WMPO
Trevor Carroll, NCDOT

Ben Hughes, NCDOT
Eric Ritzel, NCDOT
Adrienne Cox, NCDOT
Nazia Sarder, NCDOT
Veronica Carter, Town of Leland
Matt Nichols, Law Office of Matt Nichols
Nikki Cooper, Law Office of Matt Nichols
Doug Pruden, Wilmington Resident
Chris Coudriet, NHC
Thane Young, Wilmington Resident
Chad Kimes, GFT
Bijan Salehi, A Caring Heart
Mark Hairr, WAVE
Greer Templer, WMPO
Tessa Jones, WMPO
Krysdan Burden, WMPO
Carolyn Caggia, WMPO
Beth King, WMPO
Caitlin Cerza, WMPO
Regina Hopkins, WMPO
Ronda Hogan, WMPO

Others Present, Remote

Eric Seidel, CFPUA
Katie Hite, NCDOT
Stacey Mahoney, HNTB

Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

City of Wilmington • Town of Carolina Beach • Town of Kure Beach • Town of Wrightsville Beach
County of New Hanover • Town of Belville • Town of Leland • Town of Navassa • County of Brunswick
County of Pender • Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority • North Carolina Department of Transportation

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Luke Waddell called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. Mike Kozlosky, WMPO Executive Director, called the roll.

2. Roll Call

Present: Mike Allen, Lynn Barbee, Brenda Bozeman, John Ellen, Hank Miller, Dane Scalise, Kevin Spears, Luke Waddell, Frank Williams, Bill Rivenbark, and Landon Zimmer

Absent: Eulis Willis and Brad George

3. Conflict of Interest Statement

Vice-Chairman Waddell read the conflict-of-interest statement as required by General Statute and requested any conflicts of interest be disclosed by the Board. No statements were given.

4. Approval of Board Member Excused Absences

Mr. Kozlosky reported that Brad George and Eulis Willis had requested excused absences. Mr. Scalise entered a motion to approve of their absences, seconded by Mr. Williams. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of the Agenda

Vice-Chairman Waddell requested a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Williams made the motion, seconded by Ms. Bozeman. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Public Comment Period

Vice-Chairman Waddell opened the public comment period.

Bijan Salehi, from A Caring Heart, Mr. Salehi stated the following ten issues he would like to see addressed:

1. More “Cut Throughs” to accommodate with the amount of traffic.
2. Masonboro Sound & Masonboro Loop Road “Repaved”
3. The Drainage System to also drain to “Masonboro Channel”
4. Pine Grove Drive & Greenville Loop Road to become a “3 Lane Road” with a turn a lane
5. The Navaho Trail should be extended to Suncourt Villas
6. Pedestrian Crossing @ the corner of “Greenville Loop Road & Pine Grove Drive”
7. Pedestrian Crossing @ the corner of “Oleander Drive & Pine Grove Drive”
8. Pedestrian Crossing @ the corner of “South College Road & Pine Grove Drive”
9. Pedestrian Crossing @ the corner of Long Leaf Hills Drive & South College Road
10. Pedestrian Crossing @ the corner of corner of Piner Road & South College Road

Thane Young, Wilmington Resident. Mr. Young thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak; he is here today to speak about the U-5710 Project. Mr. Young brought up his concern that the NCDOT proposed a major infrastructure investment without adequate public input. He stated that he did not see a public hearing that was held in the public record, instead there were two public meetings. He believes that at a cost of over \$80 million dollars this infrastructure project should warrant a public hearing, not two public meetings. He also stated that with the population growth in this area, two public meetings held years ago is not adequate, he urges the MPO to encourage NCDOT to schedule a hearing promptly.

James DeHaven, Wilmington Resident. Mr. DeHaven came to the WMPO meeting today to speak about the U-5710 Project and thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. Mr. DeHaven is a 12-year resident of Wilmington and views the WMPO as his representative with the NCDOT. He commends the NCDOT on the opening of the Drysdale Extension and believes it will significantly improve traffic flow without spending \$81 million on building the overpass. He would like to have the wait times at Eastwood and Military Cutoff measured now that the extension is open, before spending the taxpayers' dollars. Mr. DeHaven would also like the NCDOT to consider the financial impact of the overpass on local businesses.

7. Closed Session

Vice-Chair Luke Waddell made a motion to enter closed session; Mr. Ellen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the Board entered closed session at 3:08pm. The meeting reconvened at 3:48pm.

8. Presentations

a. Town of Carolina Beach Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan- Ed Parvin, Town of Carolina Beach

Ed Parvin, Deputy Manager of Carolina Beach gave a presentation of the new Carolina Beach Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan that took just a little over a year to complete. He started by explaining the Vision and Goals of the plan and how they planned to accomplish those goals. Mr. Parvin highlighted the public engagement that took place and the takeaways they learned from it. Mr. Parvin concluded his presentation with the recommendations presented with the plan.

Vice-Chair Waddell asked if there were any questions for Mr. Parvin. Mike Kozlosky made the comment that there is a resolution adopting the Carolina Beach Bike/Ped plan on the Board's consent agenda. Mr. Barbee stated that the

Carolina Beach Bike/Ped Plan is very critical for Carolina Beach to get people around the island.

b. **Downtown Trail Phases 2 and 3 Feasibility Study- Andrew Ooms, Kittelson & Associates**

Andrew Ooms, from Kittelson & Associates, presented Phases 2 and 3 of the Downtown Trail Feasibility Study remotely. Mr. Ooms began his presentation with an overview of the three phases of the trail that were identified in the 2013 Wilmington/New Hanover County Greenway Plan. The focus of this study is Phase 2 and 3. For these phases, Mr. Ooms shared the process they went through to assess the feasibility of the next stages of the trail, including evaluating existing conditions, engaging the public's viewpoints, prioritizing feedback, and considering alternative development ideas. Mr. Ooms also reviewed the estimated costs of the different phases of the project, concluding with the implementation of the different stages of the plan and the key partners to make this plan happen.

Vice-Chairman Luke Waddell asked Mr. Ooms if there have been any tree studies done, his concern is losing the green, beautiful park he is familiar with. Mr. Ooms replied that the impact to any trees has definitely been considered, he stated that losing the trees would be counter-productive to the purpose of the project. Mr. Barbee stated his concerns about the crossing at Princess Place Drive, due to it being a heavily traveled area and a safe pedestrian crossing could be difficult due to the location. Mr. Ooms recognized this concern and stated that they are aware of the area and are considering a corridor speed study as well. Mr. Scalise questioned the public input that has been received and recounted a previous experience he had been involved with when they paved walkways that ultimately the public did not want to pave. Mr. Ooms responded that it is a very perceptive comment, the input that he has heard has been that the people using the trail enjoy it and love it but they can see where a paved trail would be beneficial for more people. Mr. Scalise expressed his reservations with the project moving forward. Mike Kozlosky commented that there is a resolution for this feasibility study on the consent agenda.

9. **Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of WMPO Board Regular Meeting Minutes- May 28, 2025
- b. Resolution approving 2024-2033 STIP/MPO Amendment #25-3
- c. Resolution approving 2024-2033 STIP/MPO Administrative Modification #25-4
- d. Resolution adopting the Town of Carolina Beach's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
- e. Resolution adopting the Downtown Trail Phases 2 and 3 Feasibility Study

Vice-Chairman Waddell asked for any additions or concerns about the consent agenda items to be raised. Vice-Chairman Waddell removed the Resolution adopting the Downtown Trail Phases 2 and 3 Feasibility Study to be moved to the Regular Agenda for discussion. Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, with the removal of the Resolution adopting the Downtown Trail Phases 2 and 3 Feasibility Study. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scalise. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Regular Agenda

- a. Resolution approving the Wilmington Urban Area MPO's Locally Administered Projects Program Call for Projects and Submittal Guide for FY 26 – FY 30

Krysdyn Burden and Caitlin Cerza from the WMPO gave an update on the Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP); providing updates to the submittal guide and scoring rubric and asking that the Board consider the LAPP for adoption. Ms. Burden highlighted the changes and updates to the submittal guide and Ms. Cerza presented the changes to the scoring criteria. Ms. Burden concluded the presentation by highlighting the next steps that will take place if the LAPP is adopted by the Board.

Ms. Bozeman made a motion to pass the resolution, seconded by Mr. Barbee. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Resolution approving and authorizing the Chairman to execute a Lead Planning Agency Agreement between the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and City of Wilmington

Mr. Scalise made a motion to table the resolution, seconded by Mr. Williams. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. Opening of the 30-day public comment period for the 2026-2035 State/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs

Mike Kozlosky explained that the 30-day public comment period is required by the public participation policy. Mr. Williams made a motion to open the 30-day public comment period, Mr. Ellen seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

- d. Resolution adopting the Downtown Trail Phases 2 and 3 Feasibility Study

Vice-Chairman Waddell asked Mr. Kozlosky what level this study is at, Mr. Kozlosky stated that it is at a very high level, stating that the feasibility study leads to the design.

The Board questioned whether the resolution commits the trail to being a paved path. The response was that it will be a multi-use trail. Abby Lorenzo from the WMPO explained where the funding came from for this project and how the vote of the Board would show support. Mr. Zimmer made a motion to approve the resolution; Mr. Barbee seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7 – 2, with Dane Scalise and Luke Waddell voting against.

11. Discussion

- a. 2024-2033 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modifications #25-5

Mike Kozlosky stated that this agenda item is for informational purposes only and it will be brought back at the next meeting on July 30, 2025.

- b. Prioritization 8.0 Bicycle and Pedestrian Project Submittals

Abby Lorenzo WMPO Deputy Director, presented the Board with an updated timeline and relevant changes for Prioritization 8.0 and asked the Board to talk with their staffs and submit any projects that they would like considered. Ms. Lorenzo was happy to answer any questions, there were none.

12. Updates

- a. **Wilmington Urban Area MPO**

Mike Kozlosky stated that updates are in the packet. He also commended the WMPO staff on their efforts during bike month and the outreach efforts for the MTP public events. Mr. Kozlosky reminded everyone about the WMPO's newsletter and commended Tessa Jones for a continuous job well done. Mr. Kozlosky's last update was an introduction to the newest staff member, Luke Hutson, the new Engineering Associate.

- b. **Cape Fear Public Transit Authority**

Updates are in the packet.

- c. **NCDOT Division 3**

Trevor Carroll introduced their new staff member Eric Ritzel. Mr. Carroll also stated that updates are in the packets but highlighted the Hampstead Bypass Section A project that will be let and Section B is 55% complete.

- d. **NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division**

Updates are in the packet.

e. **NCDOT TPD**

Nazia Sarder gave an update that at the Pender County CTP meeting they finalized the draft highway network and at the next meeting they are planning on finalizing the bicycle and pedestrian network. All other updates are in the packet.

f. **WMPO Board Members**

Mr. Ellen gave the Board members an update about his 80th Birthday 80 Mile Bike Ride stating that he completed it in 6 hours and 3 minutes! Mr. Ellen also participated in the Tour de Blueberry ride; there were 507 people participating.

13. Next Meeting— July 30, 2025

14. Adjourn

Mr. Zimmer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Barbee seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:07pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Kozlosky

Executive Director

Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

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THE ENTIRE PROCEEDINGS ARE RECORDED DIGITALLY AS PART OF THIS
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