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Create and execute continuing, cooperative and comprehensive regional long-range planning efforts that pro-actively drive transportation decisions to improve safety, connectivity, economic development and quality of life in the Wilmington region.

TO: Wilmington Urban Area MPO Board Members
FROM: Mike Kozlosky, Executive Director
DATE: December 12, 2024
SUBJECT: December 17th SPECIAL MEETING

The Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Board will hold a SPECIAL MEETING on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in the WMPO Board Room located at 525 North 4th Street in downtown Wilmington, NC. Members of the public, MPO Board Members and MPO Staff can attend the meeting in person and virtually through the Zoom platform. MPO Board member attendance will be subject to the adopted Remote Participation Policy. The meeting will be streamed live online so that simultaneous live audio, and video, if any, of the meeting is available at the following URL:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83644769384>

The public may also dial in and listen to the simultaneous live audio of the remote meeting at the following dial in number: (301) 715-8592 or (305) 224-1968. And when prompted, enter:
Meeting ID: 836 4476 9384

The following is the agenda for the meeting:

1. Call to Order
2. Resolution supporting the NC State Ports Authority's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainable and Equity (RAISE) and Port Infrastructure Development (PID) Grant applications to fund a pedestrian rail bridge at the Port of Wilmington (5 min)
3. Resolution adopting a policy prohibiting viewing of pornography on Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Networks and Devices (5 min)
4. 2024 Strategic Work Plan Results (20 min)
5. Draft 2025 Strategic Work Plan (20 min)
6. Draft 2025 Legislative Agenda (15 min)

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

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7. WMPO Compensation Study Results (30 min)
 8. Draft FY 26 Unified Planning Work Program Priorities (20 min)
 - a. Compensation
 - b. Planning Needs
 - c. 525 Building Operations
 - d. Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Corridor ID Program
 - e. Grant Match
 - f. Lead Planning Agency Agreement
 9. Closed Session
 - a. Consult with WMPO attorney pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) regarding legal matters related to Lead Planning Agency Agreement
 - b. Personnel matters pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6)
 10. Adjourn

**WILMINGTON URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
BOARD**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE PORTS AUTHORITY'S
GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION'S FY2025 REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH
SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY AND PORT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT GRANT
PROGRAM TO FUND A PEDESTRIAN RAIL BRIDGE AT THE PORT OF WILMINGTON**

WHEREAS, the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization provides transportation planning services for the City of Wilmington, Town of Carolina Beach, Town of Kure Beach, Town of Wrightsville Beach, Town of Belville, Town of Leland, Town of Navassa, New Hanover County, Brunswick County, Pender County, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority, and the North Carolina Board of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina State Ports Authority owns and operates an ocean port terminal in Wilmington, North Carolina in New Hanover County and the operation of such a terminal is a tremendous catalyst for economic growth and development throughout North Carolina and the region; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina State Ports Authority's contributed more than \$16.2 billion in annual economic contribution to the state's economy constituted by goods moving through the port facilities and supported 88,200 full-time jobs at North Carolina businesses; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina State Ports Authority strategic plan forecasts a doubling of general terminal and container volumes at the Port of Wilmington over the next five years; and

WHEREAS, to service existing customers and accommodate growing volumes at the Port of Wilmington, a new gate complex is needed; and

WHEREAS, this investment will allow provide for a new port access for employees and port tenants and users, and

WHEREAS, this investment will reduce truck and personal vehicle conflicts within the terminal, and

WHEREAS, this investment will increase capacity through this growing economic hub with a a dual benefit of on-terminal efficiency and reduction of terminal congestion, and

WHEREAS, this investment will decrease traffic congestion and improve safety, efficiency, system performance, and infrastructure ROI as well as deliver environmental benefits to the community, and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina State Ports Authority is preparing a grant application for the United States Department of Transportation's FY2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity and the FY2025 Port Infrastructure Development grant program to fund the pedestrian rail bridge at the Port of Wilmington.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization hereby supports the container gate improvements at the Port of Wilmington.

ADOPTED at a special meeting of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Board on December 17, 2024.

Henry E. Miller III, Chair

Mike Kozlosky, Secretary

WILMINGTON URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

BOARD

**RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO N.C. GEN. STAT. § 143-805 ADOPTING A POLICY
PROHIBITING VIEWING OF PORNOGRAPHY ON WILMINGTON URBAN AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION NETWORKS AND DEVICES**

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-805, effective October 1, 2024, states that a public agency shall not permit the viewing of pornography by its employees, elected officials or appointees on any network of that public agency, and no public agency shall permit an employee, elected official, or appointee of that public agency to view pornography on any devices owned, leased, maintained, or otherwise controlled by that public agency;

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-805 requires all public agencies to adopt a policy governing the use of its networks and devices owned, leased, maintained, or otherwise controlled by that public agency;

WHEREAS, while the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (“WMPO”) does not have employees, and all members of WMPO Staff are employees of the City of Wilmington, North Carolina (the “City”), the WMPO intends for the policy adopted herein pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-805 to include all WMPO Staff members and any other City employees, as well as all WMPO appointees and elected officials; and,

WHEREAS, the WMPO prohibits the viewing of pornography by members of WMPO staff, City employees, appointees of WMPO, and elected officials on WMPO’s networks or any devices owned, leased, maintained, or otherwise controlled by WMPO.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Chairman and Board of the WMPO that the following policies shall apply to the WMPO:

1. No WMPO Staff members, City employees, elected officials, or appointees of WMPO shall view pornography on any computer network owned, leased, maintained, or otherwise controlled by WMPO, whether on a device owned or controlled by WMPO or on a privately owned, leased, maintained, or otherwise controlled device.
2. No WMPO Staff members, City employees, elected officials, or appointees of WMPO shall view pornography on any device owned, leased, maintained, or otherwise controlled by WMPO.
3. Each year, and no later than August 1, the WMPO Executive Director shall report information required in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-805 to the State Chief Information Officer in the format required by the State Chief Information Officer, as set forth in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-805(f).
4. Sections 1 and 2 of this policy shall not apply to an official or employee that is engaged in any of the activities listed in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-805(d) in the course of that official’s or employee’s official duties, including investigating or prosecuting crimes, offering or participating in law enforcement training, or performing actions related to other law enforcement purposes; identifying potential security or cybersecurity threats; establishing, testing, and maintaining firewalls,

protocols, and otherwise implementing the requirements of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-805; or other exceptions as specifically set forth in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-805(d).

5. The terms used herein shall be defined as set forth in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-805(g).
6. Any WMPO Staff member, City employee, elected official, or appointee of WMPO who has saved pornography to a device owned, leased, maintained, or otherwise controlled by the WMPO shall remove, delete, or uninstall the pornography no later than January 1, 2025. This section shall not apply to an official or employee engaged in any of the activities listed in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-805(d) in the course of that official's or employee's official duties.
7. Any WMPO Staff member or other City employee who violates any provision of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action under the City of Wilmington's personnel policies and applicable WMPO policies.
8. Any appointee of WMPO who violates any provision of this policy shall be subject to censure proceedings and/or removal by the WMPO Board.
9. Any elected official who violates any provision of this policy shall be subject to censure proceedings.
10. Any member of WMPO Staff or other City employee who becomes aware of a violation of any provision of this policy shall promptly report the violation to the WMPO Executive Director, Chairperson of the WMPO Board and the Wilmington City Manager.

This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its passage.

ADOPTED at a special meeting of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Board on December 17, 2024.

Henry E. Miller III, Chair

Mike Kozlosky, Secretary



WILMINGTON URBAN AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

2022 - 2026 Strategic Plan

Presented by:



Executive Summary

The Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO) provides a regional and cooperative transportation planning process that serves as the basis for the expenditure of all federal transportation funds in the greater Wilmington, NC area. The WMPO is committed to working with regional partners and community stakeholders to identify and implement transportation projects that serve the needs of residents in the metropolitan area.

The WMPO worked tirelessly to create a strategic plan that will guide us in achieving the vision we set for the future. This document describes the process and results of the strategic plan and outlines the focus areas and top priorities that we developed to meet our goals.

Guiding our work over the next five years, to meet the transportation needs and expectations of our communities, the WMPO identified seven key focus areas throughout this process:

- Improve Safety
- Multi-Modal Focus
- Regionally Focused
- Economic Development
- Community Engagement
- More Organized, Vocal and Cohesive Voice
- Organizational and Operational Effectiveness

The WMPO will use these focus areas to identify and solve transportation challenges in the Wilmington Metropolitan Area. We will refer to these as we plan, develop, and advocate for our residents. These focus areas will also be used as a framework to develop and plan transportation projects under the purview of the WMPO.

WMPO's Strategic Plan in Context

Over the last decade the Wilmington area has maintained steady growth that requires updated and increased levels of transportation planning and projects. This growth also has brought new priorities and perspectives around our region's transportation infrastructure. Our changing communities will require new and updated infrastructure as well as innovative, safe, and equitable programs to increase the overall mobility in the Wilmington Metropolitan Area.

In 2021, the WMPO engaged its Board and regional stakeholders in robust discussions to understand the future needs of the metropolitan area, the most pressing transportation projects, and the challenges associated with these priorities.

For this strategic planning process, the WMPO utilized a facilitated approach to develop and analyze surveys and conducted Board meetings to identify challenges and opportunities facing the WMPO. This collaborative approach to identifying challenges allowed WMPO to determine priorities, focus areas, and potential solutions for present and emerging challenges. This process, and the resulting plan, gives the WMPO an advantage in anticipating and meeting the needs of residents and stakeholders.

Organizational Overview

The WMPO is governed by the WMPO Board, which is tasked with providing policy and direction and approving all the WMPO projects. The Board is made up of thirteen voting members that represent twelve government bodies from the municipal, county, regional, and state levels. The Board also contains non-voting members who represent various government entities whose operations impact transportation planning in the Wilmington area. Non-voting members serve at the invitation of the WMPO Board.

The WMPO is required to conduct the transportation planning process in a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive manner. In order to accomplish these goals, the WMPO has the responsibility of coordinating TCC and Board activities, adopting a Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Comprehensive Transportation Plan, reviewing and approving the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program, completing a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), approving changes to the Federal-Aid Functional Classification System, and establishing goals and objectives for the transportation planning process.

The WMPO began this strategic planning process by conducting a survey that asked Board and TCC members about the WMPO's organizational effectiveness, projects, direction, and staff effectiveness. The survey results were presented to the Board for discussion with the goal of finding areas that need improvement and areas in which the MPO can build upon its success. The Board also participated in vision exercises to better understand what will be needed in the coming years. These processes gave the Board an opportunity to review and recertify its current mission and draft a new vision to lead the MPO into the future.

Mission:

To create and execute continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive regional long-range planning efforts that proactively drive transportation decisions to improve safety, connectivity, economic development, and quality of life in the Wilmington region.

Vision:

The vision statement below describes our aspirations for the WMPO. This statement indicates our current and future commitments, and where we would like to see the WMPO progress over the next five years.

The Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization seeks to provide safe, reliable, and seamless options for transportation for all in the Wilmington Metropolitan Area. The WMPO will speak with a unified voice and work with residents to anticipate the transportation needs of a growing and changing community.

Strategic Focus Areas

The WMPO will continue to work on behalf of the residents in the Wilmington Metropolitan Area by focusing on areas of need to improve our transportation infrastructure. This mission calls for the WMPO to identify these areas of need and implement plans to address them. Through the strategic planning process, we will use the seven identified focus areas to guide our work in the future.

These focus areas will guide the WMPO in developing plans and projects that meet the long-term infrastructure priorities of the Wilmington Area. As we plan for growth and more robust transportation infrastructure, the WMPO will consistently refer to these seven areas to ensure that we are moving in a direction that accomplishes our mission and helps to achieve our vision.

Strategic Focus Areas

The WMPO Board understands that as the Wilmington Metropolitan Area grows and changes in the next five years there will be significant opportunities and challenges in the area's transportation infrastructure needs. This understanding has led the Board to highlight following seven areas of focus for the WMPO:

- Improve Safety
- Multi-Modal Focus
- Regionally Focused
- Economic Development
- Community Engagement
- More Organized, Vocal and Cohesive Voice
- Organizational and Operational Effectiveness

Improve Safety

The WMPO is committed to providing safe and reliable transportation throughout the Wilmington Metropolitan Area. The members of our communities utilize various modes of transportation in their daily lives, and we seek to ensure that every mode of transportation is as safe as the next.

- Adopt Safety Performance Measures and track these measures to determine if and how the area is performing
- Perform data collection/analysis, perform an annual review of the highest vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian crashes and assist with road safety audits when needed
- Support safety programs such as Vision Zero, "Be A Looker," Watch for Me NC, Bike Safe NC, etc.
- Program funding and pursue grants for projects that reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities
- Successful implementation of the Traffic Separation Study
- Support the Wilmington Rail Re-alignment Project
- Promote safety, education, and enforcement - give high priority to safety improvements in the vicinity of schools, public transportation, commercial corridors, and other high use bicycle and pedestrian destinations
- Support the NC Ferry System for emergency evacuations and distressed boaters

- Support the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority for improvements to bus stop amenities and improved access to stop locations
- Focus on Roadway projects that improve safety (access management, turn lanes, signal pre-emption, lighting, signage, etc.)

Multi-Modal Focus

The WMPO will continue to invest in and expand accessibility to non-traditional modes of transportation. We will focus on ensuring that residents in our communities have a choice in how they travel throughout the area.

- Encourage and provide funding to enhance walking, biking, public transportation, and the ferry system in the Wilmington region
- Support critical infrastructure improvements that include multi-use paths, bike lanes, sidewalks, high-visibility crosswalks, push-button pedestrian signal heads, and other improvements for multi-modal transportation
- Encourage an increased focus on multi-modal transportation infrastructure
- Support “complete streets” and incorporate complete streets design into transportation projects in the Wilmington region
- Provide multi-modal connectivity between the various modes of transportation
- Support the development and implementation of plans that encourage multi-modal transportation
- Support the completion of the Wilmington Multi-modal Transportation Center
- Continue to utilize MPO’s surface transportation block grant and transportation alternatives; set aside direct attributable programs to fund our members’ local priorities and needs that support our larger regional network

Regionally Focused

As a planning organization it is crucial that we focus on all communities in our metropolitan area. The WMPO will work to build a robust transportation infrastructure that contributes to economic growth and development throughout the region, becoming less centrally focused and supporting all our members’ needs.

- Provide regional accessibility from our transportation infrastructure
- Work collaboratively with our partners (MPO member jurisdictions, Cape Fear RPO, ILM, CFPTA, NCDOT, etc.)
- Educate WMPO members on services and programs provided by the MPO
- Continue to support projects and policies in the MPO’s long range plan
- Continue to support projects in the MPO Transportation Improvement Program and State Transportation Improvement Program

Economic Development Focused

We understand that economic growth and vitality are crucial to meeting the needs of our residents, communities, and partners. The WMPO will work to enhance the Wilmington Area’s economic development opportunities by planning and implementing infrastructure projects that will enable global competitiveness. We will work to enable growth in all levels of the economy by enhancing transportation network effectiveness, efficiency, and safety.

- Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency
- Promote economic growth in the region through enhanced transportation infrastructure
- Support economic vitality and innovation, transportation network efficiency and safety, and supply chain resilience and reliability
- Support economic development at Wilmington International Airport (business park, improve international and domestic trade and commerce facilities, general aviation improvements), biking (bike tourism, events, etc.), walking, ferry, freight/rail, and public transportation
- Support the NC Ports in their efforts to grow and expand

Community Engagement

The WMPO exists to serve the transportation needs of the residents in our communities. We understand that this is not possible without input and feedback from people who are affected by our decisions. With this understanding we will work with community groups and members to plan and develop programs and projects that anticipate the concerns of our residents.

- Educate citizens and elected officials in order to increase general understanding of transportation issues
- Utilize the adopted Public Participation Plan and enhance efforts related to community engagement
- Enhance the use of social media to disseminate information regarding MPO projects and programs

More Organized, Vocal, and Cohesive Voice

The WMPO seeks to become an organization that effectively communicates with a singular voice on a regular basis. We will use our voice to inform our partner organizations and communities of the projects and plans that we develop as an MPO.

- Continue to develop a Legislative Agenda that outlines the MPO's legislative priorities
- Prioritize transportation projects in order to facilitate conversations amongst local, state, and federal delegation
- Utilize Board and staff relationships to advocate for transportation infrastructure in the Wilmington region

Organizational and Operational Effectiveness

As an MPO it is crucial that we operate effectively and efficiently to achieve the goals that we set for ourselves. The WMPO will continue to improve our operations and find ways to increase operational effectiveness for the people of the Wilmington Metropolitan Area.

- Enhance the utilization of technology to improve operations
- Complete the Compensation Study to compare the MPO staff salaries to the public/private sector and in an effort to mitigate turnover
- Continue annual updates from the MPO's partner and supportive organizations (NCDOT Division 3, NC Rail Division, NC Ferry Division, Wilmington International Airport, and Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority)
- Celebrate and communicate successes to the public- utilize available member jurisdictions communication resources

Top Project Priorities

Through the strategic planning process, the WMPO identified six major projects that we consider to be our top priorities. We view the completion of these projects as crucial to the network of transportation infrastructure in the Wilmington Area. The completion of these projects will vastly improve mobility throughout the region and create opportunities to advance towards the goals that we have for our communities.

Top Priorities (Physical Projects)

- Hampstead Bypass A Section
- Military Cutoff, Eastwood Acceleration
- Independence Boulevard Acceleration
- MLK - Kerr Acceleration
- MLK - Market - Eastwood Acceleration
- Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement

Transportation Funding Methods

As the Wilmington Area continues to grow, we understand that exploring alternative funding methods will be necessary to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our communities and the ambitious and critical goals that we set. The WMPO staff will work with our partners and funding agencies to identify and seek out potential funding methods, including state and federal grants; we will also provide the Board with further funding opportunities to consider.

- Evaluate all potential funding sources for important transportation projects
- Evaluate state and federal grants as potential funding sources
- Develop a list of potential options for MPO Board consideration
- Delineate between larger and smaller projects when developing these options

Key Performance Indicators

The tactical actions and performance indicators for this strategic plan will be developed by the WMPO staff as they take the strategic priorities and create an annual implementation plan. Performance indicators will be used to track progress and support shared accountability across the organization regarding progress on the various priorities. The WMPO Staff will outline the indicators of success and provide them, along with the strategic plan, in a presentation to the Board for final approval. The staff will provide updates to the Board on the progress of the plan at regular intervals.

Implementation Plan and Process

The implementation plan will be developed by the WMPO staff as they finalize the tactical actions and performance indicators. This plan will outline the steps and timelines necessary to meet the objectives of this plan and achieve the goals that derive from it. As the WMPO moves forward with this plan some aspects of implementation will change; thus, it is important that we remain flexible and agile.

Appendix

Appendix 1: Implementation Template

The following template provides an example of how the WMPO may implement the strategic plan. This template contains space to outline the action steps, necessary participants, and proposed timeline for each Focus Area.

Focus Area 1: Improve Safety			
	Action Steps	Participants	Timeline
a			
b			
c			
Focus Area 2: Multi-Modal Focus			
	Action Steps	Participants	Timeline
a			
b			
c			

2024 Focus Area	Action Steps	Participants	Timeline	Status Update
Focus Area: Improve Safety				
Adopt Safety Performance Measures and track the measure to determine performance	Adopt performance measures and create a dashboard to track the measures	MPO, NCDOT	Dec-24	The performance measures will be approved in 2025
Program funding and pursue grants for projects that reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities	Begin the development of a regional Safety Action Plan which identifies projects to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries.	MPO, NCDOT, FHWA	Dec-24	Safe Streets and Roads for All grant agreements with FHWA and NCDOT approved. Kittleson & Associates has been selected to complete the plan.
Focus on Roadway projects that improve safety (access management, turn lanes, signal pre-emption, lighting, signage, etc.)	Support the City with additional funding and implementation of signal pre-emption, Begin development of a Regional ITS plan	NCDOT, City, MPO	Dec-24	Additional funding was approved by the WMPO Board at their June meeting for the City of Wilmington's Traffic Signal Pre-emption Phase 2. Regional ITS plan is being funded \$100,000 by WMPO and \$200,000 by NCDOT. Kimley-Horn & Associates has been selected to complete the plan. The planing effort is underway.
Focus Area: Multi-modal Focus				
Support the completion of the Wilmington Multi-modal Transportation Center Phase 1B	Serve as project director/manager for construction of the improvements. Complete construction	MPO, City, NCDOT	May-24	Opened the WMPO offices on October 30, 2024.
Support the development and implementation of plans that encourage multi-modal transportation	Continue development of Cape Fear Navigating Change 2050, assist with Wrightsville Beach Bike/Pedestrian Plan, assist with the development of the Carolina Beach Bike/Pedestrian Plan	MPO	Nov-24	WMPO staff continues to develop Cape Fear Navigating Change 2050. The Wrightsville Beach Bike/Ped Plan has been approved. Carolina Beach Bike/Pedestrian Plan is underway.
Focus Area: Regionally Focused				
Educate WMPO members on the services and programs provided by the MPO	Prepare a Quarterly Newsletter (following the hiring of the Marketing Coordinator). Present to the MPO's members our annual report	MPO	Nov-24	Public Information Officer started on September 9, 2024. Annual Report complete and provided to our members.
Continue to support projects in the MPO Transportation Improvement Program and State Transportation Improvement Program	Work to advance the high priority projects in the adopted 2022-2026 Strategic Business Plan (Hampstead Bypass A Section, Military Cutoff/ Eastwood interchange, Independence Boulevard Extension, MLK /Kerr interchange, MLK /Market/Eastwood interchange, and Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement)	MPO, NCDOT	Dec-24	WMPO staff continue to work with our partners at NCDOT to advance the WMPO's highest priority projects. The Cape Fear Memorial Bridge replacement was awarded a \$242 million grant from USDOT through their Bridge Investment Program- Large Bridge grant. In additon, it scored high enough in the statewide priortization to receive \$85 million.We are continuing to work with NCDOT to identify the other funding necessary. The Hampstead Bypass between NC 210 and US 17 is 48% complete. The other priortiiies remain on schedule to be delivered based on the dates on the approved STIP/WMPO TIP. In addition, WMPO prioritized existing committed projects for the 2026-2035 State/MPO TIPs.

Focus Area: Economic Development				
Promote economic growth through enhanced transportation infrastructure	Continue to support and advance the Wilmington Rail Re-alignment, South Front Street Widening, and replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge	MPO, members, NCSPA, Chamber of Commences, WBD, WDI, etc..	Dec-24	South Front Street project continues in development. Cape Fear Memorial Bridge replacement was awarded a \$242 million grant from USDOT through their Bridge Investment Program- Large Bridge grant and \$85 million in the Prioritization 7.0.
Support the Ports in their efforts to grow and expand	Continue to support NCDOT in their implementation of the Wilmington Beltline improvements	WMPO, NCSPA, NCDOT	Jun-25	Wilmington Beltline improvements remain under construction
Focus Area: Community Engagement				
Educate citizens and elected officials in order to increase a general understanding of transportation issues	Educate the community and members through the Commuter Friendly Employer Toolkit and Member Jurisdiction Communications Toolkit during the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Preservation Project	WMPO	Jul-24	Communicated toolkit to all WMPO member jurisdictions for the CFMB project's lane closures. The toolkit included social media sample posts and a list of Go Coast/the WMPO's social handles. For the Commuter Friendly Employer toolkit, we held five meetings with major regional employers/employer groups: Corning, Novant, Cape Fear Manufacturing Partnership, Wilmington Downtown Inc, and Brunswick Business & Industry Development. The toolkit was sent to employers in each of these groups, as well as to employers represented on the Go Coast committee. We widely promoted this toolkit on our website and social media and via press releases.
Enhance the use of social media to disseminate information regarding MPO projects and programs	Increase our reach (impressions) on the social media platforms	WMPO	Dec-24	Through 2024: Facebook: 693 Followers; 39.1K reach, Instagram: 1,011 followers; 5.2K reach, X: 299 followers; LinkedIn: 295 followers; 17.3K reach. Utilizing Meta Stories has increased reach via Instagram (405.7%) & engagement on Facebook (100%). Currently facilitating a Social Media Audit to identify platforms with best ROI. Additionally, strategizing for campaigns in 2025, complete with templates & graphics. Will also be implementing scheduling, using Meta Business Suite.
Focus Area: More Organized, Vocal and Cohesive Voice				
Develop and adopt a Legislative Agenda	Adopt a 2024 Legislative Agenda	WMPO	Mar-24	WMPO's Legislative Agenda adopted on February 28, 2024.
Prioritize transportation projects in order to facilitate conversations amongst local, state, and federal delegations	Adoption of WMPO's Local Input Methodology and participation in Prioritization 7.0	WMPO, NCDOT	Dec-24	WMPO's Local Input Methodology for Prioritization 7.0 adopted on February 28, 2024. Projects by mode have been submitted to NCDOT. The Cape Fear Memorial Bridge (tolling option) scored high enough to receive \$85 million and tthe US 17 (Hampstead median and signal improvements) received funding in the amount of \$58,640,400 from the Statewide Tier. WMPO has assigned the local input points at the Regional Impact and Division Needs tiers.

Focus Area: Organizational and Operational Effectiveness				
Continue annual updates from MPO's partner and supportive organizations (NCDOT Division 3, NC Rail Division, NC Ferry Division, Wilmington International Airport, and Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority	Continue annual updates	WMPO, NCDOT, ILM, CFPTA	Dec-24	WMPO Board has received updates from NCDOT Division 3, NC Rail Division, NC Ferry Division, NC State Ports, Wilmington International Airport, and Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority
Celebrate and communicate successes to the public- utilize available member jurisdiction communication resources	Hiring a Marketing Coordinator and provide "signature" communications	WMPO	Dec-24	The WMPO hired a Public Information Officer on September 9, 2024. Updated all communication templates. Created a comprehensive Contact List that includes local & regional media, Communication Contacts, Member Jurisdictions, Transportation Partners, Community Organizations, Committees, and Resources. Facilitating a Website & Social Media Audit to identify best ROI; Creating Communication Procedures document to record best actions to take. Newsletter will launch bi-monthly, beginning in January 2025.

2025 Focus Area	Action Steps	Participants	Timeline	Status Update
Focus Area: Improve Safety				
Adopt Safety Performance Measures and track the measure to determine performance	Adopt performance measures and create a dashboard to track the measures	MPO, NCDOT	Dec-25	
Program funding and pursue grants for projects that reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities	Develop a regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan which identifies projects to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries.	MPO, NCDOT, FHWA	Aug-26	
Focus Area: Multi-modal Focus				
Support the development and implementation of plans that encourage multi-modal transportation	Continue development of Cape Fear Navigating Change 2050 and assist with the development of the Carolina Beach Bike/Pedestrian Plan	MPO	Dec-25	
Continue to utilize MPO's surface transportation block grant and transportation alterntatives set aside direct attributable programs to fund our members local priorities and needs that support our larger regional network	Revise the scoring criteria and create a 5- year DA funding program	MPO	Oct-25	
Focus Area: Regionally Focused				
Educate WMPO members on the services and programs provided by the MPO	Prepare a Bi-monthly Newsletter and Annual Report	MPO	Dec-25	
Continue to support projects and policies in the MPO's long range plan	Adoption of Cape Fear Navigating Change 2050	MPO, NCDOT	Nov-25	
Focus Area: Economic Development				
Promote economic growth through enhanced transportation infrastructure	Continue to support and advance the Wilmington Rail Re-alignment, South Front Street Widening, and replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge	MPO, members, NCSPA, Chamber of Commences, WBD, WDI, etc..	Dec-25	
Support the Ports in their efforts to grow and expand	Continue to support NCDOT in their implementation of the Wilmington Beltline improvements	WMPO, NCSPA, NCDOT	Jun-25	

Focus Area: Community Engagement				
Utilize the adopted Public Participation Plan and enhance efforts related to community engagement.	Review and update the 2020 Public Participation Plan to include enhanced efforts in the areas of Section 4. Outreach Efforts, as well as creating a strategy and campaign for Section 5. Plan Specific Guidelines in regards to Public Comment for MTP, UPWP, and MTIP.	WMPO	Jun-25	
Enhance the use of social media to disseminate information regarding MPO projects and programs (Humanize WMPO & make it more recognizable/approachable).	Increase reach (impressions) & engagement, MoM on targeted social media platforms, utilizing photos, videos, and graphics. Focus on education & awareness of Transportation Planning in the region, as well as humanizing the WMPO to become more recognizable & increasing general understanding of what WMPO is & does.	WMPO	Dec-25	
Focus Area: More Organized, Vocal and Cohesive Voice				
Develop and adopt a Legislative Agenda	Adopt a 2025 Legislative Agenda and work with Maynard Nexsen to implement the legislative agenda	WMPO	Dec-25	
Utilize Board and staff relationships to advocate for transprotation infrastructure in the Wilmington region	Develop and implement a strategy to work with NCDOT to idnetify the remaining funds necessary to implement the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge replacement project	WMPO, NCDOT	Dec-25	
Focus Area: Organizational and Operational Effectiveness				
Continue annual updates from MPO's partner and supportive organizations (NCDOT Division 3, NC Rail Division, NC Ferry Division, Wilmington International Airport, and Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority	Continue annual updates	WMPO, NCDOT, ILM, CFPTA	Dec-25	
Complete the Compensation Study to compare the MPO staff salaries to the public/private sector and in an effort to mitigate turnover	Implement recommendations from the 2024 Compensation Study	WMPO	July-25	

2024 WILMINGTON URBAN AREA MPO LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

The Wilmington Urban Area MPO supports prioritization and funding for local transportation and infrastructure projects and the need to explore new transportation and infrastructure revenue sources to address the growing needs of the state and the nation. Including, but not limited to road, bridges and highway projects, public transportation, ferry, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, beach nourishment, inlet and waterway maintenance, coastal storm damage reduction, port infrastructure, airports, etc.

The Wilmington Urban Area MPO encourage the North Carolina Department of Transportation, North Carolina General Assembly, and Governor of North Carolina to explore and implement new funding mechanisms that could raise the funds necessary to accelerate much needed transportation projects.



TRANSPORTATION PROJECT PRIORITY: CAPE FEAR MEMORIAL BRIDGE

The Wilmington Urban Area MPO Board has identified the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge as their highest unfunded priority.



OPPOSITION TO TRANSFER OF STATE ROAD MAINTENANCE

The Wilmington Urban Area MPO respectfully and urgently requests the North Carolina General Assembly reject proposals which would transfer responsibility for large portions of the state's road system to local governments and weaken or dismantle municipal Powell Bill Street maintenance funding.



LIMITATION ON CITY REQUIREMENTS FOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS RELATED TO SCHOOLS

SL 2017-57 included language related to street improvements for schools. The Wilmington Urban Area MPO continues to be concerned that on non-state-maintained facilities where improvements related to schools are needed, the funding burden has fallen on the municipalities or the level of service on the roadways will be compromised. The Wilmington Urban Area MPO encourages the General Assembly to review this language and seek solutions to address this funding concern.

2024 WILMINGTON URBAN AREA MPO LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



MOPED LEGISLATION

The Wilmington Urban Area MPO supports the North Carolina Department of Transportation's policy recommendation of restricting mopeds on public roadways with posted speed limits of 45 mph or greater. The MPO also encourages the North Carolina General Assembly to implement laws that regulate the use of mopeds in a manner that promotes the safety and welfare of the citizens and visitors of North Carolina and pursue education and clarity on existing regulations for mopeds, golf carts, and low-speed vehicles.



PHOTO COURTESY: JEFF JANOWSKI/UNCW

ELECTRIC SCOOTER LEGISLATION

The Wilmington Urban Area MPO supports the use of electric scooters to provide an alternative mode of transportation so long as the scooters and/or bicycles are used in a safe and responsible manner, do not create visual clutter, and do not block parking or ADA accessibility. The allowance and/or use of electric scooters should be subject to local government control through their adopted codes and ordinances.

ELECTRIC ASSISTED BICYCLE LEGISLATION

The Wilmington Urban Area MPO supports the use of electric assisted bicycles to provide an alternative mode of transportation when utilized in a safe and responsible manner. The MPO encourages the North Carolina General Assembly to implement legislation defining e-bicycle subclasses. Locations of permissible use of electric assisted bicycles should be subject to local government control through their adopted codes and ordinances.



PHOTO COURTESY: JEFF JANOWSKI/UNCW

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SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE



A special meeting of the **Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Board** will be held on **Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.** at 525 N. 4th Street, Wilmington, NC.

Purpose of the Special Meeting: Board review, discussion and possible action on the following Agenda items:

1. Resolution supporting the NC State Ports Authority's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) and Port Infrastructure Development (PID) Grant applications to fund a pedestrian rail bridge at the Port of Wilmington
2. Resolution adopting a policy prohibiting viewing of pornography on Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Networks and Devices
3. 2024 Strategic Work Plan Results
4. Draft 2025 Strategic Work Plan
5. Draft 2025 Legislative Agenda
6. WMPO Compensation Study Results
7. Draft FY 26 Unified Planning Work Program Priorities
 - a. Compensation
 - b. Planning Needs
 - c. 525 Building Operations
 - d. Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Corridor ID Program
 - e. Grant Match
 - f. Lead Planning Agency Agreement
8. Closed Session
 - a. Consult with WMPO attorney pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) regarding legal matters related to Lead Planning Agency Agreement
 - b. Personnel matters pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6)

Members of the public who cannot attend the meeting in person can watch and/or listen to it virtually through the Zoom platform. The platform is available online at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83644769384> or by phone at (301) 715-8592 and entering Meeting ID 836 4476 9384.



Henry E. Miller, III, Chairman

Posted: 8:30 AM December 11, 2024

If you have any questions, please contact
Mike Kozlosky, Executive Director,
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization,
(910) 341-3258.