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**WMPO Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, February 12, 2025**  
525 N 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401

**Members Present, In person**

Sam Boswell, Cape Fear Rural Planning  
Organization  
Carolyn Caggia, WMPO  
Adrienne Cox, NCDOT Division 3  
Karlene Ellis Vitalis, New Hanover County

**Members Present, Remote**

Ashli Barefoot, Town of Leland  
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County  
Granseur Dick, Wilmington International  
Airport  
Mark Hairr, Cape Fear Public Transportation  
Authority  
Jeremy Hardison, Town of Carolina Beach  
Adrienne Harrington, Town of Belville  
Adam Moran, Pender County  
Nazia Sarder (Vice Chair), NCDOT TPD  
Denys Vielkanowitz, City of Wilmington

**Others Present, In Person**

Krysdyn Burden, WMPO  
Tessa Jones, WMPO  
Beth King, WMPO  
Abby Lorenzo, WMPO  
Greer Templer, WMPO  
Chad Staradumsky, Town of Belville

**Others Present, Remote**

Cheryl Hannah, HDR Engineering  
Regina Hopkins, WMPO  
Ben Hughes, NCDOT  
Bill Kincannon, HDR Engineering  
Andrew Meeker, East Coast Greenway  
Alliance  
Kim Nguyen, NCDOT  
Michael Raynor, NCDOT TPD

**1. Call to Order**

Abby Lorenzo called the meeting to order at 10:02am.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

Karlene Ellis Vitalis made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Sam Boswell.  
The motion passed unanimously.

**3. Presentations**

**a. Island Greenway Feasibility Study- Andrew Meeker, East Coast Greenway Alliance**

Andrew Meeker of the East Coast Greenway Alliance overviewed the Kure Beach Island Greenway Feasibility Study. Included in the presentation were information on the project area, alternative alignments, community involvement, estimated project costs and phasing, and next steps.

Adrienne Cox asked Mr. Meeker for guidance related to East Coast Greenway signage. Mr. Meeker shared that it depends on who is responsible for the facility and/or land the routing is located on. Additionally, he spoke about East Coast Greenway’s high-level sign guide and the development of geographic information systems (GIS) data to help identify where wayfinding signage is needed along the Greenway.

Ms. Lorenzo shared that consideration for adoption of the feasibility study will occur at a later meeting.

**b. WMPO Communication Plan Update- Tessa Jones, WMPO**

Tessa Jones, Public Information Officer at WMPO, provided the Board with an update on the organization’s communication plan for 2025.

Ms. Jones first overviewed the WMPO’s 2025 communication goals and action items. She detailed the distribution of the WMPO’s inaugural bimonthly newsletter, outlining the information included within it and performance metrics. Ms. Jones then overviewed other action items, including reviewing and updating the WMPO’s Public Participation Plan, enhancing the organization’s social media presence, and optimizing the website. Ms. Jones concluded her presentation with a list of the next steps to achieve these communication goals.

Ms. Cox asked if WMPO plans on sharing member and partner organization surveys or other content related to public engagement to its social media. Ms. Jones responded that WMPO will share this kind of information on social media and/or within its bimonthly newsletters. She requested that this information be sent to her directly.

**4. Consent Agenda**

**a. Approval of TCC Meeting Minutes—January 15, 2024**

Carolyn Caggia made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Nazia Sarder. The motion passed unanimously.

b. **Resolution Approving 2024-2033 STIP/MPO Administrative Modifications #25-1**

Denys Vielkanowitz requested to pull item 4b. from the consent agenda to the regular agenda as item 5c. A motion to pull this item was introduced by Adam Moran, seconded by Sam Boswell. This motion passed unanimously.

5. **Regular Agenda**

a. **Resolution supporting the allocation of additional Direct Attributable funds to the Town of Belville for the Rice Hope Multi-use Path project (EB-6025) and Belville Elementary School Multi-use Path project (EB-6026)**

Ms. Lorenzo overviewed the item, stating that the multi-use path projects are currently under construction and an unforeseen utility conflict was identified which will require additional funding to mitigate. She stated that the Town has committed to providing the 20% required match for Direct Attributable funds. A motion to support the allocation of additional funds was introduced by Adam Moran, seconded by Helen Bunch. The motion passed unanimously.

b. **Resolution supporting the removal of the connection between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Streets (U-5926) and NC 133/Castle Hayne Road and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Roundabout from the Adopted 2024-2033 and Draft 2026-2035 State/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs**

Ms. Lorenzo stated that both projects have been in the preliminary engineering and study phase. The NC133/Castle Hayne and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Roundabout was found to have unacceptable performance, whereas the current intersection was identified as functioning adequately. Additionally, Ms. Lorenzo shared that there was concern about obtaining the right-of-way needed for the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Street connection project. She also stated that some improvements could be addressed and incorporated into the future U-4434 project. WMPO staff recommended support for the removal of these projects from the adopted 2024-2033 and draft 2026-2035 State/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs).

Mr. Vielkanowitz stated concern about U-5926 not being contiguous to U-4434 project. He asked if this was part of the discussion to incorporate U-5926 improvements into U-4434. Ms. Lorenzo stated that the additional right-of-way and utility relocations needed for the proposed connection would be incorporated into U-4434, rather than closing access on MLK Parkway from Kornegay Avenue. Mr. Vielkanowitz asked how deferring the closure of Kornegay Avenue to a later time would impact the new Salvation Army site driveway being constructed near Kornegay Avenue and William Booth Drive. Ms. Cox said she would look into

that and share that information with Ms. Lorenzo to communicate to Mr. Vielkanowitz.

Regarding the roundabout project, Mr. Vielkanowitz shared that he was disappointed that the study showed it would fail. He asked if that analysis had considered modifications to the roundabout, such as dual departure lanes. Ms. Lorenzo stated that the analysis looked at a one lane roundabout but will request further information on the analysis parameters to share with him. Mr. Vielkanowitz also asked about which approach experienced the queuing that made the analysis conclude it would fail, which Ms. Lorenzo answered was the southbound approach.

Mr. Moran asked about the history of the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Street connection. Ms. Lorenzo shared that it was planned to provide a secondary access to Kornegay Avenue, as the implementation of the Independence Boulevard extension (U-4434) would require the closure of Kornegay Avenue from the MLK Parkway. He then asked if incorporating the connection into U-4434 would still fulfill its purpose. Ms. Lorenzo stated that future analysis will still need to be done to determine how to close Kornegay at MLK, and how components of the project can be folded into U-4434. Mr. Moran shared that he had concerns about the impacts removing this project from the adopted and draft state and MPO TIPs would have on the community.

Ms. Ellis Vitalis stated that she was concerned about the removal of the roundabout project from the adopted and draft TIPs.

Mr. Vielkanowitz asked what would happen to the funding programmed for the roundabout if it was removed from the TIPs. Ms. Lorenzo stated that the money would go to the next highest scoring project in the Division Needs tier of the program and is unsure of what that project is at this time.

Ms. Cox stated that the process to analyze and reconsider projects includes stakeholder consideration. She shared that she will pull information related to these discussions and share with the committee to help support decisions.

Ms. Cox then made a motion to support the resolution which would remove the projects from the adopted and draft TIPs, seconded by Ashli Barefoot. The motion passed unanimously.

c. **Resolution Approving 2024-2033 STIP/MPO Administrative Modifications #25-1**

Mr. Vielkanowitz asked WMPO staff what the purpose of the modification was. Ms. Lorenzo stated that administrative modifications account for changes in schedules and other administrative type actions.

Mr. Vielkanowitz introduced a motion to approve the modifications, seconded by Mr. Hairr. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Discussion**

a. **Cape Fear Navigating Change 2050 Alternative Funding Mechanisms**

Ms. Lorenzo shared that following consultant Kimley-Horn's presentations to the TCC and Board regarding alternative funding mechanisms, WMPO staff is recommending to present all strategies in Cape Fear Navigating Change 2050. This will demonstrate all explored strategies are possible options within the WMPO and provide a starting point for jurisdictions desiring to proceed with implementing them.

b. **Draft Model Trail Lighting Policy**

Ms. Lorenzo asked Ms. Caggia to overview this item. Ms. Caggia shared that the draft model trail lighting policy had been developed with the help of the WMPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) to act as a guide for member jurisdictions to create their own policies. Ms. Caggia requested that the TCC look over the policy and send any comments to WMPO staff by the end of the month. Ms. Lorenzo added that the item will be brought back to the TCC and Board in March for consideration for endorsement.

c. **DRAFT 2026-2035 State/MPO Transportation Improvement Program**

Ms. Lorenzo overviewed changes from the currently adopted State/MPO Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the draft 2026-2035 STIP. The presentation included new projects, projects with schedule changes, projects with unchanged schedules, projects funded for PE only, and unfunded projects. Following this overview, Ms. Lorenzo shared next steps and opportunities for public comment on the draft STIP to NCDOT.

7. **Updates**

a. **WMPO**

Included in the packet.

b. **Cape Fear Public Transit Authority**

Included in the packet.

c. **NCDOT Division 3**

Ms. Cox overviewed the updates included in the packet and spoke about the opportunities for public comment on the draft STIP. She also shared that Michelle Howes was appointed to Deputy Engineer, and that NCDOT Division 3 has a two open positions.

d. **NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division**

Included in the packet.

e. **NCDOT Transportation Planning Division**

Ms. Sarder shared the updates included in the packet. She also stated that the Wilmington travel demand model is being used to run scenarios for Cape Fear Navigating Change 2050. Ms. Sarder also shared that the Pender County comprehensive transportation plan is in development.

8. **Announcements**

- a. Go Coast TDM Committee- February 20, 2025

9. **Next Meeting— March 12, 2025**

10. **Adjournment**

Mr. Boswell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Ellis Vitalis. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Kozlosky

Executive Director

Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

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