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Meeting Minutes
Wilmington Urban Metropolitan Planning Organization
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)
February 11, 2025

Members Present

Steve Zinder (Chair), UNCW
Karin Mills (Vice Chair), City of Wilmington
Carolyn Caggia, WMPO
Adrienne Cox, NCDOT Division 3
Brianna D'Itri, Wave Transit
Karlene Ellis Vitalis, New Hanover County
Jonathan Harrell, NC Board of Transportation
Adrienne Harrington, Town of Belville
Rodney Kidd, Town of Carolina Beach
Bethany King, WMPO
Mo Linquist, Town of Kure Beach
Duncan McCabe, City of Wilmington
Katie Ryan, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Al Schroetel, Cape Fear Cyclists
Carol Stein, Pender County
Steve Whitney, Brunswick County

Members Absent

None

Others Present

James Bailey, Resident
Brad Cannon, Wave Transit
Trevor Carroll, NCDOT
James Chisum, New Hanover County
Timothy Holsather, Resident
Ben Hughes, NCDOT
Tessa Jones, WMPO
Abby Lorenzo, WMPO
Lil Mercer, Resident
Miranda Nelson, Wave Transit
Virginia Norris, New Hanover County
Greer Templer, WMPO

1. Call to Order

Chairman Steve Zinder called the meeting to order at 2:00pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Zinder asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Carol Stein moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mo Linquist. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment Period

Chairman Zinder opened the floor up to public comments, of which there were none.

4. Approval of Minutes from December 10, 2024 Meeting

Steve Whitney made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Duncan McCabe. The motion passed unanimously.

5. New Business

a. Trevor Carroll, NCDOT Introductions

Chairman Zinder welcomed Trevor Carroll, NCDOT Division 3 Engineer, to the meeting. Mr. Carroll introduced himself and spoke about being excited to work with the BPAC on projects and bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure. Chairman Zinder and Al Schroetel stated that they were thankful to have him at the meeting and are looking forward to working with him and NCDOT.

b. Committee Member Round Robins

Steve Whitney: Mr. Whitney shared about being on the steering committees for the Town of Leland's Safety Action Plan and Integrated Mobility Plan. He mentioned that the Town would have an open house for the Integrated Mobility Plan on February 20. He emphasized the importance of this and similar studies as rapid development is causing strain on current facilities and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure is needed.

Adrienne Cox: Ms. Cox added to Mr. Whitney's statements about how NCDOT has been involved in the studies he referenced. She also mentioned that because of funding challenges across the state, NCDOT and municipalities should investigate opportunities to complete smaller-scale projects as part of programmed maintenance such as road resurfacing.

Mo Linquist: Ms. Linquist shared that the Island Greenway Feasibility Study is being presented at Town of Kure Beach Council on February 17. She asked individuals in favor of the plan to come to the meeting and demonstrate support for the project as it has been contentious within the town.

Brianna D'Itri: Ms. D'Itri overviewed Wave Transit's system changes, effective in January 2025. Mr. Whitney asked if Wave has seen any increases in ridership since the changes have been in place, and Ms. D'Itri stated that data has shown an increase in usage at highly utilized stops but does not know if that has translated to increased ridership at this time. Vice Chairwoman Karin Mills asked about the cost to ride and the schedule of bus services, which Ms. D'Itri shared.

Rodney Kidd: Mr. Kidd shared about activities going on within the Town of Carolina Beach's Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee. He first stated that the committee had proposed that greenways have a posted speed limit. Chairman Zinder asked how the Town will enforce this, and Mr. Kidd stated that it will not be enforced at this time.

but allows the Town to be able to if it becomes a larger issue in the future. Mr. Kidd then spoke about wanting to get Bicycle Friendly Community designation for the Town from the League of American Bicyclists, including wanting help with a campaign to incentivize small businesses in the Town to provide bike racks. Lastly, Mr. Kidd stated that Town police have created a map of areas that are poorly lit with the hope that it can inform decisions related to lighting and pedestrian crossing improvements.

c. 35th Annual River to Sea Bike Ride Update and Subcommittee Report

Carolyn Caggia provided the BPAC with an update on the 35th Annual River to Sea Bike Ride. She provided a background on the event before overviews the sponsorship tiers, selected logo, and timeline. Carol Stein requested that the sponsorship tiers be sent to committee members to aid in outreach to businesses, which Ms. Caggia confirmed would be included in the outreach kit.

d. 2025 Be A Looker Campaign Update

Ms. Caggia provided an update on the Be A Looker outreach campaign planned for 2025. She overviews the Be A Looker initiative and actions that WMPO staff have planned for the year.

Ms. Linqvist asked if a new sticker design had been identified. Ms. Caggia stated that there is not an official design yet, but that staff think it will be a smaller, yellow sticker. Ms. D'Itri commented that making car magnets might be more popular than the bumper stickers had been. Ms. Caggia said staff will consider that as an option.

Vice Chairwoman Mills asked if the campaign includes information about yielding to pedestrians at crosswalks. Ms. Caggia confirmed that it is but will look into how that can be better emphasized.

e. Letter of Support for WMPO's Bicycle Helmet Initiative Grant Application

Chairman Zinder overviews the grant program and initiative and asked for a motion to support the WMPO's application. This motion was introduced by Ms. Stein, seconded by Mr. Kidd. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Updates and Announcements

a. WMPO Updates on Federal Funding, Work Plan Items, and BPAC Openings

Beth King provided an update on federal funding and other executive actions taken that are impacting WMPO and other government work. Ms. King emphasized the uncertainty of the situation and assured the group that any definitive updates would be shared with the WMPO's partners and members when appropriate.

Ms. Caggia then reminded the committee that new items can be added to the BPAC agendas and work plan throughout the year, so any concerns or ideas the committee may have should be shared. She requested new items be suggested no later than two weeks before a meeting to consider new items within the WMPO's agenda review process. She also welcomed new committee member Jonathan Harrell as appointed to represent the NC Board of Transportation and mentioned that the BPAC does not have representation from the Town of Leland or the Town of Navassa.

b. Cape Fear Cyclists

Mr. Schroetel provided an update on initiatives the bicycle community is involved in. This included an update on the Landfall Foundation grant being used to develop a bicycle safety curriculum for local schools and bicycle infrastructure projects being proposed in Wilmington.

c. WMPO Project Updates

Included in the packet.

d. NCDOT Division 3

Ms. Cox overviewed ongoing NCDOT projects in the region. Mr. Carroll announced the appointment of Michelle Howes to Deputy Engineer for Division 3.

7. Next Meeting—April 8, 2025

8. Adjournment

Karlene Ellis Vitalis moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Stein. Chairman Zinder adjourned the meeting at 3:09pm.