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## **Alternative Funding Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, July 28, 2025**

525 N 4<sup>th</sup> Street

Wilmington, NC 28401

### **Members Present, In person**

Luke Waddell, City of Wilmington  
Frank Williams, Brunswick County  
Landon Zimmer, NC Board of  
Transportation  
Brad George, Pender County Commissioner  
Hank Miller, Ex-officio, Town of  
Wrightsville Beach

### **Members Present, Remote**

Dane Scalise, New Hanover County  
Commissioner

### **Others Present, In Person**

Mike Kozlosky, WMPO  
Chase Horton, Maynard Nexsen  
Trevor Carroll, NCDOT  
Chris Coudriet, New Hanover County

Greer Templar, WMPO

Tessa Jones, WMPO

Beth King, WMPO

Caitlin Cerza, WMPO

Ronda Hogan, WMPO

### **Others Present, Remote**

David Ferrell, Maynard Nexsen

Allison Fluitt, Kimley Horn

Natalie English, Wilmington Chamber of  
Commerce

Abby Lorenzo, WMPO

Emma Dill, Greater Wilmington Business  
Journal

Rachel Keith, WHQR

Brenna Flannigan, Port City Daily

WECT News

## **1. Call to Order**

Mike Kozlosky, WMPO Executive Director, called the meeting to order at 9:03.

**Present:** Dane Scalise, Luke Waddell, Frank Williams, Brad George, Landon Zimmer and Hank Miller (Ex-officio)

Frank Williams asked for a quick definition of how the sub-committee will be functioning. Mike Kozlosky commended the Board for establishing the sub-committee and stated that the intent of the committee is to begin a discussion on alternative funding, stating that the committee has been formed to provide a recommendation to the Board on any potential

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alternative funding options. Mr. Kozlosky also gave a quick overview of the presentations that will take place at this initial meeting.

**2. Election of Subcommittee Chairman**

Luke Waddell made a motion to elect Frank Williams as Chairman of the Alternative Funding Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Dane Scalise and passed unanimously.

**3. Legislative Update – Chase Horton, Maynard Nexsen**

Chairman Williams introduced David Ferrell and Chase Horton from Maynard Nexsen who provided a Legislative Update.

David Ferrell began the presentation by giving an overview of what he and Chase Horton will be speaking about today, starting with a Legislative overview, a brief synopsis of transportation funding in the State and a summary and explanation of a bill that currently passed, the PAVE Act (House Bill 948).

Mr. Ferrell presented a 2025 Legislative Session Update, stating that it is year one of a “long” session (2-year session); a lot of bills have been introduced with only a few bills passing. Most of the substantive work was concluded by June 30<sup>th</sup> but the session is supposed to meet tomorrow, July 29<sup>th</sup>, to take up some veto overrides. Mr. Ferrell noted that there is one bill that passed which deals with transportation issues, Senate Bill 391, DOT Omnibus and highlighted some aspects of the bill. Mr. Ferrell also noted that there has yet to be a new State Budget passed; however, this means that it is continuing operations from FY23-24/FY24-25 State Budget. There have been talks that budget negotiations could resume in September or there may be mini budgets set for critical needs.

Chase Horton presented a Transportation Funding Overview, highlighting where the funds come from and what they support. He gave a description of some major state revenue sources and the revenue trends and risk factors. Mr. Horton explained who the NC FIRST Commission is and what their recommendations are, including the Sales Tax Transfer rationale and trend, funding 25% to the Highway Fund and 75% to the Highway Trust fund. He further broke down where these two funds receive their revenue sources and what they do with it. Mr. Horton also gave a brief history of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Project and its expense. At this point Mr. Horton overviewed the PAVE Act and how it was approved by wide margins in both the House and Senate. Board member Williams asked if there are any Legislators from this area that were favorable of this Act, Mr. Horton said the one in particular that he recalled was not from this area. Board member Zimmer questioned if all the funding stays in Mecklenburg County. Mr. Horton answered yes. Mr. Horton continued by going a little more in depth on the PAVE Act, including the new one percent sales tax framework, where those funds are dispersed and the regulations on them. Board member

Waddell questioned if the percentage of funds were distributed among the municipalities on a pro rata basis, Mr. Horton agreed. Mr. Horton explained the new Metropolitan Public Transportation Authority, their powers, who they are governed by and how the transition and implementation will take place. Mr. Horton explained that there are STI protections and why they are in place. To conclude his presentation, Mr. Horton summarized why this all matters for the WMPO and Board member Waddell asked what kind of funding would this deliver. By rough calculations, including New Hanover, Brunswick and Pender County with a one cent sales tax, Mr. Horton stated, it could be one hundred to one hundred and twenty million dollars a year, rough calculations and not expert numbers.

**4. Cape Fear Navigating Change 2050 Alternative Funding – Allison Fluitt, Kimley-Horn & Associates**

Mike Kozlosky introduced the next presenter, Allison Fluitt from Kimley Horn, speaking today about WMPO Alternative Funding and options.

Ms. Fluitt began her presentation explaining why alternative funding sources are important, and the benefits of them. She explained the difference between funding and finance revenue streams and highlighted what were considered funding sources in the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Ms. Fluitt presented the advantages and disadvantages of the different funding sources, highlighting the scope and scale that each potential source could bring to the region. Ms. Fluitt concluded her presentation by sharing what Wake and Mecklenburg Counties are using for local funding options.

**5. Discussion on Potential Alternative Funding Options in the WMPO**

Landon Zimmer thanked both presenters, stating that the information was informative and relevant. He mentioned that the Federal government seems to be pushing more fiscal responsibilities to the State level and when this happens the urban areas end up having to support the more rural areas. He believes these funding sources can help rural areas support themselves financially.

Frank Williams thanked the presenters and then mentioned that a lot of the options discussed are already open to the municipal members and asked if this committee's focus should be on MPO wide options. Mike Kozlosky answered that the committee was formed to start the conversation, it could be MPO wide options or could possibly open it up to three counties working together.

Luke Waddell stated he is happy to be on the ground floor of this effort. He reiterates Mr. Zimmer's comments, agreeing that it is important to be at the table early on in these efforts. He stated that a tri-county effort could logistically be a challenge but important.

Frank Williams stated that a referendum doesn't do any good if the referendum does not pass, he believes that if this is going to be done it has got to be executed well and marketed well so the voters are educated on what they are voting for.

Presenter, Chase Horton added that Mecklenburg County has been working on their program for six years, and the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance has a \$3-million-dollar budget for the public campaign. Mr. Horton stated that this project would be bigger than the WMPO, the WMPO is a great place to start but the entire thing would have to be done on a larger scale. David Farrell stated that they were involved in the planning for Mecklenburg and would be able to offer some insights as to how they structured it, how it played out, what was successful, what wasn't. There was some discussion on how the legislation would work with three counties involved. Mike Kozlosky stated that there are referendums from other states that can be looked at as examples and guidance when structuring for this area. Dane Scalise added that he would like to get public input from the areas that are served. Frank Williams thought it would be a good idea for the MPO to provide the alternative funding options that might fiscally work for the areas they represent.

**Adjourn**

Next meeting was set for August 27, 2025, at 2:00pm in the WMPO Board Room. Chairman Williams adjourned the meeting at 10:06am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Kozlosky  
Executive Director  
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

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**RECORD.**