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WMPO Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

525 N 4th Street

Wilmington, NC 28401

Members Present, In person

Carolyn Caggia, WMPO TDM/Go Coast
Denys Vielkanowitz, City of Wilmington
Liam Mikeal, Town of Leland
Sam Boswell, Cape Fear Rural Planning
Organization
Adrienne Cox, NCDOT
Abby Lorenzo, (Chair) WMPO

Members' Present, Remote

Nazia Sarder, NCDOT
Mark Hairr, Cape Fear Public Transportation
Authority
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County
Adrienne Harrington, Town of Belville
Stephanie Ayers, NC Ports Authority
Marcy Waters, Pender County
Granseur Dick, ILM
Mandy Sanders, Town of Kure Beach
Karlene Ellis Vitalis, NHC

Others Present, In Person

Krysdan Burden, WMPO
Luke Hutson, WMPO
Amanda Halbert, WMPO
Ronda Hogan, WMPO
Caitlin Cerza, WMPO
Greer Templer, WMPO

Others Present, Remote

Kirsten Spirakis, NCDOT
Celia Miars, AECOM
Andrew Ooms, Kittelson
Ben Andrea, Town of Leland
Chad Staradumsky, Town of Belville
Bill Kincannon, HDR
Patrick Warzel, NCDOT
Jorge Maturano, NCDOT
Doug Lafave, NCDOT
Regina Hopkins, WMPO

1. Call to Order

Abby Lorenzo called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and took roll call.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Denys Vielkanowitz made a motion to approve the agenda, Sam Boswell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

3. Presentations

a. WMPO Data Hub Update – Greer Templer, WMPO

Greer Templer, Senior Transportation Planner and Amanda Halbert, GIS Analyst for the WMPO, presented the recent updates and improvements to the WMPO’s GIS Data Hub beginning with Ms. Templer presenting the old look of the data hub and then the new look. Ms. Halbert highlighted the biggest changes of the hub including the new URL, the new site structure tabs, and request forms. Ms. Halbert also explained that the new data hub complies with the WCAG 2.0 AA standards. Ms. Templer and Ms. Halbert provided a quick glimpse of what the new site looks like and how to find it on the WMPO website. Ms. Templer asked if there were any questions. Deny Vielkanowitz asked if the old hub was still active or if the new one was in place. Ms. Templer answered that currently the old hub is still active, but the new one will be available soon.

4. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of TCC Meeting Minutes- April 15, 2026
- b. Resolution approving 2026-2035 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs Administrative Modification #26-5

Sam Boswell made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Helen Bunch seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

5. Regular Agenda

a. Resolution adopting the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Public Participation Plan.

Abby Lorenzo stated that in the packet is the updated WMPO Public Participation Plan that was presented as a final draft in March to the TCC and the WMPO Board. Ms. Lorenzo stated this document is a federally mandated, core document of all MPO’s, which is used to regulate how the public will be informed, engaged and involved in the metropolitan transportation planning process. She explained that the intent of the update was to create a user-friendly document that any member of the public could review and understand how and when they can participate in the transportation process. Ms. Lorenzo explained that on March 25, 2026, the WMPO Board opened the 45-day public comment period for the updated plan and there were no public comments made. At this time, WMPO staff is requesting approval from the TCC to present the resolution before the Board for adoption.

Adrienne Cox made a motion to support the resolution adopting the WMPO Public Participation Plan to the WMPO Board. Granseur Dick seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Resolution approving Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP) FY29 and 30 Special Call for Projects Submittal Guide and Scoring Matrix

Krysdyn Burden, WMPO Grants Coordinator, reminded the committee that last meeting she and Luke Hutson reviewed the updates that have been made to the Special Call for Projects Submittal Guide and Scoring Matrix and the period for

comments was opened. Ms. Burden stated that only grammatical comments were submitted so at this point she would like to take the updated submittal guide and scoring matrix to the WMPO board for approval. Ms. Burden reviewed the timeline for the FY29 – FY30 Special Call for Projects.

- June 1st – Call for Projects released
- June 10th – Pre-submittal informational meeting
- July 17th – Pre-application submittal is due
- September 18th – Final application deadline

Ms. Burden opened the floor for questions, there were none.

Mark Hairr made a motion to approve the resolution and bring it before the WMPO Board for approval. Sam Boswell seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion

a. 2026-2035 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs Administrative Modifications #26-6

Abby Lorenzo stated that this modification is for informational purposes only and will be brought back for approval at the next meeting. There were no questions.

b. Independence Boulevard Extension

Abby Lorenzo stated that the Independence Boulevard Extension project, U-4434, is proposed to extend Independence Boulevard from Randall Parkway to the Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway. She stated that the project was added to the Wilmington Thoroughfare Plan in 1972 and is in the recently adopted Cape Fear Navigating Change 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and is a priority project in the WMPO's adopted 2022-2026 Strategic Plan. The project is funded in the adopted 2026-2035 State/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs for preliminary engineering only with a cost of \$424,600,000. Ms. Lorenzo stated the project includes Federal funds and for that reason the project was required to complete and publish a Draft Environmental Impact Statement, which was completed last fall. A public hearing was held on December 1, 2025, and public comments were accepted through January 16, 2026. During the public comment period, Wilmington City Council adopted a resolution that outlined their opposition to the Independence Boulevard Extension project. NCDOT recommends that the WMPO consider removing the project from the 2026-2035 State/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs due to the number of comments received in opposition to the project, the City of Wilmington's opposition to the project and the overwhelming cost of the project in the Division needs funding tier. The WMPO staff supports the NCDOT's recommendation to remove the proposed project from the State/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs, however the WMPO staff does not support removing the project from the Cape Fear Navigating Change 2050 because leaving it in that publication will continue to demonstrate the need for improved north-south connectivity.

7. Updates

- a. Wilmington Urban Area MPO
Updates are in the packet.
- b. Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority
Updates are in the packet.
- c. NCDOT Division 3
Updates are in the packet; however, Adrienne Cox let the committee know that the New Hanover County sidewalk and safety project by the Wal Mart and Carolina Beach Rd was let the last week of April so that safety project will be moving forward.
- d. NCDOT Transportation Planning Division
Updates are in the packet; however Nazia Sarder let the committee know that the 2027 multi modal freight plan is ongoing and a draft plan should be available the end of this year. Ms. Sarder also mentioned that NCDEQ is open for RFP's for the Clean Water Act, she has included a link for information in the packet.

8. Announcements

- a. Go Coast TDM Committee Meeting – May 21, 2026

9. Next meeting – June 10, 2026

10. Adjournment

Sam Boswell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Helen Bunch seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:26am.

Respectfully submitted,

Abby Lorenzo

Deputy Director

Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

THE ABOVE MINUTES ARE NOT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS.
THE ENTIRE PROCEEDINGS ARE RECORDED DIGITALLY AS PART OF THIS
RECORD.