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WMPO Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

525 N 4th Street

Wilmington, NC 28401

Members Present, In person

Carolyn Caggia, WMPO TDM/Go Coast
Denys Vielkanowitz, City of Wilmington
Eric Ritzel, NCDOT
Sam Boswell, Cape Fear Rural Planning
Organization
Mike Kozlosky, (Chair) WMPO
Karlene Ellis Vitalis, NHC
Robert O'Quinn, Town of Wrightsville
Beach
Stephanie Ayers, NC State Ports Authority

Members' Present, Remote

Gloria Abbotts, Town of Carolina Beach
Nazia Sarder, NCDOT
Mark Hairr, Cape Fear Public Transportation
Authority
Liam Mikael, Town of Leland
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County
Adrienne Harrington, Town of Belville

Others Present, In Person

Abby Lorenzo, WMPO
Tessa Jones, WMPO
Krysdan Burden, WMPO
Luke Hutson, WMPO
Beth King, WMPO
Amanda Halbert, WMPO
Ronda Hogan, WMPO
Caitlin Cerza, WMPO
Greer Templer, WMPO
Regina Hopkins, WMPO
Susan Habina, City of Wilmington

Others Present, Remote

Zach Bugg, Kittelson & Associates
Austin Burton,
Melissa Dickerson, Ferry Division
Cambell Pfister, NCDOT IMD
Jeff Walton, Brunswick County

1. Call to Order

Mike Kozlosky 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; Stephanie Ayers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

3. Presentations

a. Projects Near Me Demonstration – Eric Ritzel, NCDOT

Eric Ritzel, Division Corridor Development Engineer for NCDOT Division 3, gave a presentation of the new application developed by NCDOT IT called Projects Near Me, which was developed to improve transparency and make project information easier for everyone to access. Mr. Ritzel explained what the app does, noting that it combines multiple existing datasets into one view. It allows users to search by location, county or project ID. Mr. Ritzel also explained what the app is not, noting that it is not a project management system, it is not a new database, and it is not a tool where users manually enter project information. Mr. Ritzel reviewed the nine different sources that the app data is coming from and answered the question, “Why some projects may not appear on Projects Near Me”. He stated that geolocation data is important and if that data is missing, the project may not appear, Mr. Ritzel also noted that if the project has been archived, removed or closed out in the source system, they will no longer feed into the application. He stated that the development team is aware of these limitations and continues to look for ways to improve project coverage. Mr. Ritzel concluded his presentation by sharing the permanent QR code and demonstrating the new application, highlighting how to navigate the map, search for projects, and how to filter by county, division and project type or mode.

b. Brunswick Heritage Riverside Ride – Greer Templer, WMPO

Greer Templer, Senior Transportation Planner for the WMPO, presented an update on the Brunswick Heritage Riverside Ride beginning with an event overview and explaining the purpose of the ride. Ms. Templer then explained the ride has run into some difficulties lately largely due to weather disruptions, and because of this the event coordinators of this ride have decided to move the annual event to a different timeframe. Ms. Templer stated that the next event will take place on Saturday, March 13, 2027. This date will move the event away from peak hurricane season, offer a cooler more comfortable ride and align with the week following the North Carolina Rice Festival, creating a natural continuation of local heritage programming. Ms. Templer also stated that the ride administrators have decided to flip the ride direction, the ride will begin and end in Belville instead of Navassa, this updated route will provide additional parking and facilities such as drinking water and restrooms. To conclude her presentation, Ms. Templer discussed the next steps for planning the ride and opened the floor for questions. There were no questions.

4. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of TCC Meeting Minutes- June 10, 2026
- b. Resolution approving 2026-2035 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs Amendment #26-4
- c. Opening of a 30-day Public Comment Period for 2026-2035 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs Amendment #26-5
- d. Resolution approving 2026-2035 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs Administrative Modification #26-7
- e. Resolution supporting the Wave Connect Advisory Committee’s Recommendations for the Award of the FY 2027 Section 5310 Community Grant Project Funds

- f. Resolution supporting the City of Wilmington's application to the North Carolina Recreational Trails Program grant

Robert O'Quinn made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Denys Vielkanowitz seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Regular Agenda

- a. Resolution approving Amendment #1 to the FY27 Unified Planning Work Program.
Regina Hopkins, WMPO Accounting Manager, presented the TCC the details of Amendment #1 to FY27 UPWP. Ms. Hopkins explained that back in March of 2026 the City of Wilmington decided not to charge the WMPO Indirect Costs, which left funds in our budget that the WMPO could utilize elsewhere. Ms. Hopkins explained that this amendment moves the funds out of the Indirect Costs fund line and into Management and Operations. Ms. Hopkins noted that it does not change the budget overall, it is just a housekeeping issue within the budget. Ms. Hopkins opened the floor for questions, there were no questions.

Robert O'Quinn made a motion to approve the resolution approving Amendment #1 to the FY27 UPWP. Sam Boswell seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion

- a. 2026-2035 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs Administrative Modifications #26-8
Mike Kozlosky 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. Prioritization 8.0 Regional Impact Tier Draft Local Input Point Assignment
Greer Templer, Senior Transportation Planner for the WMPO, reviewed the Prioritization 8.0 Regional Impact Tier Draft Local Input Point Assignment, stating that the WMPO has 1,600 Regional Impact Tier Local Input Points available for assignment among eligible projects. Ms. Templer referred to the spreadsheet in the TCC packet which reflects the draft assignment applying the approved methodology using the information currently available. She stated that staff will continue coordinating with Division 3 and will present the finalized Regional Impact Tier Local Input Point recommendation to the TCC in August. Ms. Templer opened the floor for questions, there were none.

7. Updates

- a. Wilmington Urban Area MPO
Updates are in the packet however, the pre-submittals for the Locally Administered Projects Program are due on Friday, July 17, 2026.
- b. Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority
Mark Hairr gave an update on a group that has put wooden benches at some of the WAVE bus stops, he stated that there are regulations that need to be met as far as placing furniture in right-a-ways or private property. Mr. Hairr mentioned that he

believes the group is reaching out to City officials soon, asking for some lenience from the codes that would pertain to these benches. Mr. Hairr said he will continue to keep the committee informed. He also updated the committee about the benches and amenities that WAVE is working towards having for bus stops

c. NCDOT Division 3

Eric Ritzel reviewed the updates that are presented in the packet.

d. NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division

Cambell Pfister, reviewed the IMD updates from the packet, highlighting the Safe Routes to School Strategic Plan, the Statewide Active Transportation Plan, the ConCPT Grant Awardees, and the UNCW Multimodal Study.

e. NCDOT Transportation Planning Division

Updates are in the packet

8. Announcements

a. Active Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting – August 18, 2026

b. Go Coast TDM Committee Meeting – August 20, 2026

9. Next meeting – August 12, 2026

10. Adjournment

Robert O’Quinn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Stephanie Ayers seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Kozlosky

Executive 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.