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WMPO Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

525 N 4th Street

Wilmington, NC 28401

Members Present, In person

Chuck Bost, Town of Belville
Lynn Barbee, Town of Carolina Beach
Brenda Bozeman, Town of Leland
Allen Oliver, Town of Kure Beach
Brad George, Pender County Commissioner
Ken Dull, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Bill Rivenbark, New Hanover County
Commissioner
Stephanie Walker, Cape Fear Transportation
Authority
Kevin Spears, City of Wilmington
Frank Williams, Brunswick County
Rose Terry, Town of Navassa

Members Present, Remote

Cassidy Santaguida, City of Wilmington

Others Present, In Person

Mike Kozlosky, WMPO
Abby Lorenzo, WMPO
Trevor Carroll, NCDOT
Greer Temppler, WMPO
Krysdan Burden, WMPO
Beth King, WMPO
Ronda Hogan, WMPO
Caitlin Cerza, WMPO
Amanda Halbert, WMPO
Tessa Jones, WMPO
Luke Hutson, WMPO
Regina Hopkins, WMPO

Mike Forte, Brunswick County
Vivian Partin, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Doug Pruden, Wilmington Resident
Kendra Goheen, Wilmington Resident
Benjamin Johnson, NCDOT
Susan K. Bulluck, WBCC
Zach Bugg, Kittelson & Associates
Charlene Dail, GFT
George Robertson, Leland Resident
Dianne Krantz, Wilmington Resident
Ann Stapleton, Wilmington Resident
Beth Butler, Hampstead Resident
Doug Holdstein, Hampstead Resident
Mitchell Clark, Hampstead Resident
Melanie Gilbee, Hampstead Resident
Bijan Salehi, Wilmington Resident
Hunter Smith, Town of Belville
Dana Clark, Hampstead Resident
Margaret Baggett, Wilmington Resident
Mark Hairr, WAVE
Randy Burton, Pender County BOCC
John Redmond, BPOA Hampstead
Christian Klinefelter, Belvedere POA
Joseph A. Cina, Hampstead Resident

Others Present, Remote

Caitlin Melvin, Volkert, Inc.
Catherine Peele, Ferry Division
Cheryl Hannah, HDR
David Wasserman, NCDOT
Doug Hurry

Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Jerod Patterson, BASE
Katie Hite, NCDOT
Kim Nguyen, NCDOT IMD
Nazia Sarder, NCDOT

Thom Moton, City of Wilmington
Veronica Carter, Town of Leland
Tim Zizack

1. Call to Order

Mike Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

Mike Kozlosky, WMPO Executive Director, called the roll.

2. Roll Call

Present: Chuck Bost, Lynn Barbee, Brenda Bozeman, Allen Oliver, Brad George, Ken Dull, Bill Rivenbark, Stephanie Walker, Kevin Spears, Cassidy Santaguida, Frank Williams, Rosetta Terry

Absent: Landon Zimmer

3. Conflict of Interest Statement

Mike Kozlosky read the conflict-of-interest statement as required by General Statute and requested any conflicts of interest be disclosed by the Board. There were no conflict of interest.

4. Approval of Board Member Excused Absences

Mike Kozlosky stated that Landon Zimmer requested an excused absence. Frank Williams made a motion to excuse Landon Zimmer from the January 28th meeting, Lynn Barbee seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of the Agenda

Brenda Bozeman made a motion to add an item to Discussion. The amendment would be item g. US Highway 17 in Brunswick County. Lynn Barbee seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously. Frank Williams made a motion to approve the agenda as amended; Allen Oliver seconded the motion. The amended agenda passed unanimously.

6. Election of Officers

Mike Kozlosky opened the floor for nominations for WMPO Board Chair, Frank Williams nominated Lynn Barbee. There were no other nominations, Mike Kozlosky closed the nominations. Frank Williams made a motion to elect Lynn Barbee as Chair; Brenda Bozeman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Barbee opened the floor for nominations for WMPO Vice-Chair, Chuck Bost nominated Frank Williams. There were no other nominations, Chairman Barbee closed the nominations. Chuck Bost made a motion to elect Frank Williams as Vice Chair; Brenda Bozeman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Public Comment Period

Kendra Goheen – Ms. Goheen welcomed new WMPO Board members and explained to them, and the veteran board members that there is a growing number of voters and taxpayers learning about the U-5710 project and questioning the WMPO and NCDOT plans. They are looking to the WMPO to represent them wisely. Ms. Goheen stated that trying to pop this complex project in a mature and highly developed neighborhood, with residences and small businesses is an issue. She stated that if the Board members would like to hear facts from a common sense, not just NCDOT perspective, and learn more about public concerns, this group would be pleased to come and to meet with any Board member individually, stating Mike Kozlosky has their contact information.

Susan Bulluck – Chair of Wrightsville Beach Chamber of Commerce thanked the Board for doing what they do, she thanked those members who work diligently to represent the people in businesses. Ms. Bulluck stated that she will be back to express individual concerns about a number of projects the NCDOT has in their STIP and their development program, but for now she welcomed the new members. Ms. Bulluck stated that there are newly elected Chair and Vice-Chair because the former Chair and Vice-Chair were not listening deeply enough or willingly enough to their constituents. Ms. Bulluck reminded the Board that they represent the businesses, that the businesses are the ones who need the Boards help.

Beth Butler – from Hampstead, NC, stated that she is representing 600 people from her HOA membership. Ms. Butler is looking for immediate traffic solutions in the Pender County area. Ms. Butler stated that the traffic in her area is out of control, she stated that people are dying, she is asking to have traffic slowed immediately on Highway 17 and asking for more speed limit signs on Highway 17. She is asking for Pender County to have more representation on the WMPO Board. Ms. Butler stated she is aware that there is a traffic light scheduled to be installed in the fall but stated that it is not soon enough, she would like the traffic light immediately, she would like the speed limit signs immediately. Ms. Butler would like NCDOT Representative, Trevor Carroll to attend Topsail High School so the public can voice their concerns and he can address their questions.

Doug Holdstein – President of the Dearfield Community Association in Pender County, addressed the Board about the traffic issues in Hampstead. He stated that the WMPO has

failed Pender County, he believes that the Board only cares about the Wilmington area. Mr. Holdstein noted a recent incident in which an accident in Hampstead had caused a telephone pole to fall across Highway 17, both northbound and southbound, creating a backup of traffic that lasted approximately three hours. Mr. Holdstein said the Pender County community voiced their concerns to him about their own safety during this time of the highway being blocked, they are worried about first responders being able to do their jobs if needed during this incident. Mr. Holdstein reiterated that the WMPO and their long-range planning has forgotten about Pender County. Mr. Holdstein stated that now that he knows who the WMPO is, he will be back and make his voice heard, applying pressure so he can achieve what he wants.

Bijan Salehi - spoke about upgrades he would like to see, including bike lanes, sidewalks, drainage system improvements, pedestrian crossings, planting of trees, widening of roads, and repaving of existing roads.

Christian Klinefelter – President of the Belvedere Plantation, Property Owner’s Association in Hampstead, stated he attended to support Beth Butler who previously spoke about the traffic issues in Pender County. Mr. Klinefelter stated he feels Pender County is greatly underrepresented on the WMPO Board, he presented the issue Hampstead has with Burgaw having all the power, attention, money and jobs, but yet Hampstead and Topsail Beach provide well over ninety percent of the revenue for the County. Mr. Klinefelter is concerned about Burgaw diluting the quality of life he and his community have fought so hard to maintain by the high-density development projects they have planned. Mr. Klinefelter is asking for the WMPO’s help, he would like more representation for Pender County on the Board, and he would like the Board to hear the issues of Hampstead and Topsail Beach.

Joseph Cina – community member of Hampstead apologized to Brad George, stating that he just found out about the WMPO meetings. He noted that we do a horrible job speaking to the community and explaining to them what takes place and what resources are available. He also stated now that he is aware of the meetings and the public comment, they will be in attendance, Brad George will not be alone, he will have community support. Mr. Cina presented his own traffic stories from Highway 17, stating that he grew up in Charlotte and traffic was bad, but Highway 17 gives them a run for their money. Mr. Cina has three children that ride the bus to school daily. The school is five minutes from his home, but it takes the bus a lot longer than five minutes. Mr. Cina reported that he took a video at the bus stop one day and six passenger cars ran the bus stop, Highway Patrol conducted traffic patrol and the traffic improved but when the patrol left the situation returned. Mr. Cina explained the nick name of Highway 17, the “Hampstead Drag Strip” due to the fact that there is nothing to break up traffic flow, no

speed limit signs from Sloop Point to Surf City. Mr. Cina is asking for immediate attention, whether it is new traffic devices, speed limit signs, the decoy blinking signs, or partnership with the Sheriff or Highway Patrol. Mr. Cina says the traffic is extremely dangerous and does not believe the scheduled bypass will fix anything.

8. Presentations

a. NCDOT Ferry Division Update, Catherine Peele, NCDOT

Catherine Peele, Deputy Director of Operations and Programming for the NCDOT Ferry Division, presented an update on the North Carolina Ferry System. Ms. Peele started by highlighting facts about the Ferry System, their size, how many people they serve, the number of vessels in operation, and the routes. Ms. Peele reviewed the operations and maintenance budget, explaining budgeting issues they have been working with, stating that they are appreciative they have secured non-recurring funds for the upcoming year and they are hopeful that this summer a budget will be passed and there will be no impact to operations in the future. Ms. Peele explained that we are one of the tolled routes in North Carolina, stating that the tolls increased in 2018 and what that increase looks like in the total fund balance. She went over annual ridership numbers and reliability review numbers, explaining the new ramp at Southport and Fort Fisher in 2023 put a dip in the reliability numbers for a time. Ms. Peele explained upcoming ramp repairs and the back-up plan of action in case the single ramp has further issues. In conclusion, Ms. Peele reviewed the regional and divisional projects they have been working on for funding, including new vessels and a second ramp. Ms. Peele opened the floor for questions, there were none.

At this point in the meeting, it was brought to the Chair's attention that there was another audience member who would like to speak. Chairman Barbee polled the Board, because they were already at the bylaws limit for public comment time; it was unanimous to allow one more public comment.

Dianne Krantz – Wilmington resident, spoke to the Board about the U-5710 project, stating that often Board members and NCDOT speak of the project as a “done deal”. Ms. Krantz, aware of the status of the project, noted that NCDOT plans to start this project at the same time they have scheduled to replace the bridges at Wrightsville Beach. Ms. Krantz believes this will cause extensive disruption, chaos and loss of business for local area businesses. Ms. Krantz also stated that community members believe that the traffic issues addressed or improved are not worth the \$81 million dollar cost. Ms. Krantz reported that the community has hand delivered letters to both Governor Stein and Secretary of Transportation Johnson, she stated that her growing body of residents and

business leaders are not going away quietly, she states a brighter light has been shown on the details of U-5710 and on the WMPO.

- b. NCDOT Confident Scope and Cost Estimates – Ben Johnson, NCDOT
Ben Johnson presented the Confident Scope and Cost Estimates (CSCE), beginning with the cost estimation challenges over the past five years. He reviewed the cost estimation improvements that NCDOT has made over the same period. Mr. Johnson overviewed what the CSCE is and what they have for goals and expected outcomes, as well as factors to consider in determining the timing of a CSCE. He reviewed the Project Definition Document (PDD) and Cost Verification Memos (CVMs). Mr. Johnson reviewed the projects currently scheduled for delivery, in the 2026-2035 STIP and discussed their delivery timeframes along with the expectation that by September of 2027 all projects scheduled for delivery should achieve their CSCE. Mr. Johnson concluded his presentation with the next steps the NCDOT is taking, including informing MPO's, RPO's and local governments of the September 2027 expectation, the continuation of advancing 200 projects to achieve CSCE by September 2027, and providing quarterly updates on CSCE status. Mr. Johnson opened the floor for questions, there were none. Mike Kozlosky stated that the North Carolina Association of MPO's has taken a position that they would like to be a part of the CSCE process and Mr. Kozlosky would like to ask the NCDOT that the WMPO also be a part of the process.
- c. Safe Streets and Roads For All Plan Update – Zach Bugg, Kittleson & Associates
Zach Bugg from Kittleson & Associates presented an update on the Safe Streets and Roads For All Safety Action Plan beginning with why this plan is important and the urgency of action. Mr. Bugg stated that since this project started in April of 2025, six people have been killed walking, three riding a bicycle, and at least six people have been killed by traveling by car or motorcycle. Mr. Bugg continued with a review of what has already been accomplished with the action plan and where they are in the timeline. He presented a recap of feedback from the public outreach events and how those comments/issues can be addressed within the plan. They used this information to compile a map of roadways and intersections of concern and a map of priority locations. Mr. Bugg reviewed the project scoring and prioritization of the projects, along with the plans for the second round of public outreach. He concluded his presentation with what the next steps will look like and explained that he would be back again before the Board in a few months before they request adoption of the final plan. Mr. Bugg asked for any questions that the Board may have. Frank Williams asked if the plan is applied the same to a city road and a road like Highway 17. Mr. Bugg responded that all the roads are considered equal by crash data. Vice-Chair Williams asked how someone could have the presentation at an event before February 15th, do they contact Mr. Bugg? Mr. Bugg responded that if there is a high activity event, where they are going to get lots of feedback he would love to show up, so please reach out to the MPO. Vice-Chair Williams asked how the

community members from Hampstead could provide feedback electronically. Mr. Bugg stated the QR code would take them to the survey and the project website, which is hosted by the WMPO. Kevin Spears asked if the WMPO had the QR code printed so the public could take it with them, the WMPO did provide the code and Mr. Bugg explained where it can be found online.

9. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Board Regular Meeting Minutes- November 19, 2025
- b. Resolution approving 2026-2035 STIP/MPO Amendments #25-6 and #25-7
- c. Resolution approving 2026-2035 STIP/MPO Administrative Modifications #25-10 and #26-1
- d. Opening of a 30-day public comment period for 2026-2035 STIP/MPO Amendment #26-1
- e. Resolution supporting the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's application for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Bicycle Helmet Initiative
- f. Resolution Supporting the North Carolina State Ports Grant Applications for FY2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) and the FY2026 Port Infrastructure Development (PID)
- g. Resolution Supporting the Town of Leland's Application for FY2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) for Basin Street Extension

Brenda Bozeman made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Brad George seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Regular Agenda

- a. Opening of the 30-day Public Comment Period for the FY27 Unified Planning Work Program
Regina Hopkins, WMPO Accounting Manager, overviewed a summary of the draft FY27 UPWP noting cost differences from previous years and explaining those differences. Ms. Hopkins opened the floor for questions, there were none. Mike Kozlosky explained that the Unified Planning Work Program requires a 30-Day Public Comment Period, which is what we are asking the Board to open today. NCDOT requires that the UPWP be adopted by March 31st, so following the 30-Day Comment Period, the UPWP will be back before the Board at the March 25th meeting. Stephanie Walker made a motion to approve the opening of the 30-Day Comment Period for the draft FY27 UPWP. Kevin Spears seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.
- b. Resolution amending the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Active Transportation (Formerly Bicycle and Pedestrian) Advisory Committee Bylaws

Beth King, WMPO Transportation Planner, updated the Board regarding the recent Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Bylaw updates that were approved at the last BPAC meeting. If approved, this committee will be now known as the Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC). Ms. King explained the rationale for the updates and highlighted the significant changes. Frank Williams asked about the term limits, questioning when the term would start for sitting members. Ms. King answered that the term will start when they are appointed for their new term. Allen Oliver made a motion to amend the WMPO's Active Transportation Advisory Committee Bylaws. Kevin Spears seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

11. Discussion

a. 2026-2035 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modifications #26-2

Mike Kozlosky stated this item is for informational purposes only and will be brought back for approval at the next meeting. Mr. Kozlosky opened the floor for questions, there were none.

b. WMPO 2022-2026 Strategic Plan 2026 Work Plan

Mike Kozlosky stated that on a yearly basis, the WMPO uses the adopted Strategic Plan to create a Work Plan to bring before the Board. In this Work Plan the WMPO identifies the focus areas, action steps, and the key participants. Mr. Kozlosky highlighted the focus areas and actions steps for the 2026 Strategic Work Plan and opened the floor to answer any questions anyone may have. There were no questions.

c. 2026-2031 Strategic Plan Update

Mike Kozlosky discussed that the WMPO has contracted with WSP and their Scope of Services is in the packet. Mr. Kozlosky noted there will be small group meetings scheduled in late February and early March to discuss the updates to the Strategic Plan.

d. 2026 WMPO Draft Legislative Agenda

Mike Kozlosky explained that the WMPO asks the Board to adopt a Legislative Agenda prior to the Legislative Session. This Legislative Agenda before the Board builds on previous legislative agendas and includes additional transportation funding for important efforts and initiatives as well as the top priority project of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge. Also included is the importance of drainage improvements, opposing the transfer of State maintenance from NCDOT to counties, encourages limitations on requirements for schools, as well as addressing micro-mobility. One item added to the Legislative Agenda is to acknowledge MPOs as a position of public authority, to clarify the roles and creation of the MPO's. This was supported by the NC Association of MPO's. Mr. Kozlosky stated that he is not looking for any action on the Legislative Agenda today, and noted that it will be back before the Board in February, but he is happy to answer any questions anyone may have. There were no questions.

e. Draft WMPO Prioritization 8.0 Local Input Methodology

Abby Lorenzo reviewed the prioritization process including how the revenue is distributed and how the WMPO compiles their local input. Ms. Lorenzo explained

the point system used to score projects, is guided by statutes and NCDOT standards. Ms. Lorenzo stated that the WMPO's Local Input Methodology Scoring Criteria will remain the same as the previous year's criteria and briefly reviewed the criteria. Ms. Lorenzo concluded her presentation by reviewing the timeline, where we are currently on that timeline and next steps that will be taken. Ms. Lorenzo explained that this draft document will be back before the Board next month for approval and opened the floor for questions. There were no questions.

f. Cape Fear Trail's Etiquette Campaign and Signage Guide

Greer Templer and Tessa Jones overviewed the Draft Regional Trail Etiquette Campaign and Signage Guide. Ms. Jones reviewed the proposed trail rules and the Campaign Toolkit, which explains how the campaign can be implemented. Ms. Jones explained what the next steps will look like and previewed the draft Cape Fear Trails portion of the WMPO website. Ms. Templer presented a signage guide overview explaining how the WMPO developed the signage guide by following the national standards and including public input. Ms. Templer reviewed the different sections of the signage guide including the Brand Standards, the Regulatory and Warning Signs, the Wayfinding Signage and the Implementation Guidance, overviewing each section and how they were developed. Ms. Templer and Ms. Jones asked if there were any questions, Stephanie Walker asked if people wearing headphones or ear buds have been considered when drafting the rules, maybe highlighting for those users to pay attention and be aware. Ms. Jones noted that these rules are a starting point but yes, the feedback is welcomed and will be considered.

g. (Added agenda item) US Highway 17 in Brunswick County

Brenda Bozeman stated that she can sympathize with the Pender County members of the audience that came to speak today. Ms. Bozeman noted that she is having difficulties with traffic on Highway 17 in Leland and Belville, noting that there are regular daily accidents between the Brunswick Forest entrance and Aldi's. Ms. Bozeman also noted that motorists are consistently running the no left turn signs and it is not feasible for Leland to have a police officer posted there twenty-four hours a day. Ms. Bozeman is asking for help to remedy the situation and possibly in the meantime, asking if the speed could be reduced until a better solution is available. Trevor Carroll stated that if the Town of Leland will allow, the NCDOT will do some studies through the area and report the findings back to Leland. Chairman Barbee requested that possibly the same studies could be done for the Hampstead people who came to the meeting today. Chuck Bost noted that in his experience as a police officer, reducing the speed limit and the right on red opportunities is not going to solve the problem, he believes that there needs to be focus on road design to slow the traffic down.

12. Updates

a. **Wilmington Urban Area MPO**

Updates are in the packet.

- b. **Cape Fear Public Transit Authority**
Updates are in the packet.
- c. **NCDOT Division 3**
Updates are in the packet
- d. **NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division**
Updates are in the packet.
- e. **NCDOT Transportation Planning Division**
Updates are in the packet.
- f. **WMPO Board Members**

13. Announcements

- a. Safe Streets and Roads For All Phase II Public Outreach Activities-January/February
- b. College Road from Market Street to Gordon Road (U-5792) Public Meetings-January 29, 2026
- c. Wilmington MPO 101 Training – February 10, 2026
- d. WMPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee – February 11, 2025
- e. Active Transportation Advisory Committee – February 17, 2026

14. Next Meeting – February 25, 2026

15. Adjourn

Brenda Bozeman made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Frank Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:57pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Kozlosky
Executive Director
Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

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THE ENTIRE PROCEEDINGS ARE RECORDED DIGITALLY AS PART OF THIS
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