



525 N. 4th Street, Wilmington, NC 28401
P.O. Box 1810, Wilmington, NC 28402
O: (910) 341-3258 | F: (910) 341-7870
www.wmpo.org

WMPO Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 25, 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
Bill Rivenbark, New Hanover County
Stephanie Walker, Cape Fear Transportation Authority
Cassidy Santaguida, City of Wilmington
JC Lyle, City of Wilmington
Frank Williams, Brunswick County

Luke Hutson, WMPO
Regina Hopkins, WMPO
Carolyn Caggia, WMPO
Doug Pruden, Wilmington Resident
Susan K. Bulluck, WBCC
Mark Hairr, WAVE
David Ruiz, Wilmington Resident
Chris Cottle, County Sherriff's Office
Deb LeCompte, Town of Carolina Beach
Janet Pruden, Wilmington Resident
Michelle Howes, NCDOT
Adrienne Cox, NCDOT

Members Present, Remote

Ken Dull, Town of Wrightsville Beach

Others Present, Remote

Thom Moton, City of Wilmington
Mike Forte, Brunswick County
Nazia Sarder, NCDOT
Eric Seidel, CFPUA
Veronica Carter, Town of Leland
Sharon Mahoney, NCDOT

Others Present, In Person

Abby Lorenzo, WMPO
Trevor Carroll, NCDOT
Greer Tempier, WMPO
Krysdan Burden, WMPO
Beth King, WMPO
Ronda Hogan, WMPO
Caitlin Cerza, WMPO
Amanda Halbert, WMPO
Tessa Jones, WMPO

1. Call to Order

Chairman Barbee called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

Abby Lorenzo, WMPO Deputy Director, called the roll.

2. Roll Call

Present: Chuck Bost, Lynn Barbee, Brenda Bozeman, Allen Oliver, Brad George, Ken Dull, Bill Rivenbark, Stephanie Walker, JC Lyle, Cassidy Santaguida, Frank Williams

Absent: Landon Zimmer and Rosetta Terry

3. Conflict of Interest Statement

Chairman Barbee 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 conflicts of interest.

4. Approval of Board Member Excused Absences

Abby Lorenzo stated that Landon Zimmer requested an excused absence. Frank Williams made a motion to excuse Landon Zimmer from the February 25th meeting, Brenda Bozeman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of the Agenda

Allen Oliver made a motion to approve the agenda; Stephanie Walker seconded the motion. The agenda passed unanimously.

6. Public Comment Period

There were no members of the public that wished to speak.

7. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Board Regular Meeting Minutes- January 28, 2026
- b. Resolution approving 2026-2035 STIP/MPO Administrative Modification #26-2
- c. Opening of a 30-day public comment period for 2026-2035 STIP/MPO Amendment #26-2
- d. Resolution adopting the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's 2026 Legislative Agenda
- e. Resolution adopting the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Prioritization 8.0 Local Input Methodology
- f. Resolution endorsing the Cape Fear Trails Trail Etiquette Campaign and Signage Guide
- g. Resolution adopting the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority's Public Transportation Safety Action Plan and Transit Safety Performance Measures and Targets
- h. Resolution adopting the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority's Transit Asset Management Plan and Transit Asset Performance Measures and Targets

- i. Resolution supporting the Terry Benjey Bicycling Foundation’s application for the North Carolina Department of Transportation’s Bicycle Helmet Initiative

WMPO Staff requested to have item f. Resolution endorsing the Cape Fear Trails Trail Etiquette Campaign and Signage Guide, removed from the Consent Agenda, Frank Williams made a motion to approve the consent agenda with item f. removed and added as 8.b under the regular agenda. Stephanie Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Regular Agenda

- a. Resolution approving Amendment #2 to the FY26 Unified Planning Work Program

Regina Hopkins, WMPO Accounting Manager, provided an overview of Amendment #2, specifying that the changes are additional details to some task narratives, and that no changes to funds budgeted to those tasks are being made. Brenda Bozeman made a motion to approve the resolution approving Amendment #2 to the FY2026 UPWP, Chuck Bost seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Resolution endorsing the Cape Fear Trails Trail Etiquette Campaign and Signage Guide

Abby Lorenzo explained that a late comment from a TCC member received after the packet had been sent and based on staff’s review, warranted a minor wording change to remove a color. Staff wanted to make the Board aware of the change and still recommends the Boards endorsement of the item. Stephanie Walker questioned the color change, Ms. Lorenzo explained that in the guide, the crosswalks were stated to be white or green, but green is allowed if it is a bicycle only facility. Frank Williams made a motion to approve the resolution endorsing the Cape Fear Trails Trail Etiquette Campaign and Signage Guide with the wording change staff recommends. Stephanie Walker seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion

- a. 2026-2035 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modifications #26-3

Abby Lorenzo explained that this item is for informational purposes only and will be brought back at the next meeting.

- b. Proposed FY 27 Unified Planning Work Program

Abby Lorenzo explained that at the January Board meeting the Board approved the opening of the 30-day public comment period for the WMPO FY27 UPWP and that comment period will close on Friday, February 27th. Ms. Lorenzo explained that this item is on the agenda so the Board can ask any questions they

may have and for staff to give an update on some items they have learned since the draft UPWP was developed. Staff have learned the NCDOT is requesting clarification additions to some of the narratives, including the costs in our planning grant and the STBG funds. Staff have also learned that the City of Wilmington is planning a living wage initiative. Ms. Lorenzo stated that if the City of Wilmington moves forward with the living wage initiative, the WMPO is not foreseeing a budget adjustment at this time, the WMPO can reduce the funds allocated for the special study for the resilience improvement plan and shift the funds to employee compensation. No action was needed on this item, it was just for informational purposes.

c. WMPO Active Transportation Advisory Committee Appointments

Abby Lorenzo explained that at the January Board meeting, the Board approved bylaw changes and a name change for the Active Transportation Committee, formally the Bike Ped Advisory Committee. With those changes, there are also changes for appointments and terms. Ms. Lorenzo informed Board members that WMPO staff would be contacting them to confirm their existing appointment or appoint a new representative.

d. WMPO Strategic Business Plan Survey and Special Meeting

Abby Lorenzo reviewed the WMPO Strategic Business Plan survey that was sent to all Board members from WSP. Ms. Lorenzo requests that all members complete the survey, which will be open until March 11, 2026. Ms. Lorenzo stated that WMPO Staff recommend that the Board hold a special meeting for a facilitated discussion with WSP in place of the originally proposed small group meetings. Staff propose the special meeting take place on Wednesday, March 25th, directly before the regular Board meeting. Brenda Bozeman made a motion to hold a special meeting at 1:30, Wednesday, March 25th, Chuck Bost seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Updates

a. **Wilmington Urban Area MPO**

Abby Lorenzo noted that the WMPO held two very successful training in February. A survey was still open for members that attended the WMPO 101 training. Ms. Lorenzo requested members participate if they had not already done so. Beth King, WMPO Transportation Planner, explained that this year at the annual River to Sea Bike Ride there will be an opening event, the River to Sea Expo. This event, held at Empie Park the evening before the ride, on May 1st, will be a great opportunity for biking enthusiasts and members of the community to receive information from the WMPO, our partners, and the ride sponsors.

b. **Cape Fear Public Transit Authority**

Updates are in the packet.

c. NCDOT Division 3

Trevor Carroll updated the Board about a couple of issues that were brought up by members at the last Board meeting. Mr. Carroll explained that the NCDOT reviewed the issues noted by residents during public comment on US17 in Pender County. He stated there has been a speed study done on the US17 corridor and the speed study indicated that the speed limit was appropriate. Mr. Carroll explained that NCDOT also did a visual inspection of the current signage and found that there are more than the minimum required signage due to previous requests.

The second update was for US17 in Leland. Mr. Carroll explained that crash data has been requested and that he will provide an update once received. The NCDOT is also evaluating the consistency/inconsistency of permissible right on red along the corridor. Mr. Carroll noted it is inconsistent throughout the area, however, from an engineering judgment point, there is a consistency as far as keeping the traffic flowing to the corridor. Mr. Carroll stated that having well designed traffic flow on US17 is the goal for NCDOT.

Frank Williams questioned Treavor Carroll about the bridge projects in the packet for Leland, as to whether the projects will include road closures. Mr. Carroll stated the projects will include road closures, but the projects will not overlap construction schedules.

Stephanie Walker questioned Mr. Carroll about the U-5710 email Board members received from NCDOT. Ms. Walker stated that residents have expressed the fact that the project is not needed. Mr. Carroll replied that U-5710 is definitely a very necessary project, and the intersection is very congested. He explained the project scored in the top ten percent statewide several years ago and as traffic has increased yearly, so has the congestion, making the project even more viable. Mr. Carroll addressed the impacts the construction will have and assured the Board that the NCDOT is taking that into consideration and working diligently to minimize the impacts.

d. NCDOT Transportation Planning Division

Updates are in the packet.

11. Next Meeting – March 25, 2026

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37pm

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.