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WMPO Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 29, 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
Ken Dull, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Bill Rivenbark, New Hanover County
Stephanie Walker, Cape Fear Transportation Authority
Cassidy Santaguida, City of Wilmington
Mike Forte, Brunswick County
Rose Terry, Town of Navassa
Landon Zimmer, NC Board of Transportation

Members Present, Remote

Kevin Spears, City of Wilmington

Others Present, In Person

Mike Kozlosky, WMPO
Abby Lorenzo, WMPO
Krysdan Burden, WMPO
Beth King, WMPO
Ronda Hogan, WMPO
Caitlin Cerza, WMPO
Amanda Halbert, WMPO
Tessa Jones, WMPO
Luke Hutson, WMPO
Carolyn Caggia, WMPO
Regina Hopkins, WMPO

Bijan Saleni, A Caring Heart
Charlene Day, GFT
Trevor Carroll, NCDOT
Eric Ritzel, NCDOT
Jennifer Hakes
Michelle Howes, NCDOT
Megan Mullins, Greater Wilmington Chamber
Veronica Carter, Town of Leland
Mark Hairr, WAVE
Chris Coudriet, NHC

Others Present, Remote

Greg Laughter, WMPO
Adrienne Cox, NCDOT Div 3
Celia Miars, AECOM
David Hollis, Town of Leland
Debbie Willis
Doug LaFave, NCDOT
Eric Seidel, CFPWA
Eugene Young
Katie Hite, NCDOT
Nazia Sarder, NCDOT IMD
Hunter Smith, Town of Belville
Veronica Scott, NCDOT
WECT News
WWAY News

Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Mike Kozlosky, WMPO Director, called the roll.

Present: Chuck Bost, Lynn Barbee, Brenda Bozeman, Allen Oliver, Ken Dull, Bill Rivenbark, Stephanie Walker, Kevin Spears, Cassidy Santaguida, Rose Terry, Mike Forte, and Landon Zimmer

3. Conflict of Interest Statement

Chairman Barbee read the conflict-of-interest statement as required by North Carolina 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

Mike Kozlosky reported that Brad George had requested excused absence. Chuck Bost made a motion to approve Brad George as an excused absence. Stephanie Walker seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Barbee requested to amend the agenda by moving the closed session directly after the approval of the agenda. Brenda Bozeman made a motion to amend the agenda by moving the timing of the closed session. Cassidy Santaguida seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously. Allen Oliver made a motion to approve the amended agenda; Rose Terry seconded the motion. The amended agenda passed unanimously.

6. Closed Session

Mike Forte made a motion for the WMPO Board to enter closed session. Brenda Bozeman seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously, the Board entered closed session at 3:05 p.m. Chairman Barbee reconvened the regular meeting of the WMPO Board at 3:36 p.m.

7. Public Comment

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

Veronica Carter, Council member for the Town of Leland, addressed the Board concerning a resolution the Leland Town Council passed regarding the Cape Fear

Memorial Bridge. Ms. Carter voiced the concern the Council has about a toll option for the bridge replacement. She explained that it has come to the attention of the Leland Town Council that a road in Raleigh that was on the STIP and scheduled to have tolls, but somehow managed to lose the toll option and is still funded on the STIP. Ms. Carter, representing the Leland Town Council, would like the WMPO to look at other options that are fair and equitable approaches to funding the bridge replacement, including having the users that profit from the bridge, like the NC Ports to help fund. Ms. Carter mentioned that Leland would like to look at the Cape Fear Skyway, which is still on the STIP, as a viable alternative. Ms. Carter presented the WMPO Board with a copy of the Leland resolution and asked the Board to continue to explore all options regarding replacing the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

8. Presentations

a. WMPO Accessibility Update, Tessa Jones, WMPO

Tessa Jones, WMPO Public Information Officer, presented an update on the WMPO's website accessibility efforts beginning with a compliance overview and some of the common accessibility issues. She explained to the Board that the deadline was April 24, 2026, and this compliance is required for all agencies serving populations over 50,000. She further explained that after the WMPO met the deadline with 100% compliance, the deadline was delayed for a full year. Ms. Jones reviewed some common accessibility issues and updated the Board on the progress to date. She went over what the next steps will be. Ms. Jones opened the floor for questions, there were none.

9. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Board Special Meeting Minutes - March 25, 2026
- b. Approval of Board Regular Meeting Minutes – March 25, 2026
- c. Resolution Proclaiming May as Bike Month
- d. Resolution approving 2026-2035 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs Amendment #26-2
- e. Opening of the 30-day Public Comment Period for 2026-2035 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs Amendment #26-3
- f. Resolution approving 2026-2035 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs Administrative Modification #26-4
- g. Resolution supporting the City of Wilmington's application to the North Carolina Department of Transportation for the 2026 Multi-modal Planning Grant to develop a Multi-modal Network Plan
- h. Resolution encouraging the North Carolina Department of Transportation to install bike lanes on Castle Hayne Road as part of their upcoming resurfacing project

Chuck Bost made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Brenda Bozeman seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

10. Regular Agenda

- a. Resolution approving Amendment #4 to the FY 26 Unified Planning Work Program
Regina Hopkins, WMPO Accounting Manager, reviewed Amendment #4 to the FY26 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) stating that in March the City of Wilmington announced that they were not going to charge the WMPO indirect charges, so this amendment moves the funds from the indirect charges line item to the management and operations line, making them usable for the rest of the fiscal year. Ms. Hopkins opened the floor for questions, there were none.

Cassidy Santaguida made a motion to approve Amendment #4 to the FY26 UPWP. Mike Forte seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

- b. Resolution appointing the Active Transportation Advisory Committee Ex-Officio Members
Beth King, WMPO Transportation Planner, reviewed the five names that are up for appointment on the Active Transportation Advisory Committee as ex-officio members and background for each of them. The five members the committee is looking to have appointed as ex-officio members are: Al Schroetel, Liz Carbone, Kim Huffman, Eric Ritzel and Steve Zinder. Ms. King opened the floor for questions, Chairman Barbee asked if ex-officio is the correct term for these appointments and if they will be voting members. Ms. King answered that yes, they are voting members and the definition of ex-officio in this case is used loosely, not necessarily referring to their appointed office.

Stephanie Walker made a motion to approve the resolution appointing ex-officio members to the Active Transportation Advisory Committee. Allen Oliver seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

11. Discussion

- a. 2026-2035 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modifications #26-5

Mike Kozlosky explained that this administrative modification is for informational purposes only and will be brought back for action at another meeting.

- b. Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP) Special Call for Projects Submittal Guide and Scoring Matrix

Krysdyn Burden, WMPO Grants Coordinator, reviewed the FY29-30 Special Call for Projects, highlighting the tentative timeline and the funding information. Ms. Burden reviewed the pre-submittal requirements, stating that the pre-submittal is a requirement for the final application. She explained the inflation and contingency

calculator, stating that the WMPO is available to help if the calculator is confusing to applicants. Ms. Burden also explained that applicants are expected to coordinate with WMPO staff throughout the project's lifecycle. Luke Hutson, WMPO Engineering Associate, reviewed the scoring rubric updates, and explained why changes were made. He went over the next steps that will be made by WMPO staff, and opened the floor for questions. Chairman Barbee asked if there were any substantive changes made to the rubric or were the changes more of a clean up and clarification. Ms. Burden replied that yes, most of the changes were for clarification and to ensure there is not a redundancy of points given. Chairman Barbee wanted to make sure that the rubric still reflected what the Board's priorities are.

c. Special Meeting – May 27, 2026

Mike Kozlosky requested the Board to hold a special meeting on May 27, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. to continue the conversation about the Strategic Plan Update.

Brenda Bozeman made a motion to approve the special meeting on May 27, 2026, at 1:00. Landon Zimmer seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

12. Updates

a. **Wilmington Urban Area MPO**

Mike Kozlosky asked the Board if they would be okay participating in the WMPO newsletter as part of the "In the Driver's Seat" column. This column highlights the people of the WMPO. Chairman Barbee stated that he thought this was a great idea and it would help get the WMPO message out.

b. **Cape Fear Public Transit Authority**

Mark Hairr gave an update on the ridership numbers, how they have improved since the restructuring of the bus routes.

c. **NCDOT Division 3**

Trevor Carroll announced that NCDOT Project W-5703C, Carolina Beach Road at Willoughby Park, pedestrian improvements, has finally been awarded. Mr. Carroll stated that this is great news, they have been working on this project for almost a decade.

d. **NCDOT Transportation Planning Division**

Updates are in the packet.

13. Announcements

- a. WMPO Annual Survey Closes – April 30, 2026
- b. River to Sea Ride Expo – May 1, 2026
- c. River to Sea Ride – May 2, 2026

14. Next Meeting – May 27, 2026

15. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Kozlosky

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.