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WMPO Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

525 N 4th Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

Members Present, In person

Hunter Smith, Town of Belville
Lynn Barbee, Town of Carolina Beach
Brenda Bozeman, Town of Leland
Allen Oliver, Town of Kure Beach
Brad George, Pender County
Ken Dull, Town of Wrightsville Beach
Stephanie Walker, Cape Fear Transportation
Authority
Kevin Spears, City of Wilmington

Members Present, Remote

Landon Zimmer, NC Board of
Transportation
Cassidy Santaguida, City of Wilmington
Frank Williams, Brunswick County
Rose Terry, Town of Navassa

Others Present, In Person

Mike Kozlosky, WMPO
Abby Lorenzo, WMPO
Krysdan Burden, WMPO
Caitlin Cerza, WMPO
Amanda Halbert, WMPO
Tessa Jones, WMPO
Luke Hutson, WMPO

Regina Hopkins, WMPO
William Piatt, Wilmington Resident
Richard Alber, Wilmington Resident
Lydia O'Quinn, NCDOT
Doug Pruden, Wilmington Resident
Chris Coudriet, NHC
Megan Mullins, Greater Wilmington
Chamber
Bijan Saleni, A Caring Heart
Veronica Scott, NCDOT
Michelle Howes, NCDOT
Mark Hairr, WAVE

Others Present, Remote

Greg Laughter, WMPO
Eric Seidel, CFPWA
Carolyn Caggia, WMPO
Susan Bullock, Wrightsville Beach Chamber
of Commerce
Bill Kincannon, HDR
Katie Hite, NCDOT
Veronica Carter, Town of Leland
Leta Huntsinger, WSP
Adam Freeman, WSP
Behshad Norowzi, NCDOT

1. Call to Order

Chairman Barbee called the meeting to order at 3:02pm.

2. Roll Call

Mike Kozlosky, WMPO Director, called the roll.

Present: Hunter Smith, Lynn Barbee, Brenda Bozeman, Allen Oliver, Brad George, Ken Dull, Stephanie Walker, Kevin Spears, Cassidy Santaguida, Frank Williams, Rose Terry, and Landon Zimmer

Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

City of Wilmington • Town of Carolina Beach • Town of Kure Beach • Town of Wrightsville Beach
County of New Hanover • Town of Belville • Town of Leland • Town of Navassa • County of Brunswick
County of Pender • Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority • North Carolina Department of Transportation

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 stated that Bill Rivenbark requested an excused absence. Brenda Bozeman made a motion to excuse Bill Rivenbark from the June 24th meeting, Stephanie Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of the Agenda

Allen Oliver made a motion to approve the agenda; Kevin Spears seconded the motion. The agenda passed unanimously.

6. Public Comment

Bill Piatt, Wilmington resident. Mr. Piatt addressed the Board with his concerns about the U-5710 project at Military Cutoff Road and Eastwood Road. Mr. Piatt explained to the Board that in his opinion, eighty percent of the traffic issue has already been resolved with the new Drysdale Drive Extension. He believes that there is no need whatsoever to have left turn lanes on either Military Cutoff or Eastwood Road. Mr. Piatt would like to implement the “no left turn” on both Military Cutoff and Eastwood Road. and see how much difference that makes and then decide if the overpass is still necessary.

Richard Alber, Lionsgate resident. Mr. Alber addressed the Board about the U-5710 project. He noted that he spends a lot of time on the road and has a good perspective on traffic, he believes that most of the congestion on Military Cutoff is north or south of the Military Cutoff/Eastwood intersection. Mr. Alber believes the public deserves to know the expected benefits from the U-5710 project, and questions if the proposed U-5710 project improves end-to-end travel time on Military Cutoff Road, or will the delay just shift to another intersection? What bottlenecks will remain after the project is completed? Were other alternatives fully evaluated? Mr. Alber also had requests from the Board, he would like updated traffic counts at and around Military/Eastwood intersection, he would like updated traffic forecasts using current development data and post Covid travel patterns, release updated modeling assumptions and results to the public before final implementation, re-evaluate whether Military Cutoff should be grade separated or whether a corridor wide alternative would produce a greater benefit, and hold public hearings after updated analysis are completed.

7. Presentations

- a. WMPO Annual Member and Stakeholder Survey Results – Tessa Jones, WMPO
Tessa Jones, Public Information Officer for the WMPO, gave an overview of the results of the survey offered previously to member jurisdictions and stakeholders of the WMPO. Ms. Jones reviewed the results from this year, comparing them with the results from last year’s survey, and noting the differences. Overall, the results were

comparable with previous year's results and gave the WMPO considerable feedback which is extremely useful.

b. 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 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. Ken Dull questioned if there is or will be an app available for phones. Mr. Ritzel responded that there is not an app available because this site pulls data from multiple locations and to have it as an app it would slow down the processing of a phone.

8. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Board Special Meeting Minutes – May 27, 2026
- b. Approval of Board Regular Meeting Minutes – May 27, 2026
- c. Resolution approving 2026-2035 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs Amendment #26-3
- d. Opening of a 30-day Public Comment Period for 2026-2035 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs Amendment #26-4
- e. Resolution approving 2026-2035 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs Administrative Modification #26-6
- f. Resolution supporting the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority's application to the Federal Transit Administration's Transit-Oriented Development Planning Program

Brenda Bozeman made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Stephanie Walker seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

9. Regular Agenda

- a. Resolution supporting the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's application to NCDOT's Advanced Air Mobility Planning Program
Krysden Burden, WMPO Grants Coordinator, presented information on the Advanced Air Mobility Planning Program, including definitions of what an eVTOL is and showed a video describing the different prototypes. Ms. Burden gave some

background on the Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Planning Program and described how this emerging technology could complement current transportation systems. Ms. Burden explained that North Carolina Department of Transportation's Division of Aviation has developed the AAM Planning Program to support regional planning organizations in exploring and preparing for the integration of AAM technologies into future transportation efforts and processes. This program is only open to MPO's, RPO's and COG's, a 10% contribution is required from selected participants and the typical plan costs around \$250,000. Ms. Burden explained that to move forward, WMPO staff are looking for WMPO Board support to fill out an interest form, which is due June 26, 2026. Ms. Burden clarified that if the WMPO was chosen, the 10% contribution needed is available in the UPWP, no addition of funds are needed. Ms. Burden opened the floor for questions. Kevin Spears asked if the WMPO had spoken or coordinated with Raleigh or Charlotte regarding the program. Ms. Burden responded that they have been in conversations with the Raleigh MPO and they have been very helpful. Kevin Spears asked if the program was feasible for our region, Ms. Burden answered that this is what she is hoping this planning program will answer, the feasibility and reality of the program.

Kevin Spears made a motion to support the WMPO's application to NCDOT's Air Mobility Planning Program. Brad George seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Resolution adopting the 2026-2031 WMPO Strategic Plan

Mike Kozlosky gave a brief overview of the final updated results of the WMPO Strategic Plan that was sent to the Board on June 11, 2026. Mr. Kozlosky noted that this plan will guide the actions of the organization for the next five years. Mr. Kozlosky stated that the plan was presented to the Board for comments and questions and there were none submitted, so at this time the WMPO staff is requesting approval of the plan.

Brad George made a motion to adopt the 2026-2031 WMPO Strategic Plan. Allen Oliver seconded the motion, the motion passed with a vote of 11-0, Board member Walker had to leave the meeting prior to the vote.

10. Discussion

a. 2026-2035 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modifications #26-7

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

b. Prioritization 8.0 Statewide Tier Funded Projects and Project Scoring

Greer Templer, WMPO Senior Planner, presented the Prioritization 8.0 Quantitative Scoring Results and Statewide Mobility Funding. She began with a brief overview of the projects included. Ms. Templer stated a total of 2,122 projects were scored for six modes of transportation. At the Statewide level, 466 projects were eligible: 15 aviation, 304 highway and 147 rail. Ms. Templer noted that \$296 million was

available in the Statewide Mobility Tier, this funded 43 projects: 25 highway projects, 3 aviation projects and 15 rail projects.

The Wilmington MPO has two funded projects at Wilmington International Airport (ILM), project AP-0008 and AP-0009. Ms. Templer reviewed the project scope of both projects, explaining what will be accomplished.

Ms. Templer highlighted all the WMPO Statewide Mobility Tier eligible highway project scores and the forecasted funding availability in the Regional Impact and Division Needs tiers as of May 28, 2026. Ms. Templer concluded her presentation by reviewing the revised schedule, stating that currently we are in the Regional Impact local input point assignment phase until August. Ms. Templer opened the floor for questions.

Chairman Barbee asked Ms. Templer to revisit the breakdown slide, clarifying funding for statewide projects. Mike Kozlosky mentioned some observations, of the \$296 million available, and the 43 projects funded. The monies available are for PE only and the projects will have to compete again in the next prioritization cycle.

Mr. Kozlosky also shared that he has asked NCDOT for data about how funds were distributed this round of projects and back to 2015 when the Strategic Transportation Investment (STI) formula was first used. NCDOT responded that they have that information and will compile it, by county, from 2015 to present, and Mr. Kozlosky noted that he will share that information when it becomes available.

The last point Mr. Kozlosky mentioned is that there are not a lot of funds available, and additional revenue is needed to fund projects, which goes back to the support the Board had previously for alternative funding mechanisms.

Brad George questioned what areas correspond to Region C and Region F on the Funding Availability slide. Michelle Howes, NCDOT, responded that she can look up that information and get back to the Board. Ms. Howes also noted that the funding availability depends on what projects are already programmed in the STIP.

Chairman Barbee commented that getting the information Mr. Kozlosky requested will allow the Board to look at the program over the last ten years, and it will show a better picture of how the funds are being distributed in our area and across the state. Brad George asked what counties are in our Division. Ms. Howes responded, Sampson, Duplin, Onslow, Pender, New Hanover, and Brunswick counties.

11. Updates

a. Wilmington Urban Area MPO

Mike Kozlosky noted updates are in the packet, however he has an update on the e-bike legislation. Mr. Kozlosky, he noted that the provisions have been included in the Omnibus bill, which was passed by the Senate and expected to be passed by the House, which means it will proceed to the Governor for signature. Cassidy

Santaguida questioned if the e-bike regulations would still go into effect December 31st of this year. Mr. Kozlosky responded that they would confirm that date and get back with Ms. Santaguida. The second update Mr. Kozlosky had was regarding the unsolicited proposal for the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge. He noted that there will be a review of that proposal at the next WMPO Board meeting.

b. **Cape Fear Public Transit Authority**

Updates are in the packet.

c. **NCDOT Division 3**

Updates are in the packet, however, Michelle Howes had an additional update on the new “No Mow May” process, stating that they are just a bit behind but catching up across the state and closing in on everything being mowed.

d. **NCDOT Transportation Planning Division**

Updates are in the packet, with a few additions, Pender County CTP is moving forward very quickly, the draft and appendix are completed. There is a new Director for planning division, Brian Wert.

12. Announcements

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

13. Next Meeting – July 29, 2026

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 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.