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**WMPO Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, November 19, 2025**  
525 N 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401

**Members Present, In person**

Luke Waddell, Vice Chairman, City of  
Wilmington  
John Ellen, Town of Kure Beach  
Lynn Barbee, Town of Carolina Beach  
Brenda Bozeman, Town of Leland  
Bill Rivenbark, New Hanover County  
Landon Zimmer, NC Board of  
Transportation  
Dane Scalise, Cape Fear Public  
Transportation Authority  
Eulis Willis, Town of Navassa  
Kevin Spears, City of Wilmington  
Frank Williams, Brunswick County

**Members Present, Remote**

Hank Miller, Chairman, Town of  
Wrightsville Beach

**Members Absent**

Chuck Bost, Town of Belville  
Brad George, Pender County Commissioner

**Others Present, In Person**

Mike Kozlosky, WMPO  
Abby Lorenzo, WMPO

Trevor Carroll, NCDOT  
Greer Templar, WMPO  
Krysdan Burden, WMPO  
Beth King, WMPO  
Ronda Hogan, WMPO  
Caitlin Cerza, WMPO  
Mike Forte, Brunswick County  
Regina Hopkins, WMPO  
Vivian Partin, Town of Wrightsville Beach  
David Roy, NCTA  
Kate Trimble, NCTA  
Doug Pruden, Wilmington Resident  
John Sloan, AECOM  
Peyton Whisnant, Wilmington Resident  
Rose Terry, Town of Navassa  
Michelle Howes, NCDOT  
Mark Hairr, WAVE  
Bijan Saleri, A Caring Heart  
Kevin Dolan, WB Resident  
Karla Dolan, WB Resident  
Natalie English, Wilmington Chamber  
Delaney Tarpley, WECT News

**Others Present, Remote**

Tessa Jones, WMPO  
Luke Hutson, WMPO

**1. Call to Order**

Vice-Chairman Luke Waddell called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

Mike Kozlosky, WMPO Executive Director, called the roll.

Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

2. **Roll Call**

**Present:** Lynn Barbee, Brenda Bozeman, John Ellen, Hank Miller, Bill Rivenbark, Luke Waddell, Dane Scalise, Keving Spears, Eulis Willis, Frank Williams and Landon Zimmer.

**Absent:** Chuck Bost and Brad George

3. **Conflict of Interest Statement**

Vice-Chairman Waddell read the conflict-of-interest statement as required by General Statute and requested any conflicts of interest be disclosed by the Board. There were none.

4. **Approval of Board Member Excused Absences**

There were no excused absences.

5. **Approval of the Agenda**

Dane Scalise made a motion to approve the agenda. John Ellen seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

6. **Public Comment Period**

Vice Chairman Waddell opened the public comment period.

Bijan Saleni, 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.

Peyton Whisnant, Wilmington Resident, spoke to the Board regarding the overpass that is part of the U-5710 project. He is a member of the Eastport Community, living at 1209 Clipper Lane, he would like to see more communication between the Eastport Community/HOA and the NCDOT during the construction of the overpass. He stated that the U-5710 project is slated to take four years, similar to what the Drysdale Extension project was slated for, and he says the lack of communication from NCDOT about what is going on in their neighborhood was difficult during that project.

7. **Presentations**

- a. **Recognition of WMPO Board Members – Chairman Hank Miller and Mike Kozlosky, WMPO**  
Luke Waddell and Mike Kozlosky presented outgoing Board members Eulis Willis, John Ellen, and Luke Waddell with plaques of recognition for their service on the

Board. All outgoing board members spoke about their time on the Board and how beneficial it has been for their communities and themselves personally.

b. Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement Tolling Comparative Analysis – David Roy, North Carolina Turnpike Authority

Trevor Carroll from the NCDOT and David Roy from N.C. Turnpike Authority gave a presentation about the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge, talking about the project background, the comparative analysis overview and findings and their summary.

Mr. Carroll began the presentation with a background timeline of the bridge replacement. Mr. Carroll highlighted the steps the WMPO Board has taken to secure funds for the replacement of the bridge, spoke about the federal grant received by the NCDOT for this project and the increase in the cost estimate for the project since the initial analysis.

At this point in the presentation, David Roy reviewed the comparative analysis, to help define what the best approach would be from this point. Mr. Roy gave an overview of the two delivery approaches, Traditional Toll delivery and Private Public Partnership (P3) Toll delivery, highlighting the similarities and differences between the two. Mr. Roy reviewed the Bonus Allocation funding that is available if implementing a toll project, he highlighted the amount of funding possible as well as how that funding can be used. Mr. Roy reviewed the project using Qualitative Analysis and the NDDOT's Quantitative Analysis, overviewing the project cost for both the Traditional Toll and P3 Toll. Mr. Roy summarized the findings of the Quantitative Analysis for both the Traditional Toll and P3 Toll and reviewed key considerations that the WMPO should be aware of.

Mr. Roy opened the floor for questions, Mr. Ellen questioned if there would be a difference in tolls for a vehicle towing a boat, Mr. Roy answered yes, the tolls would be based on axels, and those predictions were part of the forecasted numbers. Lynn Barbee expressed his concerns about who will be maintaining the bridge, the examples given were roads, which are maintained a bit different than a bridge. Mr. Roy responded that in a traditional situation the turnpike authority would be responsible for maintaining the asset. In the P3 approach the private developer would be responsible for maintaining with strict conditions. Trevor Carroll added that the bridge would be inspected every two years regardless of the delivery method. Landon Zimmer questioned if the \$2.00 toll would be half if you had the EZ Pass. Mr. Roy answered that the \$2.00 rate is with the EZ Pass rate. Mr. Zimmer also questioned about surge pricing, Mr. Roy answered that the analysis assumes a fixed toll rate. Kevin Spears asked for clarification on the discounted tolls for certain groups. Mr.

Roy stated that by state law, the turnpike authority is only allowed toll exemptions for emergency vehicles responding to an incident. He stated that the turnpike authority can offer a discount applicable to all but they cannot offer discounts targeted at a specific group. Frank Williams asked that even though this tolling avenue is being explored, the WMPO is still looking at alternative funding? Mike Kozlosky responded, stating yes, all funding options are still being explored. Mr. Kozlosky stated that due to the cost of this project, it is required that an analysis be conducted. Brenda Bozeman stated that tolling is not right, when money is found for every other road in the state, but they cannot find it for the bridge, something is wrong. Dane Scalise added that all options need to be explored, he agrees with Ms. Bozeman, that tolling is not the best and he is not giving up on exploring all alternative options available. Mike Kozlosky stated that no action needs to be taken by the Board at this time, however, if a P3 is desired, it was recommended that the Board put a subcommittee together, after the new year when the new Board members are available.

c. Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority Update – Mark Hairr, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority

Mike Kozlosky introduced Mark Hairr, Executive Director of Wave Transit, to give an update from the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority. Mr. Hairr reviewed the changes that have been made including “Better Service for More People”, which increases the frequency of service on high traffic routes. Mr. Hairr also highlighted the updated trolley route, which is now operating more frequently. Mr. Hairr stated that all these changes have increased ridership by almost 42,000 more trips. Mr. Hairr reviewed the services that WAVE offers, including the UNCW Shuttle, RideMICRO service (which has been expanded), and Dial-A-Ride Transportation (DART). Mr. Hairr also spoke about the recent technology enhancements, including an upgrade to the WAVE app, making it much more reliable and user friendly. Mr. Hairr stated that marketing and outreach are very important, building new relationships, and fostering the established relationships such as the WMPO and Wave Board will help in the future. In conclusion, Mr. Hairr highlighted what is on the horizon for WAVE, including route and service adjustments, transit amenities, filling in route gaps, and identifying future funding sources.

Kevin Spears questioned Mr. Hairr about a situation he had learned about at a Council meeting; noting that it was mentioned if you had a ride scheduled and cancelled one half of it, the entire ride would be cancelled. Mr. Spears also asked if there is a bus stop in Love Grove. Mr. Hairr said he was willing to look at that area, see where the fixed bus route is. Lynn Barbee pointed out to Mr. Hairr that the most common question he gets asked in his position is “Why can’t I ride the bus to the beach?” Mr.

Barbee is aware you can, but he noted that maybe the WAVE needs to market this service better so people understand. Dane Scalise noted that WAVE is very responsive to issues that the public may raise, he praised the job that Mr. Hairr and his team at WAVE are doing, stating that they are very attentive to the community wants and needs.

d. Wilmington Urban Area MPO Trail Etiquette Pilot Program – Carolyn Caggia and Tessa Jones, WMPO

Carolyn Caggia gave a summary and overview of the Draft Regional Trail Etiquette and Signage Campaign, highlighting the need for assistance and the materials in development. Ms. Caggia also gave a summary of the public engagement surveys that the WMPO staff has administered and the results of these surveys, stating the types of information people would like to see, as well as the concerns people have about trail signage. At this point, Tessa Jones reviewed the draft trail rules with the Board and explained the campaign toolkit that is in the process of being developed. John Ellen mentioned that he thought it was important to at least study whether the sign about motorized equipment include e-bikes. Mike Kozlosky gave an update on the State legislation about e-bikes that has been introduced. Ms. Caggia presented the newly developed logo signage, as well as regulatory signs that must be incorporated. She also highlighted possible wayfinding signs that are being reviewed. Ms. Caggia and Ms. Jones concluded their presentation by reviewing the next steps for the WMPO staff and answering any questions.

**8. Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of WMPO Board Regular Meeting Minutes- October 29, 2025
- b. Opening of the 30-day public comment period for the 2024-2033 and 2026-2035 State/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs Amendment #25-7
- c. Resolution approving the 2024-2033 and 2026-2035 State/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs Administrative Modifications #25-9
- d. Resolution approving Amendment #1 to the FY 26 Unified Planning Work Program
- e. Resolution endorsing 2026 Targets of Safety Performance Measures Established by the North Carolina Department of Transportation
- f. Resolution adopting the 2026 WMPO Meeting Schedule

Dane Scalise made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Frank Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**9. Regular Agenda**

- a. Resolution supporting the award of the FY 26-28 Direct Attributable Program Funds

Krysden Burden, WMPO Grants Coordinator, reviewed the 2026-2030 Locally Administered Project Program (LAPP) recommendations. Ms. Burden gave a quick overview of the LAPP timeline, the scoring criteria and the results of the FY2026-2030 Call for Projects. Ms. Burden continued by highlighting the five recommended projects for funding:

- the Kerr Avenue Trail from City of Wilmington;
- S. College Road/17<sup>th</sup> Street to Piner Road Multi-use Path from New Hanover County;
- Signal Installation at SR 1438 (Lanvale Road) & SR 1472 (Fletcher Road NE/Village Rd) from NCDOT;
- Signal Installation at SR 1563 (Sloop Point Road) & SR 1565 (Country Club Road) from NCDOT; and
- Signal Installation at US 421 (Lake Park Blvd) & Federal Point Driveway from NCDOT.

Ms. Burden also the projects that are not recommended for funding and why. In conclusion, Ms. Burden went over the next steps, the WMPO staff recommendations to hold a special call in the summer of 2026 and opened the floor for questions.

Frank Williams stated that he was so happy to see the signal installation at Lanvale Road & Fletcher Road on the recommended projects, noting that he believes the intersection is dangerous. Mr. Williams questioned if the smaller jurisdictions were given any assistance with the application process, noting that sometimes smaller staff is not familiar with filling out all the necessary forms. Ms. Burden answered that yes, all member jurisdictions had access to help. Mike Kozlosky also noted that in the future there will be a training to help all member jurisdictions, no matter the size.

Dane Scalise made a motion to approve the resolution. Frank Williams seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

## **10. Discussion**

- a. 2024-2033 and 2026-2035 STIP/MPO Transportation Improvement Programs

Administrative Modifications #25-10

Mike Kozlosky stated that this is for informational purposes only and will be brought back at the next Board meeting.

- b. WMPO WCAG 2.1 AA Compliance Accessibility Plan

Tessa Jones, WMPO Public Information Officer, reviewed the memo that was distributed in the monthly packet with the board, explaining what WCAG 2.1 AA Compliance is and what the WMPO's goals are to meet the federal deadline of April 24, 2026. Ms. Jones reviewed the progress the WMPO has made as well as what the next steps will be. Ms. Jones opened the floor for questions from the Board. There were no questions.

- c. WMPO Compensation Study

Mike Kozlosky introduced Jacqueline Esposito, a compensation consultant from Catapult Employers Association to overview a compensation market analysis that was completed for the WMPO. Ms. Esposito gave an overview of Catapult, who they are and what they do; she then highlighted the market pricing methodology for the WMPO survey. Ms. Esposito reviewed her compiled data, including the market averages for the WMPO positions and pay grade ranges. She also provided recommendations for the WMPO to consider. Ms. Esposito opened the floor for questions, there were none.

Frank Williams made a motion to give the executive director guidance to pursue the recommendations as presented. Brenda Bozeman seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Landon Zimmer made a motion to align the Executive Director's compensation with the seventy-fifth percentile presented by Catapult. Luke Waddell seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

d. December 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting

Landon Zimmer made a motion to cancel the December 3, 2025, meeting. Dane Scalise seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

**11. 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**

Trevor Carroll reminded everyone that December 1<sup>st</sup> is the Public Hearing for the Independence Blvd. project.

d. **NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division**

Updates are in the packet.

e. **NCDOT Transportation Planning Division**

Updates are in the packet.

f. **WMPO Board Members**

**12. Announcements**

- a. WMPO Go Coast Committee Meeting- November 20, 2025

**13. Next Meeting – December 3, 2025**

Cancelled

**14. Adjourn**

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The meeting was adjourned at 4:52pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Kozlosky

Executive Director

Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

**THE ABOVE MIINUTES ARE NOT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS.**  
**THE ENTIRE PROCEEDINGS ARE RECORDED DIGITALLY AS PART OF THIS**  
**RECORD.**