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WMPO Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 14, 2026
525 N 4th Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

Members Present, In person

Virginia Norris, Pender County
Carolyn Caggia, WMPO TDM/Go Coast
Denys Vielkanowitz, City of Wilmington
Sam Boswell, Cape Fear Rural Planning
Organization
Eric Ritzel, NCDOT
Mark Hairr, Cape Fear Public Transportation
Authority

Krysdan Burden, WMPO
Regina Hopkins, WMPO
Luke Hutson, WMPO
Amanda Halbert, WMPO
Beth King, WMPO
Greer Templer, WMPO
Ronda Hogan, WMPO
Tessa Jones, WMPO

Members' Present, Remote

Karlene Ellis Vitalis, New Hanover County
Nazia Sarder (Vice Chair), NCDOT TPD
Adrienne Harrington, Town of Belville
Gloria Abbotts, Town of Carolina Beach
Ben Andrea, Town of Leland
Robert O'Quinn, Town of Wrightsville
Beach
Stephanie Ayers, NC Ports Authority

Others Present, Remote

Athina Williams, Town of Belville
Zach Bugg, Kittelson & Associates
William Kincannon, HDR
Adrienne Cox, NCDOT
Liam Mikeal, Town of Leland
Brian Wert, NCDOT
Celia Miars, AECOM
Eric Lamb, STV
Jorge Maturano, NCDOT
Jodi Rich, New Hanover County

Others Present, In Person

Abby Lorenzo, WMPO

1. Call to Order

Mike Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 10:00am and took roll call.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Virginia Norris made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mark Hairr. The motion passed unanimously.

Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

3. Election of Officers

Mike Kozlosky opened the floor for nominations for Chair of the Technical Coordinating Committee. Sam Boswell made a motion for Mike Kozlosky to continue as Chair of the Committee and Nazia Sarder to continue as Vice-Chair of the Committee. Virginia Norris seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Presentations

a. 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 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 asked for any questions that the committee may have. There were no questions.

b. NCDOT Confident Scope and Cost Estimates- Jorge Maturano and Brian Wert, NCDOT
Jorge Maturano 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. Maturano 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. Maturano 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. Maturano 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.

Mike Kozlosky opened the floor for questions. Mr. Kozlosky asked how the NCDOT sees the MPOs and RPOs involved in the process, how is value engineering being addressed in the CSCE, and how is public involvement being considered as part of the CSCE? Mr. Maturano replied to the first question by stating that although MPOs and RPOs involvement is not required in the process, NCDOT would appreciate any opinions and suggestions they have, and those opinions will be considered in the CSCE process. Brian Wert from NCDOT responded to the public engagement

question, stating that part of the CSCE process for larger projects includes public engagement, for medium projects, Mr. Wert stated this is when NCDOT will be reaching out to their partners for input. Mr. Wert answered the question about value engineering by stating that once there is a confident scope in place, they do not expect that there will be major changes to the scope, they believe there will be minor changes, if any. The minor changes should not get them to a point where they need to reduce the limits or extent of a project to get back within budgets. Denys Vielkanowitz questioned how the local governments would be involved in the development of the scope. Mr. Maturano replied that although the local governments are not required to sign off on the PDD, the NCDOT would expect there to be conversations and input from the local governments. Mike Kozlosky asked if the spreadsheet that was previously sent out had been updated and if it was ok to share with TCC members and WMPO Board members. Mr. Wert encouraged the sharing of the spreadsheet.

5. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of TCC Meeting Minutes- November 12, 2025
- b. Resolution approving 2024-2033 and 2026-2035 STIP/MPO Amendment #25-6 and #25-7
- c. Resolution approving 2024-2033 and 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

Denys Vielkanowitz made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Robert O'Quinn seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

6. Regular Agenda

- a. Opening of the 30-day Public Comment Period for the FY 27 Unified Planning Work Program
Regina Hopkins, WMPO Accounting Manager, highlighted a summary of the draft FY27 UPWP noting cost differences from previous years and explaining the differences. Mike Kozlosky explained that the next step is to request the WMPO Board open a 30-Day Public Comment Period at their January meeting, at the conclusion of the 30-Day period any recommended changes would be brought back to the Board in March for their approval. The adopted UPWP is required to be submitted by the end of March to NCDOT. Mark Hairr made a motion to recommend approval

opening the 30-day public comment period for the draft FY27 UPWP to the Board. Sam Boswell 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 Committee regarding the recent BPAC Bylaw updates that were approved at the last BPAC meeting. Ms. King explained the rationale for the updates and highlighted the significant changes. Mark Hairr asked if there were specific organizations that had to be represented previously that there has been a change to with the revisions. Ms. King replied that they are keeping the representation they have, they are just adding more perspectives. Ben Andrea questioned whether the ex-officio members are voting members; Ms. King answered that yes, they will be. Ben Andrea asked who makes the decision on who the ex-officio members will be. Ms. King explained that the WMPO staff will conduct some outreach and have some input into potential members, but the WMPO Board will make the final decision. Deny Vielkanowitz made a motion to recommend approval of the amended BPAC Bylaws, Virginia Norris seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. 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 TCC meeting. Mr. Kozlosky opened the floor for questions, there were none.

b. WMPO 2022-2026 Strategic Plan 2025 Results

Mike Kozlosky stated that on a yearly basis, the WMPO uses the 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. The 2025 Results from the Work Plan are in your packet and Mr. Kozlosky opened the floor to answer any questions anyone may have. There were no questions.

c. WMPO 2022-2026 Strategic Plan 2026 Work Plan

Mike Kozlosky highlighted the priorities for the 2026 Work Plan including the completion of the Safe Streets and Roads For All Plan, LAPP training and the release of the June LAPP Program Call for Projects for FY29 and FY30, the WMPO 101 training, Prioritization 8.0, and updates to our Public Participation Plan. Mr. Kozlosky opened the floor for questions. There were no questions.

d. 2026-2031 Strategic Plan Update

Mike Kozlosky stated that WSP has been hired to help WMPO update the current Strategic Plan that ends in 2026. The new plan will be in place from 2026 to 2031. Mr. Kozlosky explained that in the packet is the scope of services for the Strategic Plan Update with a kick-off in January and completion in April. Mr. Kozlosky stated that the WMPO will be reaching out for input and assistance from committee members for the development of the plan.

- e. 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 Committee builds on previous legislative agendas but also 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 by recommendation of North Carolina Association of MPOs is to acknowledge MPOs as a position of public authority, to clarify the roles and creation of the MPO's.
- f. 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 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 opened the floor for questions, there were none, she added that this will be brought back next month for approval.
- g. 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 concluded her presentation by requesting feedback on the campaign by January 28, 2026, and opening the floor for questions. There were no questions.

8. Updates

- a. Wilmington Urban Area MPO
Updates are in the packet.
- b. Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority
Updates are in the packet.
- c. NCDOT Division 3
Eric Ritzel gave a quick overview of the Division 3 updates that are in the packet.
- d. NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division
Updates are in the packet.
- e. NCDOT Transportation Planning Division

Nazia Sarder gave a quick update on the Pender County CTP, they are working on the report and projects internally to get them ready for steering committees and public engagement. Ms. Sarder also stated that the functional classifications that were submitted to FHWA have been approved, MPO's and RPO's should have received final approval letters as well as final data sets.

9. Announcements

- a. College Road from Market Street to Gordon Road (U-5792) Public Meeting- January 29, 2026
- b. Wilmington MPO 101 Training- February 10, 2026
- c. Active Transportation Advisory Committee- February 17, 2026

10. Next meeting – February 11, 2026

11. Adjournment

Sam Boswell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ben Andrea seconded the motion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:29am.

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.