

The logo graphic consists of four interlocking arrows in orange, grey, and blue, arranged in a circular pattern around a central white circle. 

# Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

The Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO) serves approximately 300,000 residents across seven municipalities and all or portions of three counties in southeastern North Carolina. The WMPO is responsible for planning the region's future transportation system, overseeing approximately \$300 million annually in federal transportation funding. We work to improve safety, reduce congestion, and support economic development. Guided by a board of local elected and appointed officials, our professional staff ensures that federal transportation investments are made strategically and in alignment with local, state, and national goals.

## WMPO PRIORITIES

### Increase Funding for Transportation Initiatives

WMPO's fiscally constrained metropolitan transportation plan—Cape Fear Navigating Change 2050—identified a \$7.9 billion funding gap between regional needs and available resources. We support increased funding and new revenue sources for critical infrastructure including roads, bridges, transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, ferry and port infrastructure, and storm resilience.

### Replacement of Cape Fear Memorial Bridge

This essential bridge, built in 1969, is functionally obsolete and carries over 60,000 vehicles daily. With a projected cost of \$1.1 billion and \$327 million currently committed, WMPO supports additional federal investment to close the \$773 million gap and deliver this vital project.

### Support for AMPO Legislative Priorities

#### ***Increase planning funds to meet federal requirements***

WMPO supports increasing federal planning funds to meet expanding responsibilities and ensure effective, data-driven transportation planning.

#### ***Allow MPOs to become direct recipients of federal funds***

Granting MPOs direct recipient status for certain federal funds would streamline project delivery and reduce administrative burdens.

#### ***Reduce local match requirements***

Lowering local match requirements would help resource-constrained communities access essential federal transportation funding.

#### ***Permit carryover of federal funds***

Allowing federal funds to carry over between fiscal years would support continuity for complex, multi-year transportation projects.

#### ***Shift select discretionary funds to formula-based allocations***

Transitioning some discretionary programs to formula funding would provide more predictable and equitable access to federal resources for MPOs.