



**Go Coast Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, February 19, 2026**

**Members Present**

Carolyn Caggia (WMPO)  
Brianna D'Itri (Wave Transit)  
Karlene Ellis-Vitalis (New Hanover County)  
Deb Porterfield (CastleBranch)  
Shawn Spencer (UNCW)  
Marcy Waters (Pender County)

**Others Present**

Brad Cannon (Wave Transit)  
Amanda Halbert (WMPO)  
Greer Templer (WMPO)

**Members Absent**

Rosemary Guendner (Cape Fear Workforce  
Development Board)  
Travis Henley (City of Wilmington)  
Toni Scollins (Novant Health)

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

Karlene Ellis-Vitalis made a motion to approve the agenda which was seconded by Shawn Spencer. The motion passed.

**3. Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

**4. Presentations**

Carolyn Caggia gave an update on the WMPO's Safe Streets and Roads for All Safety Action Plan development, with a focus on Round 2 of community engagement and next steps. Round 2 includes an online survey and interactive comment map, both scheduled to close on February 22, 2026.

**5. Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of Go Coast Committee Meeting Minutes – November 20, 2025  
Brianna D'Itri made a motion to approve the consent agenda which was seconded by Marcy Waters. The motion passed.

## 6. Regular Agenda

### a. Letter of Support for WMPO application to NCDOT IMD's 2026 Bicycle Helmet Initiative

Carolyn Caggia overviewed the NCDOT Bicycle Helmet Initiative, which the WMPO applies for in the amount of 100 children's bicycle helmets annually. The Go Coast letter of support was supported by the committee and approved with a motion from Shawn Spencer and a second from Deb Porterfield.

## 7. Discussion

### a. 36<sup>th</sup> Annual River to Sea Bike Ride

Carolyn Caggia updated the committee on the planning effort for the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual River to Sea Bike Ride, which will take place Saturday, May 2, 2026. The WMPO is actively seeking sponsors to support the ride and offset ride costs. Additionally, the River to Sea Bike Ride Expo will be held on Friday, May 1, from 3 to 7 p.m. at Empie Park. The expo will include complimentary bicycle checks for participants, event related merchandise available for purchase, information about the ride and route, and event sponsor promotional tables.

### b. May is Bike Month – Plans for 2026

Carolyn Caggia provided an update about plans for Bike Month in May 2026. The WMPO intends to move Bike to Work Day from October to May to coincide with the national observance and have earlier daylight hours for bicyclists. The committee discussed additional opportunities for engagement during Bike Month, including proclamations by WMPO member jurisdictions.

### c. Short-Range TDM Plan Initiatives

Carolyn Caggia overviewed items on the TDM short-range plan which would be worked on throughout 2026. The safe carpooling guide mentioned at the last meeting will be worked on in the later half of the year, pending an update to the statewide Share The Ride NC platform. Social media content is being planned for quarterly videos and a transit safety campaign. The WMPO intends to conduct the youth poster contest in 2027 to coincide with increased Be a Looker outreach that year. Additional items discussed were updates to the Commuter Friendly Employer toolkit considering the effort to increase outreach and promotion of the program. Vanpooling interest and opportunities were also discussed, and meetings are ongoing with Wave Transit and the Cape Fear Workforce Development Board.

### d. Bylaw Updates

Carolyn Caggia alerted the committee about the WMPO's intent to update Go Coast committee bylaws to match other WMPO committee operations, including shifting committee operations from the fiscal year to calendar year to align with the short-range TDM plan. Additionally, there is a need to broaden representation from area employers on the committee, with a reassessment of membership structure and a formalization of committee operations.

## 8. Updates

### a. River to Sea Bike Ride - Saturday, May 2, 2026

### b. Committee Member Updates

Wave Transit: Brianna D'Itri provided an update from Wave Transit about the development of the Locally Coordinated Plan which will be conducting outreach throughout the year and aims for adoption by the end of 2026.

UNCW: Shawn Spencer provided an update from UNCW that Hawk Wheels has 120 new rental bicycles available, and UNCW is continuing bike/scooter share with Bird.

**9. Next Meeting - May 21, 2026, from 3-5 p.m., held virtually**

**10. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Deb Porterfield which was seconded by Marcy Waters. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.