



WMPO FY25-26 Annual Report

Wilmington City Council

Mike Kozlosky, Executive Director

MPO Overview

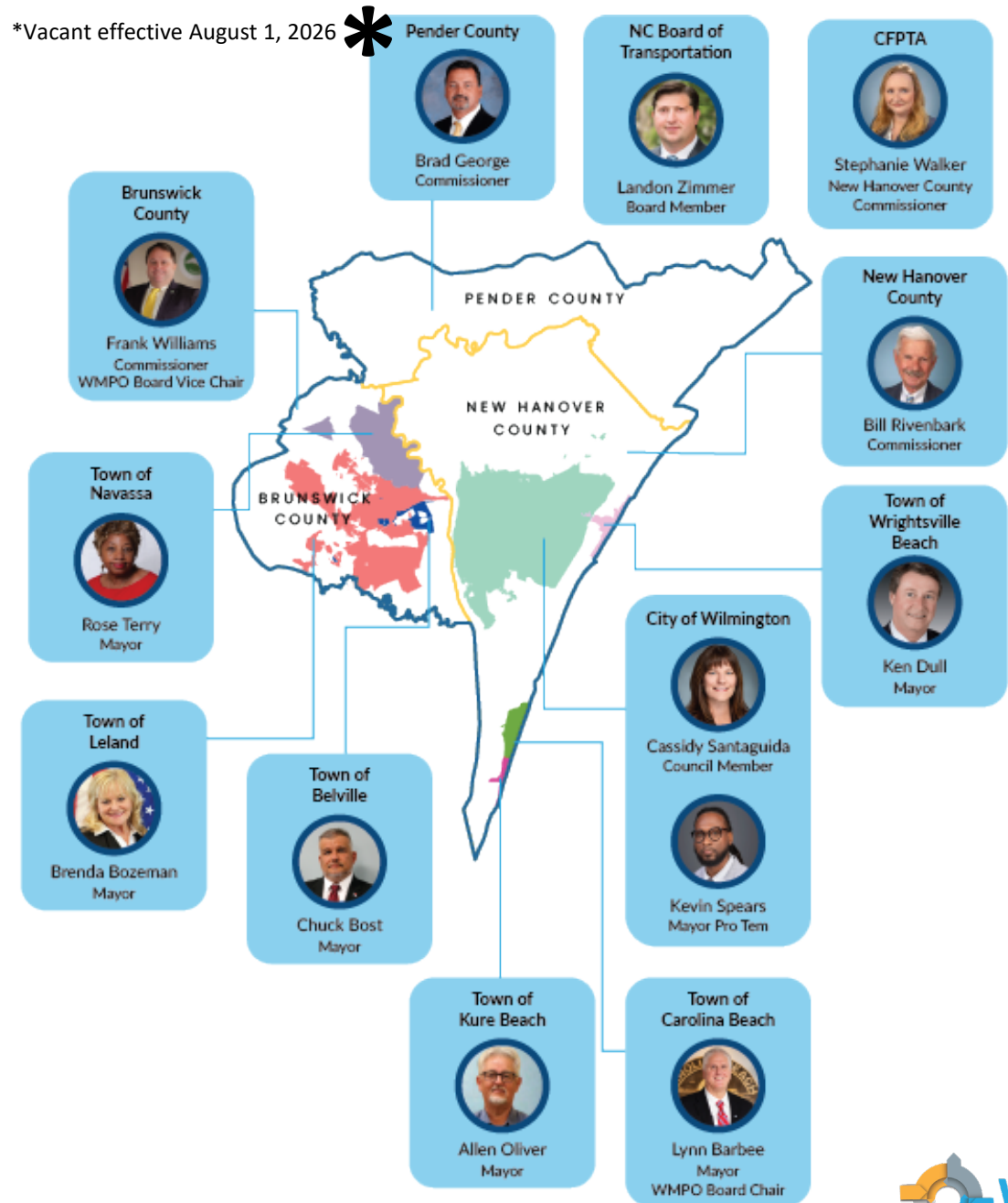
- Introduced in the Federal Highway Act of 1962
- Federally-mandated and federally-funded
- Required when Urban Areas meet/exceed a population of 50,000
- Intended to ensure regional collaboration and that current and future transportation infrastructure investments are made using the 3-C planning process



WMPO Overview

- Established in 1973
- Population ~300,000
- 494 sq. miles
- Planning area includes the following member jurisdictions:
 - City of Wilmington
 - New Hanover County
 - Brunswick County
 - Pender County
 - Town of Belville
 - Town of Carolina Beach
 - Town of Kure Beach
 - Town of Leland
 - Town of Navassa
 - Town of Wrightsville Beach

*Vacant effective August 1, 2026



WMPO Responsibilities

- Adopt Federal Functional Classification
- Administer Direct Attributable Funding
- **Develop:**
 - Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) + Updates
 - MPO/State Transportation Improvement Programs (MPO TIP/STIP)
 - Congestion Management Process (CMP)
- **Coordinate:**
 - Planning with NCDOT and member jurisdictions
 - Ensure compliance with federal requirements
 - WMPO Board, Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), and other WMPO committee operations
- **Provide:**
 - Transportation Impact Analysis (TIA) coordination
 - Development Reviews
 - Traffic Counts
- **Programs:**
 - Oversee Go Coast Transportation Demand Management (TDM)



FY 2025-2026 Report Overview

- Board Action
- Funding
- Planning and Policy
- Technical Services
- Community Engagement
- Initiatives



Board Action

• Legislative Agenda

- Advanced legislative priorities such as defining e-bike classifications and allowing local regulation, the need for additional and sustainable transportation funding, and the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge replacement

• Federal Transportation Reauthorization

- Supported federal transportation legislation and monitored policy changes affecting future funding and project delivery

• Independence Boulevard Extension

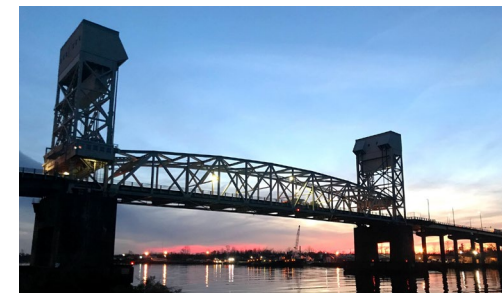
- Removed the Independence Blvd. Extension from the 2026-2035 STIP/TIP while continuing to pursue long-term north-south mobility solutions

• Alternative Funding Subcommittee

- Established the Alternative Funding Subcommittee to explore innovative funding strategies for major transportation projects

• Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Project

- Continued efforts to identify a feasible path forward for replacing CFMB, including evaluating innovative funding strategies



Funding

- **2026-2035 MPO/State Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**
 - Adopted June 30, 2025
 - Included funding for Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement (Toll Option) and the US 17 Reduced Conflict Intersections project in Hampstead
- **NCDOT Prioritization 8.0**
 - During the FY25-26 cycle, WMPO submitted 42 projects across 6 transportation modes for consideration:
 - Aviation – 9
 - Bicycle & Pedestrian – 7
 - Ferry – 2
 - Public Transportation – 6
 - Rail – 8
 - Roadway – 10
- **WMPO Locally Administered Projects Program**
 - Received **10** applications requesting **>\$14.4 million** in federal funds; **5** selected:
 - Kerr Avenue MUP - \$2,681,347
 - S. College Rd. MUP - \$2,628,755
 - Lanvale Signal - \$1,500,000
 - Lake Park Blvd Signal - \$191,204
 - Sloop Point & Country Club Signal - \$1,508,119



Planning and Policy

Adopted Plans:

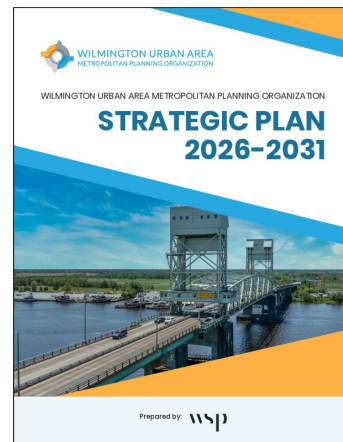
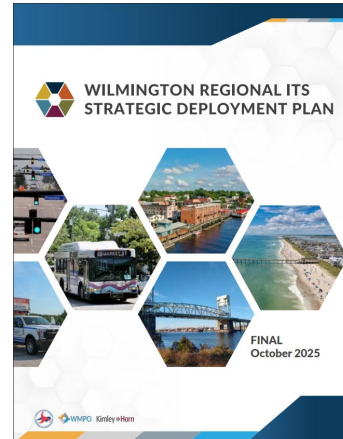
- Cape Fear Navigating Change 2050 – *October 2025*
- Wilmington Regional ITS Strategic Deployment Plan – *October 2025*
- Public Participation Plan – May 2026
- WMPO Strategic Plan 2026-2031 – June 2026

Supported Legislation:

- E-Bike Classification and Local Regulations – *June 2026*

Adoption Anticipated

- Safe Streets and Roads for All Safety Action Plan – *September 2026*



Technical Services

- **Development Reviews** - 439
- **Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) Reviews** - 83
- **Traffic Counts** - 444



Community Engagement

- **Inform**

- Newsletters published (WMPO & Go Coast) – 17
- Newsletter subscribers – 12,237
- Social media views (WMPO & Go Coast) – 77,500
- Unique website visits (WMPO & Go Coast) – 226,281

- **Engage**

- Signature campaigns - 4
- Community events attended – 40+
- Survey & map comments – 2,388

- **Educate**

- WMPO 101: 1 session | 35+ participants
- ATAC Training: 1 session | 15 participants
- LAPP Training: 2 sessions | 40+ participants
- TIA Training: 2 sessions | 10+ participants



Initiatives

- **Go Coast Program**

- Community events attended – 15
- Children's bicycle helmets distributed – 68
- Sustainable miles logged during Get There Greener – 4,294
- Lbs. of CO₂ emissions saved during Get There Greener – 3,786
- Local business sponsorships – \$1,200+

- **Cape Fear Trails**

- Launched in April 2026
- Includes **Signage Guide** and **Trail Etiquette Toolkit**
- featuring 8 reminders:
 - Share the Trail
 - Maintain a Safe Speed
 - Keep Right, Pass on the Left
 - Keeps Pets on a Leash
 - No Dirt Bikes, ATVs, or Golf Carts
 - Wheels Yield to Heels
 - Be Alert: Look and Listen
 - Leave No Trace



Thank You

Mike Koslosky, Executive Director

Mike.Kozlosky@wilmingtonnc.gov

(910) 341-3258

