

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OFFICIAL MINUTES  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
JULY 21, 2021  
11:00 A.M.**

**The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners held a Special Called Meeting on the above date at 11:00 a.m., Commissioners’ Chambers, David R. Sandifer Administration Building, County Government Center, Bolivia, North Carolina.**

- PRESENT:** Commissioner Randy Thompson, Chairman  
Commissioner Mike Forte, Vice-Chairman  
Commissioner Pat Sykes  
Commissioner Frank Williams
- ABSENT:** Commissioner J. Martin Cooke
- STAFF:** Randell Woodruff, County Manager  
Bob Shaver, County Attorney  
Steve Stone, Deputy County Manager  
Julie Miller, Finance Director  
Andrea White, Clerk to the Board  
Daralyn Spivey, Clerk to the Board  
Raquel Perez, Executive Assistant  
Neal Galloway, MIS  
Meagan Kascsak, Communications Director  
Lieutenant Jeff Beck, Sheriff’s Office

**Board Action, containing all items in this set of minutes, is filed within the Clerk to the Board’s office.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Commissioner Williams gave Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- **Presentation – Chad Kimes, NC Department of Transportation Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Replacement**

Chairman Thompson recognized Mr. Chad Kimes, Division Engineer, NC DOT.

Mr. Kimes presented a brief history of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge, the maintenance costs/frequency of maintenance associated with both the fixed and the moveable spans of the existing bridge. Initial indications are the ability to fund a large-scale non-tolled project within the next ten (10) years is unlikely. Current trends show the estimated traffic daily is approximately sixty thousand (60K) vehicles with a projection of eighty-two thousand (82K) by the year 2045. A feasibility study was conducted to better understand the replacement options available for the bridge. Four (4) options were considered with the best option for replacement to be south of the existing bridge. Last year, the DOT received an unsolicited proposal for replacement of the existing Cape Fear Memorial Bridge as a public-private partnership with much of the information contained remaining confidential. The Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO) has been presented with the same plan. The WMPO must approve the process before it can move forward and at any time the WMPO makes the decision to no longer support the project, no further action will be taken. The proposed toll rates would remain confidential until such time the project has been through the entire bid process. The timeline over the next two (2) years would be for the WMPO to offer a resolution of support with public involvement and completing with selection of proposal. The WMPO will be included in the decision making to completion. This project is not, at this time, a “shovel ready” project.

Mike Kozlosky, Executive Director of the WMPO, commented there is a team of people looking at the possibility of using the funding that will be coming available from the pending federal infrastructure bill.

Mr. Roger Rochelle, Chief Engineer, Innovative Delivery with NC DOT Turnpike Authority, clarified the bridge/road would be owned by the State and the maintenance would be the responsibility of the developer. The WMPO will be working closely with other stakeholders and the NC DOT to make the toll decisions as they arise. The developer could sell equity in the project however, they cannot sell the controlling interest. Traffic studies are also part of the process and will be conducted as the process moves forward.

Commissioner Williams requested staff prepare a resolution in support of state and federal officials pursuing additional funding options for this bridge for consideration at the August 2, 2021 Board of Commissioners Meeting.

It was the consensus of the Board to further explore the options at the WMPO level.

No action was taken

III. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Williams moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 a.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sykes and passed unanimously (4 to 0 – Commissioner Cooke being absent).

---

Randy Thompson, Chairman  
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

---

Daralyn Spivey, NCCMC  
Clerk to the Board