WILMINGTON URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ALTERNATIVE MA AND/OR ALTERNATIVE NA AS THE WILMINGTON URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION'S PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES FOR THE CAPE FEAR CROSSING PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization provides transportation planning services for the City of Wilmington, Town of Carolina Beach, Town of Kure Beach, Town of Wrightsville Beach, Town of Belville, Town of Leland, Town of Navassa, New Hanover County, Brunswick County, Pender County, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority and the North Carolina Board of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, Cape Fear Crossing project's purpose and need includes improvements to traffic flow and enhanced freight movements beginning in the vicinity of US 17 and the future I-140 in Brunswick County across the Cape Fear River to US 421 near the Port of Wilmington in New Hanover County; and

WHEREAS, the project is in Merger with a range of alternatives being evaluated; and

WHEREAS, Merger is a process to streamline the project development and permitting processes, agreed to by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (NCDENR), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and supported by other stakeholder agencies and local units of government; and

WHEREAS, there are 12 detailed study alternatives currently under study for the Cape Fear Crossing project through the Merger Process; and

WHEREAS, the project is currently at Concurrence Point 2A (Bridging and Alignment Review); and

WHEREAS, the next Concurrence Point after CP2A in the Merger Process is to select the Least Environmentally Damaging Practical Alternative (Concurrence Point 3); and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Ports Authority has indicated a height clearance requirement of 215 feet for any southern alignment to accommodate present or future shipping requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Board has identified their preferred alignments for the Cape Fear Crossing project.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization hereby supports Alternative MA and/or Alternative NA as the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's preferred alternatives for the Cape Fear Crossing project.

ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Board on May 31, 2017.

Gary Doetsch, Chair

Mike Kozlosky, Secretary