

**TRIANGLE WEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
BOARD
June 16th, 2026
MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Triangle West Transportation Planning Organization Board met on June 16th, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Long Leaf Conference Room at the Central Pines Regional Council, 4307 Emperor Blvd, Durham, NC. The following people were in attendance:

Javiera Caballero (Board Chair)	City of Durham
Mark Bell (Member)	Town of Hillsborough
Karen Howard (Member)	Chatham County
Wendy Jacobs (Alternate)	Durham County
Marilyn Carter (Alternate)	Orange County
Carl Rist (Member)	City of Durham
Melissa McCullough* (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Louie Rivers III (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
Jason Merrill (Alternate)	Town of Carrboro
Sally Greene (Member)	GoTriangle
Erin Convery*	City of Durham
Eric Vitale (TC Chair)	City of Durham
Matthew Nolfo*	Division 5 – NCDOT
Jason Hardin*	GoTriangle
Logan DiGiacomo*	GoTriangle
Paul Black*	GoTriangle
Catherine Miller	GoTriangle
Cara Russell	Capital Area MPO
Andy Munn*	EQV Strategic
Doug Plachcinski	Triangle West TPO
Colleen McGue	Triangle West TPO
Filmon Fishastion	Triangle West TPO
Monet Moore	Triangle West TPO

David Miller	Triangle West TPO
Samad Rangoonwala	Triangle West TPO
Thomas Porter	Triangle West TPO
Lucia Ciro	Triangle West TPO
Yudie Feng	Triangle West TPO
KC Chae*	Triangle West TPO
Yuwen He*	Triangle West TPO
Madeline Galliano*	Triangle West TPO

***Denotes virtual attendance**

Quorum Count: 9 of 11 voting members

Chair Caballero called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the Triangle West TPO Board were identified and are indicated above.

PRELIMINARIES:

1. Roll Call

Chair Caballero asked everyone to introduce themselves. Chair Caballero later noted for the record that representatives of the Town of Chapel Hill, the Town of Carrboro, and GoTriangle had joined the meeting.

2. Ethics Reminder

Chair Caballero delivered the ethics reminder and asked members to identify any conflicts of interest. There were none.

3. Adjustments to the Agenda

Chair Caballero asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. There were none.

4. Public Comments

Chair Caballero asked if any members of the public were signed up to speak, in person or online. There were none.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

5. Legislative Update

Andy Munn, EQV Strategic

Andy Munn introduced himself as a co-founder and principal of EQV Strategic. He reported that the General Assembly was in the midst of the budget process and that a budget was expected this session, although the stated goal of completing it by June 16th would not be met. He explained that the chairs had reached agreement on most items, that items remaining in controversy had been elevated to the Speaker and the President Pro Tempore, and that member projects would be settled last. Mr. Munn noted that a separate spending bill providing an additional round of Hurricane Helene relief and related disaster funding was also in the works, with the best estimate for release being the end of June or the week following the July 4th holiday.

Members asked about the Hurricane Helene relief bill. Mr. Munn confirmed that, without additional funding provided by the legislature, NCDOT would have to use existing maintenance funds as match for federal relief already provided, deferring maintenance work. Chair Caballero thanked Mr. Munn for joining the meeting.

6. Report from TPO Staff

Doug Plachcinski, CFM, Triangle West TPO Executive Director

Executive Director Plachcinski reported that the May financial reporting and invoice had been submitted and that additional comments had been received from NCDOT. He advised that processing would extend beyond the 30-day deadline and that staff would follow up with the Transportation Planning Division. Executive Director Plachcinski also announced two staff promotions effective June 21st: David Miller will be promoted to Principal Planner on the planning team, and Eve He will be promoted to Transportation Modeler on the modeling team.

7. Report from the Board Chair

Javiera Caballero, Triangle West TPO Board Chair

Chair Caballero reported that membership of the subcommittee on governance had not yet been determined and that the matter would be taken up in August. She advised members that they might receive a phone call regarding the subcommittee during the summer break. Chair Caballero also reminded members that the Board would enter closed session following the meeting.

8. Report from the Technical Committee Chair

Eric Vitale, Technical Committee Chair

Chair Vitale reported that he had no report.

9. North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Reports

Lisa Mathis, NC Board of Transportation

No report.

Becca Gallas (Mark Craig, David Keilson), Division 5 – NCDOT

Division 5 provided two updates. First, May was observed as “No Mow May” on NCDOT non-controlled access facilities, and the Division is working to catch up on mowing cycles; members were asked to report vegetation issues so that the Division can prioritize its response. Second, the DriveNC.gov platform has been updated so that road closure alerts, previously available only at the county level, can now be targeted to specific areas such as a municipal boundary. Division 5 offered to answer questions and to connect members to resources.

Wright Archer (Chad Reimakoski, Nishant Shah), Division 7 – NCDOT

Division 7 referred members to the written report in the agenda packet and summarized the changes since the last report. Two projects were added to the projects under development: Cameron Avenue from South Merritt Mill Road to NC 86, for construction of bike lanes and a cycle track, and a signal modification project on Weaver Dairy Road. Two projects were completed: a resurfacing project covering 15 secondary roads in Orange County, and a curb ramp upgrade project. Work continues on the I-40 project in Orange County, which is approximately 78 percent complete, and work on the concrete pavement has resumed.

Justin Richardson, Division 8 – NCDOT

81 No report.

82 **Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division – NCDOT**

83 No report.

84 **Bryan Lopez, Integrated Mobility Division – NCDOT**

85 No report.

86 **ACTION ITEMS:**

87 **10. Update to the Federal Funding Policy**

88 **Colleen McGue, Triangle West TPO Planning Manager**

89 Planning Manager McGue explained that the Technical Committee had identified an inconsistency in the
90 Federal Funding Policy during a lengthy discussion at its June 2nd meeting, and that the proposed
91 update serves as a precursor to Items 11 and 12. The update deletes the phrase “and not for roadway
92 projects” on page three of the policy so that the projects identified in the recently adopted Vision Zero
93 Action Plan can be funded through the policy.

94 Planning Manager McGue noted that the phrase was not included in the original policy adopted in 2021
95 but was added in a later version, with the intent of ensuring that limited TPO dollars were directed to
96 projects that are difficult to fund through the Statewide Prioritization (SPOT) process. With an adopted
97 Vision Zero Action Plan now in place, staff recognize that many projects that benefit safety will have a
98 roadway component. She advised that the Public Participation Plan requires a 30-day public comment
99 period before the revised policy can be approved by the Board.

100 Members discussed the risk that the revised language could be read as a loophole permitting roadway
101 projects to be funded in full. Members asked that eligibility be tied to a documented safety need, that
102 the scope and design of a project be required to directly address that need, and that the emphasis be
103 placed on non-motorized safety rather than vehicle safety. Chair Vitale asked whether limiting the
104 language to bicycle and pedestrian safety would restrict eligibility to locations with documented non-
105 motorized crashes. Members also discussed the value of a proactive approach that does not require a
106 fatality or serious injury to have occurred before a location becomes eligible, including the use of the
107 TPO’s High Injury Network and High Risk Network as a reference.

108 Following discussion, members reached consensus on the following revision to the last bullet of the
109 project and phase eligibility section of the policy: “Safety projects are eligible, but only for projects that
110 have a design that addresses a documented, non-motorized safety concern.”

111 Board Member Carl Rist made a motion to release the Federal Funding Policy update, as amended, for a
112 30-day public comment period. The motion was seconded by Board Member Sally Greene. The motion
113 passed unanimously.

114 **11. Call for Projects Funding Recommendation**

115 **Filmon Fishastion, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner**

116 Planner Fishastion presented the funding recommendation from the Regional Flexible Funding (RFF) call
117 for projects for fiscal years 2027 and 2028, reviewing the schedule, the funding available, the requests
118 received, and the recommendations. He reported that member agencies submitted applications totaling
119 just under \$100 million against approximately \$25 million in available funding, resulting in 13
120 recommended projects. Planner Fishastion reported that public engagement included an online public
121 input survey and a community meeting, and that strong support was expressed for transit

infrastructure. He described the one-time exception discussed at the Technical Committee to add \$1.2 million to the Fayetteville Transit Emphasis Corridor to account for funding that had been removed from the project. In response to a question, staff confirmed that funds withdrawn from an electric vehicle charging project were withdrawn because the City intends to pursue its own funds for that work.

Members discussed the NCDOT project at Cheek and Junction, which prompted the Federal Funding Policy revision in Item 10, and asked whether the project satisfies the newly agreed language regarding a documented non-motorized safety concern. NCDOT staff advised that no pedestrian or bicycle crashes had been recorded at the location within the analysis period but described substantial planned development in the area. Executive Director Plachcinski advised that the total project cost for right-of-way, utilities, and construction is approximately \$15 million, roughly a third of which would come from local match largely tied to development in the area, and that installing a reduced conflict intersection is expected to significantly reduce overall crashes and nearly eliminate the potential for fatal crashes at the location.

Members stated that the Board did not wish to be reactive in identifying safety needs and expressed a preference that the project be designed with a multi-use path consistent with City of Durham requirements rather than a five-foot sidewalk. Members reached consensus that the project should be designed for a 10-foot multi-use path. Members also asked that staff work toward separating pedestrian and roadway cost estimates on future projects so that the eligibility criteria are not used to fund roadway capacity.

Board Member Sally Greene made a motion to adopt the Call for Projects funding recommendations with the addition of \$1.2 million to the Fayetteville Transit Emphasis Corridor. The motion was seconded by Board Alternate Louie Rivers III. The motion passed unanimously.

12. TIP Accelerated Amendment #5

Filmon Fishastion, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner

Planner Fishastion presented Accelerated Amendment #5 to the FY2026–FY2035 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which adds new projects and updates existing projects consistent with the recommendations in the Call for Projects, adds a new project for the RTP Rail Station feasibility study, and incorporates actions from the May Item N handout from NCDOT. He noted the changes made since the amendment was reviewed by the Technical Committee, including the addition of the Fayetteville Transit Emphasis Corridor and four additional projects, among them planning assistance funding. There were no questions from members.

Board Member Karen Howard made a motion to adopt TIP Accelerated Amendment #5. The motion was seconded by Board Member Sally Greene. The motion passed unanimously.

13. P9 Express Design Recommendation

Filmon Fishastion, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner

Planner Fishastion explained that, beginning with P9, highway projects submitted to the Statewide Prioritization (SPOT) process will require at least an express design level cost estimate, and that NCDOT will facilitate express design development through the Feasibility Studies Unit. Triangle West has been allocated nine express design slots to be selected in batches of three; this was the second of three selections in the run-up to P9 project submissions. He described the selection process, which begins with the P9 highway project list, adds additional candidate projects, and applies the adopted criteria to narrow the list, and presented the three projects recommended for this round.

Board Alternate Jason Merrill made a motion to approve the selected Express Design submissions. The motion was seconded by Board Member Sally Greene. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Local Input Point Allocation & Project Ranking for SPOT 8.0

Filmon Fishastion, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner

Colleen McGue, Triangle West TPO Planning Manager

Planner Fishastion presented the initial list of projects proposed to receive local input points under the revised TWTPO Methodology for Identifying and Ranking Transportation Improvement Program Project Requests, which the Board approved on March 24, 2026 and NCDOT approved on April 2, 2026. He reviewed how projects are divided into the statewide mobility, regional impact, and division needs categories, and identified the two changes to the methodology highlighted in the policy table: the use of the TPO's High Injury Network in place of generic crash data, and modified language carried forward from the prior cycle. Planner Fishastion explained that initial rankings were refined once the quantitative scores were released, that points can be flexed between the regional impact and division needs tiers, and that projects only partially located within the planning area receive a proportional share of points. He noted that the quantitative scores for bicycle & pedestrian projects were released later than anticipated, and that staff had used them to refine the initial allocation reviewed with the Technical Committee.

Planning Manager McGue provided context on the regional impact tier, noting that several high-scoring ferry projects and the Asheville to Charlotte rail line ranked above other public transportation projects, and that with approximately \$130 million available statewide, only a handful of projects are likely to be funded at that tier. She advised that staff will monitor what cascades to the division needs tier and will coordinate with division partners. In response to a question regarding the 50 percent allocation shown for the Central Durham Bus Rapid Transit project, staff explained that the figure reflects the extent of the project as submitted to SPOT. The project extends to downtown Raleigh, making it eligible for the regional tier of funding.

Board Member Sally Greene made a motion to release the initial list of projects for local points for a 30-day public review period. The motion was seconded by Board Member Mark Bell. The motion passed unanimously.

195 **15. Title VI Plan**

196 **Monet Moore, Triangle West TPO Principal Planner**

197 Principal Planner Moore presented the 2026 Title VI Plan, which the Triangle West TPO is required to
198 submit to NCDOT every three years in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related
199 federal nondiscrimination statutes. She explained that the plan follows a template provided by NCDOT
200 and includes the policy statement and assurances, staffing and organization information identifying the
201 Title VI Coordinator, related plans, and procedures. Principal Planner Moore noted that the previous
202 Title VI Plan was adopted in 2019 and that the current plan had been released for public comment
203 earlier in the year.

204 Principal Planner Moore reviewed the related plans referenced in the document, including the Public
205 Participation Plan adopted in 2025, the Language Access Plan developed through the Four Factor
206 Analysis, and the Environmental Justice Report adopted in 2026. She described the external complaint
207 procedures, under which a complaint may be filed within 180 days with the TPO, the Federal Highway
208 Administration, or NCDOT, and outlined the compliance and enforcement provisions, including Title VI
209 training and participation in NCDOT compliance reviews. A member commended the work, particularly
210 the language access component.

211 Board Member Amy Fowler made a motion to adopt the Title VI Plan. The motion was seconded by
212 Board Member Mark Bell. The motion passed unanimously.

213 **16. Triangle Bikeway East Design Project**

214 **Cara Russell, Capital Area MPO**

215 **David Miller, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner**

216 Planner Miller provided background, noting that the Board last received an update on the regional
217 Triangle Bikeway project in April, that the Capital Area MPO (CAMPO) is developing preliminary designs
218 for the section within its planning area as well as approximately four miles within the Triangle West TPO
219 planning area, and that CAMPO would return in June to share the designs and seek an endorsement to
220 carry them forward.

221 Cara Russell presented the alternatives analysis and alignment recommendation. She explained that the
222 design phase follows the 2022 Triangle Bikeway Feasibility and Implementation Study, that Wake County
223 and the Research Triangle Foundation partnered in 2024 to fund design to 90 percent, and that the
224 project extends approximately 14 miles from Research Triangle Park to the NC Museum of Art. Concept
225 plans were developed in Fall 2025 for four areas, followed by stakeholder input meetings with regional
226 partners and public engagement in January and February. An evaluation methodology was developed
227 using eight key factors scored from one to five and weighted by component and was reviewed with the
228 project's Technical and Leadership Committee before consensus was reached on a recommendation on
229 April 9th.

230 Ms. Russell reviewed the recommended alternative for each area. In the Research Triangle Park area,
231 the recommendation carries the alignment across NC 54 at a signalized intersection and continues on
232 the south side of the corridor, providing a more workable typical section on the bridge widening and
233 upgrading an existing crossing. Through Research Triangle Park, a combined alternative developed in
234 response to stakeholder concerns connects through the Triangle Mobility Hub site and uses the existing
235 multi-use path beneath the railroad, providing the greatest connectivity of the alternatives evaluated.

236 Members asked about the timeline for the western portion of the bikeway in Durham and Orange
237 counties. Staff advised that Wake County had made a direct county appropriation of \$5 million for the
238 eastern design work, that several of the projects discussed at the meeting would touch the bikeway and

extend it through Durham County as part of current NCDOT proposals, and that staff would review the final preferred designs in Durham County to verify that they are constructible before determining next steps. Members discussed the relationship between regional amenities, land use decisions, and the ability of Durham and Orange counties to attract and retain residents, workforce, and tax base.

Board Member Sally Greene made a motion to endorse the technical recommendation alignment for the Triangle Bikeway East Design Project to carry forward to 30% design plan completion. The motion was seconded by Board Member Carl Rist. The motion passed unanimously.

17. Triangle Mobility Hub Locally Preferred Alternative

Catherine Miller, GoTriangle

Catherine Miller, Director of Real Estate and Transit Community Development at GoTriangle and project manager for the Triangle Mobility Hub, presented the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the project. She explained that the Mobility Hub will be a new multimodal transportation hub in Research Triangle Park replacing the current Regional Transit Center (RTC) on Slater Road as the primary hub for regional bus service connecting Wake, Durham, and Orange counties, and that the project will improve transit speed and reliability, support multimodal connections, and provide new amenities including a larger conditioned waiting area, restrooms, and improved facilities for operators and customer service staff. Ms. Miller reported that preliminary design and engineering are being carried through 30% design later in the summer, that environmental impacts are being evaluated through the federal NEPA review process, and that GoTriangle expects to break ground in 2027.

Ms. Miller reported that committed funding includes a \$25 million federal RAISE grant, a \$2 million federal appropriation secured through the federal budget process, \$5.5 million in Regional Flexible Funding awarded by Triangle West in 2024, and \$27.7 million from the Durham, Orange, and Wake county transit plans.

Members asked about the trade-offs between the TMC site and the Hub RTP site, which scored similarly. Ms. Miller explained that the TMC site is closer to the rail corridor and to planned bus rapid transit and Triangle Bikeway investments, and that the Research Triangle Foundation's interest in partnering and in pursuing transit-oriented development at the site was a differentiating factor.

Members asked about environmental conditions at the site. Ms. Miller reported a jurisdictional stream along the north side of the site that complicates access considerations, but no significant environmental concerns identified to date, and explained that the NEPA study area is drawn more generously than the project site to capture potential roadway improvements. Members asked about the distance and connection between the hub and a future rail platform. Ms. Miller advised that the location of a rail station has not been determined, that GoTriangle is coordinating with the NCDOT Rail Division on a concept showing a platform at the site, and that a Duke Energy easement carrying overhead transmission lines lies between the site and the rail corridor. Members expressed frustration that the constraints of the federal transit funding and review process prevent those questions from being answered at this stage.

Ms. Miller confirmed that GoTriangle still intends to purchase buses to support the service expansion programmed out of the facility, but is evaluating fuel type options following FTA guidance that battery electric buses are not currently eligible for funding, and noted that a battery electric bus purchase would need to be funded outside the RAISE grant scope, which could affect the scope of the Triangle West award.

Executive Director Plachcinski asked about the potential relocation of GoTriangle administrative offices to the site, and members were advised that the administrative office scope is being tracked and funded

separately from the publicly funded Mobility Hub project. Ms. Miller also advised that GoTriangle leases the land occupied by the existing RTC and would terminate that lease upon relocation, and that whether the new site is purchased or leased cannot be negotiated until NEPA clearance is obtained.

Members requested that GoTriangle provide the presentation and the alternatives analysis to the Board and return with an update sooner than previously planned. Ms. Miller agreed to do so.

Board Alternate Louie Rivers III made a motion to approve the Locally Preferred Alternative for GoTriangle's Triangle Mobility Hub. The motion was seconded by Board Member Carl Rist. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

18. April 21, 2026 Board Minutes

Samad Rangoonwala, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner

19. Section 5307 Full Apportionment Split Letter

Thomas Porter, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner

20. Strategic Plan and Organizational Assessment

Doug Plachcinski, CFM, Triangle West TPO Executive Director

21. FY2027 UPWP Amendment #2

Thomas Porter, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner

22. Section 5339 Full Apportionment Split Letter

Thomas Porter, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner

23. FY2026 UPWP Administrative Modification #2

Thomas Porter, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner

Board Member Amy Fowler made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Board Member Sally Greene. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

24. Bi-Annual Locally Administered Projects Report

Colleen McGue, Triangle West TPO Planning Manager

Planning Manager McGue presented the June bi-annual report on locally administered projects. She explained that the Federal Funding Policy adopted in 2021 requires recipients of federal funding through the TPO to report on the status of their locally administered projects twice a year, and that the report also includes projects funded through SPOT and the Strategic Transportation Investments program as well as competitive grant programs such as RAISE. She reviewed the typical project delivery steps reflected in the report, from project setup through design, right-of-way acquisition, construction, and closeout.

Planning Manager McGue shared that the report covers 51 projects representing almost \$180 million in federal funding, and that nearly every jurisdiction has at least one project.

Planning Manager McGue also reported that the grant agreement is in place for the \$500,000 Project Prioritization Pilot Program (4P) grant awarded through the Local Project Delivery Initiative, and that a request for letters of intent would be issued soon in order to bring a consultant under contract.

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324 **25. 2026 Triangle West Safety Report**

325 **David Miller, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner**

326 **Lucia Ciro, Triangle West TPO Planning Intern**

327 Planner Miller presented the TPO's first annual regional safety report, which tracks implementation of
328 the Regional Vision Zero Action Plan adopted by the Board in April 2025 and progress toward the
329 region's safety targets and goals. Planning Intern Ciro presented a regional crash analysis, economic
330 impacts, NCDOT safety projects in the TPO's area. Planner Miller closed by highlighting the safety
331 strategies and actions section of the report, which was compiled from updates provided by local
332 members, partners, and NCDOT. He noted upcoming activities, including a survey of members regarding
333 a TPO regional safety committee, a Complete Streets training in September and a road safety audit
334 course expected in October in partnership with NCDOT, the third annual regional safety summit with the
335 Capital Area MPO, and the annual target setting cycle in January 2027.

336 **26. Recent News Articles and Updates**

337 The Board received a set of recent news articles and updates provided in the agenda packet.

338 **ADJOURNMENT:**

339 There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:15am. The next meeting is scheduled
340 for August 25th, 2026.