

TRIANGLE WEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

August 11th, 2026

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Triangle West Transportation Planning Organization Technical Committee met on August 11th, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the Long Leaf Pine Conference Room at the Central Pines Regional Council. The following people were in attendance:

Eric Vitale (TC Chair)	City of Durham
Ellen Beckmann (Member)	Durham County
Sarah Williamson (Member)	Orange County
Thanh Schado (Member)	Chatham County
Duncan Dodson (Member)	Town of Carrboro
Aaron Cain (Member)	Durham City/County Planning
Caroline Dwyer (Member)	Chapel Hill Transit
Tom Devlin (Member)	City of Durham
Clint Blackburn (Member)	City of Durham
Jason Hardin (Member)	GoTriangle
Paul Black (Member)	GoTriangle
Anne Calef (Member)	Research Triangle Foundation
Matt Day (Member)	Central Pines Regional Council
Becca Eversole (Member)*	
Caroline Lamb (Alternate)	Durham County
Bill Judge (Alternate)	City of Durham
David Keilson (Alternate)	Division 5 – NCDOT
Chad Reimakoski*(Alternate)	Division 7 – NCDOT
Jessica Luther(Member)	Division 8 – NCDOT
Julie Bogle(Member)	Transportation Planning Division – NCDOT
John Grant	Traffic Operations – NCDOT
Nathan Lee	Resident
Chris Pearlstein	Resident
Michele Sharpe	Resident
Doug Plachcinski	Triangle West TPO
Colleen McGue	Triangle West TPO
Monet Moore	Triangle West TPO
Samad Rangoonwala	Triangle West TPO
Thomas Porter	Triangle West TPO
Filmon Fishastion	Triangle West TPO
Yanping Zhang	Triangle West TPO
Yudie Feng	Triangle West TPO
Lucia Ciro	Triangle West TPO
Oliver Sun	Triangle West TPO

*Denotes virtual attendance

Quorum Count: 18 of 21 Voting Members

Chair Eric Vitale called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the Triangle West TPO Technical Committee were identified and are indicated above.

PRELIMINARIES:

1. Roll Call

Chair Vitale asked in-person attendees to introduce themselves. Chair Vitale announced that the City of Durham, the Town of Carrboro, and Durham County have each added new voting members or alternates to the Technical Committee and welcomed them.

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

Chair Vitale asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. The City of Durham requested that Item 12, the Comprehensive Transportation Plan Amendment for the Pettigrew Street Extension, be postponed to the September agenda so that all four forthcoming CTP amendments may be released for public comment at the same time. It was decided that the motion to postpone would be taken up when the item was reached. There were no other adjustments.

3. Public Comments

Chair Vitale asked if any members of the public were signed up to speak. Three speakers were signed up, each addressing Item 12.

1) Nathan Lee, a Durham resident and member of an advisory commission, spoke on the Pettigrew Street Extension. He stated that the current justification document does not address sidewalks or the recommended bicycle facility analysis and asked that both be addressed. He also asked that notice of the comment period extend beyond adjacent property owners.

2) Chris Pearlstein, a Durham resident, spoke on the Pettigrew Street Extension. He stated that the planned street would provide a critical north-south bicycle and pedestrian route across NC 885 and asked that a greenway or other pedestrian right-of-way be considered rather than removing the connection entirely. He noted that right-of-way acquisition becomes more difficult once a site is developed and asked that the CTP amendments not be combined.

3) Michele Sharpe, a Durham resident, bicycle commuter, and board member of the Durham Bicycle Cooperative, spoke on the Pettigrew Street Extension. She stated that she is a homeowner in the Ellis Crossing neighborhood south of the site and would be directly affected. She stated that preserving the corridor would connect the greenway network planned under RTP 3.0 to Durham's bicycle and greenway network and asked that this benefit be evaluated during the 45-day comment period. She provided a map illustrating the connection to Triangle West TPO Staff.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

4. Report from TPO Staff

Doug Plachcinski, CFM, Triangle West TPO Executive Director

Executive Director Plachcinski relayed the written staff report and had no additions. Director Plachcinski thanked Lucia Ciro for her work over the past several months as an intern and wished her well in her future professional endeavors. Director Plachcinski also announced that a new planner will join staff the

following Monday and will assist with administrative reporting, invoice preparation, and grant monitoring.

5. Report from the Technical Committee Chair

Eric Vitale, TC Chair

No report.

6. North Carolina Department of Transportation Reports

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

No report.

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

Chad Reimakoski referred members to the Division 7 project update included in the packet and highlighted several projects. Reimakoski reported that the let date for BR-92, replacing Bridge 37 on NC 86 over New Hope Creek, has moved to April 20, 2027. BR-7R13, replacing Bridge 90 over Damascus Church Road, is in right-of-way acquisition and is approximately 40 percent complete. Right-of-way plans are being finalized for BR-6037, replacing Bridge 49 on NC 86 over the Norfolk Southern Railway. Reimakoski noted that two projects have been completed, including the Dairyland Road project at Dodsons Crossroads (SS-6207BC), which was accepted in April, and that EB-5721, upgrading the existing off-road path and constructing a new section of Bicycle Route 1 from Cleland Drive to Willow Drive in Chapel Hill, is new to construction. The I-40 widening is approximately 82 percent complete and remains on track for completion in early 2027, with an extended closure of the New Hope Church Road ramp to I-40 eastbound underway.

Reuben Blakely (Justin Richardson, Jessica Luther), Division 8 – NCDOT

No additional updates beyond the Division 8 project update included in the packet.

Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division – NCDOT

Julie Bogle reported that the Transportation Planning Division will now be known as the Transportation Planning Office, complementing the Capital Programming Office name established for the programming group under the Division of Planning and Programming. Bogle also announced that Brian Wert has been named director.

Bryan Lopez, Integrated Mobility Division – NCDOT

No report.

CONSENT AGENDA:

7. Approving June 2, 2026, TC Minutes

Samad Rangoonwala, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner

8. Federal Certification Review Report & Results

Doug Plachcinski, Triangle West TPO Executive Director

9. UPWP FY28 Call for Projects Announcement

Thomas Porter, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner

10. TIP Accelerated Amendment #6

Filmon Fishastion, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner

Chair Vitale noted that a resolution to transfer Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) was added to the Consent Agenda.

Executive Director Plachcinski recognized two staff members for work cited in the Federal Certification Review. Director Plachcinski thanked Principal Planner Monet Moore for leading the reimagining of the TPO's public outreach processes since joining staff and thanked Transportation Planner Filmon Fishastion for his work on the annual obligation projects report.

Member Ellen Beckmann moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Member Tom Devlin. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

11. Approval for FY27 Transit Plan Global Special Capital Agreements

Doug Plachcinski, Triangle West TPO Executive Director

Colleen McGue, Triangle West TPO Planning Manager

Planning Manager Colleen McGue explained that the TPO must be a party to any Global Special Capital Agreement under the FY27 Durham Transit Plan and FY27 Orange Transit Plan that carries federal funding under the TPO's distribution and program management responsibility or that constitutes a regionally significant project under 23 CFR § 450.104.

Member Ellen Beckmann made a motion to recommend that the Triangle West TPO Board authorize the TPO Executive Director to sign the Global Special Capital Agreements. The motion was seconded by Member Caroline Lamb. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Comprehensive Transportation Plan Amendment – Pettigrew Street Ext.

Monet Moore, Triangle West TPO Principal Planner

Eric Vitale, Transportation Planner, City of Durham

Chair Vitale made a motion to postpone the Comprehensive Transportation Plan Amendment for the Pettigrew Street Extension to the September Technical Committee agenda. The motion was seconded by Member Ellen Beckmann. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Local Input Point Approval for Prioritization 8.0

Filmon Fishastion, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner

Transportation Planner Filmon Fishastion presented the local input point assignments for the Prioritization 8.0 (P8) cycle. Planner Fishastion reviewed the submittal schedule, the scoring categories in which local input points apply, and the adopted methodology. Planner Fishastion described coordination with the TC subcommittee, NCDOT Divisions 5 and 7, and neighboring MPOs and RPOs, and summarized the results of the public comment period, noting that an interactive report of comments is

available online. Planner Fishastion then reviewed the changes made to the draft assignments since the initial list.

Member Beckmann noted that the RTP to Triangle Town Center project would receive eight local points in addition to 92 points donated to the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) and recommended removing those points. Member Beckmann explained that the project is largely encapsulated by the higher-scoring Chapel Hill to Triangle Town Center project, which serves more of Durham and Orange counties, and that the two projects compete for the same limited funding. Members discussed the extent of the Central Durham Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project and agreed that staff should describe it as extending to downtown Raleigh to reduce confusion. Member Eversole asked whether points could be added at a later date if the Central Pines Rural Planning Organization (RPO) donates to a project partially within the TPO planning area.

Member Ellen Beckmann made a motion to recommend that the Triangle West TPO Board adopt the Local Input Point assignments for submittal to NCDOT, with the removal of the local and donated points assigned to the RTP to Triangle Town Center project, and direct staff to maximize coordination with Division Engineers, which may result in point adjustments with Chair approval. The motion was seconded by Member Duncan Dodson. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Revisions to the Federal Funding Policy

Colleen McGue, Triangle West TPO Planning Manager

Planning Manager Colleen McGue reminded members that discussion of the Cheek and Junction project at the June 2026 meeting revealed an inconsistency in the Federal Funding Policy regarding whether roadway projects that improve safety are eligible for funding. Manager McGue reported that revised language was released for a 30-day public comment period from June 16th to July 16th, 2026, and that no comments were received. Manager McGue explained that under the revised policy, safety projects are eligible only where the design addresses a documented non-motorized safety concern.

Members asked what qualifies as documented. Staff explained that documentation would rest on the non-motorized high injury network or the high-risk network, the latter of which identifies locations proactively rather than waiting for crashes to occur. Members discussed that inclusion on a network alone would not satisfy the policy and that the project design must include countermeasures addressing the identified risk. Member Dodson stated that he remained concerned about the precedent being set and asked for greater specificity in the definitions of “documented” and “addresses.” Director Plachcinski responded that the intent is to establish guardrails while preserving the Technical Committee’s collective judgment.

Member Aaron Cain moved to recommend that the Triangle West TPO Board adopt the update to the Federal Funding Policy as written. The motion was seconded by Member Thahn Schado. The motion passed with one nay vote from Member Duncan Dodson, Town of Carrboro.

15. Project Agreement Template

Doug Plachcinski, Triangle West TPO Executive Director

Executive Director Plachcinski reviewed the updated Project Agreement Template and noted that a revised attachment incorporating member agency comments was circulated by email shortly before the meeting. Transportation Planner Filmon Fishastion described his proposed changes: adding “non-federal” to the match provision in Section D, setting the timeline in Section D.2 to two years to align

with the Federal Funding Policy, tying that timeline to STIP inclusion rather than TIP inclusion, and applying the same two-year deadline in Section E.2. Director Plachcinski stated that the open questions are how to identify when a sponsor is failing to deliver a project and what constitutes a reasonable remedy.

Members discussed the two-year timeline, noting that rolling stock manufacturing can take 18 months or more, that capital projects encounter unforeseen conditions during right-of-way acquisition and construction, and that overly onerous agreement requirements could themselves create delay. Members noted that the template includes a supplemental agreement provision for modifications. Director Plachcinski described the FY27 funding environment, explaining that obligation authority is constrained by the lack of a signed federal aid highway bill and by continuing resolutions, and that projects holding unspent obligation authority delay other projects in the queue. Director Plachcinski asked members to review the template with their legal and agency staff and to return comments within two weeks.

Member Tom Devlin made a motion to table the Project Agreement Template until the next meeting to allow an extended comment period. The motion was seconded by Member Aaron Cain. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

16. HSIP Funding Presentation

John Grant, Central Regional Field Operations Engineer, NCDOT

John Grant gave an overview of the three state safety funding programs. Grant reported that the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) receives roughly \$85 million per year in federal funds statewide, with a soft cap of approximately \$1 million per project and prioritization based strictly on benefit-cost ratio. Grant explained that Spot Safety provides approximately \$12.1 million per year in state funds, is capped at \$400,000 per project, is prioritized by the Spot Safety Index, and may be used as a local match on larger projects. Grant noted that Spot Mobility, capped at \$750,000 per project, addresses delay rather than crashes and includes roughly \$7 million set aside annually to reimburse required improvements at new schools. Projects are submitted quarterly and selected by committee.

Grant explained that the vulnerable road user special rule requires that 15 percent of federal safety funds be spent on non-motorized safety and that North Carolina has been spending closer to 25 percent. Grant noted that vulnerable road user projects are scored on criteria other than crash history alone, including roadway width, volume, and speed, and that sidewalk gap projects are newly eligible where maintenance responsibility is agreed in advance. In response to member questions, Grant stated that demonstrated local support strengthens a candidate project and that unsuccessful projects remain on the list for future quarters. Grant directed members to NCDOT's statewide safety projects map for project-level detail.

17. Recent News Articles and Updates

Chair Vitale referenced the news articles and updates included in the agenda packet. It was noted that the next Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for September 8th, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made and was seconded by Member Cain. The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:05 p.m.