

TRIANGLE WEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

April 21, 2026

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Triangle West Transportation Planning Organization Board met on April 21, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Long Leaf Conference Room at Central Pines Regional Council, as well as through the Microsoft Teams teleconferencing platform. The following members were in attendance:

Javiera Caballero (Chair)	City of Durham
Danny Nowell (Vice Chair)	Town of Carrboro
Karen Howard (Member)	Chatham County
Nida Allam (Member)	Durham County
Amy Fowler (Member)	Orange County
Melissa McCullough (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Mark Bell (Member)*	Town of Hillsborough
Wendy Jacobs (Alternate)	Durham County
Wes McMahon (Alternate)	GoTriangle
Marilyn Carter (Alternate)*	Orange County
Lisa Mathis (Alternate)*	NC Board of Transportation
Ellen Beckmann	Durham County
Eric Vitale	City of Durham
Becca Eversole-Robinson	Town of Carrboro
Sarah Williamson-Baker	Orange County
Jenna Kolling	Central Pines Regional Council
Chris Lawson	Central Pines Regional Council
Cara Russell	Capital Area MPO
Brian Ketner	NCDOT Division 7
Matthew Whitley	NCDOT Division 7
Justin Richardson*	NCDOT Division 8
Julie Bogle*	NCDOT TPD
Toyia Smith*	NCDOT
John Grant*	NCDOT
Bill Judge*	City of Durham
Erin Convery*	City of Durham
Bergen Watterson*	Town of Chapel Hill
Ben Berolzheimer*	Town of Chapel Hill
Jason Hardin*	GoTriangle
Meg Scully*	GoTriangle
Paul Black*	GoTriangle
Thanh Schado*	Chatham County
Eliud De Jesus*	Burlington Graham MPO
Doug Plachcinski	Triangle West
Colleen McGue	Triangle West

42	Filmon Fishastion	Triangle West
43	Yanping Zhang	Triangle West
44	David Miller	Triangle West
45	Madeline Galliano	Triangle West
46	Yuwen He*	Triangle West
47	Lucia Ciro	Triangle West

48 Quorum Count: 7 of 10 Voting Members
49 *Attended remotely

50 **1. Roll Call**

51 Chair Javiera Caballero called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The roll call was completed by
52 Board members announcing their names in person and online. Chair Javiera Caballero shared that Board
53 Members Carl Rist and Sally Greene requested excused absences.

54 **PRELIMINARIES:**

55 **2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

56 There were no adjustment to the agenda.

57 **3. Public Comments**

58 There were no public comments.

59 **REPORTS FROM STAFF:**

60 **4. Report from TPO Staff**

61 **Doug Plachcinski, Triangle West TPO Director**

62 Doug Plachchinski shared that Triangle West's monthly report, a draft project agreement, and a
63 financial report for the TPO have been included as attachments in the agenda.

64 **5. Report from the Board Chair**

65 **Javiera Caballero, Board Chair**

66 Chair Javiera Caballero shared that the City of Durham and other partners were awarded \$32
67 million dollars in federal funds, and thanked all partners for helping make the award possible.

68 **6. Report from the Technical Committee Chair**

69 **Eric Vitale, TC Chair**

Eric Vitale had no report.

7. North Carolina Department of Transportation Reports

Lisa Mathis, NCDOT Board of Transportation

Lisa Mathis shared that the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) earned two national innovation awards – one for an Artificial Intelligence (AI) safety tool that can help identify hazards on job sites, and the second for a Reduce Conflict Intersection (RCI) located in Division 9. Lisa Mathis shared that April 22 is recognized as a day to bring awareness to safety in work zones. Lisa Mathis shared that NCDOT recently led its Spring litter sweep campaign. Board Alternate Wendy Jacobs asked if the excessive amount of trash along roads is being discussed at a higher level at NCDOT, and Lisa Mathis replied that NCDOT is aware of the amount of trash on the roads and that this is one reason why they coordinate regular litter sweep campaigns.

Becca Gallis (David Keilson), Division 5 - NCDOT

There was no additional report.

Wright Archer (Chad Reimakoski), Division 7 - NCDOT

Brian Ketner and Matthew Whitley stated that they are attending the Board meeting on behalf of Chad Reimakoski. Brian Ketner shared brief updates for the projects included in the Division 7 report.

Reuben Blakely (Justin Richardson), Division 8 - NCDOT

There was no additional report.

Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division - NCDOT

Julie Bogle shared that she would provide Board members with information about the ongoing NCDOT Freight Plan.

Bryan Lopez, Integrated Mobility Division – NCDOT

There was no report.

CONSENT AGENDA:

94 **8. Approving March 24th, 2026 Board Minutes**

95 **Samad Rangoonwala, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner**

96 **9. FY2027 UPWP Amendment #2**

97 **Tom Porter, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner**

98 **10. TIP Accelerated Amendment #4**

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

100 Vice Chair Danny Nowell made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Amy Fowler seconded
101 the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

102 **ACTION ITEMS:**

103 **11. Memorandum of Understanding**

104 **Doug Plachcinski, Triangle West TPO Director**

105 Doug Plachcinski introduced the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agenda item, and
106 shared that an MOU subcommittee identified three items for Board consideration: the number of
107 Technical Committee (TC) and Board members, forming a subcommittee for transit operators, and
108 utilizing the Penrose Method to determine weighted voting which the majority of the Triangle West TC
109 recommended.

110 Board Members Melissa McCullough and Amy Fowler stated they supported the Penrose
111 Method. Board Alternate Wendy Jacobs shared that Durham County has concerns that the County
112 would not be part of the transit operations subcommittee, and Doug Plachcinski replied that the TC's
113 vote excluded both Orange County and Durham County as they are currently not transit operators.
114 Technical Committee Member Ellen Beckmann shared that Durham County has a responsibility for
115 transit in the county and feels that they could contribute to the subcommittee meetings.

116 Wendy Jacobs shared concerns about the Penrose Method. Ellen Beckmann stated that the TC
117 voted 7 to 5 in favor of the Penrose Method, and that the Penrose Method would not affect Durham
118 County's weighted votes, but it would affect the City of Durham's weighted votes. Chair Javiera
119 Caballero said that the Penrose Method would make sense if Triangle West were to merge with Capital

Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), but the City of Durham's dues are high while the new potential voting weight would reduce its votes. Chair Javiera Caballero recommended that the Board table this item and create a subcommittee to explore membership dues and voting weights. Doug Plachcinski stated that the City of Durham contributes 58% of Triangle West's local match, but that the City can only receive 65% of funding from the TPO at one time per its Federal Funding Policy (RFF).

Amy Fowler said that more equal voting gives smaller jurisdictions a voice rather than Durham having the ability to make the decisions, and that it reflects the goal of working as a region. Vice Chair Danny Nowell said that a merger with CAMPO may reduce the impact and vote of the smaller municipalities, that he supports the Penrose Method, and that he supports creating a subcommittee to explore these topics. Melissa McCullough stated that population alone may not be the best metric for determining weighted voting since people travel from one jurisdiction to another daily for employment and school. Board Member Mark Bell stated that he supports creating a subcommittee.

Chair Javiera Caballero stated that Doug Plachcinski, Vice Chair Danny Nowell, and herself will identify subcommittee members to ensure representation from each jurisdiction, with a potential convening in the Fall. Vice Chair Danny Nowell encouraged Board members to discuss the subcommittee topics with each other during the Summer break.

12. Call for Project Funding Recommendation
Filmon Fishastion, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner

Filmon Fishastion shared Triangle West's FY27-28 call for projects, schedule and timeline, RFF policy and its recent updates, the funding sources that are part of the RFF program, the available funding for FY27 and FY28 by source, and the funding breakdown per jurisdiction and improvement type. Filmon Fishastion shared that 19 projects were submitted for consideration by Triangle West members, and that 14 are being recommended.

Amy Fowler made a motion to release the funding recommendation for public comment. Nida Allam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Environmental Justice Report Methodology

Colleen McGue, Triangle West TPO Planning Manager

Colleen McGue provided a summary of the Environmental Justice (EJ) Report Methodology.

Colleen McGue shared that the report has an accompanying StoryMap, and that Triangle West will release the full EJ data package for member use. Colleen McGue shared the methodology of the draft EJ report and related performance measures.

Amy Fowler made a motion to adopt the Environmental Justice Report. Karen Howard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Triangle Transportation Choices FY25 Annual Impact Report

Jenna Kolling, Central Pines Regional Council

David Miller, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner

Jenna Kolling provided an update on the regional Triangle Transportation Choices transportation demand management (TDM) program and its FY25 Annual Impact Report, including a background on TDM strategies, FY25 funding from Triangle West and other funding partners, and the organizations receiving funds to administer TDM work. Jenna Kolling shared an overview of the outreach activities organizations held during FY25, and the societal benefits of the program that include the reduction of vehicle miles traveled and improved air quality. Jenna Kolling presented findings from the program's Fall 2025 university student survey, which identified that TDM strategies have encouraged some travel behavior change for these student populations.

15. Triangle Bikeway Update

David Miller, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner

Cara Russell, Capital Area MPO

Chris Lawson, Central Pines Regional Council

David Miller, Cara Russell, and Chris Lawson provided an update on the Triangle Bikeway project. Cara Russell presented an update on CAMPO's Triangle Bikeway East Design Project, which is in the process of reaching 30% design. The project is being managed by CAMPO on behalf of its members, and funding has been provided by the Research Triangle Foundation and Wake County, in part through a

Wake County greenway bond. CAMPO continues to work with its members, Triangle West, and Durham stakeholders on the preferred alignment as it moves to authorize 30% design completion. Russell noted that National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation activities are also underway in preparation for potential future federal funding applications.

David Miller presented updates on Triangle West's portion of the conceptual bikeway, which runs from the Wake County border through the City of Durham and RTP along I-540 and NC 54 into Chapel Hill. He noted that approximately four miles of conceptual bikeway that is part of CAMPO's design project is within the Triangle West planning area. David Miller shared that Triangle West submitted a one-mile segment between NC 54 and NC 55 along I-40 to the P8 SPOT prioritization process; scores have not yet been received. David Miller stated that the recently adopted 2055 MTP includes completion of the Triangle Bikeway as a regional goal. David Miller referenced the next steps for Triangle West as documented in the adopted Triangle Bikeway Feasibility and Implementation study, which included moving its conceptual design to 30% design, and outline funding strategies. David Miller recommended that in the short-term, Triangle West should continue to be a partner to CAMPO on their design project and learn from their MPO-managed design process.

Chris Lawson provided an update from Central Pines Regional Council on its role in facilitating the Triangle Bikeway Regional Advisory Committee, which meets quarterly. The committee's February 2026 meeting included discussion of a planned site visit in partnership with advocacy groups and elected officials, and a November 2026 in-person meeting to celebrate project progress. Lawson also noted that Central Pines, as a nonprofit, could potentially serve as a future funding mechanism for the project. Central Pines maintains the public-facing Triangle Bikeway website at trianglebikeway.com. David Miller noted that CAMPO will be presenting to the Triangle West TC and Board in June as they seek an endorsement on the designs they are developing for their project.

Wendy Jacobs asked if CAMPO is able to apply local input points to the Triangle Bikeway segment Triangle West submitted in SPOT P8, and Filmon Fishastion replied they could. Wendy Jacobs asked if NCDOT supports the inclusion of the Triangle Bikeway into the U-5774 project, and Colleen McGue replied that the project is still in its early stages and elements of the project will continue to be discussed and refined. Brian Ketner added that constructing a 16-foot sidepath along NC 54 could be costly and that the Division Needs funding pool that is available is limited. Melissa McCullough shared that the Triangle Bikeway could be a popular route for bicyclists between Chapel Hill, Durham and beyond.

16. Recent News Articles and Updates

Chair Javiera Caballero referenced the recent news articles and updates.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Triangle West Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.