

TRIANGLE WEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
BOARD MEETING
February 24th, 2026
MINUTES OF MEETING

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The Triangle West Transportation Planning Organization Board met on February 24th, 2026, at 9 a.m. in the Long Lead Conference Room at the Central Pines Regional Council. The following people were in attendance:

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| Javiera Caballero (Chair) | City of Durham |
| Danny Nowell (Vice Chair) | Town of Carrboro |
| Mark Bell (Member) | Town of Hillsborough |
| Sally Greene (Member) | GoTriangle |
| Amy Fowler (Member) | Orange County |
| Mellissa McCullough (Member) | Town of Chapel Hill |
| Carl Rist (Member) | City of Durham |
| Wendy Jacobs (Alternate) | Durham County |
| Matt Hughes* (Alternate) | Town of Hillsborough |
| Nida Allam* (Member) | Durham County |
| Louie Rivers III* (Alternate) | Town of Chapel Hill |
| Hope Tally | Central Pines Regional Council |
| Matt Day | Central Pines Regional Council |
| Sarah Williamson | Orange County |
| Thanh Schado* | Chatham County |
| Becca Eversole | Town of Carrboro |
| Ben Berolzheimer* | Town of Chapel Hill |
| Bergen Watterson* | Town of Chapel Hill |
| Erin Convery* | City of Durham |
| Chad Reimakoski | NCDOT Division 7 |
| Bryan Kluchar* | NCDOT Division 8 |
| Julie Bogle* | NCDOT TPD |
| John Grant* | NCDOT Traffic Operations |
| Paul Black* | GoTriangle |
| Jason Hardin* | GoTriangle |
| Riley Stout* | NCRR |
| Doug Plachcinski | Triangle West TPO |
| Colleen McGue | Triangle West TPO |
| Yanping Zhang | Triangle West TPO |
| Monet Moore | Triangle West TPO |
| Samad Rangoonwala* | Triangle West TPO |
| Thomas Porter* | Triangle West TPO |

41 Filmon Fishastion Triangle West TPO
42 Dolly Hall-Quinlan Triangle West TPO
43 Yuwen He* Triangle West TPO
44 Lucia Ciro* Triangle West TPO
45 KC Chae* Triangle West TPO
46 Madeline Galliano* Triangle West TPO
47 David Miller Triangle West TPO

48 *indicated virtual attendance

49 Quorum Count: 8 of 11 Voting Members

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

53

54 **PRELIMINARIES:**

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56 **1. Roll Call**

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58 Chair Caballero asked everyone to introduce themselves.

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60 **2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

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62 Executive Director Doug Plachcinski requested that Consent Agenda Item 8, the approval of the
63 January 27th, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes, be removed from the day's agenda. The item will be
64 brought back for consideration at the March Board meeting. There were no other adjustments to the
65 agenda.

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67 **3. Public Comments**

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69 Chair Caballero asked if any members of the public were signed up to speak. There were none.

70

71 **Reports**

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73 **4. Report from TPO Staff**

74 **Doug Plachcinski, CFM, Triangle West TPO Executive Director**

75 **Hope Tally, CPRC Chief Financial Officer**

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77 Executive Director Plachcinski introduced Hope Tally, CPRC Chief Financial Officer, who presented
78 findings from the recent single audit of Central Pines Regional Council's financial operations. CFO Tally
79 reported that the audit resulted in an unmodified opinion with no material findings. A management
80 letter was issued recommending that the Triangle West TPO refine its policies and procedures to better
81 align with CPRC policies and procedures, particularly around sub-award monitoring. Executive Director
82 Plachcinski noted that the TPO is working to address the recommendations, and that CFO Tally will
83 provide periodic financial updates to the Board, and that he and CFO Tally have been meeting regularly
84 to improve coordination. Board members thanked CFO Tally,

85

86 Executive Director Plachcinski provided an update on the TPO’s financial position. At the close of Fiscal
87 Year 2025, the TPO had a net positive extension of \$83,000. The TPO’s total accumulated positive
88 position since transitioning from the City of Durham to the Central Pines Regional Council stands at
89 \$532,000. Executive Director Plachcinski noted that \$100,000 of that amount is committed to the 15-
90 501 corridor study, and that the long-term goal is to build a fund balance equivalent to approximately
91 six months of operations, or roughly \$3 million.

92
93 Board members raised questions about the fund balance’s implications for member contribution
94 requests and the timeline to reach the six-month reserve target. Executive Director Plachcinski
95 confirmed that member contributions are not reduced, as the \$532,000 represents the start of a multi-
96 year build. The Board requested that future budget presentations include trend data and prior year
97 comparisons by program fund.

98
99 Executive Director Plachcinski also highlighted several programmatic updates. a productive exchange
100 with Board Member Rist regarding the US 70 corridor in connection with a rezoning decision;
101 Transportation Planner Fishastion’s work on SPOT project submissions; and the ADA Transition Plan as
102 a strong model for accessible planning. Executive Director Plachcinski also noted his participation in an
103 upcoming virtual panel presentation for the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations
104 (AMPO) on March 10th on leadership continuity and succession planning, and planned travel to
105 Washington, DC for the AMPO Infrastructure Week fly-in on March 16th through 18th.

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

109 **Javeira Caballero, Board Chair**

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111 Chair Caballero had no formal report.

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

114 **Eric Vitale, TC Chair**

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116 TC Chair Vitale had no report.

117
118 **7. North Carolina Department of Transportation Reports**

119 **Lisa Mathis, NC Board of Transportation**

120 **Becca Gallas (Tracy Parrott, David Keilson), Division 5 – NCDOT**

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

122 **Reuben Blakely (Bryan Kluchar), Division 8 – NCDOT**

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

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

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126 **NC Board of Transportation**

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128 Board Member Mathis was not in attendance but submitted a written report for the record.

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130 **Division 5**

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No report.

Division 7

The I-40 widening project at US 15-501 and Old NC 86, an eastbound traffic shift on the bridge over Old NC 86 is tentatively scheduled. Millhouse Road was scheduled to close on or around February 23rd for bridge rehabilitation work, with closures expected to last approximately three weeks. Orange Grove Road is tentatively scheduled to close in late March for similar rehabilitation work.

Division 8

Bryan Kluchar shared there are no changes to the Division 8 project update report. Bryan shared that project scores for SPOT P8 projects submitted to the prioritization process are expected to be available at the end of May.

Transportation Planning Division

No updates.

Integrated Mobility Division

No report.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items 9 and 10 were presented for consent. Item 8 was removed from consideration at the start of the meeting and will return at the March Board meeting.

8. [PULLED] Approving January 27th, 2026 Board Minutes

Samad Rangoonwala, Transportation Planner

This item was pulled from the agenda and will be brought back for consideration at the March 24th, 2026 Board meeting.

9. MPO Self Certification Document

Samad Rangoonwala, Transportation Planner

10. Reserve Fund Balance Policy

Thomas Porter, Transportation Planner

Member Bell made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Member Fowler. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

177 **11. 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Air Quality Conformity Determination**

178 **Yanping Zhang, Modeling Manager**

179 **Dolly Hall-Quinlan, Transportation Modeler**

180 **Eve He, Transportation Modeler**

181 **Monet Moore, AICP, Principal Planner**

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183 Modeling Manager Yanping Zhang presented the final 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
184 and Air Quality Conformity Determination Report (AQ CDR). Manager Zhang reviewed the history of
185 Board actions leading to adoption: in October 2025, the Board approved the MTP project lists and
186 Financial Plan; in November 2025, the Board granted pre-authorization to release the AQ CDR for a 21-
187 day public comment period and the MTP for a 45-day public comment period; and in January 2026, the
188 Board held a public hearing on both documents. The 45-day public comment period for the MTP closed
189 on February 23rd, 2026. Staff reviewed all public comments received and confirmed that no critical
190 unresolved comments remained. Staff responses to public comments were prepared and will be
191 shared once finalized.

192

193 The final 2055 MTP report compiles key details and assumptions from throughout the plan’s
194 development and presents new information on environmental justice, air quality conformity, and
195 federal planning factors. The MTP report and appendices are posted on the 2055 MTP webpage, with
196 additional materials to be added as they are finalized. The AQ CDR was prepared jointly with the
197 Capital Area MPO (CAMPO) and NCDOT for the RPO area. Resolutions for adopting the MTP and AQ
198 CDR were included in the meeting packet.

199

200 A significant volume of public comments addressed transit connectivity to Raleigh-Durham
201 International Airport (RDU). Manager Zhang explained that the MTP includes a high-frequency bus
202 service connecting the RTP Centre to the airport, and that a rail connection to the airport would
203 depend on ridership levels and RDU’s operating budget. Board members noted that GoTriangle has
204 recently increased Route 100 service frequency to every 15 minutes at the airport, and that plans for a
205 regional multimodal hub include a future connection to the airport. The Board encouraged the TPO to
206 ensure these planned connections are clearly communicated on the TPO and GoTriangle websites.

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208 Member Greene made a motion to adopt the 2055 MTP by resolution. The motion was seconded by
209 Member McCullough. The motion passed unanimously.

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211 Member McCullough made a motion to adopt the Air Quality Conformity Determination Report by
212 resolution. The motion was seconded by Member Fowler. The motion passed unanimously.

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214 Several Board members thanked TPO staff for their work on the 2055 MTP, noting the depth and
215 quality of the Plan. Board members requested that the executive summary be distributed to member
216 boards and governing bodies and expressed interest in TPO staff presenting during work sessions for
217 partner municipalities. Executive Director Plachcinski indicated that staff would reach out proactively
218 to each member agency to schedule presentations.

219

220 **FEDERAL ACTIONS CONSENT AGENDA:**

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222 The following items constitute federal actions that are required to come after the adoption of the 2055
223 MTP. Executive Director Plachcinski noted that the FY 2027 UPWP Amendment #1 had been slightly
224 revised following internal review with NCDOT, and that the version included in the agenda packet
225 reflects the correct figures.
226

227 **12. TIP Administrative Modification #1**
228 **Filmon Fishastion, Transportation Planner**
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230 **13. FY 2027 UPWP Amendment #1**
231 **Thomas Porter, Transportation Planner**
232

233 Member Fowler made a motion to adopt the Federal Actions Consent Agenda. The motion was
234 seconded by Member Rist. The motion passed unanimously.
235

236 **Action Items**
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238 **14. Federal Funding Policy Update**
239 **Colleen McGue, Planning Manager**
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241 Planning Manager Colleen McGue presented an update to the TPO's Federal Funding Policy. Manager
242 McGue explained that the policy, which governs how the TPO selects and prioritizes projects for its
243 Regional Flexible Funding (RFF) pool, was being updated for consistency with the newly adopted 2055
244 MTP, the TPO's updated Public Participation Plan, and current NCDOT guidance. The RFF pool includes
245 direct attributable block grant funds, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds, Carbon
246 Reduction Program funds, and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) direct attributable funds.
247

248 Key changes included: a new section providing detail on allocating Highway Trust Fund swap funds,
249 with priority given to shovel-ready projects; revised TDM program language, which will now compete
250 with other projects in the regional call for projects; a new requirement for project sponsors to certify
251 the availability of required non-federal matching funds; and a new grant agreement requirement to be
252 executed following a funding award, establishing project scope, phases, and timelines. Manager
253 McGue noted that flexibility was incorporated in response to TC feedback, including grace periods and
254 timing accommodations for project sponsors in the currently open call for projects, which had been
255 extended due to winter weather in January.
256

257 Board members discussed the fund swap policy and its implications for the current call for projects.
258 Manager McGue confirmed that fund source assignments will be at staff discretion, with guidance
259 from the updated policy. Several Board members raised the urgency of obligating accumulated TIP
260 swap funds before they could be lost, and noted that the updated policy's shovel-ready priority criteria
261 would help address this. Member Rist raised a concern about the 65 percent project and agency cap in
262 the policy, noting that it limits the City of Durham's share of RFF funding even though the majority of
263 the population in the TPO area are located in Durham. Manager McGue acknowledged this concern
264 and indicated that the cap will be reviewed in depth during the forthcoming Mobility Forward project,
265 anticipated to enter into a consultant agreement by approximately July 2026. The Board was also
266 informed that a joint TDM Plan update with CAMPO and NCDOT is planned for FY27.

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Member Greene made a motion to adopt the Federal Funding Policy Update. The motion was seconded by Member Fowler. The motion passed unanimously.

15. Environmental Justice Report Release for Public Comment
Samad Rangoonwala, Transportation Planner

Transportation Planner Samad Rangoonwala presented the 2026 update to the Triangle West TPO Environmental Justice (EJ) Report. Planner Rangoonwala noted the availability of an interactive story map linked in the agenda packet, which provides an overview of the updated methodology and a deep dive into the underlying data. A downloadable data package will be released alongside the final report at the time of adoption in April, making the background data available for member jurisdictions to use in transportation and land use decision-making.

Planner Rangoonwala summarized the updated methodology as approved by the Board in January 2026

High TDI areas – defined as the top 25th percentile – are concentrated in eastern Durham, around Chapel Hill’s Northside neighborhood and Pine Knolls, along NC 54 in Carrboro, in northern Chatham County and in portions of western Orange County. Planner Rangoonwala presented MTP-based performance measures including walking access, transit access, and job access metrics.

Board members asked questions about the TDI scoring methodology, the relationship between high TDI designation and transit service availability in rural areas, the job access metrics relative to the broader TPO region, and the implications of displacement pressures on future performance measure updates. Planner Rangoonwala noted that the index reflects demographic risk factors rather than direct measures of transit availability, and that the methodology will allow the TPO to rerun TDI analysis as new census data is available.

Member McCullough made a motion to release the Environmental Justice Report for a 30-day public comment period. The motion was seconded by Member Bell. The motion passed unanimously.

16. Granting the Executive Director Agreement Authority
Doug Plachcinski, CFM, Triangle West TPO Executive Director

Executive Director Plachcinski presented a request for Board authorization to execute Regional Flexible Funding (RFF) project agreements with project sponsors receiving funding awards, consistent with the Federal Funding Policy adopted earlier in the meeting. These agreements would establish project scope, phases, and timelines to improve RFF spending and delivery performance.

Board members discussed the request, with an interest in first reviewing a template agreement before broader authority is granted. Board members noted particular urgency around executing an agreement with the Town of Chapel Hill to support Chapel Hill’s onboarding as a funding recipient and to support the Chapel Hill North-South Bus Rapid Transit (NSBRT) project’s financial plan to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Following Board discussion, the scope of the authorization was amended to

313 apply to the Town of Chapel Hill only at this time, with a template agreement to be developed and
314 presented to the Board before authority is extended to other agencies.
315

316 Member McCullough made a motion to grant the Executive Director authority to execute Regional
317 Flexible Funding project agreements with the Town of Chapel Hill. The motion was seconded by
318 Member Bell. The motion passed unanimously.
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320 **Informational Items**

321 **17. Memorandum of Understanding**

322 **Doug Plachcinski, CFM, Triangle West TPO Executive Director**

323 Executive Director Plachcinski provided an update on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), a
324 federally mandated document governing cooperation among the TPO, local partners, NCDOT, and the
325 U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). TC Chair Vitale noted that the Technical Committee
326 established a subcommittee to work through lingering points of disagreement among member
327 jurisdictions, including concerns submitted by Durham County and the Town of Chapel Hill, before
328 bringing a recommendation to the full Board. A subcommittee meeting is planned ahead of the next TC
329 meeting. It is unlikely that a recommendation will be ready for the March Board meeting. Executive
330 Director Plachcinski noted that the original goal was to have an endorsement from the Board for
331 distribution to member communities before the end of the fiscal year.
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335 Board members expressed support for taking the time needed to work through member concerns
336 substantively, noting that the 2022 Governance Study adopted by this body suggested that a third
337 party could be brought in to facilitate unresolved governance and voting issues if necessary. Several
338 Board members emphasized the importance of beginning the MOU discussion with a shared
339 articulation of the problems to be solved before evaluating proposed changes.

340 Board members also raised a broader question about whether the TPO should at some future point
341 consider a merger with CAMPO to gain scale for regional transit planning. Chair Caballero noted that
342 the merger question is separate from the MOU update and would require a dedicated process. Board
343 members agreed to consider taking up the larger organizational question at a future meeting.
344

345 Board Action: Received as information.
346

347 **18. Recent News Articles and Updates**

348 Several news articles were included in the agenda packet for Board members' reference.
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351 **ADJOURNMENT**

352 Chair Caballero adjourned the meeting.
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