

1 **TRIANGLE WEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION**
2 **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**
3 **March 10th, 2026**
4 **MINUTES OF MEETING**

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6 The Triangle West Transportation Planning Organization Technical Committee met on March 10th,
7 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the Long Leaf Conference Room at the Central Pines Regional Council. The
8 following people were in attendance:
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Eric Vitale (TC Chair)	City of Durham
Caroline Dwyer (Vice Chair)	Chapel Hill Transit
Travis Crayton (Member)	Research Triangle Foundation
Ellen Beckmann (Member)	Durham County
Curtis Scarpignato (Member)	Durham County
Aaron Cain (Member)	City of Durham
Paul Black (Member)	GoTriangle
Matt Day (Member)	Central Pines Regional Council
Lindsey Smart (Member)	City of Durham
Josh Barrett (Member)	City of Durham
Thanh Schado (Member)	Chatham County
Stephanie Trueblood (Member)	Town of Hillsborough
Chad Reimakoski (Member)	NCDOT Division 7
Sarah Williamson-Baker* (Member)	Orange County
Erin Convery* (Member)	City of Durham
Jason Hardin* (Member)	GoTriangle
Bill Judge* (Member)	City of Durham
Brooke Roper* (Alternate)	Durham County
Bryan Kluchar* (Alternate)	NCDOT Division 8
David Keilson* (Alternate)	NCDOT Division 5
Justin Richardson* (Alternate)	NCDOT
Anne Calef* (Alternate)	Research Triangle Foundation
Delia Chi* (Alternate)	RDU Airport
Cara Russell	Capital Area MPO
Chris Lawson	Central Pines Regional Council
Spencer Stringfellow	Kimley Horn
Doug Plachcinski	Triangle West TPO

Colleen McGue	Triangle West TPO
Monet Moore	Triangle West TPO
David Miller	Triangle West TPO
Filmon Fishastion	Triangle West TPO
Samad Rangoonwala	Triangle West TPO
Dolly Hall-Quinlan*	
KC Chae*	Triangle West TPO
Thomas Porter*	Triangle West TPO
Madeline Galliano*	Triangle West TPO

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*Denotes virtual attendance

Quorum Count: 13 of 21 Voting Members

TC Chair Vitale called the meeting to order. The Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the Triangle West Technical Committee were identified and indicated above.

PRELIMINARIES:

1. Roll Call

TC Chair Vitale asked members to introduce themselves.

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

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

3. Public Comments

TC Chair Vitale asked if any members of the public were signed up to speak. No requests to speak had been received in advance, and no one signed up in person. There were none.

Reports from Staff:

4. Report from TPO Staff

Doug Plachcinski, CFM, Triangle West TPO Executive Director

Executive Director Plachcinski noted that a draft project agreement is attached to the staff report, as requested by the Board following adoption of the updated Federal Funding Policy and Regional Flexible

50 Funding (RFF) call for projects. Executive Director Plachcinski asked TC members to submit feedback by
51 Monday, March 16th, so that any comments can be incorporated into the Board agenda materials for
52 the March 24th meeting.

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54 **5. Report from the Technical Committee Chair**

55 **Eric Vitale, TC Chair**

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57 TC Chair Vitale had no report.

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59 **6. North Carolina Department of Transportation Reports**

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

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

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

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

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

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66 Division 5 – NCDOT: David Keilson reported no additional updates beyond the written Division 5 report.

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68 Division 7 – NCDOT: Chad Reimakoski noted that the Division 7 project update now includes a
69 comments field for projects currently under construction. TC members were invited to flag any
70 inaccuracies or submit questions.

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72 Division 8 – NCDOT: Bryan Kluchar reported no changes to the Division 8 project update. He noted that
73 the Chatham County Section 5501 project will be re-scored in the P8 prioritization cycle, with scores
74 expected at the end of May.

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76 Transportation Planning Division – NCDOT: No report.

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78 Integrated Mobility Division – NCDOT: No report.

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80 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

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82 **7. Approving February 10th, 2026, TC Minutes**

83 **Samad Rangoonwala, Transportation Planner**

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8. CMAQ Application for the NS-BRT
Katy Fontaine, Transit Development Manager, Chapel Hill Transit
Filmon Fishastion, Transportation Planner

TC member Paul Black noted a correction to the February 10th minutes: Line 139 should reflect that the member had asked for a version of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) showing only the required federal changes, to allow a comparison between the current and proposed MOU language. The correction was noted for the record.

TC Member Becca Eversole-Robinson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by TC Member Paul Black. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

9. Title VI Plan
Monet Moore, AICP, Triangle West TPO Principal Planner

Principal Planner Monet Moore presented the 2026 Title VI Program Plan, commonly referred to as the Title VI Plan .Triangle West TPO is required to submit a Title VI Program Plan under the guidance of NCDOT’s Office of Civil Rights (OCR) compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related federal nondiscrimination statutes. The prior plan was adopted in 2019 under the former DCHC MPO name during the TPO’s tenure with the City of Durham; this update follows the 2025 organizational rebrand and is drafted using the template provided by OCR.

The 2026 Title VI Plan incorporates three related plans adopted in 2025: the Public Participation Plan, the Language Access Plan, and the Environmental Justice (EJ) Report, which is currently open for public comment. The plan includes the TPO’s updated policy statement and assurances, an organizational chart identifying the Title VI coordinator role – which Principal Planner Moore holds - and the complaint and grievance procedures, which require individuals to file within 180 days of an incident.

The procedures themselves are unchanged from the prior plan, though the TPO is modernizing how complaints are tracked and will add an online submission form. On compliance, the plan commits to Title VI staff training every three years, though in practice the TPO has conducted training annually in partnership with the OCR.

TC Member Thanh Schado made a motion to recommend the Board release the Title VI Plan for public comment. The motion was seconded by TC Member Becca Eversole-Robinson. The motion passed unanimously.

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10. LIP Methodology Adoption

Colleen McGue, Triangle West TPO Planning Manager
Filmon Fishastion, Transportation Planner

Planning Manager McGue presented the Local Input Point (LIP) Methodology for the P8 statewide prioritization (SPOT) cycle. Manager McGue provided an overview of the current P8 schedule. Partner data review is currently underway, with project scores for statewide, regional, and division tiers expected by the end of May. The LIP Methodology is due to the SPOT office by April 1, 2026. This is the TC’s second review of the methodology, which was first presented in January and subsequently released for a 30-day public comment period with no comments received.

Manager McGue explained the local input point allocation process, under which each MPO receives 2,000 points per tier – regional and division – to assign to projects reflecting community goals and stakeholder priorities, supplementing the data-driven SPOT scoring. The TPO coordinates closely with all three NCDOT highway divisions and with neighboring MPOs and RPOs, including CAMPO, to align point assignments. As in P7, the TPO has the option to shift up to 500 division-tier points to the regional tier. Given the anticipated limited funding availability in the division tier, staff recommended assigning all local input points at once in June following receipt of scores, rather than staggering the regional and division assignments as in prior rounds. Manager McGue noted that this approach is standard practice among most RPOs in the state and would improve efficiency and reduce public confusion.

Two criteria were updated from the P7 methodology. Safety project eligibility is now defined by inclusion on the TPO’s adopted High Injury Network from the Vision Zero Action Plan, providing greater specificity than the prior general safety language. The equity criterion has been updated to include reference to Areas of Persistent Poverty and Opportunity Zones, reflecting current federal guidance, while retaining the prior focus on environmental justice communities. Manager McGue also presented an updated process for selecting highway projects for express design submittals to the NCDOT Prioritization and Feasibility Studies unit, drawing from the universe of 2055 MTP highway projects in addition to previously submitted SPOT projects. Three projects were submitted in November 2025; another three are due in May 2026 and three more in November 2026.

TC members discussed the practical effect of local input point assignments on project funding outcomes. Members noted that because the highway divisions also assign local input points, withholding TPO points from a project is effectively a strong signal – and likely a veto – that the project should not be funded, particularly if the highway division also withholds its points. Members also discussed the cascading of unfunded regional projects to the division tier, noting that given the very limited funding anticipated at the division tier in P8 – with some divisions potentially carrying negative fund balances – assigning points in a single June process is appropriate and efficient. TC members generally supported flexing 500 points from the division tier to the regional tier, as done in P7.

TC Member Ellen Beckmann made a motion to recommend the Board adopt the Local Input Point Methodology. The motion was seconded by TC Member Paul Black. The motion passed unanimously.

11. FY2026–2035 TIP Amendment #2

Filmon Fishastion, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner

175 Transportation Planner Filmon Fishastion presented Amendment #2 to the FY2026–2035
176 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The amendment includes a new GoTriangle project to
177 improve three bus stops in Hillsborough; modifications to an existing project adding additional Section
178 5307 funds for Orange County; an updated construction year for the Town of Carrboro’s bicycle plan
179 implementation project; and the programming of FY2026 Community Project Funds (CPF) awarded to
180 the Triangle Mobility Hub and the Fordham Side path in Chapel Hill. The CPF projects were not included
181 in the January presentation and represent the primary change since that meeting. The amendment
182 also includes Item N handouts for November through March. Because the amendment includes a new
183 project, it was released for a 30-day public comment period; no public comments were received.
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185 TC Member Aaron Cain made a motion to recommend the Board approve FY2026–2035 TIP
186 Amendment #2. The motion was seconded by TC Member Thanh Schado. The motion passed
187 unanimously.
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191 **Informational Items:**
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193 **12. Triangle Bikeway Update**

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

195 **Cara Russell, Capital Area MPO**

196 **Chris Lawson, Central Pines Regional Council**
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198 Transportation Planner David Miller, Cara Russell of the Capital Area MPO (CAMPO), and Chris Lawson
199 of Central Pines Regional Council provided an update on the Triangle Bikeway project.
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201 Cara Russell presented an update on CAMPO's Triangle Bikeway East Design Project, which is in the
202 process of reaching 30% design. The project is being managed by CAMPO on behalf of its members,
203 and funding has been provided by the Research Triangle Foundation and Wake County, in part through
204 a Wake County greenway bond. CAMPO continues to work with its members, Triangle West, and
205 Durham stakeholders on the preferred alignment as it moves to authorize 30% design completion.
206 Russell noted that National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation activities are also
207 underway in preparation for potential future federal funding applications.
208

209 David Miller presented updates on Triangle West's portion of the conceptual bikeway, which runs from
210 the Wake County border through the City of Durham and RTP along I-540 and NC 54 into Chapel Hill.
211 He noted that approximately four miles of conceptual bikeway that is part of CAMPO's design project is
212 within the Triangle West planning area. David Miller shared that Triangle West submitted a one-mile
213 segment between NC 54 and NC 55 along I-40 to the P8 SPOT prioritization process; scores have not
214 yet been received. David Miller stated that the recently adopted 2055 MTP includes completion of the
215 Triangle Bikeway as a regional goal. David Miller referenced the next steps for Triangle West as
216 documented in the adopted Triangle Bikeway Feasibility and Implementation study, which included
217 moving its conceptual design to 30% design, and outline funding strategies. David Miller
218 recommended that in the short-term, Triangle West should continue to be a partner to CAMPO on
219 their design project and learn from their MPO-managed design process.
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221 Chris Lawson provided an update from Central Pines Regional Council on its role in facilitating the
222 Triangle Bikeway Regional Advisory Committee, which meets quarterly. The committee's February
223 2026 meeting included discussion of a planned site visit in partnership with advocacy groups and
224 elected officials, and a November 2026 in-person meeting to celebrate project progress. Lawson also
225 noted that Central Pines, as a nonprofit, could potentially serve as a future funding mechanism for the
226 project. Central Pines maintains the public-facing Triangle Bikeway website at trianglebikeway.com.
227 David Miller noted that this item will be brought to the Board in April rather than March due to
228 scheduling.
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230 TC Member Bergen Watterson asked what the next steps were for Triangle West to move to 30%
231 design, and David Miller replied that it would need direction from the MPO TC and Board, and that
232 funding outside of the MPO's UPWP process would likely be required since planning funds may not
233 exceed 10% design. TC Member Ellen Beckmann asked where funding came from for CAMPO's design
234 project, and Cara Russell replied that it came from Research Triangle Foundation and Wake County –
235 no federal funds were used. TC Member Josh Barret asked if Triangle West has begun looking at

236 maintenance for the Triangle Bikeway, and David Miller replied that they have not, but will upon
237 direction from the TC and Board. TC Member Caroline Dwyer shared that the bikeway alignment along
238 NC 54 into Chapel Hill aligns with the North-South Bus Rapid Transit project.
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242 **13. Memorandum of Understanding**

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

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245 Executive Director Plachcinski explained that subcommittee held the previous day primarily addressed
246 three issues: the formula and percentage for weighted voting with consensus being reached that no
247 one member should be able to carry the vote on their own; the proposed establishment of a transit
248 operator subcommittee, with a recommendation that such a subcommittee meet quarterly as a TC
249 subcommittee; and feedback from member jurisdictions on representation levels. TC Chair Vitale
250 noted that quorum and voting structure issues had not been fully ironed out, and that staff will be
251 circulating a revised draft for review. TC Chair Vitale expressed that meaningful progress was made on
252 several issues during the subcommittee meeting. The TC received the update as information.

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254 **14. Recent News Articles and Updates**

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256 TC Chair Vitale noted several news articles were included in the agenda packet for TC members'
257 references.

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ADJOURNMENT

260 TC Chair Vitale noted that the next Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7th,
261 2016.

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The Meeting was adjourned at