

# TRIANGLE WEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Board Meeting

August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### MINUTES OF MEETING

The Triangle West Transportation Planning Organization Technical Committee met on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. in the Long Leaf Conference Room at the Central Pines Regional Council. The following people were in attendance:

Karen Howard (Chair)	Chatham County
Javiera Caballero (Vice Chair)	City of Durham
Amy Fowler (Member)	Orange County
Carl Rist (Member)	City of Durham
Danny Nowell (Member)	Town of Carrboro
Mark Bell (Member)	Town of Hillsborough
Amy Fowler (Member)	Orange County
Nida Allam (Member)	Durham County
Mark Bell (Member)	Town of Hillsborough
Michael Parker (Alternate)	GoTriangle
Sally Greene (Member)	GoTriangle
Lisa Mathis (Member)	NCDOT Board
Camile Berry*	Chapel Hill
<i>*Denotes virtual attendance</i>	
David Keilson	NCDOT Division 5
Chad Reimakoski	NCDOT Division 7
Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
Matt Day	Central Pines Regional Council
Sarah Williamson	Orange County
Ben Berolzheimer*	Town of Chapel Hill
Eric Vitale*	City of Durham
Thanh Schado*	Chatham County
Logan DiGiacomo*	GoTriangle
Bergen Watterson*	Town of Chapel Hill
Julie Bogle*	NCDOT TPD
Marie Parker*	Town of Carrboro
Nish Trivedi*	Orange County
Bryan Kluchar*	NCDOT Division 8
Riley Stout*	North Carolina Railroad
Ellen Beckman	Durham County
Mathew Palm	UNC Chapel Hill
Bonita Green	Merrick-Moore Community
Vannessa Mason Evans	Braggtown Community Association
Rueben Roddick	Resident
Marcus Redrich	Resident

Ursula Redrich Cockerham	Resident
Doug Plachcinski*	Triangle West TPO
David Miller	Triangle West TPO
KC Chae*	Triangle West TPO
Filmon Fishastion	Triangle West TPO
Colleen McGue	Triangle West TPO
Yanping Zhang	Triangle West TPO
Samad Rangoonwala	Triangle West TPO
Thomas Porter	Triangle West TPO
Beth Seidel	Triangle West TPO
Madeline Galliano	Triangle West TPO
Yuwen He*	Triangle West TPO
Dolly Hall-Quinlan*	Triangle West TPO

Quorum Count: 9 of 10 Voting Members

Vice Chair Javeria Cabellero called the meeting to order at 9:02 am. The Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the Triangle West Board were identified and are indicated above.

#### **PRELIMINARIES:**

##### **1. Roll Call**

Vice Chair Cabellero asked everyone to introduce themselves.

##### **2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

As Quorum was not reached when the meeting was called Vice Chair Cabellero proceeded directly to the informational items of the meeting.

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

##### **3. SPOT Process Updates**

**Filmon Fishastion, Transportation Planner**

Filmon reviewed updates to the SPOT 8 Project list, including additions and removals based on stakeholder feedback. Filmon outlined the way the projects overlap with the TPO's high injury and high priority network and the ongoing effort to coordinate with regional partners to adjust regional SPOT scoring criteria to weight safety more heavily. Filmon also outlined new express design requirements for highway projects in SPOT 9. Nine express designs are available, with NCDOT Feasibility Studies Unit doing the work. The express design requests will be submitted in phases with the TPO needing to submit the first three in November. Staff is recommending to start with the highest scoring projects. The TPO can conduct its own express designs if needed. Members discussed the need for additional project development on the proposed NC-98 STIP project and the proposed Carrboro to Mebane BRT route that would travel along the existing GO Triangle Route 420 and ODX. Board members requested additional information regarding the route and what needs and communities would be served by the route and how to make it more effective by potentially extending the route to UNC Chapel Hill. Members requested that a map of the route be included in the release for public comment. Doug Plachcinski commented that the purpose of including the project was to obtain funding through SPOT for project development and as such it remains a high-level theoretical route.

**Following this presentation the Board reached Quorum and returned to the top of the agenda.**

#### 99 **4. Public Comments**

- 100 1) Marcus Redrich, a homeowner along Massey Chapel Road spoke about an item  
101 that was not on the TPO Board agenda. The item was a proposed CTP  
102 Amendment to adjust the realignment of Massey Chapel Road along James Ross  
103 Road (which was released for public comment in June 2025). His family owned  
104 that property for generations and the CTP alignment could displace his family  
105 and cause them harm. Mr. Redrich recommended the board drop the existing  
106 realignment of Massey Chapel Road from CTP.
- 107 2) Dr. Mathew Palm, a Professor of City and Regional Planning at UNC Chapel Hill,  
108 spoke on behalf of his students who had been working with the Braggtown and  
109 Merrick Moore neighborhoods of Durham. His students have observed 85<sup>th</sup>  
110 percentile speeds of over 45mph along Dearborn Drive, Club Blvd and Cheek  
111 Road in Durham. Students in these neighborhoods are dropped off along these  
112 roads with no sidewalks and drivers illegally speeding to pass buses. Speeds  
113 above 85mph were observed. Dr. Palm asked that these speeds and conditions  
114 be addressed by the TPO.
- 115 3) Reuben Roddic, homeowner along Massey Chapel Road, spoke asking for more  
116 information about the proposed CTP Amendment on Massey Chapel Rd. He  
117 spoke about land his family used to own that was taken to build NC-147 in 1963  
118 and the concern that something similar would happen a second time.

- 119 4) Bonita Green, a resident of the Merrick Moore Community, asked the TPO board  
120 to allocate funds to build infrastructure in the Merrick Moore and Braggtown  
121 neighborhoods of Durham. Mrs. Green stated that the neighborhoods face  
122 numerous challenges like a lack of sidewalks, safe pedestrian crossings and  
123 traffic calming measures. Building these connections would improve safety and  
124 the quality of life in those neighborhoods.
- 125 5) Vanessa Mason Evans, a resident of Braggtown, asked the TPO board to allocate  
126 funds to build infrastructure in the Merrick Moore and Braggtown neighborhoods  
127 of Durham.
- 128 6) Written comments from Sadie Morgan were submitted. Mrs. Morgan asked for  
129 the vegetation along the right side of Cheek Road near Rochester Street to be cut  
130 back as it causes a blind spot for cars.
- 131 7) Written comments from Susie Brunson were submitted requesting street light  
132 replacement on Calpta Street
- 133 8) Written comments from Bobbie Hunter were submitted asking that barricades on  
134 the highway near Cheek Road block are installed to block the noise and that the  
135 vegetation on Cheek Road is cut down.
- 136 9) Written comments were all submitted on forms that began with the request that  
137 Triangle West , and Division 5 include safety projects for Merrick Moore on the P8  
138 project list.
- 139

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**5. Approval of June 6th, 2025, TC Minutes**

**Samad Rangoonwala, Transportation Planner**

**6. Letter of Support for Central Durham BRT**

**Colleen McGue, TPO Planning Manager**

**7. Letter of Support for GoTriangle Mobility Hub and Spoke**

**Colleen McGue, TPO Planning Manager**

**8. Letter of Support for GoTriangle Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility**

**Colleen McGue, TPO Planning Manager**

**9. City of Durham Flex Request**

**Filmon Fishastion, Transportation Planner**

Amy Fowler moved to accept the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by

Nida Allam. The motion passed unanimously.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**10. MTP: Preferred Scenario**

**Yanping Zhang, TPO Staff**

**Dolly Hall-Quinlan, TPO Staff**

**Eve He, TPO Staff**

Yanping presented the 2055 MTP Draft Preferred Scenario, based primarily on the “shared leadership” scenario. This includes \$22 billion in total investments split across highway, transit and bike and pedestrian projects. The TPO held meetings with stakeholders and used comments and suggestions to make changes to the preferred option before the final model runs. Yanping presented the project lists for ITS, highway and fixed guideway transit, impacts on congestion, travel time, VMT, and transit ridership and crowdedness metrics. Members had questions about whether the ITS

projects could collect Bike and Ped information. Yanping relayed that while they could in theory with these projects, they are aiming to improve motor vehicle and transit. Members asked if HOV lane additions could also be used to facilitate tolls and how they'd provide transit advantages. Yanping explained that the transit advantage comes from buses being able to run at high speeds using the HOV lanes to bypass vehicle traffic. Colleen McGue asked the board what their willingness to add managed lanes to the MTP was, as that had been a point of concern in prior MTPs. Member Parker commented that the majority of the Durham North South BRT route would run on a roadway where it cannot pick up or drop off passengers. Ellen Beckman explained that Durham County is preparing their BRT vision plan which will assist in creating a more concrete vision for the proposed BRT routes members discussed. Yanping also showed the 2055 preferred option local bus routes which would fill the gaps between BRT lines. Members asked how the proposed Bike-Ped infrastructure investment compared to existing development. Members discussed the preferred option performance measures and the population and employment projections as well as the cost and revenue projections.

Amy Fowler made a motion to authorize staff to release the 2055 MTP Preferred Option for a 45-day public comment period, Nida Allam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **11. PUBLIC HEARING: 2026-2035 TIP Adoption and AQ Conformity**

Filmon Fishastion, Transportation Planner

Amy Fowler made a motion to open a public hearing on the 2026-2035 TIP Adoption and Air Quality Conformity Report. The motion was seconded by Carl Rist. The motion passed unanimously. No member of the public signed up to speak at the public hearing. Amy Fowler made a motion to close the public hearing on the 2026-2035 TIP Adoption and Air Quality Conformity Report. The motion was seconded by Carl Rist. The motion passed unanimously.

## **12. 2026-2035 TIP Adoption and AQ Conformity**

Filmon Fishastion, Transportation Planner

Filmon presented the draft TIP and Air Quality Conformity Report. The air quality conformity report demonstrates that transportation sector pollutant emissions won't exceed a certain level. It's needed due to the TIP and MTP adoptions. The MTIP is a subset of the approved STIP, it's consistent with the 2050 MTP and first 4 years of the STIP. Filmon went over the adoption schedule including the public hearing at the August board meeting and the amendment schedule. STIP amendments happen after TPO MTIP amendments.

Lisa Mathis made a motion to adopt the 2026-2035 TIP and the Air Quality Conformity Report. The motion was seconded by Javeria Cabellero. The motion passed unanimously.

## **13. 2025 Update to the ADA Transition Plan**

Monet Moore, Principal Planner



Monet Moore, Principal Planner, presented the 2025 ADA Transition Plan update. She reviewed the legal framework (Section 504, ADA Title II), the 2017 plan, and the recent how the TPO held an ADA Focus Group in partnership with the Triangle Disability Awareness Council. The group identified regional barriers and proposed improvements in transit stops, pedestrian infrastructure, communications, and staff training. The draft plan includes updated grievance procedures, accessibility audits of MPO facilities, and outreach strategies and a set of recommendations to improve transit and bike/ped accessibility throughout the region. The TPO has brought on braille and ASL service providers as vendors. Micheal Parker asked if the plan included recommendations for fixed route transit as well as paratransit. Samad Rangoonwala commented that the main fixed route transit accessibility concerns are addressed by improving the pedestrian accessibility to stops and destinations. Micheal Parker requested TPO staff work with CAMPO and other regional partners on a Triangle Wide accessibility summit.

Mark Bell moved to release the ADA Transition Plan for a 30-day public comment period. The motion was seconded by Nida Allam. The motion passed unanimously.

**14. 2025 Update to the Language Action Plan**  
**Monet Moore, Principal Planner.**

Monet Moore presented the updated Language Access Plan. The plan expands beyond Spanish to include Chinese, ASL, and Braille. The decision to rename the document from a “Limited English-Proficiency Plan” to the “Language Access Plan” was

explained. Legal foundations for this plan include Title VI, Executive Orders 13166 and 14224, and DOJ guidance. A four-factor analysis identified Spanish and Chinese as Safe Harbor languages. Key components include translated summaries of vital documents, staff training, the creation of “I speak cards” for public engagement. Monet confirmed that “I Speak” card was translated into multiple languages.

Carl Rist moved to release the Language Access Plan for a 30-day public comment period. The motion was seconded by Amy Fowler. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Informational Items**

#### **15. Call for Projects Schedule Announcement** **Filmon Fishastion, Transportation Planner**

Filmon reviewed funding allocations, project caps, and submission timelines. FY 2027 will prioritize shortfall funding for existing projects; FY 2028 will accept new proposals. Filmon went over the different funding sources available and the cost estimates requirements for funding. Filmon announced that the 4p grant for project delivery was approved and grant execution was underway. Total funding availability for this call for projects is around \$20 Million.

#### **16. Triangle West TPO Board Retreat Summary** **Doug Plachcinski, Triangle West TPO Executive Director**

Doug reviewed the Strategic Plan board retreat held in February, highlighting the items identified by the consultant team and asked that board members direct any comments or feedback to him.

## **REPORTS:**

### **17. Report from TPO Staff**

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

Along with the report attached to the Agenda, Colleen informed the room that the Triangle West Second Annual Regional Safety Summit will be held at the Chapel Hill Public Library on November 20<sup>th</sup> and to be on the lookout for an invitation.

### **18. Report from the Board Chair**

**Karen Howard Board Chair**

No report.

### **19. NCDOT Reports**

**Lisa Mathis- NCDOT Board of Transportation** Update on recovery from Tropical Storm Chantall, early cost estimates of over \$10 million in repairs needed. NCDOT has received permits from DEQ for the I-40 reconstruction in Western NC. NCDOT has spent \$950 million or 20% of the expected cost of recovery from Hurricane Helene and received \$185 Million in federal reimbursements. NCDOT and the Foothill and Northwest Piedmont RPO's have received awards for their work. NCDOT has an ongoing speeding education program, and the North Carolina Transportation summit will be held at the Raleigh Convention Center on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Becca Gallas, Division 5 – NCDOT**

No Updates

**Wright Archer (Chad Reimakoski, Stephen Robinson), Division 7 – NCDOT**

I-40 widening continues with shifted traffic between the I-85 interchange and New Hope Church Road. I-85 southbound ramp and I-40 Eastbound ramp should be reopened in the next month and there may be a 10–15-day bridge closures to perform rehabilitation work.

**Reuben Blakey (Bryan Kluchar), Division 8 – NCDOT**

Email Bryan Kluchar with any questions about report in agenda packet.

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

No report.

**John Grant, Traffic Operations – NCDOT**

No report.

**Nick Morrison, Integrated Mobility Division**

Not in attendance.

**20. Recent News Articles & Updates**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Amy Fowler made a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Javeria Cabellero. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 am.