TRIANGLE WEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD MEETING
August 25th, 2026
MINUTES OF MEETING

The Triangle West Transportation Planning Organization Board met on August 25th, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Long Leaf Pine Conference Room at the Central Pines Regional Council. The following people were in attendance:

Javiera Caballero (Board Chair)	City of Durham
Danny Nowell (Vice Chair)	Town of Carrboro
Amy Fowler (Member)	Orange County
Karen Howard (Member)	Chatham County
Mark Bell (Member)	Town of Hillsborough
Carl Rist (Member)*	City of Durham
Melissa McCullough (Member)*	Town of Chapel Hill
Wes Mcmahon (Alternate)	GoTriangle
Matt Hughes (Alternate)	Town of Hillsborough
Marilyn Carter (Alternate)	Orange County
Chad Reimakoski*	Division 7 – NCDOT
Julie Bogle*	Transportation Planning Office – NCDOT
Johnna Burkett	Integrated Mobility Division – NCDOT
John Grant	Traffic Operations – NCDOT
Matt Day	Central Pines Regional Council
Joe Milazzo	Regional Transportation Alliance
Doug Plachcinski	Triangle West TPO
Colleen McGue	Triangle West TPO
Filmon Fishastion	Triangle West TPO
Thomas Porter	Triangle West TPO
Jayne Langston	Triangle West TPO
Samad Rangoonwala*	Triangle West TPO
Monet Moore	Triangle West TPO

*Denotes virtual attendance

Quorum Count: 8 of 10 Voting Members

Vice Chair Danny Nowell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the absence of Board Chair Caballero, who arrived shortly thereafter and presided over the remainder of the meeting. The Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the Triangle West TPO Board were identified and are indicated above.

PRELIMINARIES:

1. Roll Call

Vice Chair Nowell asked in-person attendees to introduce themselves.

2. Ethics Reminder
Vice Chair Nowell reminded Board members of their ethics obligations

2. Adjustments to the Agenda
Vice Chair Nowell asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. Executive Director Plachcinski requested two walk-on items. The first is a presentation of the Orange County FY27 Annual Work Program for transit tax funds, added under the Consent Agenda for information, with copies distributed in the room and a link emailed to members. The second is an additional FY27 special capital agreement under Item 8, which staff received in the preceding days and will email to members.

3. Public Comments
Vice Chair Nowell asked if any members of the public were signed up to speak. One speaker addressed the Board.

1) Joe Milazzo, Regional Transportation Alliance, thanked Board members for their continued service to the region and reported that the Regional Transportation Alliance has endorsed its business plan for 2027, which includes a continued focus on multimodal improvements.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

4. Report from TPO Staff
Doug Plachcinski, CFM, Triangle West TPO Executive Director

Director Plachcinski introduced Jayne Langston, who has joined staff following a career in public service and will take on administrative functions including reporting, compliance, and procurement. Administrative Planner Jayne Langston introduced herself to the Board.

5. Report from the TPO Board Chair
Javiera Caballero, Board Chair
Vice Chair Nowell delivered the Chair's report. Vice Chair Nowell reported that a subcommittee has been named to advance the memorandum of understanding regarding the TPO's governance structure, composed of Board Member Howard of Chatham County, Board Member Rist of the City of Durham, Board Member Bell of the Town of Hillsborough, and Board Member Greene of GoTriangle. Vice Chair Nowell stated that the matter will receive a full Board discussion and encouraged members not serving on the subcommittee to contact Chair Caballero, himself, or any subcommittee member.

6. Report from the TPO Technical Committee Chair
Eric Vitale, TC Chair
No report.

7. North Carolina Department of Transportation Reports

Lisa Mathis, NC Board of Transportation

No report.

Becca Gallas (Matt Nolfo, David Keilson), Division 5 – NCDOT
No report. No Division 5 representative was present.

Wright Archer (Chad Reimakoski, Nishant Shah), Division 7 – NCDOT
Chad Reimakoski reported no significant updates beyond the Division 7 project update included in the packet. Reimakoski reported that the I-40 widening project remains scheduled for completion during the first quarter of next year.

Reuben Blakely (Justin Richardson, Jessica Luther), Division 8 – NCDOT
No report. No Division 8 representative was present.

Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Office – NCDOT
Julie Bogle experienced technical difficulties, and her report was relayed by staff later in the meeting. Bogle reported that the Transportation Planning Division has been renamed the Transportation Planning Office and welcomed its new director, Brian Wert. Bogle also provided the status of two local traffic forecasts: the Northern Durham Parkway forecast at US 70 and NC 98, which is currently being developed, and HP-0018 in Durham County, which addresses pedestrian conflicts and safety along NC 55. The latter is expected to be completed in May, with the forecast document to follow next summer.

Johnna Burkett, Integrated Mobility Division – NCDOT
Johnna Burkett introduced herself to the Board, noting that she joined the NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division in May and that this was her first Triangle West meeting in person. Burkett reported that two plans are underway, a Safe Routes to School plan and a statewide Active Mobility Plan.

ACTION ITEMS:

8. 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 in the course of developing the annual work program and the associated special agreements, staff determined that Triangle West TPO must be a party to any agreement under the Durham County and Orange County transit plans that includes federal funding or that covers a regionally significant project.

Vice Chair Danny Nowell made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Global Special Capital Agreements. Member Karen Howard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. 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 Prioritization 8.0. Planner Fishastion reviewed the submittal schedule, the statewide, regional, and

division tiers, the adopted methodology and its incorporation of the Vision Zero Action Plan, and the coordination and public outreach conducted since the initial project list was developed. Planner Fishastion reported that the Technical Committee elected to flex points from the division needs tier to the regional tier given limited division funding availability. Planner Fishastion also reported one change since the Technical Committee meeting: at the request of the Town of Chapel Hill, points were removed from the Homestead Road project and placed on the East Rosemary Street project. Planner Fishastion noted that donated points from the Kerr-Tar RPO allowed additional projects to receive full points, and that regional points are due to NCDOT by the end of the month with division points to follow later in the year.

Members discussed the RTP to Triangle Town Center project, for which the Capital Area MPO (CAMPO) has offered a donation of eight points covering the portion of the project within the TPO planning area. Executive Director Plachcinski reported that he met with Chris Lukasina of CAMPO and that neither BRT project is likely to be funded in this round given higher-scoring non-highway projects statewide, and that the longer Carrboro to Triangle Town Center project will remain the higher-scoring of the two. Members asked about the overall funding outlook. Director Plachcinski responded that the NCDOT maintenance budget has been reduced substantially to match federal disaster reimbursements, that sales tax receipts are down, and that there is discussion of extending the next Prioritization cycle from two years to three.

Member Amy Fowler made a motion to adopt the Local Input Point assignment for submittal to NCDOT as presented and to direct staff to maximize coordination with Division Engineers, which may result in point adjustments with Chair approval. Vice Chair Danny Nowell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Revisions to the Federal Funding Policy
Colleen McGue, Triangle West TPO Planning Manager

Planning Manager Colleen McGue recalled the Board's June discussion of revisions clarifying which project types are eligible for funding through the TPO. Manager McGue reported that the phrase "and not for roadway projects" was deleted and that language was added providing that safety projects are eligible only where the project has a design that addresses a documented non-motorized safety concern.

Members asked whether the list of eligible project types is ordered by priority. Manager McGue confirmed that it is a list and not a priority order. Members asked how a safety concern would be documented in locations where the risk of a collision exists but no crash has yet occurred. Manager McGue explained that the TPO maintains both a high injury network, reflecting crashes that have already occurred, and a high risk network, which identifies the potential for future crashes, and that both would be used.

Board Member Karen Howard moved to adopt the update to the Federal Funding Policy. The motion was seconded by Member Danny Howell. Chair Javiera Caballero subsequently noted that the vote had not been called and returned to the item following the Consent Agenda motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

11. Approving June 16th, 2026 Board Minutes
Samad Rangoonwala, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner

12. Federal Certification Review Report & Results
Doug Plachcinski, Triangle West TPO Executive Director

13. UPWP FY28 Call for Projects Announcement
Thomas Porter, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner

14. TIP Accelerated Amendment #6
Filmon Fishastion, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner

15. Resolution to Transfer FHWA Funds to FTA
Filmon Fishastion, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner

16. Approval of the Updated Increased Cost of Existing Service Policy for Orange County Transit
Sarah Williamson, Orange County

The Orange County FY27 Annual Work Program presentation was added to the Consent Agenda for information.

Board Member Karen Howard moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Board Member Mark Bell. The motion passed unanimously.

Following the vote, members discussed the ordering of the Consent Agenda relative to Action Items on the meeting agenda. Members noted that practice varies across their respective boards and agreed to leave the current order as is.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

17. Highway Safety Improvement Program Funding Presentation
John Grant, Central Regional Field Operations Engineer, NCDOT

John Grant gave an overview of the three safety funding programs administered through NCDOT's mobility and safety division. Grant reported that the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) carries $85 million in federal funds this year, with a soft cap of approximately $1 million per project above which staff consult the State Traffic Engineer, and that projects are prioritized by benefit-cost ratio. Grant reported that Spot Safety provides $12 million per year in state funds, is capped at $400,000 per project, is prioritized by the Spot Safety Index, and is a useful source of local contribution toward larger projects. Grant reported that Spot Mobility addresses delay rather than crashes, is capped at roughly $750,000 per project, and reserves $7 million annually to reimburse improvements required of new schools, with the balance available for circulation improvements at existing schools. Grant emphasized that all three are statewide competitive funds delivered by NCDOT, submitted quarterly, with no local application process.

Grant explained that the vulnerable road user special rule requires at least 15 percent of federal safety funds be spent on non-motorized projects and that North Carolina has been funding closer to 25 percent. Grant reported that sidewalk gaps, curb ramps, crosswalks, and midblock beacons are now eligible where they were historically difficult to pursue, and that these are scored

systematically on factors including volume, cross-section, and speed. In response to member questions, Grant confirmed that school-related projects receive additional points in scoring and that maintenance agreements can allow sidewalk work outside municipal limits.

18. Recent News Articles and Updates

Chair Javiera Caballero referenced the news articles and updates included in the agenda packet and noted the upcoming NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division Complete Streets training and the 2026 Triangle Regional Transportation Safety Summit. Members discussed the joint meeting with the Capital Area MPO, which has customarily been held on fifth Wednesdays at least twice per year. The April joint meeting was canceled for lack of agenda items, and the next available date of October 30th conflicts with the Durham Chamber for inter-city visit. Staff reported that the agenda items that would ordinarily anchor the meeting are not time-sensitive. The Board reached consensus to postpone the joint meeting with CAMPO to early 2027, ahead of budget season.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Caballero adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:05 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for September 22nd, 2026.