TRIANGLE WEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION Board
September 22nd, 2026
MINUTES OF MEETING

The Triangle West Transportation Planning Organization Board met on September 22nd, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Long Leaf Conference Room at the Central Pines Regional Council. The following people were in attendance:

Javiera Caballero (Board Chair)	City of Durham
Carl Rist (Board Member)	City of Durham
Nida Allam (Board Member)	Durham County
Marilyn Carter (Board Member)	Orange County
Melissa McCullough (Board Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Danny Nowell (Board Member)	[Town of Carrboro]
Matt Hughes (Alternate)	Town of Hillsborough
Karen Howard (Board Member)	Chatham County
Sally Greene (Board Member)	GoTriangle
Mark Bell (Board Member)	Town of Hillsborough
Lisa Mathis*	NC Board of Transportation
Eric Vitale (TC Chair)	City of Durham
Bill Judge	City of Durham
Lindsay Smart	City of Durham
Ellen Beckmann	Durham County
Becca Eversole	Orange County
Bergen Watterson*	Town of Chapel Hill
Ben Berolzheimer*	Town of Chapel Hill
Thanh Schado*	Chatham County
Logan DiGiacomo*	GoTriangle
Jason Hardin*	GoTriangle
Matt Day	Central Pines Regional Council
Chad Reimakoski	Division 7 – NCDOT
Julie Bogle*	NCDOT-TPO
Johnna Burkett	Integrated Mobility Division – NCDOT
Toyia Smith*	NCDOT
Lauren Blackburn	VHB
Colleen McGue	Triangle West TPO
Monet Moore	Triangle West TPO
David Miller	Triangle West TPO
Thomas Porter	Triangle West TPO
Filmon Fishastion	Triangle West TPO
Samad Rangoonwala	Triangle West TPO
Madeline Galliano*	Triangle West TPO
Yuwen He*	Triangle West TPO
KC Chae*	Triangle West TPO

*Denotes virtual attendance

Quorum Count: 8 of 11 Voting Members

Chair Javiera Caballero called the meeting to order at [9:00] a.m. The Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the Triangle West TPO Board were identified and are indicated above.

PRELIMINARIES:

1. Roll Call

Chair Caballero asked in-person attendees to introduce themselves.

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

Chair Caballero asked if there were any additions to the agenda. There were none.

3. Public Comments

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

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

4. Report from TPO Staff

Colleen McGue, Triangle West TPO Planning Manager

Planning Manager Colleen McGue reported on behalf of Executive Director Doug Plachcinski. She shared that TPO staff presented and moderated panels at the Association of MPOs conference, and announced the MPO 101 for Board Members training course, registration for the December 8th Safety Summit opening this week, the open member survey, and the Triangle Bike and Pedestrian Workshop on November 6th in Carrboro.

5. Report from the Board Chair

Javiera Caballero, Board Chair

Chair Caballero reported that the governance subcommittee will meet again this Friday, with recommendations expected for a Board vote in November. She also noted that the Durham joint City-County meeting has moved to December 9th to avoid conflicting with the Safety Summit.

6. Report from the Technical Committee Chair

Eric Vitale, TC Chair

No report.

7. North Carolina Department of Transportation Reports

Lisa Mathis, NC Board of Transportation

Board of Transportation Member Lisa Mathis reported on Hurricane Helene recovery, including a revised $2.8 billion estimate for reconstructing I-40 through the Pigeon River Gorge; a nearly $300 million federal grant for the Piedmont Corridor; $268 million in August redistribution; the DMV's move to electronic vehicle registration beginning October 1st; and NCDOT's regional wins at the SASHTO America's Transportation Awards. In response to a member question, she described the engineering approach being used to rebuild the I-40 corridor.

Becca Gallas (Matt Nolfo, David Keilson), Division 5 – NCDOT
Division 5 was not in attendance.

Wright Archer (Chad Reimakoski), Division 7 – NCDOT
Chad Reimakoski reported updates to the Division 7 project report, including right-of-way certification for the Eubanks Road right-turn lane project.

Reuben Blakely (Jessica Luther), Division 8 – NCDOT
Division 8 was not in attendance.

Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Office – NCDOT

Johnna Burkett, Integrated Mobility Division – NCDOT
Johnna Burkett reported that the call for projects for paved trail feasibility studies will open October 1st and close November 6th, and that the quarterly multimodal updates webinar will be held September 23rd at 11 a.m.

ACTION ITEMS:

8. P9 Express Design Recommendation
Filmon Fishastion, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner

Transportation Planner Filmon Fishastion presented the third and final round of express design selections ahead of Prioritization 9. He explained that express designs provide cost estimates and conceptual alternatives that improve project costing in prioritization, and that the Technical Committee recommended the Purefoy Road Extension, the Manning Drive intersection improvements at US 15-501, and the Hebron Road Extension. In response to a member question, Planning Manager McGue noted that NCDOT has not decided whether P9 will move to a three-year cycle.

Carl Rist made a motion to approve the selected Express Design submissions for submittal to NCDOT. The motion was seconded by Melissa McCullough. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Fiscal Year 2028 Unified Planning Work Program
Thomas Porter, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner

Transportation Planner Thomas Porter presented the draft FY2028 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Planner Porter explained that the UPWP is the TPO's annual funding document, defines planning priorities for the fiscal year, and uses Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration funds which are matched by state and local sources. No special study requests were received, and the US 15-501 and NC 54 studies are expected to continue into FY2028. Members asked about the status of the US 15-501 and US 70 studies, and Ms. Mathis offered to arrange a conversation with the division engineers before the UPWP returns for adoption in November.

Karen Howard made a motion to release the draft FY2028 UPWP for public comment. The motion was seconded by Carl Rist. The motion passed unanimously.

10. CTP Amendment – Triangle Bikeway
Monet Moore, Triangle West TPO Principal Planner
David Miller, Triangle West TPO Principal Planner

Principal Planner Monet Moore presented a proposed amendment to the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) to add the Triangle Bikeway. Planner Moore explained that the CTP is a long-term plan that is not fiscally constrained, and that the designs shown within it are not final. Planner Moore described the Triangle Bikeway alignment as studied and adopted in the 2022 Triangle Bikeway Feasibility and Implementation Study and explained that the amendment would replace the existing bicycle and multi-use path CTP projects that overlap the alignment with a single continuous project, adding new segments where no facility is currently adopted, in order to ensure consistency among the feasibility study, the CTP, and NCDOT project U-5774.

Members discussed open questions about maintenance responsibility, funding, and design standards. Principal Planner David Miller shared that CAMPO and Triangle West will convene jurisdiction staff in late October or early November to develop a unified maintenance approach.

Sally Greene made a motion to release the proposed Comprehensive Transportation Plan Amendment for a 45-day public comment period. The motion was seconded by Nida Allam. The motion passed unanimously.

11. CTP Amendments – City of Durham
Eric Vitale, City of Durham

Eric Vitale presented four City of Durham requests to remove the Alston Avenue Extension, Miami Boulevard Extension, Pettigrew Street Extension (East), and Midland Terrace Extension from the 2017 CTP, citing conflicts with historically Black neighborhoods, environmentally sensitive areas, planned development, and a planned transit facility. Stakeholder meetings were held September 11th, with a follow-up scheduled for September 25th. In response to a member question about a multi-use path through the Pettigrew Street site, Bill Judge noted that the adopted CTP includes a parallel multi-use path along NC 147.

Mark Bell made a motion to authorize the release of the proposed Comprehensive Transportation Plan Amendments for a 45-day public comment period when final amendment documents and analyses are complete. The motion was seconded by Carl Rist. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

12. Approving August 25th, 2026 Board Minutes
Samad Rangoonwala, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner

13. Letter of Support for the Orange County 5310 Application
Madeline Galliano, Triangle West TPO Transportation Planner

Melissa McCullough moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Danny Nowell. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

14. J Branch Rail Trail Feasibility Study Update

David Miller, Triangle West TPO Principal Planner
Lauren Blackburn, Transportation Planning Lead, VHB

Principal Planner David Miller introduced the J Branch Rail Trail Feasibility Study. Lauren Blackburn of VHB presented the study's progress and the results of the first round of public engagement, which reached about 700 people, including roughly 560 survey responses. A second round of engagement is planned for early 2027, and the study is expected to conclude in May 2027. Members encouraged outreach at the RENA Center and asked about the potential for future autonomous shuttles in the corridor.

15. Recent News Articles and Updates

Chair Caballero referenced the news articles and upcoming events included in the agenda packet.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Caballero adjourned the meeting at approximately [10:30] a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for October 27th, 2026.