

1 **TRIANGLE WEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION**
2 **January 26th , 2026**
3 **MINUTES OF MEETING**

4
5 The Triangle West Transportation Planning Organization Board met on January 26th,
6 2026, at 9 am via Microsoft Teams due to inclement weather in the Triangle Region.
7 The following people were present.
8

Javiera Caballero (Chair)	City of Durham
Danny Nowell (Vice Chair)	Town of Carrboro
Karen Howard (Member)	Chatham County
Amy Fowler (Member)	Orange County
Mellissa McCullough (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Mark Bell (Member)	Town of Hillsborough
Carl Rist (Member)	City of Durham
Nida Allam (Member)	Durham County
Sally Greene (Member)	GoTriangle
Lisa Mathis (Member)	NCDOT
Wendy Jacobs (Alternate)	Durham County
Matt Hughes (Alternate)	Town of Hillsborough
Marilyn Carter (Alternate)	Orange County
Leo Williams (Alternate)	City of Durham
Beau Mills	Fountainworks
Becca Gallas	NCDOT Div 5
Bergen Watterson	Town of Chapel Hill
Bill Judge	City of Durham
Brandi Minor	Durham County
Brian Ketner	NCDOT
Brian Murphy	NCDOT
Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT
Caroline Dwyer	Chapel Hill Transit
Chad Reimakoski	NCDOT
Curtis Scarpignato	Durham County
Drew Finley	Fountainworks

Ellen Beckmann	Durham County
Eric Vitale	City of Durham
Erin Convery	City of Durham
Gary Brown	NCCU
Heidi Perov	Resident
Julie Bogle	NCDOT
Justin Richardson	NCDOT
Marie Parker	Town of Carrboro
Matt Albee	NCDOT
Matt Day	CPRC
Paul Black	GoTriangle
Riley Stroud	NCRR
Sarah Williamson	Orange County
Steven Schlossberg	GoTriangle

Doug Plachcinski	Triangle West TPO
Colleen McGue	Triangle West TPO
Yanping Zhang	Triangle West TPO
KC Chae	Triangle West TPO
Monet Moore	Triangle West TPO
Filmon Fishastion	Triangle West TPO
Samad Rangoonwala	Triangle West TPO
David Miller	Triangle West TPO
Thomas Porter	Triangle West TPO
Yuwen He	Triangle West TPO
Dolly Hall-Quinlan	Triangle West TPO
Lucia Ciro	Triangle West TPO

9
10 Quorum Count: 11 of 11 Voting Members
11
12

13 Executive Director Doug Plachcinski called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. The Voting
14 Members and Alternate Members of the Triangle West Board were identified and indicated
15 above.

16 **PRELIMINARIES:**

17 **1. Roll Call**

18 Executive Director Doug Plachcinski read roll call to ensure a quorum and reminded the group
19 that per TPO bylaws all virtual votes must be roll calls.

20 **2. Board Officer Elections**

21 Executive Director Plachcinski explained the bylaws dictate that the Board elects' officers at the
22 last meeting of the calendar year, and that this year's elections were postponed until the
23 nominating committee was able to meet. Board Member Howard and Board Member Caballero
24 have served two years in their positions and are ineligible for reelection for their current
25 positions. Director Plachcinski asked for the nominating committee's report.

26 Board Member McCullough presented the nominating committee's report, with additional
27 details provided by Board Member Allam. The nominating committee: consisting of Board
28 Member Allam, Board Member McCullough, and Board Member Bell considered Board
29 Member Caballero for Chair and two candidates for Vice Chair: Board Member Nowell and
30 Board Member Fowler. Ultimately the committee recommended Mayor Pro Tem Caballero for
31 Chair and Board Member Nowell for Vice Chair, noting Board Member Nowell's longer tenure
32 as a voting member on the TPO Board informed the recommendation.

33 Board Member McCullough noted that the nominating committee's deliberations surfaced
34 broader questions about how the leadership selection process should work. She observed that
35 the committee had engaged in substantive discussion rather than acting as a procedural body
36 and raised the question of when assumptions about succession are appropriate versus when
37 the nominating committee should exercise independent judgment.

38 Board Member McCullough suggested that the distinction between a pro forma nominating
39 process and one that is evaluative needed to be addressed in updated bylaws and offered to
40 work with staff to develop draft language.

41 Board Member Fowler raised concern about the reconstitution of the original nominating
42 committee and indicated her continued interest in being considered Vice Chair. Chair Howard
43 explained that the original committee was dissolved due to procedural irregularities, including
44 her own inclusion as sitting chair and the inclusion of alternate to the board.

45 Several Board members acknowledged ambiguity in the bylaws regarding nominating
46 committee composition and the rotation of leadership among member jurisdictions and called
47 for a bylaws update.

48 Executive Director Plachcinski noted that a bylaws review was planned following adoption of
49 the MOU update. He proposed that the bylaws update include a change to the officer positions,
50 creating two vice chair seats, with the intent of ensuring representation across all three
51 counties served by the TPO, and establishing a clearer and more transparent succession
52 pathway for future leadership transitions.

53 Board Member McCullough moved to accept the nomination slate as proposed by the
54 nominating committee. The motion was seconded by Board Member Rist.

55 The motion was put to a roll call vote as follows:

- 56 Caballero- Aye
- 57 Fowler-Nay
- 58 Nowell- Aye
- 59 Allam- Aye
- 60 Bell- Nay
- 61 Mathis-Aye
- 62 Howard-Aye
- 63 McCullough- Aye
- 64 Greene-Aye
- 65 Rist- Aye

66 By a vote of 8-2 the motion carried. Board Member Caballero was elected as Board Chair; Board
67 Member Nowell was elected as Vice Chair. Executive Director Plachcinski handed the meeting
68 over to Board Chair Caballero.

69

70 **Reports**

71 **3. Report from TPO Staff**

72 **Doug Plachcinski, Executive Director**

73 Executive Director Plachcinski relayed the information in his written report.

74 **4. Ethics Reminder**

75 Board Chair Caballero reminded the Board of their ethics obligations.

76 **5. Adjustments to the Agenda**

77 Board Member Rist moved to approve the following adjustments to the agenda: the reserve
78 fund balance policy and closed session were moved to the February agenda.

79 Board Member Fowler commented on the fund balance policy and seconded the motion.

80 A roll call vote was held on the motion; the motion passed unanimously by a vote of 10-0.

81 **6. Public Comments**

82 No public comment.

83 **7. Report from the Board Chair**

84 No report.

85

86 **8. Report from the Technical Committee Chair**

87 **Eric Vitale, TC Chair**

88 No report.

89 **9. North Carolina Department of Transportation Reports**

90 **Lisa Mathis - NCDOT Board**

91 Board Member Mathis reported that NCDOT focused on 2025 project delivery while continuing
92 recovery from Hurricane Helene, which damaged more than 9,400 locations. Over 7,300 sites
93 and 560 bridges have since been repaired. NCDOT awarded \$3.1 billion in contracts and
94 reached major milestones on I-26, I-440, the Rockingham and Havelock bypasses, and the I-295
95 Outer Loop.

96 Rail ridership hit record levels, transit services expanded in Asheville and Chapel Hill, and the
97 Ocracoke Express had its highest ridership since 2022. NCDOT hosted major statewide safety
98 and transportation events and partnered with Highway Patrol to honor 23 previously
99 unrecognized fallen officers.

100 The DMV cleared a training backlog, added 150 examiners, opened new offices, and expanded
101 online services—used by more than 110,000 customers in three months.

102 A multimodal economic review highlighted strong impacts: \$735 million annually from the ferry
103 system, 51.8 million transit trips, high returns on bike/ped investments, aviation reaching \$88.1
104 billion in impact, and rail contributing statewide economic benefits. Board Member Mathis
105 closed with winter-weather safety reminders about ice and black ice.

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

107 Written report provided.

108

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

110 TC Member Chad Reimakoski relayed that Division 7 has updated the format of their project
111 update. Board Member McCullough raised concerns about project U-5304F, noting that the
112 planned widening of NC 15/501 conflicts with Chapel Hill’s goals for a future BRT corridor and
113 multimodal development. She requested a collaborative approach with NCDOT using the
114 Complete Streets policy and noted the corridor also affects Durham.

115 TC member Reimakoski agreed to set up a meeting with the project manager and Board
116 Members McCullough, Greene and Rist.

117 **Reuben Blakely (Bryan Kluchar), Division 8, - NCDOT**

118 Written report provided.

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

120 TC Member Julie Bogle shared that NCDOT has released an updated GIS map showing the
121 proposed locations for 16 new NEVI charging stations.

122 **John Grant, Traffic Operations – NCDOT**

123 No report.

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

125 No report.

126

127 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

128 **10. Approving November 18th, 2025, Board Minutes**

129 **Samad Rangoonwala, Transportation Planner**

130

131 **11. Accelerated Amendment #3**

132 **Filmon Fishastion, Transportation Planner**

133

134 **12. FY 2025 UPWP Administrative Modification #3**

135 **Thomas Porter, Transportation Planner**

136

137 13. **FY 2026 UPWP Amendment #2**
138 **Thomas Porter, Transportation Planner**

139
140 14. **FY 2027 UPWP Amendment #1**
141 **Thomas Porter, Transportation Planner**

142
143 15. **Request for Additional Funding for C-5181**
144 **Filmon Fishastion, Transportation Planner**
145 **Tina Moon, Town of Carrboro Planning & Transportation Administrator**

146
147 16. **Continuity of Operations Plan**
148 **Thomas Porter, Transportation Planner**

149
150 17. **Local Input Point Methodology Update**
151 **Colleen McGue, Planning Manager**
152 **Filmon Fishastion, Transportation Planner**

153
154 Board Member Fowler made a motion to approve the consent agenda; the motion was
155 seconded by Vice Chair Nowell. The motion was put to a roll call vote, and passed unanimously
156 by a vote of 10-0.

157
158

159 **Informational Items**

160 **18. Ethics Filing Reminder**

161 **Samad Rangoonwala, Transportation planner**

162 Planner Rangoonwala explained that board members needed to file their annual ethics report;
163 they have until April 15th to file and that he would send out information regarding the
164 requirement after the meeting.

165

166 **19. FY27 Durham Transit Work Program**

167 **Ellen Beckmann, Durham County Transportation**

168 **Brandi Minor, Durham County Transportation**

169 **Curtis Scarpignato, Durham County Transportation**

170 Durham County Staff presented on the Durham Country Transit Plan’s FY 27 work program.
171 They went over the purpose of the work program to program the revenue from the half cent
172 sales tax, the structure of the staff working group, and the FY25-26 work program. Staff then
173 overviewed the financial model, the proposed budget, and how new funding requests would
174 threaten the plans' fiscal viability. Staff emphasized that the tax could continue to fund the
175 status quo transit commitments in Durham County, but the additional funding requests cannot
176 be approved without cutting or delaying currently approved Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
177 projects which would require the TPO Board, Durham County Commissioners and GoTriangle
178 Board to approve the changes. As of the meeting, there was no support for a Transit Plan
179 amendment at either the County Commission or GoTriangle Board.

180 The Board discussed the funding requests and how they intersect with the overall goals
181 of the plan, along with the need for more conversation between city and county staff to
182 determine the best path forward. Members discussed the value of having a set-aside portion of
183 funding for large capital projects like bus rapid transit (BRT). Board members emphasized the
184 importance of funding the projects currently in the plan.

185

186 **20. Strategic Plan Success Measures**

187 **Beau Mills, Fountainworks**

188 **Drew Finley, Fountainworks**

189 Beau Mills overviewed the strategic plan and the request for measures of success. Drew Finley
190 went through the six focus areas in the strategic plan and the various measures of success that
191 Fountain works and TPO staff created.

192 The Board asked Director Plachcinski how the strategic plan would be implemented, and he
193 answered that they need to become part of the TPO's DNA, and that measures would be
194 tracked using some data visualizations and annual reporting.

195

196 **Action Items**

197 **21. Metropolitan Transportation Plan Public Hearing**

198 **Monet Moore, Principal Planner**

199 Principal Planner Moore gave background on the MTP and the public comment period as well
200 as the remaining schedule for MTP adoption. She explained the Board needed to hold a public
201 hearing on the draft MTP Report and Air Quality Conformity Determination Report (AQCDR).
202 Board Member Fowler moved to open the public hearing; Vice Chair Nowell Seconded the
203 motion. The motion was put to a roll call vote; the motion passed unanimously by a vote of 10-
204 0.

205

206 There were no speakers at the public hearing.

207

208

209 **22. Safety Transportation Performance Measure Targets CY 2026**

210 **David Miller, Transportation Planner**

211 **Brian Murphy, NCDOT Traffic Safety Unit**

212 David Miller and Brian Murphy provided an overview of the annual Transportation Performance
213 Measure (TPM) target setting for safety. The overview included background on target settings
214 and the federal requirement to adopt targets on an annual basis and an analysis of crashes in
215 the Triangle West area.

216 David Miller shared the TPO's new approach to safety target setting for CY 2026, which entailed
217 presenting Triangle West-developed targets alongside NCDOT targets for consideration. David
218 Miller stated this approach was developed from feedback received at recent safety target
219 setting cycles from the TC and Board, and as a recommendation in the adopted Triangle West
220 Vision Zero Action Plan. David Miller and Brian Murphy shared the approaches and
221 methodology for the four target options for consideration, which included one target option
222 developed by NCDOT and three target options developed by Triangle West. David Miller shared
223 that the TC recommended that the Board adopt NCDOT's targets (Option B).

224 Brian Murphy highlighted safety data resources made available by NCDOT, as well as safety
225 projects being conducted by the Department, and David Miller highlighted safety planning and
226 coordination Triangle West and its members have been working on. David Miller discussed the
227 strategies and actions in Triangle West's Vision Zero Action Plan and shared that he has
228 followed up with members to request safety updates from each organization pertaining to each
229 action for inclusion in a forthcoming annual regional safety report.

230 The Board discussed the options and came to consensus that the TC's recommendation to
231 adopt NCDOT's targets was best as the Board would like to continue to be aggressively moving
232 toward the goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries by 2050.

233 The Board also requested that the annual report include analysis of speed and vehicle type for
234 fatal and serious injury crashes.

235 Board Member McCullough moved to adopt NCDOT’s (Option B) safety targets for CY 2026. The
236 motion was seconded by Board Member Fowler. The motion was put to a roll call vote; the
237 motion passed unanimously by a vote of 9-0. Member Karen Howard had left the meeting and
238 did not vote.

239 **23. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

240 **Doug Plachcinski, Executive Director**

241 Executive Director Plachcinski explained that the MOU defines the TPO and outlines the roles
242 and responsibilities. The new MOU does the following updates the new organization name,
243 increases public transportation input and representation, right sizes representation across
244 committee structures, matches member expectations and resources, and updates cited federal
245 laws and regulations. Director Plachcinski explained he would present the MOU to all
246 jurisdictions boards and that the MOU would take effect when members representing 75% of
247 the region’s population have signed it. However, it is expected that all TPO partners will sign the
248 MOU.

249 The Board discussed the updates, including Go Triangle’s board seat, and the proposed
250 weighted voting mechanism. The board recognized that the meeting was running long, and
251 asked Director Plachcinski to have individual conversations with board members and partners
252 and to bring the item back in February and potentially March for additional discussion.

253 **24. TIP Amendment #2**

254 **Filmon Fishastion, Transportation Planner**

255 Planner Filmon Fishastion from Triangle West presented an update on Amendment #2 to the
256 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Filmon provided a brief overview of the TIP, and
257 shared that Amendment #2 includes three primary updates:

- 258 • A new GoTriangle project to install four bus stops in Hillsborough at the specified
259 locations.
- 260 • Additional operating assistance funds for Orange County.

- 261 • An updated construction year for the Town of Carrboro’s bicycle plan implementation
262 project.

263 Filmon shared that the request to the Board is to release the amendment for public comment
264 through February 27th, with consideration for approval scheduled for March. Planner
265 Fishastion closed by inviting comments or questions on the amendment.

266 Board Member Greene moved to release TIP amendment #2 for public comment; the motion
267 was seconded by Member McCullough. The motion was put to a roll call vote; the motion
268 passed unanimously by a vote of 7-0. Vice Chair Danny Nowell and Member Nida Allam left the
269 meeting early and did not vote on this item.

270 **25. Federal Funding Policy**

271 **Colleen McGue, TPO Planning Manager**

272 Planning Manager McGue overviewed the Regional Flexible Funding pool, which includes the
273 following funding sources: Block Grant–Direct Attributable (BG-DA), Block Grant–ANY (BG-ANY),
274 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), and
275 the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP). Most project phases are eligible for funding. Manager
276 McGue then outlined three proposed changes: 1. Added a separate policy for fund swaps for
277 DA projects, to separate this funding from the larger pool and help obligate it more quickly. 2.
278 Required a grant agreement with TWPO and certification that the non-federal match is in place.
279 This ensures that federally funded projects are a local priority and that the match is secured. 3.
280 The Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program will compete with all other projects
281 for funding rather than receiving CMAQ funds automatically “off the top.” Manager McGue
282 noted that a project may lose funding if it is not obligated within two years of the programmed
283 year. If a jurisdiction has an adopted Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), it may serve as
284 verification of the non-federal match.

285 The Board asked staff to bring the policy back after it has been edited with TC feedback and
286 with the recommendation of the TC.

287 **26. Environmental Justice (EJ) Report Methodology Update**

288 **Samad Rangoonwala, Transportation Planner**

289 Planner Rangoonwala presented the updated EJ Methodology and preliminary performance
290 measures, an overview of the legal background to the EJ report, the original methodology and
291 its problems, the updated methodology and how it has been updated since October, and then
292 showcased the new EJ communities and performance measures derived from the MTP model.
293 Planner Rangoonwala showed a web map of the data from the EJ report and explained it would
294 be available when the report was brought back for release for public comment.

295

296 Board Member Jacobs moved to adopt the EJ Report Methodology; the motion was seconded
297 by Board Member McCullough. The motion was put to a roll call vote; the motion passed
298 unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

299

300 **Recent News Articles and Updates**

301 Board Chair Caballero referenced the recent news articles and updates in the agenda packet.

302

303 **Adjourn**

304 Board Chair Caballero adjourned the meeting at 12:05 PM