TRIANGLE WEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Board November 18th, 2025
MINUTES OF MEETING

The Triangle West Transportation Planning Organization Board met on November 18th, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the Long Leaf Conference Room at the Central Pines Regional Council. The following people were in attendance:

Javeria Cabellero (Vice Chair)	City of Durham
Amy Fowler (Member)	Orange County
Melissa McCullough (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Danny Nowell (Member)	Town of Carrboro
Matt Hughes (Member)	Town of Hillsborough
Wendy Jacobs (Member)	Durham County
Carl Rist (Member)	City of Durham
Sally Greene (Member)	GoTriangle
Micheal Parker (Alternate)	GoTriangle
Lisa Mathis*	NCDOT
Becca Gallas	NCDOT Div 5
Sarah Williamson	Orange County
Ellen Beckmann	Durham County
Curtis Scarpignato	Durham County
Matt Day	CPRC
Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
Becca Eversole-Robinson	Town of Carrboro
Chad Reimakoski	NCDOT Div 7
Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT Div 8
Tracy Parrot	NCDOT Div 5
John Grant*	NCDOT Traffic Operations
Julie Bogle*	NCDOT TPD
Shuchi Gupta	CPRC
Molly DeMarco*	UNC Chapel Hill
Mary Kate Morookian	Kimley-Horn
Doug Plachcinski	Triangle West TPO
Colleen McGue	Triangle West TPO
Yanping Zhang	Triangle West TPO
KC Chae*	Triangle West TPO
Filmon Fishastion	Triangle West TPO
Samad Rangoonwala	Triangle West TPO
Monet Moore	Triangle West TPO

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Thomas Porter	Triangle West TPO
Yuwen He*	Triangle West TPO
Dolly Hall-Quinlan*	Triangle West TPO

Quorum Count: 9 of 11 Voting Members

Vice Chair Javeria Cabellero called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The Voting Members and Alternate Members of the Triangle West Board were identified and indicated above.

PRELIMINARIES:

1. **Roll Call**

Vice Chair Javeria Cabellero asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. **Adjustments to the Agenda**

3. **Public Comments**

No public comments

Reports from Staff:

4. **Report from TPO Staff** **25-101**

Doug Plachcinski, TPO Executive Director

Executive Director Doug Plachcinski gave an overview of the proposed fund balance policy and collected feedback from the board. He reminded the room of the TPO's Regional Safety Summit that would be held later that week and that there would be the ability to register at the door.

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

Eric Vitale, TC Chair

6. **Report from the Board Nominating Committee**

The nominating committee reported they had not met yet; they set up a date to meet later that month.

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7. North Carolina Department of Transportation Reports

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

Division Engineer Gallas reported that the division was gearing up for winter weather preparations in anticipation of potential winter storms.

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

Division Planning Engineer Reimakoski gave an update on the NC-54 pedestrian upgrades, relaying that there is no start date yet, but the contractor has until June 2027 to complete the project.

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

Written report provided.

Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division – NCDOT

No report.

John Grant, Traffic Operations – NCDOT

No report.

Bryan Lopez, Integrated Mobility Division – NCDOT

Not in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA:

8. Approval of October 24th, 2025, Minutes

Samad Rangoonwala, Transportation Planner

9. Adopt the 2026 Meeting Schedule

Colleen McGue, Transportation Planning Manager

Board Member Amy Fowler made a motion to approve the consent agenda; the motion was seconded by Board Member Danny Nowell. The motion passed unanimously.

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Informational Items

10. Local Agency Projects Report
Colleen McGue, TPO Planning Manager

TPO Planning Manager Colleen McGue provided a summary of 52 active local projects across multiple jurisdictions, all of which are federally funded and require a 20% local match. These projects span roadway, transit, bicycle/pedestrian, and safety categories and are at various stages from planning to construction. Project delivery continues to progress with regular coordination between local governments and NCDOT.

Board Member Wendy Jacobs asked about the Mobility Forward Study; Planning Manager Mcgue responded that it was previously called the project delivery study. This study will look at ways to accelerate project delivery, help the TPO support members, and build a new regional project database.

Planning Manager Mcgue mentioned that since she has joined the TPO, the LAP program has moved forward multiple projects that had been static for years previously.

11. Report from NCDOT Board
Lisa Mathis, NCDOT Board Member

Board Member Lisa Mathis relayed that her written report would be sent out and that NCDOT Secretary Johnson has been busy, has been visiting Divisions across the state and meeting with board members, local and statewide leadership. Additionally, USDOT issued an interim rule on DBE contracting requirements. She gave updates on the Helene recovery.

12. TDM LAP Update
David Miller AICP, Transportation Planner
Shuchi Gupta, Central Pines Regional Council
Dr. Molly DeMarco, UNC Chapel-Hill

Colleen McGue introduced the Regional Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program, and Central Pines Regional Council (CPRC) Senior Planner, Shuchi Gupta, who presented an update on the grant, which is supported jointly by Triangle West, CAMPO, and NCDOT. The annual program budget is approximately $1.88 million, with Triangle West funding one-third. There are 20 active grantees, including cities, universities, and community-based organizations, with 12 grantees located in the Triangle West area.

Staff highlighted the mix of outreach, education, employer engagement, and behavior-change programs funded through the grant process. The annual RFP will be released on November 21,

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with an informational session on November 24, and the session recording posted online afterward.

UNC Professor Molly DeMarco presented on the Habitat for Humanity / UNC partnership supporting residents in Habitat communities. Work includes targeted social marketing, bilingual travel training, walking, and biking route identification, bicycle repair and skills workshops, and coordination with local partners. A major success was the formalization of a walking path connecting a Habitat neighborhood to a nearby bus stop and high school. Recent events include fall festivals, bike-blender demonstrations, and a planned Turkey Trot on November 23.

Board Member Carl Rist asked how the TPO knows if the money spent on the grant was effective. Planner Shuchi explained that the board would receive the annual impact report in spring of 2026.

The board discussed grant performance metrics and reporting.

Board Member Sally Greene replayed her gratification at the support of the Chandler Green neighborhoods for making the trail from weaver grove to the bus stop permanent as the neighborhood had previously been very opposed to the development of Weavers Grove for almost 20 years.

13. BRT Vision Plan Update

Curtis Scarpignato, Durham County

TC Member Curtis Scarpignato gave an update to the board on the BRT Vision plan; he introduced Mary Kate Morookian a consultant working on the study.

Mary Kate Morookian explained the concept of BRT and the purpose of the study, to identify potential BRT corridors, feasibility, and grant funding opportunities.

She explained how the study planned to coordinate with Orange County and Chapel Hill on the 15-501 corridor.

The board emphasized the importance of bringing in the business community to build support and help define the most feasible corridors.

Mary Kate emphasized that while the study would look at the central Durham BRT, that was a separate city lead effort.

The board emphasized that Central Durham BRT was the most important bet in the region, and that to move Transit forward in Durham. Central Durham BRT will need to be delivered to the other corridors to be possible.

Action Items

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14. 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update

Yanping Zhang, Transportation Modeling Manager
Monet Moore, Principal Planner
Dolly Hall-Quinlan, Transportation Modeler
Eve He, Transportation Modeler

TPO Modeling Manager Zhang presented an update on the 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), beginning with a reminder that in October the Board approved the multimodal project list and the MTP budget. He thanked members for their input and support during development.

Manager Zhang provided an overview of the remaining MTP schedule. The MTP requires a 45-day comment period, and the Air Quality Conformity Determination Report requires 21 days (about 3 weeks) for public comment. Both documents are expected to be ready for release by the end of calendar year 2025, with a public hearing planned for January 2026. Final adoption of the MTP and AQCDR is scheduled for February 2016.

He then reviewed the structure of the MTP report, which includes goals and objectives, performance measures, the project list, revenue and cost assumptions, socioeconomic and land-use data, the development process, and environmental justice and air quality compliance. A detailed table of contents was provided in the meeting materials.

Manager Zhang summarized the air quality conformity requirements, explaining that although the region is currently in attainment, an EPA court decision still requires ozone conformity. Due to stable emissions trends, the Triangle is eligible to use a “short-form” conformity process.

Manager Zhang presented updated socioeconomic data, noting that projected job growth exceeds population growth in the TWW TPO area through 2055. To address previous questions about where future workers will live, he presented maps of commute-shed data for Durham and Orange counties showing where residents across the region may live and work in different counties.

Manager Zhang provided an overview of the new Triangle Regional Generation 2 (TRM-G2) travel demand model, highlighting its expanded geographic coverage, use of a synthetic household dataset, and improved representation of work-related travel behavior. He also summarized validation results for traffic volumes and transit ridership.

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He concluded with examples of performance measures tied to adopted MTP goals and objectives. One example showed substantial improvement in transit access for communities of concern under the draft MTP scenario. He noted that performance measure documentation is being finalized for inclusion ahead of the Board meeting.

Mr. Zhang finished by requesting a recommendation from the TC to pre-authorize release of the MTP Report and AQ-CDR for public comment, noting the need to begin the comment period before the January TPO Board meeting to meet required timelines.

Board Members asked for Maps showing what percent of Durham and Orange County Commuters left the County for work.

The board discussed location efficiency.

Board Member Danny Nowell made a motion to recommend the Board preauthorize the release of the MTP Report and AQ-CDR for Public Comment. The motion was seconded by Board Member Amy Fowler. The motion passed unanimously

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15. TIP Amendment #1

Filmon Fishastion, Transportation Planner

Transportation Planner Filmon Fishastion presented Amendment #1 to the FY2026-2035 Transportation Improvement Program, noting that public comment occurred throughout October. Two comments were received but were not related to the amendment's project content. A small update was added to adjust the fiscal year for bicycle detection loops in Carrboro. The amendment continues advancing toward approval as shown in the adoption timeline.

Executive Director Doug Plachcinski explained the NSBRT funding swaps and promised to draft an addendum to the federal funding policy that would set up a process for how to allocate the funding swap pool of funds as it has grown to over 20 million dollars.

Board Member Danny Nowell made a motion to adopt FY2026-2035 TIP Amendment #1, and the motion was seconded by TC Member Mellissa McCullough. The motion passed unanimously.

16. Express Design Selection for P9 Round

Colleen Mcgue, TPO Planning Manager

Triangle West TPO Colleen Mcgue outlined the new statewide requirement for express design submissions in the P9 Prioritization cycle. She explained that most projects historically entered the SPOT process at a conceptual level, with insufficient analysis of constructability, feasibility, or reliable cost estimates making it difficult to build a financially balanced STIP, especially in a period of rising costs.

Triangle West can submit nine projects, across three rounds (November, May 2026, and September 2026) to have express designs done by the NCDOT feasibility studies unit. For the first round, staff reviewed all P8 highway projects, removed those that already had recent express designs, combined overlapping segments, and ranked the remaining projects based on P7 scores.

For this initial round, the recommended submissions are two Roxboro Street Projects and the combined NC-98 projects as the first round of projects.

Board Member Amy Fowler made a motion to approve the 3 discussed projects. The Motion was seconded by Member Wendy Jacobs. The motion passed unanimously.

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17. FY2027 Unified Planning Work Program

Tom Porter, Transportation Planner

Transportation Planner Porter presented the draft FY2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Major funding comes from the Federal Highway Administration (Surface Transportation Block Grant, Planning Funds, and Safe and Accessible Transportation Options (Y410), and the Federal Transit Administration (Section 5303).

Planner Porter explained that FY27 UPWP will feature an updated budgeting table and the creation of a new two percent funding reserve to support TPO activities. The FY2027 UPWP also includes staffing increases to accommodate new focus areas.

The FY2027 UPWP includes the NC 54 Corridor Study, which will examine multimodal needs and integration with the RTP Mobility Hub.

Board Member Amy Fowler made a motion to recommend the board adopt the FY2027 UPWP; the motion was seconded by Board Member Danny Nowell. The motion passed unanimously.

Recent News Articles and Updates

Adjourn

Vice Chair Cabellero Adjourned the meeting at 11:53 am.

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