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TRIANGLE WEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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Technical Committee

4

February 10th, 2026

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MINUTES OF MEETING

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The Triangle West Transportation Planning Organization Technical Committee met on February 10th, 2026 at 1:30

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p.m. at the Central Pines Regional Council, 4307 Emperor Blvd, Durham, NC 27703. The following people were in

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attendance:

Eric Vitale (TC Chair)	City of Durham
Caroline Dwyer (TC Vice Chair)	Chapel Hill Transit
Aaron Cain (Member)	Durham County
Travis Crayton (Member)	RTP Foundation
Sarah Williamson (Member)	Orange County
Darlene Weaver* (Member)	Orange County
Ellen Beckmann (Member)	Durham County
Curtis Scarpignato (Member)	Durham County
Brooke Roper* (Alternate)	Durham County
Caroline Lamb* (Alternate)	Durham County
Bergen Watterson (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Becca Eversole-Robinson (Member)	Town of Carrboro
Tina Moon (Member)	Town of Carrboro
Paul Black (Member)	GoTriangle
Logan DiGiacomo* (Alternate)	GoTriangle
Jason Hardin* (Alternate)	GoTriangle
Stephanie Trueblood (Member)	Town of Hillsborough
Matt Day (Member)	CPRC
Tasha Johnson* (Member)	City of Durham
Bill Judge* (Member)	City of Durham
Chad Reimakoski (Member)	NCDOT Division 7
Nishant Shah* (Alternate)	NCDOT Division 7
Bryan Kluchar* (Member)	NCDOT Division 8
Julie Bogle* (Member)	NCDOT TPD
John Grant* (Member)	NCDOT Traffic Operations

Delia Chi	RDU
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
David Miller	Triangle West TPO
Thomas Porter	Triangle West TPO
Yuwen He*	Triangle West TPO
Dolly Hall-Quinlan*	Triangle West TPO

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11 Quorum Count: 19 of 21 Voting Member

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13 Chair Eric Vitale called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The Voting Members and Alternate Members of the
14 Triangle West Technical Committee were identified and are indicated above.

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17 **PRELIMINARIES:**

18 **1. Roll Call**

19 Chair Eric Vitale called roll, with members and alternates identifying themselves.

20 **2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

21 No adjustments were made to the agenda.

22 **3. Public Comments**

23 No public comments were received.

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26 **Reports from Staff:**

27 **4. Report from TPO Staff**

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

29 Executive Director Plachcinski relayed the written staff report. No additional verbal report was provided.

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

31 **Eric Vitale, TC Chair** No

32 report.

33 **6. North Carolina Department of Transportation Reports Becca Gallas (Tracy Parrott, David Keilson), Division 5 –**
34 **NCDOT** Written report provided.

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

36 No additional items to report beyond the project update included in the packet.

37 **Reuben Blakely (Bryan Kluchar), Division 8 – NCDOT**

38 TC Member Bryan Kluchar reported no changes to the Division 8 project update and offered to take questions.

39 **Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division – NCDOT** No
40 report.

41 **Bryan Lopez, Integrated Mobility Division – NCDOT** No
42 report.

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45 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

46 **7. Approving January 13th, 2026, Technical Committee Minutes**

47 **Samad Rangoonwala, Transportation Planner**

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49 **8. TIP Administrative Modification #1**

50 **Filmon Fishastion, Transportation Planner**

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52 **9. MPO Self Certification Document**

53 **Samad Rangoonwala, Transportation Planner**

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55 TC Member Paul Black made a motion to approve the consent agenda; the motion was seconded by TC Member
56 Aaron Cain. The motion passed unanimously.

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59 **Action Items:**

60 **10. 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Air Quality Conformity Determination**

61 **Yanping Zhang, Modeling Manager;**

62 **Dolly Hall-Quinlan, Transportation Modeler;**

63 **Eve He, Transportation Modeler;**

64 **Monet Moore, Principal Planner**

65 Modeling Manager Yanping Zhang presented the final 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) report and the
66 Air Quality Conformity Determination Report (AQ CDR). Manager Zhang noted that the MTP report begins with an
67 executive summary and compiles the key details and assumptions used throughout the plan's development,
68 including new information demonstrating how the plan meets requirements related to environmental justice, air
69 quality conformity, and federal critical planning factors.

70 Manager Zhang reported that both the MTP report and AQ CDR have been posted to the Phase 4–Final Plan section
71 of the 2055 MTP webpage. Zhang also noted the development of an interactive socioeconomic data dashboard,

72 which will allow members and consultants to access population and employment data by Traffic Analysis Zone
73 (TAZ). Manager Zhang stated the dashboard is expected to be available later in the month.

74 Manager Zhang summarized the remaining schedule: the Board is anticipated to adopt the 2055 MTP and AQ CDR
75 by resolution at the February 24th Board meeting, with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approval
76 expected in February or March.

77 No questions were raised by the TC.

78 TC Member Paul Black made a motion to recommend that the TWTPO Board adopt the 2055 MTP by resolution.
79 The motion was seconded by TC Member Aaron Cain. The motion passed unanimously.

80 TC Member Paul Black made a motion to recommend that the TWTPO Board adopt the AQ CDR by resolution. The
81 motion was seconded by TC Member Lindsey Smart. The motion passed unanimously.

82 **11. Federal Funding Policy Update**

83 **Colleen McGue, Planning Manager**

84 Planning Manager McGue presented the updated Federal Funding Policy, noting that the revisions before the TC
85 reflected comments raised by TC members at the January meeting as well as input gathered from NCDOT. McGue
86 noted that multiple versions of the policy were included in the agenda packet, including a clean version, a
87 markedup version, and a Word document.

88 Manager McGue outlined the key changes in the updated policy. First, a separate policy has been established for
89 allocating Highway Trust Fund swap funds, in order to expedite the obligation of these funds. McGue noted that
90 TWTPO currently holds approximately \$20 million in unobligated swap funds and that swift obligation is a high
91 priority.

92 Second, the policy now requires a grant agreement between Triangle West and project sponsors. The updated
93 policy includes greater flexibility for the non-federal match certification, allowing a CFO or equivalent to sign a
94 letter stating that the non-federal match will be in place, or allowing an adopted Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to
95 serve as verification.

96 Third, the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program will now compete with all other projects through
97 the call for projects, rather than being funded separately off the top of the CMAQ allocation. McGue noted that a
98 joint TDM plan update with CAMPO is planned and will help better define funding needs for the Triangle West side
99 of the region.

100 TC members discussed several questions regarding the swap fund process. Manager McGue clarified that whether
101 swap funds are state or federal will depend on what is available at the time of allocation, and that staff will work
102 with the STIP unit to determine the most appropriate funding type for each project.

103 TC members also raised questions regarding the practical administrative burden the new requirements may create
104 for smaller municipalities and counties. Manager McGue acknowledged these concerns and affirmed that there
105 will be flexibility in implementation.

106 TC Member Paul Black made a motion to recommend the Board adopt the Federal Funding Policy Update. The
107 motion was seconded by TC Member Aaron Cain. The motion passed unanimously.

108 **12. Environmental Justice Draft Report**

109 **Samad Rangoonwala, Transportation Planner**

110 Transportation Planner Samad Rangoonwala presented the draft 2026 Environmental Justice (EJ) Report.

111 Rangoonwala provided background on the EJ report, noting that while the federal government has recently scaled
112 back certain Biden-era EJ mandates, Title VI compliance requirements remain in effect, and the report addresses

113 both EJ and Title VI obligations.

114 Planner Rangoonwala reviewed the updated baseline methodology, which was approved by TC in January. The
115 methodology evaluates nine demographic groups—including low income, zero-car households, Black and Hispanic
116 populations, limited English proficiency, disabled individuals, and veterans—scoring each block group on a relative
117 percentile basis across each category. These scores are summed up to create a Transportation Disadvantage Index
118 (TDI), modeled on NCDOT's methodology. Rangoonwala noted that the methodology increases flexibility compared
119 to the prior threshold-based approach and better captures variation in disadvantage across the region.

120 Planner Rangoonwala presented performance measures derived from the MTP model, including access to jobs by
121 automobile, walking, and transit for high-TDI block groups in 2020 and 2055. Planner Rangoonwala noted that
122 many EJ communities are in and around urban areas and currently benefit from relatively strong transit and
123 pedestrian access, with projections showing significant improvements in transit access by 2055. Rangoonwala also
124 noted that a data package will be developed for members following Board adoption of the report.

125 TC members raised questions regarding the methodology's ability to reflect housing displacement pressures and
126 the impact of gentrification on EJ communities, noting that transit and walking access scores may not capture the
127 fact that transit-dependent populations are being pushed farther from core urban areas. Planner Rangoonwala
128 acknowledged this concern and noted the complexity of incorporating housing affordability metrics at a fine
129 geographic scale. Rangoonwala indicated that the data package could include supplementary mapping of
130 affordable housing and committed affordability units to complement the report.

131 TC Member Ellen Beckmann made a motion to recommend the Board release the Environmental Justice Report for
132 public comment. The motion was seconded by TC Member Paul Black. The motion passed unanimously.

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135 **Informational Items:**

136 **13. Memorandum of Understanding**

137 **Doug Plachcinski, Triangle West Executive Director**

138 Executive Director Plachcinski provided an update on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) revision process.

139 Director Plachcinski reported that the most significant area of discussion has been the proposed Transit Operators
140 and Sponsors Committee, which would complement the Technical Committee in reporting to the Board. TC
141 members expressed a range of views on the proposal. Some members, including TC Member Paul Black, indicated
142 that a separate transit committee may not be the most effective approach, and expressed a preference for
143 maintaining the current MOU with only the required federal changes. Other members noted the value of a
144 dedicated forum for transit coordination, particularly if structured as a TC subcommittee that meets periodically for
145 specific purposes and reports back to the full TC.

146 The TC also discussed the proposed weighted voting structure changes, including how to account equitably for
147 transit service delivery across jurisdictions. Director Plachcinski agreed to provide a version of the MOU that
148 incorporates only the minimum required updates as an alternative option for the TC's consideration.

149 The TC agreed that the MOU should be presented to the Board as an informational item to ensure Board awareness
150 of the process before the TC finalizes its recommendations.

151 A TC subcommittee was proposed to continue working through the MOU details, with a suggestion to keep
152 participation limited to one delegate per MOU signatory. Director Plachcinski agreed to send a Doodle poll to gauge
153 availability. The TC took no action on the MOU.

154 **14. Recent News Articles and Updates**

155 Chair Eric Vitale referenced the recent news articles and updates included in the agenda packet.

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158 **Adjourn**

159 Chair Eric Vitale adjourned the meeting at 2:50 pm. Next meeting: Tuesday, March 10th, 2026, 1:30 p.m., Long Leaf
160 Conference Room.

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