

TRIANGLE WEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Board Meeting
October 28th, 2025
MINUTES OF MEETING

The Triangle West Transportation Planning Organization Board met on October 28th, 2025, at 9 a.m. in the Central Pines Conference Room at the Central Pines Regional Council. The following people were in attendance:

Javeria Cabellero	City of Durham
Melissa McCullough	Town of Chapel Hill
Amy Fowler	Orange County
Michael Parker	GoTriangle
Matt Hughes	Town of Hillsborough
Danny Nowell	Town of Carrboro
Marylyn Carter	Orange County
Lisa Mathis*	NCDOT Board
Brooke Roper	Durham County
Sarah Williamson	Orange County
Earl Lewellyn	Kimley Horn
Tracy Parrot	NCDOT
Becca Eversole-Robinson	Town of Carrboro
Chad Reimakowski	NCDOT
Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT
Julie Bogle	NCDOT
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

Quorum Count: 7 of 10 Voting Members

Vice Chair Javeria Cabellero called the meeting to order at 9 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

Durham County Resident Sandra Writabarry expressed her opposition to the Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail plan; she described the proposed trail as an environmental hazard and would destroy personal property. Mrs. Writabarry brought signed petitions from those opposing the trail and submitted them to the TPO.

Reports from Staff:

4. Report from TPO Staff

25-101

Colleen McGue, Planning Manager

Written Report Provided

5. Report from Board Chair

Javiera Cabellero, City of Durham, Board Vice Chair

No Report

6. Report from the Technical Committee Chair

Eric Vitale, TC Chair

No Report

7. North Carolina Department of Transportation Reports

Lisa Mathis- NCDOT Board

Board Member Lisa Mathis announced NCDOT's new Secretary Daniel Johnson. Secretary Johnson has served as NCDOT's General Counsel since 2019; His top priority is Helene Recovery, and maximizing delivery and

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

Written Report provided.

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

Division 7 Engineer Chad Reimakoski reported that Division 7 continues to work on the areas in the median between NC 86 and MM 268; traffic has been shifted to the new travel lane in several areas including the I-85 interchange, NC-86, and mile marker 268 in Durham County. I-85 Southbound by I-40 Eastbound is still closed; there is a 15-day ramp closure on old NC-86. NC-86

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

Written Report provided.

Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division – NCDOT

Julie Bogle reported that NCDOT has a new secretary; videos of the NC Transportation summit session had been posted and that the 2024 Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) counts had been published.

John Grant, Traffic Operations – NCDOT

No Report.

Bryan Lopez, Integrated Mobility Division – NCDOT

No report.

CONSENT AGENDA:

8. Approval of September 9th, 2025, TC Minutes

Samad Rangoonwala, Transportation Planner

109
110 **9. TIP Accelerated Amendment #2**

111 **Filmon Fishastion, Transportation Planner**

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113 **10. FY25 UPWP Administrative Modification #2**

114 **Thomas Porter, Transportation Planner**

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116 **11. FY26 UPWP Amendment #1 BBPA**

117 **Thomas Porter, Transportation Planner**

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

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123 **Action Items**

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125 **12. 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Financial Plan and Project List**

126 **Yanping Zhang, Transportation Modeling Manager**

127 **Monet Moore, Principal Planner**

128 **Dolly Hall-Quinlan, Transportation Modeler**

129 **Eve He, Transportation Modeler**

130
131 TPO Modeling Manager Yanping Zhang invited TPO Principal Planner Monet Moore to
132 provide an overview of the public engagement efforts for the 2055 MTP. Principal
133 Planner Moore went over the comments received during the 45-day public comment
134 period. Most related to the CRX line between Chapel Hill and Raleigh and other transit
135 services with one comment encouraging capacity improvements on key roadway
136 corridors.

137
138 Modeling manager Zhang presented the MTP schedule to outline the next step as
139 approval of items for use in the Final MTP and Air Quality (AQ) report. Today's item will
140 go over the Project lists and the financial plan.

141
142 Modeling manager Zhang presented the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and
143 Technology based project list, noting that there were no public comments on this item,
144 and the TPO is choosing not to make any changes to this list. For roadway projects there
145 was one change in the project description for US 15-501 in Chatham County, changing
146 those projects to a reduced conflict intersection for US-15-501 from Smith Level Road to
147 the US-64 Bypass. Several other projects were moved forward or back in time to
148 balance the financial plan and achieve air quality conformity.

Modeling manager Zhang then reviewed the changes to the transit projects, including an update to NSBRT to integrate with the I-40 BRT line to Raleigh, and the Durham-RTP BRT line integrating with the western BRT line to Cary, Raleigh, Garner, and Clayton. Finally, the CRX Express Bus would operate between Eubanks Park and Ride and Raleigh.

Modeling manager Zhang finished by presenting the Financial Plan that was put together by Matt Day at Central Pines Regional Council (CPRC), highlighting the key assumptions, the sharing the projected revenue and costs in each STI Tier by decade as well as Bike-Ped and Transit revenue and proposed costs generated by a hypothetical 1 cent sales tax starting in 2036 divided 67% to Bike-ped and 33% to Transit, as well as the operations and management budget.

Board Member Mellissa McCullough asked Mr. Zhang what happens to the surplus budget in each of the decades. Mr. Zhang clarified that because of uncertainty around inflation assumptions the TPO is keeping the surplus to deal with potential cost overruns.

Board Member Amy Fowler expressed appreciation for the TPO staff, including both the public comments and responses to the public comments and the way those comments were incorporated into the plan.

Board Member Fowler made a motion to adopt the 2055 MTP Financial Plan and Project list for incorporation in the 2055 MTP and Air Quality Conformity Document. The motion was seconded by Board Member Michael Parker. The motion passed unanimously

13. Functional Classification Requests and Urban Area Boundary Update
Thomas Porter, Transportation Planner

Transportation Planner Thomas Porter presented the Functional Classification update requests and the Urban Area Boundary Smoothing. He went over the changes to the urban boundary, background on the approval of the smoothed urban area boundary, and its approval from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Mr. Porter presented seven roadway segments from across the TPO region for federal functional classification change and sought the Board's endorsement for their federal functional classification to be updated.

Functional Reclassification Roadway Requests					
No.	Roadway	From	To	Existing Functional Classification	Proposed Functional Classification
1.	Riddle Road	Fayetteville Street	NC 55	Local	Major Collector
2.	Riddle Road	NC 55	Ellis Road	Local	Major Collector
3.	Ellis Road	Angier Avenue	Riddle Road	Local	Major Collector
4.	Northeast Creek Parkway/ So Hi Drive/ Ellis Road	E Cornwallis Road	S Miami Boulevard	Local	Major Collector
5.	Lawrence Rd	Old NC 10	St. Mary's Road	Minor Collector	Major Collector
6.	Lebanon Rd	North Frazier Road	Efland Cedar Grove Road	Minor Collector	Major Collector
7.	New Hope Church Rd	Old NC 10	I 40	Minor Collector	Major Collector

Board Member Amy Fowler made a motion to adopt the functional classification requests and urban area boundary update; the motion was seconded by Danny Nowell. The motion passed unanimously.

14. FY2027 Unified Planning Work Program
Thomas Porter, Transportation Planner

Mr. Porter gave an update regarding the FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and asked the Board to hold a public hearing. He

Mr. Porter then gave an overview of the public engagement process, which received over 10,000 post views, over 20 interactions, and four survey responses. Most of the engagement came from online platforms and in particular feedback from Reddit users. While feedback on the content of the plan was mostly positive, there was some concern about the plan's readability with its complexity and technical language. Survey responses indicated excitement around rail and bike-ped and transit projects.

Board Member Danny Nowell moved to open a public hearing on the FY 2027 UPWP Public Hearing. Board Member Amy Fowler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No one signed up to speak at the public hearing nor wished to speak in the room or online at the time.

Board Member Michael Parker moved to close the public hearing; the motion was seconded by Board Member Amy Fowler. The motion passed unanimously.

15. Strategic Rail Infrastructure Study **Filmon Fishastion, Transportation Planner**

Transportation Planner Fishastion went over the Strategic Rail Infrastructure study conducted with Capital Area MPO (CAMPO); he presented on the types of rail projects from Light Rail to Passenger rail explaining that the Study team decided to focus on Passenger rail as those projects are built under Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) oversight rather than Federal Transit Administration (FTA) oversight.

Mr. Fishastion went over the development of the decision-making framework and proposed service concepts, examining where potential bottlenecks could be.

He explained that the agenda packet includes a project matrix which details each service concept and the projects that would make them up. These projects are cross-referenced with various metrics like freight compatibility, overlaps with NCDOT's Corridor ID Program, and attractiveness to federal grant programs.

The local decision-making framework includes principles for deciding on a project's viability in conjunction with the strategic investment decision tree which outlines how to prioritize investment.

Mr. Fishastion finished with proposed future studies to expand the work that was done during this study.

Board Member Michael Parker moved to endorse the study; the motion was seconded by Board Member Danny Nowell. The motion passed unanimously.

16. 2025 Update to the ADA Transition
Monet Moore AICP, Principal Planner

Monet Moore, Principal Planner, presented the 2025 ADA Transition Plan for consideration for Adoption by the TPO Board. She reviewed the legal framework (Section 504, ADA Title II), the 2017 plan, and the ADA Focus Group in partnership with the Triangle Disability Awareness Council. The group identified regional barriers and proposed improvements in transit stops, pedestrian infrastructure, communications, and staff training. The draft plan includes updated grievance procedures, accessibility audits of MPO facilities, and outreach strategies, and a set of recommendations to improve transit and bike/ped accessibility throughout the region. The TPO has brought on braille and ASL service providers as vendors. Principal Planner Moore also overviewed the public comments received from Bike Durham and the Triangle Disability Awareness council and how those recommendations were incorporated into the plan

Board Member Michael Parker commented that many of the recommendations in the plan require funding and asked if the TPO knew of where the localities may acquire funding to implement the programs. Ms. Moore replied that while the TPO does have some related funding allocated, part of the goal of the plan was to further the conversation around ADA issues to identify potential funding sources.

Board Member Amy Fowler commented that safety and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding may be useful.

Executive Director Doug Plachcinski commented that Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding can be a useful pathway as it is always available for ADA projects.

Board Member Parker suggested that the TPO layout potential funding pathways and strategies as part of the plan.

Board Member Mellissa McCullough asked if the TPO included a breakdown of the number of people with different disabilities that live in the TPO area. Ms. Moore responded that while the TPO considered it at the block group level, the data was not included in the report.

Board Member Amy Fowler made a motion to adopt the ADA Transition Plan; the motion was seconded by Board Member Mellissa McCullough. The motion passed unanimously.

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285 **17. 2025 Update to the Language Access Plan**

286 **Monet Moore AICP, Principal Planner**

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288 TPO Principal Planner Monet Moore presented the Language Access Plan, formerly
289 referred to as the Limited English Proficiency Plan. The plan expands beyond Spanish to
290 include Chinese, ASL, and Braille. The decision to rename the document from a “Limited
291 English-Proficiency Plan” to the “Language Access Plan” was explained. Legal
292 foundations for this plan include Title VI, Executive Orders 13166 and 97 98 14224, and
293 DOJ guidance. A four-factor analysis identified Spanish and Chinese (Mandarin and
294 Cantonese) as Safe Harbor languages. Key components include translated summaries
295 of vital documents, staff training, and the creation of “I speak cards” for public
296 engagement.

297
298 Member Mellissa McCullough expressed her support for the plan and commented that
299 she would like the TPO to find ways to continue its Language Access work without risking
300 retaliation. Such as referring to it as bringing people to English. Executive Director
301 Doug Plachinski responded that while there have been changes to federal guidance
302 around language access, the TPO considers it as part of its Title VI compliance and that
303 those statutory requirements have not changed.

304
305 Board Member Amy Fowler expressed appreciation for using plain language in the
306 Language action plan.

307
308 Board Member Amy Fowler made a motion to adopt the Language Action Plan; the
309 motion was seconded by Board Member Michael Parker. The motion passed
310 unanimously.

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312 **18. Board Officer Nominating Committee**

313 **Doug Plachcinski, TPO Executive Director**

314 Executive Director Plachcinski explained that the Board needed to select a nominating
315 committee to nominate a new Board chair and vice chair for 2026, and shared that
316 Chair Karen Howard and Vice Chair Javeria Cabellero are term limited and not eligible
317 for reappointment.

318
319 Board members discussed who should be selected to the nominating committee.

320
321 Board Member Danny Nowell made a motion to appoint Board Chair Karen Howard,
322 Orange County Commissioner and Board Alternate Marilyn Carter and a member of
323 the Board from Durham at the discretion of the Chair based on availability to be the
324 nominating committee. The motion was seconded by Board Member Mellissa
325 McCullough. The motion passed unanimously.

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327 **Informational Items**
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329 **19. Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail Feasibility Study**

330 **Caroline Stahlschmidt – Destination by Design**

331 **Sarah Johnson – Toole Design**
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333 TPO staff member David Miller provided a brief background of the study, and then
334 introduced consultant Caroline Stahlschmidt from Destination by Design. Consultant
335 Stahlschmidt presented on the Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail feasibility study including
336 its timeline, the engagement work and results, showcasing the feedback received from
337 the community as well as the proposed segmentation for the 18 mile corridor, updates
338 on the right-of-way (ROW) acquisition led by The Conservation Fund, proposed cross
339 sections and typical sections, as well as the field work done by the project team.
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342 **20. Durham Freeway Update (15 minutes)** ☒

343 **Erin Convery, City of Durham**

344 **Monet Moore AICP, Principal Planner**
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346 City of Durham Sr. Manager of Multi-Modal Planning and Project Development Erin
347 Convery presented on the reimaging Durham freeway plan, going over the project
348 schedule, background both on the freeway and the plan as well as well as going over the
349 community engagement and three proposed alternatives included an freeway
350 modernization with pedestrian bridges for increased connectivity, a freeway cap and
351 the removal of the freeway and transformation into an urban Blvd. Member Convery
352 went over the cost estimates for each alternative, potential impacts on the rest of the
353 transportation network and the community feedback on each alternative and next
354 steps.
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357 **21. Environmental Justice Report Methodology and Preliminary Findings**

358 **Samad Rangoonwala, Transportation Planner**

359 TPO Transportation Planner Samad Rangoonwala presented a proposed update to the
360 TPO's environmental justice report's methodology for identifying "EJ" communities.
361 Planner Rangoonwala explained the shifting legal background for the report, the
362 importance of the report to the TPO's Title VI compliance, and issues with the prior
363 methodology. He reviewed the proposed new methodology, the creation of a scaled
364 "transportation disadvantage index, data from the preliminary results and maps of the
365 TPO area, and their TDI scores.
366
367

368 **22. Draft FY2027 UPWP Local Match (5 Minutes) ☒**

369 **Thomas Porter, Transportation Planner**

370 TPO Transportation Planner Thomas Porter presented the FY2027 Unified Planning
371 Work Program (UPWP) local match amounts to the Board. The proposed match includes
372 increases for the creation of a reserve fund, salary increases, and additional fringe
373 costs. Executive Director Plachcinski promised to send out an additional breakdown of
374 the FY2027 UPWP Local Match to members. Board Member Amy Fowler asked if the
375 reserve fund would be needed to replace the current use of CPRC as a fiscal backstop
376 while waiting for NCDOT reimbursements. Executive Director Plachcinski replied while
377 CRPC can provide funds in the status quo it threatens the fiscal stability of the
378 organization. Member Fowler then asked if the 2% was an appropriate figure and
379 wanted to ensure that there were long term plans for when the TPO hits the fund
380 balance amounts. Executive Director Plachcinski agreed, saying that it will accompany
381 the FY2027 UPWP in November.

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383 **23. Recent News Articles and Updates**

384
385 **Adjourn**

386 Vice Chair Cabellero adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.