# 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 |
| Mellissa 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

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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**

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No Report

**7. <u>North Carolina Department of Transportation Reports</u>**

**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.

**<u>CONSENT AGENDA:</u>**

**8. <u>Approval of September 17th, 2025, Board Minutes</u>**

**Samad Rangoonwala, Transportation Planner**

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**9. TIP Accelerated Amendment #2**
**Filmon Fishastion, Transportation Planner**

**10. FY25 UPWP Administrative Modification #2**
**Thomas Porter, Transportation Planner**

**11. FY26 UPWP Amendment #1 BBPA**
**Thomas Porter, Transportation Planner**

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

**Action Items**

**12. 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Financial Plan and Project List**
**Yanping Zhang, Transportation Modeling Manager**
**Monet Moore, Principal Planner**
**Dolly Hall-Quinlan, Transportation Modeler**
**Eve He, Transportation Modeler**

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

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

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

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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

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## 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

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Mr. Porter then gave an overview of the public engagement process, which received over 10,000 post views, over20 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. <u>Strategic Rail Infrastructure Study</u>**
**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.

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

**16. <u>2025 Update to the ADA Transition</u>**
**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 int 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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**17. <u>2025 Update to the Language Access Plan</u>**
**Monet Moore AICP, Principal Planner**

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

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

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

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

**18. <u>Board Officer Nominating Committee</u>**
**Doug Plachcinski, TPO Executive Director**

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

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

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

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**Informational Items**

**19. Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail Feasibility Study**
**Caroline Stahlschmidt – Destination by Design**
**Sarah Johnson – Toole Design**

TPO staff member David Miller provided a brief background of the study, and then introduced consultant Caroline Stahlschmidt from Destination by Design. Consultant Stahlschmidt presented on the Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail feasibility study including its timeline, the engagement work and results, showcasing the feedback received from the community as well as the proposed segmentation for the 18 mile corridor, updates on the right-of-way (ROW) acquisition led by The Conservation Fund, proposed cross sections and typical sections, as well as the field work done by the project team.

**20. Durham Freeway Update (15 minutes)**
**Erin Convery, City of Durham**
**Monet Moore AICP, Principal Planner**

City of Durham Sr. Manager of Multi-Modal Planning and Project Development Erin Convery presented on the reimaging Durham freeway plan, going over the project schedule, background both on the freeway and the plan as well as well as going over the community engagement and three proposed alternatives included an freeway modernization with pedestrian bridges for increased connectivity, a freeway cap and the removal of the freeway and transformation into an urban Blvd. Member Convery went over the cost estimates for each alternative, potential impacts on the rest of the transportation network and the community feedback on each alternative and next steps.

**21. Environmental Justice Report Methodology and Preliminary Findings**
**Samad Rangoonwala, Transportation Planner**
TPO Transportation Planner Samad Rangoonwala presented a proposed update to the TPO's environmental justice report's methodology for identifying "EJ" communities. Planner Rangoonwala explained the shifting legal background for the report, the importance of the report to the TPO's Title VI compliance, and issues with the prior methodology. He reviewed the proposed new methodology, the creation of a scaled "transportation disadvantage index, data from the preliminary results and maps of the TPO area, and their TDI scores.

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

**Thomas Porter, Transportation Planner**

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

## 23. Recent News Articles and Updates

## Adjourn

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

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