

1 **TRIANGLE WEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION**
2 **Board Meeting**
3 **October 28th, 2025**
4 **MINUTES OF MEETING**

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6 The Triangle West Transportation Planning Organization Board met on
7 October 28th, 2025, at 9 a.m. in the Central Pines Conference Room at the
8 Central Pines Regional Council. The following people were in attendance:
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10 Javeria Cabellero	City of Durham
11 Mellissa McCullough	Town of Chapel Hill
12 Amy Fowler	Orange County
13 Michael Parker	GoTriangle
14 Matt Hughes	Town of Hillsborough
15 Danny Nowell	Town of Carrboro
16 Marylyn Carter	Orange County
17 Lisa Mathis*	NCDOT Board
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19 Brooke Roper	Durham County
20 Sarah Williamson	Orange County
21 Earl Lewellyn	Kimley Horn
22 Tracy Parrot	NCDOT
23 Becca Eversole-Robinson	Town of Carrboro
24 Chad Reimakowski	NCDOT
25 Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT
26 Julie Bogle	NCDOT
27 Doug Plachcinski	Triangle West TPO
28 Colleen McGue	Triangle West TPO
29 Yanping Zhang	Triangle West TPO
30 KC Chae*	Triangle West TPO
31 Filmon Fishastion	Triangle West TPO
32 Samad Rangoonwala	Triangle West TPO
33 David Miller	Triangle West TPO
34 Thomas Porter	Triangle West TPO
35 Yuwen He*	Triangle West TPO
36 Dolly Hall-Quinlan*	Triangle West TPO

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39 **Quorum Count: 7 of 10 Voting Members**
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42 Vice Chair Javeria Cabellero called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. The Voting
43 Members and Alternate Members of the Triangle West Board were identified and
44 indicated above.

45 **PRELIMINARIES:**

46 **1. Roll Call**

47 Vice Chair Javeria Cabellero asked everyone to introduce themselves.

48 **2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

49 **3. Public Comments**

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

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56 **Reports from Staff:**

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58 **4. Report from TPO Staff 25-101**
59 **Colleen McGue, Planning Manager**

60 Written Report Provided

61 **5. Report from Board Chair**

62 Javiera Cabellero, City of Durham, Board Vice Chair

63 No Report

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65 **6. Report from the Technical Committee Chair**

66 **Eric Vitale, TC Chair**

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68 No Report

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70 **7. North Carolina Department of Transportation Reports**

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72 **Lisa Mathis- NCDOT Board**

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

76
77 **Becca Gallas (Tracy Parrott, David Keilson), Division 5 – NCDOT**

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79 Written Report provided.

80
81 **Wright Archer (Chad Reimakoski, Nishant Shah), Division 7 – NCDOT**

82
83 Division 7 Engineer Chad Reimakoski reported that Division 7 continues to work on the
84 areas in the median between NC 86 and MM 268; traffic has been shifted to the new
85 travel lane in several areas including the I-85 interchange, NC-86, and mile marker 268
86 in Durham County. I-85 Southbound by I-40 Eastbound is still closed; there is a 15-day
87 ramp closure on old NC-86. NC-86

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

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91 Written Report provided.

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

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

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

100 No Report.

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

103 No report.

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105 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

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107 **8. Approval of September 9th, 2025, TC Minutes**
108 **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.

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

155
156 Modeling manager Zhang finished by presenting the Financial Plan that was put
157 together by Matt Day at Central Pines Regional Council (CPRC), highlighting the key
158 assumptions, the sharing the projected revenue and costs in each STI Tier by decade as
159 well as Bike-Ped and Transit revenue and proposed costs generated by a hypothetical 1
160 cent sales tax starting in 2036 divided 67% to Bike-ped and 33% to Transit, as well as the
161 operations and management budget.

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

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

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172 Board Member Fowler made a motion to adopt the 2055 MTP Financial Plan and
173 Project list for incorporation in the 2055 MTP and Air Quality Conformity Document.
174 The motion was seconded by Board Member Michael Parker. The motion passed
175 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

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

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245 **16. 2025 Update to the ADA Transition**

246 **Monet Moore AICP, Principal Planner**

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

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

265

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

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

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

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

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280 Board Member Amy Fowler made a motion to adopt the ADA Transition Plan; the
281 motion was seconded by Board Member Mellissa McCullough. The motion passed
282 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.

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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.

326
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.

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.