

TRIANGLE WEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

April 22, 2025

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Triangle West Transportation Planning Organization Board met on April 22, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the Central Pines Conference Room at Central Pines Regional Council.

The following people were in attendance:

Karen Howard (MPO Chair)	Chatham County
Javiera Caballero (MPO Board Vice Chair)	City of Durham
Amy Fowler (Member)	Orange County
Carl Rist (Member)	City of Durham
Melissa McCullough (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Nida Allam (Member)	Durham County
Sally Greene (Member)	GoTriangle
Mark Bell (Member)	Town of Hillsborough
Marilyn Carter (Alternate)	Orange County
Wendy Jacobs (Alternate)	Durham County
Matt Hughes (Alternate)	Town of Hillsborough
Lisa Mathis* (Alternate)	NC Board of Transportation

**Denotes virtual attendance*

Nishith Trivedi	Orange County
Becca Eversole-Robinson	Town of Carrboro
Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
Ellen Beckmann	Durham County
Matt Day	Central Pines Regional Council
Shuchi Gupta	Central Pines Regional Council
Sean Uyehara	Central Pines Regional Council
Jenna Kolling	Central Pines Regional Council
David Keilson	NCDOT Division 5
Tracy Parrott	NCDOT Division 5
Jordan Powell	VHB
Jared Draper	Toole Design Group
Marie Parker*	Town of Carrboro
Erin Convery*	City of Durham
Nishant Shah*	NCDOT Division 7
Jeron Monroe*	NCDOT Division 8
Paul Black*	GoTriangle
Brooke Roper*	Durham County
John Grant*	NCDOT Traffic Operations
Landon Coley*	University of North Carolina
Ty Cheek*	Kerr Tar RPO
Cha'ssem Anderson*	University of North Carolina

Doug Plachcinski	Triangle West TPO
David Miller	Triangle West TPO
KC Chae*	Triangle West TPO
Filmon Fishastion	Triangle West TPO

51 Colleen McGue Triangle West TPO
52 Yanping Zhang Triangle West TPO
53 Samad Rangoonwala Triangle West TPO
54 Thomas Porter Triangle West TPO
55 Beth Seidel Triangle West TPO
56 Madeline Galliano Triangle West TPO
57 Yuwen He* Triangle West TPO
58 Dolly Hall-Quinlan* Triangle West TPO
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60 Quorum Count: 9 of 10 Voting Members
61
62

63 Chair Karen Howard called the meeting to order at 9:02 am. The Voting Members and
64 Alternate Voting Members of the Triangle West TPO Board were identified and are indicated
65 above.

66 **PRELIMINARIES:**

67 **1. Roll Call**

68 Chair Howard asked everyone to introduce themselves.

69 **2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

70 Chair Howard asked if there were any additions to the agenda. It was noted that for
71 Item 9, MTP: Alternatives Analysis, the work has been completed. In the agenda, it says, "once
72 all model results and documentation for the three scenarios are complete," because staff were
73 not sure if they would be complete at the time of the meeting. However, they were completed
74 by the date of this meeting.

75 **3. Public Comments**

76 Chair Howard asked if any members of the public were signed up to speak. There was
77 one person who signed up to provide comments, John Tallmadge, Executive Director of Bike
78 Durham. Mr. Tallmadge provided comments on the Regional Vision Zero Plan. He thanked
79 staff and the Board for taking traffic safety seriously and putting resources and energy into
80 developing this plan. Mr. Tallmadge submitted written comments last week but wanted to
81 provide a few comments to the Board.

Mr. Tallmadge noted that it's important to clarify what the TPO's role is, as they are not the deliverers of these projects. The roles that he suggests the TPO focus on are 1) creating and supporting region-wide capacity to deliver safe transportation systems; 2) build this into the prioritization process for funding; and 3) create accountability systems to hold each other accountable.

Mr. Tallmadge shared additional items not included in the plan that the TPO could potentially take on: 1) building traffic safety and what's learned through the implementation of this process into an annual legislative and NCDOT policy or practice agenda; and 2) creating an annual training for both board members and staff throughout the TPO region on the safe systems approach, as well as countermeasures that have shown success.

Mr. Tallmadge shared that Bike Durham is pleased that this plan is moving forward and hopes to see its adoption today.

CONSENT AGENDA:

4. Approval of March 25, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes **Beth Seidel, MPO Staff**

Amy Fowler moved to accept the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Nida Allam. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

5. Triangle West TPO Regional Safety Action Plan Adoption **Colleen McGue, TPO Planning Manager** **Jared Draper, Toole Design**

Jared Draper from Toole Design gave an overview of the Triangle West TPO Regional Safety Action Plan and provided updates on several pieces of the plan that had been revised since the last meeting. Triangle West TPO has developed a regional safety action plan to improve transit, pedestrian/bicyclist and highway safety throughout the Triangle West planning

area. The plan includes a snapshot of the crash types, severities, and locations and identifies strategies for improving overall safety in the region. This plan is the result of data analysis, community engagement, and stakeholder discussions that have taken place over the course of this planning effort.

Throughout the month of March and early April, Triangle West staff partnered with member agencies and community-based organizations around the region to host public workshops and pop-up events to share the draft plan with the community. The comments received and discussions at these engagement events have been reviewed and incorporated into the final plan.

A motion was made by Amy Fowler to adopt the Triangle West TPO Safety Action Plan and was seconded by Nida Allam. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Public Participation Plan Adoption **Monet Moore, Principal Planner**

Monet Moore reviewed the Public Participation Plan (PPP) - formerly referred to as the Public Involvement Policy - for the Board. The PPP explains how to involve community members and other stakeholders in planning a transportation system that supports regional goals like better travel options, economic growth, sustainability, and fairness. The PPP explains how the public will be informed, how they can share their feedback, and how long public comment periods will last. The plan outlines how major plans, programs, and studies will be developed and incorporated feedback from the public. The PPP also includes guidelines that the TPO will follow to better connect with and be a part of the regional community. The PPP presentation included a summary of the public comments received during the public comment period and detailed changes made in the PPP based on the public comments received.

Amy Fowler moved to adopt the Public Participation Plan. The motion was seconded by Carl Rist, and the motion passed unanimously.

139 **7. SPOT Guidelines for Identifying Projects**
140 **Filmon Fishastion, TPO Staff**
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142 Filmon Fishastion shared that in the SPOT 8.0 process, the first step is to establish the
143 Guidelines for Identifying New Transportation Improvement Program Project Requests. The
144 Triangle West TPO will use this document to select projects for submittal into SPOT 8.0.

145 The existing Guidelines were drafted during the SPOT 6.0 cycle and amended during
146 the SPOT 7.0 cycle. The updated draft Guidelines are based on the 2023 Methodology with the
147 following changes:

- 148 • Separation of the project selection guidelines from the assignment of Local Input
149 Points
- 150 • Updated schedules
- 151 • Additional changes may be announced by the SPOT Workgroup

152 Significant changes from the previous Methodology were highlighted in the draft
153 document in red. According to the current Triangle West TPO Public Involvement Plan and
154 NCDOT guidance, this document was released for a public comment period from February 25
155 through March 18. The TPO did not receive any comments on this document.

156 Amy Fowler moved to adopt the SPOT Guidelines for Identifying New Transportation
157 Improvement Program Requests. The motion was seconded by Carl Rist and passed
158 unanimously.

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160 **8. FY 2024-2033 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Updates**
161 **Filmon Fishastion, TPO Staff**
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163 Filmon Fishastion shared that Amendment #6 to the FY 2024-2033 Transportation
164 Improvement Plan (TIP) contains project updates such as additional funding for the NS-BRT
165 and the swaps that occurred during the August Redistribution. This Amendment also approves
166 the Item N updates for December, January, and February.

As there are projects with changes in excess of \$2M and 25% from the original amount, per the TPO's current Public Involvement Plan (PIP), this amendment was released for a 21-day public comment period. The TPO did not receive any public comments for this amendment.

One update since this was first presented is the inclusion of a Community Project Funding award granted to the Town of Chapel Hill for TL-0062, which will support bus stop improvements in downtown Chapel Hill.

Sally Greene moved to adopt TIP Amendment #6. The motion was seconded by Amy Fowler and passed unanimously.

9. MTP: Alternatives Analysis – Concepts, Key Projects, and Results

Yanping Zhang, TPO Staff

Dolly Hall-Quinlan, TPO Staff

Eve He, TPO Staff

Yanping Zhang reviewed the steps in developing the 2055 MTP, and the Alternatives Analysis and Evaluation is the third step in this process. The purpose of this phase is to explore various development and transportation foundations/alternatives for the region's future, fostering public and agency discussions that will share the 2055 MTP.

Staff are seeking authorization to release the Alternatives Analysis now that the multiple land use and travel demand models, documentation, and presentation are complete. This release will provide staff with more time to incorporate public comments into the Preferred Scenario and stay on track with the MTP schedule.

A motion was made by Melissa McCullough to release the Alternatives Analysis for public comments. The motion was seconded by Carl Rist and passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

10. Triangle Transportation Choices FY24 Annual Impact Report Presentation

Jenna Kolling, Central Pines Regional Council

David Miller, TPO Staff

Jenna Kolling gave a presentation on the Triangle Transportation Choices FY24 Annual Impact Report. Jenna shared that the organizations who received grant funding to participate in this Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program have helped achieve a reduction in vehicle miles traveled (VMT), changed travel behavior from single-occupancy vehicle to alternative forms of transportation, and garnered many societal benefits.

11. Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Deployment Roadmap

Matt Day, Central Pines Regional Council

The Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) and Triangle West TPO jointly sponsor a Regional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Working Group, which is administered by Central Pines Regional Council (CPRC). Matt Day from CPRC shared that this working group is tasked with implementing the region's ITS Strategic Deployment Plan and coordinating other issues related to transportation technology and transportation systems management in the region. The working group recently drafted an "ITS Deployment Roadmap" document to help the group focus its efforts on the near-term steps that need to be taken to advance these goals over the next several years.

ITS is a blanket term for a variety of activities that use advanced technologies and strategies to enhance transportation safety, efficiency, and productivity. ITS improvements are often performed as a part of a larger Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) strategy or program. Common examples of ITS projects include traffic signal system interconnection/coordination, in-vehicle traveler information (connected vehicles), and emergency vehicle/transit vehicle signal pre-emption.

12. Status Report on Locally Administered Projects (LAP)

Colleen McGue, Planning Manager

Colleen McGue shared that in October 2023 the Triangle West TPO adopted an update to the Federal Funding Policy, which guides the distribution of federal funds that flow through

the TPO for local projects, such as Surface Transportation Block Grant Direct Attributable (STBGDA), Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ), and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP). By applying for federal funding for a project through the MPO's program, the applicant is committing to locally managing that project. The sponsor is responsible for all federal and state reporting requirements associated with the funding source applied to their project, as well as MPO reporting requirements.

The Triangle West TPO Federal Funding Policy states that recipients of federal funding will provide a brief report on the status of their locally administered projects (LAP) to the MPO Board twice a year. The FY 2025 UPWP includes a Local Project Delivery Initiative that is intended to assist the TPO, in partnership with our local jurisdictions and NCDOT, with obligating and delivering projects in the Triangle West area. Triangle West was awarded a Prioritization Process Pilot Program grant through USDOT in December 2024 to complete this work. This project is currently awaiting a grant agreement. Once the grant agreement is in place, a consulting team will be procured to conduct interviews with relevant stakeholders to learn about current challenges and opportunities and produce recommendations for improving our federal funding process and LAP program. One of desired outcomes of this study is project benchmarking, a web dashboard, and improved project sponsor update opportunities.

REPORTS:

13. Report from the Board Chair
Karen Howard, Triangle West TPO Board Chair

No report.

14. Report from the Technical Committee Chair
Eric Vitale, TC Chair

No report.

15. Report from TPO Staff

Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, Triangle West TPO Executive Director

Doug Plachcinski shared that he will be visiting Washington, D.C. in the near future as a part of national and state fly-ins to listen and learn.

16. NCDOT Reports

Lisa Mathis, NC Board of Transportation

Lisa Mathis shared that she will submit NCDOT's report via email.

Becca Gallas, Division 5 – NCDOT

Tracy Parrott shared that NCDOT is wrapping up the Spring Litter Sweep and thanked everyone who helped in that effort. Tracy also recognized National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week. And shared that North Carolina was chosen to host the national kickoff.

Wright Archer (Chad Reimakoski, Stephen Robinson), Division 7 – NCDOT

No report.

Reuben Blakey (Bryan Kluchar), Division 8 – NCDOT

No report.

Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division – NCDOT

Julie Bogle shared that the committee for the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) that's been started with Triangle West met and reviewed roadway capacities and MTP scenarios. Chatham County's CTP model is being developed. There will be a pre-Chatham County CTP meeting in June to look at socioeconomic (SE) data and determine the growth to provide future SE data for the model.

John Grant, Traffic Operations – NCDOT

No report.

Regan Buchanan (Interim), Integrated Mobility Division

No report. Colleen McGue shared that Regan Buchanan is no longer with NCDOT but we understand that Nick Morrison will be returning to NCDOT IMD to fill this position.

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282 **17. Recent News Articles & Updates**

283 Vice Chair Javiera Caballero noted the recent news articles and updates listed in the
284 agenda.

285 **ADJOURNMENT**

286 Vice Chair Javiera Caballero adjourned the meeting at 11:29 am.