



**TRIANGLE WEST**  
Transportation Planning Organization

# MONTHLY STAFF REPORT

FROM: Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, Executive Director

DATE: April 2025

This Monthly Staff Report updates the Board and Technical Committee on the board directives and the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act's programs. It summarizes DCHC MPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) task progress.

## MPO BOARD DIRECTIVES

DATE	REQUEST	STATUS DETAILS
November 4, 2020	Develop a strategy to move forward on the 15/501 Corridor Study that addresses concerns about bicycle and pedestrian treatments along the corridor as well as additional outreach to local stakeholders.	Underway. Draft scope under development. Project will also incorporate MTP performance measures driven by public input; similar approach as US 70 east project. We anticipate launching the next phase of US 70 work then pivoting to 15-501 with a similar approach at the beginning of the new fiscal year.
May 11, 2022	Develop a set of specific recommendations for the legislative delegation to consider based on potential consideration for the 2025 General Assembly session.	Underway. We will reexamine; engaging NCDOT for agency priorities in 2025. As part of strategic planning, Fountain Works will provide steps for developing legislative relationships and sharing information with MPO Board members. Scheduled to attend a May, 2025 Economic Development event sponsored by Sen. Tillis. Will follow up with a visit to DC during National Infrastructure Week.

-

## UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM TASKS

### **II – A. DATA AND PLANNING SUPPORT**

#### **II – A – 1 Networks and Support Systems**

1. Vehicle Miles of Travel
  - ✓ Potential local development traffic impact analysis tool for regional VMT.
2. Street System Changes
  - ✓ Our team will work with NCDOT as they update the National Functional Classification designation for our MPO planning area. Additional modeling updates for MTP scenario analysis.
3. Traffic Crashes and Safety Data
  - ✓ Within SS4A, approved draft plan; working with members to identify project opportunities..
4. Central Area Parking Inventory
  - ✓ Supporting Hillsborough Downtown Parking Study. Data collection and public outreach moving forward.
5. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities & Counts Inventory.
  - ✓ Cost proposals for automated nonmotorized counters too expensive; will evaluate opportunities for volunteer counts in 2025- in the meantime finally received new batteries for ECO Counters and working through vendors to install.
6. Network Data Collection
7. Capacity Deficiency Analysis- Confirming model outputs for existing plus committed 2055 base scenario. Public transportation mode share assignments are different than expected and TRM model group reviewing assumptions.
8. Land Use, Socio-Economic Environmental Data Analysis – CommunityViz workgroup meetings ongoing. Suitability factor focused discussions completed. Identified need for more robust land-use modeling scenario planning outside of MTP process to include in updated planning program prospectus.

#### **II – A – 2 Travelers and Behavior**

- Dwelling Unit, Population, and Employment Changes, Base Year Data Collection, Travel Surveys, Vehicle Occupancy Rates, Travel Time Studies, Annual Continuous Travel Behavior Surveys (Household Survey).

#### **III – A – 3 Transportation Modeling**

- Travel Regional Model Enhancements, latest version successfully deployed.

- Horizon Year Data Forecasts – Gearing up for alternatives analysis. Financial Planning – initial conversations about fiscal constraint for 2055 MTP pending. We will present up to three options with the MTP including state, federal, and local financial resources. The TC and Board should prepare to affirm a one (1) cent sales tax increase on top of the current half (1/2) cent sales tax.
- Developing internal capacity to use VisionEval. [VisionEval](#) is a collaborative project to build a family of strategic tools for performance-based transportation planning into a single open-source programming framework. Strategic tools are designed to evaluate many alternative futures and policies to address pressing issues, despite uncertainty.

## **II – B. PLANNING PROCESS**

### **II – B – 1: Targeted Planning**

- Congestion Mitigation Plan adopted. We will apply the methodology during MTP alternatives analysis. Expect a workshop discussion in February-March. Applying CMP process and data to US 70 phase II as part of study process. CMP implementation incorporated into MTP scenarios.

### **II – B – 2: Regional Planning**

- Metropolitan Transportation Plan – Goal and Objectives engagement completed, working through alternatives analysis development based on public and board feedback. We will drop a social media campaign to promote the regional plan.
- Comprehensive Transportation Plan – Preparing the schedule for the update in conjunction with MTP update. Met with Durham to understand public involvement expectations and how the community uses CTP in their development ordinances. Subcommittee established – working with Durham on a thoroughfare plan update to complement CTP and their NACTO street standards adoption.

### **II – B – 3: Special Studies**

- Durham Freeway Corridor Study – waiting for local partner updates
- Durham County US 70 Corridor Study – Phase II procurement process in contract negotiations. Reached out to Leesville Road Coalition to discuss transportation focused virtual town hall.
- Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail Feasibility Study – Consultant team presenting a plan update to Durham County Board of Commissioners and City of Durham Open Space and Trails Commission in April. Draft plan development ongoing, and second round public engagement strategies being planned.
- Durham City/County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan – Second round public engagement strategies planned for May. Recommendations and prioritization under development.
- Hillsborough Parking Study – First round public engagement strategies being planned for April/May. Data collection and existing conditions research continue.
- Strategic Rail Plan – working through strategy prioritization based on critical path implementation. Next step is to review concepts with NCDOT Rail Division prior to reconvening steering committee.
- Chapel Hill Transit High Capacity – Selected vendor in contract negotiations.

## **III – A. Unified Planning Work Program**

### **III-A-1: Unified Planning Work Program**

- The budget amendment was approved and we proposed a 25-26 UPWP amendment to

include the CoGen rail corridor feasibility study. Updated documents transmitted to NCDOT TPD; staff will finalize procurement timeline with a goal of project-kickoff the first quarter of FY 25-26.

### **III-A-2: Metrics and Performance Measures**

- Will crosswalk draft 25-26 UPWP with MTP goals and strategic planning outcomes before formal submission to FHWA/FTA through NCDOT. Internal working sessions with Fountain Works to process retreat outcomes and prepare draft strategic planning deliverables.

## **B: Transportation Improvement Program III-B-1: Prioritization**

- Waiting for NCDOT STIP process to move forward.

### **IV-B-2: Metropolitan TIP**

- Project consistency across CTP>MTP>TIP>STIP for improved concurrency. Although the MPO adjusted the Plan to remove freeway conversions and other capacity increases, we have not carried those policies forward into the Program.

### **V-B-3: Merger and Project Development**

## **IV- C: Civil Rights Compliance (Title VI) and Other Regulatory Requirements**

### **III- C-1: Title VI**

### **III-C-2: Environmental Justice**

### **III-C-3: Minority Business Enterprise Planning**

- ✓ Enhancing internal procurement processes specifically to support DBE engagement. Initial discussions with partner agencies to develop working group. Executive Order 12432 -- Minority Business Enterprise Development – remains in place.

### **III-C-4: Planning for the Elderly and Disabled**

### **III-C-5: Safety/Drug Control Planning**

### **III-C-6: Public Participation**

### **III-C-7: Private Sector Participation**

- Ongoing partnership with RTA to support RTA with BRT workgroup development; supporting other RTA and chamber activities.

## **IV- D: Statewide and Extra-Regional Planning**

- Ongoing NCAMPO participation, AASHTO membership application in process.

## **V- E: Board Support, Member Services, and Administration**

- Transportation guiding principles and organization assessment post processing retreat downloads, in addition to developing Federal + State information communication protocols.
- Drafting new MOU for partners to complete reorganization under Central Pines Regional Council. Will incorporate new organization identity. Will move forward as a part of rebranding and draft to circulate to Board in April
- Re-released Request for Legal Services Qualifications;

- CMAQ applications will now be accepted continuously and processed each quarter. The end dates for the applications quarters are March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31.
- Durham SWG – Will formally request the SWG partners to recommend capital project eligibility guidelines and transportation service providers match requirements as a part of annual work program project development process.
- Orange SWG – Working through draft annual work program public input process. Supporting Chapel Hill transit as requested to finalize NSBRT funding stack including necessary non-federal matching dollars. Supporting NSBRT delivery partnerships with NCDOT Highway Division 7.