

## NC Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

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## Staff Report

Agenda Date: 10/15/2025 Agenda Item: 7.4

To: Executive Board

## Strategic Regional Rail Infrastructure Investment Study

Daniel Spruill, MPO Staff

At the request of the CAMPO and TWTPO boards' Rail Subcommittees, the MPO's partnered to develop a passenger rail vision for the Triangle region. CAMPO and TWTPO convened a Rail Visioning Committee from their respective Rail Subcommittees on December 6, 2024, and kicked off the Technical Steering Committee with their jurisdictions, GoTriangle and NCDOT in attendance. Using this vision, the MPOs and Consultant developed with input from the Technical Steering Committee a critical path project universe. The Consultants then conducted the Federal, State and Local funding screening to match these projects to the funding opportunity for which they are most competitive. This study has concluded with several deliverables designed to help this region move forward. Project deliverables include:

- Project Universe: This includes the list of projects/bottlenecks to bring the region to the regional rail that the Joint Rail Subcommittee of the Executive Board for CAMPO and TWTPO envisioned.
- Federal Funding Screening: A document that looks at each project and what federal programs it may be eligible for as well as how competitive they are for each.
- State Funding Screening: A document that looks at each project and how they may compete in the NCDOT Prioritization Process.
- Decision Tree for Strategic Investment: A priority order for investments that will best position the region for incremental progress while bigger programmatic investments are pursued.
- Decision-making Framework: This framework aims to help with coordination among this region's stakeholders.
- Comment Resolution Matrix: During the formulation of the final deliverables the project team received great feedback from our Technical Steering Committee, this matrix provides the response to the feedback and how they were incorporated into the final study.
- Future Studies Memo: Noted early was the very high-level nature of this study, during the development
  of this plan we noted areas that will need future study to prepare the region for the regional rail build out

**Requested Action:** Endorse Strategic Regional Rail Infrastructure Investment Study and direct staff to continue coordination with partners to advance Regional Rail efforts.