

# **INFORMATIONAL ITEM: PROJECT UPDATES**

# March 19, 2025

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# **Studies**

#### North Harnett County Transit Connections Feasibility Study

County leaders are interested in exploring opportunities for serving the area with transit. Transit connections between Harnett County and Wake County have been envisioned in the Harnett County CTP and the CAMPO MTP for several years. This study will be conducted in two phases. The first phase in FY 24 focused on an evaluation of the transit market in the area, along with public engagement and evaluation of public, stakeholder and elected official support for providing transit services. The second phase in FY 25 will build upon the outcomes of phase one to identify transit opportunities that could feasibly serve the area and recommend an implementation plan for those services.

The recommended transit service area and service options for the study area have been developed. CAMPO staff is coordinating with study CTT members to identify engagement opportunities in the community (Lillington, Coats, and Angier), for March and early April. To learn more about the study or stay up to date with ongoing activity, visit the project website:

https://www.northharnetttransitstudy.com/

(Staff contact: Gaby Lawlor)

## North Falls Lake Area Study

This will be the first area study conducted in the northwest portion of CAMPOs jurisdiction. The study area will include roughly the southern half of Granville County and extends into portions of Franklin County and Wake County, as well as the municipalities of Creedmoor, Butner, Stem and Oxford. The goal of this study is ultimately to lay out a long-term vision for development patterns within the framework of water resource and land management considerations, and for a multi-modal transportation network in the study area, with a detailed implementation strategy that includes short-term and mid-term recommendations to aid with the implementation of the long-term vision. The study will evaluate water supply watershed (WSWS) capacity and other environmental regulatory considerations, as related to residential development; the safety and mobility in the transportation network, including planned and existing roads, transit service and bicycle/pedestrian facilities.

The contract will be placed on the March Executive Board agenda, and immediately following contract execution, the study will commence.

(Staff contact: Gaby Lawlor)

#### Regional Rail Infrastructure Investment Study

At the request of the CAMPO and DCHC MPO boards' Rail Subcommittees, the MPO's are partnering on a study to develop a passenger rail vision for the Triangle region. This study will culminate in a series of policy and project recommendations intended to facilitate deployment of passenger rail service in the area. It will recommend a critical path for investments in identified projects, a framework for transit plan participation decision making and a regional strategy for funding future rail projects. CAMPO and DCHC MPO convened a Rail Visioning Committee from their respective Rail Subcommittees on December 6<sup>th</sup> of 2024 and kicked off the Technical Steering Committee with jurisdictions, GoTriangle and NCDOT in attendance. CAMPO and Consultant are now working on review of the universe of project and analysis of potential service concepts.

(Staff contact: Daniel Spruill)

#### Regional Multi-Modal Safety Action Plan

The Regional Multi-Modal Safety Action Plan is a project underway and will be finalized by Fall 2025. The Regional Multi-Modal Safety Action Plan when completed will better inform the safety-related performance metrics for the MPO, as well as evaluate available safety data to determine priority areas for safety improvement projects across multiple modes of travel in the region. The Multi-Modal Safety Action Plan will also ensure the completed plan meets the criteria for the IIJA's Safe Streets for All program and Increasing Safe and Accessible Transportation Options planning criteria, thus allowing member agencies to apply for additional implementation funding through that program. The second round of Technical Advisory Team (TAT) meetings were held late January/early February 2025. CAMPO staff, in cooperation with City of Raleigh staff had shared information about the Blueprint for Safety at the City of Raleigh Public Meetings held on February 17, 25, and March 5.

The Blueprint for Safety team is currently working with TCC members on developing a hybrid approach to safety performance measure target setting. The hybrid approach should be available for the Executive Board at their April 16, 2025, meeting.

(Staff contact: Kenneth Withrow)

# Committees

Wake Transit/Wake County Transit Planning Advisory Committee (TPAC)

#### FY 2025 and Prior Year Wake Transit Work Plan Amendment Update

Eight (8) Wake Transit Work Plan amendment requests were submitted for the FY25/Q3 round. The amendment requests have come from CAMPO, the Town of Cary, the Town of Knightdale, the Town of Morrisville, and Wake County. The comment period began December 9, 2024, and ended January 10, 2025. The Program Development Subcommittee recommended approval of the amendment request to the TPAC at their December 17, 2024, meeting. The TPAC reviewed the amendment requests at their January 23, 2025, meeting, recommending approval to the governing boards. The CAMPO TCC reviewed the amendment requests on February 6, 2025, and recommended approval to the CAMPO Executive Board. Due to the cancellation of the February Executive Board meeting, the amendment requests will be reviewed for consideration by that body at their planned March meeting.

Two (2) Wake Transit Work Plan amendment requests were submitted for the FY25/Q4 cycle. The City of Raleigh submitted one amendment request, and GoTriangle submitted another amendment request. Both requests from the two agencies are for additional funds for the Low-Income Fare Pass/Transit Assistance Program (TAP). The public comment period for these began March 7, 2025, and will conclude on April 4, 2025. They will be reviewed by TPAC in the following months and come before the TCC and Executive Board in May.

(Staff contact: Steven Mott)

### FY 2026 Wake Transit Work Plan Development Update

The kickoff for the FY2026 Wake Transit Work Plan development cycle was presented at the September TPAC meeting by CAMPO and GoTriangle Tax District Staff. Three Work Plan development meetings

occurred during the TPAC PD Subcommittee meetings in October, November, and December, where the subcommittee reviewed the submitted requests to be included in the draft FY26 Wake Transit Work Plan. After approving what projects would be included in the draft FY 2026 Wake Transit Work Plan, CAMPO staff coordinating with staff in the Tax District to provide preliminary budget information for review at the January PD Subcommittee meeting. The draft was sent to TPAC members on February 3, 2025. They reviewed and discussed the draft along with the engagement strategy at their February 20 meeting, voting to release it for public comment. The draft will be released for a 30-day comment period beginning March 4, 2025. The CAMPO TCC and Executive Board will receive updates on the draft FY26 Wake Transit Work Plan at their March 2025 meetings. A public hearing will be held at the May Executive Board meeting and will be considered for adoption at their June meeting.

(Staff contact: Steven Mott)

#### Wake Transit Plan Update

The Wake Transit Vision Plan Update, which will extend the Wake Transit Plan's horizon to 2035, kicked off in December 2023. The Vision Plan Update includes substantial public outreach and is informed by a Core Technical Team (CTT) made up of members of the TPAC and a Stakeholder Committee made up of representatives of TPAC member agencies and jurisdictions, as well as other groups representing interested parties. The CTT has met regularly throughout the year, and the Stakeholders have met in May and September. The first phase of Public Engagement began May 6<sup>th</sup> and ran through July 21, 2024, and saw over 1,900 citizens participate in the survey and events. The second phase of public engagement kicked off on December 2, 2024, and ran through January 31, 2025. Over 1,000 residents participated in the online and in-person engagement for the second phase. The Stakeholder Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> to review the findings from the second phase of public engagement and the draft investment strategy. Following the Stakeholder meeting, the consultants and staff will finalize the draft Wake Transit Plan and release it for public engagement in May. The Plan Update is approximately two-thirds the 18-month process.

(Staff contact: Ben Howell)

#### **Mobility Coordination Committee**

The MCC is the CAMPO administered regional coordination committee borne out of the 2018 Coordinated Public Transit- Human Service Transportation Plan (CPT-HSTP) established to administer and monitor recommendations of the adopted regional coordinated plan and other coordination efforts. Coordinated Plans set the regional priorities for transportation investments and initiatives for human services and public transit coordination for seniors, disabled and low-income persons. The most recent 2024 coordinated plan was adopted by the CAMPO Executive Board on September 18, 2024, and is now available on CAMPO's website. The MCC is beginning the work implementing the updated recommendations and strategies identified in the updated plan. The 2024 plan is built upon the 2018 plan that established short, mid and long-term goals for the committee as well as recommendations from the 2023 Mobility Management Program Implementation Study (MMIS) that outlined a plan for implementing the region's new mobility management program (MMP).

During the January 8<sup>th</sup> Joint ADA and Community Transportation Sub-committees meeting, the members prepared for the quarterly January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting to formalize the committee where the members elected

officers and adopted by-laws per the MMIS' adopted recommendations to formalize the committee. The members also voted to endorse the six-month work plans derived from the implementation schedule/work program for the two sub-committees (ADA and CT). During the February subcommittee meetings, the members determined first action item tasks to begin the 6 mos. work program implementation. Also in February, the Mobility Manager and the MCC Administrator provided the TCC and Executive Board a joint update on the mobility program and the Mobility Coordination Committee. During the March 6th subcommittee meetings members continued collecting items for review and updated the Implementation Schedule, reviewed the previous Social Pin-Point presentation and prepared chart of existing regional micro-transit services and areas with transit studies. Next meetings are April 4<sup>th</sup> for the subcommittee meetings and April 17<sup>th</sup> for the full quarterly meeting.

Information on the MCC's work is on the CAMPO's Mobility Coordination Committee webpage.

(Staff contact: Crystal Odum)

# **Programs**

#### FY 2025 Community Funding Area Program Update

The Wake Transit Community Funding Area Program's (CFAP) FY 2026 application cycle began in September.

CAMPO staff worked with our consultants to complete the update to the CFA Program Management Plan as part of the larger Wake Transit Plan Update. The draft document was completed on 5/24 for CAMPO staff to review. CAMPO staff organized a roundtable discussion on August 8<sup>th</sup> with the CFA partners to discuss any final changes needed to the document before it is presented to the TPAC. Based on discussion form this meeting, a decision was made to postpone the PMP update until Spring/Summer 2025. The TPAC was informed of this decision during their September 2024 meeting.

Project Incubation meetings for the FY26 CFAP Application Window was from October 1st till October 21st. These meetings were optional and by request of the applicants. No incubation meetings were requested this year. The CFA Applicant training was held on October 23rd. CAMPO staff provided an overview of the program, available funding, program schedule and application process for FY25. The pre-submittal meetings were held during the month of December. We received 4 applications from 3 applicants (Apex, Holly Springs, and Wake Forest). CAMPO staff reviewed the draft applications and provided comments and feedback. The call for projects opened on January 4th, 2025, and closed on January 31st. CAMPO received a total of four applications from three applicants: two from Apex, one from Holly Springs, and one from Wake Forest. The CFAP selection committee met twice; once on February 21st to discuss project details, funding, and implications for future years, and again on March 4th to recommend projects for inclusion in the FY26 Wake Transit Work Plan. The committee recommended all four applications for funding in the FY 2026 Recommended Wake Transit Work Plan. These recommendations will be presented to the TPAC on March 20th. More information and this year's development schedule can be found on CAMPO's CFAP website.

### (Staff contact: Suvir Venkatesh)

### **Mobility Management Program**

The 2023 Mobility Management Program Implementation Study (MMIS) outlined a plan for implementing the region's new mobility management program (MMP) including for CAMPO to hire a new regional mobility manager to guide the program and support the Mobility Coordination Committee. CAMPO hired the Mobility Manager in February 2024.

During the last year, the Mobility Manager has been actively laying the groundwork for a comprehensive MMP through continuous collaboration with both transit agencies and human service organizations. In partnership with internal CAMPO staff, the MM developed five strategic goals, which were derived from the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan and the MMIS. They are as follows:

- 1. Conduct an in-depth assessment of current service capacity programs to identify areas of improvement.
- 2. Prioritize and disseminate transportation education and information to the public across the region to enhance awareness and access.
- 3. Build a broader coalition of human service agencies to foster collaboration and shared solutions.
- 4. Enhance service coordination to ensure a more integrated transportation network.
- 5. Explore the full range of emerging mobility policies and coordination alternatives to stay ahead of trends and innovations in the field.

In addition to these efforts, the MM has pursued professional development to enhance their expertise. The MM attended the Association for Commuter Transportation International Conference as well as completed MPO 101 through the MPO Institute through AMPO's research foundation program. Looking ahead, the MM will complete a Certified Mobility Management Program (CMM) through Easterseals to earn the CMM credential.

During the next four years, the MM will continue to expand and optimize the mobility management program and support the implementation of the 2024 Coordinated Plan recommended goals. These continued efforts will advance mobility solutions in the region and ensure that transportation services are accessible and responsive to community needs. In February, the MM and the MCC Administrator provided the TCC and Executive Board a joint update on the mobility program and Mobility Coordination Committee while the MM continued work on the CMM and developing a Communications Plan for the MMP. The MM continues to research current programs related to Mobility Management and exploring new ideas for fostering collaboration between agencies.

The MMP webpage is a work in progress and can be found on the CAMPO website at <a href="https://www.campo-nc.us/programs-studies/mobility-management">https://www.campo-nc.us/programs-studies/mobility-management</a>. For more information about the MCC and its activities, see the CAMPO website at <a href="https://www.campo-nc.us/about-us/committees/mobility-coordination-committees">https://www.campo-nc.us/about-us/committees/mobility-coordination-committees</a>.

(Staff contact: Sarah Williams)

#### 5310 Program for Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program

The 2025 Section 5310 Call for Projects is now open. GoRaleigh and the <u>Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization</u> (CAMPO) are accepting applications from February 17 - March 14, 2025, for the 2025 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) <u>Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program</u> (49 U.S.C. 5310), or Section 5310 Program, for the Raleigh-Cary Urban Area.

The Section 5310 Program provides grants to assist non-profit organizations, private operators, and public agencies providing coordinated transportation services that are planned, designed, and carried out to meet the mobility needs of elderly persons and persons with disabilities.

As the designated recipient for this federal funding for the Raleigh-Cary area, GoRaleigh is facilitating the Call for Projects application process for the available funding. GoRaleigh works with CAMPO to deliver the Section 5310 program. CAMPO as part of a Selection Steering Committee will be reviewing the Section 5310 grant applications and approving the awards which will be submitted by GoRaleigh to the FTA for funding. \$1,988,948 are available to fund eligible projects from the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2027.

More information can be found on both CAMPO and the City of Raleigh's websites.

(Staff contact: Crystal Odum)

# **Projects**

# NCDOT Highway Project U-2719 – Updates

The overall completion is scheduled for 2025. Regular stakeholder meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month to ensure partners are updated on the progress of the project. Lane Construction and NCDOT has provided the following update on the project:

Continuing through February/First of March
Hillsborough Street Right Lane Closure eastbound (under I-440) for bridge demolition

Note – Lane Construction and NCDOT have indicated that any closures for February would be associated with completing the Wade (Avenue) ramps. Getting the ramps completed is weather dependent, too cold to pave and make that shift.

If the weather breaks, Lane Construction and NCDOT will get to them near the end of February/first of March. No new updates have been provided for mid to late March at this time.

(Staff contact: Kenneth Withrow)