



INFORMATIONAL ITEM: PROJECT UPDATES

September 2023

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Studies

Southeast Area Study Update

The original Southeast Area Study, evaluating land use and transportation issues in the southeastern section of the MPO's planning area, was completed in 2018. The study is being conducted in coordination with NCDOT and the Upper Coastal Plain RPO.

Phase II Engagement efforts, which centered around the draft modal recommendations and weighting of criteria to help prioritize proposed improvements, took place in June and July. The project team is synthesizing results from public and stakeholder engagement and updating the study's recommendations accordingly.

The project schedule has been revised to extend into Fall 2023.

More information is online here: <https://seareastudyupdate.com/>

(Staff Contact: Gaby Lawlor)

U.S. 401 Corridor Study

This study covers the U.S. 401 Corridor from generally U.S. 421 in Harnett County north to Banks Road in Wake County. For the purpose of the study, the corridor has been divided into three segments that enable the study team to focus on the requirements of each segment individually:

Future US 401 Fuquay-Varina (Bypass)

US 401 - Fuquay-Varina from Banks Road south to the Harnett/Wake County Line

US 401 - Southern Section – Harnett/Wake County Line south to Lillington

The technical work on the project has concluded as of June 30, 2023. Plans for future public meetings along with website material are currently being prepared by CAMPO staff and persons associated with the US 401 Corridor Study team. Currently, it is expected that the final public engagement on the study will occur during the early fall of 2023. The project website is located at www.US401CorridorStudy.com.

(Staff Contact: Kenneth Withrow)

MTP Bicycle & Pedestrian Element Update

This study will include a review of the existing Bicycle/Pedestrian Element of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), with the purpose of determining a better and more meaningful approach to document bicycle and pedestrian projects or corridors in the MTP, and to assist the MPO with producing a dataset more meaningful and productive for member agencies to use for local planning and project implementation in service to a regional vision.

The first of three steering committee meetings was held on August 3rd. Group breakout sessions were conducted to build consensus in developing goals, strategies, and ideas for creating a better and more meaningful approach towards producing the bicycle and pedestrian element of the MTP.

The project team will initiate an evaluation of peer MPOs in September, which will help inform the overall goal and strategy for the blueprint of the bicycle and pedestrian element of the MTP.

(Staff contact: Gaby Lawlor)

NW 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 will focus 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.

A preferred consultant has been identified for the study and contract negotiations are underway, which may result in a budget change to accommodate additional work to include the areas in the expanded MPO boundary. It is anticipated that the study will begin in the fall.

(Staff contact: Gaby Lawlor)

Morrisville Parkway Access Management Study

Per the adopted FY24 UPWP, the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), in partnership with the Town of Morrisville, invited qualified consulting firms or persons to submit Requests for Proposals to evaluate the two-mile section of Morrisville Parkway between Davis Drive and NC 54/Chapel Hill Road in Morrisville to make travel safer for vehicles and pedestrians. The corridor will be evaluated for general safety improvements associated with access management. The study will examine the median openings, access controls, signage, signalization, intersection operations, multimodal connectivity along and across the corridor, speed limits and traffic calming opportunities. This four-lane median-divided facility has seen significant traffic volume growth in recent years and has been identified on the Town of Morrisville's comprehensive plan as a high priority corridor for safety improvement. A notice to proceed was issued to the firm VHB, Inc. on August 2, 2023, and the study is proceeding with data collection and review. A site visit of the project area is scheduled for September 12th 3 pm - 5 pm while the first Technical Steering Committee (TSC) kick off meeting made up of key stakeholders will be held October 9th.

(Staff contact: Crystal Odum)

FY 24 Coordinated Public Transit Human Service Transportation Plan Update

The MPO issued a RFP soliciting for consultants to begin an update to the region's Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan (CPT-HSTP) in FY 24 and expects to be issuing a notice to proceed in August/early September. This plan is required by FTA to be maintained in order for the urbanized area to access specific federal transit funds including for the 5310 Program for enhanced transportation services for elderly, disabled and low-income persons. The last major update to the region's plan was in 2018 as a component of the initial Wake Transit Bus Services Implementation Plan. In 2020, the coordinated plan was updated to reflect some changing priorities in the region regarding the establishment of a regional Mobility Management Program. The MPO conducted a Mobility Management Study in FY 22 and FY 23 to establish a framework and partnership structure for delivering a Mobility Management program for the region. The MPO also established and administered a Mobility Coordination Committee to monitor the implementation of recommendations from the 2018 CPT-HSTP and to assist with regional public transit and human service transportation services coordination. In addition to helping the region remain federally compliant and eligible to receive funds, this coordinated plan is also intended to help coordinate these regional transportation services, efforts and programs over the last few years particularly those that affect the elderly, disabled and low-income populations. The MPO will pool funding with the Wake Transit program to deliver an update to the plan in FY 24. Contract negotiations are ongoing.

(Staff contact: Crystal Odum)

Apex Rail Switching Operations Relocation Study

This study will evaluate the feasibility of moving CSX rail switching operations out of downtown Apex. The intent behind this effort is to address the safety, traffic congestion, diesel engine emissions, vibration, and noise issues created by the CSX switching operations in downtown Apex. The RFQ for this study has been revised and will be posted early in September, with the anticipated notice to proceed in December.

(Staff contact: Gaby Lawlor)

Committees

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

FY 2024 and Prior Year Wake Transit Work Plan Amendment Update

On Friday, August 25, 2023, seven (7) amendment requests to the FY 2024 Wake Transit Work Plan were submitted as part of the FY 2024 Q2 amendment schedule. There were three (3) operating and four (4) capital amendment requests. Regarding the operating amendment requests, there were two (2) from the City of Raleigh (contracting additional safety and security services and creating a director of safety and security position); and one (1) from GoTriangle (an additional 0.5 FTE of Transit Plan Administration staffing to build capacity for Wake Transit project implementation, specifically bus stop improvements). Regarding the capital amendment requests, there was one (1) from Wake County (financial support to fund Wake County and GoTriangle's participation in NCDOT/RTA's FAST Study); one (1) from the Town of Cary (to support land acquisition, master planning, and design work on the New Downtown Cary Multimodal Transit Facility); one (1) from CAMPO (a scope refinement for the Wake Transit Vision Plan update, and an incorporation of the update to the Community Funding Area Program Management Plan into said scope); and one (1) from GoTriangle (a request to pre-fund the construction of the RUS Bus Phase II private overbuild).

A public review period for these major amendment requests will occur from September 1st to September 30th. A full discussion on the feasibility of incorporating these amendment requests into the FY 2024 Adopted Wake Transit Work Plan will occur at the Wake Transit Program Development (PD) subcommittee meeting on September 22, 2023. TPAC will review these requests and the recommendations from the PD subcommittee at their October meeting. Finally, CAMPO's TCC and Executive Board, and GoTriangle's Board of Trustees will review and make their recommendations for approval at their respective November 2023 meetings.

(Staff Contact: Ben Howell & Evan Koff)

FY 2025 Wake Transit Work Plan Development Update

The FY 2025 Wake Transit Work Plan will have its official kick-off at the September 2023 TPAC meeting. At this meeting, CAMPO and GoTriangle staff will present the Work Plan's scope, schedule, financial assumptions, and updated funding request forms via the Wake Transit SharePoint. This presentation will open the call-for-projects for the FY 2025 Wake Transit Work Plan, which will close on October 13, 2023. After the call-for-projects, CAMPO, in coordination with Tax District Administration staff will develop the annual funding request report which will help guide debate over project applicability and choices-and-tradeoffs. These conversations, which will occur over a series of meetings of the PD Subcommittee, will result in a Draft FY 2025 Wake Transit Work Plan being distributed to the TPAC by January 26, 2024. More information on the FY 2025 Wake Transit Work Plan development cycle can be found by referencing the [FY2024 Master Calendar of Wake Transit/TPAC Activities](#).

(Staff Contact: Ben Howell and Evan Koff)

FY2025 Community Funding Area Program Update

The Wake Transit Community Funding Area Program's (CFAP) FY 2025 application cycle kicked-off at the August 2023 TPAC meeting. Applicants can meet with CAMPO staff to discuss their application concepts during the month of September. The first meeting required by any potential applicant will be the applicant

training, scheduled for the week of October 23rd. More information on this year's application schedule can be found on [CAMPO's CFAP website](#).

(Staff Contact: Evan Koff)

Mobility Coordination Committee

The MCC is the CAMPO administered regional committee borne out of the 2018 Coordinated Public Transit-Human Service Transportation Plan (CPT-HSTP) and is the committee set up to administer and monitor recommendations of coordinated plans. The Plan sets the regional priorities for transportation investments and initiatives for human services and public transit coordination for seniors, disabled and low-income persons and establishes short, mid and long-term goals for the committee. Short-term goals (2019- 2022) consists of establishing the organizational structure to address the recommendations (the MCC), developing a consistent ADA program, preparing for changes in the state's Medicaid program, preparing a regional mobility framework for emerging partners and creating a regional mobility management structure/program. Given the complexity of our regional transportation system, the CAMPO Board approved hiring a consultant with mobility management expertise to assist the committee members with the short-term goal of developing and implementing a mobility management program. The Mobility Management Program Implementation Study (MMIS) concluded on June 30, 2023, outlining a plan for the region's mobility management program and recommendations that include in part to formalize the MCC with by-laws and CAMPO to hire a regional mobility manager. The findings of the study are consistent with the 2018 CPT-HSTP goals.

MCC members continue to meet monthly to work through the 2018 CPT-HSTP's remaining recommendations, which includes advancing the mobility management program and regional ADA coordination, coordinating MCC work with the MMIS recommendations, and the scope of work for the FY 2024 CPT-HSTP update. The MCC will act as the oversight and technical steering committee to the consultant hired to update the plan once a Notice to Proceed (NTP) is issued, which is expected in late August/September 2023 timeframe. As part of that plan update work, the consultant will review the 2018 Plan's implemented and remaining goals with the MCC and adjust them as needed.

Other ongoing committee work includes, overlapping the Triangle Transportation Choices/Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program for synergies with the mobility coordination efforts. Committee members are also continuing to work with NCPTA, NCDOT, service providers and others participating in activities to improve the State's Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) program.

The July quarterly MCC meeting has been postponed until August/September to follow the NTP and to introduce the consultant and the CPT-HSTP project tasks. At the last joint subcommittee meeting held on August 4th, members worked on the MOU for the MMP and updating the Implementation Schedule for FY 24. The next meeting will be scheduled for early September pending a NTP to be issued for the CPT-HSTP consultant to meet with the committee to introduce the plan update.

Information on the MCC's work along with the Short-Term Goal Implementation report is on the CAMPO's [Mobility Coordination Committee webpage](#). CAMPO staff will be presenting regular updates to the TCC/Executive Board.

(Staff Contact: Crystal Odum)

Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

The latest SRTS Subcommittee meeting was held on June 23, 2023, to address updates concerning future Wake County SRTS Coordinator, the MPO Regional Multi-Modal Safety Action Plan RFP, and Wake County Public School System Bicycle/Pedestrian Data – Possible LAPP Projects. The next SRTS Subcommittee meeting will be held on September 15, 2023.

(Staff Contact: Kenneth Withrow)

Programs

Non-Motorized Volume Data Program

The Institute for Transportation Research and Education (ITRE) currently manages the North Carolina Non-Motorized Volume Data Program (NC NMVDP) on behalf of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). The purpose of the program is to establish a robust data collection framework to reliably calculate sidewalk, shared use path, bike lane, and shared lane volumes through the installation of permanent bicycle and pedestrian counters in North Carolina. During this quarter, ITRE staff members are planning to visit several CAMPO – Eco-Counter system sites to perform Eco-Counter system inspections, diagnostics and data retrieval. ITRE staff members will also be coordinating and visiting additional Eco Counter sites in Cary, Apex and Wake Forest during the next several weeks if persons wish to join ITRE staff at those locations. Work on the counters in the current inventory has begun. Work on the current counter inventory will also include an initial upgrade of the counters to 4G pending agreement approval between Eco-Counter and NCDOT. Information on the current counters can be found at: <https://itre.ncsu.edu/focus/bikeped/nc-nmvdpl/>.

(Staff Contact: Kenneth Withrow)

Triangle Transportation Choices (Triangle Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Program)

Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) issued a Call for Projects by February 10th, 2023, for the Triangle Transportation Choices/ Transportation Demand Management (TDM) grant program. Proposals were requested for three different funding opportunities for fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24) for traditional, innovative projects, and equity & inclusion pilot initiatives. The grant program announced its annual awards early May awarding 13 traditional applicants who will be receiving a combined total of \$1.61 million dollars for their FY24's TDM activities.

Continuing with its commitment to integrate equity in its funding process, the program awarded \$121,875 to four applicants for the second year of its Equity and Inclusion pilot for FY24. The program had kept aside \$200,000 for the pilot similar to FY23. The applications received requested a combined total of \$121,875 and the same was awarded. The awardees are returning applicants from FY23. These grants will begin on July 01 of this year and end on June 30, 2024.

The purpose of the Triangle TDM Program is to coordinate and evaluate regional TDM activities that aim to reduce traffic and air pollution by promoting commute alternatives such as transit, carpooling, biking, walking, teleworking, and vanpooling. CAMPO serves on the Oversight Committee as one of three funding partners with NCDOT and DCHC, along with representatives from TJCOG and the NC Department of Environmental Quality Division of Air Quality. The FY 21 TDM Annual Impact Report has been released and can be viewed here.

Information about the TDM Plan Update, FY 23 grantees, and FY 24 RFP information can be found on the Triangle Transportation Choices website at:
<https://www.tjcog.org/programs-landusetransportation/transportation-demandmanagement>.

Questions about the program can be directed to Shuchi Gupta, Senior Planner/Grant Administrator at (919) 558-2715 or sgupta@tjcog.org.

(Staff Contact: Crystal Odum)

Transit Asset Management (TAM) Program

The FTA continues to advance efforts to implement a performance-based approach to planning. In its final rulemaking on Transit Asset Management (TAM), the FTA requires transit providers to annually set performance targets for state of good repair related to their assets. MPOs are required to establish regional targets every four years and to reference the performance targets and performance-based plans into their TIPs and Metropolitan Plans per 23 CFR 450.324 and 23 CFR 450.326. MPO's are also required to coordinate with each of the transit providers in the region and the State.

The CAMPO Executive Board approved a resolution on September 21, 2022, adopting TAM Performance measures and targets for 2023. As required, CAMPO, transit providers, DCHC MPO and staff from the state met August 10, 2023, to review the regional agencies 2023 TAM performance and to discuss goals for the upcoming year. CAMPO staff with concurrence from the transit providers and stakeholders is recommending 2024 regional TAM performance measures and targets remain the same as 2023 goals and targets. After this cooperative process, the 2024 recommended targets have been for public comments for 30 days, August 21, 2023 to September 20, 2023, before presenting them to the CAMPO TCC/Executive Board for adoption at the respective September meetings.

(Staff Contact: Crystal Odum)

5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

GoRaleigh, with support from the MCC, has updated its 2015 Program Management Plan (PMP) for administering the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program. GoRaleigh developed this PMP, which describes Section 5310 program policies and procedures, in accordance with current Federal Transit laws and regulations as well as Circular 9070.1G. The PMP outlines the 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program requirements and implementation for the Raleigh-Cary Urbanized Area and is a living document. 2023 updates to the 2020 PMP include updated/edited language on the new regional Mobility Management Program and position (Section 1.3) as well as updated text on statutory and policy references, requirements and eligibility for vehicle purchases, subrecipient grant reimbursement, subrecipient monitoring, vehicle purchase requirements and the key steps for the grant cycle schedule (Biennial Program of Projects). It will be updated, as needed, to incorporate any expansions and enhancements of the 5310 Program, as well as any revisions to the programs' management, requirements, or guidelines. The plan has been posted for public comment August 21, 2023 through September 20th, 2023 on the CAMPO website and others. The updated PMP will be presented to the relevant boards for endorsement in September. A Public Hearing will be held at the September 20th CAMPO Executive Board meeting.

(Staff contact: Crystal Odum)

Projects

NCDOT Highway Project U-2719 – Updates

The overall completion is scheduled for 2024. Regular stakeholder meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month to ensure partners are updated on the progress of the project.

The Blue Ridge Rd and Hillsborough traffic shift is currently under way with the detour signage for the Hillsborough St closure from Youth Center Drive to Blue Ridge Rd already installed.

The signed detours for the thru Traffic on Hillsborough St are as follows:

- WB (westbound) Hillsborough Traffic will be detoured to Blue Ridge, Wade Ave and Edward Mills Rd then back to Hillsborough St.
- EB (eastbound) Hillsborough Traffic will be detoured to Edwards Mills Rd, Wade Ave and Blue Ridge and then back to Hillsborough St.

This Section of Hillsborough St will remain closed thru the spring and summer during the construction of Phase 1 of the new Hillsborough Street over Blue Ridge Road Bridge. During this time Youth Center Drive to Blue Ridge Road will serve as a local traffic only for motorist and foot traffic to the State Fair Grounds property before reopening once the bridge construction is completed. Following the Hillsborough St closure, crews will continue with the permanent closure of the Blue Ridge and Hillsborough St intersection, the reconfiguring the Blue Ridge and Trinity Intersection, and finish installing the Hillsborough Street single lane configuration from Blue Ridge Rd to I-440. This work will be the traffic pattern you can expect to have in place through the Summer of 2023.

Lane Construction has sent out an Advanced Notice for a weekend closure of Eastbound I-440 exit ramp to Western Blvd (Ramp C) for construction of permanent ramp drainage. This work is planned to begin Friday September 22, 2023 @ midnight and be complete by Monday September 25, 2023 @ 05:00. If it becomes necessary to modify this schedule due, LANE will provide an updated to this email group of the new schedule as soon as is possible. Further details about the projects are located at NCDOT's [I-440 & Blue Ridge Road Improvements webpage](#).

(Staff Contact: Kenneth Withrow)