



# INFORMATIONAL ITEM: PROJECT UPDATES

**November 2024**

## CONTENTS

Studies .....	2
NW Harnett County Transit Connections Feasibility Study .....	2
FY 2024 Coordinated Public Transit Human Service Transportation Plan Update .....	2
Apex Rail Switching Operations Relocation Study .....	3
Regional Rail Infrastructure Investment Study .....	3
Northwest Area Study.....	4
Committees.....	4
Wake Transit/Wake County Transit Planning Advisory Committee (TPAC).....	4
FY 2025 and Prior Year Wake Transit Work Plan Amendment Update.....	4
FY 2026 Wake Transit Work Plan Development Update.....	4
FY2025 Community Funding Area Program Update .....	5
Wake Transit Plan Update .....	5
Mobility Coordination Committee .....	5
Programs.....	6
Non-Motorized Volume Data Program .....	6
Projects .....	6
NCDOT Highway Project U-2719 – Updates .....	7
Triangle Bikeway Update.....	7

## Studies

### 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 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 draft service area and proposed transit service types are being refined, in response to feedback from the Core Technical Team and Focus Group members. The next touchpoint with stakeholders is planned in November, which will include the CTT and Public Officials, where the project team will present the recommended transit service area and service type, with consideration for tradeoffs and ease of implementation. 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)**

### FY 2024 Coordinated Public Transit Human Service Transportation Plan Update

In May 2023, the MPO issued an RFP soliciting for an update to the region's 2018 Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan (CPT-HSTP), amended in 2020. With assistance from the firm Moore & Associates, Inc., the Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan (CPT-HSTP) study update was completed on time and budget on June 30, 2024, and culminated in the 2024 Plan. The final draft plan included technical memos on relevant regional plans, existing transit services/inventories reviews, stakeholder and public outreach efforts, transportation needs assessment and gap analysis, recommendations/strategies and an implementation schedule. CAMPO staff presented the study work and Draft Final plan to the TCC/Executive Board in June for information. Staff presented the final plan to the TPAC on August 29<sup>th</sup>, TCC September 5<sup>th</sup> and the CAMPO Executive Board endorsed the final 2024 CPT-HST plan on September 18<sup>th</sup> following a public hearing at 4 pm. The final plan had been posted for public comments for thirty days ending on September 19, 2024. Minor edits to the adopted plan include the addition of an Acknowledgements page that identifies key partners, stakeholders and transit operator participants and lists the Mobility Coordination Committee members. Goal #2 (2.3.1) and #3 (3.2.1) were lightly edited to expand the efficiency assessments and to address the overall need for Wake Tech transit service.

The Final Plan and additional study information is now posted on the CAMPO website at <https://www.camponc.us/programs-studies/transit/coordinated-human-services-transportation-plan>

The plan recommends four overarching goals for our region:

- 1) Develop policies and programs to support coordination efforts.
- 2) Coordinate ADA Paratransit services throughout the CAMPO region.
- 3) Support transportation services that address the mobility needs on the CAMPO region.
- 4) Raise awareness of mobility options throughout the CAMPO region.

The CAMPO Mobility Coordination Committee including regional transit providers and human service agencies will begin implementing the plan recommendations.

**(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.

A meeting was held with CSX in July, to gain a better understanding of CSX's current operations and facility requirements in downtown Apex. This information will be used to inform identification of potential alternate locations for the rail switching operations facility. **(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. The study issued the Notice to Proceed on October 30, 2024 and has started working on initial data work with consultant. CAMPO and DCHC MPO are expecting to convene a Rail Visioning Committee from their respective Rail Subcommittees in December of 2024. **(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 IJJA'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 initial Blueprint for Safety - Safety Plan Kickoff and Stakeholder Workshop was held on Thursday, March 14. Technical Advisory Team meetings associated with the Safety Action Plan were held throughout the months of May and June. The first phase of public engagement for the Blueprint for Safety ended in August. The public engagement tool being used are called "Pop-ups", which are now being conducted by VHB, Toole Design, and CAMPO staff at various venues throughout the CAMPO area. Participants at the pop-ups were encouraged to complete a survey that will

help the project team better understand where people feel unsafe, perceptions about causes of unsafe conditions, and core values for how citizens travel on a daily basis. The survey closed as of September 14, 2024. CAMPO staff and VHB staff have giving local board presentation about the Blueprint for Safety beginning as of August 8. CBS 17 conducted an interview with CAMPO and NCDOT staff on the Blueprint for Safety on Friday, September 13 and the link is here: [Dangerous roads across Wake County \(youtube.com\)](#). Local board presentations have been made throughout the fall of 2024, and Blueprint for Safety Plan Working Groups are currently underway. Final Working Group meetings will be completed in November.

**(Staff contact: Kenneth Withrow)**

### Northwest Area Study

The area study is for the northwestern portion of CAMPO and will include parts of Granville, Franklin and Wake Counties, as well as Creedmoor, Butner, Stem and Oxford. The Northwest Area Study will 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. An RFP was posted October 29, inviting consultants to submit proposals. It is anticipated that a Notice to Proceed will be issued in February 2025. **(Staff contact: Gaby Lawlor)**

## Committees

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

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

Five (5) Wake Transit Work Plan Amendment requests were submitted for the FY25/Q2 round. The amendment requests have come from CAMPO, GoTriangle, the Town of Morrisville, the Town of Wake Forest, and Wake County. The comment period was from September 3, 2024, to October 4, 2024. The Program Development Subcommittee considered the amendment request at their September 24, 2024, meeting, recommending approval to the TPAC. Since then, CAMPO pulled their request, bringing the total of amendments for the FY25/Q2 amendment cycle to four (4) total. The TPAC considered the amendments at their October meeting and recommended approval to the governing boards, which will consider the amendments at their November 2024 meetings.

**(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. The development cycle begins with the submission of project funding requests, which closed October 18. The initial meeting to review the requests took place at the October 29, 2024, PD Subcommittee meeting. Wake Transit staff, along with the PD Subcommittee, will

continue to meet over the course of November and December to develop the draft FY26 Wake Transit Work Plan. The presentation and public release of this draft document will occur in early 2025.

**(Staff Contact: Steven Mott)**

#### [FY2025 Community Funding Area Program Update](#)

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

CAMPO staff has been working 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 from this meeting, a decision was made to postpone the PMP update until next year. The TPAC was informed of this decision during their September meeting. Project Incubation meetings for the FY26 CFAP Application Window are set to begin on October 1<sup>st</sup> till October 21<sup>st</sup>. These meetings are optional and are by request of the applicants. There are no further updates at this time.

More information on the program and this year's development schedule can be found on [CAMPO's CFAP website](#). **(Staff Contact: Suvir Venkatesh)**

#### [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. The Vision Plan Update will include substantial public outreach and will be 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 met in January, March, April, June and August and October. The first phase of Public Engagement began May 6<sup>th</sup> and ran through July 21<sup>st</sup>. A Stakeholder meeting was held May 22<sup>nd</sup> in Raleigh, and a second Stakeholder meeting was held September 17<sup>th</sup> in Raleigh. The second phase of public engagement is scheduled to begin December 2<sup>nd</sup> and run through January 30<sup>th</sup>. The Wake Transit Plan Update website, where a survey and State of the Plan documentation will be housed, can be accessed directly at [www.publicinput.com/waketransit2035](http://www.publicinput.com/waketransit2035) or via the GoForward Get Involved website at <https://www.goforwardnc.org/wake-county/get-involved/>. The Plan Update is approximately halfway through 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 mobility management program (MMP).

For the remainder of the calendar year, the MCC will prepare for the new year per recommendations to formalize the MCC by electing officers and adopting by-laws. At the scheduled November 6<sup>th</sup> and December 6<sup>th</sup> joint subcommittee meetings, the members will also prepare the detailed implementation schedule/work program for the committee for the next five years.

Information on the MCC's work on the CAMPO's [Mobility Coordination Committee webpage](#).  
**(Staff contact: Crystal Odum).**

## 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 Eco-Counter system sites throughout CAMPO to perform Eco-Counter system inspections, diagnostics and data retrieval. ITRE staff members will also be coordinating and visiting Eco Counter sites in Cary, Apex and Wake Forest during the next several weeks if persons wish to join ITRE staff at those locations. Initial work on the counters in the current inventory occurred between April 2 through April 22 in all four of the NMVDP communities, with follow-up work occurring throughout the month of May. The results are that: Thirteen of the twenty-one counters have been upgraded. The RayGels counters were replaced where necessary, new batteries installed, and a new connection to the Cloud-based Eco-Visio software through Communication with Eco-Counter Tech Support was established. Of the remaining counters, two are inaccessible due to being located at a construction site or being "tagged" as the property of a municipality. Three counters require additional maintenance, in which Eco Counter has recommended they be removed and returned to the factory for diagnostics and possible repairs. The three remaining counters that are "out of service" are due to physical damage to the original system or the site conditions. Replacements for those counters have been found and are being installed at this time. Information on the current counters can be found at: <https://itre.ncsu.edu/focus/bikeped/nc-nmvdpl/>. **(Staff Contact: Kenneth Withrow)**

## 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. Lane Construction and NCDOT has provided the following update on the project:

The intersection of Blue Ridge Road and Beryl Road will be closed for an entire year (until October 2024). This is due to the lowering the grade of Blue Ridge Road and constructing new bridges for Hillsborough Street, the railroad tracks and Beryl Road. The goal is to reduce traffic congestion and train-related conflicts with vehicles and pedestrians. A detour will have traffic follow Pylon Drive, Blue Ridge Road, Western Boulevard and Powell Drive from one side of the construction zone to the other. Mr. Jeffery Excellent of Lane Construction sent out the following notice: "The night of November 8th at 9:00 pm Melbourne offramp to EB 440 will be closed until 5:00 am November 18th. The closure will open a new alignment to the new Western Bridge". No new notices have been issued. **(Staff Contact: Kenneth Withrow)**

### Triangle Bikeway Update

In 2019, Triangle area agencies worked together to plan a regional, 23-mile, shared-use path linking Raleigh, Cary, Morrisville, Research Triangle Park (RTP), Durham, and Chapel Hill following the I-40 and NC54 corridor. The path will connect Triangle residents and visitors to jobs, popular destinations, trail networks, transit, and more, across the region. While the project is called a bikeway, it will be a shared-use path suitable for users of all ages and abilities both on foot and by bike.

After extensive analysis and collection of significant community input, the project team evaluated over 100 miles of potential routes to develop a recommended alignment route. During the evaluation process, potential routes were studied to understand challenges and constraints. The Study elicited high levels of support for this facility from the County and municipalities along the corridor in the MPO area, as well as support from the cycling community and the public. Both DCHC & CAMPO Boards adopted the Triangle Bikeway Study in Spring/Summer of 2022.

In order to further evaluate implementation and prepare the project for potential funding opportunities, the project was split and currently in different phases of design.

Wake County and the Research Triangle Foundation partnered to fund the NEPA environmental analysis and Bikeway design of the recommended facility for the eastern portion of the bikeway that consists of 14 miles between Research Triangle Park/TW Alexander Drive to the NC Museum of Art greenway bridge at 1-440/Wade Avenue.

The funding partners requested the MPO manage the regional effort and an RFQ was released in January 2024. A firm was selected to begin design this September.

This project is expected to include 3 task orders. The first phase of the project will consist of advancing preliminary design, positioning the project for future funding opportunities, and starting coordination on NEPA activities.

CAMPO staff will be working with Local staff to form Leadership and Technical committees this fall and will be reaching out to form an Elected Official Committee to continue to guide the project early 2025.

**(Staff Contact: Cara Russell)**