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INFORMATIONAL ITEM: PROJECT UPDATES

October 2024

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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 Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan (CPT-HSTP). CAMPO issued a notice to proceed to the firm Moore & Associates October 2nd, 2023. 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 amended to reflect changing priorities in the region regarding the establishment of a regional Mobility Management Program (MMP). The MPO conducted a Mobility Management Study in FY 22 and FY 23 to establish a framework and partnership structure for delivering the MMP for the region which resulted in a series of recommendations.

The MPO also established and administers a Mobility Coordination Committee (MCC) to monitor the implementation of recommendations from the adopted 2018 CPT-HSTP, facilitate the MMP and to assist with regional public transit and human service transportation services coordination. For this 2024 CPT-HSTP update, the MCC acted as the technical steering committee to the consulting team. In addition to helping the region remain federally compliant and eligible to receive specific federal grant funds, this coordinated plan is also intended to help coordinate the aforementioned regional transportation services, efforts and programs over the last few years particularly those that affect the elderly, disabled and low-income populations. The MPO pooled funding for the plan update with the Wake Transit program to deliver the update to the plan while following Wake Transit Community Engagement policies.

The study/plan update which included relevant regional plan reviews, existing services/inventories review, stakeholder and public outreach efforts, transportation needs assessment and gap analysis and

recommended goals and strategies, was completed on time and budget on June 30, 2024 and culminated in the 2024 PT-HSTP update. The final plan including technical memos from the study, the recommendations/strategies and an implementation schedule has been developed. CAMPO staff presented the study work to the TCC/Executive Board in June for information. The final plan was posted for public comments for thirty days until September 19, 2024, and staff presented the plan to the TPAC on August 29th, TCC September 5th. The CAMPO Executive Board endorsed the final 2024 CPY-HST plan, which recommended four overarching goals coordination on September 18th following a public hearing at 4 pm. There were no public comments. The MCC including transit providers and human service agencies will begin the work of implementing the 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. The technical steering committee will convene in the fall.

(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 is currently in procurement and is anticipated to begin early in the fiscal year. **(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 IJA'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. Local board presentations will be made throughout the fall of 2024, and Blueprint for Safety Plan Working Groups will be underway shortly. 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 \(youtube.com\)](#).

(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

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 opened up on September 3, 2024, and will go to October 4, 2024. The Program Development Subcommittee will consider the amendment requests at their September 24, 2024, meeting before considered by the TPAC and Wake Transit Governing Boards later in 2024.

(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 opened for submission on September 19 and closes October 18. The Wake Transit Work Plan is developed and coordinated through efforts between Wake Transit staff and the Program Development subcommittee up to the presentation and public release of a draft document 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 8th 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 1st till October 21st. 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. The first phase of Public Engagement began May 6th and ran through July 21st. A Stakeholder meeting was held May 22nd in Raleigh, and a second Stakeholder meeting was held September 17th in Raleigh. 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 or via the GoForward Get Involved website at <https://www.goforwardnc.org/wake-county/get-involved/>. The Plan Update is expected to take 18 months to complete. **(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 2018 plan established short, mid and long-term goals for the committee. Short-term goals (2019- 2022) consist 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, in 2020 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 implementing the region's mobility management program (MMP) with 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 and initial MMP recommendations.

In FY 24/25 the MCC members continue to meet monthly completing the CPT-HSTP update, working through the 2018 CPT-HSTP's remaining recommendations, which includes focusing on advancing the mobility management program, and coordinating MCC work with the MMIS recommendations. The focus of the MCC has been acting as the technical steering committee to the consultant team hired on October 2nd, 2023, to update the plan. As part of that plan update work, the consultant reviewed the 2018 Plan's implemented and remaining goals with the MCC and adjusted them as needed to coordinate with the final FY24 plan update goal recommendations. The study, completed June 2024, resulted in the 2024 CPT-HSTP update including recommendations, strategies and a general Implementation Schedule for improving transportation coordination in the region. The MCC team is reviewing details of the final plan, working to formalize the MCC and developing a new detailed MCC Implementation Schedule for the next five years.

At the September joint subcommittee, members reviewed the study and provided final comments to the completed DRAFT Final 2024 CPT-HSTP. The MCC will begin preparations to formalize the MCC at its next meetings (October 4th – Joint Subcommittee, October 17th- Full Quarterly, November and December) by revisiting prepared bylaws, reconciling the latest MMP work and the plan implementation schedule and preparing to elect officers in January. 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-nmvdp/>. **(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.

Brandon Aldridge of NCDOT sent out the following notice: "Starting on September 21st at 10:00 PM on WB I-440, a triple lane closure will be installed starting from Six Forks Road to Glenwood Avenue until 5:00 AM on Monday, September 23rd. This is for bridge rehabilitation on WB I-440 over Yadkin Drive. Once the deck overlay has been poured, the goal is to reduce the triple left lane closure down to a double left lane closure Sunday afternoon to allow two thru lanes of traffic". 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 I-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)