



INFORMATIONAL ITEM: PROJECT UPDATES

September 2024

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Studies

MTP Bicycle & Pedestrian Element Update

This study reviewed 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. All study deliverables were finalized, including a recommendations matrix that will help guide and prioritize CAMPOs next steps. The matrix factored in feedback from the steering committee, which met for a third and final time on June 3rd. **(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 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.

Following public and stakeholder engagement in the first phase of the study, the project team has identified potential transit service zones in the study area and potential service types to meet demand. The project team will meet with the Core Technical Team and the Focus Groups in September to discuss transit service options for the study area. 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

The MPO issued an 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 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 updated to reflect 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 administers a Mobility Coordination Committee (MCC) to monitor the implementation of recommendations from the adopted 2018 CPT-HSTP and to assist with regional public transit and human service transportation services coordination. The MCC acted as the technical steering committee to the consulting team for the FY 24 CPT-HSTP update. 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 with the Wake Transit program to deliver the update to the plan while following Wake Transit Community Engagement policies. The consultant initiated a project overview presentation and site visits with the MCC partners and reviewed all relevant regional plans and transportation programs. The team prepared a public engagement plan, a Regional Plans Summary Report, stakeholder surveys, a community survey and compiled a database of over 440 key transportation stakeholders, conducted 17 local community engagement pop-up table events and collected public surveys. The final plan including tech memos, the recommendations/strategies and an implementation schedule has been developed. Study completion was June. CAMPO staff presented the study work to the TCC/Executive Board in June for information. The final plan has been posted for thirty days until September 18, 2024 for public comments. Staff will present the plan to the TPAC on August 29th, TCC September 5th and the CAMPO Executive Board action to endorse the plan is scheduled for September 18th following a public hearing at 4 pm.

(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 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 is now underway and runs through 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 are 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. As of August 26 over 1400 people have taken the survey. Mr. Richard Stradling of the News and Observer posted an article on August 23 concerning the Blueprint for Safety as linked here <https://www.newsobserver.com/news/local/counties/wake-county/article291263275.html>.

(Staff contact: Kenneth Withrow)

Committees

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

FY 2024 and Prior Year Wake Transit Work Plan Amendment Update

Several Period of Performance (POP) Extension Requests have been submitted by GoTriangle, Raleigh and Cary for consideration. The purpose of these POP Extension Requests is to extend the deadline in the Project Agreements for work to be completed. The TPAC reviewed and considered these requests at its meetings in June and July and recommended approval of the POP Extension Requests to the Wake Transit Governing Boards. The Governing Boards considered and approved these requests in August.

(Staff Contact: Steven Mott)

FY 2025 Wake Transit Work Plan Development Update

The Recommended FY 2025 Wake Transit Work Plan was considered by the Wake Transit Governing Boards in June. The CAMPO Executive Board approved the Work Plan with the complete Wake County portion of the Vehicle Rental Tax revenue (\$5.056 Million), however the GoTriangle Board of Trustees did not take action on the Work Plan due to the ongoing Wake Transit Conference Committee discussions. The Conference Committee met on July 8th and voted to direct the TPAC to revise the Recommended Work Plan to include \$2.528 Million (approximately 50% of Wake County’s portion) of the Vehicle Rental Tax revenue in the Work Plan. The TPAC met on July 18th and recommended approval of a revised Recommended FY 2025 Wake Transit Work Plan to the Wake Transit Governing Boards, offsetting the reduction in Vehicle Rental Tax revenue with additional Capital Fund Balance allocation. The Governing Boards approved the revised Recommended Wake Transit Work Plan at their meetings in August.

(Staff Contact: Ben Howell)

FY2025 Community Funding Area Program Update

The Wake Transit Community Funding Area Program’s (CFAP) FY 2026 application cycle will kick-off 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 will be organizing 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

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 is scheduled for 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 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. 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 establishes 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.

MCC members continue to meet monthly to work through the 2018 CPT-HSTP's remaining recommendations, which includes focusing on advancing the mobility management program, coordinating MCC work with the MMIS recommendations, and completing the required 2024 CPT-HSTP update. The MCC acted 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 FY24 plan update recommendation. The CPT-HSTP study completion was June 2024. The MCC team is working to develop a new detailed MCC Implementation Schedule for the next five years.

At the July joint subcommittee and quarterly meetings, members reviewed the completed DRAFT 2024 CPT-HSTP in detail and make its final plan review at the September MCC meeting. The MCC will begin formalizing

the MCC in October by preparing to elect officers and implementing the plan. 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, counter RayGels 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.

Also, Lane Construction have instituted a new traffic pattern beginning on August 20 and staying active through the Labor Day Weekend. During this traffic shift a collector lane (similar to US 1 southbound from I-40 to Walnut Street in Cary) will be created for the Western Boulevard traffic for eastbound I-440 and the

eastbound I-440 traffic going to Wade Avenue and Hillsborough Street. This temporary Wade and Hillsborough off-ramp will be located before you cross the Hillsborough St Bridge and Western Boulevard traffic will merge into eastbound I-440 at Wade Ave.

Traffic will stay in this pattern until the night of September 3rd or 4th, at which time the 9-day full closure of the eastbound I-440/Hillsborough ramps will begin. **(Staff Contact: Kenneth Withrow)**