

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEM: PROJECT UPDATES**

**A. Hot Spot Program** – Two Hot Spot studies were conducted in FY 2018: an analysis of the US 401/US 70/Mechanical Blvd intersections and surrounding network, and an analysis of the US 64/Hodge Road interchange general area in Knightdale. The final hot spot reports were distributed to affected local government staff in September and are posted on the MPO's webpage. Additional hot spot locations are funded in the FY 2020 UPWP, but locations have not been determined. For more information please contact Shelby Powell.

### **B. Commuter Corridors Study – Update**

The Capital Area MPO selected the consulting firm Baseline Mobility Group, Inc. and sub-contractor RSG, Inc. to conduct a corridors study to address select, congested commuter corridors to improve mobility in the CAMPO planning area. Multi-modal commuter corridors in the region are increasingly congested even with major financial investments (TIP, MTP, Wake Investment Plan projects) into the area's transportation network. This technical study will develop and recommend various land use and transportation scenarios and investments that offer multi-modal, high impact solutions to relieve or mitigate anticipated congestion, policy recommendations that would be necessary to support the various scenarios, planning level costs for transportation elements in each of the recommended scenarios and a communications and public engagement strategy that can be deployed by the MPO to discuss the scenarios with stakeholders and the public. Proposals were received on Monday, October 15, 2018, the firm selected, and the technical work scope finalized. The Notice to Proceed was issued January 3, 2019 to the consulting team with the study's kick off workshop for a Technical Steering Committee (TSC) held on January 31, 2019. This workshop introduced the committee to the project scope, existing conditions, traffic data, issues and opportunities. Work continues with the firm meeting with staff from TJCOG, testing various data sets and variables within the CommunityViz model and meetings with the CAMPO team to determine test scenarios. The TSC workshop #2 of 3 was held on April 17, 2019 to discuss future scenarios. model runs, data analysis, assumptions and outreach strategies. The TSC provided input on the presentation of preliminary findings. During the final TSC Workshop #3, scheduled for May 28<sup>th</sup>, the team will review study findings and recommendations including outreach material. Final study reports are being completed. The study will conclude June 30, 2019. (Staff Contact: Crystal Odum)

**C. (SRTS) John Rex Endowment Grant Award Update** - The Wake County Model Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Project is in its fourth year and will wrap up in 2019. This John Rex Endowment-funded effort is working toward the goal of improving child pedestrian safety in the county by increasing understanding of and support for SRTS programs and identify opportunities to improve policies and practices that improve pedestrian safety for all users, especially children. Three municipalities have installed their grant-funded infrastructure improvements near their model school: Cary, Fuquay-Varina, and Knightdale. WCPSS has adopted a wellness policy that encourages walking and biking to school and revised their guidelines for new/renovated school sites to give more clear direction on safe pedestrian access. At the municipal level, project partners have applauded the municipalities that have recently adopted comprehensive plans that recommend the adoption of a Complete Streets policy. At the CAMPO SRTS Subcommittee level, members supported the SRTS tasks components that are proposed for the FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP); which was adopted on February 20, 2019. The next SRTS

Subcommittee meeting will be held on Friday, June 21, 2019 in CAMPO Conference Room A. Please go to <http://www.iwalktoschool.org/> for additional details. (Staff Contact: Kenneth Withrow)

**D. Southwest Area Study (Update)** - CAMPO and NCDOT are working to update the original Southwest Area Study that will address the changes in land use and transportation in the area since 2012 and serve to inform the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). CAMPO staff and staff members from the consultant team of Ramey-Kemp & Associates, and Stantec prepared for and participated in the Southwest Area Study Public Workshop held on December 5<sup>th</sup> in Holly Springs. Following the 20-minute presentation by CAMPO staff, participants went to various stations around the room to view maps, complete surveys, and provide comments. Citizens who live and/or work in the Study area but could not attend the event have been encouraged to learn more at the Study website and complete the online survey: <https://www.questionpro.com/a/TakeSurvey?tt=ZZO4v/ZZVxM%3D>. The joint CTT / SOT meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 10 from 2:00 to 4:30 pm at the Fuquay-Varina Service Center; at which time the consultant presented recommendations for the various modes that were a part of the Study. The Open House Public Meeting was held on April 23, 2019 from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Holly Springs Cultural Center to receive public feedback on the recommendations. The consultant team has conducted additional “pop-up” events; and is currently working on the final report. The project website is located at <https://www.swastudy.com/>. (Staff Contact: Kenneth Withrow)

**E. Triangle Regional Intelligent Transportation Systems Deployment Plan Update** – The Capital Area MPO, Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO, and NCDOT are jointly funding an update to the 2010 Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Deployment Plan. The consultant team has distributed draft materials to the stakeholders for review and comment. The third and final stakeholder workshop is scheduled for May 30<sup>th</sup> at the CAMPO offices. (Staff Contact: Alex Rickard)

**F. Triangle Strategic Tolling Study – Update**

The Capital Area MPO, the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO, and NCDOT/NCTA, with the consulting firm WSP, have embarked on the development of a regional toll study that will identify the feasibility, applicability, and appropriateness of a variety of user pay systems for potential consideration across the Research Triangle region. Recommendations developed as part of this study will be used to inform the development of future Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) updates. ECONorthwest, a company working along with the consultant team on the Tolling Study, provided corridor results from their Toll Optimization Model during the August 23 Core Technical Team (CTT) meeting. Outcomes from that exercise were presented to the Stakeholder Oversight Team (SOT) during their meeting in September; along with recommended highway facilities that would be incorporated into the “Tier-Two” analysis, which is currently underway. Finally, a Study update to MPO Boards was presented to the Joint MPO Executive Board meeting on Wednesday, October 31. Currently, the consultant team is working on the performance measures:

- Finalizing toll revenue and travel time savings results for the Tier 2 corridors
- Determining transit access by corridor

- ECONorthwest is developing a travel time reliability measure to show where express lanes would provide the most dependable peak hour travel (compared to general purpose lanes)
- Have started conceptual design for adding express lanes along the corridors; will provide high-level construction costs and identify where facilities will be easiest to build
- Using TRM socio-economic projections to determine where express lanes would improve job access and any EJ impacts

Tier-Two work will be completed near the end of January; with concept design and construction cost estimating requiring the most time to complete. The most recent CTT meeting was held on Friday, February 22, 2019 to review the tier-two material. The final SOT meeting was held on April 11, 2019 at the Triangle J Council of Governments from 1:30 – 3:30 pm. A presentation was also given to the North Carolina Turnpike Authority Board of Directors on May 2; and to NCDOT staff on May 16. Additional information concerning the Triangle Strategic Tolling Study is located at <http://www.camponc.us/programs-studies/triangle-strategic-tolling-study>. (Staff Contact: Kenneth Withrow)

#### **G. R.E.D. Priority Bus Lanes Study - Update**

The Capital Area MPO is seeking guidance on developing a methodology for determining suitability of R.E.D. transit priority bus lanes or other corridor treatments in the CAMPO area and a priority list of recommended application of these treatments. The R.E.D. acronym refers to red painted lanes with shared access for all vehicles making right -hand turns, emergency vehicles and driveway access lanes. This study will provide a comprehensive review of best practices for transit priority lanes and R.E.D lane shared access in peer areas. The study recommendations will evaluate the applicability of priority lanes through qualitative analysis and the development and deployment of a methodology for evaluating and prioritizing transit priority lane treatments in the CAMPO area. CAMPO invited qualified consulting firms, or individuals, who are experienced in transit bus lanes assessment and analysis to submit proposals on August 1, 2018. Proposals were received/opened Monday, August 27, 2018 and a Notice to Proceed to conduct the R.E.D. Bus Priority Bus Lanes study issued November 14, 2018 to the firm Renaissance Planning, Inc. and subconsultant WSP, Inc. A core technical team (CTT) created to support the study met the same day with a kick off meeting to introduce the team and to outline the goals of the study, expectations and deliverables. Work is ongoing on Task 4, the existing conditions analysis and report. During Workshop #1, held on March 5, 2019, the CTT reviewed the consultant team's findings via a technical overview report and a list of plans and studies. The CTT also provided input on performance measures and standards and reviewed maps of potential R.E.D. bus lane corridors. The next CTT work shop (#2) on the existing conditions analysis including a listing of additional supplemental corridors, is scheduled for June 27th. The study is scheduled to be completed in fiscal year 2020. (Staff Contact: Crystal Odum)

#### **H. Fayetteville/Raleigh Passenger Rail Study**

The Capital Area Metropolitan Area Planning Organization (CAMPO), in partnership with the Fayetteville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (FAMPO), is seeking a qualified consulting firm or individual to conduct a passenger rail feasibility study to examine the viability of passenger rail service between Raleigh and Fayetteville, North Carolina through travel market demand across various trip types, the viability of using one of the two existing rail corridors and general analysis of economic feasibility of providing passenger rail between these cities. Many

of the rail corridors in the region have been studied in the last several years to identify a variety of safety and capacity improvements for both freight and passenger rail. As the region continues to grow the need to maximize the use of transportation corridors continues to expand.

The purpose of this study is to determine if the market exists for passenger rail between Raleigh and Fayetteville. If the market exists, the study will determine which of the two existing corridors would be the best option for providing that service. The study is envisioned to be conducted in two phases. Phase I will be this high-level study of the two main rail corridors between the CAMPO and FAMPO regions to determine which corridor may be most appropriate for a commuter rail application based on corridor infrastructure, ridership potential, and market demand analysis. A Phase II study may be commissioned to develop specific recommendations for improvements to each rail corridor identified in Phase I.

A Request for Proposals was issued May 6<sup>th</sup> and the procurement process is ongoing with a Notice to Proceed anticipated by July 8, 2019. The study will be conducted through fiscal year 2020 with the assistance of a technical stakeholders committee and conclude by June 30, 2020. (Staff Contact: Crystal Odum)

## **I. Triangle Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Program**

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, teleworking, and vanpooling. The current goal is a reduction in the growth of vehicle miles traveled by 25%. CAMPO serves on the Oversight Committee as one of three funding partners with NCDOT and DCHC, along with representatives from Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) and the NC Department of Environmental Quality Division of Air Quality. In FY 18, TJCOG administered \$2,134,869.64 in grant funding with \$699,934.38 in local match from partners in the Triangle TDM Program. For the 2019 Triangle TDM Regional Employee Commute Survey, 83% of commutes were by single-occupancy vehicle, down from 85% in 2017. Average commute distance for the Triangle TDM region is 17.1 miles, with an average of 16.8 miles in 2017. TJCOG is currently working on a plan update including redefining the purpose/goal, analyzing the last 10 years of the program, and updating the table of activities. Focus groups were held with a variety of stakeholders in April/May along with peer reviews. A meeting to discuss enhanced performance metrics, peer evaluations, and recommendations will be held with the Oversight Committee in June. More information on the Triangle TDM Program can be found at: <https://www.tjcog.org/triangle-transportation-demand-management-program.aspx>. (Staff contact: Brandon Watson)