

# INFORMATIONAL ITEM: PROJECT UPDATES

March 2021

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### Safe Routes to School Update

The SRTS Subcommittee met on Friday, March 12, 2021. Items discussed included creating opportunities to merge SRTS Walk Audit processes and NCDOT's Road Safety Audit processes, developing a baseline crossing guard inventory, receiving the current LAPP schedule, and obtaining an update concerning COVID Relief Funding that is available to CAMPO. The next meeting is scheduled to occur on Friday, June 18, 2021. **(Staff Contact: Kenneth Withrow)**

### 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, walking, teleworking, and vanpooling. 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.

The annual FY 22 Request for Proposals for the Triangle TDM Program was released in February and applications were due on March 12, 2021. Notice of award to applicants is expected in late May. The RFP and all documents can be found on the Triangle TDM Program website at:

<https://www.ticog.org/programs-land-use-transportation/transportation-demand-management>.

TJCOG also began updating the Triangle TDM Plan in 2019. The intent was to redefine the purpose/goal of the Triangle TDM Program and update the table of activities drawing largely from the report created by Gresham Smith. Gresham Smith served as the lead consultant for NCDOT's Statewide TDM Program providing technical assistance for TJCOG's Triangle TDM Update work. In 2019, several peer reviews and focus group surveys with TDM stakeholders were held, and a technical assistance report was submitted to TJCOG who then presented the TDM Plan Goals Update to the TCC and Executive Board. The plan update is currently on hold due to NCDOT funding issues and COVID impacts. **(Staff contact: Brandon Watson)**

### Triangle Bikeway Implementation Study

The project team has used this quarter to work on technical design alignments and integrating public input into potential recommendations. The Study team is anticipating the next round of public engagement to occur this spring, starting in the next couple of months. The next Triangle Bikeway Working Group meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 8, 2021 from 1:30 to 3:30PM. Anticipated project complete is December, 2021. **(Staff contact: Kenneth Withrow)**

### 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. Both quarterly and annual reports are publicly available at:

<https://itre.ncsu.edu/focus/bike-ped/nc-nmvdpl/>. (Staff contact: Kenneth Withrow)

## Mobility Coordination Committee

Given the complexity of our regional transportation system and various mobility management programs, the MCC members recommend bringing on a consultant to assist with the mobility management program development. Consequently, a Mobility Management Program (MMP) joint study, to be conducted in partnership with Wake County, has been added to CAMPO's FY22 UPWP. The MCC is working on updating a draft MMP work scope to include a phased work approach. Phase I includes the review and analysis of existing regional programs, the impact of the mobility management program on each existing program as well as recommendations regarding hiring a potential regional mobility manager. Phase I would also include the drafting of a high level "white paper" identifying benefits and challenges a MMP may create, Board presentations and an Interlocal Agreement for agencies able to participate in Phase II, the actual development of the mobility management program. The working sub committees met last on February 5th and updated the full MCC committee at the quarterly January 21st meeting. Information on the MCC, including the meetings schedules, agendas and summaries, is posted on the CAMPO website. Periodic updates to the Wake Board of Commissioners, TCC/TPAC and the CAMPO Executive Board and other boards will be provided with schedule and workplan updates anticipated to be presented during this fiscal year. Information on the MCC's work is on the CAMPO website here: <https://www.campo-nc.us/about-us/committees/mobility-coordination-committee> (Staff Contact: Crystal Odum)

## NCDOT Highway Project U-2719 – Updates

For the Blue Ridge and Hillsborough Intersection, closure of Blue Ridge has been pushed back until after the fair in 2021. There will be utility relocation and road work to prep for that closure. Current sections of the project expected to be on the long-term timetable schedule are the I-440 Westbound Off Ramp to Wade EB (Long Term Detour), and the I-440 EB Exit to Western Blvd Loop. The I-440 Westbound Shift to Median between Jones Franklin Road and I-440/Walnut Interchange, and the I-440 Eastbound Off Loop to Jones Franklin Road are currently under construction for a period of nine months.

## New Traffic Patterns

### 1. Westbound I-440 mainline under Walnut bridge

- o Anticipated Date: April 2021

- o Reason for this shift is to construct new alignment of westbound I-440

### 2. Westbound I-440 Western to Athens

- o Anticipated Date: April 2021

- o Reason for this shift is to construct new alignment of westbound I-440

Further details about the projects are located at [I-440 & Blue Ridge Road Improvements](https://www.ncdot.gov/projects/i-440-improvements/Pages/default.aspx)  
<https://www.ncdot.gov/projects/i-440-improvements/Pages/default.aspx>. (Staff Contact:

**Kenneth Withrow)**

### **Northeast Area Study Update**

The initial Northeast Area Study (NEAS) was completed in FY 2014 and needed to be updated in order to prepare for the 2050 MTP, so the NEAS Update began in early 2020. It will evaluate land use and transportation issues in the northeastern section of CAMPO's planning area. The study covers parts of Wake and Franklin Counties, and the municipalities of Knightdale, Wendell, Zebulon, Bunn, Rolesville, Wake Forest, Youngsville, Franklinton, and part of Raleigh.

Stantec was selected as the NEAS Update consultant and study outputs include: typical products such as public engagement planning and implementation, development of guiding principles, Stakeholder Oversight Team (SOT) working sessions regarding scenarios for both transportation and land use, deficiency analyses, data collection and modelling, coordination with local staff and NCDOT through the Core Technical Team (CTT), and more. Unique aspects include a set of hotspot evaluations and conceptual design work, as well as an updated policy guidebook. An initial round of public engagement occurred over three months in the summer of 2020. Utilizing that and the technical analyses, draft recommendations were released in February 2021 for roadway, bike/ped, and transit improvements. The next step is to put the recommended improvement projects into short-, mid-, and long-term buckets using feedback received through the second public engagement period that ended on March 10, 2021.

The second round of public engagement included a virtual tent to explore the recommendations through an interactive map, as well as an online survey, all of which are closed but still able to be viewed on the website. Final recommendations and a summary of the public feedback will be shared with the CTT in March, SOT in April, and local and municipal boards as well as TCC and Executive Board in the spring/summer. The project is anticipated to go through June 2021. Visit [www.neasupdate.com](http://www.neasupdate.com) for more information. **(Staff Contact: Brandon Watson)**

### **Bus on Shoulder Study**

CAMPO is partnering with DCHC MPO, NCDOT and GoTriangle to conduct a regional evaluation of potential expansion of the Bus on Shoulder System currently operated on I-40. The Study will also look for opportunities to enhance the North Carolina rules and guidelines for using Bus on Shoulder in other parts of the state. The consultant team has conducted an evaluation of the study corridors against performance metrics, and is starting to develop an implementation strategy and updated public messaging. Recommendations from the study are expected in June 2021. **(Staff Contact: Shelby Powell)**

### **Western Wake Traffic Signal System Integration Study**

CAMPO recently completed the Triangle Region ITS Strategic Deployment Plan Update, which included the need for interoperable signal systems across jurisdictional boundaries leading to a goal of regionalized intelligent transportation systems (ITS) including coordinated signal systems. In January 2021, CAMPO began a study to regionalize ITS systems, including integrating traffic signal systems from multiple jurisdictions into one signal system.

Recommendations will include guidance and implementation step details to be fit for use in other areas across North Carolina where regional ITS signal system integration efforts would be applicable. Exult Engineering was selected as the lead consultant. The study will be centered on the Western Wake area, coordinating with NCDOT and the Towns of Apex, Cary, Fuquay-Varina, Holly Springs, and Morrisville. Members within the study area have been receiving data requests in preparation for the first technical team meeting on March 25, 2021. The project is anticipated to be completed by June 2022. **(Staff Contact: Brandon Watson)**

### US 401 Corridor Study

CAMPO has begun a study that will cover the US 401 Corridor from generally US 421 in Harnett County north to Banks Road in Wake County. For the purpose of this study, the corridor will be divided into three segments that enable the study team to focus on the requirements of each segment individually. The following extents for the three segments are:

- US 401 Fuquay-Varina Bypass
- Fuquay-Varina – Banks Road to Harnett/Wake County Line
- Southern Section – Harnett/Wake County Line to Lillington

The first Stakeholder Oversight Team meeting was held on Tuesday, March 16, at 1:30pm; and received information about current project work upcoming outreach to the community in preparation for the first public meeting.

The first phase of public engagement began on March 11<sup>th</sup> and includes an online survey, with a virtual public meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

[www.US401CorridorStudy.com](http://www.US401CorridorStudy.com) **(Staff Contact: Kenneth Withrow)**

### Wake Transit Plan Implementation Updates

#### 1) Wake County Transit Plan Update

A joint public hearing was held by the CAMPO and GoTriangle Boards at the March 17, 2021, CAMPO Executive Board meeting. The public comment period for the draft Wake County Transit Plan Update ends on March 31, 2021. The TCC and Wake Transit governing boards (CAMPO Executive Board & GoTriangle Board of Trustees) will consider taking action to adopt the FY2021-2030 Wake County Transit Plan at their April meetings. General project information is posted on the project website: <https://goforwardnc.org/wakeinput/>. **(Staff Contact: Bret Martin)**

#### 2) Wake Transit Community Engagement Policy Update

The adopted Wake Transit Public Engagement Policy is currently being updated to streamline engagement requirements for Wake Transit-funded projects and program-level planning and to clarify the roles and responsibilities of involved agencies. The draft Wake Transit Community Engagement Policy is available for public comment through April 5, 2021. The TCC and Wake Transit governing boards will consider taking action to adopt the updated Community

Engagement (CE) Policy at their May meetings. General project information is posted online at: <https://goforwardnc.org/wakeinput/>. **(Staff Contact: Stephanie Plancich)**

### 3) Draft FY2022 Wake Transit Work Plan

The public comment period for the draft FY22 Wake Transit Work Plan ends on March 21, 2021. The TPAC will consider the feedback received and will approve the release of a recommended draft for an additional 14-day public comment period at its meeting on April 21, 2021. The TCC and Wake Transit governing boards will consider taking action to approve/adopt the FY22 Wake Transit Work Plan at their June meetings. General project info is posted on the project website: <https://goforwardnc.org/wakeinput/>. **(Staff Contact: Bret Martin)**

### 4) FY2022 Community Funding Area Program Project Selection

Both FY2022 applications for Community Funding Area (CFA) Program funding, one for transit planning funds for the Town of Knightdale and one to enhance micro-mobility infrastructure at Research Triangle Park, completed the CFA program selection process, and the two applications were presented to the TPAC on March 10, 2021. Funding for both projects will be included in the TPAC-recommended FY22 Wake Transit Work Plan coming before the TCC and Executive Board in June.

**(Staff Contact: Evan Koff)**

### 5) Wake Transit Performance Tracker

CAMPO is tasked with developing an online Wake Transit Performance Tracker. In May 2020, CAMPO executed a contract with WSP for support in bringing two components of the online resource to fruition.

1. Interactive project map that will put the investment information contained in the annual Wake Transit Work Plan into a visual, searchable format. Users will be able to see detailed information on Wake Transit-funded service and infrastructure projects that have been completed, are underway or are planned for future years.
2. Graphic-driven dashboard that will display progress toward reaching Wake Transit program goals. The elements of the dashboard are intended to reflect programmatic goals set in the Wake Transit Plan, Bus Plan and other adopted materials.

June through December of 2020 was focused on planning and development activities. A beta test period will occur in late spring 2021, with the full-scale community launch planned for late May/early June 2021. **(Staff Contact: Stephanie Plancich)**

### 6) Policy Regarding Wake Transit Interests in Real Property

As Wake Transit project sponsors/funding recipients increasingly receive funding for land acquisition, the TPAC charged CAMPO, in cooperation with the TPAC Planning & Prioritization Subcommittee, with developing a policy framework that sets rules and expectations for Wake Transit's interests in real property. It is anticipated that the policy framework will continue development through February and March and will be considered by the TPAC, TCC and Executive Board later in the spring. **(Staff Contact: Bret Martin)**

## 6) Wake Transit Art Funding Eligibility Policy

In response to TPAC member interest in having the ability to use Wake Transit funds for art and culture elements at transit facilities, the TPAC has requested that an Art Funding Eligibility Policy be drafted for its consideration. With support of an Art & Culture Workgroup led by City of Raleigh staff and the TPAC Budget & Finance Subcommittee, it is anticipated that the draft will be considered by the TPAC, TCC and Wake Transit governing boards in spring/summer 2021. **(Staff Contact: Stephanie Plancich)**

## NC 540 Bonus Allocation Projects

The [selected NC 540 Bonus Allocation projects](#) were adopted by the CAMPO Executive Board in April 2020 and have been programmed in the TIP and STIP. Three initial projects have been identified in the TIP and STIP with Bonus Allocation (BA) funding and are currently under the initial preliminary engineering stages within NCDOT:

**HL-0006** Realign Hilltop Road to Lake Wheeler Road on new location, convert US 401 to superstreet from Lake Wheeler Road to Hilltop Needmore Rd: Project one of two regional-tier projects selected for BA funding. Original anticipated cost \$15m. Project has been assigned to firm VHB for planning and engineering tasks. An updated cost estimate from NCDOT increases the anticipated cost for the project at \$21.3m, not including preliminary engineering costs. This additional budget will be compensated with the \$10m in contingency funds set aside in the adopted BA list of projects. *If the total cost of projects exceeds the entire source of BA funds, additional costs will come out of the CAMPO STBGDA allocation (traditionally utilized under the Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP)).* NCDOT Mobility & Safety has agreed to contribute HSIP funds to this project in order to extend the limits through the Dwight Rowland Rd. intersection on US 401.

**HL-0007** Construct grade separation at at-grade intersection of NC 55 and Technology Drive: Project two of two regional-tier projects selected for BA funding. Original anticipated cost \$30m. Project has been assigned to firm Meade & Hunt for preliminary engineering activities- traffic analysis currently underway.

**HL-0008** Preliminary Engineering for various intersection improvements to be funded through CAMPO Bonus Allocation funding: This STIP and TIP ID will be used to fund the preliminary engineering activities on the intersection improvement projects identified for the division-level BA funding (\$45m). Once a project has graduated from the preliminary engineering, the project will receive an individual TIP and STIP ID and will be tracked as a standalone project. NCDOT's Division 5 has started the preliminary engineering on the first handful of projects on the Division-level intersection improvements list. Once Division 5 has completed PE on these projects, they will start PE on the next handful of projects. The intention is to go as far down the intersection improvements list as possible with the available \$45m. Note: these projects could increase or decrease in scope based on further analysis completed by NCDOT. The projects currently in the initial PE phase are:

- HL-0008A (Lake Wheeler Rd. at Ten Ten Rd.)

- HL-0008B (Kildaire Farm Rd. at Penny Rd.)
- HL-0008C (NC-50 (Benson Rd) at Timber Dr.)
- HL-0008D (Holly Springs Rd. at Sunset Lake Rd.)
- HL-0008E (Main St. at Holly Springs Rd.)
- HL-0008F (Old Stage Rd. at Ten Ten Rd.)
- HL-0008G (Lake Wheeler Rd. at Hilltop Needmore Rd.)
- HL-0008H (Lake Wheeler Rd. at Simpkins Farm Ln.)
- HL-0008I (Old Stage Rd. at Rock Service Station Rd.)
- HL-0008J (NC 50 (Benson Rd.) at Rand Rd.)
- HL-0008K (NC 42 at Hilltop Rd)
- HL-0008L (Ten Ten at Bells Lake Rd)
- \*NC 50 at Steven Oaks Rd was on list, but will have the westbound right turn lane constructed as part of Complete 540 project and left turn lane deemed not needed.

**(Staff Contacts: Gretchen Vetter & Alex Rickard)**