



NC Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Legislation Text

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Wake Transit Concurrence Framework

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As required by the Wake Transit Governance Interlocal Agreement, CAMPO staff, in cooperation with the Wake County TPAC, has prepared a document detailing a process, known as the Concurrence Process, that streamlines and expedites a Project Sponsor's attainment of verification from other agencies having a regulatory interest in a project that its proposed actions or project implementation approaches are in compliance with the agencies' laws, regulations or policies. The draft Concurrence Process is provided as **Attachment 1**. This verification is conveyed in response to project implementation actions or approaches proposed by the Project Sponsor at key project milestones (known as Concurrence Points) throughout the project development and permitting processes. Specific Concurrence Points associated with the Concurrence Framework are distinct to the nature and magnitude of anticipated impacts associated with each project, and consequently, are outlined for each project in a project-specific Concurrence Plan.

A major goal of the Concurrence Framework is to bring order to what can easily be an unwieldy and excessively time-consuming process of securing verification of compliance from multiple agencies in a setting in which all agencies involved have knowledge and understanding of any competing interests from other regulatory agencies and compromised-based decisions can be made. Agencies that implement major capital projects have the responsibility of determining whether actions that are critical to the trajectory of those projects, as well as any impacts to regulated resources or interests of other agencies, are in compliance with those agencies' laws, policies, and regulations. Left to a system in which Project Sponsors coordinate individually with other agencies, it is very difficult to balance competing agencies' mandates, policies, laws, or regulations. The Wake Transit Concurrence Framework is modeled after the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) 'Merger Process', which sets out to achieve the same goals for projects NCDOT is responsible for implementing.

In addition to explaining the value and goals of the Concurrence Framework, **Attachment 1** further details roles and responsibilities of organizations involved in the process, projects that would be subject to the process, illustrative/common Concurrence Points for major capital projects, and a dispute resolution process. There are two documents associated with the Concurrence Framework in **Attachment 1**. The first is the actual policy document for the Concurrence Process that will be considered for approval. The second is a Practitioner Guide that is intended to be used as an administrative tool by everyday practitioners of the framework. The Concurrence Framework document was recommended for approval by the TPAC at its January 22nd regular meeting and will be considered for approval in February by the Executive Board and GoTriangle Board of Trustees. CAMPO staff will provide more information on the Concurrence Framework at the Executive Board's February 20th meeting.

Requested Action: Consider approval of the Wake Transit Concurrence Framework