

MEETING MINUTES

**BURLINGTON-GRAHAM METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2025
425 S. LEXINGTON AVENUE
BURLINGTON, NC 27215**

PRESENT

Bob Ward, Burlington
Jim Butler, Burlington
Monti Allison, Elon
Ricky Hall, Graham
Bobby Chin, Graham
Patty Wilson, Haw River
Montrena Hadley, Mebane
Steve Carter, Alamance County
Jean Hamilton, Orange County
Lisa Mathis, NCDOT BOT

NCDOT STAFF

Nishant Shah, Division 7
Chad Reimakoski, Division 7
Rupal Desai, TPD

BGMPO STAFF

Eliud De Jesus

OTHERS/GUESTS

Jamezetta Bedford, Orange County
Peter Murphy, ACTA
Jaime Lawson, Burlington
Scott Rhine, PART
Lynn Clark, NCDOT BOT

Call to Order

Chair Bob Ward welcomed all members and guests and called the August 19, 2025, TAC meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. Mr. Eliud De Jesus conducted the membership roll call and established a quorum. Chair Ward requested some changes to the agenda and public comments. Mr. De Jesus requested to table item five regarding transit 5307. Mr. Ricky Hall made the motion to approve the modified agenda, seconded by Montrena Hadley. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote. Chair Ward then requested a motion to approve May 20 and June 12, 2025, meeting minutes. Mr. Steve Carter made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Ricky Hall. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Briefing by City of Burlington attorney about in-person meetings

David Huffman, Burlington City Attorney, briefed the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) members about the in-person meetings. Mr. Huffman has advised us that our TAC is not authorized to conduct hybrid meetings per the North Carolina law. Local government governing boards and appointed boards used the legislated COVID-related provisions that allowed for remote participation and voting remotely, during the statewide State of Emergency (SOE) from May 4, 2020, through August 15, 2022. Except for limited circumstances of statewide emergencies, State, County, and municipal governing boards and commissions reverted to pre-COVID procedures for their meetings. Specifically, to participate and

vote in a public meeting, the board member must be present. Further, the public cannot participate in meetings remotely. Our members or their alternates, and presenters were requested to attend future meetings in person.

BGMPO Functional Classification Decennial Review

Mr. De Jesus introduced Ms. Rupal Desai, from NCDOT TPD, provided a presentation on the Functional Classification Decennial Review, the proposed changes for the MPO, including the list of changes and associated maps. Functional classification is a federally required process by which streets and highways are grouped into classes, according to the character of service they are intended to provide. BGMPO must approve the proposed functional classification changes within its planning area prior to being submitted to FHWA for its review. More information can be found through the following link: [Highway Functional Classification](#).

SPOT 8.0 Project Candidate List Approval

Mr. De Jesus provided an overview of the SPOT 8.0 funding cycle. He reported that the Burlington-Graham MPO is located within Region D, which includes Divisions 7 and 9, with a current regional allocation of approximately \$319 million and \$77 million for Division 7. This represents a decrease from the previous cycle.

Mr. De Jesus reviewed the draft list of top thirteen candidate highway projects, along with bicycle, pedestrian, and rail project lists. Staff requested authority to accept additional aviation, rail, or transit projects on a first-come basis through September 30, 2025, substitute projects if higher priority items are advanced by another jurisdiction and adjust project details with jurisdictional concurrence.

Members discussed clarifying the second provision to ensure substitutions follow the established project ranking rather than jurisdictional discretion. Chair Ward and Ms. Hadley agreed with the clarification. Monti Allison, from the Town of Elon, expressed frustration regarding the submittal process and the constraints placed by the project amount limits and funding availability for unmet needs. Their concerns were acknowledged and noted for further consideration in future planning cycles. BGMPO requested the review and approval of projects listed for submittal with the following caveats: Staff requests the ability to accept additional aviation, rail, and transit projects on a first-come, first-served basis until the end of the submission window, which is currently set for September. They also seek flexibility to submit highway, bike, and pedestrian projects beyond the top priority list if one or more of the current projects are submitted by Division 7 or another Planning Organization. Additionally, staff requested the ability to modify project details, provided that any such modifications are supported by the appropriate member of jurisdiction and remain consistent with the originally designated corridor or geographic area listed. A motion to approve the Draft SPOT 8.0 Project Candidate List with the stated caveats and priority clarification was made by Mr. Ricky Hall and seconded by Mr. Jim Butler. The motion carried unanimously.

Triangle Region Air Quality Conformity

Mr. De Jesus presented the Triangle Region Air Quality Conformity Determination Report (AQ CDR). The purpose of the AQ CDR is to document that the 2026-2035 TIP meets federal transportation conformity requirements in accordance with 40 CFR Part 93. Although the Triangle area meets current emission requirements, the area is in a maintenance program for ozone and therefore must demonstrate conformity for nitrous oxides, which are precursors to ground level ozone. This is a requirement for the Triangle Region area which includes the Orange County area of the BGMPO only. At the last meeting,

Mr. Steve Carter made the motion for approval, a motion seconded by Ms. Lisa Mathis. The motion carried unanimously.

Transportation Improvement Program Amendment (MTIP)

Mr. De Jesus reviewed proposed amendments to the 2024–2033 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and the BGMPO TIP. Amendments included the addition of project M-0570 for multimodal planning and adjustments to local operating and capital projects as requested by North Carolina Division of Transportation. Chair Ward requested a motion to approve. A motion to approve the amendments and recommend MTIP adoption by resolution was made by Mr. Ricky Hall and seconded by Ms. Montrena Hadley. The motion carried unanimously.

<i>STIP-ID</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Funding Category</i>	<i>Funding Year</i>	<i>Cost</i>
STATEWIDE PROJECTS				
<i>STIP ADDITIONS</i>				
* M-0570	VARIOUS, FUNDING FOR MULTI-MODAL PLANNING. ADD PROJECT AT THE REQUEST OF THE OFFICE OF STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND PROGRAM SUPPORTS.			
<i>STIP MODIFICATIONS</i>				
* C-5702E	NORTH CAROLINA CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY CENTER, SYSTEMWIDE, CONDUCT EMISSIONS-REDUCING SUB-AWARDS IN ALL CMAQ-ELIGIBLE COUNTIES. ADD FUNDING IN FY 26 NOT PREVIOUSLY PROGRAMMED AT THE REQUEST OF THE OFFICE OF STRATEGIC INITIATIVES AND PROGRAM SUPPORT.	IMPLEMENTATION	FY 2026 FY 2026 Total	\$2,000,000 (CMAQ) <u>\$500,000 (L(M))</u> \$2,500,000
HO-0024	STATEWIDE. IMPROVE 1000 ISOLATED CLOSED-LOOP SYSTEM SIGNALS. DELAY IMPLEMENTATION FROM FY 25 TO FY 26 AT THE REQUEST OF THE TRANSPORTATION MOBILITY AND SAFETY DIVISION. DP REPRESENTS FEDERAL ATTAIN GRANT.	IMPLEMENTATION	FY 2026 FY 2026 FY 2026 FY 2027 FY 2027 FY 2027 FY 2027 FY 2028 FY 2028 FY 2028 FY 2029 FY 2029 FY 2029 Total	\$2,965,000 (DP) \$250,000 (O(M)) \$741,000 (HF(M)) \$3,021,000 (DP) \$250,000 (O(M)) \$755,000 (HF(M)) \$3,060,000 (DP) \$250,000 (O(M)) \$765,000 (HF(M)) \$2,900,000 (DP) \$250,000 (O(M)) <u>\$725,000 (HF(M))</u> \$15,932,000

* R-5753	FEDERAL LANDS TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (FLTP) AND EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR FEDERALLY OWNED ROADS (ERFO). ROAD AND BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS TO BE CONSTRUCTED ON TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES THAT ARE OWNED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THAT PROVIDE ACCESS TO FEDERAL LANDS. COST INCREASE EXCEEDING \$2 MILLION AND 25% THRESHOLDS.	CONSTRUCTION	FY 2025	\$43,876,00	(ERFO)
			FY 2025	\$10,882,000	(FLTP)
			FY 2026	\$12,340,000.	(FLTP)
			FY 2027	\$9,408,000	(ERFO)
			FY 2027	\$20,580,000	(FLTP)
			FY 2027	\$59,584,00	(O)
			FY 2028	\$53,267,000	(ERFO)
			FY 2028	\$13,844,000	(FLTP)
			FY 2028	\$40,000,000	(O)
			FY 2029	\$6,000,000.	(FLTP)
			Total	\$269,781,000	

BURLINGTON-GRAHAM URBAN AREA MPO PROJECTS

STIP ADDITIONS

TM-0069	BURLINGTON-GRAHAM URBAN AREA	OPERATIONS	FY 2026	\$295,450	(5307)
	GOTRIANGLE. SYSTEMWIDE. OPERATING		FY 2026	\$73,862	(L)
	ASSISTANCE. METROPOLITAN PLANNING				
	ORGANIZATION		Total	\$369,312	
	ADD PROJECT AT THE REQUEST OF THE MPO.				

STIP MODIFICATIONS

TO-5220	ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEM-WIDE OPERATING ASSISTANCE AND PURCHASE OF EV CHARGING STATIONS.. MODIFY FUNDING YEAR, ACTIVITY AND DESCRIPTION AT THE REQUEST OF THE MPO.	CAPITAL	FY 2026	\$408,055	(5307)
			FY 2026	\$408,055	(L(M))
			Total	\$816,110	

BGMPO 2026 - 2035 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Adoption

Mr. De Jesus presented the final 2026–2035 Transportation Improvement Program for adoption. He stated that the document reflects projects previously reviewed by the TCC and contains no substantive changes. The TIP is a living document that may be amended as needed. A motion to recommend TAC adoption was made by Ashley Ownbey and seconded by Matthew Hoagland. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENCY UPDATES

NCDOT Division 7 Engineer Report: Mr. Chad Reimakoski provided an update on active projects. Updates were included in the packet on pages 134-138. Public input for the 2026–2035 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

NCDOT Transportation Planning Division Update: Ms. Rupal Desai shared that the Division received an award for Long-Range Transportation. TPD received the 2025 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). This was a joint award recognizing the strong partnership and delivery of Regional Comprehensive Transportation Plans for the Foothills Rural Planning Organization (RPO) and Northwest Piedmont RPO.

NCBOT Update: Lisa Mathis provided NCDOT updates by Chantal storm impacts. Also, she announced the appointment of Lynn Clark as the new NCBOT representative for BGMPO.

Transit Agency Updates: ACTA shared updates about their Micro Transit Grant and reported the use of use ECOLane Software to support operations. ACTA also confirmed that transit services to Graham and Haw River will commence on October 1.

Other Business: Mr. De Jesus provided MPO updates and facilitated discussion with TAC members regarding ongoing question and concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Hall made the motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Steve Carter. The motion carried unanimously adjourned the meeting at 6:25 pm. The next TAC meeting was scheduled for **October 21, 2025**.