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*Create and execute continuing, cooperative and comprehensive regional long-range planning efforts that pro-actively drive transportation decisions to improve safety, connectivity, economic development and quality of life in the Wilmington region.*

**TO:** Wilmington Urban Area MPO Board Members  
**FROM:** Mike Kozlosky, Executive Director  
**DATE:** June 20, 2024  
**SUBJECT:** June 25<sup>th</sup> Joint TCC and WMPO Board Regular Meeting

A meeting of the Wilmington Urban Area MPO's Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and WMPO Board will be held on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 1:30 pm. The meeting will be held in the WMPO Board Room located at 525 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street in downtown Wilmington, NC. Members of the public, MPO Board Members, TCC members, and MPO Staff can attend the meeting in person and virtually through the Zoom platform. The meeting will be streamed live online so that simultaneous live audio, and video, if any, of the meeting is available at the following URL:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4624072592?omn=87275628697>

Simultaneous live audio of the meeting is also available via audio conference at the following dial in number. (301) 715-8592

Meeting ID: 462 407 2592

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

The following is the agenda for the meeting:

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call/Introductions
3. Conflict of Interest Statement
4. Approval of Board Member Excused Absences
5. Approval of the Agenda
6. Public Comment Period
7. Presentations
  - a. NCDOT Transportation Planning Division Update- Alpesh Patel, NCDOT
  - b. What is an MPO?- Tessa Jones, WMPO
  - c. Results of WMPO's Annual Organizational Survey- Tessa Jones, WMPO
  - d. WMPO Strategic Plan Check In- Mike Kozlosky, WMPO
8. Discussion
  - a. Opportunities for Future Collaboration- TCC/MPO Board
9. Adjourn

Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

City of Wilmington • Town of Carolina Beach • Town of Kure Beach • Town of Wrightsville Beach  
County of New Hanover • Town of Belville • Town of Leland • Town of Navassa • County of Brunswick  
County of Pender • Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority • North Carolina Department of Transportation

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Attachments:

- NCDOT Transportation Planning Division Presentation
- WMPO Strategic Plan Work Plan Update



**NORTH CAROLINA**  
Department of Transportation

# Transportation Planning Division Update

Wilmington MPO Joint TCC/TAC

June 25, 2025

Alpesh Patel, Director

Connecting people, products and places safely and efficiently with customer focus, accountability  
and environmental sensitivity to enhance the economy and vitality of North Carolina

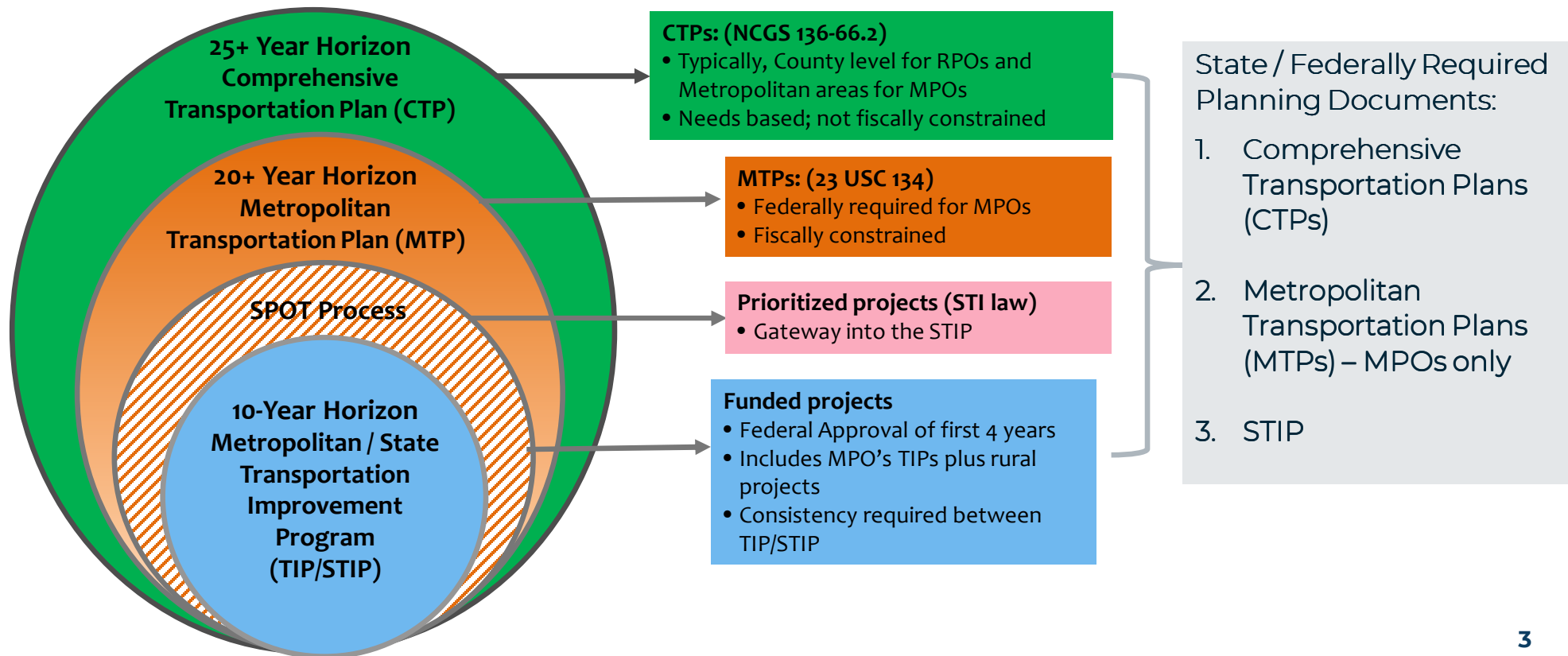
## Outline

- Planning Context
- Initiatives
- Internal/External Engagement
- Roadmap – Future State

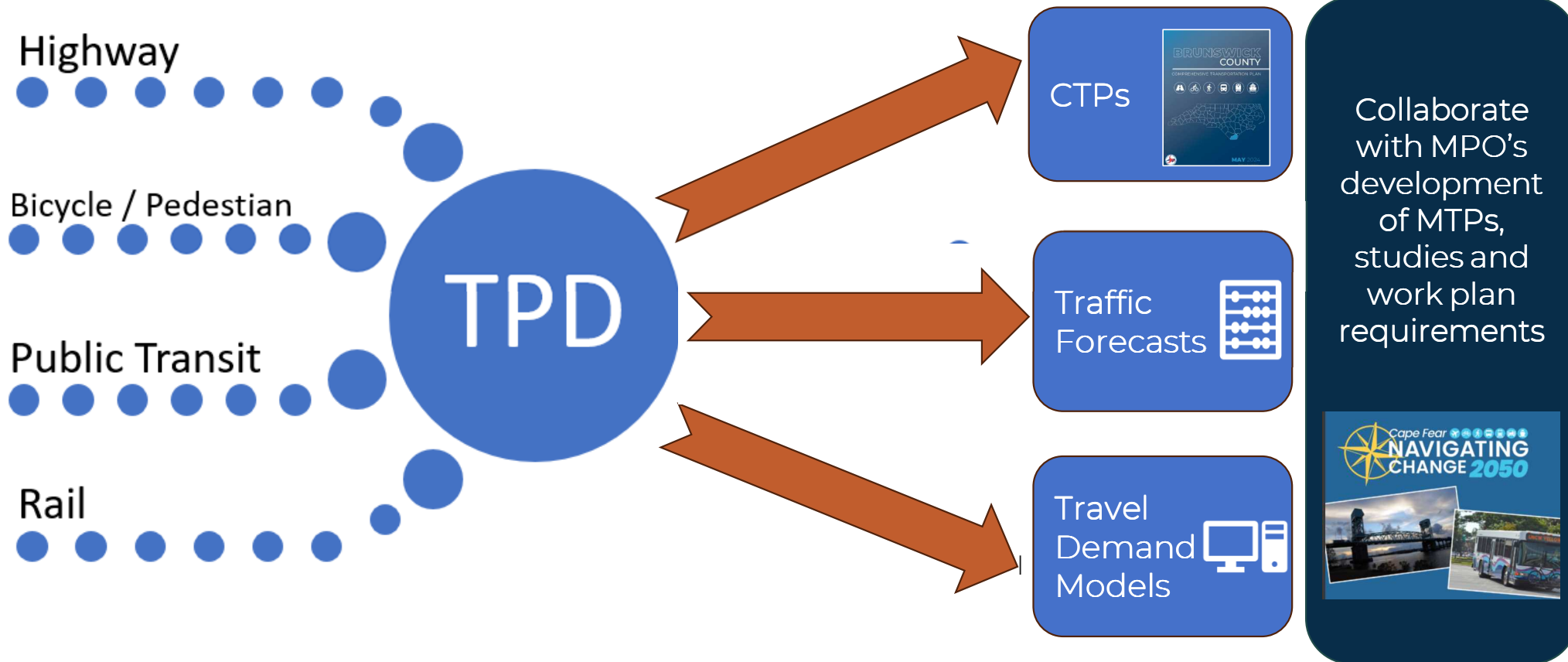


## Early Stages: Planning, Prioritization, & Programming

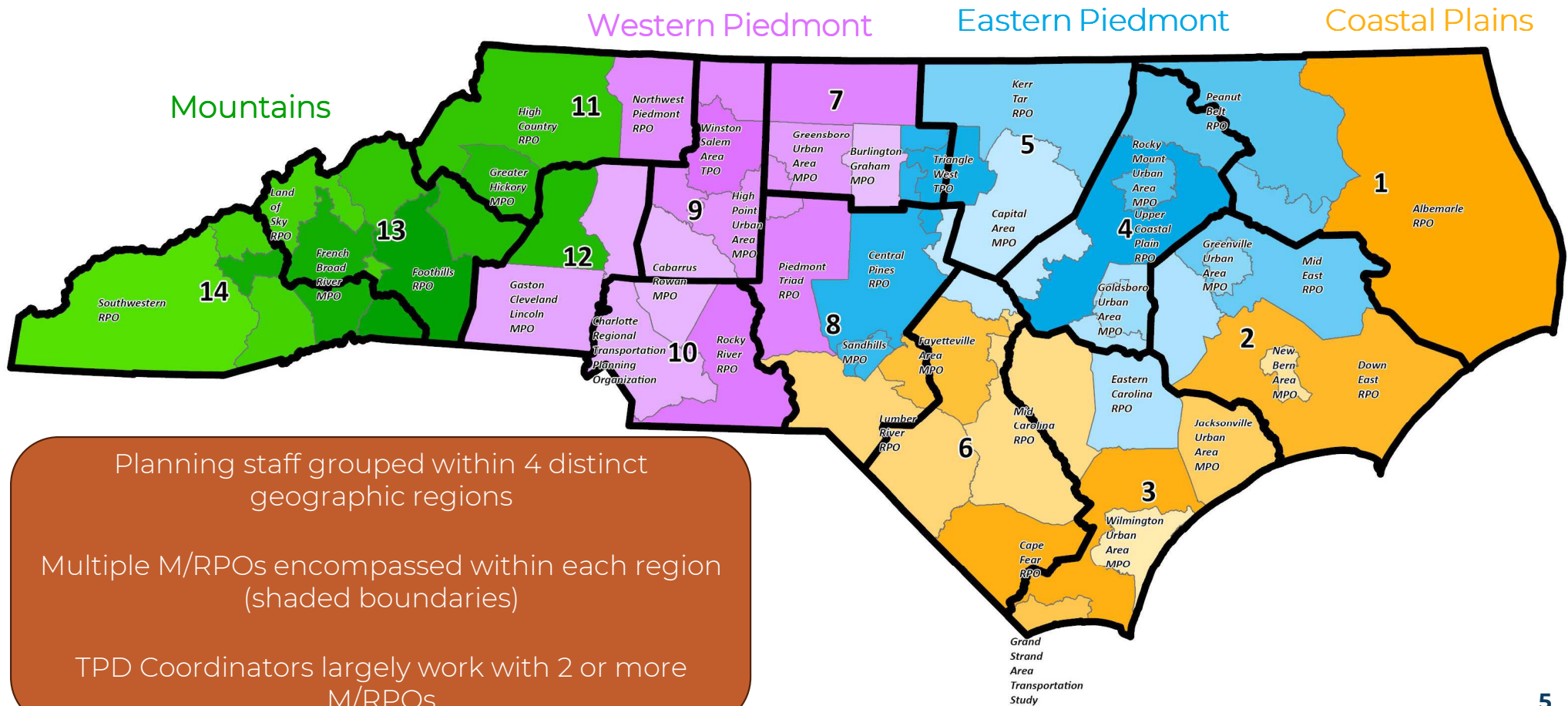
### Long Range Transportation Planning



## Transportation Planning Division (TPD) – 25-to-30-year vision



## TPD - Structured to serve our partners





# TPD Strategic Plan

(released May 2025)



## Vision

Become a **premier leader** in planning innovative transportation solutions.



## Mission

Deliver a **premier planning process** that is integral to a **high-performing, multimodal transportation** system in North Carolina.

Add **value and visibility** to TPD employees, partners, and the public, and meet new challenges through **leadership and innovation**.

6 Goals

6 Values



# Connect Refresh

- New Landing Page
- Core services and products
- Late Summer 2025


## Transportation Planning Division (TPD)

Resources for planning your transportation improvement project.

Connect NCDOT > Projects > Planning > Transportation Planning Division (TPD)

TPD 101

### Under Construction



**General overview of "TPD 101"** - what we do, what we produce, who we interact with. Narrative that introduces "three-legged stool(or a visual that conveys this easily) [planning, traffic forecast, modeling]. Narrative and links to interactive maps

**Comprehensive Transportation Plans (CTP)**


**Traffic Forecasting**

**Model Research and Development**

**Metropolitan and Rural Planning Organizations**

**Title VI**

**Long Range Planning**



Planning staff grouped within 4 distinct geographic regions

Multiple M/RPOs encompassed within each region (shaded boundaries)

### Employee Directory

Staff contacts for *Transportation Planning Division*.

### TPD Pages

**CTPs**  
Comprehensive Transportation Plans

**Economic Development**  
Transportation and Infrastructure Improvements

**Environmental Justice and Transportation Disadvantage Index Tool**  
Environmental Justice (EJ) and Transportation Disadvantage Index (TDI)

**Feasibility Study**  
Feasibility Study Documents

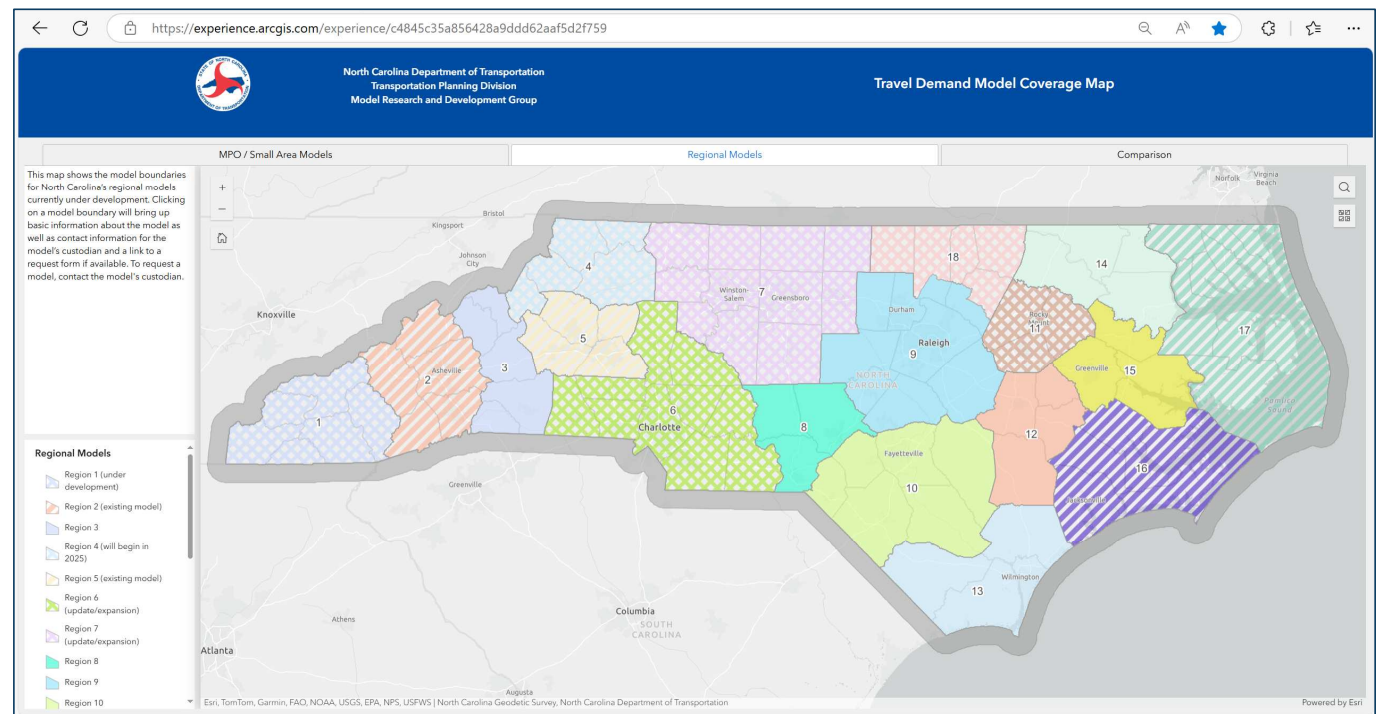
**Functional Classification**  
Functional Classification of Highways

**Integration Project**  
Long Range Transportation Planning and Project Development

# TDM interactive Map

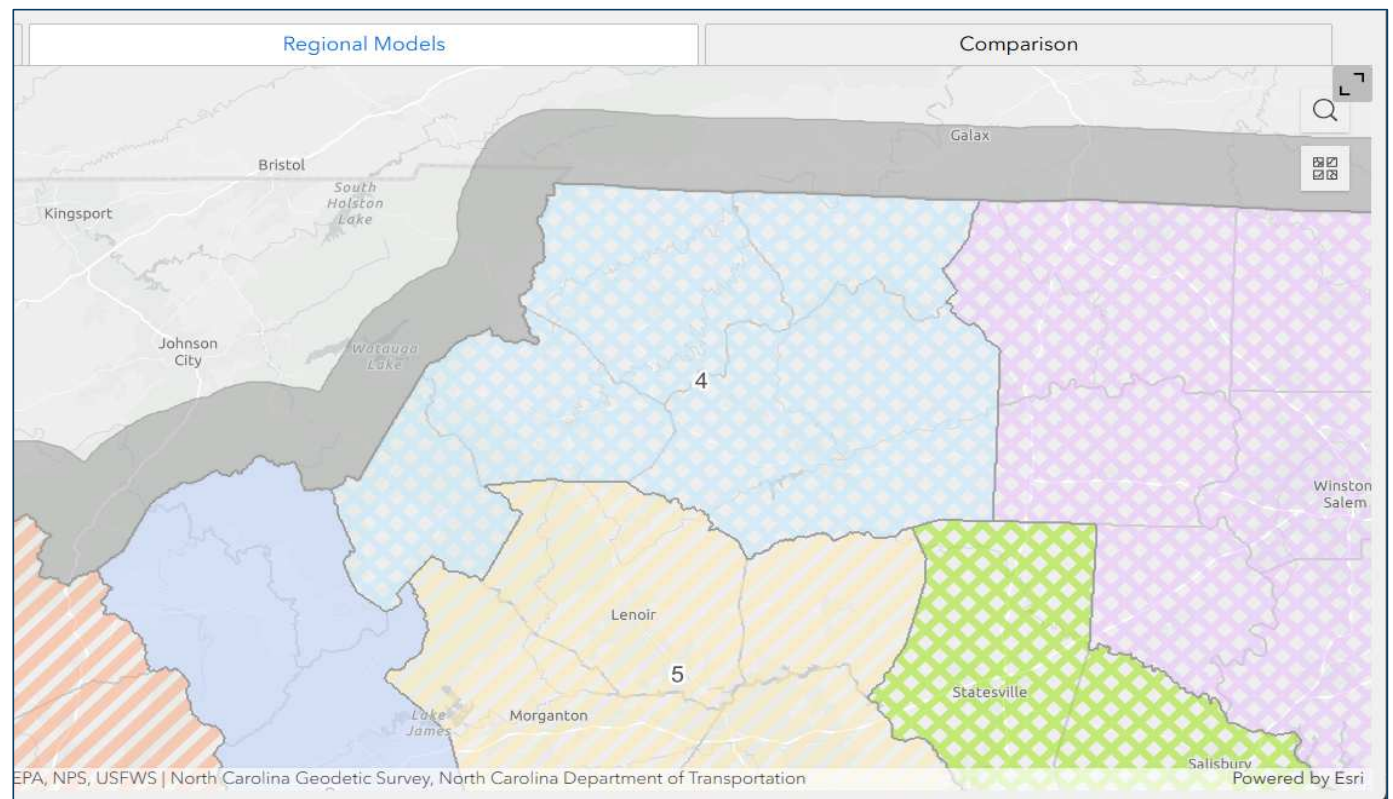
- Launched March 2025
- AGOL Map – MPO / Non-MPO Models
- Regional Models - Color pattern communicates model status

<https://shorturl.at/L2hlw>



## High Country RPO / Region 4 Model

- 5 county modeled area
- Working Committee
  - County Managers, Transit operators and Appalachian State / Community Colleges
- Output informs Watauga County CTP
- Summer 2025



# Resiliency Planning

CTP Resilience Guidance (April 2025)

- Steps to integrate resilience and vulnerability assessments with CTPs

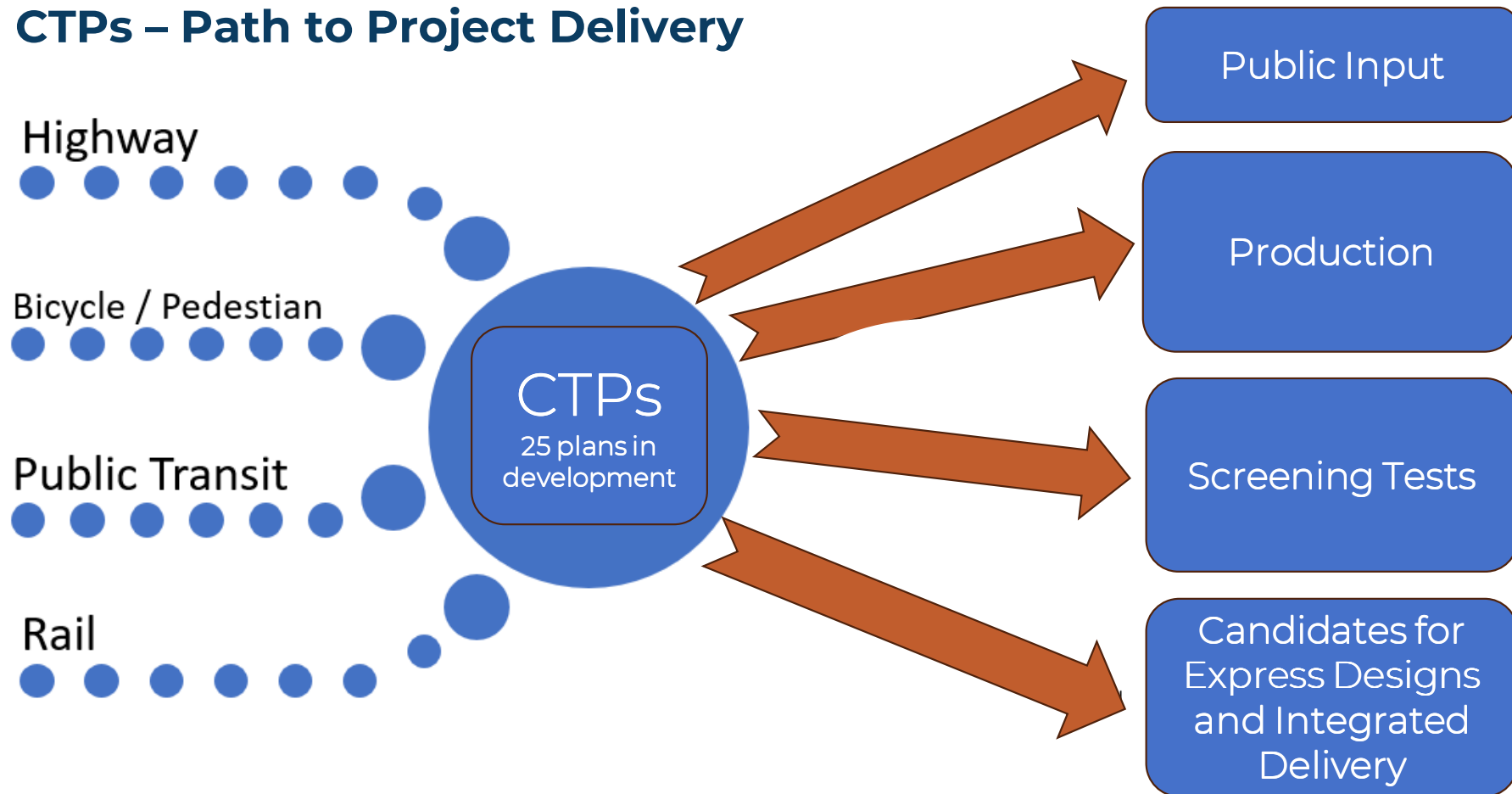
Regional CTP Pilot – Camden, Currituck and Pasquotank Counties

- Operationalize guidance
- Incorporate lessons learned
- Deliver revised guidance by 2027/2028
  - Training for M/RPOs

Summer 2025



## CTPs – Path to Project Delivery





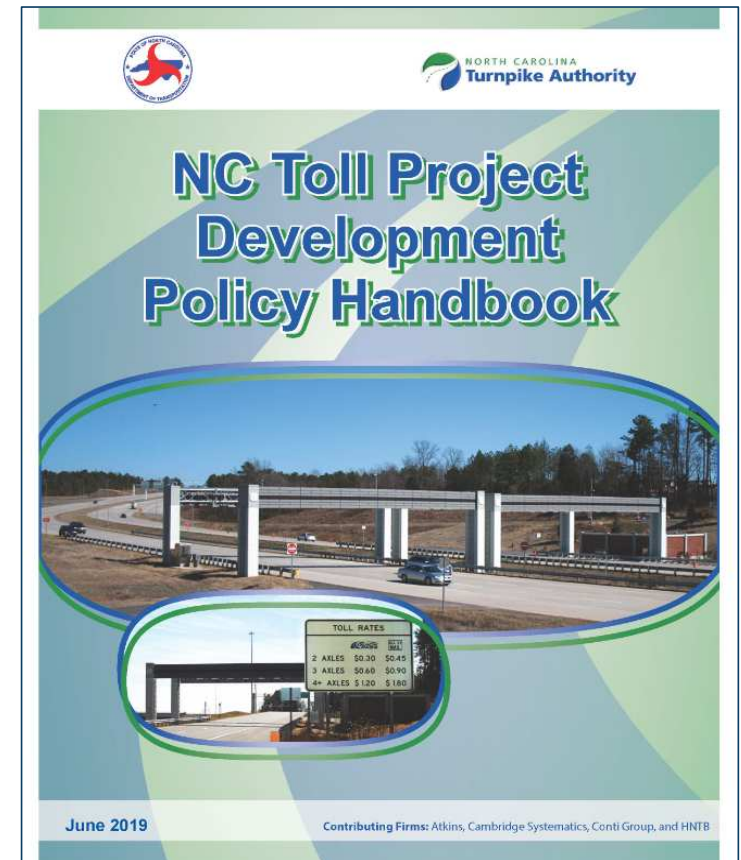
# Update NC Toll Policy Handbook

Adopted in 2018

- Process to evaluate toll candidate projects prior to SPOT submission
- Financial feasibility and potential performance
- Engage partners, develop submission application
- Inform local planning decisions (M/CTP Updates)

Scope

- Peer review / enhanced screening tool / training
- Summer 2025





# Raise the Planning Bar

## Go Forward Actions

### CTP to Programming Linkage

Path to STIP, project delivery  
Screening tests  
Efficiencies in CTP production  
Toll Policy Handbook update  
Travel Demand Models in non-urban areas  
Resiliency assessments in CTPs  
(Summer 2025 - ongoing)

### Rebrand

Updated TPD Mission,  
Vision, & Goals  
(Spring 2025)

### New Connect page

Up-to-date resources  
3-month schedules  
Announcements  
(Summer 2025)

### Annual Report

Achievements and  
accomplishments  
(Spring 2026)

### Partnerships

MPOs/ RPOs - Presentations at local  
meetings throughout 2025

- Winston-Salem MPO (May 15)
- High Country RPO (May 21)
- **NW Piedmont Triad RPO (June 17)**
- Wilmington MPO (June 25)
- Cabarrus-Rowan MPO (Aug 27)

**Internal Customers** – increased  
interaction with SPOT, STIP, IMD, Other  
Modes, Tech Services (ongoing)

Questions?

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# Contact Us

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 <https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/planning/pages/default.aspx>

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 View All Channels

2025 Focus Area	Action Steps	Participants	Timeline	Status Update
<b>Focus Area: Improve Safety</b>				
Adopt Safety Performance Measures and track the measure to determine performance	Adopt performance measures and create a dashboard to track the measures	MPO, NCDOT	Dec-25	The WMPO Board adopted the Safety Performance Measures on January 29, 2025. The WMPO has a dashboard on our GIS hub to track the safety performance measures.
Program funding and pursue grants for projects that reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities	Develop a regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan which identifies projects to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries.	MPO, NCDOT, FHWA, Police, Fire, Schools, etc.	Aug-26	The WMPO hired Kittleson & Associates to assist with the completion of the WMPO's Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. Planning activities for this effort began in April 2025 with plan adoption expected in Fall 2026.
<b>Focus Area: Multi-modal Focus</b>				
Support the development and implementation of plans that encourage multi-modal transportation	Continue development of Cape Fear Navigating Change 2050 and assist with the development of the Carolina Beach Bike/Pedestrian Plan	MPO	Dec-25	The WMPO has published the draft Cape Fear Navigating Change 2050 report and is currently accepting public comments. The final plan is expected to be adopted by the end of November 2025. The Carolina Beach Bike/Ped Plan has been completed. The plan was recommended for approval by the TCC and is calendared for consideration by the WMPO Board at their June 25th meeting.
Continue to utilize MPO's surface transportation block grant and transportation alternatives set aside direct attributable programs to fund our members local priorities and needs that support our larger regional network	Revise the scoring criteria and create a 5- year DA funding program	MPO	Oct-25	The revised program was presented to the WMPO Board in May 2025. The submittal guide, scoring criteria, and application are calendared for consideration by the WMPO Board at their June 25th meeting.
<b>Focus Area: Regionally Focused</b>				
Educate WMPO members on the services and programs provided by the MPO	Prepare a Bi-monthly Newsletter and Annual Report	MPO	Dec-25	The WMPO released our inaugural newsletter in January. Due to the amount of content, we have decided to move to a monthly newsletter cycle which began in April. The annual report will be completed following the close of the FY 25 fiscal year.
Continue to support projects and policies in the MPO's long range plan	Adoption of Cape Fear Navigating Change 2050	MPO, NCDOT	Nov-25	The WMPO has published the draft Cape Fear Navigating Change 2050 report and is currently accepting public comments. The final plan is expected to be adopted by in October 2025.
<b>Focus Area: Economic Development</b>				
Promote economic growth through enhanced transportation infrastructure	Continue to support and advance the Wilmington Rail Re-alignment, South Front Street Widening, and replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge	MPO, members, NCSPA, Chamber of Commences, WBD, WDI, etc..	Dec-25	The WMPO continues to support the South Front Street widening project which is expected to begin right of way acquisition in June 2025 and construction is scheduled for 2029. The WMPO continues to work with our partners at NCDOT to identify the necessary funding to deliver the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.
Support the Ports in their efforts to grow and expand	Continue to support NCDOT in their implementation of the Wilmington Beltline improvements	WMPO, NCSPA, NCDOT	Jun-25	The construction of the beltline improvements have been completed with the exception of the bridge work. The signal work associated with the beltline improvements is expected to be let by CSX in October 2025. The roadway work associated with the beltline improvements are expected to be let in June 2026.
<b>Focus Area: Community Engagement</b>				

Utilize the adopted Public Participation Plan and enhance efforts related to community engagement.	Review and update the 2020 Public Participation Plan to include enhanced efforts in the areas of Section 4. Outreach Efforts, as well as creating a strategy and campaign for Section 5. Plan Specific Guidelines in regards to Public Comment for MTP, UPWP, and MTIP.	WMPO	Jun-25	The WMPO has reviewed the 2020 Public Participation Plan (PPP) with a primary focus on aligning the document with updated federal guidelines under the current administration. In the process, staff also evaluated Section 4 (Outreach Efforts) and Section 5 (Plan Specific Guidelines) to identify opportunities for enhancement. Proposed edits include establishing and maintaining a stakeholder contact database, increasing the frequency and accessibility of newsletters, and incorporating public comments submitted via Zoom chat during meetings—an area not previously addressed.
Enhance the use of social media to disseminate information regarding MPO projects and programs (Humanize WMPO & make it more recognizable/approachable).	Increase reach (impressions) & engagement, MoM on targeted social media platforms, utilizing photos, videos, and graphics. Focus on education & awareness of Transportation Planning in the region, as well as humanizing the WMPO to become more recognizable & increasing general understanding of what WMPO is & does.	WMPO	Dec-25	Increased social media reach, transparency, and engagement by focusing on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and targeted NextDoor messaging. While X is no longer active, the account remains accessible. Facebook and Instagram Stories have boosted real-time interaction. A humanized content approach has highlighted staff efforts, team collaborations, and key achievements. Cross-promotion of newsletter content and visual emphasis strengthened brand identity. Moving toward campaign-based strategies, with plans to leverage analytics, increase short-form video, and enhance two-way communication via interactive Stories.
<b>Focus Area: More Organized, Vocal and Cohesive Voice</b>				
Develop and adopt a Legislative Agenda	Adopt a 2025 Legislative Agenda and work with Maynard Nexsen to implement the legislative agenda	WMPO	Dec-25	The WMPO Board adopted the 2025 Legislative Agenda on January 29, 2025. The WMPO has continued to work with Maynard Nexsen to advance this legislative agenda.
Utilize Board and staff relationships to advocate for transportation infrastructure in the Wilmington region	Develop and implement a strategy to work with NCDOT to identify the remaining funds necessary to implement the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge replacement project	WMPO, NCDOT	Dec-25	The WMPO continues to work with our partners at NCDOT to develop a strategy to identify the remaining funds necessary to deliver the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.
<b>Focus Area: Organizational and Operational Effectiveness</b>				
Continue annual updates from MPO's partner and supportive organizations (NCDOT Division 3, NC Rail Division, NC Ferry Division, Wilmington International Airport, and Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority)	Continue annual updates	WMPO, NCDOT, ILM, CFPTA	Dec-25	The annual updates from our MPO partners and supportive organizations have been calendared to be provided through the end of the calendar year.
Complete the Compensation Study to compare the MPO staff salaries to the public/private sector and in an effort to mitigate turnover	Implement recommendations from the 2024 Compensation Study	WMPO	July-25	The WMPO Board through consensus supported Catapult's recommended for compensation adjustments. Those were submitted to the city for consideration as part of their budget process. An update to the compensation study has been funded in the WMPO's FY 26 UPWP and will begin later this year.