

5. How We Developed Our Plan

This section describes the organizations and technical tools used to develop the plan, how the public was involved in the plan's development and review, and other recent and on-going studies and plans that relate to the Long-Range Transportation Plan.

5.1 Who is Responsible for the Plan?

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are the regional organizations responsible for transportation planning for urban areas, and therefore are charged with developing and implementing long-range transportation plans. The Research Triangle Region has two MPOs: The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro (DCHC) MPO and the Capital Area MPO (CAMPO).

The CAMPO urbanized area covers all of Wake County and portions of Franklin, Granville, Harnett and Johnson Counties, along with 18 municipalities in these five counties. The DCHC urbanized area covers all of Durham County, a portion of Orange County including the Towns of Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Hillsborough, and northeast Chatham County. *Figure 2.2.3* in Chapter 2 shows a map of the MPO boundaries. DCHC MPO and CAMPO are also two of the seven urban areas in North Carolina designated as Transportation Management Areas (TMAs) by the principal federal transportation legislation called the *Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act -- a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)*. TMAs are urban areas with a population of over 200,000 people, and have additional planning responsibilities such as the development of a congestion management plan and direct allocation of certain federal revenues. Much of the MPO organizational structure and processes are designed to address state and federal legislation related to transportation.

Each MPO is comprised of the following two committees:



A Transportation Advisory Committee meeting

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) – The TAC is a policy body, which coordinates and makes decisions on transportation planning issues. The TAC is comprised of elected and appointed officials from each county and municipality within the MPO, and from the NCDOT.

For the Capital Area MPO, these officials are from the counties of Franklin, Granville, Harnett, Johnson and Wake, the municipalities of Angier, Apex, Bunn, Cary, Clayton, Creedmoor, Franklinton, Fuquay-Varina, Garner, Holly Springs, Knightdale, Morrisville, Raleigh, Roseville, Wake Forest, Wendell, Youngsville and Zebulon, and the North Carolina Department of

Transportation. The TAC also has advisory (non-voting) members from Triangle Transit, The NC Turnpike Authority, the Federal Highway Administration and the Research Triangle Foundation of North Carolina.