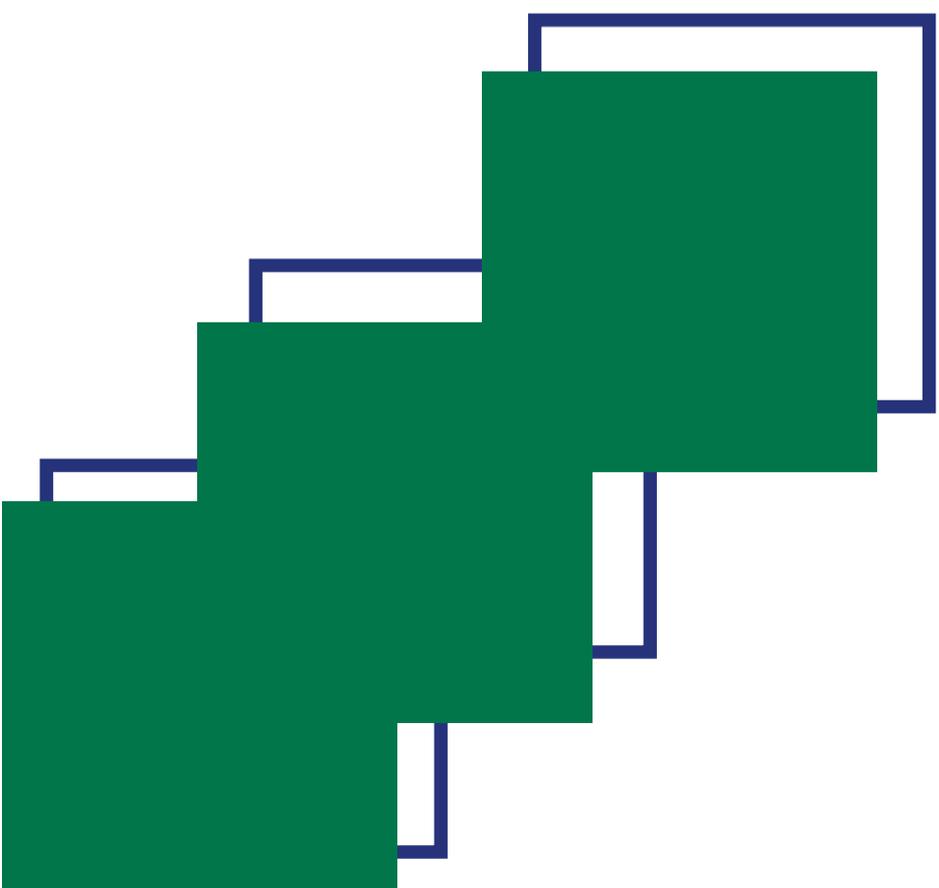


Growing Together

**2015-2016 Triangle J Council Of Governments
Year in Review**



A Word from Our Chair

Dear Triangle J Stakeholder,

Our region is a national leader - in academics, research, and agriculture, just to name a few areas of enterprise. This reputation has encouraged a strong and dramatic influx of individuals looking to move to not only Raleigh or Durham, but also to the surrounding towns and counties. This population growth requires us as an organization and as a region to reflect upon our current policies and practices. How we respond to these changes will define us for decades.

Our solution includes looking at our challenges from a regional perspective. Many of the issues each community faces expand across local and political boundaries: more congestion on the highways; a growing number of aging adults; a lack of affordable housing; and an increased need for access to limited natural resources. Adapting policies and practices to address these issues in one community is not enough. We need to coordinate, connect and integrate our efforts with each other on a regional scale.

Our regional organization has long served as the place to discuss regional issues and solutions. In fact, there is no other organization that is better positioned to facilitate regional conversation - or that does it better. As we face the growth of our region head on, we must look to TJCOG as a continued source of common ground, leveraged resources, and collective problem solving. I am excited about the steps we are already taking to do so, including the creation of a Regional Economic Development District.

As you read this report, please remember that this is your organization. Take note of the opportunities and be vocal about the challenges. A stronger TJCOG means a stronger region.

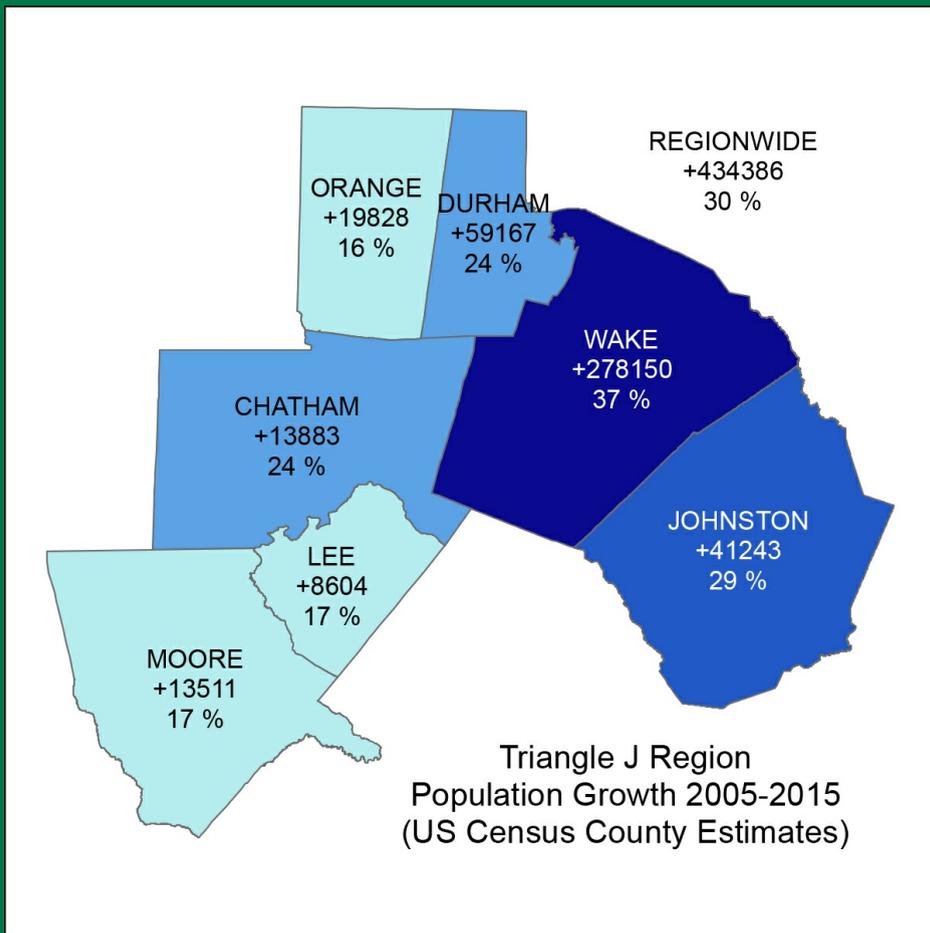


Ed Harrison
Chair, TJCOG Board of Delegates
Council Member, Town of Chapel Hill

A Region in Transformation

Triangle J Council of Governments serves a growing 7-county region in central North Carolina as a resource for collaboration & coordination among our member governments, stakeholders & regional partners on challenges & opportunities that stretch across political boundaries. The communities we represent are diverse with strong senses of identity that help to create the many opportunities & benefits of living in our region.

TJCOG has made a lot of changes recently to ensure we provide key resources for our communities. **Lee Worsley** was hired as Executive Director bringing a new vision & goals for TJCOG's voice in the regional conversation. We also restructured our teams, including new directors of the **Area Agency on Aging & Administration and Member Services** departments. In the coming year, we will continue to assess the ways we can remain a useful resource for Triangle J's growing community.



This year has also been a time of change for the Triangle J region. Our communities are currently facing a period of rapid & expanding growth - with an expected 1 million new residents over the coming decade. These newcomers will place added stress on the infrastructure & services offered by every local government we represent. Such a regional challenge can be solved best through regional solutions. TJCOG's accomplishments display the immense value that regionalism provides as a tool to increase connectivity, access & prosperity for our member communities.



Our Mission

To serve as an intergovernmental organization for local elected officials that works proactively on regional issue to sustain & improve the quality of life for our citizens.

Our Members

The communities we represent span across Chatham, Durham, Johnston, Lee, Moore, Orange, & Wake counties. Each of these 37 members is equally represented on our **Board of Delegates**.

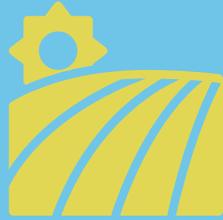
- | | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|
| Apex | Chapel Hill | Hillsborough | Pittsboro | Smithfield |
| Archer Lodge | Chatham County | Holly Springs | Princeton | Wake County |
| Benson | Clayton | Johnston County | Raleigh | Wake Forest |
| Broadway | Durham | Kenly | Robbins | Wendell |
| Cameron | Durham County | Knightdale | Rolesville | Zebulon |
| Carrboro | Fuquay-Varina | Lee County | Sanford | |
| Carthage | Garner | Morrisville | Selma | |
| Cary | Goldston | Orange County | Siler City | |

Regional Planning

With more than a million people expected to be added to our region over the next generation - the equivalent of our 7 largest municipalities - the interaction of development & the infrastructure that supports it will remain a critical focus for years to come. Triangle J's Regional Planning programs leverage the expertise of our staff & partnerships across all seven counties to cohesively address top priorities for transportation & infrastructure. Coordination of regional plans will limit gaps in coverage & increase connectivity as development continues.

Planning for Rural Communities

Coordinated & connected transportation projects across Moore, Lee, and the rural parts of Chatham & Orange Counties through **TARPO (Triangle Area Regional Planning Organization)**.



Completed a multi-modal **long-range transportation plan** to address needs for Chatham County through 2040. This was Chatham County's first transportation plan since 1983 & Siler City's first since 1996. The process began in 2011.

Began facilitation of an updated version to Moore County's transportation plan with North Carolina Department of Transportation & Moore County staff. This will be the first update since 1980.

Led stakeholders through a series of public meetings to prioritize & submit **50+** highway, bicycle, pedestrian, & aviation projects for funding consideration.



19 TARPO projects selected for federal/state funding

\$186 million dollars awarded

Leveraging Regional Expertise

The Development & Infrastructure Partnership issued **Building a Healthy, Active Research Triangle**. The report examined how connecting regional development & transit investments can lead to healthier communities.

Under the Connect2045 framework, used the CommunityViz scenario modeling tool to explore the potential implications of anticipated population & job growth across the region. This tool is used to help align land use policies with transportation investments & inform the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Identified rapid development, transit investments, & housing affordability as top development priorities for regional partners, institutions, & municipalities engaged in our Development & Infrastructure Partnership.

Worked with Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) & Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO to identify & define consistent environmental justice thresholds for transportation project outreach, reports, and analysis across the region.



Promoting Sustainable & Balanced Infrastructure

Led discussions on local government opportunities for building green infrastructure, encouraging healthy place-making, & understanding development trends with our **Smart Growth Committee**.

Advocated for **Center Of the Region Enterprise's (CORE)** interests in regional development plans: Wake Transit Investment Strategy, Chapel Hill Mobility & Connectivity Study, & multi-jurisdictional planning efforts.

Monitored progress of RTP's Park Center development efforts & provided updates to member communities.

Developed performance measures for the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, including Transportation Demand Management metrics.



Updated Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan

Prioritized corridors & identified gaps in bicycle & pedestrian infrastructure.

Included a new cycling "level of traffic stress" analysis.

216 miles existing bike & pedestrian facilities in the CORE region.

49 miles completed since 2012

280 miles of facilities yet to be built

Aging & Caregiver Services

The aging population in our region mirrors the population shift happening across the country, as Baby Boomers hit retirement age in droves. All seven counties are projected to have as many older adults, age 60+, as younger individuals, age 0-17, by the year 2034, & some counties have already reached this ratio. This older population needs as many resources as other residents, as well as additional support both mentally & physically so that they may "age well". Our Aging & Caregiver team works hard to promote the well-being of the region's older adults, acting as a fierce Long-Term Care (LTC) resident advocate, providing education to increase understanding & support, & connecting state & local stakeholders.

Improving Quality of Life & Care

Provided education to +30 regional organizations on enhancing dementia care through personalized music, aging sensitivity, & resident's rights.

The Music in my Mind (MIMM) program, Region J's personalized music approach to individuals living with dementia, expanded to reach Durham, **Orange**, & Chatham counties. MIMM is shown to improve residents' mental being, relationships between residents & staff, & reduce dependency on medications.

Implemented further personalized music programs with regional Community Advisory Committees, retirement communities, the Advisory Council on Aging & LTC facilities.

Planned, coordinated, and co-hosted the **Disrupting Dementia** community workshop with Dr. Bill Thomas for +70 volunteers to address a continued need for acceptance & understanding of dementia patients.

Acted as a liaison to Adult Protective Services, Legal Aide, & law enforcement in issues of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.



Ombudsman Carmelita Karhoff received the 2015 Ann B. Johnson Older Worker Award for dedication to residents in Durham County LTC facilities.

Advocating for Residents



Conducted person-centered thinking & resident-directed care training for regional LTC staff.

TJCOG Long-Term Care Ombudsmen advocated for region-wide resident rights along with the North Carolina Ombudsman Association, regional LTC facilities. & various state planning efforts.

Provided assistance, training & support to Resident & Family Councils at LTC Facilities.

Served as a key resource & educator for Community Advisory Committees and their volunteers.

Connecting Regional Resources

Continued to implement the **No Wrong Door** approach within Community Resource Connections groups across 3 counties. New strategy aims to provide seamless access to older adult services & care options.

Completed multi year **Action Plan for Aging Adults & Adults with Disabilities** that focuses on empowering older adults to remain independent with support from their local communities. Report identified the need for greater data-driven strategies.

Expanded the region's network & increased access to information for older adults as the regional connector of **Community Resource Connections** participating monitors.

Funded **Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers** outreach & application assistance for Low-Income Subsidy & related programs.

Selected as a lead agency for the "My Care My Choice" veteran-directed home & community based services.

Hosted the **Dementia Beyond Disease: Enhancing Well-Being** symposium with Dr. Al Power & provided +50 scholarships to CAC volunteers.

Hired a new Chatham & Orange County Community Resource Connections Coordinator.

Economic & Community Development

As our region continues to undergo a profound demographic transformation, communities are diligently working to ensure that their growing number of residents have access to a wide array of economic, social, & physical benefits to improve quality of life. For such strategies to succeed, local & regional policies must prepare for the region we will be, not the region we are today. TJCOG is committed to helping our members achieve equitable access to jobs, housing, & community services to improve economic strength.

Expanding Foreign Trade & Business Opportunities

The **Research Triangle Area Foreign Trade Zone** (FTZ), administered by TJCOG, aims to stimulate international trade in the region, create new jobs in companies engaged in international trade & encourage broader job creation.

Wilson County Economic Development Council requested & received sponsorship of an application to expand the FTZ service area to include Wilson County & increase regional economic benefits.

Cormetech Inc. **received approval** for a FTZ Subzone with production authority at its facilities in Durham & Butner, after conducting an internal benefit analysis & completing the federal application process.

Presented educational briefings about the benefits of Foreign Trade Zones for regional businesses and to Fuquay-Varina, Orange County, the Economic Development Partnership of NC, & Raleigh Chamber elected officials, staff, and business owners.

Provided assistance to numerous business & entities interested in gaining FTZ status.

Using Data Analysis to Address Housing Challenges

Regional average renter wage can afford a 1BR in only 1 of 7 counties.	13% of residents have incomes below poverty level	26% of residents work & live in different counties.
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Reviewed income data for Princeton, NC to inform decision making on a Low-Income Housing Tax Credit project proposal.

Created an affordable housing proposal for Chatham County managers & planning staff for 2016-17 that included facilitating a housing committee, analyzing housing data, & identifying best practices.

Determined need for collaborative housing discussion. Began planning **Triangle Regional Housing Summit** with the Federal Reserve of Richmond, FDIC, & Enterprise to coordinate regional housing solutions.

Researched & presented **Charting the Affordable & Workforce Housing Challenge**.

Assessing Livability in Our Communities

A community accessible to older adults is accessible to all residents. With this in mind, a collaborative aging & planning team piloted an updated Livability Self Assessment Toolkit that will help local governments understand how they can improve livability for seniors, & the community overall. Once finalized in 2017, the toolkit will be available to help members lead discussions on livability & provide resources to start implementing policies, practices, & infrastructure.



Measuring Equity

Regions are equitable when all residents – regardless of their race/ethnicity, nativity, neighborhood of residence, or other – are fully able to participate in the region’s economic vitality, contribute to the region’s readiness for the future, & connect to the region’s assets & resources. Our **Carrboro Equity Growth Profile** assessed growth profiles, demographics of the overall county, & access to jobs to further educate our communities on their changing needs.



Environmental Impact

Take a drive down the I-40 corridor at 9:00 a.m. It's no secret that the number of commuters, & subsequently cars on the road is increasing. As a result of this increased urbanization & sprawl, our region's environmental footprint continues to grow. TJCOG's Environmental Impact programs aim to find collaborative approaches to public transit, clean energy education, & sustainable practices regarding the regions' resources. All are encouraged as tools to improve quality of life. In order to reach an increasingly digital audience, education efforts have shifted toward social media & online platforms.

Promoting Alternative Fuels

The Triangle Clean Cities Coalition provided grant resources, training, & unique educational opportunities to local fleets & municipalities aimed at encouraging alternative vehicles. Regional stakeholders heard from EVgo, Piedmont Natural Gas, & more. [View the year's presentations.](#)

The **Southeast AFV Demonstration Initiative** grant provided regional fleets the opportunity to test alternative fuel vehicles & receive driver education.

Accomplishments			
	5.1 M gallons of petroleum displaced		11.1 M dollars saved replacing conventional fuel
	3.8 K tons of greenhouse gas reduced		23 new regional alternative fuel stations built

Transportation Demand Management (TDM)

Worked with local government & university partners to reduce regional reliance on single-occupancy vehicles & influence positive commuter habits.

Allocated and administered funding for the following service providers to encourage new modes of transportation: **GoTriangle** serving Wake & Durham counties, **Best Workplaces for Commuters**, **CommuteSmartRaleigh**, Duke's **UnPark Yourself**, NCSU's **WolfTrails**, **Smartcommute@RTP**, GoChapelHill, Wake Tech Zoom, UNC's Commuter Alternative Program

Evaluated & monitored regional providers against TJCOG's **seven-year TDM** goal of 25% reduction in growth of vehicle miles traveled.

Accomplishments	
	4.6 million vehicle trips avoided
	61 million commute miles reduced
	31,921 alternative transportation users supported
	2.6 million gallons of gas saved

Educating on Sustainable Resource Practices

Created a new digital strategy to reach an increasingly online audience for **Clean Water Education Partnership** through the Sodefater educational campaign. (watch below)

Evaluated development costs & water quality impacts of Low Impact Development approaches on two sites in the region.

Developed a 9-Element Watershed Checklist to be used for the Eno River, Upper Barton Creek, & Knap of Reeds Creek to reduce project duplication.

Conducted four Local Watershed Trainings with the **North Carolina Watershed Stewardship Network**.



 **Triangle Best Workplaces for Commuters nationally recognized** as a top employer assistance program for providing commuter benefits

TJCOG in the Community

At TJCOG, we are uniquely poised to be a non-partisan convener, educator and advocate for our member governments and other stakeholders across the region. This is a role we are proud to hold, and dedicate much time to regional discourse, engagement, and of course convening. In addition to the projects & programs previously mentioned in this report, below are a handful of the numerous occasions TJCOG staff helped to lead discussion on important issues in the region this year.

How We Convened...

- Rural Technical Coordinating Committee
- Triangle Clean Cities Coalition**
- Transportation Demand Management Partners
- Jordan Lake Partnership**
- JAS Freight Forwarding Seminar
- North Carolina Prosperity Tour Bus
- NCNGN**
- TARPO Strategic Transportation Investment Workshop
- Rural Transportation Advisory Committee
- Best Workplaces for Commuters(BWC) Awards
- BWC & RTP SmartCommute Panel
- Clean Water Education Partnership (CWEP)**
- UNCWI/Raleigh Watershed Program
- Triangle Bike/Pedestrian Workshop
- Advisory Council on Aging
- Triangle Caregivers Conference
- Aging Well Durham Symposium
- Community Advisory Committee
- Regional LTC Ombudsman Quarterly Meeting
- Joint MPO Freight Plan Committee
- Community Viz Region-Wide Development Workshop

How We Advocated...

- Friends of Residents
- World Elder Abuse Day
- Johnston County Elder Abuse Awareness Walk
- Residents Rights Training Event
- NC4A
- Music in My Mind
- NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse
- Clean Transportation Tour
- Chapel Hill Mobility & Connectivity Study
- Wake County Advocates for Health in Action
- Wake County Greenway System Plan Committee
- Durham Coalition on Affordable Housing
- Durham Mayor's Landlord Roundtable
- Triangle Community Coalition on Affordable Housing
- RDU Vision2040 Technical Committee
- NC PEV Taskforce Summit
- National Drive Electric Week
- Plug in NC
- Long-Term Care Resident & Family Council
- NC Ombudsman Association
- Active Routes to School Conference

How We Engaged...

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Johnston County Elected Officials Meeting Siler City Commissioners Meeting Robbins Town Commissioners Meeting Moore County Managers Meeting Johnston County Managers Meeting Durham County Managers Meeting Orange County Managers Meeting Wake County Mayors Association NAFTZ Grantee Committee Town of Goldston UDO Development Johnston County Racing for Recruitment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RTRP South Economic Summit Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization NC Clean Tech Summit NC State Energy Conference Golden Modes Award Ceremony Long-Term Care Ombudsman Association Caregivers Event Smart Growth Technical Assistance Committee Metropolitan Planning Organizational Technical Committee RTRP East Economic Summit |
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Connect With Us



Regional Planning



Aging & Caregiver Services



Environmental Impact



Economic Development



Member Services



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Executive Director's Blog