

Advancing the Plan Committee

May 2023



Leading up to the May Advancing the Plan Committee meeting, members participated in a survey to identify and prioritize themes of regional governance approaches to inform upcoming peer region research. During the May meeting Committee members refined their responses in small group discussions. *See below for a summary of these discussions and please note that the back page contains brief talking points to share with your networks*

Themes for Regional Governance Approaches

What are the most important reasons for having a regional governance model for mobility?

- Strategy for increasing **economic competitiveness** of our region
- Increased **local input** in decision making
- Improved regional **coordination/service** for riders
- Increased Federal and State **funding** for the region

What are we managing regionally?

Top homework survey responses to the question “*What are the desired responsibilities of a regional governance model?*” were: **(1) Planning, Funding & Operations – Fully Integrated** and **(2) Centralized Planning & Funding**. In small group discussions, Committee members refined and dove deeper into these responsibilities. Some highlights from discussions include:

- A Regional Transit Entity may ultimately include fully integrated transit functions but likely will be a stepped approach to responsibilities to build trust and capacity
- **Local input and interests** need to be considered in all aspects of transit functions, ranging from local schedules and frequency to ensuring all communities see the benefits of regional mobility investments

Do the upcoming federal funding opportunities create a sense of urgency for pursuing a regional governance model?

Committee members agreed this created a sense of urgency after reviewing information about the Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act, including a timeline that **most federal funds will be dispersed under this Act by 2027**. Many Committee members felt next steps included moving forward in evaluating regional peer models and to beginning communication efforts to show the value and benefits of pursuing a regional governance approach.

Talking Points from the May Meeting:



Reviewed Current CONNECT Beyond Implementation Activities:

Centralina is leading the effort to develop a regional **Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program**, a key recommendation of CONNECT Beyond's plan. TDM programs influence everyday travel choices that people make to support more sustainable and livable places and can be tailored for all types of communities. The project kicked off this spring and will be **engaging key stakeholders, including the business community**, during the plan development process. **Those in your network that are interested in getting involved in this initiative should contact Reagan Murphy at rmurphy@centralina.org.**



Identified Important Themes for Regional Governance Approaches:

The Committee's homework survey and work during the May meeting provide **critical inputs to the upcoming peer region research and analysis** process. Project staff will be conducting a broad search based on these inputs to identify peer regions for Committee members to review at their July meeting.



Continued Outreach about Benefits of Regional Collaboration:

Project staff and Committee members shared updates on outreach activities. It is important to continue to provide **communications and outreach about the importance of regional collaboration** and the benefits of working together. This work helps to lay the foundation for sharing the Committee's recommendations later in the year. As a reminder, see below for key benefits:

Key Benefits of Regional Collaboration

Funding: Working together makes us more competitive for funding

Increases Economic Competitiveness:

A complete transportation network supports our region's industries (advanced manufacturing, logistics) and increases labor access

Planning for Growth: Making the region future ready and planning for growth in a way that maintains quality of life

Connects People to Jobs: Over 50% of workers in the Charlotte region live in one county and work in another

For Next Meeting:

- Report Back and Share:** Members should provide an update on the Committee to their jurisdiction and/or relevant mobility organizations. Please let Centralina staff know if you need any supporting materials.
- Homework and Pre-work For Next Meeting:** Centralina will be reaching out to Committee members with a homework survey related to peer model research and analysis. Members will also receive information about this research leading up to the July meeting. It will be important for members to review this information prior to the meeting in order to make the meeting more efficient and productive.
- Next Meeting:** Friday, July 28, 2023 | 8:30am-10:30am, 8:00-8:30am for refreshments and networking

