

1 **DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD**

2 **January 12, 2022**

3 **MINUTES OF MEETING**

4 The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on January
5 12, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. remotely via Zoom. The following people were in attendance:

6	Jenn Weaver (Chair)	Town of Hillsborough
7	Jamezetta Bedford (Member)	Orange County
8	Michael Parker (Member)	GoTriangle
9	Leonardo Williams (Member)	City of Durham
10	Javiera Caballero (Member)	City of Durham
11	Wendy Jacobs (Member)	Durham County
12	Damon Seils (Member)	Town of Carrboro
13	Mark Bell (Alternate)	Town of Hillsborough
14	Sally Greene (Alternate)	Orange County
15	Brenda Howerton (Alternate)	Durham County
16	Adam Searing (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
17	Ellen Beckmann	Durham County
18	Nishith Trivedi	Orange County
19	Theo Letman	Orange County
20	Tom Altieri	Orange County Planning
21	Josh Mayo	Chapel Hill Planning
22	Bergen Watterson	Chapel Hill Planning
23	Matt Cecil	Chapel Hill Transit/Planning
24	Tina Moon	Carrboro Planning
25	Brandon Dawson	Chatham County Planning
26	Bill Judge	City of Durham
27	Brian Taylor	City of Durham
28	Sean Egan	City of Durham
29	Lindsay Smart	City of Durham
30	John Hodges-Copple	Triangle J Council of Governments
31	Jay Heikes	GoTriangle
32	Michael Page	North Carolina Central University
33	Chassem Anderson	University of North Carolina
34	Joe Geigle	Federal Highway Administration
35	David Keilson	NCDOT Division 5
36	Tracy Parrott	NCDOT Division 5
37	Stephen Robinson	NCDOT Division 7
38	Pat Wilson	NCDOT Division 7
39	Jeron Monroe	NCDOT Division 8
40	Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT Division 8
41	Julie Bogle	NCDOT TPD

42	Geoff Green	NEXT Chapel Hill & Carrboro
43	John Tallmadge	Bike Durham
44	Joe Milazzo II	Regional Transportation Alliance
45	Heidi Perov	Resident
46	Edward Harrison	Resident
47	J. Scott Lane	Stantec/JS Lane Company
48	Dan Hemme	Stantec
49	Mike Rutkowski	Stantec
50	Wannetta Mallette	Burlington-Graham MPO
51	Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO Manager Emeritus
52	Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
53	Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
54	Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO
55	Filmon Fishastion	DCHC MPO
56	Yanping Zhang	DCHC MPO
57	Kayla Peloquin	DCHC MPO
58	Mariel Klein	DCHC MPO

59 Quorum Count: 8 of 10 Voting Members

60 **1. Roll Call**

61 Chair Jenn Weaver called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The Voting Members and Alternate
62 Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Board were identified through a roll call and are indicated above.

63 Michael Parker made a motion to excuse the absence of Board Members Lisa Mathis, Karen
64 Howard, and Pam Hemminger. Wendy Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

65 **PRELIMINARIES:**

66 **2. Ethics Reminder**

67 Chair Jenn Weaver read the Ethics Reminder and asked if there were any known conflicts of
68 interest with respect to matters coming before the MPO Board and requested that if there were any
69 identified during the meeting for them to be announced. There were no known conflicts identified by
70 MPO Board Members. Aaron Cain said he will send information on the required ethics filings to MPO
71 Board Members and the filings are typically due by April 15.

72 **3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

73 There were no adjustments to the agenda.

74 **4. Public Comments**

75 Geoff Green with NEXT Chapel Hill & Carrboro referenced a recently distributed letter about
76 how we need to rethink our approach to road and street safety in the region. Geoff Green said our
77 roads are becoming more dangerous for drivers, bikers, and walkers. Geoff Green described a recent
78 incident at an intersection with a blinking yellow left turn arrow across a pedestrian crossing where a
79 pedestrian was hit by a car on Estes Drive in Chapel Hill. Geoff Green said the situation is particularly
80 bad for the most vulnerable users as this type of intersection prioritizes drivers and discourages people
81 from walking and biking. Geoff Green said he raised the same intersection safety issue to NCDOT and
82 they responded that they will not address the issue until there are “significant pedestrian counts or a
83 pattern of targeted correctible collisions.” Geoff Green asked that the MPO Board take a close look at
84 the recommendations in the aforementioned letter and do everything possible to work towards a
85 transportation system that is safe for all.

86 John Tallmadge, executive director of Bike Durham, echoed Geoff Green’s comments and said
87 Vision Zero is a systems approach to safety and the MPO has an important role in explaining that
88 approach to Board members, coordinating with local governments, and increasing accountability to
89 ensure progress is being made. John Tallmadge pointed out that the MPO does not do an air quality
90 analysis, but because reducing greenhouse gas and carbon emissions have become one of the MPO’s
91 core goals, staff should look at modeling tools to forecast the impacts of future emissions.

92 **5. Directives to Staff**

93 Aaron Cain mentioned previous requests to look at safety measures and said that as staffing
94 levels within the MPO improve, the MPO will be more able to address those requests.

95 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

96 **6. Approval of the December 8, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes**

97 **Kayla Peloquin, LPA Staff**

98 **7. Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #9**

99 **Anne Phillips, LPA Staff**

100 **8. Targets for Safety Performance Measures**

101 **Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

102 Wendy Jacobs said she hopes to get briefing on Vision Zero and expressed concern over the
 103 targets for safety performance measures. Damon Seils said the City of Durham adopted a Vision Zero
 104 policy a few years ago and asked if the MPO has adopted anything similar. Damon Seils said that as more
 105 information is received regarding the issues raised during this meeting's public comments, he is
 106 interested in looking more deeply into how safety can be improved. Aaron Cain noted that the MPO
 107 Board previously voted to support the Vision Zero goals of the City of Durham.

108 Damon Seils made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Jamezetta Bedford seconded the
 109 motion. The motion passed unanimously.

110 **ACTION ITEMS:**

111 **9. Resolution Recognizing Felix Nwoko's Career and Leadership of DCHC MPO**

112 **LPA Staff**

113 Chair Jenn Weaver read the resolution recognizing Felix Nwoko's career and leadership of DCHC
 114 MPO. Chair Jenn Weaver said she is glad Felix Nwoko could join the meeting and said that the MPO
 115 would not be where it is today without him. Many colleagues thanked Felix Nwoko for his guidance and
 116 mentorship. Aaron Cain read a response statement from Felix Nwoko, who was having audio issues.

117 Damon Seils made a motion to adopt the resolution to recognize Felix Nwoko's leadership of
 118 DCHC MPO. Michael Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

119 **10. 2050 MTP and Air Quality Conformity Determination Report**

120 **Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

121 Andy Henry acknowledged the public comments on safety and said staff will come back with
 122 more information on safety measures. Andy Henry said there are two actions, the first involves the 2050

123 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) report and the second involves the Air Quality Conformity
124 Determination Report (AQ CDR). Andy Henry said the 2050 MTP report contains the same project
125 information that was presented in December and adds information on the development process. Andy
126 Henry reviewed the table of contents and some highlights of the report. Andy Henry mentioned the
127 components that are being finalized and will be included in the report prior to release for public
128 comment. Andy Henry reviewed the upcoming schedule and said the Federal Highway Administration
129 (FHWA) letter of approval is due by February 21.

130 Damon Seils asked for more context on how the action for February on the final report fits into
131 the broader 2050 MTP process. Andy Henry said the project and financial plans have already been
132 approved, but in February the entire report will be approved including other aspects such as the goals
133 and objectives, socioeconomic data in the Triangle Regional Model, and more. Wendy Jacobs asked for
134 thoughts on how the MPO could conduct an air quality analysis with the MTP. Andy Henry said the AQ
135 CDR is merely a forecast, although some performance measures are emissions related, and that data will
136 be available in a few days. Wendy Jacobs asked if the MPO tracks air quality progress to see if
137 improvements are on track to meet the standard, and Andy Henry said we must demonstrate that we
138 are meeting certain goals in the AQ CDR, and will look into providing that data. Wendy Jacobs
139 mentioned one of the recommendations from the Governance Study was to create a data dashboard.
140 Andy Henry said he will explore that idea. Chair Jenn Weaver said it would be useful to track real data to
141 compare to the model forecast.

142 Javiera Caballero asked for more information on the public comment process. Andy Henry said
143 that about 50 pages of public comments were received for the Preferred Option. Javiera Caballero said
144 as we seek input from the community we need to make the information in the MTP more easily
145 digestible to get meaningful feedback, which alludes to a common theme of the need to make the work
146 of the MPO more accessible to the community. Andy Henry agreed. Michael Parker said it is important

147 to track progress on air quality, otherwise we would not know if we are on par with the forecast. Andy
148 Henry agreed and said he will bring more information on mechanisms to track air quality progress to the
149 February Board meeting.

150 Jamezetta Bedford made a motion to release the draft 2050 MTP report for a 21-day public
151 comment period. Wendy Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

152 Andy Henry discussed what is included in the AQ CDR and said a public hearing will be held
153 today. Andy Henry said the final AQ CDR will be adopted by resolution at the February Board meeting.
154 Chair Jenn Weaver opened the public hearing. Damon Seils asked for context on how this piece fits into
155 the larger MTP process. Andy Henry said because this area was previously not in air quality attainment,
156 the MPO has to have a continued maintenance plan to demonstrate expected emissions from the
157 transportation sector will not exceed certain thresholds. Andy Henry said without the AQ CDR, the MTP
158 is not valid because it certifies that the MTP will allow us to achieve the conformity that this report
159 projects. Chair Jenn Weaver closed the public hearing.

160 **11. Draft DCHC MPO Governance Study**

161 **Scott Lane, Stantec**

162 **Mike Rutkowski, Stantec**

163 **Dan Hemme, Stantec**

164 Chair Jenn Weaver thanked all parties involved in the Governance Study process. Damon Seils
165 introduced the two-part study, the first of which was to assess the MPO's compliance with statutory
166 requirements. Damon Seils said the second part of the study was to help the Board understand the role
167 of the MPO as a leader in the region and to determine in what ways the MPO's structure is aligned with
168 its stated goals. Damon Seils said the study was not intended as a performance review nor an
169 implementation guide. Mike Rutkowski thanked the many participants who were instrumental in guiding
170 the study. Mike Rutkowski reviewed the work that was completed through various interviews, peer
171 studies, a survey, and more. Mike Rutkowski asked Board members and staff to keep track of what they
172 see as the most important recommendations to move forward in the interim and long-term. Mike

173 Rutkowski outlined the main findings and highlights of the study, most notably to ensure that the vision
174 and goals of the Board and staff are in alignment. Mike Rutkowski described the seven areas of focus.
175 There was a discussion on the major improvements to the MPO website since the time the study was
176 conducted. Mike Rutkowski said that there are goals for public engagement, and questioned if the
177 progress is being monitored. Scott Lane reviewed the top two issues and recommendations for each
178 area of focus. Scott Lane said that in terms of overall organizational structure, there are a couple MPOs
179 in NC breaking away from cities as the Lead Planning Agency (LPA). Scott Lane said that the Board is
180 already taking action in terms of policy and organizational directions by taking a lead role in the hiring
181 process for the new MPO director. Michael Parker stated that one of the purposes of the study was to
182 outline the role of the director in managing the MPO as well as outward facing representation of the
183 MPO, but did not see anything substantive on that role in the report. Scott Lane responded that the
184 director should be someone less focused on technical skills and have demonstrated experience working
185 with partners to enact change, be very articulate, understand the nuances of policy, and who either
186 knows or can learn the region. Mike Rutkowski added that the director will have to wear many hats,
187 therefore it is appropriate for the MPO Board to make the decision of the roles and responsibilities of
188 the new director. Mike Rutkowski said this was a main topic of interest along with relation the Board has
189 with the director.

190 Scott Lane said he was surprised to find there is not a full-time transit planner, given the level of
191 interest this MPO has in transit. Scott Lane said that this MPO is an outlier in subsidizing local
192 government staff for planning work, and that funding should be tied to specific projects, which in turn
193 could free up some funding for a new staff position. Chair Jenn Weaver said the staffing piece is very
194 important for our MPO. Michael Parker stated that how the MPO spends money does not seem to align
195 with the priorities of the Board and this deserves further investigation. Scott Lane mentioned this topic
196 is closely tied to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Scott Lane emphasized the importance of

197 regional collaboration, especially with the NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division (IMD) that has recently
198 hired new staff, making this goal more attainable. There was a discussion on funding recommendations,
199 and the idea of dedicating a full-time employee to investigate funding sources, perhaps a jointly funded
200 position with the Capital Area MPO (CAMPO). Scott Lane highlighted the importance of making data
201 more accessible.

202 Scott Lane provided a final overview of the top suggestions in the report. Mike Rutkowski asked
203 for comments from Board members on what they see as the top priorities to be sent to the consultant
204 team so those can be integrated into the final report. Damon Seils raised the question of where we go
205 from here in terms of implementation of the recommendations. Chair Jenn Weaver said it is important
206 to provide the requested feedback to the consultants that can then share the main priorities with the
207 full Board at a future meeting to discuss how to prioritize and implement the recommendations. There
208 was a discussion on how to allocate adequate time to the report and focus on making concrete changes.
209 Damon Seils said he and the governance study committee would be happy to meet with Chair Jenn
210 Weaver to develop an implementation plan. Chair Jenn Weaver thanked the consultants for their
211 excellent work on the report.

212 This item was for informational purposes; no further action was required by the MPO Board.

213 **12. FY2023 Draft Unified Planning Work Program**
214 **Mariel Klein, LPA Staff**

215 Mariel Klein said the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is an annual funding document
216 that details and guides transportation planning activities. Mariel Klein described the FY23 UPWP
217 priorities and the FY21 UPWP accomplishments. Mariel Klein summarized the funding sources of Federal
218 Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds and the local matches
219 by agency. There was a discussion on where to find specific funding information for planning staff, and
220 Aaron Cain said the Surface Transportation Block Grant Direct Attributable (STBGDA) category includes
221 all of the funding for local staff, though it is not exclusively staff funding. Mariel Klein said that most

222 STBGDA funding that is not being used for special studies is used for staff. Mariel Klein reviewed the
223 local match cost sharing dues by agency. Mariel Klein shared the FY23 Lead Planning Agency (LPA) new
224 initiatives and the planned special studies. Mariel Klein shared a general overview of the LPA expenses
225 and the FY23 UPWP development schedule.

226 Jamezetta Bedford asked for background information on the decision for MPO funds that help
227 cover the costs of local planners across jurisdictions to be phased out over the next couple years. Aaron
228 Cain said discussions have occurred at the staff level and at the Technical Committee, and many
229 jurisdictions had concerns about dropping the funding for local staff immediately. There was a
230 discussion on the decision-making process with input from the Governance Study. Wendy Jacobs said
231 she is excited to see the new initiatives and studies in the FY23 UPWP. Wendy Jacobs asked if there is
232 any section of the UPWP that allocates staff time or funding to implement the Governance Study
233 recommendations. Aaron Cain said he anticipates the implementation of the Governance Study would
234 be taken on by the new director within the next few months. Aaron Cain said no funding has been
235 specifically allocated in the UPWP for Governance Study implementation. Wendy Jacobs suggested
236 adding resources for implementation of the Governance Study.

237 Mariel Klein said there are opportunities throughout the year to amend the UPWP to add or
238 reallocate funds for Governance Study activities. Michael Parker asked if we have the capacity to
239 allocate funding towards this should the Board or the new director decide to take action. Aaron Cain
240 said it would be helpful to have more concrete guidance from the Board as to which elements of the
241 Governance Study are the highest priorities to implement. Damon Seils agreed that more guidance is
242 needed from the Board, and said he will meet with Chair Weaver about next steps for the governance
243 study committee.

244 Damon Seils made a motion to release the draft FY2023 UPWP for public comment. Jamezetta
245 Bedford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

246 **13. CTP Amendment #4**
247 **Kayla Peloquin, LPA Staff**

248 Kayla Peloquin said the Comprehensive Transportation Plan was mutually adopted in 2017 by
249 the MPO Board and the NC Board of Transportation. Kayla Peloquin reviewed the two previous minor
250 amendments and what was proposed for Amendment #3 in 2021. Kayla Peloquin said that because
251 Amendment #3 was not passed, the amendment was broken up into a series of smaller amendments,
252 and everything that was in Amendment #3 will eventually be addressed in a subsequent amendment.
253 Kayla Peloquin said Amendment #4 incorporates the updated Complete Streets policy, removes the
254 Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) alignment, adjusts several future planned roadways, and
255 designates four Transit Emphasis Corridors (TECs) in Durham. Kayla Peloquin outlined the upcoming
256 schedule.

257 Javiera Caballero said the City of Durham is not comfortable removing the Roxboro Street
258 Extension at this time until there is more extensive public engagement. Aaron Cain asked Javiera
259 Caballero if the City of Durham is requesting that that element be removed from this amendment, and
260 Javiera Caballero said yes. Wendy Jacobs expressed concern over the suspension of Amendment #3 and
261 wants the Board to discuss with MPO staff and NCDOT staff to understand what the issues were and
262 what the Complete Streets guidelines mean for the CTP. Aaron Cain said individual bicycle and
263 pedestrian projects will be brought to the Board at a future meeting, but that will require a lot of staff
264 time as NCDOT has asked for individual problem statements for each bicycle and pedestrian project.
265 Aaron Cain added that NCDOT IMD Director Ryan Brumfield will present to the Board in February on
266 Complete Streets.

267 Jamezetta Bedford made a motion to authorize the release of CTP Amendment #4 for a 42-day
268 public comment period without the Roxboro Street Extension project. Michael Parker seconded the
269 motion. The motion passed unanimously.

270 **14. DCHC MPO Board Vice Chair Election**271 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

272 Chair Jenn Weaver said the timeline for MPO officer elections did not align with the City of
 273 Durham appointment process, and Charlie Reece is no longer able to serve as Vice Chair. Jamezetta
 274 Bedford said the nominating committee has nominated Karen Howard for Vice Chair, and she has
 275 confirmed her willingness to serve as Vice Chair.

276 Michael Parker made a motion to elect Karen Howard for Vice Chair for 2022. Jamezetta
 277 Bedford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

278 **REPORTS:**279 **15. Report from the MPO Board Chair**280 **Jenn Weaver, Board Chair**

281 Chair Jenn Weaver said she is excited for Governor's Executive Order 246 regarding
 282 Environmental Justice initiatives and commitments to reduce carbon emissions within the
 283 transportation sector.

284 **16. Report from the Technical Committee Chair**285 **Ellen Beckmann, TC Chair**

286 Ellen Beckmann said the Technical Committee had many tributes to Felix Nwoko and said that
 287 he was a great person to work with and will be sorely missed.

288 **17. Report from LPA Staff**

289 Aaron Cain said Anne Phillips has left the MPO for a fellowship with the City of Durham. Aaron
 290 Cain introduced Filmon Fishastion, who was recently hired as a full-time planner with the MPO,
 291 although he has been with the MPO part-time since 2016. Filmon Fishastion introduced himself and
 292 said he is looking forward to working with everyone. Aaron Cain noted the two upcoming meetings
 293 listed at the bottom of the agenda. Aaron Cain said a new member orientation session will be
 294 scheduled soon for new members and anyone interested.

295 **18. NCDOT Reports**

296 **Lisa Mathis, NC Board of Transportation**

297 There was no report.

298 **Brandon Jones (David Keilson), Division 5 - NCDOT**

299 David Keilson said that in conjunction with the opening of East End Connector, there will be re-
300 designation of route numbers. David Keilson said water line work is underway for the Alston Avenue
301 project.

302 **Wright Archer (Pat Wilson, Stephen Robinson), Division 7 - NCDOT**

303 Stephen Robinson had no additional report.

304 **Patrick Norman (Bryan Kluchar), Division 8 - NCDOT**

305 Bryan Kluchar had no additional report.

306 **Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division - NCDOT**

307 Julie Bogle had no additional report.

308 **John Grant, Traffic Operations - NCDOT**

309 There was no report.

310 Aaron Cain said there is a new regional Integrated Mobility Division liaison, Nick Morrison, who
311 has been invited to join our Technical Committee and Board meetings.

312 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

313 **19. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

314 Chair Jenn Weaver pointed out the attached articles.

315 **ADJOURNMENT:**

316 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at
317 12:04 p.m.