

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

2 **12 December 2018**

3  
4 **MINUTES OF MEETING**

5  
6 The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on  
7 December 12, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in the City Council Committee Room, located on the second  
8 floor of Durham City Hall. The following people were in attendance:  
9

10	Damon Seils (MPO Board Chair)	Town of Carrboro
11	Wendy Jacobs (MPO Board Vice Chair)	Durham County
12	Michael Parker (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
13	Renee Price (Member)	Orange County
14	Steve Schewel (Alternate)	City of Durham
15	Ellen Reckhow (Member)	GoTriangle
16	Karen Howard (Member)	Chatham County
17	Pam Hemminger (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
18	Heidi Carter (Alternate)	Durham County
19	Mark Bell (Alternate)	Town of Hillsborough
20	Mike Fox (Alternate)	NC Board of Transportation
21		
22	Richard Hancock	NCDOT, Division 5
23	Patrick Wilson	NCDOT, Division 7
24	Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT, Division 8
25	Kathryn Vollner	NCDOT, Division 8
26	Zach Hallock	Town of Carrboro
27	Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
28	Bergen Watterson	Town of Chapel Hill
29	Kayla Seibel	Town of Chapel Hill
30	Geoff Green	GoTriangle
31	Patrick McDonough	GoTriangle
32	Evan Tenenbaum	Durham County
33	Nishith Trivedi	Orange County/TC Vice Chair
34	Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
35	Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
36	Robert Jahn	DCHC MPO
37	Ellen Beckmann	City of Durham Transportation / TC Chair
38	Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
39	Bill Judge	City of Durham Transportation
40	Eddie Dancausse	FHWA
41	Jenny Halsey	TJCOG
42	Lyndsay Gavin	TJCOG
43	Drew Joyner	AECOM

44  
45 Quorum Count: 8 of 10 Voting Members  
46

47  
48 Chair Damon Seils called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call was performed. The  
49 Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Board were identified and are  
50 indicated above. Chair Damon Seils reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheet that was being  
51 circulated. Chair Damon Seils introduced and welcomed Mark Bell from the Town of Hillsborough and  
52 Chairman Mike Fox from the Board of Transportation to the MPO Board Meeting. Chair Damon Seils  
53 also announced that Michael Parker would now be the voting member for the Town of Chapel Hill and  
54 Pam Hemminger would be the alternate.

55 **PRELIMINARIES:**

56 **2. Ethics Reminder**

57 Chair Damon Seils read the Ethics Reminder and asked if there were any known conflicts of  
58 interest with respect to matters coming before the MPO Board and requested that if there were any  
59 identified during the meeting for them to be announced. There were no known conflicts identified by  
60 the MPO Board members.

61 **3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

62 There were no adjustments to the agenda.

63 **4. Public Comments**

64 There were no public comments.

65 **5. Directives to Staff**

66 The Directives to Staff were included in the agenda packet for review.

67 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

68 **6. November 14, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes**

69 **7. Performance Management Agreement on Data Sharing**

70 **Aaron Cain, DCHC MPO**

71 **Julie Bogle, NCDOT**

72 Ellen Reckhow made a motion to approve the November 14, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes and  
73 the Performance Management Agreement on Data Sharing. Mike Fox seconded the motion. The motion  
74 passed unanimously.

75 **8. 2019 MPO Board and Technical Committee Meeting Schedule**  
76 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

77 There was discussion about changing the date and time of the January MPO Board Meeting due  
78 to the North Carolina Transportation Summit occurring on the same day. Renee Price requested that the  
79 MPO Board be provided with registration information. It was decided that the meeting will be held at  
80 1pm on January 16. It was later decided that the January MPO Board meeting would be held in City  
81 Council Chambers at Durham City Hall.

82 Michael Parker made a motion to approve the meeting schedule with the change of date and  
83 time for the January DCHC MPO Board Meeting to January 16, 2019; at 1pm. Renee Price seconded the  
84 motion. The motion passed unanimously.

85 **ACTION ITEMS:**

86 **9. Update on US 70 Improvements**  
87 **Elmo Vance, NCDOT**  
88 **Mark Pierce, RK&K**  
89 **Drew Joyner, AECOM**

90 Aaron Cain stated that representatives of the US 70 Improvement project would update the  
91 MPO Board. Elmo Vance stated that the purpose of the project was to convert US 70 into a freeway  
92 from the East End Connector in Durham County to I-540 in Wake County. Elmo Vance continued that  
93 speakers representing U-5518 and U-5720 will brief the MPO Board on their respective projects along  
94 US 70.

95 Drew Joyner stated that U-5518 represents the portion of US 70 that exists just north of I-540 to  
96 slightly south of Page Road. Drew Joyner noted that there were various public input meetings and joint  
97 meetings with adjoining projects. Drew Joyner noted that U-5518 is split into three sections. Drew

98 Joyner stated that by early 2019 the project will be advertised by NCDOT as a design-build project, and  
99 then in summer 2019 a design-build project team will be selected. Drew Joyner stated that there are  
100 three different design alternatives under consideration, known as Alternative 1, Alternative 2, and  
101 Alternative 2 Revised. Renee Price asked if the Brier Creek area is a high crash area. Drew Joyner  
102 affirmed that Brier Creek is an area of high accidents, and extensive redesign elements are being  
103 considered, including controlled access and an interchange. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs and Drew Joyner  
104 discussed that there will be multiuse paths and sidewalks across US 70, but not along it. Michael Parker  
105 asked if the plan included accommodations for potential future mass transit. Drew Joyner responded  
106 that the scope of the plan did not include study of mass transit.

107 Mark Pierce stated that U-5720 is the portion of US 70 from Lynn Road to TW Alexander Drive,  
108 and he will present two different concept design options; the northern widening alternative and the  
109 southern widening alternative. Tony Houser, of RK&K, explained that it is not feasible to widen US 70 on  
110 its current alignment due to the vertical curvature of the existing road. Tony Houser stated that, with  
111 the northern alternative, there are various changes that need to be made, including but not limited to:  
112 interchange reconfigurations; increased and improved signalization; and road realignment. Vice Chair  
113 Wendy Jacobs and Tony Houser discussed that a new facility would be constructed next to the existing  
114 US 70 with either alternative. Tony Houser added that the existing US 70 could be used as a service road  
115 with pedestrian facilities. Tony Houser stated that there are options for the best use of that section of  
116 US 70, and input should be provided by community leadership. Tony Houser stated that there is vacant  
117 land surrounding US 70. Tony Houser stated that the only access to US 70 in this section will be at only  
118 one interchange. Ellen Reckhow reminded the MPO Board that the US 70 project was originally started  
119 to address the needs of a growing population that required an alternative to I-40. Tony Houser stated  
120 that there are design elements, such as farm land, that needed to be considered from public comments.  
121 Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that the Leesville Road area near US 70 is under development and the

122 community of Carolina Arbors is growing. Ellen Beckmann stated that a lift station is planned to open in  
123 2021 near to that area. Tony Houser stated that in the southern alternative, the plan calls for US 70 to  
124 travel over Pleasant Drive, whereas in the northern alternative, Pleasant Drive travels over US 70. Tony  
125 Houser added that the southern alternative leads to a traffic control issue during construction. Tony  
126 Houser added that Mineral Springs Road would be realigned, which would cause issues for that area.  
127 Ellen Beckmann proposed different design alternatives for Mineral Springs Road and environs. Andy  
128 Henry added that the East End Connector project progressed with unspecified knowledge about the US  
129 70 improvements. Mark Pierce noted that the DCHC MPO and Capital Area Metropolitan Planning  
130 Organization (CAMPO) staff will be briefed on public comments to the presented alternatives on January  
131 16. It was discussed that Felix Nwoko would be the signatory for the DCHC MPO. It was further  
132 discussed that there is no official role for the MPO Board, but Felix Nwoko will act in the MPO Board's  
133 interest. Ellen Reckhow requested that NCDOT keep the MPO Board apprised of ongoing development.  
134 There was no action required by the MPO Board.

135 **10. Triangle Transportation Demand Management Program**

136 **Jenny Halsey, TJCOG**

137  
138 Jenny Halsey stated that the Triangle Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Program has  
139 been operating for 10 years. Jenny Halsey stated that North Carolina Department of Transportation  
140 (NCDOT) updated their TDM plan, and Triangle J Council of Government (TJCOG) plans to make updates  
141 to their TDM Program accordingly. Jenny Halsey explained that TJCOG applies for funds each year  
142 through NCDOT, and every two years through CAMPO and DCHC. Jenny Halsey stated that TJCOG  
143 administers a competitive grant program to regional and local service providers, as well as monitors  
144 and evaluates the program effectiveness. Jenny Halsey stated that TJCOG designated hotspots  
145 throughout the region, which are areas of high trip density and the areas for best TDM opportunities.  
146 Jenny Halsey stated that grant applicants describe which hotspot they will cover during the application  
147 process. Jenny Halsey stated that the services of the grant recipients cover education and outreach.

148 Jenny Halsey stated that the grant recipients are required to make a 50% match. Jenny Halsey also  
149 stated that surveys are a part of the monitoring and evaluation process, and they are given to grant  
150 recipients to then distribute to employees and students. Jenny Halsey stated that survey questions  
151 include mode of transportation to and from either work or school and reasons for their chosen mode  
152 of transportation, as well as changes that could be implemented to change their travel behavior.

153 Jenny Halsey stated that the result of the FY17 Triangle TDM Program was that 5.7M (Million)  
154 vehicle trips were avoided, and 51M pounds of carbon dioxide were prevented from entering the  
155 atmosphere. Michael Parker and Lyndsey Gavin, TJCOG, discussed using a denominator for the  
156 Triangle TDM Program, such as the total number of vehicle trips overall in the Triangle. Vice Chair  
157 Wendy Jacobs and Jenny Halsey discussed that the strategy for outreach and to grow the Triangle TDM  
158 Program is up to the discretion of the grant recipients. Michael Parker asked if changing work hours  
159 would be discussed as part of the Triangle TDM Program. Jenny Halsey responded that changing work  
160 hours is currently a strategy employed by grant recipients. Chair Damon Seils contrasted the high cost  
161 of building new highways to the relative low cost of \$0.5M of the Triangle TDM Program. Chair Damon  
162 Seils also suggested having a yearly Triangle TDM Program update presented to the MPO Board.

163 Ellen Reckhow, Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs, and Jenny Halsey discussed the status of Durham  
164 County as not currently being a grant recipient from the Triangle TDM Program, although Durham  
165 County may already have a TDM program in place. They planned to follow-up after the meeting.

166 This item is for informational purposes only, no action is necessary.

167 **11. Discussion of Items from Joint DCHC-CAMPO Board Meeting**

168 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

169 **John Hodges-Copple, TJCOG**

170

171 Aaron Cain stated that the Board directed staff from the MPO and TJCOG to make edits to the  
172 two policy sheets, Active Transportation and Transportation Demand Management (TDM)/Technology,  
173 which were based on comments received from MPO Board members. Aaron Cain discussed making the

174 language friendlier to individuals unfamiliar with transportation specifics. Chair Damon Seils stated that  
175 legislative delegation meetings are scheduled for January 2019, and he added that having policy sheets  
176 would be helpful to distribute among legislators. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs and Ellen Reckhow discussed  
177 the need for language advocating for allowance for funding of multiuse paths. Renee Price requested  
178 adding language to include Rural Transportation Planning Organizations (RPO). There was discussion  
179 about what audience this policy document hoped to reach and the formatting of information therein.  
180 There was a nonverbal consensus among attendees of allowing for MPO staff to make edits and then  
181 sending the revised document to MPO Board Members. Chair Damon Seils stated that it is useful for the  
182 DCHC MPO to be applicable to different audiences and that the document is able to be changed over  
183 time as needed.

184 No action is required for this item, it is for informational and discussion purposes only.

185 **12. Commuter Rail Project Sponsorship**

186 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

187 Aaron Cain stated that, as part of its process for the Durham-Wake Commuter Rail Transit (CRT)  
188 project, Wake Transit and CAMPO undertook a formal process to name GoTriangle as the project  
189 sponsor for the CRT. Aaron Cain added that a similar memo for the DCHC MPO Board was drafted using  
190 the memo adopted by the CAMPO Executive Board in November as a template. Upon the DCHC MPO  
191 Board's approval, LPA Manager Felix Nwoko will send a letter to GoTriangle acknowledging their  
192 designation of GoTriangle as the project sponsor for the Durham-Wake CRT. The MPO Board requested  
193 updates every six months, or as needed.

194 Michael Parker made a motion to direct staff to draft a letter to GoTriangle approving of their  
195 designation as the project sponsor for Durham-Wake CRT. Renee Price seconded the motion. The  
196 motion passed unanimously.

197 **13. Amendment #8 to the FY2018-2027 TIP**

198 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

199 Aaron Cain stated that Amendment 8 to the FY2018-2027 Transportation Improvement Plan  
200 (TIP) includes: changes to a bike/ped project in Durham (EB-5514); the flexing of Orange County STBGDA  
201 funds to transit (TP-5151); two funding changes at the request of NCDOT (P-5717 and U-5745); and an  
202 adjustment to U-4726 to ensure sufficient funding in the correct project number for various bike/ped  
203 projects in DCHC. Aaron Cain and Andy Henry added that funding for the sub-projects in U-4726 have  
204 previously been approved.

205 Michael Parker made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve Amendment 8 to  
206 the FY2018-2027 TIP. Ellen Reckhow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

207 **14. Election of Officers for the DCHC MPO Board**

208 **Damon Seils, Chair, DCHC MPO Board**

209 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

210 Mark Bell read the decision from the nominating committee that recommended Damon Seils  
211 to remain as the Chair and Wendy Jacobs to remain as the Vice Chair of the DCHC MPO Board.

212 Michael Parker made a motion to re-elect Damon Seils as he Chair and Wendy Jacobs as the  
213 Vice Chair for the 2019 term of the DCHC MPO Board. Ellen Reckhow seconded the motion. The  
214 motion passed unanimously.

215 **REPORTS:**

216 **15. Report from the Board Chair**

217 Damon Seils, Board Chair

218 Chair Damon Seils reiterated Mike Fox's invitation to attend the North Carolina Transportation  
219 Summit on January 9-10 at the Raleigh Convention Center.

220 **16. Report from the Technical Committee Chair**

221 Ellen Beckmann, TC Chair

222 Ellen Beckmann stated that there were several public meetings for projects in Durham,  
223 including: Cornwallis Road grade separation project, Fayetteville Road widening, Hillandale Road  
224 bike/ped project, Carpenter Road/Fletcher Road bike/ped project, NC 54 sidewalk, and the Durham



225 wayfinding project. Ellen Beckmann also stated that her term as TC Chair will end, and the Chair and  
226 Vice Chair will be elected in January 2019.

227 **17. Report from LPA Staff**  
228 **Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

229 Andy Henry reported that the comment period for the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan  
230 (MTP) and Air Quality Conformity Determination Report will end on January 8, 2019, and the MPO  
231 Board will be able to adopt it at their next meeting on January 16.

232 **18. NCDOT Report**

233 David Keilson, NCDOT Division 5, discussed that the on-ramp from Highway 98 to US 70 West is  
234 now open. David Keilson discussed the Alston Avenue project updates, including two road closures  
235 along Alston Avenue for six month periods each. David Keilson stated that the Chapel Hill Road  
236 bike/ped project (EB-4707B) is scheduled to finish in March 2019. David Keilson also stated that the  
237 roundabout at Hope Valley Road and University Road is scheduled to be let in January 2019. Ellen  
238 Reckhow discussed the unsightliness of certain roundabouts, and Ellen Beckmann stated that she will  
239 discuss the roundabout issue at the next TC meeting on January 23.

240 Patrick Wilson, NCDOT Division 7, stated that there were no additional updates. Pam  
241 Hemminger and Patrick Wilson discussed ongoing meetings with NCDOT about widening I-40.

242 Bryan Kluchar, Division 8, stated that there were no additional updates.

243 There was no comment from NCDOT Transportation Planning Division (TPD).

244 There was no report from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

245 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

246 **17. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

247 No informational items were discussed.

248 **ADJOURNMENT:**

249            There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at  
250    11:34 a.m.