

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

2 **BOARD**

3 **February 27, 2024**

4 **MINUTES OF MEETING**

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7 The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on  
8 February 27, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Long Leaf Conference Room located at Central  
9 Pines Regional Council. The following people were in attendance:

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11 Karen Howard (MPO Board Chair) Chatham County  
12 Javiera Cabellero (MPO Vice Chair) City of Durham  
13 Jamezetta Bedford (Member) Orange County  
14 Carl Rist(Member) City of Durham  
15 Melissa McCullough (Member) Town of Chapel  
16 Wendy Jacobs (Member) Durham County  
17 Michael Parker (Member) GoTriangle  
18 Danny Nowell (Member) Town of Carrboro  
19 Mark Bell (Member) Town of Hillsborough  
20 Nida Allam (Alternate)\* Durham County  
21 Lisa Mathis (Alternate)\* NC Board of Transportation  
22 Matt Hughes (Alternate)\* Town of Hillsborough  
23 Nish Trivedi (TC Chair) Orange County  
24 Ellen Beckmann (TC Vice Chair) City of Durham  
25 Cameron Hagelauer \* Chatham County  
26 Brandon Jones \* NCDOT, Division 5  
27 Tracy Parrott\* NCDOT, Division 5  
28 Chad Reimakoski\* NCDOT, Division 7  
29 Amin Hezaveh\* NCDOT, Division 7  
30 Bryan Kluchar\* NCDOT, Division 8  
31 Darlene Weaver\* Orange County  
32 Amy Fowler\* Orange County  
33 Tina Moon\* Town of Carrboro  
34 Marie Parker\* Town of Carrboro  
35 Bergen Watterson\* Town of Chapel Hill  
36 Eric Vitale\* City of Durham  
37 Bill Judge\* City of Durham  
38 Brandi Minor City of Durham  
39 Erin Convery\* City of Durham  
40 Tom Devlin\* City of Durham  
41 Sean Egan City of Durham  
42 Matt Efird\* Town Hillsborough  
43 Julie Bogle\* NC Department of Transportation  
44 Michael Fox \* NC Board of Transportation  
45 Thanh Schado\* Chatham County  
46 Paul Black \* GoTriangle  
47 Annie Calef \* Research Triangle Foundation

48	Joe Geigle*	Federal Highway Administration
49	Jordan Powell*	VHB
50	Jenna Kolling	Central Pines Regional Council
51	Martha Hoelzer*	Public Comments
52		
53	Doug Plachcinski	DCHC MPO
54	David Miller	DCHC MPO
55	Colleen McGue	DCHC MPO
56	Filmon Fishastion	DCHC MPO
57	Kelly Richard	DCHC MPO
58	Yanping Zhang	DCHC MPO
59	KC Chae	DCHC MPO
60	Jean Debnam	DCHC MPO
61	Madeline Galliano	DCHC MPO

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Quorum Count: 8 of 10 Voting Members

Chair Karen Howard called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. A roll call was performed.

68 The Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Board were identified  
69 and are indicated above.

70

**PRELIMINARIES:**

71 **1. DCHC MPO Non- Discrimination Policy**

72 **2. Ethics Reminder**

73 The ethics reminder was not read aloud.

74 **3. Roll Call**

75 The roll call was performed by Doug Plachcinski.

76 **4. Adjustments to the Agenda**

77 Chair Karen Howard asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. There were  
78 no adjustments to the agenda.

79 **5. Public Comments**

80 Chair Karen Howard asked if there were any members of the public comments. There  
81 were public comments from Martha Hoelzer and Diane Roberston.

82 Martha Hoelzer and Diane Robertson spoke in opposition to the Bolin Creek Greenway  
83 project. Both citizens believe the project would have a negative impact on the environment,  
84 raise right of way issues and cost the town additional maintenance cost in the future.

85 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

86 **6. Approval of the January 23, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes**  
87 **Jean Debnam, MPO Staff**

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90 **7. FY 2024 UPWP Administrative Modification #1**  
91 **David Miller, MPO Staff**  
92 **Madeline Galliano, MPO Staff**

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94 Chair Karen Howard asked for a motion to approve the Consent agenda. Doug  
95 Plachcinski asked that the minutes be amended to include the discussion about the vehicle  
96 fatality crash and collision rates and asking NCDOT return to discuss future efforts to mitigate  
97 crashes. Michael Parker made a motion to approve the amended minutes. Mark Bell seconded  
98 the motion with the amendments. The motion passed unanimously.

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100 **ACTION ITEMS:**

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102 **8. FY 2025 Call for Projects Recommendation & Release for Public Comment**  
103 **Filmon Fishastion, MPO Staff**

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105 Doug Plachcinski stated the TC Board recommended that the MPO Board release a  
106 recommendation for RFF funding for projects at the February meeting. There were questions  
107 about how projects were presented and scored according to the previously adopted funding  
108 rubric. Therefore, the MPO is requesting this item be remitted back to the Technical Committee  
109 to make sure those concerns are addressed.

110 Melissa McCullough made a motion to remit the item back to the Technical Committee.  
111 The motion was seconded by Mark Bell. The motion passed unanimously.

112 **9. Public Hearing: SPOT Local Input Points Methodology Adoption**  
113 **Filmon Fishastion**

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115 Chair Karen Howard asked for a motion to open the public hearing. Danny Nowell  
116 made a motion to open the public hearing. Mark Bell seconded the motion. There were no  
117 public comments. Jamezetta made a motion to close the public hearing. Danny Nowell  
118 seconded the motion.

119 Filmon Fishastion reminded the Board that the SPOT Methodology opened for public comment  
120 beginning in January and was out for comment until February 13, which is a little longer than  
121 the 21-day comment period. It was distributed via social media and email. The comments  
122 that were received were posted in the memo attached to this agenda item. Most of the  
123 comments were geared more towards the SPOT process. The next step is to adopt the  
124 Methodology and send it to the SPOT office for their review.

125 Wendy Jacobs made a motion to adopt the draft Methodology. Michael Parker  
126 seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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128 **10. Public Hearing: FY 2025 UPWP Draft**  
129 **David Miller, MPO Staff**  
130 **Madeline Galliano, MPO Staff**  
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132 Madeline Galliano shared that the FY2025 UPWP was released for public comment on  
133 January 23 per the recommendation of the Board. One comment was received which is  
134 included in the agenda package. Chair Karen Howard asked for a motion to open the public  
135 hearing. Wendy Jacobs made a motion to open the public hearing. Melissa McCullough  
136 seconded the motion. There were no public comments. Michael Parker made a motion to close  
137 the public hearing. Carl Rist seconded the motion.

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139 **11. Destination 2055 Goals**  
140 **Kelly Richard, MPO Staff**  
141 **Andy Henry, MPO Staff**  
142 **Colleen McGue, MPO Staff**  
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144 Kelly Richard presented the Destination 2055 Goals and provided additional information  
145 on this engagement as a follow-up to questions from previous public meetings. Mrs. Richard  
146 said the goals presented in the survey are those recommended for approval from the Technical  
147 Committee. These goals are the same goals from the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan,  
148 and which went through rigorous engagement during the last update cycle. The public input  
149 shows the goals are still relevant and important, and changing the language of the objectives  
150 will be considered later. The public input shows the goals are still relevant and important, and  
151 changing the language of the objectives will be considered later.

152 Jamezetta commented that she thinks the goals are very relevant and supports the fact  
153 that they are not changing them from the prior study.

154 Michael Parker stated he believes one of the 8 goals should be to state explicitly the  
155 overarching statement of the DCHC MPO which, over the next 30 years, is to get people out of  
156 cars and reduce emissions.

157 Carl Rist stated that if the engagement process is not over, why can't we ask questions  
158 like are there any other goals you (the public) would like to hear or add.

159 Chair Karen Howard, agreed to Michael Parkers suggestion, but suggested a more  
160 equitable way to address our overarching statement by saying the DCHC is creating more  
161 options to alleviate the need for reliance on individual car transportation. Therefore, the rural  
162 communities won't feel they have been removed from the conversation. Much discussion was  
163 held on this topic.

164 Jamezetta Bedford made a motion to approve the goals for use in Destination 2055.  
165 Javiera Cabellero seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

169 **12. Annual Ethics Reminder**  
170 **Jean Debnam, MPO Staff**  
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172 Jean Debnam gave an overview of the process for Board members to file their SEI and  
173 RED forms. Ms. Debnam reminded the new members that they had 30 days to file after their  
174 appointment to the Board and all members must have their filings completed by April 15<sup>th</sup>,  
175 2024. Chair Karen Howard asked if the SEI and the RED were two separate forms. Kelly  
176 Richard stated there were two separate forms. Melissa McCullough said she worked on the  
177 form electronically and completed all the information on the one electronic entry.

178 Karen Howard asked for a reminder to complete the form as we get closer to the  
179 deadline. Howard asked for a motion to open the public hearing. Javiera Cabellero made a  
180 motion to open the public hearing.

181

182 **13. FY2024-33 TIP Amendment #2 Call for Amendments**  
183 **Filmon Fishastion, MPO Staff**  
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185 Filmon Fishastion gave an update on the FY2024-23 Tip Amendment #2. He stated  
186 The MPO just finished the call for amendments throughout February. They are currently  
187 compiling changes to projects to bring back to the TC Board in March.

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189 **14. SPOT 7.0 Project Updates**

190 **Colleen McGue, MPO Staff**

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192 Colleen McGue advised the Board that since the Draft SPOT 7.0 list had been adopted,  
193 the MPO has been in process of working closely with NCDOT and the other stakeholders.  
194 There have been changes made to the Highway list due to the analysis by the SPOT office and  
195 their consultants. H230770 was removed at the request of Chapel Hill. Another project at I-85  
196 and NC 86 was removed from the list because it was a duplicate. Mrs. McGue stated the list  
197 will move on to the next phase of the analysis and scoring process. There were also changes  
198 to the Rail and Bike Ped lists. The Rail Division is working on a cost estimate for the East  
199 Durham Rail Yard relocation. Three projects on the Rail list have been resubmitted as Bike  
200 Ped projects by NCDOT Highway Division 5 and 7, on behalf of the MPO.

201 Karen Howard asked if removing the Chapel Hill project means nothing will happen at  
202 that intersection. Colleen McGue said it was being removed from consideration in this round of  
203 SPOT. Doug Plachcinski interjected that the BRT improvements were being analyzed and they  
204 may impact the future design at that location.

205 Wendy Jacobs pointed out that 90% of our funds were going to Highway projects and  
206 10% were left for all other modes of transportation.

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208 **15. Triangle Transportation Choices FY23 Annual Impact Report**  
209 **Jenna Kolling, Central Pines Regional Council**  
210 **David Miller, MPO Staff**

211

212 Jenna Kolling presented the Triangle Transportation Choices and gave the Fiscal 2023  
213 Annual Impact Report and an executive summary of the program. Ms. Kolling reported that the  
214 program's outreach and marketing had a great impact on the vehicle miles traveled in the  
215 region. Throughout FY23 the program averted six million single-occupancy vehicles trips and  
216 slashed over 87 million commute miles. Ms. Kolling reported that the cumulative societal  
217 benefit of the Transportation Demand Management Services provided by the Triangle Choices  
218 Program in FY23 is estimated at \$34 million. Ms. Kolling explained their goal was to reach out  
219 to the employers located in high density job areas and encourage them to commute.

220

221 **16. Staff Working Group Update on Draft Durham and Orange 2025 Transit Work**  
222 **Programs**  
223 **Ellen Beckmann, Durham County Transportation Director**  
224 **Brandi Minor, Durham County Senior Administrative Officer**  
225 **Nish Trivedi, Orange County Transportation Services Director**

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227 Ellen Beckmann and Brandi Minor gave a comprehensive overview of Durham County  
228 Transit Plan and stated Durham County is in alignment with what was presented in the Durham  
229 County Transit Plan, with minor differences and reporting metrics. Ms. Minor said Durham  
230 County is currently developing a transit tracker which will inform the public and government  
231 boards of the implementation status of the metrics of their projects and will be updated in  
232 Quarter 2 and Quarter 4. They discussed the funding for Durham projects and discussed  
233 extended timelines for some.

234 Nish Trivedi gave an overview of the Orange County Annual Work Program, and the  
235 updated key values for the Transit plan. Mr. Trivedi presented the available funding and how  
236 the funds will be spent.

237 Chair Karen Howard asked if both counties incorporate municipal plans. Both Nish and  
238 Ellen commented yes to her question.

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241 **17. Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan Update**  
242 **Kelly Richard, MPO Staff**

243 Kelly Richard reported that this Coordinated Public Transit Human Services plan.  
244 This plan details the existing transportation services and any gaps in services for older adults,  
245 those with low incomes, and those with disabilities. Federal Transit law requires that projects  
246 selected for funding under the Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities  
247 (Section 5310) program must be included in a locally developed, coordinated plan. Workshops  
248 to develop this plan update are scheduled for March and April and the plan is expected to be  
249 adopted around June 2024.

250 Wendy Jacobs asked if and recommended that the Department of Social Services and  
251 case managers should be invited to the workshops.

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254 **18. Congestion Management Process (CMP) Update-Mitigation Strategy Survey &**  
255 **Corridor Ranking**  
256 **Yanping Zhang, MPO Staff**

257 Yanping Zhang defined and explained and reviewed the review of CMP for the new  
258 Members. Mr. Zhang explained the goals, objectives, and steps of the CMP. A flowchart was  
259 presented showing the CMP process and how it operates. Yanping gave an update on the  
260 latest CMP/MRC developments.  
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266 **REPORTS:**  
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269 **19. Report from Board Chair**

270 **Karen Howard, DCHC MPO Board Chair**  
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272 There was no report from the Chair.  
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274 **20. Report from the Technical Committee Chair**

275 **Nishith Trivedi, TC Chair**  
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277 There was no report from the TC Chair.  
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279 **21. Report from MPO Staff**

280 **Douglas Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, DCHC MPO Executive Director**  
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282 There was no report from the MPO Director  
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284 **22. NCDOT REPORTS**

285 **Lisa Mathis, NCDOT Board Transportation**

286 Lisa Mathis reported that under the NCDOT Performance and Finance reports have  
287 been released. Mrs. Mathis also reminded the Board about the upcoming NC Transportation  
288 Summit on May

289 **Brandon Jones, NCDOT Division 5**

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291 No additional report.  
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293 **Chad Reimakoski, NCDOT Division 7**

294  
295 No additional report.  
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297 **Reuben Blakley, NCDOT Division 8**

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299 No additional report.  
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301 **Julie Bogle, NCDOT**

302  
303 No additional report.  
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305 **John Grant, NCDOT Traffic Operations**

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307 Not Present. No report.  
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309 **Nick Morrison, NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division**  
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312 Not Present. No report.

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314 **23. Recent News Articles**

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316 **ADJOURMENT:**

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318 There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

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