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

**10 April 2019**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on April 10, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of Durham City Hall. The following people were in attendance:

- Damon Seils (MPO Board Chair) Town of Carrboro
- Wendy Jacobs (MPO Board Vice Chair) Durham County
- Ellen Reckhow (Member) GoTriangle
- Michael Parker (Member) Town of Chapel Hill
- Renee Price (Member) Orange County
- Jenn Weaver (Member) Town of Hillsborough
- Vernetta Alston (Member) City of Durham
- Charlie Reece (Member) City of Durham
- Heidi Carter (Alternate) Durham County
- Lydia Lavelle (Alternate) Town of Carrboro
- Pam Hemminger (Alternate) Town of Chapel Hill
- Penny Rich (Alternate) Orange County
- Mark Bell (Alternate) Town of Hillsborough
- Joe Geigle (Non-Voting Member) Federal Highway
- Richard Hancock NCDOT, Division 5
- Patrick Wilson NCDOT, Division 7
- Bryan Kluchar NCDOT, Division 8
- Scott Whiteman Durham County
- Nishith Trivedi Orange County
- Craig Benedict Orange County
- Tina Moon Town of Carrboro
- Zach Hallock Town of Carrboro
- John Hodges-Copple Triangle J Council of Government
- Patrick McDonough GoTriangle
- Geoff Green GoTriangle
- Meg Scully DCHC MPO
- Andy Henry DCHC MPO
- Aaron Cain DCHC MPO
- Brian Rhodes DCHC MPO
- Mo Devlin DCHC MPO
- Robert Jahn DCHC MPO
- Dale McKeel City of Durham/DCHC MPO
- Evan Tenenbaum City of Durham

47	Don Bryson	VHB
48	Cheri Hardmall	Affordable Transit
49	Phil Post	Oaks 3
50	Kathryn Vollert	NCDOT
51	Caitlyn Meyer	Gannett Fleming
52	Kerry Morrow	NCDOT - TPD

53  
54 Quorum Count: 8 of 10 Voting Members

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56  
57 Chair Damon Seils called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call was performed. The  
58 Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Board were identified and are  
59 indicated above. Chair Damon Seils reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheet that was being  
60 circulated. Chair Damon Seils stated that Nina Szlosberg-Landis requested an excused absence from the  
61 DCHC MPO Board.

62 Vernetta Alston made a motion to excuse the absence of Nina Szlosberg-Landis from the MPO  
63 Board Meeting. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

64 **PRELIMINARIES:**

65 **2. Ethics Reminder**

66 Chair Damon Seils read the Ethics Reminder and asked if there were any known conflicts of  
67 interest with respect to matters coming before the MPO Board and requested that if there were any  
68 identified during the meeting for them to be announced. There were no known conflicts identified by  
69 the MPO Board Members.

70 Chair Damon Seils stated that, by April 16, 2019, each MPO Board Member and Alternate must  
71 submit the completed Statement of Economic Interest and Real Estate Disclosure for 2019.

72 **3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

73 Aaron Cain stated that Dale McKeel will present Item #12, Safe Routes to School Resolution,  
74 earlier in the Action Item Agenda and Kerry Morrow will present Item #8, NC Moves 2050, later in the  
75 agenda due to scheduling conflicts.

76 **4. Public Comments**

77 There were no comments from the public on any subject that was not on the agenda.

78 **5. Directives to Staff**

79 The Directives to staff were included in the agenda packet for review.

80 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

81 **6. March 13, 2019 MPO Board Meeting Minutes**

82 Chair Damon Seils stated that there was a spelling error on line 15 of the meeting minutes.

83 Michael Parker made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Renee Price seconded the  
84 motion. The motion passed unanimously.

85 **ACTION ITEMS:**

86 **7. Resolution to Discontinue Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-OLRT)**

87 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

88 Aaron Cain stated that the GoTriangle Board of Directors recommended to the partners of  
89 Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT), which include Durham and Orange counties, as well as  
90 the DCHC MPO, to discontinue planning and engineering for the D-O LRT. Aaron Cain continued that,  
91 on April 2, 2019, the Orange County Board of Commissioners agreed with that recommendation, and  
92 that on April 8, 2019, the Durham County Board of Commissioners concurred as well. Aaron Cain  
93 stated that MPO staff drafted a resolution that concurs with discontinuing work on D-O LRT.

94 Chair Damon Seils highlighted the clause of the resolution that thanked various stakeholders  
95 and cooperative partners. Ellen Reckhow proposed adding language that included that the General  
96 Assembly reduced the state contribution, placed a cap on state funding, and set two deadlines; all of  
97 which led to a precarious situation. Chair Damon Seils stated that he will send language to Aaron  
98 Cain about the issues involving the General Assembly as addressed above. Penny Rich and Chair  
99 Damon Seils discussed that future transportation planning will need to include an improved strategy  
100 involving elected representation at the State level.

101 Michael Parker made a motion to adopt an amended resolution discontinuing work on D-O  
102 LRT. Ellen Reckhow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

103 There were then members of the public who requested to speak on matters including the D-  
104 O LRT, but not pertaining to the resolution. Phil Post requested, on behalf of his neighborhood  
105 residents, that the right-of-way on Farrington Road and other design issues that were predicated  
106 upon the D-O LRT project be reexamined, in light of its discontinuation. Andy Henry and Chair Damon  
107 Seils discussed notifying Phil Post on further updates.

108 Cheri Hardman requested, on behalf of the Affordable Transit for All Network, that there be  
109 further oversight of current and prior spending on the D-O LRT project by GoTriangle as well as more  
110 transparency and public information as the D-O LRT comes to an end. Ellen Reckhow stated that  
111 GoTriangle is committed to performing their due diligence in reviewing the D-O LRT project.

112 Ellen Reckhow requested an update on the 15-501 study at a future MPO Board Meeting.

113 **8. NC Moves 2050**  
114 **Kerry Morrow, NCDOT**

115 Kerry Morrow stated that the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is  
116 conducting an update to its long-range transportation plan to guide North Carolina's future  
117 transportation policies and investments. Kerry Morrow added that NC Moves 2050 is a plan that will  
118 provide a 30-year transportation blueprint for North Carolina. Kerry Morrow stated that NC Moves  
119 2050 began in August 2018, and it will continue until August 2020.

120 Kerry Morrow stated that NCDOT is conducting a two-year study that involves examining all  
121 aspects of North Carolina's transportation system, and collecting information about its performance  
122 and anticipated challenges in the future. Kerry Morrow added that the second of three surveys  
123 available for public feedback. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs and Kerry Morrow discussed the need for  
124 outreach and public involvement. Kerry Morrow stated that outreach will include an effort to  
125 include; minorities, younger individuals, individuals of lower income, and people in rural areas. Kerry

126 Morrow added that there will be table topics in an effort to have a more equitable engagement, and  
127 NCDOT will continue to receive responses until May 31.

128 Kerry Morrow stated that the drivers and opportunities, derived from studying the modal  
129 plans for North Carolina, include; demographics, economy, tourism, partnerships, funding,  
130 technology, security, and resiliency. Kerry Morrow explained each category and then asked MPO  
131 Board members to prioritize the list. Chair Damon Seils discussed the important of having lawmakers  
132 at the state level allocate sufficient funding to necessary projects. Andy Henry stated that that there  
133 are regulations within the Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT) system that could be  
134 altered to allocate funding more effectively for MPOs. Ellen Reckhow underscored that expenditures  
135 for bicycle and pedestrian facilities can have lasting benefits to their communities, such as increased  
136 tourism. Pam Hemminger noted that there is not a separate category for environmental impacts.  
137 There was discussion about how transportation relates to climate change. There was discussion  
138 about if the concept of environmental impacts could be considered as part of another category, such  
139 as resiliency. Michael Parker stated that it is important to clarify that transit has benefits for rural  
140 communities and to educate people about how transportation modalities relate to the urban/rural  
141 divide. Jenn Weaver stated that she prioritized the demographics category because it related closely  
142 to land use and affordability. Ellen Reckhow and Renee Price discussed how generations of residents  
143 use transportation differently. Michael Parker asked how the concepts of equity and social justice fit  
144 into the categories. Ellen Beckmann and Kerry Morrow discussed that, in North Carolina, bicycle and  
145 pedestrian crashes are not being effectively mitigated.

146 Aaron Cain stated that Brian Rhodes already provided information about the survey to the  
147 MPO Board via email. This was an informational item, and a vote was not required by the MPO  
148 Board.

149 **9. Upgrades to DCHC MPO TIP Database**  
150 **Caitlyn Meyer, Gannett Fleming/Geodecisions**

151 **Durmus Cesur, LPA Staff**  
152 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

153 Caitlyn Meyer stated that the first step to upgrade the DCHC MPO Transportation  
154 Improvement Plan (TIP) database was to perform an initial assessment of the then current database  
155 and to note areas for improvement. Caitlyn Meyer stated that upgrades include: streamlining  
156 performance, developing a TIP tracking system, and creating an advanced search tool. Caitlyn Meyer  
157 explained that the visual map would be able to be searched by location. Caitlyn Meyer stated that  
158 the TIP, Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), and Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)  
159 information are all now in one database. Ellen Reckhow and Caitlyn Meyer discussed that the map  
160 legend changes depending on search parameters. Caitlyn Meyer stated that there are now project  
161 descriptions. Caitlyn Meyer explained that the administrator can toggle information between GIS and  
162 Excel data sheets. Caitlyn Meyer added that a future phase of the TIP database would also include  
163 advanced search functionality not currently available in Phase One.

164 Renee Price and Caitlyn Meyer discussed options for the timelines and schedules of ongoing  
165 projects. Caitlyn Meyer and Aaron Cain discussed the relationship between the DCHC MPO TIP  
166 Database update and the NCDOT update to project management. Ellen Reckhow and Caitlyn Meyer  
167 discussed public access to the TIP Database via the DCHC MPO website. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs  
168 requested that a link be added from the Durham County website as well. Caitlyn Meyer discussed  
169 feedback from a previous presentation included adding information that could be added as different  
170 map layers.

171 **10. NC 54 West Corridor Study - Phase Two Update**  
172 **Don Bryson, VHB**  
173 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

174 Don Bryson stated that the initial phase of the NC 54 West Corridor Study was a thorough  
175 review of the 20+ mile stretch of NC 54 between Old Fayetteville Road in Carrboro and I-85 in  
176 Graham. Don Bryson added that Phase One of the study recommended a phased widening and

177 intersection improvements of NC 54 between Graham and Carrboro to improve safety and address  
178 current and future congestion. Don Bryson stated that the MPO Board requested that the study  
179 further incorporate multimodal options, account for the use of alternate commuting routes, and  
180 address the impact of a widening of NC 54 on local roads outside the corridor. Don Bryson stated  
181 that Phase Two of the NC 54 Study will address these concerns.

182 Chair Damon Seils and Don Bryson discussed that public outreach will be similar to Phase  
183 One, but will be concentrated more in Orange County and with further engagement from local  
184 government officials from the Town of Chapel Hill. Chair Damon Seils and Don Bryson discussed that  
185 origin and destination data would come from Streetlight data analysis, which is based off of cell  
186 phone tracking, in order to determine traffic patterns. Chair Damon Seils and Don Bryson also  
187 discussed the importance of studying impacts of the widening of NC 54 to areas outside of the  
188 corridor, specifically to the east, such as Carrboro and Chapel Hill. Chair Damon Seils and Don Bryson  
189 discussed incorporating information from the ongoing NC 54 Safety Study into Phase Two. Pam  
190 Hemminger requested that the University of North Carolina (UNC) University and UNC Hospital have  
191 particular consideration in the study due to a critical lack of parking at both locations. Pam  
192 Hemminger added that reducing congestion along the corridor is also an important area of focus.  
193 Don Bryson responded that Phase Two of the study is already begun to address congestion.

194 Aaron Cain and Don Bryson discussed that the finalized data would be completed in the  
195 summer of 2019. Don Bryson added that he would return to the DCHC MPO Board with a  
196 presentation in the fall, and then in November 2019 he would return to present additional  
197 information. This was an informational item, and a vote was not required by the MPO Board.

198 **11. Triangle Regional Freight Plan**  
199 **Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

200 Andy Henry stated that The MPO Board released the Triangle Regional Freight Plan in  
201 September 2018 and conducted a public hearing in October 2018. Andy Henry added that the MPO

202 Board requested additional information. Andy Henry stated that Strategic Freight Corridors show the  
203 roadways in the MPO where there are significant levels of freight traffic. Andy Henry stated that the  
204 Freight Plan recommended improvements on 24 roadways, some of which are already in the MTP  
205 and the TIP. Andy Henry listed the roadways that were removed from the Freight Plan. Ellen  
206 Reckhow and Andy Henry discussed the addition of Junction Road as a strategic freight corridor.

207 Andy Henry stated that the Freight Plan has added recommendations of a stronger  
208 relationship with North Carolina Railroad (NCRR) that would facilitate future transportation projects  
209 in the region. There was discussion about how the freight rail corridor runs through the City of  
210 Durham and it is necessary to have further consideration by NCRR to allow for any regional transit  
211 planning in that corridor.

212 Andy Henry stated that the concept of resiliency is in the goal section of the Freight Plan.  
213 Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs responded that further language in the Freight Plan is necessary to address  
214 regional planning in the response to natural disasters and other emergencies. Michael Parker added  
215 that it would also be helpful if there was language concerning accident and disaster prevention. Andy  
216 Henry responded that he will consider recommendations from the MPO Board, and present an  
217 update to the freight plan at the MPO Board meeting on May 8. Ellen Reckhow requested that a link  
218 to the Freight Plan be sent to the Board via email.

219 **12. Safe Routes to School Resolution**

220 **Dale McKeel, MPO Staff**

221 Dale McKeel stated that the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has  
222 reserved \$1.5 million of Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funds for Safe Routes to School  
223 programming for non-infrastructure projects. Chair Damon Seils and Dale McKeel discussed that the  
224 application deadline closed in March 2019. Dale McKeel stated that the City of Durham and the  
225 Triangle J Council of Governments have already submitted Safe Routes to School funding  
226 applications, and requested that the MPO Board adopt the Safe Routes to School Resolution.



227 Michael Parker made a motion to adopt the resolution endorsing the Safe Routes to School  
228 applications submitted by the City of Durham and the Triangle J Council of Governments. Charlie  
229 Reece seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

230 **13. Landscaping and Lighting of Roundabouts**  
231 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

232 Aaron Cain stated that, at a previous meeting, the MPO Board directed staff to investigate  
233 policies and procedures regarding the maintenance of landscaping and lighting for roundabouts.  
234 Aaron Cain stated that each Division could allocate 1% of the project budget for landscaping if  
235 requested. Aaron Cain stated that it would be responsibility of the local government to maintain the  
236 landscaping once it was installed by contractors. Aaron Cain reported that NCDOT stated that it is not  
237 responsible for lighting for roads not located on interstate, highway, or expressways; therefore, it  
238 would be the local government's responsibility for lighting roundabouts.

239 Ellen Reckhow stated lighting the roundabouts was an important part of public safety, and  
240 she suggested that reflective paint could be used to increase visibility of the roundabouts. Ellen  
241 Reckhow, Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs, and Aaron Cain discussed that MPO staff will research various  
242 local jurisdiction policy around best landscaping practices to maintain consistency should the DCHC  
243 MPO decide to provide its own policy. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs raised the issue of solar lighting. Pam  
244 Hemminger asked that height restrictions be included in the updated staff report, due to interest in  
245 public art being used in the center of roundabouts.

246 It was noted that there was an explosion in downtown Durham. This was an informational  
247 item, and a vote was not required by the MPO Board.

248 **14. Amendment #11 to the FY2018-2027 TIP**  
249 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

250 Aaron Cain stated that amendment #11 to the FY2018-2027 Transportation Improvement  
251 Program (TIP) consists of two projects in Durham that were released for a 21-day public comment

252 period due to the addition of more than \$1M in each project: EB-5703, LaSalle Street Sidewalks, and  
 253 EB-5715, Duke Street Sidewalks. Aaron Cain added that public comment period closed on March 27,  
 254 2019, and the MPO did not receive any public comment.

255 Aaron Cain stated that there were also several projects from NCDOT, including a number of  
 256 new statewide projects from the Public Transit Division, as well as to move FY2019 Congestion  
 257 Mitigation/Air Quality grant program (CMAQ) funding for C-5183B, Alston Avenue Sidewalks, to  
 258 FY2020. Aaron Cain added that staff recommended to not include C-5183B in Amendment #11  
 259 pending further discussions with NCDOT and City of Durham staff regarding funding. Aaron Cain also  
 260 noted that it was recommended that U-5848, Orange Grove Road Extension, be included in  
 261 Amendment #11.

262 Michael Parker made a motion to approve amendment #11 to the FY2018-2027 TIP. Ellen  
 263 Reckhow seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

264 **REPORTS:**

265 **15. Report from the MPO Board Chair**

266 Damon Seils, Board Chair

267 Chair Damon Seils suggested that, due to the events surrounding the explosion in downtown  
 268 Durham, the DCHC MPO Board meeting adjourn, unless there is any other urgent issue from any  
 269 representative who has not yet spoken. It was agreed that the DCHC MPO Board meeting would adjourn  
 270 at present.

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

272 Nish Trivedi, TC Chair

273 There was no further report from the Technical Committee.

274 **17. Report from LPA Staff**

275 Felix Nwoko, Andy Henry, LPA Staff

276 There was no further report from LPA Staff.

277 **18. NCDOT Report**

278 There were no additional reports from NCDOT.

279 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

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

281 Recent News, Articles and Updates are located in the agenda packet.

282

283 **ADJOURNMENT:**

284

285 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at

286 11:21 a.m.