

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

2 **14 November 2018**

3
4 **MINUTES OF MEETING**

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6 The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on
7 November 14, 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	Pam Hemminger (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
13	Renee Price (Member)	Orange County
14	Vernetta Alston (Member)	City of Durham
15	Charlie Reece (Member)	City of Durham
16	Ellen Reckhow (Member)	GoTriangle
17	Jenn Weaver (Member)	Town of Hillsborough
18	Michael Parker (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
19	Mark Marcoplos (Alternate)	Orange County
20		
21	David Keilson	NCDOT, Division 5
22	Patrick Wilson	NCDOT, Division 7
23	Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT, Division 8
24	Julie Bogle	NCDOT, TPD
25	Zach Hallock	Town of Carrboro
26	Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
27	Bergen Watterson	Town of Chapel Hill
28	Kayla Seibel	Town of Chapel Hill
29	Geoff Green	GoTriangle
30	Patrick McDonough	GoTriangle
31	Evan Tenenbaum	Durham County
32	Nishith Trivedi	Orange County
33	Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
34	Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
35	Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
36	Robert Jahn	DCHC MPO
37	Ellen Beckmann	City of Durham Transportation / TC Chair
38	Eddie Dancausse	FHWA
39	Heidi Perry	Resident
40	Leta Huntsinger	WSP
41	Julian Ali	Durham County Access
42	Linda Thomas Wallace	Durham County Access
43	Brenda Taylor	Durham County Access

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.

52 Pam Hemminger made a motion to excuse Nina Szlosberg-Landis and Karen Howard from
53 attendance of the MPO Board Meeting. Charlie Reece seconded the motion. The motion passed
54 unanimously.

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 Aaron Cain requested adding the N.C. Moves 2050 Plan as the new Item 19 to the Agenda, and
63 the following items would be renumbered. Chair Seils agreed to the change.

64 **4. Public Comments**

65 There were no public comments.

66 **5. Directives to Staff**

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

68 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

69 **6. October 10, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes**

70 **7. October 31, 2018 Joint DCHC MPO-CAMPO Board Meeting Minutes**

71 **8. Resolution to Request Transfer of FHWA Funds to FTA**
72 **Meg Scully, LPA Staff**

73 Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that her name was misspelled on pages three and five of the
74 Joint DCHC MPO-Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) Board Meeting Minutes.

75 Pam Hemminger made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with corrections to the Joint
76 DCHC MPO-CAMPO Meeting Minutes. Jenn Weaver seconded the motion. The motion passed
77 unanimously.

78 **ACTION ITEMS:**

79 **9. Discussion of Items from Joint DCHC-CAMPO Board Meeting**
80 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**
81 **John Hodges-Copple, TJCOGG**

82
83 Aaron Cain stated that all the presentations are presently accessible via the Granicus website.

84 Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that it is important to share the Regional Policy Priorities with various
85 legislative boards. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs added that MPO Board members are encouraged to provide
86 input to Aaron Cain and Chris Lukasina from CAMPO. Aaron Cain requested that the Board Members
87 review the format of the template and provide comments. There was discussion that the language used
88 in the Regional Policy Priorities document was too erudite and requests were made that it be more
89 commonly accessible. John Hodges-Copple discussed the many different audiences that this document
90 must reach.

91 There was discussion about the MPO Board reviewing one or two items from the Regional Policy
92 Priorities document at the next DCHC MPO Board meeting on December 12. There was further
93 discussion about completing the document before MPO Board members meeting with legislative
94 delegations in January 2019. Michael Parker suggested sending comments before the next MPO Board
95 meeting, and John-Hodges Copple stated that he will send out an informational item relating to the
96 Legislative Goals document with comments from MPO Board members.

97 There was discussion about April 30, 2019, as the proposed date for the next Joint MPO Board
98 Meeting. Vernetta Alston and Aaron Cain discussed that the feedback sheets from the Joint Meeting
99 have been compiled by CAMPO, and the information will be presented to MPO Board members at the
100 next DCHC MPO Board Meeting on December 12.

101 There was no further action required for this item.

102 **10. NC 54 West Corridor Study**

103 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

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105 Aaron Cain stated that the project team will review all comments and will provide a final
106 version of the NC 54 West Corridor study for the MPO Board's consideration at its meeting on
107 December 12. Chair Damon Seils opened the public hearing. Heidi Perry, resident, stated that the
108 study's first priority ought to focus on safety. Heidi Perry also highlighted her concerns about road
109 widening, including: access to a multiuse path, lack of signalization improvements, and the role of
110 climate change relating to automobile use. Aaron Cain responded that there are scheduled operational
111 improvements for 2022. Chair Damon Seils closed the public meeting.

112 Chair Damon Seils stated that in 2015, he and Lydia Lavelle wrote a memo before the study
113 started, which highlighted their recommendations for how the study would be conducted; chiefly
114 among the recommendations was the question of origin and destination, but this topic was not
115 addressed by the study. Renee Price requested to have provided more information for the destination
116 to University of North Carolina (UNC) Hospital. Renee Price stated that more traffic into UNC Hospital
117 would mean more parking structures and circulators within Chapel Hill. Renee Price also would like to
118 see more incentives mentioned for bicyclists and pedestrians. Pam Hemminger and Aaron Cain
119 discussed the role of UNC and UNC Healthcare in the study. Aaron Cain also noted that the Burlington
120 Graham Metropolitan Planning Organization (BGMPO) is very supportive of lane widening.

121 Mark Marcoplos stated that a gravel Park and Ride lot across from unused UNC facilities along
122 NC 54 coupled with increased transit services might incentivize people to use transit. Mark Marcoplos
123 also noted that this would be an effective strategy to decrease traffic on game days. Aaron Cain
124 responded that transit agencies must be supportive of service in this area for that plan to be successful.
125 Aaron Cain stated that in previous years, transit agencies stated that demand on NC 54 did not justify
126 adding service and underscored that transit in rural areas is a complex undertaking.

127 Michael Parker stated that the DCHC MPO Board should concern itself with planning for the
128 future, and not just for the present, which led into a discussion about the core values of the DCHC
129 MPO. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobson noted the \$1M Bloomberg Challenge Grant that the City of Durham
130 received is to change travel behavior and choices of residents.

131 Chair Damon Seils requested more information from this study as well as time for boards from
132 Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Orange County to review and provide feedback. There was no further action
133 required.

134 **11. US 15-501 Corridor Study**
135 **Leta Huntsinger, WSP**
136 **Mike Bruff, LPA Staff**

137 Leta Huntsinger stated that the DCHC MPO and the North Carolina Department of
138 Transportation (NCDOT) are conducting a multimodal transportation study of the US 15-501 corridor
139 from Ephesus Church Road/Fordham Boulevard, in Chapel Hill to University Drive, in Durham. Leta
140 Huntsinger stated that the study will develop an updated multimodal transportation master plan for the
141 corridor that integrates the latest land-use and multimodal transportation vision for the corridor. Leta
142 Huntsinger added that the vision and goals were central to the study, and the public engagement aspect
143 was also critical. Michael Parker and Leta Huntsinger discussed that the corridor is mainly retail that is
144 mostly only accessible by automobiles.

145 Leta Huntsinger stated that the 15-501 corridor was an important gateway that consisted both
146 of local and regional travel demand. Leta Huntsinger added that with the addition of the Durham-
147 Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT), the area will become a regional destination. Leta Huntsinger stated
148 that there are gaps in service between Durham County and Orange County, but adequate transit exists
149 in both counties separately.

150 Leta Huntsinger stated that the study began with the visioning process, which consisted of
151 stakeholders and local government officials riding a bus throughout the 15-501 corridor that made stops
152 along the route and allowed people to have discussions. Leta Huntsinger also stated that there were
153 multiple public workshops that allowed for residents to provide comments in person. Leta Huntsinger
154 also mentioned that there was an application on the 15-501 study website where the public could
155 provide comments on the corridor. Leta Huntsinger stated that there were three main comment topics:
156 connectivity; multimodal; and mobility. Michael Parker stated that land use has a significant impact on
157 mobility, and land use ought to encourage multimodal and public transportation. Chair Damon Seils,
158 expressed concern over the language used in the vision statement, specifically “supporting and
159 complementing” the light rail project.

160 Leta Huntsinger stated that there was a course correction by staff on the 15-501 project due to
161 an overemphasis on the highway mode of transportation, therefore, the design plan options are
162 subsequently more conceptual, and a rigorous engineering analysis has not yet been performed. Leta
163 Huntsinger stated that as the public comment period finishes, the design plan options will be further
164 refined and narrowed down based on a scoring rubric. Ellen Reckhow recommended that more
165 information on split targets be included in the study. Michael Parker stated that a fundamental and
166 broader philosophical question for the DCHC MPO Board is what type of decisions will be made to
167 influence residents’ choices in choosing cars, public transit, or multimodal options. Ellen Reckhow added

168 that Durham was once a leader at reducing the number of single occupant vehicle trips, and suggested
169 that part of the reason was due to TDM activities.

170 Leta Huntsinger stated that the 15-501 can be better understood by separating it into four
171 segments. Leta Huntsinger stated that there is a need to balance regional travel coming through
172 Segment 1 and creating a safe environment while still respecting the need to provide multimodal
173 accessibility. Leta Huntsinger added that the 15-501 study focused on strategies to improve operations
174 at the I-40 interchange. Leta Huntsinger stated that the conflict between regional and local demand was
175 at the greatest in Segment 2, and the goal was to give residents travel time reliability. Leta Huntsinger
176 stated that Segment 3 is planned for slower speeds and more multimodal travel within the footprint of
177 the roadway so that the area feels more urban in nature. Leta Huntsinger and Ellen Reckhow discussed
178 the proposed densification surrounding the area associated with the proposed D-O LRT stations. Leta
179 Huntsinger and Ellen Reckhow discussed the need to prioritize different modes of transportation within
180 this corridor and the role of automobile traffic. Leta Huntsinger stated that Segment 4 has a road diet
181 which would highlight local retail and encourage travel to this area.

182 Chair Damon Seils and Leta Huntsinger discussed the next steps in the 15-501 plan, which were
183 to refine and perform a more rigorous analytical analysis based on public comments from the proposed
184 design plan options. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs discussed the challenges and opportunities surrounding
185 changes for Gateway, Patterson Place, and New Hope Crossing. Ellen Reckhow recommended that in the
186 visual designs, there ought to be a boulevard displayed as opposed to a freeway for the appropriate
187 segments. Michael Parker stressed the importance of 15-501 being high frequency mass transit friendly;
188 including regional bus service, accommodations for high density travel, and bus facilities. Michael Parker
189 also recommended autonomous vehicles be included in the study. Charlie Reece discussed different
190 design challenges for the different segments, especially the I-40 interchange. Leta Huntsinger stated
191 that channelization or roundabouts are options to slow people down who travel from Segment 2 to

192 Segment 3. Pam Hemminger discussed traffic coming from UNC Healthcare and the ways in which the
193 circulator can mitigate traffic. Renee Price addressed the importance of design with Americans with
194 Disability Act (ADA) compliance within the designs.

195 No action was required.

196 **12. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) -- Amendment #1**
197 **Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

198 Andy Henry stated that the MPO Board released Amendment #1 to the 2045 Metropolitan
199 Transit Plan (MTP) in September 2018 and conducted a public hearing in October. Andy Henry stated
200 that staff recommends that the MPO re-release and re-adopt the 2045 MTP, which will ensure that the
201 2045 MTP, Triangle Regional Model (TRM) and related socioeconomic data, and Air Quality Conformity
202 Determination Report (AQ CDR) are officially adopted on the same date. Andy Henry added that staff
203 expects the updated Plan to have minor changes to model-related information, such as performance
204 measures.

205 Andy Henry stated that the MPO, the NCDOT and the NCDEQ (North Carolina Department of
206 Environmental Quality) continue their work to update the regional travel demand and emissions models
207 that are needed for the 2045 MTP and Air Quality reports. Andy Henry noted that staff expects those
208 models to be complete and ready by mid-November. Andy Henry added that staff requests that the
209 MPO Board authorize staff to release the updated 2045 MTP report as soon as the updated model data
210 are incorporated into the report.

211 Pam Hemminger made a motion to authorize the MPO staff to release the updated 2045 MTP
212 report for public review when the report is ready. Vernetta Alston seconded the motion. The motion
213 passed unanimously.

214 **13. Commuter Rail Transit Update**
215 **Patrick McDonough, GoTriangle**

216 Patrick McDonough discussed the Major Investment Study (MIS) for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and
217 Commuter Rail Transit (CRT). Patrick McDonough stated that the majority of the BRT work has
218 proceeded more quickly through the core technical team. Patrick McDonough stated that the MIS went
219 through a peer review, which began a debate amongst partners like North Carolina Railroad (NCRR) and
220 Norfolk Southern due to unique conditions in North Carolina where the rail lines are state owned.
221 Patrick McDonough stated that CRT tends to have more of a focus during rush hour, which translates to
222 stations being farther away that carry passengers farther distances. Patrick McDonough stated that
223 Downtown Durham Station and Raleigh Union Station are planned to be two CRT stations. Patrick
224 McDonough discussed performance targets for the CRT including ridership at peak hours. Patrick
225 McDonough stated that a cost estimate is currently not in development due to continuing negotiations
226 with railroad partners. Patrick McDonough stated that CAMPO has requested to designate GoTriangle as
227 the project sponsor of the CRT, and he will provide a draft agreement to the MPO Board at the next
228 Board meeting on December 12.

229 Ellen Reckhow underscored the importance of a strong relationship with the railroads and
230 announced a planned trip to review the Virginia Railway Express (VRE). Patrick McDonough noted that
231 NCRR has stated that a temporal separation for CRT and freight lines is not an option. Vice Chair Wendy
232 Jacobs suggested pursuing a charrette around various issues concerning the CRT while noting that CRT
233 will have various impacts on D-O LRT and BRT.

234 **14. Allocation of Local Input Points for Division Needs Projects**
235 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

236 Aaron Cain stated that the draft local input points for Division Needs projects for SPOT 5
237 have been reviewed twice previously by the MPO Board and the TC. The TC made its final
238 recommendation on October 24.

239 Aaron Cain added that local input points from the Divisions have not yet been finalized,
240 therefore DCHC MPO staff recommends that the motion to approve include language allowing staff,

241 with the concurrence of the Chair and Vice Chair of the DCHC MPO Board, to make adjustments to
242 the MPO's local input points in order to maximize effectiveness and coordination with the Divisions.

243 Renee Price made a motion to approve local input points that can be amended by MPO staff
244 with approval from the DCHC MPO Board Chair and Vice Chair. Jenn Weaver seconded the motion.
245 The motion passed unanimously.

246 **15. Amendment #7 to the FY2018-2027 TIP**

247 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

248 **Meg Scully, LPA Staff**

249 Aaron Cain stated that Amendment #7 to the FY2018-2027 Transportation Improvement
250 Program (TIP) includes three bike/ped projects, each of which are proposed to receive additional
251 funding to address cost increases: North Estes Drive (C-5179); Old Durham Road (EB-4707A); and Old
252 Chapel Hill Road (EB-4707B). Aaron Cain stated that all three projects are proposed to receive over \$1M
253 through this amendment, and per the DCHC MPO Public Involvement Policy, a 21-day public comment
254 period was held for these projects from October 23 to November 13, 2018. Aaron Cain noted that there
255 were not any public comments.

256 Aaron Cain added that, in addition to the above projects, there are two additional projects
257 requesting additional Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) funds: Durham Bike Lanes (C-5605E)
258 and Downtown Durham Wayfinding (C-5605H). Aaron Cain and Chair Damon Seils discussed that this
259 completes the reprogramming of CMAQ funds to avoid rescission in September 2019.

260 Pam Hemminger made a motion to approve Amendment #7 to the FY2018-2019 TIP. Renee
261 Price seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

262 **16. Transit Asset Management - Targets**

263 **Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

264 Andy Henry stated that the next three agenda items are federal Transportation Performance
265 Measures (TPM). Andy Henry continued that federal regulations require the DCHC MPO to develop
266 performance measures and targets for the Transit Asset Management (TAM) program. Andy Henry

267 noted that the DCHC MPO first approved the TAM targets in June 2017. Andy Henry stated that each of
268 the MPO's urban transit systems— GoDurham, GoTriangle, and Chapel Hill Transit— has updated
269 targets that they developed for their respective system. In addition to the targets, these transit systems
270 must provide to the MPO a Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan and a checklist to show that the
271 system is in compliance with the TAM final rule. Andy Henry discussed the State of Good Repair, which is
272 one of the performance targets. Andy Henry added that the MPO's rural transit systems, such as Orange
273 Public Transit (OPT), Durham County Access and Chatham Transit Network, are required to fulfill these
274 same requirements, but these rural systems have chosen to participate in the NCDOT group TAM plan.

275 Ellen Reckhow made a motion to adopt the resolution to support the State of Good Repair
276 measures and targets. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

277 **17. Pavement, Bridges and Travel Time Performance Measures and Targets**

278 **Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

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280 Andy Henry stated that Federal regulations require the DCHC MPO to develop performance
281 measures and targets for pavement, bridges and travel time on National Highway System (NHS) roads.
282 The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) established the performance measures and
283 targets based on current conditions and trends. Andy Henry stated that the DCHC MPO will support the
284 NCDOT measures and targets because the MPO must rely on NCDOT data and methodologies to
285 calculate the values for the measures. Andy Henry added that this will be the first time the MPO has
286 adopted these federal measures and targets.

287 Pam Hemminger made a motion to adopt the resolution to support the pavement, bridges and
288 travel time performance measures and targets. Renee Price seconded the motion. The motion passed
289 unanimously.

290 **18. Safety Performance Measures and Targets**

291 **Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

292 Andy Henry stated that Federal regulations require the DCHC MPO to develop safety
293 performance measures and targets and to update the targets each year. Andy Henry continued that the
294 DCHC MPO first approved a set of safety measures and targets in February 2018, but now they must be
295 updated for 2019. Andy Henry noted that the NCDOT established the safety measures and targets. Andy
296 Henry stated that the DCHC MPO will adopt the NCDOT measures and targets because the MPO must
297 rely on NCDOT data and methodologies to calculate the values for the measures.

298 Chair Damon Seils asked about the possibility of developing DCHC MPO-specific targets
299 considering the measures for rural and urban areas of North Carolina are different. Andy Henry replied
300 that he recommended passing the resolution today and the DCHC MPO can refine the targets at a later
301 time. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs and Andy Henry discussed how Vision Zero related to these new
302 performance targets. Andy Henry stated that he will return to the MPO Board and update Board
303 members with staff recommendations for safety targets and update the Board on current statistics.

304 Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs made a motion to adopt the resolution to support the measures and
305 targets. Renee Price seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

306 **19. NC Moves 2050 Plan**

307 **Julie Bogle, NCDOT**

308 Julie Bogle stated that the NC Moves 2050 Plan is an update to the NCDOT's long range
309 transportation plan to guide North Carolina's future transportation vision and implementation policies
310 and investments. Julie Bogle stated that the plan will provide a 30-year transportation vision and
311 implementation plan for North Carolina. Julie Bogle encouraged participation in the online survey that
312 would close on November 30. Julie Bogle listed the stakeholder meetings; Kinston on October 24,
313 Raleigh on October 29, and Charlotte on October 30. Julie Bogle also listed past community outreach at
314 the State Fair, local festivals, social media and print materials. Chair Damon Seils and Julie Bogle
315 discussed which representative from the DCHC MPO would be invited to the upcoming stakeholder

316 meetings. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that some of the comments online concern funding for
 317 bicycle and pedestrian improvements as well as for transit.

318 **20. Election of Officers for the DCHC MPO Board**

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

320 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

321 Chair Damon Seils stated that he and Vice Chair Wendy are coming to the end of their first term
 322 as Chair and Vice Chair and are eligible for an additional term. Chair Damon Seils stated that Vernetta
 323 Alston, Karen Howard, and Jenn Weaver have been asked to serve as a nominations committee, which
 324 has been standard practice recently. Chair Damon Seils noted that the MPO Board is required to make a
 325 decision for nominations at the next MPO Board meeting on December 12.

326 **REPORTS:**

327 **21. Report from the Board Chair**

328 Damon Seils, Board Chair

329 There was no report from the MPO Board Chair.

330 **19. Report from the Technical Committee Chair**

331 Ellen Beckmann, TC Chair

332 There was no report from the TC Chair.

333 **20. Report from LPA Staff**

334 Felix Nwoko, LPA Manager

335 Aaron Cain reported that Margaret Hauth has resigned as the Vice Chair of the TC, and Nishith
 336 Trivedi was elected to be the new Vice Chair.

337 **21. NCDOT Report**

338 David Keilson, NCDOT Division 5, stated that the ramp from NC 98 onto westbound 70 on the
 339 East End Connector project is now open. David Keilson stated that the Old Chapel Hill Road project is
 340 scheduled to be completed within the next few months. David Keilson also stated that the Barbee-
 341 Herndon roundabout is completed.

342 Patrick Wilson, NCDOT Division 7, stated that the intersection improvements at Merritt Mill /
343 Brewer Lane / West Franklin Street will begin in summer 2019 to avoid school traffic. Pam Hemminger
344 commended Patrick Wilson for his presentation to Chapel Hill Town Council.

345 Bryan Kluchar, Division 8, stated that he has no further updates to the information presented in
346 the agenda packet.

347 Julie Bogle, NCDOT Transportation Planning Division (TPD), stated that she has no further
348 updates.

349 There was no report from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

350 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

351 **22. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

352 No informational items were discussed.

353 **ADJOURNMENT:**

354 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at
355 11:34 a.m.