

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

2 **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

3 **May 25, 2022**

4 **MINUTES OF MEETING**

5 The Durham-Chapel Hill Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met
6 on May 25, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. through a teleconferencing platform. The following
7 members were in attendance:

- 8 Ellen Beckmann (Chair) Durham County
- 9 Nishith Trivedi (Vice Chair) Orange County
- 10 Tom Altieri (Member) Orange County
- 11 Tom Devlin (Member) City of Durham Transportation
- 12 Scott Whiteman (Member) Durham County
- 13 Brooke Roper (Member) Durham County
- 14 Tina Moon (Member) Carrboro Planning
- 15 Bergen Watterson (Member) Town of Chapel Hill
- 16 Josh Mayo (Member) Town of Chapel Hill
- 17 Margaret Hauth (Member) Town of Hillsborough
- 18 Brandon Dawson (Member) Chatham County
- 19 Matt Day (Member) TJCOG
- 20 Jay Heikes (Member) GoTriangle
- 21 Julie Bogle (Member) NCDOT TPD
- 22 Kurt Stolka (Member) The University of North Carolina
- 23 Travis Crayton (Member) Research Triangle Foundation
- 24 Joe Geigle (Member) Federal Highway Administration

- 25 Bill Judge (Alternate) City of Durham
- 26 David Keilson (Alternate) NCDOT Division 5
- 27 Stephen Robinson (Alternate) NCDOT Division 7
- 28 Bryan Kluchar (Alternate) NCDOT Division 8
- 29 Matt Cecil (Alternate) Chapel Hill Transit/Planning
- 30 Matt Day (Alternate) TJCOG

- 31 Erin Convery, City of Durham
- 32 Eric Vitale, City of Durham
- 33 Nick Pittman, Town of Chapel Hill
- 34 Tracy Parrott, NCDOT Division 5
- 35 Brandon Jones, NCDOT Division 5
- 36 Jeron Monroe, NCDOT Division 8
- 37 Nick Morrison, NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division

- 38 Aaron Cain, DCHC MPO
- 39 Andy Henry, DCHC MPO
- 40 Dale McKeel, City of Durham/DCHC MPO

41 Filmon Fishastion, DCHC MPO
42 Yanping Zhang, DCHC MPO
43 Kayla Peloquin, DCHC MPO
44 Mariel Klein, DCHC MPO

45 Quorum count: 24 of 31 voting members

46 Chair Ellen Beckmann called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

47 **PRELIMINARIES:**

48 **1. Roll Call**

49 Chair Ellen Beckman asked if there were any new members to the membership. Aaron
50 Cain stated that Matt Day was appointed to represent Triangle J Council of Governments
51 (TJCOG) to replace John Hodges-Copple who has retired, and Jenna Kolling has been
52 appointed as the alternate voting member for TJCOG. Bill Judge introduced two new City of
53 Durham staff members expected to become TC members by the August meeting: Eric Vitale
54 who is replacing Evan Tenenbaum, and Erin Convery who is the new Transportation Planning
55 Manager. Chair Ellen Beckmann welcomed the new members. The roll call was completed
56 using the Zoom participant list.

57 **2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

58 Dale McKeel mentioned the addition of a resolution for the Triangle Bikeway Study listed
59 as Item 10 and that while not in the agenda packet, it was emailed to members ahead of the
60 meeting.

61 **3. Public Comments**

62 There were no public comments.

63 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

64 **4. Approval of the March 23, 2022 TC Meeting Minutes**

65 Kayla Peloquin, LPA Staff

66 **5. FY22 UPWP Amendment #3**

67 Mariel Klein, LPA Staff

68 **6. FY23 UPWP Amendment #1**

69 Mariel Klein, LPA Staff

98 that occurred in Durham are documented in the study, and that despite having to pivot
99 engagement strategies due to the COVID-19 pandemic, engagement activities included several
100 Zoom meetings, an online survey that garnered 2,000 responses, focus groups to fill in gaps
101 from the online survey, and some in-person engagement towards the end of the study. Tom
102 Devlin asked if these efforts provided adequate equitable community engagement for the study,
103 and Dale McKeel replied that they are adequate and that community engagement strategies will
104 continue as the project moves forward citing that a continued equitable engagement plan is a
105 part of the project's action steps. Tom Devlin stated for the record that the Triangle Bikeway is a
106 low priority project for the City of Durham despite the resolution suggesting otherwise.

107 Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if a presentation was planned for the Durham City Council,
108 and Dale McKeel said that has not been scheduled but would like to discuss with City staff so
109 one can be scheduled. Dale McKeel added that a presentation will be made to the Durham
110 County Commissioners on June 6. Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi thanked members of CAMPO and
111 DCHC MPO for including Orange County in this process and he looks forward to seeing it move
112 forward.

113 Chair Ellen Beckmann thanked Dale McKeel for the resolution and recognized that while
114 it is consistent with the adoption of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), and that it
115 states support for the project and the continuation of identifying sources of funding, higher
116 priority items may exist and continued community engagement will need to continue if the
117 project moves forward.

118 Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if the resolution could be adopted by other jurisdictions,
119 and Dale McKeel replied that this was the intent. Bergen Watterson asked what the timeline was
120 to receive the resolution from other jurisdictions, and Dale McKeel said there is no set timeline,
121 but that he can meet with Town of Chapel Hill and Orange County Commissioners if
122 presentations are desired to present the study and to ask for resolution adoption.

123 Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi stated that the project is a long-term process and that the
 124 resolution does not mean that the project is funded yet. Chair Ellen Beckmann concurred that it
 125 is a long-term aspirational project. Dale McKeel said that Wake County is interested in funding
 126 the design of the project and their proposed design corridor would connect into Durham and
 127 Research Triangle Park.

128 Chair Ellen Beckmann made a motion to recommend that the Technical Committee
 129 adopt the Triangle Bikeway Study by resolution. Travis Crayton seconded the motion. The
 130 motion passed unanimously.

131 **11. Material Changes to the Durham County Transit Plan**
 132 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

133 Aaron Cain began by referencing a memo in the Committee’s agenda materials in lieu of
 134 a formal presentation. Aaron Cain stated that as part of development of the FY23 Work
 135 Program, there are four projects the Staff Working Group (SWG) requested to be considered as
 136 material changes to the work program: a new paratransit maintenance facility, improvements to
 137 GoDurham’s routes 9A and 9B, an increase to funding for bus stop improvements, and funding
 138 for improvements at Durham Station. Aaron Cain stated that a recommendation of the resolution
 139 from the Technical Committee is being sought before presenting it to the DCHC MPO Board.
 140 Aaron Cain reminded members that changes to the Plan requires approval by the Durham
 141 County Board of Commissioners, the DCHC MPO Board, and the GoTriangle Board of
 142 Trustees.

143 Tom Devlin made a motion to recommend that the DCHC MPO Board adopt the
 144 resolution to include the four new projects in the Durham County Transit Plan. Jay Heikes
 145 seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

146 **12. Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) Grant –**
 147 **FY21 and FY22 Call for Projects and Program Management Plan**
 148 **Mariei Klein, LPA Staff**

149 Mariel Klein provided an overview of the Section 5310 grant, which is a competitive two-
150 year grant program to improve transportation opportunities for older adults and people with
151 disabilities by removing barriers and expanding mobility options. She stated that the DCHC
152 MPO is responsible for grant administration, oversight, and communication with applicants. She
153 stated that a call for projects for FY21 and FY22 is now available with a deadline to apply by
154 August 19. Mariel Klein said that the Technical Committee would recommend the slate of
155 projects on September 21 and that it would be presented to the DCHC MPO Board on October
156 12.

157 Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi asked if organizations previously awarded grant funds can
158 apply to pursue additional projects, and Mariel Klein replied that such organizations can apply
159 again for as much as is needed to complete their new projects, as this is a new grant cycle.
160 Chair Ellen Beckmann asked for a status update of current projects, and Mariel Klein said some
161 projects are complete and that all awarded projects have spent some amount of their allocated
162 funds.

163 Tom Devlin made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve the project
164 management plan. Margaret Hauth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

165 **13. Draft FY2024-2033 STIP**
166 **Kayla Peloquin, LPA Staff**

167 Kayla Peloquin provided an overview of the preliminary draft of the 2024-2033 State
168 Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) that was released on April 25, 2022, which
169 included its development from the previous 2020-2029 STIP, as well as an introduction to the
170 swap process. Kayla Peloquin explained that since the 2020-2029 STIP was over-programmed
171 on projects, no new projects have been included in the draft 2024-2033 STIP. Kayla Peloquin
172 said that project swaps must be agreed to by NCDOT and, MPO/RPO(s), and that projects
173 swapped in cannot be of a higher tier than those being swapped out, and project budgets
174 swapped in must be within 10% of projects being swapped out. Kayla Peloquin then shared the

175 prominent DCHC MPO projects in the draft 2024-2033 STIP, updates to their implementation
176 schedule, projects that were not included in the draft 2024-2033 STIP, and a timeline for
177 identifying, recommending and approving project swaps.

178 Brandon Jones mentioned for clarification purposes that projects listed as Right of Way
179 (ROW) starting after FY29 are considered non-committed and need to go back through
180 Prioritization 7.0. Aaron Cain confirmed that projects slated to begin FY29 or later will have to
181 be reprioritized in SPOT7.0, along with all projects that are not funded and any new submitted
182 projects. Brandon Jones shared that there are projects currently committed in the 2020-2029
183 STIP that are currently uncommitted in the draft 2024-2033 STIP, and Aaron Cain confirmed
184 that these projects have moved out of the committed window and can be reprioritized or
185 swapped in. Andy Henry asked for clarification on the purpose of having a 10-year STIP since
186 projects in the second half of the 10-year STIP must be reprioritized, and Aaron Cain replied
187 that the projects in the second half provide a timeline and allows NCDOT to learn about projects
188 and prioritize. Brandon Jones added that it gives NCDOT budget flexibility.

189 Tina Moon asked for clarification about Carrboro's Anderson Park to James Street
190 project to see if it needed to be reprioritized since it is out of the ROW date. Aaron Cain
191 confirmed that the project would have to be re-prioritized or swapped in for a project listed within
192 the first five years since ROW is after 2028. Tina Moon asked if the swap opportunity is to
193 solely replace one project for another, or if there is an opportunity to reorganize the schedule of
194 implementation. Brandon Jones replied that projects that aren't committed can be swapped into
195 the list for implementation, but that they have to abide by current cascade down policy and
196 ideally stay within the same funding category. Referencing rising construction costs, Tina Moon
197 asked if there would be an option to stay on schedule by going through a different engineering
198 process to identify cost savings to be used for construction. Brandon Jones replied that capacity
199 prevents this type of process from happening.

200 Jay Heikes asked if regional projects could be swapped out for statewide projects. Aaron
 201 Cain replied that statewide projects cannot be swapped in for regional projects because swaps
 202 must follow a cascade down process. Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi added that requests for
 203 increased funding for a project recommended to be swapped in for a smaller project is not
 204 allowed. Jay Heikes asked that if a new statewide project was identified, would it have to be
 205 swapped out with an existing statewide project. Aaron Cain confirmed that it does and that it
 206 must be within 10% of the total cost.

207 Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi asked when swaps need to be submitted to NCDOT, and
 208 Aaron Cain and Kayla Peloquin confirmed the date as September 30, 2022. Aaron Cain said
 209 that swaps will be presented to the DCHC MPO Board for approval through a resolution.

210 Chair Ellen Beckman asked if the required 10% difference for swaps is based on a 1-to-
 211 1 basis or through the total amount of swapped projects, and Kayla Peloquin replied that it is the
 212 total of all projects combined. Kayla Peloquin and Aaron Cain reiterated the schedule to finalize
 213 the swaps and mentioned the possibility of creating a sub-committee to review.

214 This item was for informational purposes; no further action was required by the
 215 Technical Committee.

216 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

217 **14. DCHC MPO Materials Submission Schedule**
 218 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

219 Aaron Cain shared the schedule of deadlines for materials submissions to follow the
 220 best practice of bringing items to the Technical Committee before being presented to the DCHC
 221 MPO Board. Aaron Cain said late submissions of materials will no longer be added to the
 222 agendas.

223 **REPORTS FROM STAFF:**

224 **15. Report from Staff**

225 Aaron Cain thanked members who provided input for potential Bipartisan Infrastructure
226 Law (BIL) Grants projects. Aaron Cain mentioned that the Safe Streets for All notice of funding
227 opportunity has been released, a proposal for a planning grant in collaboration with several
228 jurisdictions is being developed, and thanked members for their input. Aaron Cain shared that a
229 notice of funding opportunity for the Reconnecting Communities Grant is expected soon and
230 project ideas are being developed.

231 Aaron Cain shared that David Miller has been hired to fill an administrative role. Aaron
232 Cain stated that based on interpretation of North Carolina state law and guidance, in-person
233 Technical Committee meetings will need to resume beginning in July and that voting members
234 must attend in person in order to meet quorum requirements. Aaron Cain stated that technology
235 has been identified to allow non-voting attendees to participate remotely while the in-person
236 meeting is held in the second floor conference room at Durham City Hall, and added that
237 Technical Committee members can continue to attend DCHC MPO Board meetings virtually.

238 Chair Ellen Beckmann requested that an update on grant programs and projects be a
239 standing agenda item moving forward. Chair Ellen Beckmann asked for an update on the hiring
240 of the new DCHC MPO Director, and Aaron Cain replied that final interviews were conducted
241 and an official announcement will be made public soon.

242 **16. Report from the Technical Committee Chair**
243 **Ellen Beckmann, TC Chair**

244 Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that discussion at the DCHC MPO Board meeting about
245 the transit plan governance study has led to a scheduled City of Durham and Durham County
246 meeting and more information will be forthcoming. Chair Ellen Beckmann shared that the East
247 End Connector project's grand opening will be held in June. Brandon Jones confirmed the
248 ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on the grand opening of the East End Connector on June
249 30

250 **17. NCDOT Reports**
251 **Brandon Jones (David Keilson), Division 5 – NCDOT**

252 Brandon Jones reiterated the forthcoming East End Connector opening on June 30.
253 Brandon Jones provided an update on the Alston Avenue project, and shared that part of the
254 Pettigrew Street project is expected to be open by mid-2023. Brandon Jones provided an
255 update on projects near completion, including a bicycle lane project on Old Durham-Chapel Hill
256 Road, and a crosswalk project across US-15/501 at Old Durham Road and Sage Road.

257 **Wright Archer (Pat Wilson, Stephen Robinson), Division 7 – NCDOT**

258 Stephen Robinson referenced his report in the agenda packets and shared that
259 preliminary work on I-40 is ongoing with work on the shoulders and rumble strips tentatively
260 scheduled for July.

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

262 Bryan Kluchar shared that Chatham County's U-6192 project on US-15/501 is funded for
263 preliminary engineering only in the draft 2024-2033 STIP.

264 **Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division – NCDOT**

265 Julie Bogle had no additional report.

266 **John Grant, Traffic Operations – NCDOT**

267 There was no additional report.

268 **Nick Morrison, Integrated Mobility Division – NCDOT**

269 Nick Morrison said NCDOT received 25 applications for its latest multi-modal planning
270 grant program across the four planning types made available and award announcements are
271 expected in August.

272 **Adjourn**

273 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Ellen Beckmann
274 at 10:50 a.m.