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DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

15 November 2017

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on November 15, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. in the City Council Committee Room, located on the second floor of Durham City Hall. The following people were in attendance:

Ellen Beckmann (Chair)	City of Durham Transportation
Kayla Seibel (Member)	Chapel Hill Planning
Kumar Neppalli (Member)	Chapel Hill Engineering
Terry Bellamy (Member)	City of Durham Transportation
Hannah Jacobson (Member)	City of Durham Planning
Tasha Johnson (Member)	City of Durham Public Works
Bergen Watterson (Member)	Chapel Hill Planning
Evan Tenenbaum (Member)	Durham County Planning
Scott Whiteman (Member)	Durham County Planning
Nishith Trivedi (Member)	Orange Public Planning
Tom Altieri (Member)	Orange County Planning
Cara Coppola (Member)	Chatham County Planning
John Hodges-Copple (Member)	Triangle J Council of Governments
Geoff Green (Member)	GoTriangle
Richard Hancock (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 5
Julie Bogle (Member)	NCDOT, TPB
Ed Lewis (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 7
Bryan Poole (Alternate)	City of Durham
Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Anne Phillips	DCHC MPO
Antony Wambui	City of Durham Transportation
Bill Judge	City of Durham Transportation

Quorum Count: 18 of 31 Voting Members

Chair Ellen Beckmann called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. A roll call was performed. The

Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Technical Committee (TC) were

43 identified and are indicated above. Chair Ellen Beckmann reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in
44 sheet that was being circulated.

45 Chair Ellen Beckmann recognized Trish McGuire from the Town of Carrboro, and introduced
46 Antony Wambui as a new planner from the City of Durham.

47 **PRELIMINARIES:**

48 **2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

49 There were no adjustments to the agenda.

50 **3. Public Comments**

51 There were no public comments.

52 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

53 **4. Approval of October 25, 2017, Meeting Minutes**

54 Geoff Green made a motion to approve the October 25, 2017, TC meeting minutes. Tom Altieri
55 seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

56 **ACTION ITEMS:**

57 **5. Proposed D-O LRT Project Changes**

58 Geoff Green, GoTriangle

59 Geoff Green discussed the Durham and Orange County Transit Plan provisions for making
60 changes to the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) project. Geoff Green discussed reasons for
61 the addition of the Blackwell Street/Mangum Street station, and the cost implications of adding the
62 station. Geoff Green and Andy Henry discussed the ridership and trip length implications of adding a
63 new station. Chair Ellen Beckmann inquired whether switching from three to two-car platforms would
64 preclude three-car platforms in the future, and Geoff Green stated that plans are for permanent two-car
65 platforms. John Hodges-Copple and Geoff Green discussed how headways could be reduced to
66 accommodate better than anticipated ridership. Evan Tenenbaum and Geoff Green discussed the cost
67 savings of switching from three to two-car platforms. There was discussion of how the Blackwell

68 Street/Mangum Street station would affect Pettigrew Street, and whether GoTriangle was working with
69 developers who have projects planned for Pettigrew Street. Geoff Green described the revised
70 alignment of the Gateway station, and the reasons for modifying the alignment.

71 Geoff Green and Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed whether several houses near the Gateway
72 station would have already been impacted by plans for park and ride facilities. Geoff Green described
73 the two separate actions required by the TC. Geoff Green and Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed proposed
74 changes to the Alston Avenue station and the Ninth Street station. Felix Nwoko and Geoff Green
75 discussed the result of public involvement for the proposed changes to the D-O LRT. Aaron Cain and
76 Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed whether the TC should indicate that they are generally supportive of the
77 proposed changes to the D-O LRT as part of its action. Terry Bellamy asked that it be made clear that the
78 Blackwell Street/Mangum Street station was a request from the City of Durham. Terry Bellamy
79 commented that the inability to accommodate three-car trains may cause difficulties in the future. Tom
80 Altieri and Geoff Green discussed the schedule for bringing these changes before the various boards.
81 John Hodges-Copple suggested being clear about the differences in cost between adding additional train
82 sets and decreasing the headway between trains.

83 John Hodges-Copple made a motion for the TC to recommend that the MPO Board approve the
84 addition of the Blackwell Street/Mangum Street station, and that they receive input on the proposed
85 modification for the Gateway station. He added that the TC believed that the Gateway station change
86 was a net positive for the project. Evan Tenenbaum seconded the motion. The motion passed
87 unanimously.

88 **6. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)**

89 Andy Henry, LPA Staff

90 Andy Henry described recent steps, such as the public comment period and the public hearing,
91 that were made toward developing the final MTP. Andy Henry described recent changes he made to the
92 highway table and the financial plan of the MTP. Evan Tenenbaum asked whether recent changes

93 related to Durham Parkway are reflected in the preferred option map online, and Andy Henry confirmed
94 that they were not, but would be in the final version. Andy Henry described contents of the financial
95 plan.

96 Chair Ellen Beckmann asked for and received clarification about the congestion volume on NC
97 751. Andy Henry and Bryan Poole discussed why the funds for bicycle and pedestrian projects were
98 static in the MTP. Chair Ellen Beckmann suggested that funds for bicycle and pedestrian projects grow
99 proportionately with revenue projections. Chair Ellen Beckmann and Andy Henry discussed statewide
100 projects that could be pulled from the last decade of the MTP. Nish Trivedi and Andy Henry discussed
101 whether the MTP would need to be amended to reflect the NC 86 and US 70 intersection improvement
102 project and the recommendations coming out of the NC 54 corridor study. Chair Ellen Beckmann
103 suggested that Transportation Demand Management (TDM), Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS),
104 and Transportation System Management (TSM) projects also grow proportionately with revenue. Andy
105 Henry and Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed changing assumptions in the later decades of the MTP to
106 better accommodate bicycle and pedestrian projects. Andy Henry reviewed the timeline for developing
107 the full report of the MTP. There was discussion of whether the model needed MPO Board approval,
108 and the timeline for approving the model. In response to a question from Tom Altieri, Andy Henry stated
109 that he would consult with Orange County before pulling any projects from the last decade of the MTP.

110 Kumar Neppalli made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve the 2045 MTP with
111 the changes noted in the TC agenda as well as adding the NC 751 project in Chatham County, and
112 increasing funding for bicycle and pedestrian, TDM, ITS, and TSM projects proportionately with overall
113 revenue growth. Nish Trivedi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

114 Evan Tenenbaum made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board release the MTP report
115 including the final goals/objectives/performance measures and targets, and the model for public
116 comment.

117 **7. Release of Amendment #1 to the FY2018-2027 TIP for Public Comment**

118 Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

119 On November 8, 2017, the DCHC MPO Board adopted the FY2018-2027 Transportation
 120 Improvement Program (TIP). That TIP must now be reconciled with the FY2018-2027 State
 121 Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), a process
 122 that should take place by the end of the year. Aaron Cain described the contents of Amendment #1, and
 123 noted that the amendment requires a public comment period but not a public hearing. Aaron Cain
 124 described the timeline for the public comment period.

125 Nish Trivedi made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board release Amendment #1 to the
 126 FY2018-2027 TIP for public comment. Bryan Poole seconded the motion. The motion passed
 127 unanimously.

128 **8. FY2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment #2**

129 Meg Scully, LPA Staff

130 Amendment #2 of the FY2018 UPWP proposes to obligate Surface Transportation Block
 131 Grant Direct Attributable (STBG-DA) funds for the City of Durham Downtown Transportation Study, and
 132 to re-allocate STBG-DA funds among task codes for Durham County. Meg Scully stated that the next
 133 amendment opportunity for the UPWP would be in March 2018.

134 John Hodges-Copple made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve FY18 UPWP
 135 Amendment #2. Tom Altieri seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

136 **9. DCHC MPO Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan and Self-Assessment**

137 Felix Nwoko, LPA Manager

138 Felix Nwoko stated that no comment has been received on the DCHC MPO ADA Transition Plan
 139 and Self-Evaluation. In response to a question from Chair Ellen Beckmann, Felix Nwoko stated that
 140 minor changes were made in accordance with TC and GoTriangle feedback since the last time that the
 141 TC saw the plan.

142 Kumar Neppalli made a motion to recommend MPO Board approval of the DCHCMPO Transition
 143 Plan and Self-Assessment. Nish Trivedi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

144 **10. 2018 TC Elections**

145 Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

146 Aaron Cain stated that in the previous year, a nominating committee was formed in November
 147 to bring nominations for a TC Chair and Vice Chair in December. Aaron Cain stated that Chair Ellen
 148 Beckmann and Vice Chair Margaret Hauth were eligible for re-election. He added that Vice Chair
 149 Margaret Hauth did not wish to serve as TC Chair, and in the past, the TC Vice Chair has served as a
 150 grooming position for TC Chair.

151 John Hodges-Coppie, Evan Tenenbaum, Nish Trivedi, and Cara Coppola volunteered to serve as
 152 the nominating committee. Aaron Cain stated that according to TC bylaws, the election would be held in
 153 January at the first TC meeting of the year, but nominations are usually brought to the TC in December.

154 No further action was required by the TC.

155 **REPORTS:**

156 **11. Reports from the LPA Staff**

157 **Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

158 Aaron Cain reminded the TC that the DCHC MPO would be hosting the NCAMPO conference in
 159 April 2018. He stated that he wanted the help of non-LPA Staff with planning the conference, and that
 160 he also needed help finding a keynote speaker and planning mobile sessions. Aaron Cain added that the
 161 Strategic Prioritization Office of Transportation (SPOT) is updating its local input methodology. Aaron
 162 Cain and Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed the timeline for submitting the minor changes suggested by
 163 the SPOT office. There was discussion of whether a subcommittee should be formed to develop
 164 recommendations for the TC and MPO Board. Chair Ellen Beckmann supported forming a subcommittee
 165 to develop recommendations for the local input methodology. Chair Ellen Beckmann and Aaron Cain
 166 discussed whether there would be a review of data used in the scoring of projects recently submitted to

167 SPOT. Aaron Cain reminded the TC that the next meeting would be the third Wednesday of December,
 168 not the fourth.

169 **12. Report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair**
 170 **Ellen Beckmann, DCHC MPO TC Chair**

171 Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Downtown Durham
 172 study was released the previous Monday.

173 Aaron Cain stated that there would be a joint MPO Board and Capital Area Metropolitan
 174 Planning Organization (CAMPO) meeting on November 30, 2017, at the Apex Town Hall from 9 a.m. – 12
 175 p.m. He invited TC members to attend the meeting.

176 **13. NCDOT Reports**

177 There was no additional update from Division 5.

178 Ed Lewis, NCDOT Division 7, stated that the Division would move forward with a right turn lane off
 179 of Churton Street and US 70 in Hillsborough as a low cost-high impact project. He added that the Division
 180 was in the process of finalizing the list of low-cost high-impact projects. Ed Lewis inquired whether Tom
 181 Altieri had received an update about the fence for the I-40 overpass on Orange Grove Road, and Tom
 182 Altieri confirmed that he had received the update. Chair Ellen Beckmann and Ed Lewis discussed the
 183 process for selecting projects for low-cost high impact funding.

184 In response to a question from Chair Ellen Beckmann, Richard Hancock stated that Division 5 has
 185 not finalized the criteria for selecting low-cost high impact projects.

186 There was no additional update from NCDOT Division 8.

187 Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division (TPD), provided an update on the Strategic
 188 Transportation Corridor Study, primarily related to the bundling of corridors. Chair Ellen Beckmann asked
 189 for and received clarification about the nature of the Strategic Transportation Corridor Study. Julie Bogle
 190 and Andy Henry discussed the nature of the traffic forecast Shapefile recently made available by TPD. Julie
 191 Bogle stated that the report for the DCHC MPO Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) was finalized

192 and would be available online shortly. Julie Bogle added that the former Transportation Planning Branch
193 was now a NCDOT Division.

194 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

195 **14. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

196 Chair Ellen Beckmann reminded the TC that the December meeting would be on the third
197 Wednesday of December, and that the joint DCHC and CAMPO meeting would be on November 30,
198 2017.

199 **ADJOURNMENT:**

200 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Technical Committee, the meeting was
201 adjourned at 10:28 a.m.