

47 Andrea Eilers TJCOG
48 Jenny Halsey TJCOG
49 Iona Thomas East Coast Greenway

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51 Quorum Count: 9 of 10 Voting Members

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53 Chair Steve Schewel called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. A roll call was performed. The
54 Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Board were identified and are
55 indicated above. Chair Steve Schewel reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheet that was
56 being circulated.

57 Ed Harrison and Karen Howard were introduced as the new Voting Members for GoTriangle
58 and Chatham County, respectively. Michael Parker and Penny Rich were introduced as Alternate Voting
59 Members for Chapel Hill and Orange County, respectively.

60 **PRELIMINARIES:**

61 **2. Ethics Reminder**

62 Chair Steve Schewel read the Ethics Reminder and asked if there were any known conflicts of
63 interest with respect to matters coming before the MPO Board and requested that if there were any
64 identified during the meeting for them to be announced. There were no known conflicts identified by
65 MPO Board members.

66 Chair Steve Schewel reminded MPO Board Members and Alternates to submit their 2017
67 Statement of Economic Interest and 2017 Real Estate Disclosure Forms to the State Ethics Commission
68 by April 15, 2017. Chair Steve Schewel asked Brian Rhodes of the MPO staff to send a reminder email
69 to the MPO Board Members about these filing requirements.

70 **3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

71 Chair Steve Schewel asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. There were no
72 adjustments to the agenda.

73 **4. Public Comments**

74 Chair Steve Schewel asked if there were any members of the public signed up to speak.

75 Iona Thomas, chair of the East Coast Greenway and co-director of the Southeast Greenways
76 and Trails Summit, provided an update on the Southeast Greenways and Trails Summit, which will
77 occur in Durham from October 1-3, 2017. She discussed the work of the East Coast Greenway and the
78 goals of the summit. She also described some of the events that will occur during the summit and the
79 role that event sponsors will play in facilitating the summit. Iona Thomas stated that the deadline for
80 submitting proposals for the summit is April 7, 2017, and that registration for the summit will open in
81 May.

82 Iona Thomas clarified that the conference will occur at the Armory and the Durham Convention
83 Center. Wendy Jacobs stated that she was thrilled that the conference will be happening in Durham.

84 Pam Hemminger suggested that Iona Thomas contact NatureServe, a collection of people who
85 are interested in native plants in the area. Pam Hemminger and Iona Thomas discussed the Cycle NC
86 event, which is also scheduled for October 2017.

87 Vice Chair Damon Seils suggested that Iona Thomas reach out to the Carrboro Bicycle Coalition
88 and the Bicycle Alliance of Chapel Hill. Iona Thomas stated that she was particularly interested in
89 organizational sponsors, and Vice Chair Damon Seils noted that advocacy groups might be able to
90 connect her with appropriate sponsors.

91 Iona Thomas clarified that there was no age limit for the 5k for the event, and that many
92 events like the bicycle ride on the American Tobacco Trail would be appropriate for participants of all
93 ages.

94 **5. Directives to Staff**

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

96 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

97 **6. Approval of February 9, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes**

98 **7. Resolution to Request Transfer of FHWA Funds to FTA**

99 Meg Scully, LPA Staff

100 **8. FFY17 Section 5307/5340 Partial (7/12) Apportionment Split Letter**

101 Meg Scully, LPA Staff

102 **9. Approval of Amendment #8 to the FY2016-25 Transportation Improvement Plan**

103 Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

104 Chair Steve Schewel asked if there was any discussion of the items on the consent agenda. There
 105 was no discussion of the items on the consent agenda. Pam Hemminger made a motion to approve the
 106 February 9, 2017, MPO Board meeting minutes, the Resolution to Request Transfer of the Federal
 107 Highway Administration (FHWA) Funds to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the FFY17 Section
 108 5307/5340 Partial (7/12) Apportionment Split Letter, and Amendment #8 to the FY2016-25
 109 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). Don Moffitt seconded the motion. The motion passed
 110 unanimously.

111 **ACTION ITEMS:**

112 **10. Progress Report on Updates to County Transit Plans**

113 John Tallmadge and Jeff Mann, GoTriangle

114 Jeff Mann provided an update on the status of the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT)
 115 project. He stated that GoTriangle applied to the FTA by the December 31, 2017, deadline in order to
 116 secure New Starts funding for the D-O LRT project. While feedback for the project was positive, the FTA
 117 is requesting verification of the commitment of the local share of at least thirty percent of non-federal
 118 funding for the project. Jeff Mann discussed how past legislative decisions have affected state funding
 119 for the project, and noted that the current Bus and Rail Investment Plans (BRIPs) commit sufficient funds
 120 to the D-O LRT project. Jeff Mann discussed reasons for the increased cost of the D-O LRT project, and
 121 noted that the recently implemented ½ cent sales tax revenue from two counties and the vehicle
 122 registration fee would cover the increased project cost. Jeff Mann discussed the consequences of
 123 voluntary and involuntary withdrawal from the New Starts program, and stated that the FTA has set a

124 deadline of April 30, 2017, for verification of the commitment of local funds for the D-O LRT. Jeff Mann
125 discussed the importance of compressing the timeline for updating the BRIPs in order to meet the FTA
126 verification deadline. Jeff Mann emphasized that FTA has reviewed the entire application for the D-O
127 LRT project and that all other aspects of the project, including the Project Management Plan and the
128 Safety Plan, are sufficient such that FTA would allow the project to enter into engineering once the
129 issues with the Financial Plan are resolved.

130 Vice Chair Damon Seils and Jeff Mann discussed the FTA's specific requirements for verifying the
131 local share of the D-O LRT project. Vice Chair Damon Seils and Jeff Mann discussed obstacles to updating
132 the BRIPs by the April deadline, primarily the workload of GoTriangle staff and the renegotiation of the
133 county cost-share agreement.

134 Vice Chair Damon Seils expressed his appreciation to Jeff Mann and the GoTriangle staff for the
135 hard work and effort they have put into the D-O LRT project.

136 Felix Nwoko and Aaron Cain reviewed the new schedule for updating and approving the BRIPs.
137 There was discussion of the best time to schedule a special meeting for the MPO Board to approve the
138 updated BRIPs. Chair Steve Schewel and Aaron Cain discussed the timeframe and duration of the public
139 comment period for the updated BRIPs. Aaron Cain promised to send out a Doodle Poll to determine the
140 best date for the special MPO Board meeting. Aaron Cain clarified that members cannot attend this
141 meeting by teleconference, and that he would send out the poll to both MPO Board Members and
142 Alternates.

143 Vice Chair Damon Seils made a motion to release the draft BRIPs on or by April 3, 2017. Ellen
144 Reckhow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

145 Chair Steve Schewel urged the Durham and Orange County Commissioners to make the
146 necessary compromises when renegotiating the cost-share formula and to arrive at an agreement in a

147 timely fashion. Ellen Reckhow and Barry Jacobs reflected on the compromises that were made during
148 the previous cost-share negotiation five years ago.

149 Penny Rich and Aaron Cain discussed the MPO Board public hearing process and the procedure
150 for public comments received via email.

151 Pam Hemminger urged GoTriangle to take control of the narrative around D-O LRT project
152 developments.

153 Wendy Jacobs and Jeff Mann discussed information that would be needed for the cost-share
154 negotiation and factors that shaped the previous cost-share agreement. John Tallmadge discussed steps
155 that have been taken by GoTriangle staff to prepare for the cost-share negotiation.

156 Wendy Jacobs stated that during recent discussions in Washington DC, Congressman G. K.
157 Butterfield, Senator Thom Tillis, and Senator Richard Burr's legislative aid for transportation expressed
158 support for the D-O LRT project.

159 **11. Triangle Transportation Demand (TDM) Program**

160 Jenny Halsey, TJCOG
161 Andrea Eilors, TJCOG

162 Jenny Halsey discussed the history of the Triangle Transportation Demand Management (TDM)
163 program, hotspots targeted by the program, program grantees, and initiatives administered by the
164 program.

165 Ellen Reckhow and Jenny Halsey discussed the level of employer response to the surveys issued
166 by the Triangle TDM program. Ellen Reckhow reflected on a past Durham County Commute Trip
167 Reduction Ordinance.

168 Jenny Halsey reviewed funding for the Triangle TDM program and the impacts of the program.
169 Wendy Jacobs and Jenny Halsey discussed whether it was possible to evaluate the economic impact of
170 the program, specifically the money saved by program participants. Chair Steve Schewel asked for and
171 received an explanation of the chart pertaining to the impacts of the program. Ellen Reckhow pointed

172 out that FY13, the last year of the Durham County Commute Trip Reduction Ordinance, had the highest
173 level of reduction or measured results. Ellen Reckhow also commented on the relationship between
174 high gas prices and participation in TDM programs and the effectiveness of the GoPass program.

175 Jenny Halsey reviewed the methodology for evaluating the impacts of the TDM program. She
176 also discussed how the Triangle TDM program compares to TDM programs nationwide.

177 Ellen Reckhow commented on the overall effectiveness of TDM programs and the history of
178 TDM programs in the region.

179 Jenny Halsey and Wendy Jacobs discussed how the Triangle TDM program works with local
180 Chambers of Commerce in anticipation of future development.

181 This item was informational and no further action was required by the MPO Board.

182 **12. Equity Issues regarding Managed Lanes**

183 Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

184 Steve Schewel, MPO Chair

185 Barry Jacobs, Orange County Board of Commissioners

186 As the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and its consultant teams
187 complete their feasibility studies for the addition of managed lanes on I-40 and NC-147, MPO Board
188 members have raised concerns about the equity of this strategy for lower-income users of these roads.
189 Local Planning Agency (LPA) Staff has drafted a letter expressing these concerns to NCDOT.

190 Vice Chair Damon Seils thanked the LPA Staff for drafting the letter, and stated that he was
191 impressed by the specific suggestions proposed by the letter.

192 Barry Jacobs and Aaron Cain discussed the letter's proposed measure of dedicating a portion of
193 toll revenue to transportation improvements within the corridor. Vice Chair Damon Seils commented
194 that he liked that the use of the toll revenues would reflect the values expressed in the letter.

195 Pam Hemminger made a motion to approve the draft letter to NCDOT regarding the upcoming
196 Regional Toll Study and equity issues with managed lanes. Barry Jacobs seconded the motion. The
197 motion passed unanimously.

198 Chair Steve Schewel thanked Barry Jacobs for raising this issue before the MPO Board.

199 **13. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) -- Update**

200 Andy Henry, LPA Staff

201 Julie Bogle, NCDOT

202 The MPO Board released the draft Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) for public
203 comment from December 14, 2016, to February 24, 2017. MPO and local staff presented the CTP to the
204 elected officials and the boards and commissions of the various local governments, and conducted
205 public input meetings throughout the MPO's planning area. Andy Henry reviewed the comments that
206 have been received on the draft CTP and the proposed changes needed to produce the final CTP.

207 Andy Henry and Vice Chair Damon Seils discussed proposed intersection improvements along
208 the NC 54 corridor. Andy Henry and Ellen Reckhow discussed Durham's policy regarding the width of
209 bicycle lanes. The CTP will not designate bicycle lane width and will instead leave that designation to the
210 current policy. Andy Henry discussed the staff's decision not to include future sidewalks on the
211 pedestrian map.

212 Ellen Reckhow asked whether the updated draft CTP was on the MPO's website, and Andy
213 Henry clarified that it would be published on the website one week before the March 29, 2017,
214 Technical Committee (TC) meeting.

215 Ellen Reckhow and Andy Henry discussed whether it is possible to add multi-use paths along
216 interstate highways in the CTP. Andy Henry will add these multiuse paths along the interstates where
217 possible.

218 Andy Henry and Barry Jacobs discussed the proposed location of managed lanes on I-40. Barry
219 Jacobs expressed concern that the lack of improvements to I-40 and I-85 in Orange County would create
220 two of the biggest bottlenecks in central North Carolina.

221 Wendy Jacobs and Andy Henry discussed the proposed light rail stop at Patterson Place. Wendy
222 Jacobs commented on the possibility of using multi-use paths to connect Durham County and Orange
223 County.

224 Michael Parker asked MPO staff to look into preliminary planning for light rail stations to
225 determine whether pedestrian or other bridges can be added to these plans.

226 Vice Chair Damon Seils asked whether the actions taken by local boards to make
227 recommendations related to the CTP automatically updated local thoroughfare plans. Andy Henry
228 clarified that local thoroughfare plans were not automatically updated, and that the CTP will replace
229 local thoroughfare plans. Andy Henry stated that most of the comments received from local jurisdictions
230 will be incorporated into the CTP. Andy Henry promised to provide the MPO Board with a detailed list of
231 changes made to the CTP. Don Moffitt asked whether local plans would be updated and whether local
232 jurisdictions would be responsible for these updates, and Andy Henry clarified that this was the case.
233 Andy Henry cited current updates to the Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan as an example of this
234 process.

235 Pam Hemminger commented that the plan and its schedule are much better than before.

236 This item was informational and no further action was required by the MPO Board.

237 **14. Submission of CMAQ Applications for FY 2018-19**

238 Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

239 The DCHC MPO receives an allocation of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds for
240 disbursement through NCDOT within its member jurisdictions and agencies on a biennial basis. Twelve
241 CMAQ applications were submitted by local jurisdictions and agencies for this funding cycle. Since not all
242 projects can be funded, LPA Staff performed an analysis and selected nine projects for funding.

243 There was discussion of holding an orientation session to help new MPO Board members learn
244 about MPO processes and abbreviations.

245 Aaron Cain noted that after discussions with local staff about the “shovel readiness” of projects,
246 some projects were shifted from FY18 to FY19. Aaron Cain reviewed the list of projects that were
247 selected for funding.

248 Aaron Cain, Pam Hemminger, and Terry Bellamy discussed the City of Durham’s plans to
249 purchase two electric buses.

250 In response to an inquiry from Ellen Reckhow, Aaron Cain clarified that the amount for each
251 project consisted of the federal amount only; the local match is not included.

252 In response to an inquiry from Vice Chair Damon Seils, Aaron Cain clarified that NCDOT will have
253 the final say about which projects are funded. Vice Chair Damon Seils and Aaron Cain discussed the role
254 that the MPO will play after NCDOT makes decisions about funding.

255 There was discussion of the City of Durham’s request to fund a bike-share program.

256 Pam Hemminger made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing submission of the
257 recommended CMAQ projects to NCDOT. Brian Lowen seconded the motion. The motion passed
258 unanimously.

259 **15. SPOT 5.0 Update**

260 Felix Nwoko and Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

261 Aaron Cain described the Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT) Prioritization
262 process. Aaron Cain stated that staff has been working with NCDOT to prepare projects for the SPOT
263 P5.0 process. Aaron Cain stated that local jurisdictions will submit projects for this process by the April
264 17, 2017, deadline. He presented the rest of the timeline for the SPOT P5.0 process to the MPO Board.

265 This item was informational and no further action was required by the MPO Board.

266 **16. FY2018-27 TIP Development**

267 Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

268 The draft FY2018-27 State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) was released on

269 December 22, 2016. The MPO Technical Committee (TC) has reviewed the draft STIP and recommended
 270 that the MPO Board release the draft STIP for public comment, and set a public hearing for the April 12,
 271 2017, MPO Board meeting. LPA and local jurisdiction staff have reviewed the draft STIP and compiled
 272 questions and comments in a letter in preparation for a one-on-one meeting with NCDOT.

273 Aaron Cain stated that the meeting to discuss the draft STIP with NCDOT was rescheduled for
 274 April 12, 2017, because of a conflicting NCDOT Board of Transportation (BOT) meeting. Aaron Cain
 275 stated that the April 12, 2017, MPO Board meeting agenda will only consist of action items that require
 276 the MPO Board's immediate attention in order to allow MPO Board members to attend the 9:30 a.m.
 277 meeting with NCDOT.

278 Pam Hemminger made a motion to release the draft FY2018-27 STIP for public comment. Ellen
 279 Reckhow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

280 **REPORTS:**

281 **17. Report from the DCHC MPO Board Chair**

282 Steve Schewel, DCHC MPO Board Chair

283 Chair Steve Schewel drew attention to a recent article about Wake County's desire to build a
 284 bicycle trail that would connect Research Triangle Park to Wake County. Chair Steve Schewel stated the
 285 DCHC MPO and the local jurisdictions should pay attention to this potential development and consider
 286 how to advance such measures.

287 **18. Report from the DCHC MPO Technical Committee Chair**

288 Margaret Hauth, DCHC MPO TC Vice Chair

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290 There was no report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair.

291 **19. Reports from LPA Staff**

292 Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

293 There was no report from the LPA Staff.

294 **20. NCDOT Reports**

295 Richard Hancock, NCDOT Division 5, stated that Valerie Jordan is the new Division 5
296 representative to the NCDOT BOT. Nina Szlosberg-Landis is the new at-large environmental
297 representative.

298 Richard Hancock discussed upcoming lane closures near Alston Avenue due to plans to
299 remove asbestos from nearby railway bridges.

300 Ed Harrison thanked Richard Hancock and Dale McKeel for their prompt response to his
301 questions about the Old Durham-Old Chapel Hill Road bicycle and pedestrian project. Richard
302 Hancock stated that the Durham portion of the project is scheduled for May 2017, while the Chapel
303 Hill side is scheduled for February 2018.

304 Pat Wilson, NCDOT Division 7, stated that Michael Fox is the new Division 7 representative to
305 the NCDOT BOT. Pat Wilson discussed a recent call for wheelchair ramp projects. Pat Wilson also
306 provided updates on the Greensboro Street and Estes Drive project, the Franklin Street and Merritt Mill
307 Road intersection project, and the Mt. Carmel Church Road and Bennett Road intersection project.
308 There was no report from NCDOT Division 8.

309 Lydia Lavelle suggested that the MPO Board write a letter to Jim Crawford to thank him for his
310 service.

311 Ellen Reckhow made a motion to have the MPO Board write a letter of thanks to Jim Crawford.
312 Vice Chair Damon Seils seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

313 In response to Ellen Reckhow's suggestion, Chair Steve Schewel asked Felix Nwoko to invite the
314 new NCDOT BOT members to the April 12, 2017, one-on-one meeting with NCDOT. There was also
315 discussion of working with the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) to present a
316 joint agenda to the new NCDOT BOT members.

317 There was no report from NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch.

318 There was no report from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

319 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

320 **21. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

321 There were no informational items.

322 **ADJOURNMENT:**

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

324 10:59 a.m.