

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

29 March 2017

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on March 29, 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
Margaret Hauth (Vice Chair)	Hillsborough Planning
Kumar Neppalli (Member)	Chapel Hill Engineering
Terry Bellamy (Member)	City of Durham Transportation
Hannah Jacobson (Member)	City of Durham Planning
Tina Moon (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Laura Woods (Member)	Durham County Planning
Theo Letman (Member)	Orange County Transportation
Peter Murphy (Alternate)	Orange County Transportation
Tom Altieri (Member)	Orange County Planning
Max Bushell (Member)	Orange County Planning
Cara Coppola (Member)	Chatham County Planning
John Hodges-Copple (Member)	Triangle J Council of Governments
Alison Carpenter (Member)	Duke University
Julie Bollinger (Member)	NCDOT, TPB
Kurt Stolka (Member)	UNC
Lisa Miller (Alternate)	Durham City-County Planning
David Keilson (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 5
Richard Hancock (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 5
Ed Lewis (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 7
Patrick Wilson (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 7
Brian Kluchar (Member)	NCDOT, Division 8
Patrick McDonough (Alternate)	GoTriangle
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Bill Judge	City of Durham Transportation
Than Austin	UNC

Quorum Count: 21 of 31 Voting Members

45 Chair Ellen Beckmann called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A roll call was performed. The
46 Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Technical Committee (TC) were
47 identified and are indicated above. Chair Ellen Beckmann reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in
48 sheet that was being circulated.

49 Theo Letman introduced himself as the new TC Member for Orange County, and Peter Murphy
50 stated that he was now the Alternate Voting Member for Orange County.

51 **PRELIMINARIES:**

52 **2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

53 Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda.

54 Felix Nwoko reminded the TC about the deadline for submitting transit performance measures
55 and targets to the MPO in order to fulfill a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requirement. Felix Nwoko
56 stated that an item about submitting new projects would be added to the end of the agenda.

57 **3. Public Comments**

58 Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if there were any members of the public signed up to speak. There
59 were no members of the public signed up to speak during the meeting.

60 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

61 **4. Approval of February 22, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

62 Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if there was any discussion on the February 22, 2017, TC meeting
63 minutes. Ed Lewis requested that the language regarding North Carolina Department of Transportation
64 (NCDOT) Reports be adjusted to indicate that a report was included in the packet, and that there were no
65 questions and comments during the meeting. Tom Altieri made a motion to approve the February 22,
66 2017, TC minutes as amended. Cara Coppola seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

67 **ACTION ITEMS:**

68 **5. Resolution to Request Transfer of FHWA Funds to FTA**

69 Meg Scully, LPA Staff

70 Meg Scully stated that this resolution was a routine request to transfer Federal Highway
 71 Administration (FHWA) funds to the FTA.

72 Vice Chair Margaret Hauth made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve and sign
 73 the resolution to transfer FHWA funds to the FTA. Hannah Jacobson seconded the motion. The motion
 74 passed unanimously.

75 **6. FY2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment #2**

76 Meg Scully, LPA Staff

77 Amendment #2 of the FY2017 UPWP proposes to re-allocate, de-obligate, and obligate Surface
 78 Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program funds. Meg Scully called attention to two attachments, the
 79 resolution to be signed and a memo that described each jurisdiction's requested changes.

80 Meg Scully and Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed whether the STBG funds were existing funds and
 81 the deadline for the call for projects.

82 Max Bushell made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve the FY2017 UPWP
 83 Amendment #2. Vice Chair Margaret Hauth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

84 **7. Revision to Approved FY2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

85 Meg Scully, LPA Staff

86 On February 8, 2017, the MPO Board approved the FY2018 UPWP. At that time, Lead Planning
 87 Agency (LPA) Staff described two projects, an Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) project and the US
 88 15-501 corridor study, which were to be added to the FY2018 UPWP once the scope, cost, and funding
 89 partners for each project was defined. Meg Scully called attention to a memo which described changes
 90 to the UPWP.

91 John Hodges-Copple made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve the revisions
 92 to the FY2018 UPWP and sign the resolution. Max Bushell seconded the motion. The motion passed
 93 unanimously.

94 **8. Progress Report on Updates to County Transit Plans**

95 John Tallmadge, GoTriangle

96 John Tallmadge stated that the Bus and Rail Investment Plans would now be known as the
97 County Transit Plans. He discussed the reasons and goals for each of the original plans, the
98 implementation of each plan, and the effect of changes to local, state, and federal funding on each plan.

99 In response to a question from Chair Ellen Beckmann, John Tallmadge confirmed that Chapel Hill
100 Transit has implemented 23, 700 revenue hours.

101 John Tallmadge discussed the Durham-Orange cost sharing agreement needed to fund the local
102 share of the Durham-Orange Light Rail Project (D-O LRT). John Tallmadge and Chair Ellen Beckmann
103 discussed what the cost sharing split between Durham and Orange counties would need to be in order
104 to fund the commuter rail project. John Tallmadge and Alison Carpenter discussed whether the
105 increased cost of the Chapel Hill Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project would lead to a projected downturn for
106 Orange County.

107 John Hodges-Copple and John Tallmadge discussed the possible effects of a cost share split that
108 would leave Orange County in the red.

109 John Tallmadge stated that the need to connect light rail stations in 2029 would lead to higher
110 demand for transit service. Patrick McDonough explained how GoTriangle arrived at the projected rail
111 dividend hours in response to an inquiry from John Hodges-Copple.

112 John Tallmadge reviewed measures, such as cost cutting and pursuing land donations, which will
113 be evaluated to mitigate possible overruns for the D-O LRT project.

114 Max Bushell, John Tallmadge, and Patrick McDonough discussed whether GoTriangle has
115 accounted for a scenario of lower state funding. John Tallmadge and Felix Nwoko discussed whether
116 there was a scenario that considered the impact of a lack of agreement between the United States
117 Congress and the president on the budget, particularly regarding the New Starts program. In response to
118 Felix Nwoko's question, Patrick McDonough clarified that feeder buses are not different from local buses
119 in the updated plans.

120 John Hodges-Copple and John Tallmadge discussed job growth assumptions in the County
 121 Transit Plans.

122 Alison Carpenter and John Tallmadge discussed the service hours that were replaced with the ½
 123 cent sales tax funding. There was discussion of whether Durham would be subsidizing Orange County’s
 124 plan and whether the cost sharing agreement is based on fairness or ability to pay. There was discussion
 125 of factors that shaped the past cost sharing agreement.

126 Tina Moon inquired whether future plans might take Durham’s subsidy of Orange County into
 127 consideration and provide an opportunity for Orange County to gradually reimburse Durham County.

128 John Tallmadge stated that the updates to the plan would be revisited on a more regular basis
 129 by staff working groups, and that the MPO is considering funding a part-time position to administer the
 130 staff working groups.

131 John Tallmadge reviewed the schedule for public hearings and approving the updates to the
 132 County Transit Plans. Aaron Cain reminded the TC that the MPO Board would be holding a special
 133 meeting to approve the County Transit Plans at 9 a.m. on April 28, 2017. In response to a question from
 134 Chair Ellen Beckmann, John Tallmadge clarified that the MPO Board would be approving updates to each
 135 plan but was not party to the actual cost sharing agreement. Chair Ellen Beckmann pointed out that
 136 local jurisdictions would be affected by the cost sharing agreement, even if they are not parties to it.
 137 Chair Ellen Beckmann confirmed the MPO schedule for approving updates to the County Transit Plans.

138 This item was informational and no further action was required by the TC.

139 **9. Proposed Modifications and Deletions for SPOT 5.0**

140 Felix Nwoko and Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

141 The MPO is required to submit any revisions, modifications, or deletions to existing projects for
 142 consideration in the Strategic Planning Office of Transportation Prioritization 5.0 (SPOT P5.0) by June 16,
 143 2017. Aaron Cain drew attention to attached list of changes from local jurisdictions. Aaron Cain stated
 144 that he would like to receive all modifications and deletions by April 17, 2017.

145 Chair Ellen Beckmann outlined reasons for deleting the US 15-501 project.

146 John Hodges-Copple reminded the TC that having a project scored through the SPOT process
147 does not guarantee that the project will be programmed. John Hodges-Copple suggested that the MPO
148 write a letter to NCDOT to formally resolve this issue. Chair Ellen Beckmann provided examples of
149 projects that would be affected by the scoring/programming debate.

150 There was discussion of keeping the NC 54 operational improvement project from Orange Grove
151 Road to Old Fayetteville Road in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and removing the NC
152 54 widening project.

153 Aaron Cain stated that the schedule for SPOT P5.0, the development of the Metropolitan
154 Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP), and the draft State Transportation Improvement Program
155 (STIP) review are running concurrently. Aaron Cain reviewed the schedule for submitting projects to
156 SPOT P5.0. Chair Ellen Beckmann pointed out that projects were not due to NCDOT until September
157 2017, and that the summer would be used to score and modify projects using the MPO's model. Aaron
158 Cain confirmed that the MPO Board would be asked to approve more projects that can be submitted
159 and to grant the MPO flexibility to submit the projects that have scored best using the MPO's model.
160 Aaron Cain stated that he did not have any information on when the MPO would receive information on
161 pre-submitted projects. Aaron Cain promised to provide the TC with a list of carry over and holding tank
162 projects for each jurisdiction. There was discussion of the ways in which the MTIP should match the
163 STIP, and the deadline for matching the STIP to the MTIP.

164 Tina Moon inquired whether there would be changes in NCDOT scoring criteria that might allow
165 holding tank projects to score better this time around. Aaron Cain stated that although the
166 requirements for highway projects seem to be the same, he was unsure about requirements for other
167 types of projects.

168 There was discussion of whether the MPO and NCDOT Divisions needed to agree on
 169 modifications and deletions, and the separate deadlines for modifying projects and submitting new
 170 projects.

171 This item was informational and no further action was required by the TC.

172 **10. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) -- Final**

173 Andy Henry, LPA Staff
 174 Julie Bogle, NCDOT

175 The MPO Board received an update on the draft CTP at their March 2017 meeting and a
 176 summary of the comments that have been received. Andy Henry stated that proposed changes to the
 177 draft CTP maps have been made and provided instructions on how to access the updated maps.

178 Andy Henry clarified that the public hearing for the CTP has already occurred. At their April
 179 meeting, the TC will recommend that the MPO Board approve the CTP at the May MPO Board meeting.
 180 Felix Nwoko stated that new North Carolina Transportation Secretary, James H. Trogon III, and FHWA
 181 administrator, John Sullivan, have been invited to the April 12, 2017, MPO Board meeting. The LPA Staff
 182 is therefore trying to have a limited agenda for the April MPO Board meeting. Andy Henry stated that his
 183 update to the MPO Board would be brief.

184 In response to a question from Chair Ellen Beckmann, Andy Henry stated that the interchange at
 185 Southwest Durham Drive would not be eliminated.

186 Cara Coppola asked that a note be added to the CTP to indicate that Chatham County provided
 187 feedback on the CTP.

188 This item was informational and no further action was required by the TC.

189 **11. Approval of Amendment #9 to the FY2016-25 Transportation Improvement Plan**

190 Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

191 Amendment #9 to the FY2016-25 TIP includes two requests from the City of Durham. The first
 192 changes the funding for EB-4707B, Old Chapel Hill/Old Durham Road Bike Lanes, to address increased
 193 cost estimates and the re-purposing of a federal earmark that was previously designated for the Duke

194 Belt Line project. The second is a request by NCDOT, through the City of Durham, to program a budget
 195 for the upgrade of the City's signal system. There are also five requested modifications and three
 196 deletions from NCDOT.

197 Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that the City of Durham has successfully repurposed decade-old
 198 earmarked funds for the Old Durham-Chapel Hill Road project, saving the MPO roughly \$2 million that
 199 can now be applied to other projects.

200 Laura Woods made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve Amendment #9 to the
 201 FY2016-25 TIP. Hannah Jacobson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

202 Andy Henry pointed out that the April 26, 2017, TC meeting is scheduled for the same days as
 203 the North Carolina Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (NCAMPO) conference and
 204 inquired whether there would be a quorum at the meeting. A show of hands indicated that there should
 205 be a quorum at the April 26, 2017, TC meeting.

206 **REPORTS:**

207 **12. Reports from the LPA Staff**

208 Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

209 Felix Nwoko stated that Transportation Secretary John Trogon III and the FHWA Administrator
 210 John Sullivan will be at the April 12, 2017, TC meeting.

211 Dale McKeel stated that the MPO has received a letter in response to inquiries made about
 212 bicycle facilities on Old NC 86. Dale McKeel stated that NCDOT clarified that "Bicycles May Use Full
 213 Lane" signs are not consistent with North Carolina general statutes. The speed limit on the relevant
 214 portion of Old NC 86 has been lowered and new signs encouraging motorists to watch for cyclists have
 215 been added. Dale McKeel also provided details on the Bike and Pedestrian Workshop that is scheduled
 216 for April 7, 2017, in Cary.

217 Felix Nwoko drew attention to the MPO's draft Annual Report and asked the TC to provide
 218 comments. The final Annual Report will be posted on the MPO's website.

219 **13. Report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair**
220 **Ellen Beckmann, DCHC MPO TC Chair**

221 Chair Ellen Beckmann requested that upcoming deadlines relevant to staff be added to the TC
222 agenda. Aaron Cain promised to work with Brian Rhodes to add these deadlines to the agenda as a
223 recurring item.

224 **14. NCDOT Reports**

225 Richard Hancock, NCDOT Division 5, stated that a report was included in the packet.

226 Richard Hancock and Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed public meetings and alternatives that are
227 being proposed for the U-5518 project, half of which is in Durham.

228 Ed Lewis, NCDOT Division 7, stated that a report was included in the packet. There were no
229 questions or comments.

230 Brian Kluchar, NCDOT Division 8, stated that two EB projects would be deleted from the STIP in
231 coordination with Chatham County. There was discussion of what would happen to the allocated funding
232 for these projects. Cara Coppola explained why these projects were deleted.

233 There was no report from NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch.

234 There was no report from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

235 Felix Nwoko stated that Kelly Becker has transitioned from Traffic Operations. Her replacement to
236 the TC has not yet been named.

237 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

238 **15. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

239 There were no informational items.

240 **ADJOURNMENT:**

241 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Technical Committee, the meeting was
242 adjourned at 11:19 a.m.