

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

2 **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

3 **April 28, 2021**

4 **MINUTES OF MEETING**

5 The Durham-Chapel Hill Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met
6 on April 28, 2021 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 Tasha Johnson (Member) City of Durham
- 11 Evan Tenenbaum (Member) City of Durham
- 12 Pierre Osei-Owusu (Member) City of Durham Transportation/Go Durham
- 13 Kayla Seibel (Member) City of Durham Planning
- 14 Brooke Ganser (Member) Durham County
- 15 Scott Whiteman (Member) Durham County
- 16 Tina Moon (Member) Carrboro Planning
- 17 Bergen Watterson (Member) Town of Chapel Hill
- 18 Kumar Neppalli (Member) Chapel Hill Engineering
- 19 Margaret Hauth (Member) Town of Hillsborough
- 20 Chance Mullis (Member) Chatham County Planning
- 21 John Hodges-Copple (Member) TJCOG
- 22 Jay Heikes (Member) GoTriangle
- 23 Hank Graham (Member) Research Triangle Foundation
- 24 Julie Bogle (Member) NCDOT TPD
- 25 John Grant (Member) NCDOT Traffic Operations
- 26 Kurt Stolka (Member) The University of North Carolina
- 27 Tom Altieri (Member) Orange County Planning
- 28 Theo Letman (Member) Orange Public Transportation
- 29 Bill Judge (Alternate) City of Durham
- 30 David Keilson (Alternate) NCDOT Division 5
- 31 Steven Robinson (Alternate) NCDOT Division 7
- 32 Bryan Kluchar (Alternate) NCDOT Division 8
- 33 Cha'ssem Anderson (Alternate) The University of North Carolina
- 34 Matt Cecil (Alternate) Chapel Hill Transit/Planning
- 35 Meg Scully (Alternate) GoTriangle
- 36 Ellis Cayton (Alternate) The Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority

- 37 Sean Egan, City of Durham
- 38 Joe Geigle, Federal Highway Administration
- 39 Rachel Stair, Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority

- 40 Felix Nwoko DCHC MPO
- 41 Brian Rhodes DCHC MPO

- 42 Aaron Cain DCHC MPO
- 43 Anne Phillips DCHC MPO
- 44 Andy Henry DCHC MPO
- 45 Dale McKeel City of Durham/DCHC MPO
- 46 Kayla Mathews DCHC MPO
- 47 Filmon Fishastion, DCHC MPO

48 Quorum count: 27 of 31 voting members

49 Chair Ellen Beckmann called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

50 **PRELIMINARIES:**

51 **1. Roll Call**

52
53 The roll call would be completed using the Zoom participant list.

54 **2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

55
56 There were no adjustments to the agenda.

57 **3. Public Comments**

58 There were no public comments.

59 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

60 **4. Approval of the March 24, 2021 TC Meeting Minutes**

61 There was no discussion on the consent agenda. John Hodges-Copple made a motion
62 to approve the consent agenda. Kumar Neppalli seconded the motion. The motion passed
63 unanimously.

64 **ACTION ITEMS:**

65 **5. CTP Amendment #3**
66 **Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

67 Andy Henry gave a presentation on Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)
68 Amendment #3. Andy Henry mentioned the North Carolina Department of Transportation
69 (NCDOT) was unaware of the size of this amendment, so MPO staff has worked to provide
70 more information through additional project statements. Chair Ellen Beckmann suggested
71 including the NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division table referencing what type of

72 bicycle/pedestrian facility is appropriate for different roads. Andy Henry said he will add that to
73 the amendment.

74 Andy Henry discussed the proposal to replace the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit
75 (DO-LRT) alignment with Durham-Orange Bus Rapid Transit (DO-BRT) along with adding in
76 other high capacity corridors. John Hodges-Copple mentioned the potential loss of right of way
77 access if proper steps are not taken to maintain right of way along the old DO-LRT alignment
78 and suggested leaving the DO-BRT in CTP Amendment #3. Bill Judge said the City of Durham's
79 attorney is concerned with the issue of alignment through specific parcels, but the City of
80 Durham is generally supportive of some type of depiction showing where the alignment deviates
81 from a main road to serve a certain future transit development area.

82 Jay Heikes mentioned that because the CTP is not fiscally constrained or on a timeline,
83 it is the place for the MPO to document any anticipated future need. Jay Heikes discussed his
84 concern about a land use development issue affecting this long-term documented list of needs
85 and said GoTriangle is interested in resolving the land use issue outside of the long-range
86 transportation plan process.

87 There was a discussion on what to do with the currently preserved alignment previously
88 dedicated to DO-LRT. Scott Whiteman said that because this is a specific corridor based on a
89 project that is no longer being pursued, it currently presents a problem for the City and County
90 of Durham because they want to reserve as much right of way as possible using the CTP. Scott
91 Whiteman suggested removing this corridor until there is a new plan for the corridor.

92 Andy Henry clarified that as CTP Amendment #3 currently stands, the DO-LRT is going
93 to become DO-BRT for high capacity transit.

94 Chair Ellen Beckmann said it is important to Durham to reserve the ability to serve these
95 development areas and have the opportunity to have as many exclusive lanes as possible.
96 Pierre Osei-Owusu agreed with Chair Ellen Beckmann and John Hodges-Copple that the
97 priority should be to preserve as much right of way as possible.

98 There was discussion that this issue needs to be resolved in coordination with
99 lawyers/attorneys and therefore this issue cannot be resolved at this time. MPO staff will
100 facilitate further meetings regarding this topic.

101 Jay Heikes said that given that CTP Amendment #3 has already been released for
102 public comment, GoTriangle has concerns with making a substantial change to what has been
103 released for public comment and said if a change to the fixed guideway/alignment issue is
104 needed, it should be included in CTP Amendment #4 rather than holding up the current
105 amendment process. Chair Ellen Beckmann said that will be considered.

106 This item was for informational purposes; no further action was required by the TC.

107 **6. 2050 MTP -- Deficiency and Needs Analysis**
108 **Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

109 Andy Henry asked for comments on the Deficiency and Needs Analysis, which is the
110 next step in the development of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Andy Henry
111 reviewed the purpose of the deficiency analysis, the upcoming public comment process, and the
112 themes gathered from previous public comment periods. Andy Henry presented population and
113 employment data projections for 2050 as well as the percent change from 2016 to 2050 in each
114 jurisdiction. More detailed data and interactive maps can be found on the DCHC MPO website.

115 Andy Henry shared some of the deficiency analysis tools, including performance
116 measures that indicate conditions of the overall system, travel isochrones to demonstrate
117 projected corridor mobility for the 2050 no-build scenario, travel time tables, and
118 volume/capacity maps for specific roadway segments. Felix Nwoko asked if there have been
119 discussions about the impact of Apple coming to the Triangle, and Andy Henry said the general
120 employment growth data encompasses those projected job estimates. John Hodges-Copple
121 added that once the development becomes more finalized, it will be integrated into the
122 CommunityViz model for the preferred scenario.

123 Chair Ellen Beckmann suggested more explicitly relating the performance measures to
124 the MPO's goals and objectives.

125 Scott Whiteman made a motion to recommend that the DCHC MPO Board release the
126 2050 MTP Deficiency and Needs Analysis for a 30-day public comment period. Jay Heikes
127 seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

128 **7. Transit Safety Targets**

129 **Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

130 Andy Henry said the new Public Transit Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) are part of the
131 Transportation Performance Measures (TPM) that are federally required to be integrated into
132 the MTP. The PTASP requires MPOs to reflect measures and targets in updated or amended
133 MTPs and Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs). Andy Henry reviewed the DCHC MPO
134 transit safety targets. Pierre Osei-Owusu and Felix Nwoko discussed whether the target period
135 referred to a calendar year or a fiscal year.

136 Pierre Osei-Owusu made a motion to recommend that the DCHC MPO Board adopt the
137 Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan resolution in June after the Durham ACCESS targets
138 have been correctly added to the table. Hank Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed
139 unanimously.

140 **8. FY21-22 Call for Projects Funding Recommendation**

141 **Anne Phillips, LPA Staff**

142 Anne Phillips reviewed the non-competitive funding distributions for Surface
143 Transportation Block Grant Direct Attributable (STBGDA) and STBGDA funds received through
144 the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), which must
145 be obligated by September 30, 2024. Anne Phillips reviewed the Regional Bicycle and
146 Pedestrian projects that applied for STBGDA and Transportation Alternative Program (TAP)
147 funds that were scored using the MPO Federal Funding Policy.

148 Anne Phillips outlined the STBG-Competitive funding distribution comprised of STBG-
 149 Any Area funds and unobligated FY20 STBGDA funds. The total funding requests were nearly
 150 double the amount of funding available. A scoring rubric for this funding source was developed
 151 with input from a TC Subcommittee meeting. Anne Phillips stated that because the City of
 152 Durham’s project scores were clustered in the middle, City of Durham staff and MPO staff met
 153 to decide how to distribute funding to prioritize the MPO’s safety and equity goals.

154 Anne Phillips outlined the next steps following Board approval, including a public
 155 comment period and procurement of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)
 156 numbers for new projects needed to finish TIP Amendment #6. Jay Heikes thanked MPO staff
 157 for the quick turnaround putting the scoring rubric together while the Federal Funding Policy is
 158 updated. Jay Heikes suggested adding a breakdown of project funding by mode, and Anne
 159 Phillips agreed.

160 Jay Heikes made a motion to endorse the list of recommended projects to the MPO
 161 Board. Bill Judge seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

162 **9. Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #6**
 163 **Anne Phillips, LPA Staff**

164 Anne Phillips said this item requires action to add the previously endorsed projects to the
 165 TIP, which would then allow NCDOT to update the STIP to include projects added during the
 166 FY21-22 Call for Projects. Additionally, NCDOT has asked the MPO to fast track an amendment
 167 for projects I-3306A and I-3306AC to meet an August let date. Anne Phillips said TIP
 168 Amendment #6 will need to be released for public comment per the MPO’s Public Involvement
 169 Policy because the Durham Belt Line Trail exceeds \$1 million.

170 Evan Tenenbaum made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board release TIP
 171 Amendment #6 for a 21-day public comment period. Scott Whiteman seconded the motion. The
 172 motion passed unanimously.

173 **10. SPOT 6.0 Draft Local Input Points Methodology**
 174 **Anne Phillips, LPA Staff**

175 Anne Phillips mentioned that in 2018 the MPO adopted a Local Input Points
 176 Methodology for SPOT 5.0 and substantial changes have since occurred that require a public
 177 comment period and Board approval. One of the major changes is NCDOT’s new flex policy that
 178 allows local input points to be transferred between the Regional Impact and Division Needs
 179 tiers.

180 Anne Phillips highlighted the qualitative scoring criteria with scale of 1-6 points and the
 181 replacement of one of the criterion that previously focused on the light rail project with a criterion
 182 focused on safety. Anne Phillips asked for comments or suggestions on the qualitative scoring
 183 criteria. John Hodges-Copple suggested adding sustainability as a criterion. Anne Phillips said
 184 that instead of replacing the safety criterion, sustainability could be included as an additional
 185 point for a total of 7 points. There was discussion on how to measure sustainability. Chair Ellen
 186 Beckmann mentioned Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as an important metric related to
 187 sustainability. Jay Heikes suggested added sustainability instead of replacing the safety
 188 criterion. Anne Phillips asked if anyone has ideas for the sustainability criterion to send them to
 189 her.

190 Jay Heikes made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board release the draft
 191 Methodology for public comment. Tom Altieri seconded the motion. The motion passed
 192 unanimously.

193 **11. Material Change to the Durham County Transit Plan - New Regional Transit Center**
 194 **Jay Heikes, GoTriangle**
 195 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

196 Jay Heikes gave an update on the new regional transit center request for \$600,000 in
 197 FY22 and a total of \$2,850,000 from FY22-FY24. Jay Heikes said GoTriangle believes this
 198 request is consistent with the guidelines set out for FY22 work plan development and gave the
 199 following three justifications: 1) This is a continuation of a previously funded transit plan project

200 (the feasibility study) 2) the project fulfills needs identified in previous short range transit plans
201 and is included in all three pending transit plan scenarios 3) commitment of local funding will
202 support applications for competitive federal grant programs. Jay Heikes then reviewed the
203 feasibility study purpose and the existing regional transit center location as well as the proposed
204 new location.

205 Sean Egan brought up the Durham Staff Working Group (SWG) decision in February
206 2021 to not allow material changes to the transit plans at that time due to development of
207 updated transit plans that were tentatively scheduled to be completed and approved this
208 upcoming fall, but are behind schedule. Sean Egan said the need for service improvements
209 remains high and have similar justifications for the material change for the regional transit
210 center. Sean Egan asked that moving forward, the material changes for service improvements
211 that were also not initially recommended in February 2021 be considered for inclusion.

212 Aaron Cain mentioned that the recommendation to not proceed with projects that would
213 require material changes came from GoTriangle Finance because service improvement costs
214 continue in perpetuity creating a much larger overall financial commitment than a capital project.
215 Chair Ellen Beckmann confirmed that one other project proposed to the SWG that would require
216 a material change was microtransit, which has since been reduced in scope so as to not require
217 a material change and is included in the draft FY22 work program.

218 Chair Ellen Beckmann said she hopes GoTriangle is aggressively pursuing federal grant
219 opportunities. Jay Heikes said GoTriangle will prepare the application for the Rebuilding
220 American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant, which requires similar
221 application materials as the Federal Transit Administration 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities
222 Discretionary Program, and GoTriangle will apply for both grants.

223 John Hodges-Copple made a motion to recommend that the Board approve a material
224 change to the 2017 Durham County Transit Plan to provide funding for the local match towards

225 construction of a new Regional Transit Center. Chance Mullis seconded the motion. The motion
 226 passed unanimously.

227 **12. FFY 21 American Rescue Plan Split Letter**
 228 **Felix Nwoko, LPA Manager**

229 Felix Nwoko said the MPO received over \$30 million from the American Rescue Plan
 230 and the action is to recommend the MPO Board approve a split letter to distribute funds among
 231 the MPO’s transit agencies. Sean Egan asked if there were any plans to modify or amend this
 232 proposal before it is brought before the MPO Board. Felix Nwoko said that if there are any
 233 changes, the TC will review this item again before it proceeds to the MPO Board.

234 Bill Judge made a motion to recommend that the Board approve the FFY21 American
 235 Rescue Plan Split Letter. Chance Mullins seconded the motion. The motion passed
 236 unanimously.

237 Chair Ellen Beckmann left the meeting at 11:30 AM and Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi
 238 began chairing the meeting.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

239
 240 **13. Report from Staff**
 241 **Felix Nwoko, LPA Manager**

242 There was no additional report.

243 **14. Report from the Chair**
 244 **Ellen Beckmann, TC Chair**

245 There was no additional report.

246 **15. NCDOT Reports**
 247 **Brandon Jones (David Keilson, Richard Hancock), Division 5 – NCDOT**

248 David Keilson said that Alston Avenue has been reopened to through traffic while
 249 Holloway Street remains closed and is expected to reopen in June.

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

251 Stephen Robinson had no additional report. Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi asked if the I-85
252 widening is still on schedule and Stephen Robinson said the dates included in the packet are
253 the most up to date.

254 **Patrick Norman (Bryan Kluchar, Jen Britt), Division 8 - NCDOT**

255 There was no additional report.

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

257 There was no additional report.

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

259 There was no additional report.

260 **Bryan Lopez, Integrated Mobility Division-NCDOT**

261 There was no additional report.

262 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

263 **Adjourn**

264 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Vice Chair Nishith
265 Trivedi at 11:38 a.m.

266 **Next meeting: May 26, 9 a.m., meeting to be held by teleconference**