

42	John Grant	NCDOT Traffic Operations
43	Joe Milazzo II	Regional Transportation Alliance
44	John Tallmadge	Bike Durham
45	Stephen Straus	Developmental Associates
46	Dave Connelly	Resident
47	Heidi Perov	Resident
48	Shelly Parker	Resident
49	Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
50	Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
51	Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO
52	Filmon Fishastion	DCHC MPO
53	Jake Ford	DCHC MPO
54	Kayla Peloquin	DCHC MPO
55	Mariel Klein	DCHC MPO

56 Quorum Count: 7 of 10 Voting Members

57 **1. Roll Call**

58 Chair Wendy Jacobs called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The Voting Members and
59 Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Board were identified through a roll call and are indicated
60 above.

61 Vice Chair Jenn Weaver made a motion to excuse the absence of Board Members Karen
62 Howard, Javiera Caballero, and Lisa Mathis. Jamezetta Bedford seconded the motion. The motion
63 passed unanimously.

64 Chair Wendy Jacobs recognized the members who have left the MPO Board, including Pierce
65 Freelon, Lydia Lavelle, and Steve Schewel, for their great contributions to the Board.

66 **PRELIMINARIES:**

67 **2. Ethics Reminder**

68 Chair Wendy Jacobs read the Ethics Reminder and asked if there were any known conflicts of
69 interest with respect to matters coming before the MPO Board and requested that if there were any

70 identified during the meeting for them to be announced. There were no known conflicts identified by
 71 MPO Board Members.

72 **3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

73 Aaron Cain said that the discussion with Stephen Straus of Developmental Associates has been
 74 scheduled for 10:00 a.m.

75 **4. Public Comments**

76 There were no public comments.

77 **5. Directives to Staff**

78 Chair Wendy Jacobs mentioned that the MPO Governance Study presentation was moved to the
 79 January Board meeting, which opened up time for a presentation at this meeting on the Infrastructure
 80 Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) from Dale McKeel. Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that the US 15/501 corridor
 81 study and the racial equity policy framework are underway. Chair Wendy Jacobs asked if there will be
 82 formal recognition of outgoing MPO Director Felix Nwoko. Aaron Cain said that will take place at the
 83 January Board meeting.

84 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

85 **6. Approval of the November 10, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes**
 86 **Kayla Peloquin, LPA Staff**

87 **7. 2022 DCHC MPO Meeting Calendar**
 88 **Kayla Peloquin, LPA Staff**

89 Damon Seils made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Pam Hemminger seconded the
 90 motion. The motion passed unanimously.

91 **ACTION ITEMS:**

92 **8. 2050 MTP**
 93 **Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

94 Andy Henry reviewed the upcoming schedule with final adoption of the 2050 MTP and the Air
 95 Quality Conformity Determination Report (AQ CDR) in February 2022. Andy Henry reviewed the

96 directives from the November Board meeting, including an additional half-cent sales tax equivalent to
97 be used for non-roadway investments. Andy Henry reviewed changes to the Preferred Option that have
98 transpired since the November Board meeting, such as four additional roadway modernizations to
99 accommodate transit, bicycle, and pedestrian investments. Andy Henry summarized the added projects
100 and changes to the budget as a result of the one-cent sales tax revenue equivalent assumption.
101 Jamezetta Bedford expressed support for the MTP and increasing the revenue assumptions to a full-cent
102 sales tax, but cautioned that Orange County is not promising to increase the sales tax although they will
103 be glad to work with partners on achieving the aspirational goals in the MTP. Chair Wendy Jacobs said
104 many assumptions about revenue are included in the MTP that need cooperation across the state,
105 especially with the Capital Area MPO (CAMPO) because their plan also includes an additional one-cent
106 sales tax revenue assumption.

107 Damon Seils asked for clarification on how the Board action today and the AQ CDR fit into the
108 broader process of the 2050 MTP. Andy Henry responded that today, the Board is asked to approve the
109 highway and transit project list and budget assumptions for use in the final MTP report that will include
110 other information such as the goals and objectives, the Triangle Regional Model (TRM), and public
111 engagement. Andy Henry said the project list will also be used in developing the AQ CDR. Chair Wendy
112 Jacobs said she was excited to see the transformative difference the new revenue assumption would
113 make, and that there is a way to accomplish the plan and deliver what the community wants.

114 Pam Hemminger made a motion to approve the draft 2050 MTP for use in the Air Quality
115 Conformity Determination Report. Charlie Reece seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

116 Andy Henry stated the AQ CDR demonstrates that the expected pollutants from the
117 transportation sector will not exceed established thresholds. Andy Henry said our area is in attainment
118 for all pollutants. Andy Henry reviewed the contents of the AQ CDR and the many partners involved.
119 Jamezetta Bedford asked if there is a procedure to address public comments that are not directly

120 related to the MTP. Andy Henry said he lets all commenters know their comments will be forwarded to
121 the MPO Board, and if they require further action, he forwards them to the appropriate local jurisdiction
122 or transit agency for follow-up. Andy Henry said he will double check to make sure all comments from
123 the 2050 MTP public comment period have been addressed. Chair Wendy Jacobs acknowledged the
124 substantial nature of the many public comments received, and asked if the comments are available on
125 the website. Andy Henry said they are available as an attachment to the agenda and a summary will be
126 made available on the website when the public comment period ends. Chair Wendy Jacobs asked if staff
127 could publicly post the comments and staff responses for others to reference. Andy Henry said he will
128 look into that.

129 Damon Seils suggested adding context to the highly technical AQ CDR so as to not deter the
130 public from commenting and to ensure they understand what they are commenting on. Damon Seils
131 stated that we need to think about all of the assumptions and models used to develop the long-range
132 plans, acknowledge what is left out and the weaknesses of the data sources. Damon Seils said we often
133 feel boxed in by assumptions, and perhaps the public could help us think through the assumptions and
134 how to do things differently. Andy Henry said context will be added with what is released for public
135 comment.

136 Chair Wendy Jacobs mentioned one public comment that requested more specificity related to
137 transit, bicycle, and pedestrian projects to the same degree given to highway projects. Chair Wendy
138 Jacobs said that although there may not be enough time to do so now, an amendment with more
139 specifics could be added later. Aaron Cain responded that transit, bicycle, and pedestrian projects
140 certainly deserve more attention, but they are not listed in great detail to avoid boxing in the transit
141 providers and local jurisdictions who are the primary implementers of those projects. Aaron Cain said
142 that if all specifics for all projects were listed out, a transit agency wanting to make a minor change to a
143 bus route would have to go through an MTP amendment process, causing delays in implementation in

144 the future. Aaron Cain added that a major amendment will be coming in the next year that adds more
145 specifics following the adoption of Durham and Orange County Transit Plans and as more information is
146 available on the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) reprogramming.

147 Michael Parker made a motion to release the Air Quality Conformity Determination Report for a
148 public comment period through January 12, 2022. Vice Chair Jenn Weaver seconded the motion. The
149 motion passed unanimously.

150 **9. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)**
151 **Dale McKeel, LPA Staff**

152 Dale McKeel said that this presentation is an overview of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs
153 Act (IIJA), which was signed into law in November 2021. Dale McKeel reviewed a chart showing the
154 breakdown of funding into transportation, energy/environment/climate, and broadband categories.
155 Dale McKeel further detailed what is included for transportation and new investment funding
156 categories. Dale McKeel discussed formula funding given to states and MPOs as well as discretionary
157 grants that are awarded based on a competitive process. Dale McKeel said that USDOT is currently
158 writing guidance interpreting the bill.

159 Dale McKeel reviewed what IIJA means for North Carolina in dollar amounts for highways and
160 bridges, public transit, and NCDOT Strategic Transportation Investment law as well as anticipated
161 impacts for the MPO and member jurisdictions. Dale McKeel listed other highlights of the bill such as
162 safety, electric vehicles, healthy streets, and safe routes to school. Dale McKeel said that federal
163 agencies will begin publishing guidance, and the MPO and member jurisdictions will need to plan ahead
164 to successfully apply for funds and line up the local match. Dale McKeel stated that the MPO is planning
165 events early next year to get people together to learn about how to move forward with these upcoming
166 opportunities. Michael Parker asked when local staff needs to be prepared to respond to these
167 opportunities. Dale McKeel said a call for projects may be issued in the next few months by USDOT for
168 existing programs that have increased funding such as the Rebuilding America's Infrastructure with

169 Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. Dale McKeel added that new programs will likely take
170 longer to be up and running. Chair Wendy Jacobs suggested one staff member be responsible for
171 tracking the progress of the bill and communicating updates to the Board. Dale McKeel said staff will
172 discuss this and relay decisions. Chair Wendy Jacobs suggested some form of regular reporting, perhaps
173 a memo, on this topic to keep everyone informed. Charlie Reece stated that discretionary grant
174 programs rely heavily on decisions made by the secretary of transportation at the federal level, which
175 likely reflects the values of the presidential administration, so the MPO needs to be prepared because
176 the funding for grant programs could change with a new administration. Chair Wendy Jacobs asked if
177 staff is considering how the bill could impact projects such as commuter rail by applying for funding for
178 certain components of the larger project. Aaron Cain said conversations have already taken place
179 internally and with GoTriangle on how to best set up major capital transit projects to take advantage of
180 increased funding.

181 This item was for informational purposes; no further action was required by the MPO Board.

182 **10. Discussion on Criteria for New MPO Manager**
183 **Stephen Straus, Developmental Associates**

184 Stephen Straus of Developmental Associates said he would like to set the timeline for the
185 process as well as develop an understanding of the expectations for the new director. Stephen Straus
186 said a discussion with MPO staff took place on December 7. Chair Wendy Jacobs said a search
187 committee has been formed and those members can review the proposed job advertisement prior to its
188 release. Chair Wendy Jacobs added that the Board was originally scheduled to receive a presentation
189 today from the consultants conducting the MPO Governance Study, but that was delayed until the
190 January Board meeting. There was a discussion on how those recommendations will inform the search
191 for the new director. There was consensus to wait until after the January Board meeting to begin the
192 recruitment process. Damon Seils said the Governance Study will include some direction on the
193 relationship between the Board and the director, communication, and the role of the Board in selecting

194 the new director. Damon Seils mentioned there is a draft that was already presented to the Technical
195 Committee that could be reviewed for early insight.

196 Stephen Straus went through the schedule step by step, with the plan to finalize the job
197 advertisement around January 21, recruit through February 20, hold a search committee meeting, allow
198 two weeks for the screening process, hold another search committee meeting, and recommend a final
199 candidate in April. Stephen Straus said the committee meetings will all be closed meetings. Chair
200 Wendy Jacobs agreed that the top final candidates would be brought back to the full Board in a closed
201 session.

202 Stephen Straus asked Board members what they see as the biggest challenges facing the
203 organization and the next director. Damon Seils responded that he is looking for someone who can be a
204 strong executive, understand the priorities of the Board, and give staff the tools to implement the
205 requests of the Board. Damon Seils added that the challenge (or opportunity) is to rethink the way we
206 do long-range planning, and we need someone who can help Board members understand their role and
207 help them become leaders as well. Michael Parker said that the MPO is trying to change the way we
208 think about transportation and shift away from auto-centric thinking to exploring multimodal
209 opportunities, and therefore it is important that the MPO have more of a public face in the regional
210 community as a leader and advocate. Michael Parker said the director needs to be able to collaborate
211 effectively if we are truly going to address issues on a regional basis and help shape a common vision for
212 the Triangle. Michael Parker said the challenge for the MPO director is to advocate for more resources
213 to accomplish the vision of the Board.

214 Jamezetta Bedford agreed with Michael Parker regarding resources, and added that there is a
215 political component to the conflicts over limited resources. Jamezetta Bedford said there is a challenge
216 to balance serving current transit riders that are typically minorities and low-income residents, and to
217 expand transit systems equitably to serve more people and get them out of their cars. Jamezetta

218 Bedford said that another challenge is public engagement as we need to get regular input from the
219 residents we typically do not hear from. Jamezetta Bedford stated that with the climate crisis, the MPO
220 needs an informed leader that knows or will learn about the fundamentals of this region, the rural-
221 urban divide, and how to turn challenges into positives. Pam Hemminger said typically the leader would
222 be technically oriented, but since we already have a great technical team, we need a skillset of vision,
223 direction, and communication to work with other MPOs, NCDOT, and politicians. Pam Hemminger said
224 the director first and foremost needs to be a strong advocate and communicator. Vice Chair Jenn
225 Weaver agreed with Pam Hemminger, and added that the MPO Board recognizes climate change
226 requires urgent solutions, so the director needs to effectively handle the Board, work with the
227 legislature, and help NCDOT understand what the MPO believes in. Charlie Reece agreed with previous
228 comments and reiterated that we need more vision and management in the director who is both
229 outwardly focused on stakeholders and partners as well as inwardly focused on helping constituents
230 work together to achieve common goals in a world of limited resources. Charlie Reece said Stephen
231 Straus has worked with the City of Durham numerous times and his search process is transparent.

232 Chair Wendy Jacobs said the director needs to be able to deal with a very vocal, active, and
233 engaged Board and community. Michael Parker asked if there are constraints on salary for the new
234 director as the position is through the City of Durham as the Lead Planning Agency, and if there are
235 constraints, do we feel they will allow us to find the kind of person we are looking for. Bill Judge said the
236 position is classified within the City of Durham Human Resources salary range. Chair Wendy Jacobs said
237 the Governance Study may make recommendations on where the MPO should “live” and we may end
238 up making changes to that. Damon Seils said the Governance Study does address some of these
239 questions, but the recommendations cannot be resolved in the near future and should not hold up this
240 process.

241 This item was for informational purposes; no further action was required by the MPO Board.

242 **11. MPO Board Officer Election**

243 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

244 Chair Wendy Jacobs said a nominating committee with Karen Howard, Jamezetta Bedford, and
245 Michael Parker was formed at the last Board meeting. Michael Parker said the nominating committee is
246 recommending Jenn Weaver for Chair and Charlie Reece for Vice Chair. Chair Wendy Jacobs said that the
247 privilege of serving as Chair for the past two years has been a highlight of her tenure as an elected
248 official. Chair Wendy Jacobs acknowledged the elected leaders, MPO staff, committee members,
249 Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG), the Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA), NCDOT staff, and
250 others for their hard work and said she is proud of the work we have all done and will continue to do
251 together. Chair Wendy Jacobs asked if there were any other nominations, and there were none.

252 Jamezetta Bedford made a motion to nominate Jenn Weaver as Chair and Charlie Reece as Vice
253 Chair. Pam Hemminger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

254 Damon Seils said this is fantastic new leadership of the Board, and thanked Wendy Jacobs for
255 her time and dedication as a leader. Damon Seils said the Town of Carrboro recently said goodbye to
256 Lydia Lavelle as mayor, and acknowledged her for her contributions to the Board. Charlie Reece said he
257 is excited to be working with Jenn Weaver to move the MPO forward next year. Charlie Reece said the
258 past couple years have been the most difficult time to be Chair with the pandemic and he has been
259 inspired by Wendy Jacobs' leadership. Jenn Weaver echoed thanks to Wendy Jacobs for her excellent
260 leadership, and thanked the nominating committee and other Board members. Jenn Weaver said she
261 looks forward to working with everyone. Aaron Cain said that after the vote, the transfer to the new
262 chair takes place immediately.

263 **REPORTS:**

264 **12. Report from the MPO Board Chair**

265 **Jenn Weaver, Board Chair**

266 Chair Jenn Weaver had no additional report.

267 **13. Report from the Technical Committee Chair**

268 **Ellen Beckmann, TC Chair**

269 Ellen Beckmann thanked participants of the November transit plan governance study workshop.

270 Ellen Beckmann said some TC members met with NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division (IMD) staff in

271 November for a preview of revisions to Complete Streets guidelines that will be released in December.

272 Ellen Beckmann thanked IMD staff for holding that meeting and being proactive and accessible to us.

273 Wendy Jacobs asked Ellen Beckmann who was appointed to the search committee for the new director.

274 Ellen Beckmann said John Hodges-Copple was appointed.

275 **14. Report from LPA Staff**

276 Aaron Cain said Ryan Brumfield will present on the Complete Streets implementation guide at

277 the February Board meeting. Aaron Cain reviewed some of the items planned for the January Board

278 meeting including the MPO Governance Study consultant presentation.

279 **15. NCDOT Reports**

280 **Lisa Mathis, NC Board of Transportation**

281 There was no report. Wendy Jacobs said Lisa Mathis will provide information next month on the

282 effort to bring partners together as we implement the 2050 MTP.

283 **Brandon Jones (David Keilson), Division 5 - NCDOT**

284 David Keilson said overall completion of the Alston Avenue project is slated for late 2022 and

285 substantial completion of the Old Durham/Old Chapel Hill Road project is slated for April 2022. David

286 Keilson said the detour bridge for the East End Connector is now being demolished. Wendy Jacobs asked

287 about the accident report at Riverside High School, and David Keilson said he does not have additional

288 information at this time.

289 **Wright Archer (Pat Wilson, Stephen Robinson), Division 7 - NCDOT**

290 Pat Wilson had no additional report. Pam Hemminger asked about the status of I-40, and Pat

291 Wilson said the left lane has dropped at 15/501 going westbound on I-40, which is an improvement.

292 Pam Hemminger said the Estes Road project was delayed again and may not be started until March
293 2022, and there are concerns about that project occurring at the same time as the I-40 project. Pam
294 Hemminger said that nevertheless, she is excited about both projects.

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

296 Bryan Kluchar had no additional report.

297 **Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division - NCDOT**

298 Julie Bogle had no additional report.

299 **John Grant, Traffic Operations - NCDOT**

300 John Grant had no report.

301 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

302 **16. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

303 There was no discussion.

304 **ADJOURNMENT:**

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

306 11:12 a.m.