

**DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**December 18, 2019**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on December 18, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, located on the first floor of Durham City Hall. The following people were in attendance:

Nish Trivedi (Chair)	Orange County Planning
Ellen Beckmann (Vice Chair)	City of Durham
Kayla Seibel (Member)	City of Durham Planning
Evan Tenenbaum (Member)	City of Durham
Bergen Watterson (Member)	Chapel Hill Planning
Jomar Pastorelle (Member)	Chapel Hill Planning
Tina Moon (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Margaret Hauth (Member)	Hillsborough
Scott Whiteman (Member)	Durham County Planning
Brooke Ganser (Member)	Durham County Planning
Tom Altieri (Member)	Orange County Planning
Theo Letman (Member)	Orange Public Transportation
Chance Mullis (Member)	Chatham County
Julie Bogle (Member)	NCDOT TPD
John Hodges-Copple (Member)	Triangle J Council of Governments
Scott Levitan (Member)	Research Triangle Foundation
Michael Page (Member)	North Carolina Central University
Bill Judge (Alternate)	City of Durham
Richard Hancock (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 5
Bryan Kluchar (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 8
Jay Heikes (Alternate)	GoTriangle
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Robert Jahn	DCHC MPO
Katherine Eggleston	GoTriangle

Quorum Count: 21 of 31 Voting Members

Chair Nish Trivedi called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call was performed. The Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Technical Committee (TC)

were identified and are indicated above. Chair Nish Trivedi reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheet.

### **PRELIMINARIES:**

#### **2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

Aaron Cain requested to add Preliminary Commuter Rail Study Results to the TC agenda. Aaron Cain added that there will be a TC Strategic Prioritization Office of Transportation (SPOT) meeting following the TC meeting. Aaron Cain stated that Cha'ssem Anderson will be the new Alternate for University of North Carolina (UNC) after UNC confirmation.

#### **3. Public Comments**

There were no members of the public signed up to speak during the meeting.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

#### **4. Approval of November 20, 2019, Meeting Minutes**

There was no discussion of the Consent Agenda.

Scott Whiteman made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Jomar Pastorelle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **5. Draft FY2021 Unified Planning Work Program**

##### **Meg Scully, LPA Staff**

Meg Scully stated that the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is required to identify the DCHC MPO's planning activities for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, which begins on July 1, 2020. Meg Scully added that funding for the UPWP is provided by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Meg Scully stated that the UPWP is the budget for the MPO, Lead Planning Agency (LPA), and member jurisdictions that use federal funding in the region. Meg Scully discussed funding types and funding agencies in the UPWP. Meg Scully stated that funding tables and descriptions of work plans can be located by task. Meg Scully added that the UPWP must identify MPO planning tasks to be performed with the use of federal transportation funds.

Meg Scully stated that there is an updated organization chart for the MPO. Meg Scully discussed the base budget for the UPWP, and cost sharing agreements between local jurisdictions and the federal government. Meg Scully, Bergen Watterson, and Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed the possibility of obtaining additional Planning (PL) funding. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann asked the importance of the inclusion of the Mobility Report Card (MRC) in the UPWP. Felix Nwoko and Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann agreed to form a subcommittee to discuss the MRC at a future date. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann and Aaron Cain discussed updating the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) to include bicycle facilities. Meg Scully stated that after the release of the UPWP for a 21-day comment period is approved by the MPO Board, it will be scheduled to return to the TC in January, and then it will go back to the MPO Board for final approval.

Margaret Hauth made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board release the Draft FY2021 UPWP for public comment. Chance Mullis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **6. Election of TC Officers for 2020**

##### **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

Aaron Cain stated that Nish Trivedi and Ellen Beckmann are eligible to remain for an additional year as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. Aaron Cain added that, per the TC bylaws, if a new Chair is nominated, then they must be nominated from either Durham or Chatham County, and the Vice Chair cannot come from the same county as the Chair. Aaron

Cain requested that any nominations be submitted to him by January 21, and that elections are scheduled to occur at the TC meeting on January 22, 2020.

## **6a. Preliminary Wake-Durham Commuter Rail Study Results**

### **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

#### **Katherine Eggleston, Go Triangle**

Katherine Eggleston thanked other participants and patriating parties for their help in the Preliminary Wake-Durham Commuter Rail Study Update. Katherine Eggleston stated that North Carolina Railroad (NCRR) preferred that an additional track be built for the commuter rail. There was discussion that there was space available for an additional track for most of the corridor, but there are sections of the corridor where encroachment and topography would likely be an issue. Katherine Eggleston stated that there are factors that would determine cost, such as the start and end point of the commuter rail; therefore, GoTriangle has created different cost scenarios. Katherine Eggleston added that the number of commuter rail stations and park-and-rides also impact cost. There was discussion about the possibility of whether or not an additional track through downtown Durham can be constructed at grade. There was discussion that contingencies were included in the overall budget. There was discussion about Operation and Management (O&M) cost and how it would be shared among jurisdictions. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann and Katherine Eggleston discussed that Durham would spend approximately \$8M annually in O&M costs.

John Hodges-Copple and Jay Heikes discussed that the Simplified Trips-on-Product Software (STOPS) model and the Triangle Regional Model (TRM) were used in determining ridership. Jay Heikes stated that STOPS is used by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to evaluate major proposed transit projects. Jay Heikes stated that both models use data that is found with the Metropolitan Transportation Plans (MTP) of CAMPO and DCHC MPO. Katherine Eggleston discussed that expansion of the Commuter Rail to communities outside of Wake and Durham counties will impact cost sharing agreements.

Katherine Eggleston discussed how the FTA will evaluate and rate the Commuter Rail project. Katherine Eggleston stated that the six criteria are equally weighted. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann and Katherine Eggleston discussed that there are currently five proposed stations in Durham that are in the Commuter Rail Plan, and ridership is impacted by parking restrictions at each of the stops. There was discussion about the criterion of cost effectiveness. There was discussion about ridership numbers and how it impacts mobility scoring. There was discussion about how FTA scores the criteria for environment, economic development, and cost-effectiveness.

Tina Moon requested that maps be included to future presentations of the Commuter Rail Plan to elected officials. There was discussion about ridership. There was discussion that the capital cost for Durham County would be approximately \$300M, and an approximate overall cost \$1.8B. Aaron Cain added that approximately \$2-3M would be needed from Durham County to perform modeling and further studies. Chair Nish Trivedi and Katherine Eggleston discussed that preliminary work for the Commuter Rail Project is scheduled to be completed in February 2020 and presentations are scheduled to be given before local boards starting approximately in March 2020. Katherine Eggleston added that development delivery is planned in approximately one year following the completion of the preliminary study. Chair Nish Trivedi and Aaron Cain discussed that the Commuter Rail Plan and the Durham and Wake County transit plans will be moving forward concurrently. There was discussion about Orange and Johnston counties contributing financially to ongoing Commuter Rail studies. There was discussion about how future expenses will be split among jurisdictions. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann and Katherine Eggleston discussed future public engagement. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann and Aaron Cain discussed that the EngageDurham process would be used for public engagement. Aaron Cain added that the Commuter Rail Plan Update will be discussed at the Joint DCHC MPO and CAMPO Board Meeting on January 30, 2020.

## **REPORTS:**

### **7. Reports from the LPA Staff**

Felix Nwoko, Andy Henry, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain stated that information must be provided to the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Divisions for the Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP) projects. Aaron Cain added that he will coordinate with participating jurisdictions to compile the LAPP project information. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann and Aaron Cain discussed issues related to reimbursement for LAPP projects by NCDOT Divisions. Aaron Cain stated that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) confirmed that there will be no federal rescission through the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.

### **8. Report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair**

Nish Trivedi, DCHC MPO TC Chair

There was no report from the Chair.

### **9. NCDOT Reports**

Richard Hancock, Division 5, stated that the Old Durham Road project (EB-4707A) was delayed due to utility issues. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann requested that LPA staff assemble information from NCDOT regarding environmental documents for the current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) projects relating to the Complete Streets guidelines.

There was no additional report from Division 7.

Bryan Kluchar, Division 8, stated that there was no additional report.

There was no additional report from NCDOT Transportation Planning Division.

There was no report from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

Chair Nish Trivedi stated that the next TC meeting will be January 22, 2020.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Technical Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.