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DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

February 28, 2018

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on February 28, 2018, 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
Kayla Seibel (Member)	Chapel Hill Planning
Kumar Neppalli (Member)	Chapel Hill Engineering
Hannah Jacobson (Member)	City of Durham Planning
Tina Moon (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Bergen Watterson (Member)	Chapel Hill Planning
Evan Tenenbaum (Member)	Durham County Planning
Scott Whiteman (Member)	Durham County Planning
Tom Altieri (Member)	Orange County Planning
Nishith Trivedi (Member)	Orange County Planning
John Hodges-Copple (Member)	Triangle J Council of Governments
Geoff Green (Member)	GoTriangle
Julie Bogle (Member)	NCDOT, TPD
Kurt Stolka (Member)	UNC
David Keilson (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 5
Ed Lewis (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 7
Bryan Kluchar (Member)	NCDOT, Division 8
Eddie Dancausse	Federal Highway Administration
Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Anne Phillips	City of Durham Transportation

Quorum Count: 18 of 31 Voting Members

Chair Ellen Beckmann called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A roll call was performed. The

Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Technical Committee (TC) were

42 identified and are indicated above. Chair Ellen Beckmann reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in
43 sheet that was being circulated.

44 Zach Hallock, the new transportation planner from the Town of Carrboro, was introduced.

45 **PRELIMINARIES:**

46 **2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

47 There were no adjustments to the agenda.

48 **3. Public Comments**

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

50 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

51 **4. Approval of January 24, 2018 TC Meeting Minutes**

52 Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that she was listed as being affiliated with the City of Durham's
53 Planning Department, instead of Transportation, in the January minutes. Ed Lewis stated that an
54 interstate project was incorrectly identified as a Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ)
55 Improvement project. Geoff Green made a motion to approve the January 24, 2018, minutes as
56 amended. Nishith Trivedi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

57 **ACTION ITEMS:**

58 **5. Quarterly Update on the Durham County Transit Plan, Orange County Transit Plan, and Durham-
59 Orange Light Rail Transit Project**

60 Geoff Green, GoTriangle
61 Maureen Devlin, LPA Staff

62 Geoff Green stated that as part of the interlocal agreement between Orange County, Durham
63 County, and GoTriangle, it was requested that quarterly updates on the transit plans be given to the
64 GoTriangle Board, both County Commissions, and the MPO Board. He added that with the hiring of Mo
65 Devlin as staff working group administrator, there is now someone dedicated to the project and charged
66 with setting up processes and procedures. Geoff Green drew attention to the web link for the GoTriangle

67 Annual Report, and noted that the financial report for each county transit plan was included in the report.

68 Geoff Green briefly discussed the contents of the transit plan, and the status of the staff working groups.

69 Mo Devlin stated that producing a work plan for FY19 is the top priority of the staff working
70 groups. She also stated that for the current quarterly report, the working groups are planning to write a
71 memo and forward it to mayors, boards, and Commissions, instead of providing a more number-driven
72 report. She stated that this was done to avoid confusion. Mo Devlin discussed plans for a more detailed
73 presentation at a later date. She stated that the new staff working group website is up, and discussed how
74 the new website would be used to get information out to the public. Mo Devlin also discussed the timeline
75 for developing the FY19 work plan, including releasing the draft work plan to internal stakeholders and
76 then for a 30-day public comment period. In response to a question from Felix Nwoko, Mo Devlin
77 discussed how to find the staff working group website from the DCHC MPO's website.

78 Geoff Green stated that the light rail project is on track for \$1.2 billion of federal investment, and
79 that the capital cost of the project is \$2.476 billion. He stated that 50% of the design of the project is about
80 to be complete, and currently, local staff is being prepared for the material they are about to receive.

81 Geoff Green discussed the consultants who are working on various aspects of the light rail project. He also
82 discussed the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goals of the project, and how they are being met.

83 Geoff Green discussed various sources of funding for the light rail project, including funding from Durham
84 and Orange Counties, attempts to secure funding through the Strategic Prioritization Office of
85 Transportation (SPOT) 5.0 process, and the non-profit organization, GoTriangle Partners, that was formed
86 to raise funds for the project. Geoff Green discussed the contingency allocated in the project budget,
87 noting that the budget for the project is fixed. He added that it is expected that there will be cost increases
88 in some areas, and decreases in others.

89 Geoff Green discussed how GoTriangle is working with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to
90 make sure that the cost estimate is reasonable and there is a sufficient contingency to complete the

91 project. He described recent work that went into securing a rail operations and maintenance facility in the
92 City of Durham. Geoff Green stated that 50% design of the project is expected to be complete in March
93 2018. Geoff Green discussed efforts related to a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) grant that
94 GoTriangle received, and GoTriangle's recent Opportunity Summit that was held in February 2018. Felix
95 Nwoko and Geoff Green discussed how TOD and joint development have been incorporated into the
96 project. Geoff Green also discussed examples of healthcare and affordable housing related joint
97 development near light rail transit stations. Felix Nwoko, Geoff Green, and Matthew Clark discussed
98 whether GoTriangle is tracking what they are spending in relation to the overall budget for the project.
99 Felix Nwoko and Geoff Green discussed whether deadlines have been established for local staff that is
100 required to assist with reviewing designs. Geoff Green discussed two public involvement meetings that
101 were held in recent months.

102 Geoff Green stated that in response to an MPO request, the project team has been working with
103 partners to identify places where high impact bicycle and pedestrian connections could be made to the
104 light rail system. He stated that 22 locations are being studied as potential locations for bicycle and
105 pedestrian infrastructure improvements. He discussed the benefits of these bicycle and pedestrian
106 improvements, and provided specific examples of areas that are being studied. There was discussion of the
107 demolition of houses along Alston Avenue that is needed to accommodate the widening of the street that
108 is required for the light rail project. Geoff Green stated that community outreach on this issue found that a
109 number of the houses are vacant.

110 Felix Nwoko and Geoff Green discussed how the connectivity projects related to the light rail
111 project would be funded, and whether they would need to be submitted to the SPOT process. There was
112 discussion of the federal and non-federal dollars that can be applied to the light rail project. John Hodges-
113 Cople provided Geoff Green with feedback on how to improve the presentation before taking it to the
114 MPO Board, especially in relation to questions about the materialization of state funding and the

115 contingency calculation. Chair Ellen Beckmann and Geoff Green discussed revisions to the light rail project
116 environmental documentation, and whether comments were received on the first environmental
117 document. Chair Ellen Beckmann suggested that materials related to the agenda item be made available to
118 the MPO Board ahead of the presentation. Geoff Green commented that many MPO Board members have
119 already seen versions of the presentation. John Hodges-Copple commented on the importance of taking a
120 well-communication and well-coordinated presentation to the MPO Board in light of the weighted vote at
121 the February MPO Board meeting.

122 No further action was required by the TC.

123 **6. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)**

124 Andy Henry, LPA Staff

125 Andy Henry stated that the MPO Board approved the release of the full 2045 MTP report, and
126 Goals, Objectives, Performance Measures and Targets for a 30-day public input period, and that the MPO
127 Board extended the public comment period to March 2, 2018, based on Federal Highway Administration
128 (FHWA) comments and a recommendation from the TC. Andy Henry stated that the MPO Board will adopt
129 the 2045 MTP at its next meeting. He clarified that adoption will include the socioeconomic data, the
130 2045 MTP projects and financial plan, Goals/Objectives/ Performance Measures/Targets, the full report by
131 resolution, and the Triangle Regional Model (TRM) by a separate resolution and letter. Andy Henry
132 reviewed the changes that were made to the various MTP documents. Andy Henry discussed how the
133 current Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act performance measures were incorporated into
134 the MTP, and added that any future measures will be added to the MTP once the MPO adopts them. Andy
135 Henry stated that all of the comments received on the MTP are available online. He added that he has
136 received several comments pertaining to Bolin Creek in Carrboro. He stated that it is possible that
137 members of the public might show up to comment about Bolin Creek at the March MPO Board meeting.

138 Tina Moon explained that the comments about Bolin Creek may be related to a recent
139 presentation to the Carrboro Board of Aldermen. Andy Henry and Tina Moon discussed whether MPO

140 Board Chair Damon Seils was aware that members of the public may show up to speak about Bolin Creek
141 at the upcoming MPO Board meeting.

142 Nishith Trivedi made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board adopt the 2045 MTP by
143 resolution, and adopt version 6 of the TRM by letter and resolution. Vice Chair Margaret Hauth seconded
144 the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

145
146 **7. Local Input Points Methodology**

147 Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

148 Aaron Cain stated that he recently received comments from the North Carolina Department of
149 Transportation (NCDOT) review committee on the Local Input Points Methodology, and that he recently
150 sent the TC a new version of the methodology with strikeouts and underlining. Aaron Cain stated that for
151 the most part, the changes were minor. Chair Ellen Beckmann and Aaron Cain discussed the nature of the
152 changes to the methodology. Chair Ellen Beckmann and Aaron Cain discussed whether the North Carolina
153 Board of Transportation adopts the methodology after the work group.

154 Vice Chair Margaret Hauth made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve the
155 revised Local Input Points Methodology. Scott Whiteman seconded the motion. The motion passed
156 unanimously.

157 **REPORTS:**

158 **8. Reports from the LPA Staff**

159 Felix Nwoko, LPA Manager

160 Aaron Cain reminded the TC that the MPO would be hosting the North Carolina Association of
161 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (NCAMPO) in Durham in April 2018. He stated that the mobile
162 workshop information would be available on the NCAMPO website shortly, and asked mobile workshop
163 organizers to send descriptions of their workshop as soon as possible. Aaron Cain requested donations of
164 branded merchandise for the conference gift bags. In response to a question from Geoff Green, Aaron
165 Cain clarified that 400 of each item would be needed. John Hodges-Copple and Aaron Cain discussed the

166 possibility of reaching out to consultants to request branded items. In response to a question from Felix
167 Nwoko, Aaron Cain stated that the April TC meeting would be held at the Durham Convention Center at
168 its usual time.

169 **9. Report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair**

170 Ellen Beckmann, DCHC MPO TC Chair

171 Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that the City of Durham recently received an update from NCDOT
172 on the NC 54 widening project. She stated that there was a six lane and an eight lane option for the
173 project, but that the six lane option is more in keeping with adopted plans. Chair Ellen Beckmann stated
174 that the initial US 15-501 corridor study meeting would be held in March. Scott Whiteman asked for and
175 received an update on the Downtown Durham Transportation Study.

176 **10. NCDOT Reports**

177 David Keilson, NCDOT Division 5, discussed upcoming lane shifts associated with the East End
178 Connector project. He added that the Barbee Road/Herndon Road roundabout would be completed in
179 April. He also discussed upcoming traffic shifts related to the Old Chapel Hill Road project.

180 Ed Lewis, NCDOT Division 7, stated that Chapel Hill and Carrboro came to an agreement about the
181 Franklin Street/Merritt Mill Road intersection project at a recent meeting. Ed Lewis stated that there
182 would need to be concurrence in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the MPO's
183 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on this project. Bergen Watterson and Ed Lewis discussed the
184 bicycle and pedestrian aspect of the project. Tina Moon and Ed Lewis discussed whether the highway
185 aspect of the project would be removed or tabled. There was discussion of which aspects of the project
186 would be kept in the STIP, and which aspects would be reflected in local plans, and whether a lack of
187 consistency between the STIP and TIP would create a problem for the project. Bergen Watterson and Ed
188 Lewis discussed whether there would be a municipal agreement for the project.

189 Ed Lewis and Vice Chair Margaret Hauth discussed the upcoming public meeting related to the
190 Orange Grove Extension project. Ed Lewis also provided an update on the Town of Hillsborough's low-cost

191 high-impact project, a slip lane at NC 86 and US 70. Ed Lewis stated that the traffic signals going up on NC
 192 54 were temporary, and were done to facilitate the bridge replacement project on Greensboro
 193 Street/Chapel Hill Road. Aaron Cain and Ed Lewis discussed whether it was possible to obtain
 194 documentation about funding for the slip lane at NC 86 and US 70. Aaron Cain explained that the project
 195 was part of another project that was submitted to the SPOT process, and part of the project receiving
 196 funding through other means will reduce the cost of the project, and potentially make the overall project
 197 more competitive.

198 There was no additional report from NCDOT Division 8.

199 Julie Bogle, NCDOT Transportation Planning Division, stated that her division was developing an
 200 agreement between the MPOs and NCDOT pertaining to the FAST Act performance measures. There was
 201 discussion about whether the agreement would cover all performance measures, or just specific ones like
 202 transit and safety. Julie Bogle stated that the 2017 average annual daily traffic counts that are coming out
 203 later this year will have hourly profiles. Felix Nwoko and Julie Bogle discussed whether the MPO could
 204 access data needed for its mobility report card earlier than the summer of 2018.

205 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

206 **11. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

207 There were no informational items.

208 **ADJOURNMENT:**

209 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Technical Committee, the meeting was
 210 adjourned at 10:14 a.m.