

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

2 **10 June 2020**

3
4 **MINUTES OF MEETING**

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6 The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on June 10,
7 2020, at 9:00 a.m. remotely via WebEx. The following people were in attendance:

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9	Wendy Jacobs (Chair)	Durham County
10	Jenn Weaver (Vice Chair)	Town of Hillsborough
11	Renée Price (Member)	Orange County
12	Karen Howard (Member)	Chatham County
13	Ellen Reckhow (Member)	GoTriangle
14	Charlie Reece (Member)	City of Durham
15	Steve Schewel (Member)	City of Durham
16	Pam Hemminger (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
17	Damon Seils (Member)	Town of Carrboro
18	Nina Szlosberg-Landis (Member)	NC Board of Transportation
19	Heidi Carter (Alternate)	Durham County
20	Michael Parker (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
21	Lydia Lavelle (Alternate)	Town of Carrboro
22	Mike Fox (Alternate)	NC Board of Transportation
23		
24	Richard Hancock,	NCDOT Division 5
25	Patrick Wilson,	NCDOT Division 7
26	Mike Mills,	NCDOT Division 7
27	Tamara Njegovan,	NCDOT Division 7
28	Bryan Kluchar,	NCDOT Division 8
29	Julie Bogle,	NCDOT TPD
30	David Howard,	NCDOT Chief Deputy Secretary
31	Mike Woodard	North Carolina State Senate
32	Van Argabright,	NCDOT Division of Planning and
33		Programming
34	Derrick Lewis,	NCDOT Congestion Management
35	Ellen Beckmann,	City of Durham
36	Sean Egan,	City of Durham
37	Bill Judge,	City of Durham
38	Evan Tenenbaum,	City of Durham
39	Tasha Johnson,	City of Durham Planning
40	Bergen Watterson,	Chapel Hill Planning
41	Jomar Pastorelle,	Chapel Hill Planning
42	Zach Hallock,	Town of Carrboro
43	Theo Letman,	Orange County
44	John Hodges-Copple,	Triangle J Council of Governments
45	Meg Scully,	GoTriangle
46	Jay Heikes,	GoTriangle

47	Kurt Stolka,	University of North Carolina
48	Cha'ssem Anderson,	University of North Carolina
49	Phillip Vereen,	North Carolina Central University
50		
51	Felix Nwoko,	DCHC MPO
52	Aaron Cain,	DCHC MPO
53	Andy Henry,	DCHC MPO
54	Dale McKeel,	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
55	Anne Phillips,	DCHC MPO
56	KC Chae,	DCHC MPO
57	Brian Rhodes,	DCHC MPO
58	Robert Jahn,	DCHC MPO
59		
60	Andrew Bell,	HNTB
61	Megan Hoenk,	NCCR
62	Diane Catotti,	Resident
63	Ed Harrison	Resident

64
65 Quorum Count: 10 of 10 Voting Members

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67
68 Chair Wendy Jacobs called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call was performed of MPO
69 Board Member and Alternates by Robert Jahn. The Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of
70 the DCHC MPO Board were identified and are indicated above. Chair Wendy Jacobs announced that
71 Robert Jahn will perform a roll-call vote for each action item requiring a vote.

72 **PRELIMINARIES:**

73 **2. Ethics Reminder**

74 Chair Wendy Jacobs read the Ethics Reminder and asked if there were any known conflicts of
75 interest with respect to matters coming before the MPO Board and requested that if there were any
76 identified during the meeting for them to be announced. There were no known conflicts identified by
77 the MPO Board Members.

78 **3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

79 Aaron Cain stated that Derrick Lewis will be discussing I-40 express lanes during the NCDOT
80 report for Division 5.

81 **4. Public Comments**

82 Aaron Cain read a letter from a Raleigh resident and the Chair of the Sierra Club Capitol Group.
 83 The letter raised concerns about the environmental and health impacts of the proposed Dominion
 84 pipeline to Triangle residents.

85 **5. Directives to Staff**

86 Chair Wendy Jacobs and Damon Seils discussed presenting an item related to the Directives to
 87 Staff at the next MPO Meeting on August 12, 2020.

88 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

89 **6. May 13, 2020 MPO Board Meeting Minutes**

90 There was no discussion of the May 13, 2020, MPO Board Meeting Minutes.

91 Pam Hemminger made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice Chair Jenn Weaver
 92 seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

93 **ACTION ITEMS:**

94
 95 **7. Resolution Honoring Commissioner Ellen Reckhow**
 96 **Wendy Jacobs, Board Chair**

97 Chair Wendy Jacobs commended Ellen Reckhow for her decades-long service to the local
 98 community as a member of the DCHC MPO Board. Fellow DCHC MPO Board members, both past and
 99 present, thanked and praised Ellen Reckhow for her service. A plaque was virtually presented to Ellen
 100 Reckhow.

101 Several past members of the DCHC MPO Board, State Senator Mike Woodard, Diane Catotti, and
 102 Ed Harrison, offered memories of their time with Commissioner Reckhow and words of congratulations
 103 and appreciation for her years of public service.

104 Renée Price made the motion to adopt the resolution honoring Commissioner Ellen Reckhow.
 105 Vice Chair Jenn Weaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

106 **8. Proposed Installation of Gas Pipeline Along American Tobacco Trail Right-of-Way**
 107 **Dale McKeel, LPA Staff**
 108 **Jason Orthner, PE, Director, NCDOT Rail Division**

109 Dale McKeel stated that the majority of the American Tobacco Trail (ATT) is built on right-of-
110 way that is owned by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and is intended for
111 future railroad use. Dale McKeel stated that the ATT is maintained by the City of Durham, the Town
112 of Cary, and Wake County in their respective jurisdictions. Dale McKeel added that Dominion Energy
113 rescinded its request to utilize the American Tobacco Trail's right-of-way to build a gas pipeline.

114 David Howard stated that rail corridors in North Carolina often allow utilities to use
115 encroachments for services of local residents. David Howard continued that NCDOT's negotiations
116 with Dominion Energy were standard operating procedure. David Howard highlighted that NCDOT
117 did not sign any agreement with Dominion Energy, and the Army Corps of Engineers would have to
118 approve all necessary permits if any agreements were signed. David Howard stated that NCDOT
119 values its partnership with local partners, recognizes the need for more and better communication,
120 and would like MPO Board to provide input to improve future processes.

121 Charlie Reece requested better and earlier communications from NCDOT in order to enhance
122 understanding of the issues and inform local residents. Charlie Reece also requested more detailed
123 conversations between NCDOT and local stakeholders. Nina Szlosberg-Landis and Mike Fox affirmed
124 their commitment to including more information provided to local officials and having more detailed
125 conversations. Chair Wendy Jacobs noted that the ATT is very important to the local community,
126 especially due to recent events surrounding COVID-19, and highlighted that there ought to be a
127 better process for involving local leadership moving forward.

128 There was no further MPO Board action necessary for this item.

129 **9. 2050 MTP -- Public Engagement Plan**
130 **Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

131 Andy Henry stated that the DCHC MPO adopted the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan
132 (MTP) in March 2018. Andy Henry continued that federal rules require the MPO to adopt an updated
133 plan within four years, which would mean by March 2022. Andy Henry stated that MPO staff and

134 local planners have already begun to update the demographic data and modeling networks. Andy
135 Henry continued that the first step in developing the updated MTP is to identify the schedule and
136 public engagement process, release the documents for public comment, and approve them for
137 implementation. Andy Henry noted that the DCHC MPO Public Involvement Policy requires that the
138 schedule and Public Engagement Plan be released for a minimum 42-day public comment period and
139 be part of an extensive effort to solicit public comment. Andy Henry mentioned that the 2050 MTP is
140 a joint document with Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO). Andy Henry stated
141 that the proposed approval schedule for this item is to release the 2050 MTP schedule and Public
142 Engagement Plan in June 2020, and to conduct public hearing and approve final schedule and public
143 engagement process in August.

144 Nina Szlosberg-Landis and Andy Henry discussed gathering information regarding the values
145 of the residents in terms of public transportation. Andy Henry responded that he will discuss the idea
146 of residents' values further in the following agenda item. Vice Chair Jenn Weaver asked how the
147 public engagement plan will respond to lower levels of participation from marginalized communities.
148 Andy Henry responded that social media can be used to target different communities, and other
149 solutions are currently being discussed. Aaron Cain added that other planning processes that are
150 currently seeking public comment are also planned to be used to gather information for the 2050
151 MTP. Lydia Lavelle suggested using targeted messaging on buses.

152 Michael Parker and Aaron Cain discussed participation among the public and collecting
153 socioeconomic data. Aaron Cain stated that each answer to survey questions cannot be tied to a
154 specific demographic, but the public outreach process is able to track which groups are represented
155 overall. Chair Wendy Jacobs suggested using radio, popular locations among possible
156 underrepresented demographics, and working with other organizations in order to have broad
157 representation among residents.

158 Pam Hemminger made a motion to release the 2050 MTP Public Engagement Plan and
159 schedule for public comment. Vice Chair Jenn Weaver seconded the motion. The motion passed
160 unanimously.

161 **10. 2050 MTP -- Goals and Objectives**
162 **Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

163 Andy Henry stated that the DCH MPO dedicated considerable effort to develop the Goals and
164 Objectives for the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Andy Henry added that MPO staff
165 conducted a workshop with the MPO Board, administered an online survey, designed Goals and
166 Objectives that were aligned with a set of performance measures, and coordinated the process to
167 ensure that the DCHC MPO and CAMPO adopted the same set of Goals and Objectives, and Performance
168 Measures.

169 Andy Henry stated that, given the difficulty of conducting public workshops and other in-person
170 meetings during the social distancing requirement for COVID-19, staff used a method that takes
171 advantage of public input processes from previous plans and studies. Andy Henry added that MPO staff
172 reviewed and compared two dozen transportation-related plans throughout the Triangle area, which
173 included long-range transportation plans, comprehensive plans, modal implementation plans, strategic
174 plans for local governments, and corridor and small area studies. Andy Henry added that the current
175 2045 MTP Goals and Objectives matched the most common and important themes found in these other
176 plans, but staff identified a few themes that would strengthen the MPO's Goals and Objectives and
177 therefore is recommending minor changes to the 2050 MTP Goals and Objectives. Andy Henry stated
178 that the proposed approval schedule for this item is to release the 2050 MTP Goals and Objectives in
179 June 2020, and to conduct public hearing and approve final 2050 MTP Goals and Objectives in August.

180 Pam Hemminger suggested adding language that discusses innovative technology as it relates to
181 the concept of resiliency. Michael Parker suggested adding equity to discussion of resiliency. Michael
182 Parker suggested coordinating land-use in order to stimulate economic vitality and for environmental

183 protection. Renée Price suggested adding language to ensure that transportation improvements do not
184 disrupt communities.

185 Nina Szlosberg-Landis suggested adding questions about values and priorities for all the plan
186 milestones. Ellen Reckhow suggested adding additional workshops for the Goals and Objectives while
187 enhancing racial equity exercises. Chair Wendy Jacobs suggested adding clearer language about equity.
188 Michael Parker suggested adding metrics and targets that would track budgeting in and around
189 historically disadvantaged populations. Renée Price stated that Goals and Objectives are similar at
190 NCDOT for those populations and could be referenced and incorporated into the MTP.

191 Andy Henry stated that he will review the changes suggested by the MPO Board and make all
192 appropriate changes. Chair Wendy Jacobs and Andy Henry discussed releasing the Goals and Objectives
193 for the 42-day public comment period, while noting that additional changes can be made within that
194 timeframe.

195 Vice Chair Jenn Weaver made a motion to release the proposed 2050 MTP Goals and Objectives
196 for public comment. Lydia Lavelle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

197 **11. Environmental Justice Draft Report**

198 **Anne Phillips, LPA Staff**

199 Anne Phillips stated that, every four years, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the
200 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) review the planning processes of metropolitan areas with
201 populations over 200,000. Anne Phillips added that the DCHC MPO underwent a certification review in
202 2019 that found that the metropolitan transportation planning process substantially meets federal
203 requirements. Anne Phillips continued that, although DCHC MPO was commended for developing
204 Environmental Justice (EJ) metrics and conducting detailed draft analyses, it was recommended that the
205 MPO update its demographic profile before finalizing its EJ analyses to reflect potential changes in
206 communities of concern.

207 Anne Phillips stated that the draft Environmental Justice Report contains an updated
208 demographic profile and analysis of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the FY 2018-27
209 Transportation Improvement Program, and the FY 19-20 Unified Planning Work Program. Anne Phillips
210 stated that the EJ document is primarily an analysis of the geographic and funding distribution of
211 projects, but it is not a benefit/burden analysis.

212 Chair Wendy Jacobs and Anne Phillips discussed that the EJ Report has not been updated since
213 2014, and it will be updated in approximately two years, following the 2020 census. Lydia Lavelle
214 requested that Rogers Road be added to the list of historic EJ neighborhoods. Chair Wendy Jacobs
215 suggested that the MPO Board carefully review the list of historic EJ neighborhoods in case there are
216 others that were not added.

217 Karen Howard, Anne Phillips, and Aaron Cain discussed that the standard for updating the EJ
218 report is every four or five years. Chair Wendy Jacobs requested that mentions of the light rail be
219 removed from the EJ report. Chair Wendy Jacobs noted that there was a high number of overlapping
220 areas of concern in Durham County, and there were a higher percentage of bike and pedestrian
221 improvements in those areas. There was discussion about adding additional information to chart 4.4 in
222 the next iteration of the EJ report. Chair Wendy Jacobs and Anne Phillips discussed the value of having a
223 more detailed benefit/burden analysis to communities of concern in future documents.

224 Pam Hemminger made a motion to release the draft Environmental Justice Report for a 45-day
225 public comment period as amended. Karen Howard seconded the motion. The motion passed
226 unanimously.

227 **12. Status of FY 21 TDM Funding**

228 **Dale McKeel, LPA Staff**

229 **John Hodges-Copple, TJCOG**

230 Dale McKeel stated that the Triangle Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program has
231 been supported by three funders: NCDOT, CAMPO, and DCHC MPO. Dale McKeel added that currently

232 none of the FY 21 funding has been approved by NCDOT due to NCDOT's budget situation. Dale McKeel
233 continued that the TDM program is an ongoing program, but NCDOT has deemed the TDM program a
234 new project. Dale McKeel and Van Argabright discussed that this designation by NCDOT means that the
235 TDM program cannot receive the funding because NCDOT has fallen below the cash threshold
236 established in state law Dale McKeel noted that lack of TDM funding for the current fiscal year would
237 also be detrimental for the TDM program in future years. John Hodges-Copple discussed possible
238 resolutions, including having ongoing discussions with NCDOT.

239 Lydia Lavelle and John Hodges-Copple discussed that other TDM programs within the state are
240 also facing similar issues. Lydia Lavelle suggested working with leaders of other TDM programs to
241 resolve the situation. John Hodges-Copple stated that the other TDM programs are: Land of Sky Regional
242 Council in Asheville; Piedmont Regional Authority for Regional Transportation in the Triad; Wilmington
243 Urban Area MPO; and Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization.

244 Ellen Reckhow stated that the TDM program has demonstrated itself to be cost-effective, and its
245 dismantling of the TDM program will hurt local economies. John Hodges-Copple added that the TDM
246 website has shown dramatic increases due to COVID-19, especially the telework toolkit page. Chair
247 Wendy Jacobs and Ellen Reckhow discussed adding a "whereas" clause indicating negative economic
248 impact if TDM programs were not funded. Nina Szlosberg-Landis stated that she and Mike Fox have
249 discussed their commitment to supporting TDM programs at NCDOT.

250 Charlie Reece and Aaron Cain discussed that funding for Locally Administered Projects Program
251 (LAPP) projects are also currently stalled due to lack of NCDOT funding because of budgetary issues.
252 Aaron Cain added that he is in discussions with CAMPO about adding language to the TDM resolution
253 regarding the LAPP projects. Ellen Beckmann stated that the LAPP project issues have negatively
254 impacted approximately 14 local projects in the City of Durham, and there are other municipalities
255 across North Carolina that have also expressed concerns. Ellen Beckmann added that originally funding

256 was going to be deferred, but has now been suspended. Ellen Beckmann recommended adding language
257 about LAPP projects to this resolution. Chair Wendy Jacobs approved adding that language.

258 Lydia Lavelle made a motion to the TDM Resolution as amended. Pam Hemminger seconded the
259 motion. The motion passed unanimously.

260 **REPORTS:**

261 **13. Report from the MPO Board Chair**

262 **Wendy Jacobs, Board Chair**

263 Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that the next Joint DCHC and CAMPO Board meeting will be on
264 September 29 at 9 a.m., but the location has not yet been determined.

265 **14. Report from the Technical Committee Chair**

266 **Nish Trivedi, TC Chair**

267 There was no further report from Nish Trivedi.

268 **15. Report from LPA Staff**

269 **Felix Nwoko, Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

270 Felix Nwoko stated that there was nothing further to report

271 **16. NCDOT Report**

272 Richard Hancock, Division 5, stated that traffic in the Triangle has been increasing in the past
273 weeks, but so are maintenance repair sites due to storm damage. Richard Hancock added that
274 construction projects are ongoing, but let dates have been delayed due to continuing NCDOT
275 budgetary issues. Richard Hancock stated that projected revenue loss is \$300M for FY20 and \$370M for
276 FY21. Richard Hancock stated that Chapel Hill staff is working with NCDOT to resolve utility issues at
277 the Old Durham/Chapel Hill bike/ped project (U-4707A).

278 Derrick Lewis presented a feasibility study for frontage lanes and express lanes on I-40
279 between the Durham Freeway and Wade Avenue. He discussed design issues related to the amount of
280 interchanges on I-40 between NC 147 and I-540. Derrick Lewis added that NCDOT is still in the study
281 phase. Derrick Lewis stated that 2045 traffic projections for I-40 suggest other solutions may be

282 needed other than adding additional lanes. Charlie Reece stated that the proposal for I-40 as shown in
283 the presentation is something that should not be done.

284 Pat Wilson, Division 7, stated that there was no further report.

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

286 There was no comment from Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division.

287 There was no comment from John Grant, NCDOT Traffic Operations.

288 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

289 **17. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

290 Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that there will be not be DCHC MPO Board meeting in July, and the
291 next meeting may meet virtually on August 12, 2020.

292 **ADJOURNMENT:**

293 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at
294 12:25 p.m.