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

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**26 April 2017**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on April 26, 2017, 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               |
| Kumar Neppalli (Member)       | Chapel Hill Engineering             |
| Hannah Jacobson (Member)      | City of Durham Planning             |
| Tasha Johnson (Member)        | City of Durham Public Works         |
| Pierre Osei-Owusu (Member)    | City of Durham Transportation       |
| Tina Moon (Member)            | Carrboro Planning                   |
| Bergen Watterson (Member)     | Chapel Hill Planning                |
| Linda Thomas Wallace (Member) | Durham County Cooperative Extension |
| Scott Whiteman (Member)       | Durham County Planning              |
| Theo Letman (Member)          | Orange Public Transportation        |
| Peter Murphy (Alternate)      | Orange Public Transportation        |
| Tom Altieri (Member)          | Orange County Planning              |
| Max Bushell (Member)          | Orange County Planning              |
| Cara Coppola (Member)         | Chatham County Planning             |
| John Hodges-Copple (Member)   | Triangle J Council of Governments   |
| Richard Hancock (Alternate)   | NCDOT, Division 5                   |
| Patrick Wilson (Alternate)    | NCDOT, Division 7                   |
| Jennifer Britt (Member)       | NCDOT, Division 8                   |
| Julie Bogle (Member)          | NCDOT, TPB                          |
| Kurt Stolka (Member)          | UNC                                 |
| Geoff Green (Member)          | GoTriangle                          |
| 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                            |
| John Tallmadge                | GoTriangle                          |

Quorum Count: 21 of 31 Voting Members

Chair Ellen Beckmann called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. A roll call was performed. The

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

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

47 Bergen Watterson stated that she was now the TC Member for Chapel Hill.

48 **PRELIMINARIES:**

49 **2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

50 Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. There were no  
51 adjustments to the agenda.

52 **3. Public Comments**

53 Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if there were any members of the public signed up to speak. There  
54 were no members of the public signed up to speak during the meeting.

55 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

56 **4. Approval of March 29, 2017, TC Meeting Minutes**

57 There was no discussion of the March 29, 2017, TC Meeting Minutes. Geoff Green made a motion  
58 to approve the March 29, 2017, TC Meeting Minutes. Tom Altieri seconded the motion. The motion passed  
59 unanimously.

60 **ACTION ITEMS:**

61 **5. Update on Durham County and Orange County Transit Plans**

62 John Tallmadge and Geoff Green, GoTriangle

63 John Tallmadge discussed the changes to the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) project  
64 that led to the renegotiation of the cost sharing plan, including: the addition of a station at North  
65 Carolina Central University, the replacement of the Meadowmont station with the Woodmont station,  
66 and changes in the alignment to protect the New Hope Creek wetlands. John Tallmadge also noted  
67 Durham's interest in maintaining the Wake-Durham Commuter project. John Tallmadge stated that the  
68 updated cost sharing agreement would consist of an 81.5%/16.5% split between Durham County and  
69 Orange County, with private contributions making up the remaining 2%.

70 In response to Chair Ellen Beckmann's inquiry about Durham's cash balance, John Tallmadge  
71 reviewed the funding assumptions for the Wake-Durham Commuter Rail project. Chair Ellen Beckmann  
72 and John Tallmadge discussed what would happen if the 2% of private contributions did not materialize,  
73 and whether funding from the University of North Carolina could count towards the 2% of private  
74 contributions. John Tallmadge reviewed the assumptions underlying the estimated cost of the Wake-  
75 Durham Commuter Rail project. Chair Ellen Beckmann and John Tallmadge discussed reasons for the  
76 increased cost of existing service for bus operations.

77 Chair Ellen Beckmann and John Tallmadge discussed whether there were letters of intent to  
78 confirm \$19 million worth of right of way donations, and how these donations are reflected in the  
79 updated plans. John Tallmadge reviewed the dedicated tax revenue commitment from each county for  
80 the D-O LRT project, and the reason that these commitments are reflected in dollars and not  
81 percentages.

82 John Hodges-Copple and John Tallmadge discussed how joint developments are reflected in the  
83 plan. There was discussion of the deadline for fleshing out joint development plans. Geoff Green  
84 commented that Patrick McDonough at GoTriangle has been working with city and county partners and  
85 the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) consultant to come up with a joint development policy.

86 Felix Nwoko and John Tallmadge confirmed the timeline for various boards to approve the  
87 updated County Transit Plans.

88 Pierre Osei-Owusu and John Tallmadge discussed whether there was any additional information  
89 about how the president's proposed budget would affect the New Starts program.

90 Felix Nwoko reaffirmed the MPO's commitment to the D-O LRT project.

91 Tom Altieri and John Tallmadge discussed the staff working groups' decision to forward the  
92 County Transit Plans to the governing boards for consideration without recommending approval. Tom  
93 Altieri expressed reservations about voting in favor of the plans before the Orange County Board of

94 Commissioners has had an opportunity to approve the plans. John Tallmadge reminded the TC that the  
95 County Transit Plans are two separate plans, and the TC and the MPO Board should take separate  
96 actions on them. Tina Moon and Cara Coppola expressed reservations about voting in support of the  
97 plans. Vice Chair Margaret Hauth suggested crafting a motion that speaks specifically to the technical  
98 merits of the plans. Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that the County Transit Plans are supportive of the  
99 MPO's adopted Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and long-range vision. Vice Chair Margaret  
100 Hauth asked John Hodges-Copple to propose a motion that would allow the TC to endorse the technical  
101 aspects of the County Transit Plans, without weighing in on the policy implications of the plans. Tom  
102 Altieri stated that he was removed from the financial components of the plan which reduced his ability  
103 to comment on technical merits of the plans. There was discussion of changes to the plans regarding bus  
104 service hours. Pierre Osei-Owusu stated that it was important to distinguish between existing services  
105 and the future service that new funding would support for the transit systems.

106 Linda Thomas Wallace stated that it is incumbent on local jurisdictions to approach GoTriangle  
107 about issues such as bus service hours. Linda Thomas Wallace also commented on Durham's efforts to  
108 vet the plan before making a recommendation to the Durham County Board of Commissioners.

109 Peter Murphy and John Tallmadge discussed whether there is funding to support Orange  
110 County's requested revenue hours.

111 Scott Whiteman reminded the TC that the plans reflect a compromise between Durham and  
112 Orange Counties. Max Bushell stated that he was comfortable supporting the technical merits of the  
113 plans.

114 Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that the plans reflect the MPO's priorities and that there would be  
115 opportunities to revise the plans in the future.

116 John Hodges-Copple made a motion to recommend approval of the County Transit Plans, since  
117 they substantially include the bus and rail services in the adopted 2040 MTP. John Hodges-Copple stated

118 that the TC believes that it will be critical that the MPO as an organization and the TC members as  
119 organizational representatives be directly involved in all future planning activities related to the services  
120 and facilities included in the plans. Geoff Green and John Hodges-Copple discussed the motion's  
121 implications for MPO involvement in modifying the plans. Geoff Green suggested that the language of  
122 the motion be modified to indicate that the TC members would "have the opportunity to be directly  
123 involved" in future planning activities related to the plans.

124 Theo Letman stated that the Orange County Board of Commissioners still had unresolved issues  
125 regarding the convenience clause in the plans. John Tallmadge pointed out that the clause was in the  
126 cost sharing agreement and that the MPO was not a party to the cost sharing agreement.

127 There was discussion of whether the language of the motion should also reaffirm the MPO's  
128 commitment to a multi-modal public transportation system. Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that the  
129 MPO's commitment to a multimodal transportation system was already implied.

130 John Hodges-Copple made a motion to recommend approval of the County Transit Plans, since  
131 they substantially include the bus and rail services in the adopted 2040 MTP. The TC believes that it will  
132 be critical that the MPO as an organization and the TC members as organizational representatives have  
133 the opportunity to directly be involved in all future planning activities related to the services and  
134 facilities included in the plans. Scott Whiteman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

135 John Tallmadge thanked the staff working groups for their hard work on the County Transit  
136 Plans.

## 137 **6. Proposed Modifications and Deletions for SPOT 5.0**

138 Felix Nwoko and Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

139 Aaron Cain drew attention to a list of Carryover projects for the Strategic Planning Office of  
140 Transportation Prioritization 5.0 (SPOT P5.0), and asked the TC to inform him if there was anything  
141 missing from the list or anything on the list that should not be changed. Aaron Cain stated that the

142 deadline for operational projects was at the end of the following week, while the deadline for non-  
 143 operational projects is in June.

144 Aaron Cain, Max Bushell, and Tina Moon discussed operational and intersectional improvements  
 145 on NC 54.

146 Aaron Cain and Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed whether the Division Engineers also have to  
 147 consent to changes to the projects. Aaron Cain stated that he was already in conversation with David  
 148 Keilson about changes to the projects, but still needed to speak with Ed Lewis.

149 Aaron Cain discussed how the corridor cap would affect the U-5774F project. Aaron Cain stated  
 150 that he was working with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to see whether  
 151 improvements on NC 54 could be prioritized over the managed lanes on I-40, even though the managed  
 152 lane project scored better than the improvements to NC 54. Aaron Cain stated that if the NC 54  
 153 improvements could not be prioritized, the managed lane project may need to be withdrawn. Richard  
 154 Hancock stated that discussions need to continue with NCDOT to determine how to address the projects  
 155 on NC 54 and I-40.

156 Chair Ellen Beckmann outlined alternative approaches to the U-5720C project. Aaron Cain and  
 157 Chair Ellen Beckmann also discussed the U-5937 Durham Freeway project. Aaron Cain confirmed that  
 158 the R-5821 project is a Carrboro project.

159 Scott Whiteman made a motion to recommend approval of the Carryover projects to the MPO  
 160 Board. Geoff Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

161 **7. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) -- Final**

162 Andy Henry, LPA Staff  
 163 Julie Bogle, NCDOT

164 Andy Henry outlined changes that were made to the CTP report and changes that still needed to  
 165 be made.

166 Andy Henry and Geoff Green discussed whether the CTP should reflect that the grade  
167 separations at the South Roxboro Street railroad tracks need improvement.

168 There was discussion of how the proposed two-way conversion of two pairs of one-way streets  
169 in the Durham Downtown Loop, Duke Street and Gregson Street and Mangum Street and Roxboro  
170 Street, should be addressed in the CTP, and the effect that such a conversion would have on capacity.

171 Felix Nwoko stated that NCDOT was going back to using the term superstreets, and that a note  
172 should be made in the CTP to indicate that synchronized streets are also referred to as superstreets.

173 There was continued discussion of whether the proposed two-way conversion of the two pairs  
174 of one-way streets in the Downtown Loop should be classified as needing improvement in the CTP. Julie  
175 Bogle pointed out that the CTP could be amended in order to better align with the MTP at a later date.  
176 John Hodges-Copple stated that the key consideration should be whether not labelling the conversion as  
177 “needs improvement” would restrict the MPO from doing something in the MTP or submitting projects  
178 for the SPOT process. There was continued discussion of amending the CTP to align with the MTP, and  
179 the impact that the NCDOT Board of Transportation timeline for adopting the CTP would have on the  
180 MTP. Andy Henry and Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed whether the two-way conversion of the two one-  
181 way pairs could be considered as a Transportation System Management (TSM) project in the MTP. There  
182 was discussion of whether a problem statement for the two-way conversion of the two one-way pairs of  
183 streets in the Durham Downtown Loop should be included in the CTP. Chair Ellen Beckmann proposed  
184 stating that the two pairs of one-way streets in the Downtown Loop need improvement and describing  
185 safety concerns about the streets in the CTP, but not including specific solutions to address these issues.

186 Scott Whiteman made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board adopt the CTP. Geoff Green  
187 seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

188 **REPORTS:**

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

190 Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

191 There was no report from the LPA Staff.

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

193 Ellen Beckmann, DCHC MPO TC Chair

194 There was no report from the TC Chair.

195 **10. NCDOT Reports**

196 A report from NCDOT Division 5 was included in the packet. There were no questions or  
197 comments.

198 Pat Wilson, NCDOT Division 7, stated that there was a combined build inspection meeting on April  
199 25, 2017, regarding two projects in the Chapel Hill/Carrboro area. Pat Wilson stated that Division 7 would  
200 proceed with the projects as long as no issues were raised.

201 Pat Wilson, Bergen Watterson, and Tina Moon discussed the multi-use path, sidewalks, and the  
202 proposed roundabout on Bennett Road.

203 Pat Wilson stated that he would send a formal request to staff members in Chapel Hill and  
204 Carrboro to find out about the status of the review of the information that was sent about the project on  
205 Franklin Street and Merritt Mill Road.

206 Jennifer Britt, NCDOT Division 8, stated that construction of the portion of the southbound left  
207 turn lane on NC 751 within the DCHC MPO's area is 80% complete.

208 There was no report from NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch.

209 There was no report from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

210 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

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

212 There were no informational items.

213 **ADJOURNMENT:**

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