

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

2   **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

3   **January 26, 2022**

4   **MINUTES OF MEETING**

5   The Durham-Chapel Hill Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met  
6   on January 26, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. through a teleconferencing platform. The following  
7   members were in attendance:

- 8   Ellen Beckmann (Chair) Durham County
- 9   Nishith Trivedi (Vice Chair) Orange County
- 10   Tom Altieri (Member) Orange County
- 11   Tom Devlin (Member) City of Durham Transportation
- 12   Kayla Seibel (Member) City of Durham Planning
- 13   Lynwood Best (Member) City of Durham
- 14   Tasha Johnson (Member) City of Durham Public Works
- 15   Scott Whiteman (Member) Durham County
- 16   Brooke Roper (Member) Durham County
- 17   Tina Moon (Member) Carrboro Planning
- 18   Bergen Watterson (Member) Town of Chapel Hill
- 19   Josh Mayo (Member) Town of Chapel Hill
- 20   Margaret Hauth (Member) Town of Hillsborough
- 21   Brandon Dawson (Member) Chatham County Planning
- 22   John Hodges-Copple (Member) TJCOG
- 23   Jay Heikes (Member) GoTriangle
- 24   Julie Bogle (Member) NCDOT TPD
- 25   John Grant (Member) NCDOT Traffic Operations
- 26   Brandon Jones (Member) NCDOT Division 5
- 27   Kurt Stolka (Member) The University of North Carolina
- 28   Travis Crayton (Member) Research Triangle Foundation
  
- 29   Bill Judge (Alternate) City of Durham
- 30   Evian Patterson (Alternate) City of Durham Transportation
- 31   David Keilson (Alternate) NCDOT Division 5
- 32   Bryan Kluchar (Alternate) NCDOT Division 8
- 33   Matt Cecil (Alternate) Chapel Hill Transit/Planning
- 34   Meg Scully (Alternate) GoTriangle
- 35   Matt Day (Alternate) TJCOG
  
- 36   Sean Egan, City of Durham
- 37   DeDreana Freeman, Council Member, City of Durham
- 38   Cy Stober, City of Mebane
- 39   Audrey Vogel, City of Mebane
- 40   Tamara Njegovan, NCDOT Division 7
- 41   Jeron Monroe, NCDOT Division 8

42 Nick Morrison, NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division  
43 Ryan Brumfield, NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division  
44 John Tallmadge, Bike Durham  
45 Wannetta Mallette, BGMPO  
46 Erin Convery, GoTriangle  
47 Heidi Perov, Resident

48 Aaron Cain, DCHC MPO  
49 Andy Henry, DCHC MPO  
50 Jake Ford, DCHC MPO  
51 Dale McKeel, City of Durham/DCHC MPO  
52 Yanping Zhang, DCHC MPO  
53 Kayla Peloquin, DCHC MPO  
54 Mariel Klein, DCHC MPO

55 Quorum count: 25 of 31 voting members

56 Chair Ellen Beckmann called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

57 **PRELIMINARIES:**

58 **1. Roll Call**

59 The roll call was completed using the Zoom participant list. Zach Hallock said farewell to  
60 the TC as he is moving on to another position. Aaron Cain introduced Nick Morrison, the new  
61 NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division (IMD) representative. Nick Morrison said he will be able to  
62 regularly attend MPO TC and Board meetings.

63 **2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

64 Aaron Cain said Tamara Njegovan will give the NCDOT Division 7 update after the  
65 Consent Agenda because of a conflict with another meeting.

66 **3. Public Comments**

67 There were no public comments.

68 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

69 **4. Approval of the December 15, 2021 TC Meeting Minutes**

70 **Kayla Peloquin, LPA Staff**

71 Tom Devlin made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Scott Whiteman seconded  
72 the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

73

**ACTION ITEMS:**74 **5. NCDOT Complete Streets Update**75 **Dale McKeel, LPA Staff**76 **Ryan Brumfield, NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division**

77 Chair Ellen Beckmann welcomed Ryan Brumfield, director of NCDOT IMD, along with  
78 Brandon Jones of NCDOT Division 5. Brandon Jones reviewed the topics to be covered in the  
79 presentation and outlined the goals of the complete streets policy, the implementation  
80 challenges, and the timeline for the implementation guide update. Brandon Jones emphasized  
81 that this guidance is not final, it is a living document. Ryan Brumfield reviewed the proposed  
82 improvements to the implementation guide, the goal of which is to create standardized and  
83 streamlined guidance statewide. Ryan Brumfield described the five step evaluation methodology  
84 including the initial screening, transportation need determination, facility selection, impact  
85 assessment, and final analysis. Ryan Brumfield said that projects with complete streets  
86 elements exceeding a 10% cost increase would be subject to greater scrutiny.

87 Ryan Brumfield reviewed the scope of feedback received from both internal and external  
88 partners and summarized the main themes of the feedback. Ryan Brumfield referenced the  
89 comments provided by this MPO and said some changes have been incorporated based on  
90 those comments. Ryan Brumfield said discussions continue in the key areas with remaining  
91 concerns, and the guidance will continue to be refined and improved. Ryan Brumfield said the  
92 long-term goal is to incorporate complete streets elements in a project prior to programming.  
93 Ryan Brumfield detailed the supporting materials that will be released shortly along with online  
94 training sessions. Ryan Brumfield said IMD is open to specialized trainings and one-on-one  
95 trainings if there is interest. Ryan Brumfield stated the upcoming steps for the guidance.

96 Chair Ellen Beckmann said she is grateful for all the work being done on this important  
97 policy. Chair Ellen Beckmann said she is glad to hear the language of the policy is not changing  
98 and that NCDOT is committed to providing an efficient multimodal transportation network and  
99 working in partnership with local government agencies. Chair Ellen Beckmann thanked Dale

100 McKeel for his extensive comments to IMD. Chair Ellen Beckmann said she was disappointed  
101 by the change in maintenance requirements outside of municipalities and recognized that  
102 maintenance responsibility would be a new task for NCDOT, but counties are not well equipped  
103 to take on maintenance as they do not receive funding for maintenance like NCDOT and cities  
104 do. Chair Ellen Beckmann said she would like to work together to identify a feasible solution.  
105 Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi agreed with Chair Ellen Beckmann's comments, and said Orange  
106 County has many rural roads and faces similar maintenance issues. Brandon Dawson agreed  
107 and said that maintenance responsibility is an issue Chatham County.

108 Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi asked if the policy and implementation will be consistent  
109 statewide or if it will differ amongst the four IMD regions. Ryan Brumfield said it will be  
110 consistent statewide. Tom Altieri commented on the maintenance concerns and acknowledged  
111 the challenge of implementing complete streets in rural county areas. Tom Altieri urged  
112 consideration of the tendency for municipalities to grow along utility lines, meaning there may be  
113 opportunities to increase connectivity by including complete streets elements in urban fringe  
114 areas. Tom Altieri stated that the maintenance issues present significant limitations. Jay Heikes  
115 echoed the county maintenance concern and suggested that existing transit routes be  
116 considered during the review of local plans. Ryan Brumfield said the second concern has been  
117 addressed and added into the document.

118 Cy Stober asked if county or state parks will be empowered to maintain complete streets  
119 on their property. Brandon Jones said complete streets only applies to NCDOT roadways, and  
120 state park properties should have their own policies. Cy Stober said state and county parks are  
121 popular destinations for bicyclists and pedestrians, and asked if there is any agreement  
122 between state parks to allow for maintenance by another department. Ryan Brumfield said that  
123 specific scenario has not yet been discussed, although each project would have a maintenance  
124 agreement defining who is responsible for maintenance. Ryan Brumfield said he will look into  
125 the relationship between complete streets and state parks. Josh Mayo asked how project

126 managers would decide from the preferred facility and the alternate facility. Ryan Brumfield said  
127 the starting point would always be the preferred facility based on the facility selection tool, and  
128 only in the event that the impacts from the preferred facility appear too great would the project  
129 manager consider an alternative.

130 Tina Moon asked the following questions: 1) how to address a scenario in which local  
131 plans/interests differ from the preferred facility determined by the preferred facility selection tool,  
132 2) how resurfacing projects may allow for more bike facilities, and 3) how the higher ratio of cost  
133 increases of adding complete streets elements to a smaller project as opposed to a larger  
134 project will be addressed. Ryan Brumfield provided the following answers: 1) if local desires  
135 differ from what the process recommends, the project managers should be coordinating on that  
136 issue and sharing any information or data that could lead the project manager to choose  
137 something other than the preferred facility, 2) resurfacing projects can be considered further  
138 with relation to bike facilities, and 3) the percentage impact of adding complete streets  
139 enhancements would vary greatly and there is some flexibility on a project by project basis.

140 Chair Ellen Beckmann said it is great having IMD staff attending this meeting and  
141 pointed out the other relevant agenda items for IMD, most notably the 2050 Metropolitan  
142 Transportation Plan (MTP) that de-emphasizes highway capacity projects to favor complete  
143 streets, bicycle and pedestrian projects, transit, and maintenance. Chair Ellen Beckmann said  
144 the MPO is aligning it's plans with the values of the Board, and the difficult task moving forward  
145 is aligning funding within Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) laws. Chair Ellen  
146 Beckmann recognized the financial constraints of implementing the MTP, and said the MPO is  
147 willing to give up highway capacity projects in exchange for more complete streets. There was a  
148 discussion of the US 70 Corridor Studies. Chair Ellen Beckmann said stakeholders need to  
149 figure out how to provide bicycle and pedestrian facilities along and across US 70, and the  
150 implementation of the complete streets policy is critical to the success of that project. Chair

151 Ellen Beckmann said many TC members would likely be willing to participate in the complete  
 152 streets workgroups.

153 This item was for informational purposes; no further action was required by the TC.

154 **6. 2050 MTP and Air Quality Conformity Determination Report**  
 155 **Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

156 Andy Henry introduced the two actions for this agenda item and said the public  
 157 comment period of the 2050 MTP full report will end on February 1, 2022. Andy Henry said the  
 158 full report is available on the MPO website that includes the project list, financial plan,  
 159 background information, and how the plan meets standards such as Environmental Justice (EJ).  
 160 Andy Henry said work on the appendices is almost complete and interactive maps and more  
 161 data are available on the website. Andy Henry said the recommended action is to recommend  
 162 the Board adopt the 2050 MTP, Socioeconomic Data, and the Triangle Regional Model (TRM)  
 163 by resolution. Andy Henry discussed comments received from Julie Bogle and how those have  
 164 been addressed. Chair Ellen Beckmann acknowledged all of the hard work that has gone into  
 165 this report, and Andy Henry recognized Triangle J Council of Government (TJCOG) staff and  
 166 the MPO modeling staff for their efforts.

167 Tom Devlin made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board adopt the 2050 MTP by  
 168 resolution. Travis Crayton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

169 Andy Henry said the Air Quality Conformity Determination Report (AQ CDR) is a joint  
 170 report with three MPOs, and it demonstrates the emissions expected from the 2050 MTP will be  
 171 below a certain threshold. Andy Henry discussed the performance measures that will be  
 172 available soon with further air quality analysis.

173 Scott Whiteman made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board adopt the AQ CDR  
 174 by resolution. Tom Devlin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

175 **7. FY23 Call for Projects – Recommended Projects for Funding**  
 176 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

177 Aaron Cain gave an overview of the call for projects and pointed out the attached memo  
178 for further explanation. Aaron Cain said the Regional Flexible Funding (RFF) source can fund  
179 three new projects in full and the other un-programmed funds can be used for two existing  
180 projects. Aaron Cain said the Board needs to take action at the March Board meeting because  
181 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) applications are due by March 30, 2022. Evian  
182 Patterson, on behalf of the City of Durham, expressed concerns over the final scoring of the  
183 projects and said they felt misled in assigning local priority points from the initial scores without  
184 knowing the final scores could change. Evian Patterson asked if there was a way to revisit the  
185 distribution of points and provide more information on a priority. Aaron Cain said it was  
186 communicated to the City of Durham that preliminary scores were subject to change, and was  
187 assured by the City of Durham that the Horton Road project was the top priority and most in  
188 need of funding. Aaron Cain said to have a jurisdiction to change priority points to alter the  
189 funding outcomes is not appropriate, and the next call for projects will require the assignment of  
190 local points as a part of the application to avoid this issue in the future. Evian Patterson said he  
191 looks forward to the process being more transparent next year, but wants to go on record  
192 stating he still feels this process was not transparent.

193 There was a discussion on what information was provided to other jurisdictions. Chair  
194 Ellen Beckmann said this rubric seems to be a better scoring process than what has been used  
195 in the past, but understands Evian Patterson's point that with so many deserving projects, the  
196 local priority points can be the deciding factor in what gets funded. There was a discussion on  
197 changes in Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) distribution. Aaron Cain said the next  
198 annual call for projects will provide more funding opportunities. Evian Patterson said the Horton  
199 Road project funding request was expanded over three years due to the 40% cap, and is glad to  
200 hear there will be more funding opportunities next year. Bill Judge added that because of the  
201 40% cap, the City of Durham had to request more funding than will be immediately needed for  
202 the first and second year to accrue enough money over three years for construction. Aaron Cain

203 said he understands that strategy and is open to new ways of doing things in the future without  
204 making the process significantly more complicated.

205 Bergen Watterson made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board release the  
206 proposed projects to be funded through the FY23 Call for Projects for a 21-day public comment  
207 period. Margaret Hauth seconded the motion. The motion passed, with Tom Devlin dissenting.

208 **8. Orange County US 70 Multi-modal Corridor Study**  
209 **Nishith Trivedi, Orange County**

210 Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi introduced the US 70 Corridor Study boundary and scope that  
211 aims to develop a vision and implementation strategy for US 70. Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi  
212 reviewed the schedule and timeline for the project with the budget of \$200,000. Chair Ellen  
213 Beckmann added that this study will be used to inform what will eventually be put into the MTP  
214 and the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). Cy Stober noted that the study area goes  
215 beyond the DCHC MPO boundary, and asked if the Burlington-Graham MPO (BGMPO) is  
216 involved. Nishith Trivedi confirmed there is coordination with BGMPO on meetings and public  
217 outreach. Cy Stober asked if this entire region of study is within the TJCOG Travel Demand  
218 Model (TDM). Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi said yes. Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if BGMPO will  
219 contribute financially to the study, and Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi said no. Cy Stober asked when  
220 the new TRM results will be available for the new boundaries, and Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi  
221 said he will follow up with Yanping Zhang about that. Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi said \$200,000 of  
222 Surface Transportation Block Grant Direct Attributable (STBGDA) was programmed over two  
223 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) years. Chair Ellen Beckmann suggested reaching out  
224 to BGMPO for assistance if that budget cannot be met. Wannetta Mallette said BGMPO offered  
225 to assist but were told the study was fully funded.

226 This item was for informational purposes; no further action was required by the TC.

227 **9. Durham County US 70 Corridor Study**  
228 **Jacob Ford, LPA Staff**



229 Jake Ford introduced the Durham County US 70 Corridor Study that focuses on access  
230 and connectivity in relation to the conversion of the corridor into a limited access freeway. Jake  
231 Ford said the scope of the study has shifted to reflect the priorities of the 2050 MTP and the  
232 direction of the Board to consider what a conversion to a boulevard would entail. Jake Ford said  
233 close coordination is occurring with NCDOT on the scope changes. Jake Ford described the  
234 timeline for the study. Evian Patterson said on he would like to see demographic data of those  
235 who live along US 70 to ensure equitable engagement is occurring. Evian Patterson expressed  
236 concerns that this project will impact many residents and businesses along the corridor. Evian  
237 Patterson said he is very interested in connectivity and said the community should be informed  
238 up front. Evian Patterson recommended including a slide on public engagement in the  
239 presentation to the Board. Chair Ellen Beckmann agreed with Evian Patterson and said Aidil  
240 Ortiz is on the consultant team to focus on equitable engagement.

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

242 **10. FY2024-2033 STIP Update**  
243 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

244 Aaron Cain gave update on the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)  
245 development. Aaron Cain outlined statistics on funding information that demonstrate how over  
246 budget the STIP is, resulting in the need to cut projects. Aaron Cain stated there is still  
247 uncertainty over how much funding the recently passed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act  
248 (IIJA) will provide. Aaron Cain reviewed the status of three main decisions for developing the  
249 2024-2033 STIP and outlined the development process. Aaron Cain described the flexibility  
250 option to swap projects in the STIP. Matt Day provided more information on the normalization  
251 process at various tiers. Aaron Cain reviewed the rest of the schedule culminating in the MPO  
252 adopting the STIP in September 2023. Matt Day added that prior to the traditional draft STIP  
253 release there will be a preliminary STIP release and NCDOT will meet with MPOs, Rural  
254 Planning Organizations (RPOs), and NCDOT division staff to discuss the flexibility option.

255 Chair Ellen Beckmann said it would be helpful to have a list of projects in each  
 256 Prioritization category (P3, P4, and P5). Aaron Cain said that list can be compiled when the  
 257 preliminary STIP is available. There was a discussion on what projects are eligible for swapping,  
 258 and Matt Day said he believes the only projects eligible to be swapped in are those in the  
 259 current STIP. Tina Moon asked if it would be possible that a project be pushed further out until  
 260 full funding can be allocated to avoid losing the project entirely. Aaron Cain said it seems as  
 261 though the MPO has input after the preliminary release of the STIP and at that time discussions  
 262 with NCDOT can occur regarding delivery schedules. Aaron Cain said he anticipates there  
 263 being no problem with pushing a project timeline out as that would help alleviate the immediate  
 264 financial crisis and free up funding for another project. There was a discussion on how to ensure  
 265 the MTP and STIP align. Chair Ellen Beckmann said she appreciates Matt Day coming to this  
 266 meeting and hopes they can coordinate his attendance to future meetings with this agenda item.

267 This item was for informational purposes; no further action was required by the TC.

268 **11. DCHC MPO Technical Committee Officer Election**  
 269 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

270 Aaron Cain said a nomination for Ellen Beckmann for Chair and Nishith Trivedi for Vice  
 271 Chair has been received. Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi said he hopes other jurisdictions will step up  
 272 as well. Chair Ellen Beckmann agreed, and both officers said they are willing to continue serving  
 273 for the next year.

274 Margaret Hauth made a motion to elect Ellen Beckmann for Chair and Nishith Trivedi for  
 275 Vice Chair. Scott Whiteman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

276 **REPORTS FROM STAFF:**

277 **12. Report from Staff**

278 There was no additional report.

279 **13. Report from the Chair**  
 280 **Ellen Beckmann, TC Chair**

281 Chair Ellen Beckmann had no report.

282 **14. NCDOT Reports**  
 283 **Brandon Jones (David Keilson), Division 5 – NCDOT**

284 David Keilson mentioned an upcoming route re-numbering and changing exit numbers  
 285 in conjunction with the opening of the East End Connector. David Keilson referenced the  
 286 pedestrian incident on Rose of Sharon Road and said coordination is underway with NCDOT  
 287 and City of Durham staff.

288 **Wright Archer (Pat Wilson, Stephen Robinson), Division 7 – NCDOT**

289 Tamara Njegovan mentioned there are no project updates and said Division 7 is aware  
 290 of the pedestrian incident along Estes Drive in Chapel Hill, and the Division and Town of Chapel  
 291 Hill staff are working together to determine what measures are needed. Dale McKeel asked if  
 292 there is any interaction between the flashing yellow left turn arrow and the pedestrian signal.  
 293 Bergen Watterson said they occur at the same time, which is why the pedestrian got hit, and the  
 294 Town of Chapel Hill has asked NCDOT to further investigate on a town-wide level.

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 additional report.

301 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

302 John Hodges-Copple mentioned the job announcement for the new MPO director should  
 303 be posted by February 1, 2022. Dale McKeel said information regarding a bicycle and  
 304 pedestrian subcommittee meeting will be distributed in the near future and all TC members are  
 305 welcome to attend. Aaron Cain reminded anyone interested that the TC new member  
 306 orientation will be held right after this meeting.

307

**Adjourn**

308

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Ellen Beckmann

309

at 11:21 a.m.