

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

**9 June 2021**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on June 9, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. remotely via Zoom. The following people were in attendance:

Wendy Jacobs (Chair)	Durham County
Jamezetta Bedford (Member)	Orange County
Pierce Freelon (Member)	City of Durham
Pam Hemminger (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Karen Howard (Member)	Chatham County
Michael Parker (Member)	GoTriangle
Charlie Reece (Member)	City of Durham
Damon Seils (Member)	Town of Carrboro
Mark Bell (Alternate)	Town of Hillsborough
Javiera Caballero (Alternate)	City of Durham
Sally Greene (Alternate)	Orange County
Brenda Howerton (Alternate)	Durham County
Lydia Lavelle (Alternate)	Town of Carrboro
Amy Ryan (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
Nimasheena Burns (Alternate)	Durham County
Ellen Beckmann	Durham County
Nishith Trivedi	Orange County
Zach Hallock	Town of Carrboro
Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
Bergen Watterson	Town of Chapel Hill
Josh Mayo	Town of Chapel Hill
Matt Cecil	Chapel Hill Transit/Planning
Sean Egan	City of Durham
Bill Judge	City of Durham
Evan Tenenbaum	City of Durham
Brian Taylor	City of Durham
Evian Patterson	City of Durham
Cha'ssem	The University of North Carolina
Jay Heikes	GoTriangle
Meg Scully	GoTriangle
Joe Geigle	Federal Highway Administration
Rachel Stair	Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority
Iona Thomas	McAdams
Erich Melville	McAdams
Erik Landfried	Bike Durham
David Keilson	NCDOT Division 5

42	Richard Hancock	NCDOT Division 5
43	Patrick Wilson	NCDOT Division 7
44	Stephen Robinson	NCDOT Division 7
45	Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT Division 8
46	Julie Bogle	NCDOT TPD
47	John Grant	NCDOT TPD
48	Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
49	Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
50	Anne Phillips	DCHC MPO
51	Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
52	Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO
53	Yanping Zhang	DCHC MPO
54	Casey Chae	DCHC MPO
55	Kayla Mathews	DCHC MPO
56	Dave Connelly	Resident
57	Heidi Perov	Resident
58	Wannetta Mallette	Burlington-Graham MPO

59 Quorum Count: 9 of 10 Voting Members

60 **1. Roll Call**

61 Chair Wendy Jacobs called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The Voting Members and  
 62 Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Board were identified through a roll call and are indicated  
 63 above. Damon Seils made a motion to excuse the absences of Vice Chair Jenn Weaver and Lisa Mathis.  
 64 Michael Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

65 **PRELIMINARIES:**

66 **2. Ethics Reminder**

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

71 **3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

Aaron Cain pointed out the following two adjustments to the agenda: 1) item #7 (TIP Amendment #6) will be removed from the Consent Agenda and moved to become action item #15, and 2) item #7 on the Consent Agenda will be replaced with a letter of support for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application from the City of Durham.

#### **4. Public Comments**

Erik Landfried, manager of the Transit Equity Campaign led by Bike Durham and four other organizations, shared the video “Challenges to Equitable Transit – A Durham Documentary,” which was made by local videographers. Erik Landfried said the main goal of the Transit Equity Campaign is to hold the public agencies in charge of updating local transit plans accountable to ensure the needs of transit riders, transit workers, and low-wealth and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) communities are the first priority in the transit plans. Erik Landfried said the most commonly received public comments expressed the need for more frequent, reliable, and direct bus service, safer walks to bus stops, accessible and comfortable bus stops, and expanded paratransit services.

#### **5. Directives to Staff**

Chair Wendy Jacobs said there were no new directives to staff.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

#### **6. May 12, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes**

#### **7. Letter of Support for Beltline RAISE Grant Application**

Dale McKeel, LPA Staff

#### **8. Transit Safety Targets**

Andy Henry, LPA Staff

#### **9. SPOT 6.0 Draft Local Input Points Methodology**

Anne Phillips, LPA Staff

#### **10. 2021 CRRSAA Section 5310 Project Selection**

Felix Nwoko, LPA Manager

#### **11. FFY21 American Rescue Plan Split Letter**

Felix Nwoko, LPA Manager

Pam Hemminger made a motion to approve the revised Consent Agenda. Michael Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **12. MPO Board Governance Committee** **Damon Seils, Town of Carrboro**

Damon Seils shared an update on the progress of the Governance Committee and the consultant firm Stantec. Damon Seils said stakeholder interviews have been conducted and the consultants reported that they received many consistent messages from the various groups that were interviewed. Damon Seils said Stantec will now begin to analyze DCHC MPO performances and practices to develop some recommendations.

This item was for informational purposes; no further action was required by the MPO Board.

#### **13. Triangle Bikeway Study Update** **Dale McKeel, LPA Staff**

Dale McKeel introduced Iona Thomas with McAdams consulting firm to provide the update on the Triangle Bikeway Study. Iona Thomas shared the vision for the 18-mile corridor as a commuter facility connecting job centers in the region. Iona Thomas shared an overview of the feedback from the public engagement efforts that have been received through online surveys and focus groups. Iona Thomas highlighted the importance of collaboration with NCDOT on project U-5774 (NC 54 Improvements), of which certain segments will be upgraded with multiuse paths as part of a complete streets project. Iona Thomas shared a map of alternatives, the recommended alignment, and plans for upcoming public input. The next steps for the study include continued coordination with NCDOT, public meetings, and updated website launch, and Triangle Working Group (TWG) meetings.

Chair Wendy Jacobs said she appreciates the coordination with NCDOT and asked if there is an estimate of when the Triangle Bikeway could be built. Iona Thomas responded that as of now, this project is in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) but not in the State Transportation

Improvement Program (STIP), and it may be several years until there is an opportunity to program this project into the STIP. Additionally, some form of a regional structure would be necessary to take ownership of project implementation as the study winds down. Iona Thomas mentioned that next steps for project implementation is on the TWG meeting agenda for June 17<sup>th</sup> to address the question of “what will be the force to keep the project moving once a funded study has been completed?”. Chair Wendy Jacobs said the Triangle Bikeway project would meet many of the MPO’s goals, including connecting people to jobs and environmental sustainability. Iona Thomas said that there will need to be regional coordination and leadership to move the project forward, and noted that Wake County is trying to get funding together to complete the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents for their side of the project, which would better position them for competitive federal funding opportunities.

Aaron Cain said MPO staff will strategically investigate grant opportunities and other funding opportunities and provide an update at the August MPO Board Meeting. Charlie Reece said he appreciates how the current vision for the Triangle Bikeway utilizes connections to NC 54, especially in the South Durham portion, that would increase accessibility for those who live and work in South Durham. Iona Thomas said that working with and around the existing NC 54 has been tricky but there are efforts to adopt plans with the Triangle Bikeway so that NCDOT has to interact with the proposed alignment during their development of U-5774.

This item was for informational purposes; no further action was required by the MPO Board.

#### **14. 2050 MTP – Alternative Analysis**

**Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

Andy Henry said that much coordination has occurred amongst transit systems, Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG), DCHC MPO and the Capital Area MPO (CAMPO), and local jurisdictions to put the alternatives analysis (scenario) data together. Andy Henry said the purpose of the alternatives analysis is to spark discussion on different land use and transportation possibilities that will help formulate the preferred option. The scenario framework produces four different scenarios, each at the

nexus of a particular development foundation (land use) and a particular mobility investment foundation. Andy Henry explained each foundation and each of the three scenarios that will be investigated with Triangle Regional Model (TRM) data. Andy Henry mentioned the TRM performance measures will be useful to compare the different scenarios, in addition to congestion maps, travel isochrones, and travel time matrices that will provide a more thorough analysis. Andy Henry said the format of upcoming public engagement efforts are yet to be determined, but will target efforts to solicit feedback from communities of concern.

Michael Parker recalled that during the 2045 MTP development process, changing land use regulations had a greater impact on congestion and Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) than investments in transit. Despite these trends, Michael Parker said he did not see any changes in land use regulations amongst the scenarios, which triggers a broader conversation about the MPO's involvement in the development of land use policies. Andy Henry said the opportunity places development foundation assumes changes in land use to emphasize key hubs, high capacity transit and Transit Oriented Developments (TODs). Michael Parker asked if land use assumptions vary across the alternatives such that the TRM data would show the impact of land use variations on the performance measures. Andy Henry responded that the community plans development foundation assumes land use continues as it exists now, while the opportunity places development foundation assumes different land use, so the two scenarios can be compared.

There was a discussion on the impact of investments during different decades included in the 2050 MTP. Michael Parker suggested breaking out the TRM performance measures by decade to see which investments have the greatest impact. Andy Henry mentioned that the next 10 years of fiscally feasible projects are already programmed into the STIP, and when the preferred scenario is developed, projects will be broken out by decade.

Chair Wendy Jacobs asked how the highly technical information included in this presentation will be conveyed to the public and what methods will be used to help the public understand the content so they can provide informed input. Andy Henry said each scenario will have a one-page description and there will be tables and graphs that compare scenarios. Chair Wendy Jacobs pointed out the value of the complete communities mobility investment foundation that has an aspirational vision for the community achieved by investing in everything except more roads.

Damon Seils made a motion to authorize MPO staff to release the Alternatives Analysis for public comment when the modeling and documentation are complete. Pam Hemminger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **15. Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #6**

**Anne Phillips, LPA Staff**

Anne Phillips pointed out one change to TIP Amendment #6 related to the results of the FY21-22 Call for Projects, more specifically the Surface Transportation Block Grant – Direct Attributable (STBGDA) local discretionary funding awarded proportionally to jurisdictions. The Town of Chapel Hill has asked to reallocate some of their STBGDA funding from the West Franklin Street Bus Islands to the Estes Drive bicycle/pedestrian project. Anne Phillips explained that this change will allow the Estes Drive project to move into construction this summer.

Michael Parker made a motion to approve the updated TIP Amendment #6. Pam Hemminger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **REPORTS:**

#### **16. Report from the MPO Board Chair**

**Wendy Jacobs, Board Chair**

Chair Wendy Jacobs noted that the joint MPO board meeting with CAMPO is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 29, 2021 at 9:00 am. Chair Wendy Jacobs mentioned the

concerning article regarding increased speeding and pedestrian fatalities that was included in the recent news articles and updates informational item.

There was a discussion about when the MPO Board and other local jurisdictions will be moving to in-person meetings. Charlie Reece will reach out to City Manager Wanda Page to find out information about the plan for reopening City Hall. Chair Wendy Jacobs said she will follow up with Aaron Cain and Vice Chair Jenn Weaver to create a survey to get input from MPO staff and MPO Board members. It was decided that the August MPO Board Meeting will be held virtually.

**17. Report from the Technical Committee Chair**  
**Ellen Beckmann, TC Chair**

Ellen Beckmann said the Durham and Orange Transit Plans are both proceeding and are scheduled for a public engagement period beginning in late June. Ellen Beckmann said the Durham and Orange County Transit Plan Governance Study is underway with consultant selection. Ellen Beckmann mentioned the Durham Staff Working Group met in June to discuss amendments to the FY22 Work Program and the SWG decided that amendments would be considered in the fall after the next round of public engagement and public input would be used to inform the consideration of amendment requests. Ellen Beckmann said that Durham City and County, as well as the Town of Chapel Hill, will be participating in a Vision Zero leadership institute in June.

**18. Report from LPA Staff**  
**Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

Dale McKeel provided a federal funding update to follow up on the presentation in May on the American Jobs Plan. Since then, talks between the White House and the Senate GOP have ended without an agreement, but some bipartisan proposals are still being worked on. Dale McKeel added that work is still being done on the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act reauthorization in various committees in the United States House of Representatives and the Senate.



Andy Henry said MPO staff is working with consultants for the 15-501 corridor study to define the final product. Andy Henry mentioned Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Amendment #3 will be brought before the MPO Board in August and project statements are still underway.

**19. NCDOT Reports**

**Lisa Mathis, NC Board of Transportation**

There was no additional report.

**Brandon Jones (David Keilson/Richard Hancock), Division 5 - NCDOT**

Richard Hancock said the Old Durham/Old Chapel Hill Road project is progressing well despite utility issues and final completion is anticipated in June 2022. Richard Hancock said the East End Connector project is running into issues with final railroad alignment on the US-70 end, and the Alston Avenue project is scheduled to reopen at Holloway Street at the end of June while the whole project is slated for completion in October 2022.

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

Pat Wilson said the Town of Chapel Hill made a request for lane changes and the addition of bike lanes along Culbreth Road that is scheduled for after the road is resurfaced in July. Amy Ryan thanked staff and NCDOT for their quick turnaround on this request. Sally Greene mentioned the Chapel Hill bikeways plan includes a paved connector that needs to be built in order to allow for greater connectivity.

**Patrick Norman (Bryan Kluchar, Jen Britt), Division 8 - NCDOT**

Bryan Kluchar had no additional report.

**Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Branch - NCDOT**

Julie Bogle had no additional report.

**John Grant, Traffic Operations - NCDOT**

John Grant had no additional report.

248 **Bryan Lopez, Integrated Mobility Division - NCDOT**

249 There was no additional report.

250 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

251 **20. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

252 There was no discussion on informational items.

253 **ADJOURNMENT:**

254 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at

255 10:45 a.m.