

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

August 26, 2020

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on August 26, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. via WebEx. The following people were in attendance:

Nish Trivedi (Chair)	Orange County
Ellen Beckman (Vice Chair)	City of Durham
Kumar Neppalli (Member)	Chapel Hill Engineering
Evan Tenenbaum (Member)	City of Durham Transportation
Kayla Seibel (Member)	City of Durham Planning
Margaret Hauth (Member)	Hillsborough Planning
Tina Moon (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Bergen Watterson (Member)	Chapel Hill Planning
Jomar Pastorelle (Member)	Chapel Hill Planning
Brooke Ganser (Member)	Durham County Planning
Scott Whiteman (Member)	Durham County Planning
Theo Letman (Member)	Orange Public Transportation
Tom Altieri (Member)	Orange County Planning
Chance Mullis (Member)	Chatham County Planning
John Hodges-Copple (Member)	Triangle J Council of Governments
Meg Scully (Member)	GoTriangle
Hank Graham (Member)	Research Triangle Foundation
Julie Bogle (Member)	NC TPD
John Grant (Member)	NC Traffic Operations
Joe Geigle (Member: Non-Voting)	FHWA
Matt Cecil (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
Bill Judge (Alternate)	City of Durham
Jay Heikes (Alternate)	GoTriangle
Richard Hancock (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 5
Stephen Robinson (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 7
Bryan Kluchar (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 8
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Anne Phillips	DCHC MPO
Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO
Joelle Davis Carter	DCHC MPO
Yanping Zhang	DCHC MPO
Sean Egan	City of Durham
Rachel Gaylord-Miles	WSP

46 Heidi Perry Resident
47 Lynn Purnell WSP
48

49 Quorum Count: 22 of 31 Voting Members
50

51 Chair Nish Trivedi called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call was performed. The Voting
52 Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Technical Committee (TC) were identified and
53 are indicated above. Aaron Cain welcomed Joelle Davis Carter to the DCHC MPO.

54 **PRELIMINARIES:**

55 **2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

56 Chair Nish Trivedi asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. Aaron Cain responded that
57 there would be an additional item to the agenda – STIP Reprogramming. There was discussion that it will
58 be Action Item 10A.

59 **3. Public Comments**

60 Chair Nish Trivedi asked if there were any comments from the public. There were no comments
61 from the public.

62 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

63 **4. Approval of July 22, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

64 Chair Nish Trivedi asked if there was any discussion on the July 22, 2020, Meeting Minutes. Aaron
65 Cain stated that the July 22, 2020, Meeting Minutes are not yet completed, and there will be two TC
66 Meeting Minutes to approve at the September 23, 2020, TC Meeting.

67 **ACTION ITEMS:**

68 **5. 2050 MTP -- Goals and Objectives**
69 **Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

70 Andy Henry stated that the action for the TC is to recommend approval of the 2050 Metropolitan
71 Transportation Plan (MTP) Goals and Objectives to the MPO Board. Andy Henry noted that, due to public
72 comment, the Goals and Objectives were modified to reflect the need for further emphasis on equity and

73 the environment. Andy Henry continued that Bike Durham requested that the Goals and Objectives be
 74 more resolute in addressing the issues of racial and economic justice, affordability, and environmental
 75 protections.

76 Andy Henry added that the first of two items that Bike Durham requested zero disparity of access.
 77 There was discussion about the attainability of this goal. There was discussion that the Goals and
 78 Objectives, as they currently exist, are consistent with the MPO jurisdictions’ policies. There was discussion
 79 about adding an item about travel times to track and better address disparities within Environmental
 80 Justice (EJ) communities.

81 Andy Henry stated that Bike Durham also requested adding zero deaths or serious injuries to the
 82 Goals and Objectives. Andy Henry and Chair Nish Trivedi discussed that the Federal Highway
 83 Administration (FHWA) has had difficulty forecasting numbers related to death and serious injuries. Felix
 84 Nwoko responded that there are tools in place to forecast the numbers, even though they will be difficult
 85 to track. Felix Nwoko added that the safety goals in the 2050 MTP should be related to previous goals
 86 approved by the MPO Board. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann, Felix Nwoko, and Andy Henry discussed that the
 87 North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has not reached their targets in recent years for
 88 lowering deaths and serious incidents. Meg Scully discussed the need to reduce deaths and serious injuries
 89 through education and not only through transportation infrastructure.

90 Andy Henry agreed to make changes by adding language to the two items that Bike Durham
 91 requested.

92 Kumar Neppalli made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board adopt the 2050 MTP Goals
 93 and Objectives as amended. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann seconded the motion. The motion passed
 94 unanimously.

95 **6. 2050 MTP Public Engagement Plan and Schedule**

96 **Andy Henry, LPA staff**

97 Andy Henry presented the 2050 MTP Public Engagement Plan and Schedule. Andy Henry
 98 continued that the MTP 2050 Goals and Objectives were released to the public in June 2020. Andy
 99 Henry added that he received a comment about how the plan does not address identifying the groups
 100 that are least engaged in the public engagement process, nor creating a plan to address outreach to
 101 those groups. Andy Henry noted that changes have not yet been made to the Public Engagement Plan
 102 and Schedule due to restrictions on in-person meeting due to COVID-19.

103 Kumar Neppalli made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board adopt the 2050 MTP Public
 104 Engagement Plan and schedule. Zach Hallock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

105 **7. US 15-501 Corridor Study**

106 **Andy Henry, LPA staff**

107 **Rachel Gaylord-Miles, WSP (consultant)**

108 Andy Henry stated that the US 15-501 Corridor Study began in 2018, and the steering committee
 109 has since guided the study. Andy Henry added that public input has included public workshops, pop-up
 110 events, and presentations to local boards.

111 Andy Henry stated that the results have identified demographics of the people using the 15-501
 112 corridor, including the travel profiles of users. Andy Henry added that the final study has the
 113 recommendations for each of the four sections of the 15-501 corridor and each of their cross sections.

114 Rachel Gaylord-Miles stated that the first of the four segments include the portion of 15-501
 115 corridor from Ephesus Church Road to I-40. Rachel Gaylord-Miles stated that 70% of the trips along this
 116 segment were through traffic, which means that users would go through this section and would generally
 117 not make stops. Rachel Gaylord-Miles continued that additional bike/ped connectivity would factor into
 118 the design. Rachel Gaylord-Miles stated that the cross section would include wide shared-use paths.
 119 Rachel Gaylord-Miles continued that the 15-501 corridor would have six lanes with bus lanes included.
 120 Rachel Gaylord-Miles added that the type of bus service had not yet been determined.

121 Rachel Gaylord-Miles stated that the second segment was from I-40 to the 15-501 bypass, which
122 had a similar traffic profile to the first segment where there was high through traffic, but also a slightly
123 higher rate of local traffic. Rachel Gaylord-Miles noted that cross streets are supposed to be grade
124 separated. Rachel Gaylord-Miles added that the designed cross section has a wide shoulder and six travel
125 lanes. Rachel Gaylord-Miles added that the designs called for bus lanes. Rachel Gaylord-Miles added that
126 the design calls for a side path buffered by landscaping.

127 Rachel Gaylord-Miles stated that the third segment is from 15-501 bypass to Chapel Hill Road.
128 Rachel Gaylord-Miles noted that the traffic volumes are lower after the bypass, therefore the goal is to add
129 roundabouts that lower speed and create a more urban environment. Rachel-Gaylord Miles added that
130 the cross-section design calls for a four-lane road with a landscaped median and a shared-use path.

131 Rachel Gaylord Miles stated that the fourth segment is from Chape Hill Road to University Drive,
132 which has lower traffic volumes and is highly residential. Rachel Gaylord-Miles added that this section
133 would include a road diet and encourage development closer to the roadway. Rachel Gaylord-Miles stated
134 that the cross sections are designed for sidewalks and buffered bike lanes. Rachel Gaylord-Miles noted
135 that this area would also be influenced by walkable stores and businesses.

136 Rachel Gaylord-Miles stated that the 15-501 Study can be separated into short-, mid-, and long-
137 term planning. Rachel Gaylord-Miles added that this project would be influenced by ongoing discussions
138 involving the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP), and different governing entities might be
139 responsible for different aspects of construction and other improvements. Andy Henry stated that the next
140 step would be for the MPO Board to release the 15-501 Corridor Study for public comment until October
141 15, and the MPO Board would vote on approval on November 11. Andy Henry added that he will use the
142 DCHC MPO contact list to send this report to stakeholders for public comment.

143 Jomar Pastorelle made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board release the study for a public
144 comment. Hank Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

145 **8. Designation of I-885**

146 **John Grant, NCDOT**

147 John Grant stated that NCDOT is requesting a resolution of support from DCHC MPO regarding the
148 addition of I-885 in Durham County, which would be a continuous highway from I-85 to I-40. John Grant
149 added that this highway would be designated as I-885 upon completion of the East End Connector in
150 Durham. John Grant continued that this designation would rename the portion of what is currently NC 147
151 from the East End Connector to I-40 as I-885. John Grant noted that NC 147 south of I-40 would be re-
152 designated as NC 885, and NC 147 would remain from the new I-885 through downtown Durham to I-85.

153 John Hodges-Copple, Aaron Cain, and Richard Hancock discussed how the designation of I-885
154 would influence future projects, specifically plans to add bus lanes or other infrastructure. There was
155 discussion about future plans to add managed lanes within DCHC boundaries. There was discussion about
156 needing to verify aspects of lane widening along NC 147 within the MTP. Sean Egan requested a resolution
157 for transit to be a priority for future expansion. Bill Judge and John Grant discussed that signage along NC
158 147 will remain mostly intact.

159 Jay Heikes made a motion to recommend approval of the resolution supporting the designation of
160 I-885 in Durham County as amended. Evan Tenenbaum seconded the motion. The motion passed
161 unanimously.

162 **9. Air Quality Memorandum of Agreement**

163 **Andy Henry, LPA**

164 Andy Henry stated that the Air Quality Conformity Determination must be performed when major
165 changes are made to the MTP or the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), in order to demonstrate
166 that future emissions will be below a certain threshold. Andy Henry continued that this draft Air Quality
167 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is an update to the current MOA, which was adopted in February
168 2014. Andy Henry noted that most of the proposed changes are minor, such as updating the name of an

169 agency and describing technological improvements to procedures. Andy Henry noted that the Triangle
170 region will remain under a maintenance plan through December 26, 2027.

171 John Hodges-Copple made a motion to recommend that the Board direct the Board Chair to sign
172 the MOA. Jomar Pastorelle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

173 **10. Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) Grant - FFY19 and FFY20**
174 **Program of Projects**
175 **Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

176 Felix Nwoko stated that the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program
177 provides funds to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to
178 transportation service and expanding transportation mobility options. Felix Nwoko added that DCHC MPO
179 is the Designated Recipient of the funds for the Durham urbanized area (UZA) and distributes the funds to
180 eligible sub-recipients through a competitive selection process every other year. Felix added that the Call
181 for Projects was conducted for \$529,150 in federal funds. Felix noted that the DCHC MPO is allowed to use
182 10% of the funding for administration but proposes to use only 6.1%. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann and Felix
183 Nwoko discussed that most requests for funding were approved at the full funding request by the MPO.

184 Julie Bogle made a motion to recommend the MPO Board approve the proposed Program of
185 Projects. Margaret Hauth seconded the motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

186 **10A. STIP Reprogramming**
187 **Anne Phillips, LPA Staff**

188 Anne Phillips stated that there has been some reprogramming of the STIP projects by NCDOT due
189 to COVID-19, HB 77, and other project cost increases. Anne Phillips added that the STIP modifications
190 extend it until 2032. Anne Phillips presented a list of 34 projects that have been modified by NCDOT. Anne
191 Phillips added that the Board of Transportation is poised to adopt this updated list by October 2020. Aaron
192 Cain added that certain projects can be swapped as long as certain criteria applies, such as projects must
193 be within the same division and tier. Aaron Cain added that it is unclear if the project must have the same
194 funding source in order to be swapped.

195 Tina Moon requested to speak to MPO staff following the meeting regarding two projects in
 196 Chapel Hill and Carrboro. Chair Nish Trivedi stated that he was in discussions with the project manager
 197 about operational improvements on NC 54 and will forward answers to Tina Moon following a response
 198 from the project manager.

199 Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann noted that the Woodcraft Parkway Extension project will be highly
 200 impacted by the STIP reprogramming. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that this project is currently in
 201 design by the City of Durham Transportation Department and the City has committed to providing a 20
 202 percent funding match. Aaron Cain responded that he will follow-up with more information regarding a
 203 potential swap of projects. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann and Aaron Cain discussed how projects delayed by
 204 the STIP reprogramming would be impacted from Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement
 205 Program (CMAQ) and Transportation Alternatives Program-Directly Attributable (TAPDA) funding.

206 Aaron Cain noted several conversations he is scheduled to have with NCDOT personnel in order to
 207 clarify issues related to delays caused by the STIP reprogramming. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann requested
 208 that Aaron ask NCDOT staff about projects that have National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents
 209 update requirements. There was discussion about NCDOT staff answering questions and resolving issues
 210 before this item is brought to the MPO Board for review.

211 **REPORTS:**

212 **11. Reports from the LPA Staff**

213 **Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

214 Felix Nwoko stated that there is no additional report. Aaron Cain added that the agenda for the
 215 next MPO Board Meeting will contain many Action Items.

216 **12. Report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair**

217 **Nish Trivedi, DCHC MPO TC Chair**

218 Chair Nish Trivedi stated that there is no additional report.

219 **13. NCDOT Reports**

220 Richard Hancock, NCDOT Division 5, stated that there was no additional report. Vice Chair Ellen
221 Beckmann and Richard Hancock discussed that the East End Connector project would likely be completed
222 in Spring 2021.

223 Stephen Robinson, NCDOT Division 7, stated that there was no additional report.

224 Bryan Kluchar, NCDOT Division 8, stated that there were two projects within Division 8 that would
225 be impacted by the STIP Reprogramming.

226 **14. NCDOT**
227 **Julie Bogle, NC Transportation Planning Division**

228 Julie Bogle stated that there was no additional report.

229 **15. John Grant**
230 **John Grant, NC Traffic Operations**

231 John Grant stated that there was no additional report.

232 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

233 **16. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

234 There was no discussion about recent news, articles, and updates.

235 **ADJOURNMENT:**

236 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Technical Committee, the meeting was
237 adjourned at 10:55 a.m.