

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

2 **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

3 **January 6, 2021**

4 **MINUTES OF MEETING**

5 The Durham-Chapel Hill Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met  
6 on January 6, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. through a teleconferencing platform. The following  
7 members were in attendance:

- 8 Nishith Trivedi (Chair) Orange County
- 9 Ellen Beckmann (Vice Chair) Durham County
- 10 Kayla Seibel (Member) City of Durham
- 11 Tasha Johnson (Member) City of Durham
- 12 Evan Tenenbaum (Member) City of Durham
- 13 Pierre Osei-Owusu (Member) City of Durham Transportation/Go Durham
- 14 Brooke Ganser (Member) Durham County
- 15 Scott Whiteman (Member) Durham County
- 16 Chance Mullis (Member) Chatham County
- 17 Tina Moon (Member) Town of Carrboro
- 18 Bergen Watterson (Member) Town of Chapel Hill
- 19 Jomar Pastorelle (Member) Town of Chapel Hill
- 20 Zach Hallock (Member) Town of Carrboro
- 21 Kumar Neppalli (Member) Town of Chapel Hill
- 22 Margaret Hauth (Member) Town of Hillsborough
- 23 John Hodges-Copple (Member) TJCOG
- 24 Jay Heikes (Member) GoTriangle
- 25 Hank Graham (Member) Research Triangle Foundation
- 26 Julie Bogle (Member) NCDOT TPD
- 27 Michael Page (Member) North Carolina Central University
- 28 Kurt Stolka (Member) The University of North Carolina
- 29 Theo Letman (Member) Orange Public Transportation
- 30 Tom Altieri (Member) Orange County Planning
  
- 31 Bill Judge (Alternate) City of Durham
- 32 Richard Hancock (Alternate) NCDOT Division 5
- 33 David Kielson (Alternate) NCDOT Division 5
- 34 Steven Robinson (Alternate) NCDOT Division 7
- 35 Bryan Kluchar (Alternate) NCDOT Division 8
- 36 Matt Cecil (Alternate) Chapel Hill Transit/Planning
- 37 Meg Scully (Alternate) GoTriangle

38 Sean Egan City of Durham  
39 Tamara Njegovan NCDOT Division 7  
40 Joe Geigle Federal Highway Administration

41 Felix Nwoko DCHC MPO  
42 Brian Rhodes DCHC MPO  
43 Aaron Cain DCHC MPO  
44 Andy Henry DCHC MPO  
45 Dale McKeel City of Durham/DCHC MPO  
46 Anne Phillips DCHC MPO  
47 Yanping Zhang, DCHC MPO

48 Quorum Count: 27 of 31 voting members

49 Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

50 **PRELIMINARIES:**

51 **Roll Call**

52 Aaron Cain said the roll call could be completed using the zoom participant list.

53 **Adjustments to the Agenda**

54 There were no adjustments to the agenda.

55 **Public Comments**

56 There were no public comments.

57 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

58 **4. Approval of the November 18, 2020 TC Meeting Minutes**

59 Kumar Neppalli made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Margaret Hauth  
60 seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

61 **ACTION ITEMS:**

62 **5. US 15-501 Corridor Study**

63 **Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

64 Andy Henry said that in November 2021 the MPO Board directed staff to propose a  
65 process to finish the 15-501 Corridor Study. The MPO plans to hire a consultant to deal directly  
66 with stakeholder groups, one group for the Chapel Hill segment and one for the quadrant area

67 around I-40. Andy Henry said there will likely be two different facilitated meetings – the first to  
68 discuss the deficiencies of the current study and the second to discuss proposed solutions. After  
69 the consultant identifies solutions, there will be another public comment period. Overall, the  
70 consultant will provide technical and design support and MPO staff will organize stakeholder  
71 groups and assist with logistics.

72 Bergen Watterson raised a concern about opening up the stakeholder groups to the  
73 public as they may bring up many issues that would complicate the process. Andy Henry  
74 responded that he is open to ideas on how to limit participants in stakeholder groups. Vice Chair  
75 Ellen Beckmann asked how the 15-501 Corridor Study corresponds with county transit plan  
76 processes. Aaron Cain said the timing of the preferred scenario for the county transit plans  
77 should coincide with the 15-501 Corridor Study process.

78 Andy Henry reiterated that the MPO will be paying for a new consultant who can bring a  
79 fresh perspective to the project and work more directly with stakeholder groups. As of now, the  
80 cost of the study is unknown, but is limited. Zach Hallock mentioned that it would be beneficial  
81 to be more explicit about issues regarding interest in multimodal transportation and access to  
82 adjacent land. Andy Henry will make a few changes to include coordination with county transit  
83 plans and define the issues more clearly.

84 This item was for discussion purposes; no further action was required by the TC.

## 85 **6. 2050 MTP – Performance Measures**

### 86 **Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

87 Andy Henry presented a few of the performance measures and asked for feedback  
88 before taking this item to the MPO Board. MPO staff tried to develop at least one performance  
89 measure for each objective. Equity measures will be included when geographical data becomes  
90 available. Jay Heikes asked about the decision to measure different time increments for auto  
91 (20 minutes) and transit trips (40 minutes) in performance measures 3.a.a. and 3.b.b. Andy

92 Henry responded that transit trips tend to be longer than auto trips so a higher number was  
93 used for transit than auto trips. Jay Heikes suggested that, if possible, both windows of time  
94 could be used for each performance measure that would provide useful information about the  
95 relative differences. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if the data would be subdivided into a  
96 work value and a non-work value. Andy Henry confirmed this.

97 Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if the Environmental Justice (EJ) report will be  
98 completed in time to inform the MTP project selection. Aaron Cain said we could use the  
99 existing EJ report to inform the MTP process. Subsequently, the 2050 MTP EJ report that will be  
100 developed later on will assess what has been included in the MTP through an EJ lens.

101 Andy Henry said if anyone has questions or comments over the next few weeks, he  
102 would welcome their feedback. Andy Henry mentioned the limitations/challenges of data  
103 procurement, including fragmented data from different jurisdictions, lack of staff time and  
104 resources, and data inconsistencies. These factors have restricted the available options for  
105 sufficient data for performance measures.

106 Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann said the integration of these performance measures into  
107 other MPO activities is a great idea. The goals, objectives, and performance measures should  
108 be the guiding document for not just the MTP but all of the MPO processes that flow out of the  
109 MTP. Andy Henry agreed that there are broader applications for these goals and objectives.  
110 Brooke Ganser said it may be helpful to include more information on how community input has  
111 played a role in the development of goals, objectives, and performance measures.

112 There was a discussion on how geographic equity measures (low-income, minority, and  
113 zero-car households) will be explored whenever possible.

114           Andy Henry will compile a list of options for equity and performance measures for 2.b.  
 115 for review and input. Andy Henry will also distinguish new versus existing performance  
 116 measures on the attachment so Board members know what is changing.

117           This item was for discussion purposes; no further action was required by the TC.

118   **7. Joint DCHC-CAMPO MTP Scenario Framework**

119   **John Hodges-Copple, TJCOG**

120           John Hodges-Copple presented the 2050 MTP Steps and Scenarios slides and said he  
 121 is looking for guidance on the process for creating the scenarios and how TC members want to  
 122 be involved. Practically achievable scenarios are created to guide the decisions elected officials  
 123 will have to make.

124           Chair Nishith Trivedi asked if the DCHC MPO can create scenarios independently of the  
 125 Capital Area MPO (CAMPO). John Hodges-Copple said if a scenario is run through the  
 126 CommunityViz model or if it is a joint investment, then it will be intertwined with CAMPO. As of  
 127 now, the land use community plans are completed, and the existing + committed networks will  
 128 be completed soon. When new scenarios are created, new land use and investment inputs will  
 129 be added depending on the definitions of the scenarios.

130           Zach Hallock asked if/how travel behavior and technology factors into model  
 131 development. John Hodges-Copple said the Triangle Regional Model (TRM) does not have a  
 132 way to address these types of changes, and that should be kept in mind as a limitation of the  
 133 model. Much of the first decade (2020-2030) is already planned in the Transportation  
 134 Improvement Program (TIP). Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann said it is important to demonstrate how  
 135 public engagement processes reach out to REINVEST neighborhoods and be responsive to  
 136 their feedback.

137           This item was for discussion purposes; no action was required by the TC.

138 **8. Joint MPO Policy Priorities**  
 139 **John Hodges-Copple, TJCOG**

140 John Hodges-Copple mentioned the changes to the pre-existing policy priorities to ask  
 141 for comments before presenting this item to the MPO Board. The first change to a policy priority  
 142 is the Active Transportation Investments that has expanded the focus to other destinations  
 143 beyond schools. The second change is to the Demand Management and Technology policy.  
 144 The new policy priority, Invest for Success, encourages the state to create two funds. The first is  
 145 a funding source that can be a match for competitive federal funds and the second is an  
 146 economic development fund for mobility investments in key hubs. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann  
 147 brought up the idea for an incentive program for cities to take over state roads and upgrade  
 148 them to be complete streets. The state would likely be in favor of this because it would alleviate  
 149 the burden on them.

150 This item was for discussion purposes; no action was required by the TC.

151 **9. Authorize Durham City Manager on behalf of DCHC MPO to enter into agreement with**  
 152 **NCDOT for the Metropolitan Planning Program (Section 5303) Grant for FY21**  
 153 **Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

154 Felix Nwoko said this item is the yearly allocation from NCDOT, who received the  
 155 funding from the federal government. Because the City of Durham is a financial agent, the City  
 156 has to sign the contract.

157 A motion was made by Bergen Watterson to recommend the Board authorize the  
 158 Durham City Manager to enter into the 5303 agreement with NCDOT. Pierre Osei-Owusu  
 159 seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

160 **10. FY21 UPWP Amendment #1**  
 161 **Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

162 Felix Nwoko said this is a minor amendment to the Unified Planning Work Program  
 163 (UPWP) requesting the obligation of 5307 funds to GoDurham to address unfunded needs for  
 164 preventative maintenance, vehicle rehabilitation, and vehicle replacement.

165 Pierre Osei-Owusu made a motion to recommend the Board approve the FY 21 UPWP  
 166 Amendment #1. Jomar Pastorelle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

167 **11. TC Officer Nominations**

168 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

169 Aaron Cain said that per the bylaws, officer elections should take place annually, and  
 170 this year will take place at the January 27, 2021 meeting. Aaron Cain asked for nominations to  
 171 be sent to him by January 15, 2021. There have already been nominations for Ellen Beckmann  
 172 to become Chair and Nishith Trivedi to become Vice Chair.

173 **REPORTS FROM STAFF:**

174 **12. Report from Staff**

175 **Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

176 Aaron Cain shared a few updates. There will be a new part-time MPO employee joining  
 177 the January 27, 2021 meeting. Aaron Cain also asked jurisdictions to let him know if there are  
 178 any changes to MPO Board membership so that new members could be introduced at the next  
 179 Board meeting.

180 Aaron Cain stated that the transportation appropriations bill for 2021 has been passed  
 181 by Congress and signed into law that extends funding from the Fixing America's Surface  
 182 Transportation (FAST) Act to the end of this fiscal year. The funding amounts are similar to  
 183 FY20 levels. A COVID relief bill has been passed and additional funding will be announced  
 184 soon. NCDOT announced a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) call for projects in  
 185 January and is expecting a one-month turnaround time. The preference for funding will go to  
 186 existing projects that can be implemented soon to reduce the backlog of projects.

187 **13. Report from the Chair**

188 **Nishith Trivedi, TC Chair**

189 Nishith Trivedi had no additional report.

190 **14. NCDOT Reports**

191 **Joey Hopkins (David Keilson, Richard Hancock), Division 5 - NCDOT**

192 David Keilson gave an update on the Alston Avenue project and the Old Durham/Old  
193 Chapel Hill project.

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

195 Stephen Robinson said the work on Buckhorn Road, Bushy Cook Road, and West Ten  
196 Road has been completed ahead of schedule. Other projects have faced delays due to funding  
197 issues.

198 **Brandon Jones (Bryan Kluchar, Jen Britt), Division 8 - NCDOT**

199 Bryan Kluchar had no additional report.

200 **Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division - NCDOT**

201 Julie Bogle had no additional report.

202 **John Grant, Traffic Operations - NCDOT**

203 John Grant had no additional report.

204

205 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

206

207 **15. Draft FY22 Unified Planning Work Program**

208 **Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

209 Felix Nwoko said the Board asked for clarification on several aspects of the UPWP and  
210 those issues have been addressed. The UPWP will be brought back to the Board for request for  
211 release for public comment at the January 13, 2021 meeting.

212

**Adjourn**

213 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Nishith Trivedi at  
214 11:27a.m.

215 **Next Meeting: January 27, 9:00 a.m., Meeting to be held by teleconference**