

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

11 April 2018

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on April 11, 2018, 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:

Damon Seils (MPO Board Chair)	Town of Carrboro
Wendy Jacobs (MPO Board Vice Chair)	Durham County
Karen Howard (Member)	Chatham County
Charlie Reece (Member)	City of Durham
Ellen Reckhow (Member)	GoTriangle
Pam Hemminger (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Renee Price (Member)	Orange County
Heidi Carter (Alternate)	Durham County
Jenn Weaver (Alternate)	Town of Hillsborough
Michael Parker (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
David Keilson	NCDOT, Division 5
Richard Hancock	NCDOT, Division 5
Patrick Wilson	NCDOT, Division 7
Julie Bogle	NCDOT, TPD
Nishith Trivedi	Orange County
Bergen Watterson	Town of Chapel Hill
Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
Zach Hallock	Town of Carrboro
Kayla Seibel	Town of Chapel Hill
Geoff Green	GoTriangle
Terry Bellamy	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
Ellen Beckmann	City of Durham
Eddie Dancausse	Federal Highway Administration
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Mo Devlin	DCHC MPO

Quorum Count: 8 of 10 Voting Members

Chair Damon Seils called the meeting to order at 9:03AM. A roll call was performed. The Voting

Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Board were identified and are indicated

45 above. Chair Damon Seils reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheet that was being
46 circulated.

47 Pam Hemminger made a motion to grant excused absences to Vernetta Alston and Nina
48 Szlosbeg-Landis from the MPO Board Meeting. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs seconded the motion. The
49 motion passed unanimously.

50 Chair Damon Seils recognized former Mayor Bill Bell for his contributions to the DCHC MPO
51 Board. Chair Damon Seils announced a measure to honor William V. Bell for his service to the City of
52 Durham. Chair Damon Seils enumerated William V. Bell's accomplishments during his tenure with the
53 MPO Board.

54 Renee Price made a motion to approve the resolution honoring Mayor William V. Bell. Ellen
55 Reckhow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

56 **PRELIMINARIES:**

57 **2. Ethics Reminder**

58 Chair Damon Seils read the Ethics Reminder and asked if there were any known conflicts of
59 interest with respect to matters coming before the MPO Board and requested that if there were any
60 identified during the meeting for them to be announced. There were no known conflicts identified by
61 MPO Board members.

62 Chair Damon Seils reminded the MPO Board to turn in ethics forms to the Ethics Office by April
63 15. Ellen Reckhow stated that she was unsure if she has completed all required forms. Aaron Cain
64 answered that he will verify whether or not Ellen Reckhow's forms had been completed.

65 **3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

66 There were no adjustments to the agenda.

67 **4. Public Comments**

68 There were no public comments.

69 **5. Directives to Staff**

70 The Directives to Staff were included in the agenda packet for review.

71 **CONSENT AGENDA:**72 **6. Approval of February 14, 2018, Board Meeting Minutes**73 **7. Approval of the March 14, 2018, Board Meeting Minutes**74 **8. FY2018 Unified Planning Program (UPWP) Amendment #3**

75 Meg Scully, LPA Staff

76 Pam Hemminger made a motion to pass all three items on the Consent Agenda. Ellen Reckhow
77 seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.78 **ACTION ITEMS:**79 **9. SPOT 5.0 Update – Release of Quantitative Scores**80 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**81 Aaron Cain stated that the quantitative scores for Strategic Prioritization of Transportation
82 (SPOT) 5.0 were released. Aaron Cain added the Technical Committee (TC) has not yet met and reviewed
83 the scores. Aaron Cain continued that this presentation is an informational item in order to inform the
84 MPO Board about what projects are likely to be funded, what projects have been funded at the
85 statewide tier, and the status of certain regional projects. Aaron Cain added that North Carolina
86 Department of Transportation (NCDOT) already assigned the fiscal year (FY) for the projects that scored
87 highly, which are mostly highway projects. Aaron Cain reminded the MPO Board that all projects that
88 were committed in the first five years of the current State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)
89 are committed; therefore, the presented projects at this meeting are either projects that were rescored
90 because they were sibling projects to existing projects or they were in the last five years of the STIP.

91 Jenn Weaver and Aaron Cain discussed the status of the bridge on I-85/NC-86 in Hillsborough.

92 Aaron Cain stated that the highest scoring project in DCHC at the Statewide Tier is the I-40
93 Managed Motorways, which is an intelligent system for traffic signals to read traffic patterns and adjust

94 traffic patterns accordingly. Aaron Cain added that the managed motorways project is a funded
95 developmental project with Right-of-Way (ROW) scheduled for 2025. Ellen Reckhow and Aaron Cain
96 discussed the potential necessity of the ROW. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs and Aaron Cain discussed the
97 impact on local traffic congestion. Terry Bellamy and Aaron Cain discussed the reduced cost of
98 managed motorways compared to the cost of managed lanes.

99 Aaron Cain and Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs discussed the timeline of the grade separations of
100 Farrington Road and Falconbridge Road in order to ease congestion at the I-40/NC-54 Interchange. Pam
101 Hemminger and Aaron Cain discussed grade separation. Aaron Cain stated that NC-54 is currently
102 proposed to go underneath Farrington Road and Falconbridge Road. Aaron Cain stated that due to the
103 light rail project, Farrington Road would be rerouted along with various other construction projects.

104 Aaron Cain stated that the widening of I-85 in Orange County from Orange Grove Road to
105 Sparger Road is a new project that was not in the previous STIP, but is projected to be in the new STIP,
106 with ROW in 2025 and construction in 2027. Aaron Cain added that I-85 widening is scheduled for ROW
107 in 2027. Aaron Cain added that this would also improve ramps from East of Midland Terrace. Jenn
108 Weaver asked about reasoning for the widening of I-85. Renee Price asked about work planned for
109 Orange Grove Road.

110 Chair Damon Seils reiterated that neither he nor the TC has had an opportunity to have a
111 detailed review of the SPOT scores. Aaron Cain added that all present material discussed is subject to
112 change pending the Regional Projects review in May 2018 and Division Projects in Fall 2018. Aaron Cain
113 added that the MPO Board will receive a draft STIP by the end of 2018 that can still be discussed with
114 the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT).

115 Ellen Reckhow asked about allocations of road improvements for Durham County. Aaron Cain
116 responded that one tier of funding allocation does not impact the amount received from other tiers.

117 Aaron Cain stated that improvements in Durham County to US-15/501 are considered a
118 developmental project, and is scheduled for ROW in 2025 and construction in 2027. Aaron Cain added
119 that the description is to improve interchanges and intersections in southern Durham County, which
120 means improving the interchange with I-40 and the intersections at Mount Moriah and Southwest
121 Durham Drive. Aaron Cain and Ellen Reckhow discussed how this US-15/501 Project will interface with
122 other projects as well as the possibility for review and change. Aaron Cain added that issues including
123 non-vehicular traffic would be discussed in the US-15/501 Corridor Study.

124 Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs and Aaron Cain discussed the how the light rail project will impact
125 different ongoing projects, including US-54 and Farrington Road.

126 Renee Price mentioned that that map would be useful for upcoming projects and how they
127 relate to the light rail project. Aaron Cain agreed to create a map for the next MPO Board Meeting.

128 Aaron Cain stated that the US-15/501 improvements in Orange County are currently scheduled
129 for ROW in 2024. He compared the timeline for the US-15/501 improvements in Orange County in the
130 current STIP to the results of the SPOT 5.0 scoring. Aaron Cain added that the improvements from NC-
131 54 to Ephesus Church are no longer funded at the statewide tier because they did not score well
132 enough.

133 Aaron Cain stated that Division 5 submitted a project for an auxiliary lane on I-40 for exits 273
134 and 274, but it did not score well enough. Aaron Cain explained that it reached the corridor cap, which
135 limits the amount of funding that can be spent on one interstate highway corridor. David Keilson and
136 Aaron Cain noted that it would have to be resubmitted if it does not receive funding because this was a
137 standalone project.

138 Aaron Cain stated that there are numerous projects that are funded in the current STIP, but
139 may not be funded following the release of current SPOT scores. Aaron Cain explained that sibling
140 projects are projects attached to a portion of the larger project, and that resubmission of sibling

141 projects that are attached to funded projects is not required. Aaron Cain continued that because
142 Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) eliminated the portion of the managed
143 lanes project in Wake County and Durham County also eliminated a portion, there is now an orphan
144 managed lanes project.

145 Charlie Reese asked about the difference between managed lanes and managed motorways.
146 Aaron Cain answered that managed motorways uses technology to ease traffic congestion. Aaron Cain
147 added that managed lanes means adding additional lanes to a roadway, and those lanes are managed
148 by creating some sort of restriction, e.g. vehicle toll, high occupancy lanes, HOT lanes, etc. Aaron Cain
149 stated that there are some upgrades, including US-70 from Miami Boulevard to Alexander Drive, that
150 have been put in future years, but the Miami Boulevard intersection improvements are still in the STIP.
151 Ellen Reckhow voiced concern about the section of US-70 from Briar Creek Road to Miami Boulevard
152 not being funded.

153 Renee Price asked if certain projects will be funded at the Regional or Division tier if they are
154 not funded at the Statewide tier. Aaron Cain clarified that none of these projects were ever committed.
155 Aaron Cain explained that projects in the first ten years of the STIP are considered funded. Those in the
156 first five years are considered committed, however; if they are scheduled in the second five years they
157 are considered developmental and also need to be rescored. Aaron Cain added that the projects
158 currently being discussed were in the second five years, and therefore were rescored. Aaron Cain
159 explained that the scores of certain projects may be lower only in respect to other projects, which is
160 the reason they are no longer in the funding cycle. Renee Price and Aaron Cain discussed how that
161 these projects may not be funded in the Statewide tier, but could be: funded by the Regional tier;
162 supported and/or funded by other projects; or stay in the STIP and be rescored in the 2022-2031 cycle.

163 Ellen Beckman and Aaron Cain discussed the ongoing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
164 study that NCDOT started for US-70 and the possibility of adding regional points to increase the
165 likelihood of funding.

166 Aaron Cain stated that there were a few projects that were not funded at all, which would then
167 be up for consideration at the Regional Tier and could be resubmitted for the next cycle of SPOT in two
168 years. Aaron Cain added that examples of these projects include widening US-15/501 from 751
169 Cameron Boulevard to the Pickett Road overpass and the NC-147 Elbert Trent Interchange. Aaron Cain
170 reminded the MPO Board that he has only 70% of the score for Regional projects, which is quantitative.
171 He added that 15% is derived from the MPO and 15% is derived from the Division. Aaron Cain added
172 that the best scoring project was on NC-55 from I-40 to NC-54, which included a third southbound lane
173 and bike and pedestrian improvements.

174 Chair Damon Seils highlighted that there is a corridor study currently underway for NC-54.
175 Aaron Cain added that the DCHC MPO had a meeting with Matt Day about the likelihood of adding
176 points to a project in that corridor. Renee Price and Aaron Cain discussed how the Triangle Area Rural
177 Planning Organization (TARPO) would influence the widening of NC-54.

178 Aaron Cain listed other projects that scored highly, including improvements to Roxboro Road
179 from Avondale Drive to Old Oxford Highway, and NC-98 from Junction Road to Lynn Road. Heidi Carter
180 and Aaron Cain also discussed the NC-98 Corridor Study as it related to safety concerns on Holloway
181 Street. Aaron Cain stated that the East Durham Siding project and the grade separation, including Ellis
182 and Glover Road and Rand Street, were moved from developmental to committed.

183 Aaron Cain stated that Durham-Orange Light Rail (D-O LTR) is the highest scoring Regional non-
184 highway project in Region C or D. Aaron Cain added that there were no non-highway projects at the
185 Regional level that scored higher. Aaron Cain added that at the regional level there is 4% that is set
186 aside for non-highway projects. Aaron Cain added that Regional point allocation for this and other

187 Regional projects will be discussed at the next MPO Board Meeting. Aaron Cain stated that both DCHC
188 and CAMPO submitted a commuter rail project from Durham to Garner, differing only in the number of
189 trains.

190 Aaron Cain reviewed the timeline of events for the SPOT 5.0 scores. Aaron Cain stated NCDOT
191 released the quantitative scores on April 3. Aaron Cain added that he plans to create an initial proposal
192 as to how DCHC MPO will allocate points by April 18 in order to allow TC members to review these
193 numbers by their April 25 meeting. Chair Damon Seils and Aaron Cain discussed DCHC MPO's
194 methodology, which was adopted at the previous MPO Board meeting. Aaron Cain stated he will bring
195 a copy of the proposal to the May 9 MPO Board meeting for the 21-day public comment period from
196 May 14 – June 4. Aaron Cain stated that the MPO Board could then approve by June 13 because the
197 MPO Board historically does not meet in July, and the deadline to approve by NCDOT is the end of July.

198 This Item was informational and no further action was required by the MPO Board.

199 **10. Amendment #2 to the FY 2018-2027 TIP**
200 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

201 Aaron Cain stated that TIP Amendment #2 to the FY2018-2027 TIP consists primarily of projects
202 that NCDOT amended in the STIP, and therefore needs to be amended in the DCHC MPO TIP. He added
203 that one project of note is the merging of EB-5720, R. Kelly Bryant Bridge Trail South, and EB-5833, R.
204 Kelly Bryant Bridge Trail North. These two projects are being merged to increase efficiency because they
205 are now share the same implementation timeline. Aaron Cain stated that there are a few projects to
206 which Surface Transportation Block Grant Direct Attribution (STBG-DA) funding would be added, and
207 those projects can be referenced in the attachment to the MPO Board Agenda.

208 Pam Hemminger made a motion to approve Amendment #2 to the FY 2018-2027 TIP. Vice Chair
209 Wendy Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

210 **REPORTS:**

211 **11. Report from the DCHC MPO Board Chair**

212 Damon Seils, DCHC MPO Board Chair

213 Chair Damon Seils stated that he met with CAMPO Chair Harold Weinbrect, Mayor of Cary,
214 and Vice Chair Sig Hutchinson from Wake County. Chair Damon Seils added that CAMPO staff
215 prepared a detailed presentation of the quantitative scores. Chair Damon Seils continued that he
216 looks forward to collaborating with the CAMPO about how to prioritize projects and achieve the
217 MPO Board's regional vision. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs added that they discussed joint goals,
218 including legislative policy goals. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that the meeting helped clarify the
219 changes the MPO needs to discuss with their state legislators. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs commented
220 that after seeing a map of projected works to be done in the Triangle Area, she observed that much
221 of it will be in Orange and Wake County, and only a smaller portion in Durham County.

222 Chair Damon Seils noted that the next Joint MPO Meeting will be on May 31, 2018 at 9 a.m.
223 at RTP Headquarters, and that the MPO Board would receive the agenda for the meeting shortly.

224 Chair Damon Seils stated that one item of importance is the shared legislative and policy goals
225 document, which both MPOs are planning to make more easily understood for the general public.

226 Chair Damon Seils stated that the North Carolina Association of Metropolitan Planning
227 Organization (NCAMPO) conference would be held at the Durham Convention Center. Aaron Cain
228 added that the dates for the event are April 25 - 27. He thanked Chair Damon Seils and Vice Chair
229 Wendy Jacobs for participating in the event.

230 **12. Report from the DCHC MPO Technical Committee Chair**

231 Ellen Beckmann, DCHC MPO TC Chair

232 Ellen Beckman stated that City of Durham hosted public meetings for the past few months,
233 including those concerning four large bicycle/pedestrian projects. Ellen Beckmann added they will
234 also host upcoming public meetings as well, including one for the NC-98 Corridor Study on April 25
235 from 5-7 p.m. at the Durham East Regional Library. There will also be another meeting for the US-
236 15/501 Corridor Study on April 17.

237 Aaron Cain stated that there will be four public meetings for the NC-54 Corridor Study: May 1
238 at Rigmor House; May 2 in Carrboro; May 3 in Graham; and May 8 in Swepsonville. Chair Damon Seils
239 added that the website for the NC-54 West Corridor Study is NC54west.com. Chair Damon Seils
240 added that the study is of particular interest for those in Orange County, and he asked the MPO
241 Board members to inform others of the study and website.

242 **13. Reports from LPA Staff**

243 Felix Nwoko, LPA Manager

244 Felix Nwoko stated that there were no updates.

245 Aaron Cain stated that Joe Milazzo is hosting the Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA)
246 Summit Series and the dates for that series are: May 1 at the American Tobacco Campus; May 2 in
247 Raleigh; and May 3 is in the RTP. Aaron Cain added that he will send an email with a link, and the
248 information is also on the website.

249

250 **14. NCDOT Reports:**

251 Richard Hancock, NCDOT Division 5, stated that there is ongoing work on the Old Chapel Hill
252 Road bicycle/pedestrian project. He added there is also ongoing work at the roundabout at Pope Road.

253 Richard Hancock stated that half of the culvert reconstruction on Old Chapel Hill Road near
254 Githens Middle school is complete. He added that the Herndon-Barbee roundabout has not been
255 completed due to waterline relocation.

256 Richard Hancock stated that the first-portion of the bridge reconstruction has been completed
257 near Alston Avenue, and that the Southbound US-147 ramp to Alston will be closed on April 15 and
258 that there will be a detour. He added in the following two weeks the ramp from Alston to Northbound
259 US-147 will be closed. He stated that traffic will be moved to the new bridge over US-147 and the old
260 bridge will be demolished following completion.

261 Richard Hancock stated that there are tentative plans to close the South Miami connection on
262 US-147, but it has been delayed due to the condition of bridge demolition.

263 Pam Hemminger discussed the possibility of adding or increasing lighting and signage at the
264 roundabout at the intersection of Erwin and Mount Moriah Roads in Chapel Hill. Richard Hancock
265 responded that Division 5 does not usually maintain lighting on municipal streets. Ellen Reckhow added
266 that there were other safety concerns at the roundabouts on Carver Street between Guess Street and
267 Duke Street.

268 Ellen Reckhow enquired about lane closures on I-85 and the protocol for warning signs about
269 lane closures. Richard Hancock responded that he was unsure about why there were lane closures, and
270 stated he would follow up with her. Richard Hancock added that the protocols already exist for signage
271 on lane closures.

272 Patrick Wilson, NCDOT Division 7, announced that his division is working on a project on Old
273 Greensboro Road. He added that, due to the necessary detour route, there are temporary signals on
274 NC-54. Patrick stated that due to equipment issues with these traffic signals, there have been delays on
275 NC-54 toward Carrboro. Patrick Wilson added that the signals would be in operation for the next six to
276 seven months on NC-54 West of Carrboro-Chapel Hill.

277 Patrick Wilson also stated that this summer his division is planning a roundabout project in
278 Chapel Hill and another roundabout in Carrboro, and that those projects are on schedule. Patrick
279 Wilson added that there are still some issues that need to be addressed with his consultant and staff
280 on the Franklin/Merritt Mill Road project .

281 Pam Hemminger asked if the projects would be completed this summer due to the university
282 schedule. Patrick Wilson answered that that he was unsure because the projects currently do not have
283 the Right of Way.

284 There was no additional report from NCDOT Division 8.

285 Julie Bogle stated that there was no update from the NCDOT Transportation Planning Division.

286 There was no update from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

287

288 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

289 **15. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

290 Chair Damon Seils reminded the MPO Board that there are recent news articles and updates

291 in the DCHC MPO Board Meeting Agenda packet.

292 **ADJOURNMENT:**

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

294 10:18 a.m.