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DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

April 24, 2019

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on April 24, 2019, at 8:30 a.m. in the City Council Committee Room, located on the second floor of Durham City Hall. The following people were in attendance:

Nish Trivedi (Chair)	Orange County Planning
Ellen Beckmann (Vice Chair)	City of Durham Transportation
Kumar Neppalli (Member)	Chapel Hill Engineering
Bergen Watterson (Member)	Chapel Hill Planning
Zach Hallock (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Tina Moon (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Margaret Hauth (Member)	Hillsborough Planning
Tom Altieri (Member)	Orange County Planning
Scott Whiteman (Member)	Durham County Planning
Linda Thomas Wallace (Member)	Durham County Cooperative Extension
Chance Mullis (Member)	Chatham County Planning
John Hodges-Copple (Member)	Triangle J Council of Governments
Geoff Green (Member)	GoTriangle
Tim Brock (Member)	Research Triangle Foundation
Ed Lewis (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 7
Julie Bogle (Member)	NCDOT Transportation Planning Division
Lisa Miller (Alternate)	Durham City/County Planning
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Mo Devlin	DCHC MPO
Robert Jahn	DCHC MPO
Michael Waldroup	Resident

Quorum Count: 17 of 31 Voting Members

Chair Nish Trivedi called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. A roll call was performed. The Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Technical Committee (TC) were identified and are indicated above. Chair Nish Trivedi reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheet that was being circulated.

PRELIMINARIES:

42 **2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

43 Aaron Cain proposed adding *Reprogramming of the D-O LRT Funds* as the new Action Item #11.

44 Aaron Cain added that there were several documents pertaining to this item near the sign-in sheets.

45 **3. Public Comments**

46 There were no members of the public signed up to speak during the meeting.

47 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

48 **4. Approval of March 27, 2019, Meeting Minutes**

49 **5. FFY19 Section 5307/5340 FULL Apportionment Split Letter**

50 **Meg Scully, LPA Staff**

51 There were no comments pertaining to the Consent Agenda.

52 John Hodges-Copple made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Geoff Green seconded the
53 motion. The motion passed unanimously.

54 **ACTION ITEMS:**

55 **6. Update of the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan**

56 **Meg Scully, LPA Staff**

57 **Robert Jahn, LPA Intern**

58

59 Meg Scully stated that the DCHC MPO is the Designated Recipient for federal funding through the
60 Section 5310 -Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program, and receives under
61 \$250,000 per year to be distributed among eligible sub-recipients. Meg Scully continued that federal
62 transit law requires that projects funded through this program be derived from a locally developed,
63 coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan (CTP), which must be updated every five
64 years. Meg Scully added that the current CTP for the DCHC MPO region was approved by the MPO Board
65 in 2014.

66 Meg Scully stated that staff prepared the attached updated plan through a process that involved
67 seniors, individuals with disabilities, representatives of transportation and human services providers, and
68 other members of the public. Meg Scully added that the CTP elements include: an assessment of available

69 services; an assessment of transportation needs; strategies or projects to address the gaps in service; and
70 priorities for implementation based on resources available. Meg Scully explained the outreach strategy
71 included workshops to engage the public. Meg Scully stated that the MPO Board is scheduled to receive
72 and release the report for public comment on May 8, and the TC would recommend that the MPO Board
73 hold a public hearing and approve plan on May 22. Meg Scully added that the plan would then return to
74 the MPO Board on June 12 to hold a public hearing and approve the CTP.

75 Geoff Green made a motion to recommend the MPO Board receive the report and release it for a
76 21-day public comment period. Tom Altieri seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

77 **7. Revision to Approved FY2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**
78 **Meg Scully, LPA Staff**

79 Meg Scully stated that on February 27, 2019, the MPO Board approved the FY2020 Unified
80 Planning Work Program (UPWP), however, the LPA received notice from the North Carolina Department of
81 Transportation (NCDOT) that \$189,000 in additional Planning (PL) federal funds were available for
82 programming. Meg Scully continued that it is proposed that a one year subscription of Streetlight Data will
83 be purchased for the DCHC MPO region at \$150,000, and associated data management tasks would be
84 performed by LPA staff. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann and Meg Scully discussed the remaining PL funding and
85 current LPA staffing levels.

86 Meg Scully, Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann, and Margaret Hauth discussed that additional local match
87 is not anticipated for this round of funding. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed the eligibility of PL
88 funding for other projects. John-Hodges Copple and Nish Trivedi discussed the value of Streetlight Data for
89 the DCHC MPO, and the best ways of educating local staff on the use of the data. Meg Scully suggested
90 having a Streetlight Data workshop, and stated that having a longer conversation about using Streetlight
91 Data would be necessary. There was discussion that the current Streetlight Data subscription ends on April
92 30, 2019.

93 Geoff Green made a motion to recommend the MPO Board approve the revision to the
94 approved FY2020 UPWP and sign the resolutions. Margaret Hauth seconded the motion. The motion
95 passed unanimously.

96 **8. Distribution of Highway Infrastructure Funds**
97 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

98 Aaron Cain stated that in March 2019, LPA staff was notified that an additional distribution of
99 approximately \$1.4M in federal highway infrastructure program funds was made available to the DCHC
100 MPO. Aaron Cain added that funds are restricted to highway use only, and are not available for bicycle
101 and pedestrian accommodations on highways. Aaron Cain stated that DCHC staff has agreed with
102 NCDOT to swap these funds for STBG-Any Area funds that can be used for bicycle and pedestrian
103 improvements.

104 Aaron Cain stated that LPA staff has determined that one option for distribution of these funds
105 is to use the established formula and distribute these funds as local discretionary funds. Aaron Cain also
106 stated that a second option would be to identify Bike-Ped projects that are in the design process and
107 have identified funding shortfalls, including: EB-5886B, Estes Road Bike-Ped; U-4724, Cornwallis Road
108 Bike-Ped; and U-4726HN, Hillandale Road Bike-Ped. Aaron Cain stated that LPA staff preferred the
109 second option.

110 Aaron Cain proposed to fund the two projects that were located in Durham, U-4724 and U-
111 4726HN, because they equal approximately \$1.4M combined. Aaron Cain further proposed that
112 \$500,000 of Durham's STBG-DA be programmed for Chapel Hill. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed the
113 need to address cost overruns in order to continue with projects, and cited that nine projects currently
114 have associated cost overruns.

115 Scott Whiteman made a motion to recommend that the additional STBG-Any Area funds DCHC
116 MPO is to receive be distributed based on Option 2 as revised by Aaron Cain. Geoff Green seconded the
117 motion. The motion passed unanimously.

118 **9. Amendment #12 to the FY2018-2027 TIP**

119 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

120 Aaron Cain stated that Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Amendment #12 includes
 121 additional funding to one Bike-Ped project in the Town of Chapel Hill; C-5179, North Estes Drive, which
 122 would receive STBG-Any Area funds. Aaron Cain added that the second part of Amendment #12 would
 123 include a Bike-Ped project in Durham; C-5183B, Alston Avenue Sidewalks, which would receive City of
 124 Durham local discretionary STBGDA funds. Aaron Cain continued that Amendment #12 also included
 125 two requests from NCDOT for changes to P-5717, Cornwallis Road Grade Separation; and U-5518, US 70
 126 Upgrades.

127 Geoff Green made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve Amendment #12 to
 128 the FY2018-2027 TIP. Scott Whiteman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

129 **10. Amendment #13 to the FY2018-2027 TIP**

130 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

131 Aaron Cain stated that Amendment #13 to the FY2018-2027 Transportation Improvement
 132 Program (TIP) consists of a request from the City of Durham to add funding to four bike-ped projects: U-
 133 4724, Cornwallis Road Bike-Ped; U-4726HN, Hillandale Road Bike-Ped; U-4726HO, Carpenter-Fletcher
 134 Bike-Ped; and C-4928, Morreene Road Bike-Ped. Aaron Cain proposed that STBG-Any area funds be
 135 added to U-4724 and U-4726HN, while the City of Durham’s local discretionary allocation will be added
 136 to U-4726HO and C-4928, Aaron Cain continued that the projects that exceed costs of \$1M must
 137 undergo a 21-day public comment period prior to approval per MPO policy. Aaron Cain and Geoff Green
 138 discussed that the NCDOT-requested statewide Safe Routes to School project be added as part of the
 139 Amendment #13.

140 John Hodges-Copple made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board release Amendment
 141 #13, including the Safe Routes to School Project, to the FY2018-2027 TIP for a 21-day public comment
 142 period. Geoff Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

143 **11. Resolution for Programming of D-O LRT Funds**
144 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

145 Aaron Cain stated that the draft State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for FY2020-
146 2029 included \$190M of state highway trust fund money that would have gone to Durham-Orange Light
147 Rail Transit (D-O LRT), but can now be reprogrammed before the final STIP is presented in May 2019.
148 Aaron Cain stated that NCDOT plans to program \$130M of that funding to cost overruns on highway
149 projects, and that \$60M would be able to be redistributed to the Morrisville-Clayton Bus Rapid Transit
150 (BRT) project proposed by the Capital Area Municipal Planning Organization (CAMPO). Aaron Cain added
151 that \$100M was originally requested in SPOT to fund the project. Aaron Cain added that MPO staff
152 recommended that the funding be allocated to a high capacity transit project in the region rather than a
153 highway project. John Hodges-Copple and Aaron Cain discussed the remaining \$40M of the Morrisville-
154 Clayton BRT would need to come from funding in future years, but the project would be considered
155 committed.

156 John Hodges-Copple discussed that CAMPO submitted several transit projects for Strategic
157 Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT) 5.0, and removed some Wake-Durham BRT projects so that the
158 D-O LRT could be the highest scoring project, but other lower scoring projects remained, including the
159 Morrisville-Clayton BRT. There was discussion about the cooperative relationship between DCHC MPO
160 and CAMPO and action recommended to include language to the D-O LRT resolution that reflects the
161 regional partner relationship established between the two MPOs.

162 Tom Altieri and Aaron Cain discussed the eligibility of funding for other transit projects originally
163 submitted for SPOT 5.0. There was discussion about how projects were scored by the SPOT office for
164 SPOT 5.0. Geoff Green and Aaron Cain discussed that the D-O LRT was already requested to be removed
165 from the STIP. John Hodges-Copple requested for further discussions among regional MPOs and
166 stakeholders.

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168 John Hodges-Copple made the motion to recommend the resolution as described with the
169 discussed revision. Scott Whiteman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

170 **12. US 15-501 Corridor Study**
171 **Andy Henry, LPA staff**

172 Andy Henry stated that the decision to suspend the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT)
173 project has impacted the US 15-501 Corridor Study. Andy Henry added that the consultant's work on the
174 Corridor Study is currently on hold because the proposed D-O LRT was to run along a significant portion
175 of the corridor and is an integral part of the Corridor Study's recommendations. Andy Henry presented
176 the three options for the continuation of the US 15-501 Corridor Study: (1) Complete the study while
177 acknowledging that parts of transit are unknown; (2) Finish the study in its current status; or (3) Pause
178 the study and conduct a detailed transit study for the corridor. Andy Henry stated that staff supports the
179 first option while acknowledging that the transit aspect of the study is not known.

180 Andy Henry stated that residents support transit for both through and local trips, and Bike-Ped
181 facilities within the corridor. John-Hodges Copple and Andy Henry discussed how the two interior
182 segments of 15-501 study were impacted by D-O LRT while the two outside segments were not
183 impacted. John Hodges-Copple expressed interest in having the contractor, WSP, identify specific
184 challenges this corridor currently has in replacing transit services otherwise assumed were provided by
185 D-O LRT. Geoff Green stated that he preferred to finish the study with attention made concerning
186 available transit options. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann suggested finishing the report with caveats. There
187 was discussion about how adding additional items to the report would impact budget and schedule,
188 especially in regards to Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT) 6. Tina Moon stated that the
189 study could either focus on capacity that moves people through the corridor or land-use. Geoff Green
190 mentioned renewing focus on the priorities of the City of Durham and Town of Chapel Hill. Michael
191 Waldroup, a citizen attending the Technical Committee meeting, discussed adding Bus Rapid Transit

192 (BRT) to this corridor in a timely manner and the importance of employment centers in transportation
 193 planning.

194 There was discussion about moving this topic to a subcommittee to discuss in further detail
 195 before the MPO Board meeting on May 8. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann suggested changing the scope of
 196 the project in order to address transit more specifically but still maintain the SPOT deadline. John-
 197 Hodges Copple discussed working with the contractor staff to focus on the corridor alternative options
 198 due to the discontinuation of D-O LRT while maintaining schedule deadlines for SPOT 6.0. Aaron Cain
 199 discussed the importance of cost, endpoints, and ridership in SPOT scoring. Leta Huntsinger discussed
 200 that functional designs, alternative strategies, and technical analysis have already been completed in the
 201 Corridor Study in its current form. Andy Henry and Geoff Green discussed forming a subcommittee on
 202 May 6 to draft language to use at the MPO Board meeting.

203 Geoff Green made a motion for a subcommittee to meet and recommend to the MPO Board on
 204 how to complete the 15-501 Study. Scott Whiteman seconded the motion. The motion passed
 205 unanimously.

206 **REPORTS:**

207 **13. Reports from the LPA Staff**
 208 Felix Nwoko, Andy Henry, LPA Staff

209 Aaron Cain stated that Mo Devlin will be resigning from the MPO on May 2.

210 **14. Report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair**
 211 Nish Trivedi, DCHC MPO TC Chair

212 There was no additional report from Chair Nish Trivedi.

213 **15. NCDOT Reports**

214 There was no additional report from Division 5.

215 There was no additional report from Division 7

216 There was no additional report from Division 8.

217 Julie Bogle, NCDOT Transportation Planning Division, stated that there is no additional report.

218 There was no report from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

219 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

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

221 There was no comment pertaining to any informational item.

222 **ADJOURNMENT:**

223 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Technical Committee, the meeting was

224 adjourned at 10:01 a.m.