

1 **DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION DCHC MPO BOARD**

2 **March 9, 2016**

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4 **MINUTES OF MEETING**

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6 The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization DCHC MPO Board met on March  
7 9, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in the City Council Committee Room, located on the second floor of Durham City  
8 Hall. The following people were in attendance:

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10	Steve Schewel (DCHC MPO Board Chair)	City of Durham
11	Damon Seils (DCHC MPO Board Vice Chair)	Town of Carrboro
12	Don Moffitt (Member)	City of Durham
13	Ellen Reckhow (Member)	Durham County
14	Bernadette Pelissier (Member)	GoTriangle
15	Pam Hemminger (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
16	Jenn Weaver (Alternate)	Town of Hillsborough
17	Lydia Lavelle (Alternate)	Town of Carrboro
18	Ed Harrison (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
19	Jim G. Crawford (Member)	Chatham County
20		
21	Joey Hopkins	NCDOT, Division 5
22	Patrick Wilson	NCDOT, Division 7
23	Craig Benedict	Orange County
24	Tom Altieri	Orange County
25	Bergen Watterson	Town of Carrboro
26	Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
27	David Bonk	Town of Chapel Hill
28	John Hodges-Copple	Triangle J Council of Governments
29	Patrick McDonough	GoTriangle
30	Mark Ahrendsen	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
31	Ellen Beckmann	City of Durham
32	Eddie Dancausse	Federal Highway Administration
33	Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
34	Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
35	Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
36	Lindsay Smart	DCHC MPO
37	Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO
38	Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
39	Linda Thomas Wallace	Durham County
40	Julie Bollinger	NCDOT, TPB
41	Max Bushell	Orange County
42	David Keilson	NCDOT, Division 5
43	Kayla Seibel	Town of Chapel Hill
44	Debbie McCarthy	Citizen
45	Margaret Miller	Citizen
46	Jennifer Britt	NCDOT, Division 8

47	Richard Hancock	NCDOT, Division 5
48	Bryan Poole	City of Durham
49	Joe Fitzsimons	Citizen
50	Kate Buciek	Duke
51	Mila Vega	Town of Chapel Hill/Chapel Hill Transit
52	Jeff Quinn	Duke
53	Albert Amoatey	Durham County
54	Eve Barkley	City of Durham
55	Linda Thomas	Durham County
56	Martha Isaacs	UNC
57	Valshay Patel	UNC
58	Catherine Berman	Duke
59	David Laudicina	Citizen

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62 Quorum Count: 8 of 11 Voting Members

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65 Chair Steve Schewel called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A roll call was performed. The Voting

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

67 Chair Steve Schewel reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheets that were being circulated.

68

**PRELIMINARIES:****Ethics Reminder**

70 Chair Steve Schewel paraphrased the Ethics Reminder for the DCHC MPO Board member and asked  
 71 Board members if there were any known conflicts of interest with respect to matters coming before the Board  
 72 and requested that if there were any identified during the meeting for them to be announced. Chair Steve  
 73 Schewel reminded DCHC members about the Ethics Commission requirements deadline of April 15, 2016.

**Adjustments to the Agenda**

74  
 75 Chair Steve Schewel asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. Mark Ahrendsen stated that  
 76 there were no adjustments to the agenda. He notified the Board of the handouts that were provided by Patrick  
 77 McDonough.

**Public Comments**

79 Two individuals spoke during the Public Comments portion of the meeting.

80 Debbie McCarthy, a citizen residing at 4517 Trenton Road, Chapel Hill, NC and a member of the  
81 Farrington Park Neighborhood Association signed up to speak. Debbie McCarthy commended the Durham-  
82 Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) on the draft Goals, Objectives, and  
83 Performance Measures for the 2045 MTP. She is in agreement with goals, especially the first goal of  
84 environmental protection and the objective of reduction on the impact of the natural and cultural environment.  
85 She requested the Board to invoke these goals to save the nature 90-acre Leigh Farm Park recreational and  
86 professional golf course from the ravages of the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) Rail Operations and  
87 Maintenance Facility (ROMF). She provided an overview of Leigh Farm, which is a historic home and farm  
88 complex located near Chapel Hill, Durham County, North Carolina.

89 Debbie McCarthy addressed the Board and summarized the position for individual neighborhoods that  
90 the D-O LRT ROMF site listed as the preferred alternative in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)  
91 should be moved from northern Farrington Road site to southern Farrington Road, near NC 54 within the  
92 proposed 336 acres Leigh Village Compact Neighborhood Tier. She asked the Board to save Leigh Farm Park  
93 from the ROMF re-location, and believed the DCHC MPO Board is their last hope.

94 Debbie McCarthy provided an attachment identifying the negative factors associated with the northern  
95 site as well as the positive factors associated with the southern site regarding the relocation of the D-O LRT  
96 ROMF station.

97 Chair Steve Schewel asked Patrick McDonough to address some of the issues Debbie McCarthy raised as  
98 he presents an updated on the D-O LRT project.

99 Ellen Reckhow asked to review the slide on the water flow and flooding. She wanted to know what the  
100 NCDOT and the City Stormwater Department response would be to Debbie McCarthy's slides. Mark Ahrendsen  
101 asked Joey Hopkins to speak to stormwater runoff. Joey Hopkins stated the information can be shared with the  
102 MPO Lead Planning Agency (LPA) Staff and City of Durham staff. Ellen Reckhow would like to know the impact on

103 the stormwater. Chair Steve Schewel stated the City Stormwater Department is aware of the issues in this area.  
104 Don Moffitt asked Debbie McCarthy to repeat her address.

105 **Directives to Staff**

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

107 Chair Steve Schewel, on behalf of the DCHC MPO Board, honored Mark Ahrendsen with a plaque for his service to  
108 the MPO Board and his service as Chair of the DCHC MPO Technical Committee (TC), with an appreciation of 27  
109 years of dedicated service. There will be a City of Durham retirement celebration for Mark Ahrendsen on  
110 Thursday, March 31, 2016, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Committee Room located on the second floor of  
111 the Durham City Hall, and everyone is invited.

112 Felix Nwoko presented a synopsis of Mark Ahrendsen's career long accomplishments.

113 The DCHC MPO Board expressed their thanks, appreciation, and gratitude to Mark Ahrendsen.

114 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

115 **6. Approval of February 10, 2016 Meetings Minutes**

116 Chair Steve Schewel asked if there was any discussion on the February 10, 2016, meeting minutes. Chair  
117 Steve Schewel and Vice Chair Damon Seils provided comments and suggested revisions to the minutes. Vice  
118 Chair Damon Seils and Pam Hemminger submitted emails to the MPO Staff with their corrections to the  
119 February 10, 2016, meeting minutes. Chair Steve Schewel stated that corrections are sent to Lindsay Smart by  
120 email. Lindsay Smart asked the Board to please also copy Janice Pointer on the email with corrections.

121 Chair Steve Schewel requested the minutes to be shortened. Chair Steve Schewel and Lydia Lavelle  
122 suggested the UNC School of Government minutes documentation as a reference.

123 Ellen Reckhow reminded the Board that the minutes are recorded. Ellen Reckhow stated that because  
124 recordings of the meetings are available, the minutes could be summarized.

125 Don Moffitt asked if he was approved to vote. Lindsay Smart informed Don Moffitt he did not have  
126 voting rights until the State Ethics Commission approved his ethics paperwork.

127 Chair Steve Schewel asked if there were any discussion on the February 10, 2016, DCHC MPO Board  
128 Minutes on the consent agenda. There was no further discussion.

129 A motion was made by Bernadette Pelissier to approve the February 10, 2016, DCHC MPO Board  
130 Minutes on the consent agenda and seconded by Jim Crawford. The motion carried unanimously.

131 **ACTION ITEMS:**

132 **7. Update on the Status of the Old Durham-Chapel Hill Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Project**

133 **Mike Kneis, NCDOT Division 5**

134 **Dale McKeel, LPA Staff**

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136 Dale McKeel and Mike Kneis reported on the status of the Old Durham-Chapel Hill Road Bicycle and  
137 Pedestrian Project. A timeline handout was distributed and reviewed by the DCHC MPO Board for the project  
138 (TIP # EB-4707). Dale McKeel stated the action for today is to receive an update on the bicycle and pedestrian  
139 project. The project is located between Durham County/City of Durham and Orange County/Chapel Hill. Dale  
140 McKeel stated the Old Durham-Chapel Hill Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Project are funded for 13.3 million  
141 dollars. The funds are a combination of STPDA dollars, contribution from NCDOT Division of Bicycle and  
142 Pedestrian Transportation and roundabout for Pope Road, and local matches from the town of Chapel Hill and  
143 the City of Durham. He stated there are sidewalks and an on-road striped bike lane on both sides of the  
144 roadway, pedestrian signals at two signalized intersections (US 15-501 and Farrington Road), bus stop  
145 improvements, intersection lighting, and a roundabout at the intersection with Pope Road. For several years,  
146 work has been underway on this project to make bicycle and pedestrian improvements to the 2.7-mile section  
147 of Old Durham-Chapel Hill Road between Garrett Road in Durham and US 15-501 in Chapel Hill. Dale McKeel  
148 continued a discussion about the timeline handout. Dale McKeel stated the project cost estimate was a lot  
149 higher than what was estimated in 2011; therefore, the cost estimate has been updated. The subcontractor for  
150 roundabout of Pope Road on the Durham side will be starting next week, working on Durham water sewerage,  
151 moving utilities, and the constructions bids will be in the fall of 2016.

152 Mike Kneis stated the local funding match was the initial delay for the project in Chapel Hill. Chapel Hill  
153 passed a bond referendum in the fall 2016. He stated the local funding were now available. Mike Kneis stated  
154 the contractors with right-of-way agents have contacted the landowners. He stated that the Blue Cross property  
155 has been sold to the State Credit Union. Performance Auto Mall is moving out of Chapel Hill, the purchase of  
156 that property is uncertain. Mike Kneis stated the alternative scope is going back to building from the Blue Cross  
157 property to the roundabout if necessary to keep the project on schedule. It is scheduled to take bids in the late  
158 spring 2017 on the Chapel Hill side.

159 Mike Kneis and Pam Hemminger had a discussion about the persons involved as landowners and having  
160 a little more time for the proposal of the project.

161 Ellen Reckhow stated per the National Public Radio, pedestrian deaths increased 10% last year. She  
162 stated this brings home how important safe bicycle and pedestrian facilities are to this area.

163 Chair Steve Schewel asked if there were any discussions on the Old Durham-Chapel Hill Road Bicycle and  
164 Pedestrian project updates. There was no further discussion.

165 A motion was made by Bernadette Pelissier to receive the update on the status of the Old Durham-  
166 Chapel Hill Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Project and seconded by Vice Chair Damon Seils. The motion carried  
167 unanimously.

168 **8. Quarterly Update on D-O LRT Project**

169 Patrick McDonough, GoTriangle

170 Natalie Murdock, GoTriangle

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172 Patrick McDonough provided a presentation on Quarterly Update on D-O LRT Project, along with  
173 handouts. Patrick McDonough reported topics that included an overview of the key D-O LRT project benefits,  
174 project timeline after FEIS/ROD, engineering explorations this spring, and an FTA TOD Grant update.

175 Patrick McDonough addressed Debbie McCarthy's concerns regarding the D-O LRT ROMF location and  
176 the stormwater pollution prevention with the FEIS and Record of Decision (ROD) documentations. He noted the  
177 commitments in the documentations that referenced the concerns of the stormwater runoff collection,

178 stormwater treatment, and the ROMF best practices in the ROD. There were additional discussions between  
179 Patrick McDonough and the DCHC MPO Board about the D-O LRT project.

180 This was an update and there was no action required for this agenda item.

181 **9.-Goals/Objectives/Performance Measures (Public Hearing)**

182 **Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

183 Andy Henry provided a presentation on Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures for the 2045  
184 MTP, along with handouts. He stated the action today is to receive an update on the public input process of the  
185 Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures and conduct a public hearing. He stated the MPO Board released  
186 the draft Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures for the public input process at the February 10, 2016  
187 meeting. Andy Henry stated the Board received a copy of the draft that was previously released. He stated the  
188 DCHC MPO Board needs to conduct a public hearing today and consider approving the Goals, Objectives, and  
189 Performance Measures for use in the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) at their April meeting.

190 Andy Henry stated the Triangle Regional Model (TRM) will provide the bulk of the data needed to set  
191 the values of the Performance Measures. But, the TRM will not be ready for such use for a few months. As a  
192 result, the MPO Board will need to have an update on the actual Performance Measure values at a meeting  
193 after April. He stated the MPO Staff continues to coordinate the final versions of the Goals, Objectives, and  
194 Performance Measures with the Capital Area MPO's so the two MPO's Goals, Objectives, and Performance  
195 Measures can remain as similar as possible.

196 Andy Henry stated Staff developed several alternatives for the public input of the Goals, Objectives, and  
197 Performance Measures. There was a public hearing at the March 9<sup>th</sup> DCHC MPO Board meeting. A drop-in  
198 public workshop will be held on March 17<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Durham Station Transportation  
199 Center. Staff is working on a second public workshop at Hargraves Center in Chapel Hill. A presentation will be  
200 given at one of the meetings in Chapel Hill. Andy Henry stated there is an online survey on the MPO's web page.

201 Chair Steve Schewel opened the public hearing for the comments.

202 Chair Steve Schewel indicated that one person, David Laudicina of Orange County, Bingham Township, was  
203 present to speak and the Board would hear those comments at this time.

204 David Laudicina, a citizen of Orange County, Bingham Township, spoke to the Goals, Objectives, and  
205 Performance Measures. He read the goals and thinks it's fantastic to be able to have a statistic that the Board  
206 can use to measure their success with. Also, he spoke regarding agenda item 9, to the D-O LRT project. He  
207 wanted to add that from all of the residential aspect of his first house in Pennsylvania, which was a half block  
208 from the train station and downtown job. His house had become more desirable than the average house that  
209 did not have access to the rail commuter line. David Laudicina state if you're close to work or near public transit,  
210 transportation with two car payments, you could relieved yourself with one payment or both and use the  
211 additional money towards your mortgage, so from a residential aspect, it is really advantageous to be living near  
212 public transit.

213 Chair Steve Schewel thanked Mr. Laudicina for his comments. There were no further public comments.  
214 Chair Steve Schewel closed the public hearing.

215 Chair Steve Schewel asked if there were any discussions on the updates on the public input process of  
216 the Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures. There was no further discussion.

217 A motion was made by Vice Chair Damon Seils to receive the updates on the public input process of the  
218 Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures and seconded by Ellen Reckhow. The motion carried  
219 unanimously.

220 **10. Draft Amendment #1 to the FY2016-2025 TIP**  
221 **Lindsay Smart, LPA staff**  
222

223 Lindsay Smart provided a presentation on Draft Amendment #1 to the FY2016-2025 TIP, along with  
224 handouts. She stated the action for today is to hold a public hearing on the proposed amendment.

225 Vice Chair Damon Seils stated he appreciated how easy it was to follow the format.

226 Chair Steve Schewel opened the public hearing for the comments. There were no public comments.

227 Chair Steve Schewel closed the public hearing.



228 Chair Steve Schewel asked if there were any discussions on the Amendment #1. There was no further  
229 discussion.

230 A motion was made by Jim Crawford to adopt Amendment #1 to the FY2016-2025 TIP and seconded by  
231 Vice Chair Damon Seils. The motion carried unanimously.

232 **11. Public Hearing for Proposed Revised DCHC Methodology for Ranking**  
233 **Projects and Allocating Local Input Points (SPOT P4.0)**

234 **Lindsay Smart, LPA staff**  
235

236 Lindsay Smart provided a presentation on the Proposed Revised DCHC Methodology for Ranking  
237 Projects and Allocating Local Input Points (SPOT P4.0). She stated the action for today is to receive the  
238 presentation on the proposed revisions, review and discuss the revised DCHC MPO draft Methodology, and to  
239 hold a public hearing.

240 Lindsay Smart stated the DCHC MPO's Methodology for Identifying and Ranking TIP Project Requests is  
241 the process the DCHC MPO Board conducted in the summer and fall of 2015 for the NCDOT SPOT P4.0 project  
242 selection process. She stated that the Methodology details how the DCHC MPO will conduct future steps in  
243 SPOT P4.0 process in the winter, spring, and summer of 2016. Lindsay Smart stated the steps and actions that  
244 the DCHC MPO will take to solicit public input, rank projects, and allocate the MPO's Local Input Points to  
245 prioritize projects for input to the STI process begins on page 15. She stated the Methodology informs the  
246 MPO's development of the Transportation Improvement Program. The Methodology is designed to address the  
247 federal requirement that the TIP was consistent with the projects and investment priorities of the MTP while  
248 being compatible with the state's STI process.

249 Lindsay Smart stated the Methodology was submitted to the NCDOT Review Committee for review and  
250 approval. She stated the NCDOT Review Committee provided feedback on the Methodology and requested that  
251 the Methodology be revised to reflect the feedback. The Methodology was revised and resubmitted on Tuesday,  
252 February 16, 2016. She stated the revised Methodology was included as an attachment to this agenda item.

253 Lindsay Smart informed the DCHC MPO Board that the highlighted sections indicate changes or emphasis on  
 254 existing language that may have been overlooked by the NCDOT Review Committee.

255 Chair Steve Schewel stated today is the public hearing and then asked if the Methodology is being  
 256 released. He asked if the Board is re-releasing it for public comments. Lindsay Smart stated yes, the  
 257 Methodology was originally released in February, and today's action would be to re-release the document and  
 258 conduct a public hearing because the public comment period is still on-going. The document has been updated  
 259 to reflect comments received since February 2016.

260 Chair Steve Schewel opened the public hearing for comments. There were no comments. Chair Steve  
 261 Schewel closed the public hearing.

262 Chair Steve Schewel asked if there were any discussions on the re-release of the revised Methodology.  
 263 There was no further discussion.

264 A motion was made by Vice Chair Damon Seils to authorize MPO Staff to re-release the revised  
 265 Methodology and seconded by Bernadette Pelissier. The motion carried unanimously.

266 **REPORTS:**

267 **12. Report from the DCHC MPO Board Chair**

268 **Steve Schewel, DCHC MPO Board Chair**

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270 There was no additional report from the DCHC MPO Board Chair.

271 **13. Report from the DCHC MPO Technical Committee Chair**

272 **Mark Ahrendsen, DCHC MPO TC Chair**

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274 Mark Ahrendsen stated five MPO Staff members will present at the 2016 North Carolina MPO  
 275 Conference (NCAMPO) in May 2016.

276 Mark Ahrendsen expressed his appreciation to the DCHC MPO Board for being a strong team during  
 277 the years he served the DCHC MPO Board. He stated it has been a pleasure working with the Board.

278 **14. Reports from LPA Staff**

279 **Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

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281 The Report from the LPA Staff is attached for review.

282 Dale McKeel reminded the DCHC MPO Board about the annual Triangle Bicycle and Pedestrian Workshop  
283 which will be held on Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., in the Town of Wake Forest. He stated  
284 registration for the event is open.

285 **15. NCDOT Reports:**

286 Joey Hopkins, NCDOT Division 5, expressed his thankfulness to Mark Ahrendsen for his outstanding  
287 leadership. Joey Hopkins provided an update on the project delivery data. He stated the project delivery numbers  
288 for the DCHC MPO level were unavailable. He did have the project delivery data for the last year at the Division  
289 level and local level for local projects. The project delivery data are a combination of CAMPO and DCHC MPO.  
290 Last fiscal year the project delivery numbers were 50% (local let projects). Presently, the project delivery data  
291 onto this fiscal year are lower; however, there is an opportunity to increase the numbers by the end of the fiscal  
292 year. Joey Hopkins stated it is one of the Goals and Objectives; therefore, the project delivery numbers require to  
293 be the Division's focus point, as well as, statewide.

294 Don Moffitt responded that the project delivery numbers are a statewide problem; the numbers need to  
295 be better. Don Moffitt asked what the root of the problem is; what is causing the project delivery numbers to be  
296 low. He asked if there has been an analysis done on it and why the project delivery numbers are at 67 percent;  
297 are there any lets behind schedule?

298 Joey Hopkins stated he is not aware of any analysis being completed; yet, some regions have better  
299 delivery rates than others. He stated there are some issues with the project delivery numbers; they are trying to  
300 improve it by offering training opportunities. Joey Hopkins stated they are in conversation with FHWA to deliver  
301 it on a more regional wide basis. He is not aware of the root cause of the project delivery issue; although,  
302 turnovers and staff sizes are a part of it. Joey Hopkins introduced Richard Hancock as Division 5 new Deputy  
303 Division Engineer.

304 Don Moffitt commented on the widening of NC 147. He asked if there is a possibility of having an  
305 additional lane; it will be great for the citizens. He asked about the expansion of US 15-501 due to congestion,

306 which was done four years ago; and now the congestion is back at the same previous level. He stated I-40 is a  
307 great example of the the same situation; because it's been expanded more people use it. He stated there is no  
308 way to build our way out of congestion. Don Moffitt's second comment was about the email sent to Joey Hopkins  
309 on the drainage problem at the corner of Broad Street and Perry Street. He stated the response received from  
310 Joey Hopkins that it will be done in March.

311 Joey Hopkins stated he will check on the status. Don Moffitt stated the drainage problem is not for the  
312 City of Durham Public Works Department to repair, because it is a state road.

313 Patrick Wilson stated on the behalf of Mike Mills, Division Engineer, and Division Staff from NCDOT  
314 Division 7, offered their congratulations to Mark Ahrendsen on his retirement.

315 Jennifer Britt, Division 8, stated NC 751 has been let. She stated the Lystra Road re-letting is because of  
316 the scope change. The Lystra Road let date is Friday, March 11th; completion date of June 17th. Jim Crawford  
317 asked about any updated information on Jones Ferry Road washout. There are two sinkholes on Jones Ferry  
318 Road. Jennifer Britt stated there was no information on Jones Ferry Road; she will provide a status at the next  
319 meeting. Jim Crawford requested the status to be emailed directly to him, because it is regarding his  
320 neighborhood.

321 There was no report from the NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch.

322 There was no report from the NCDOT Traffic Operations.

323 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

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

325 All handouts are available on the website.

326 **ADJOURNMENT:**

327 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at  
328 11:14 a.m.