

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

BOARD MEETING

May 28, 2024

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on May 28, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Long Leaf Conference Room at the Central Pines Regional Council office and through the Zoom teleconferencing platform. The following members were in attendance:

Karen Howard (Chair)	Chatham County
Javiera Cabellero (Vice Chair)	City of Durham
Jamezetta Bedford (Member)	Orange County
Carl Rist (Member)	City of Durham
Melissa McCullough (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Wendy Jacobs (Member)	Durham County
Michael Parker (Member)	GoTriangle
Mark Bell (Member)	Town of Hillsborough
Amy Fowler* (Alternate)	Orange County
Lisa Mathis (Alternate)	NC Department of Transportation
Brenda Howerton*(Alternate)	GoTriangle
Catherine Fray (Alternate)	Town of Carrboro
Camile Berry*(Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
Mike Dasher (Alternate)	Chatham County
Nishith Trivedi (TC Chair)	Orange County
Ellen Beckmann (TC Vice Chair)	Durham County
Bergen Watterson*	Town of Chapel Hill
Ben Berolzheimer*	Town of Chapel Hill
Thanh Schado*	Chatham County
Eric Vitale	City of Durham
Ryan Eldridge	Durham County
Matt Efird*	Town of Hillsborough
Paul Black*	GoTriangle
Matt Day	Central Pines Regional Council
Brandon Jones	NCDOT Division 5
Tracy Parrott*	NCDOT Division 5
Chad Reimakoski*	NCDOT Division 7
Nishant Shah *	NCDOT Division 7
Bryan Kluchar *	NCDOT Division 8
Julie Bogle *	NCDOT TPD
Kelly Milligan*	Orange County
Brian Taylor *	City of Durham
Joe Milazzo	RTA
Jacob Rigg*	RTA
Anne Lennart-Redmond	STV
Ron Sutherland*	Wildlands Network
Nikki Robinson*	Wildlands Network

Ramona McGee*

Southern Environmental Law Center

Jordan Powell*

VHB

Ed Harrison*

Triangle Connectivity Collaborative

Mike Woodard*

NC Senate

Doug Plachcinski

DCHC MPO

Colleen McGue

DCHC MPO

David Miller*

DCHC MPO

Andy Henry

DCHC MPO

Filmon Fishastion

DCHC MPO

K.C. Chae

DCHC MPO

Yanping Zhang

DCHC MPO

Jean Debnam

DCHC MPO

Madeline Galliano*

DCHC MPO

Cameron Schuler

DCHC MPO

Monet Moore

DCHC MPO

Daniel McKiernan

DCHC MPO

Quorum count: 8 of 10 voting members

*Attended remotely

Chair Karen Howard called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

PRELIMINARIES:

1. Ethic Reminder

Chair Karen Howard referenced the ethics reminder.

2. Roll Call

The roll call was completed using a sign-in sheet for in-person attendees, and the Zoom participant list for remote attendees.

3. Adjustments to the Agenda

Chair Karen Howard asked the Board if there were any adjustments to the agenda. There were no adjustments.

4. Public Comments

Chair Karen Howard asked if there were any public comments. Joe Milazzo, the Director of the Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) mentioned that RTA is going on a tour to Richmond, Virginia to visit a nearby peer city for a quick, intentional field visit of a freeway cap, bus rapid transit (BRT) facilities, and other multimodal infrastructure. Joe Milazzo stated that RTA is supporting the US 70 East Corridor Study project and is requesting that a junior freeway design be considered along the existing alignment between I-885 and I-540, or at least to the county line. Mr. Milazzo expressed his support for other projects.

CONSENT AGENDA:

5. Approval of the April 9, 2024, TC Meeting Minutes

Jean Debnam, MPO Staff

Wendy Jacobs made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mark Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION ITEMS:

6. DCHC MPO Wildlife Crossing Planning Study

David Miller, MPO Staff

Ron Sutherland, Wildlands Network

Ramona McGee, Southern Environmental Law Center

David Miller introduced co-presenters, Ron Sutherland and Ramona McGee. Ron Sutherland along with his colleague Nikki Robinson provided a background on roadway ecology and wildlife crossings and shared some of the progressive work conducted by Wildlands Network. Ron Sutherland explained habitat connectivity and its theme of modern conservation biology in which organisms can move freely across the landscape, described the use of wildlife crossings for the safe movement of wildlife species to cross highways, and provided several visuals of road ecology. Ramona McGee shared a background of the wildlife connectivity work conducted by the Triangle Connectivity Collaborative Transportation Workgroup.

David Miller shared statistics from NCDOT's 2020 to 2022 animal-vehicle crash data, comparing the MPO's area to statewide trends. David Miller provided an overview of the MPO's wildlife crossing planning process, including the development of a core technical team consisting of MPO members and partner agencies, site identification and assessments, anticipated timeline, and public engagement activities. Michael Parker asked if there was a plan to develop a methodology to prioritize the various infrastructure projects, to which Mr. Miller responded yes. Chair Karen Howard if there was any mapping that showed where the wildlife crossing incidents were in Chatham County. David Miller directed her to the project website where the crashes are reported in our planning area.

7. US 70 East Corridor Study Phase 1 Report

David Miller, MPO Staff

Andy Henry, MPO Staff

Anne Lenart-Redmond, STV

Andy Henry gave a brief background of the US 70 East Corridor Study, which included the timeline of the planning process, key stakeholder engagement, and a recap of the second round of public engagement. Anne Lenart-Redmond provided an overview of the two local alternative concepts, which were the 4-lane boulevard, and 4-lane boulevard with parallel roads.

Andy Henry shared details of the study's next steps and Phase 2. Mr. Henry introduced the Express Design Traffic Evaluation (EDTE) process, which will analyze the concepts developed by both NCDOT and the MPO. Andy Henry shared that Phase 2 will include additional public engagement efforts. Andy Henry provided an overview of the potential development timeline for both the NCDOT and MPO concepts.

ACTION ITEMS:

8. US 70 West Multimodal Corridor Study

Nishith Trivedi, Orange County Transportation Services Director

Lauren Triebert, VHB Project Manager

Nishith Trivedi gave the background and provided updates for the Orange County's US 70 West Multimodal Corridor Study. He stated that the study revealed traffic patterns on US 70 Business have changed. Nish Trivedi said vehicles are speeding and accidents are increasing. Mr. Trivedi discussed

the goals of the Study and policy improvements. One of the policy improvements cited was to extend sidewalk connectivity. Nish Trivedi introduced a recommendation to reduce speed in some areas to decrease accidents.

Mark Bell asked if the comments from the Town of Hillsborough regarding their board's decisions of conditional approval were addressed in the Plan. Nish Trivedi said the issues were addressed. Wendy Jacobs asked for the budget comparison between US 70 East and US 70 West and how much was spent. Doug Plachcinski responded that he would develop a report with this information.

Jamezetta Bedford made a motion to adopt the US 70 West Multimodal Corridor Study. The motion was seconded by Mark Bell. The motion passed unanimously.

9. FY 2025-2029 Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan

Colleen McGue, MPO Staff

Colleen McGue gave an overview of the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Plan. Mrs. McGue explained how the traditional and non-traditional projects would be funded through the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities Section 5310 Funds, and that fifty-five percent of these funds must be allocated to the traditional projects. Colleen McGue presented the timeline and next steps for the plan.

Wendy Jacobs requested the addition of a "responsible agency" for each of the strategies identified in the plan. Mrs. McGue said this could be added. Jamezetta Bedford made a motion to release the Draft FY 2025-2029 Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for a 21-day public comment period. Javiera Cabellero seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Amendment #3 to the FY2024-2033 Transportation Improvement Program

Filmon Fishastion, MPO Staff

Filmon Fishastion presented the FY2024-2033 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment schedule and mentioned the items included in the amendments and their status. Mr. Fishastion listed additional changes, which included eliminating duplicate information, as well as recently added projects from the MPO's Call for Projects. Chair Karen Howard asked if the duplicates were duplicate numbers. Mr. Fishastion confirmed yes.

Melissa McCullough made a motion to release the FY2024-2033 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #3 for a 21-day public comment. The motion was seconded by Javiera Cabellero. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

12. Report from the Board Chair

Karen Howard, MPO Board Chair

No additional report.

13. Report from the Staff

Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, DCHC MPO Executive

Doug Plachcinski announced Kelly Richard's departure from DCHC MPO. Doug Plachcinski shared that DCHC MPO will be welcoming a new staff member in June. Doug Plachcinski shared that Yanping Zhang is working to fill his transportation modeling vacancy. Mr. Plachcinski said that the MPO will share updates on branding and marketing soon.

14. NCDOT Reports

Lisa Mathis, NC Board of Transportation

Lisa Mathis reported on the NCDOT Transportation Summit and the Quick Pass. Mrs. Mathis reported on the new process for DMV appointments; and shared information about the MOBI awards.

Brandon Jones (David Keilson, Tracy Parrott) Division 5- NCDOT

Brandon Jones had no additional report.

Wright Archer (Chad Reimakoski, Stephen Robinson), Division 7 – NCDOT

Chad Reimakoski had no additional report.

Reuben Blakley (Bryan Kluchar, Jeron Monroe), Division 8 – NCDOT

Bryan Kluchar had no additional report.

Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division – NCDOT

Julie Bogle had no additional report.

John Grant, Traffic Operations – NCDOT

Not present.

Bryan Lopez (Interim) - NCDOT IMD

Not present.

12. Recent News Articles and Updates

Chair Karen Howard referenced the news articles and updates included in the agenda packet and referenced the May 31, 2024, Joint Board Meeting with Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, Chair Karen Howard adjourned the meeting at 11:17 a.m.