

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

2   **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

3   **November 17, 2021**

4   **MINUTES OF MEETING**

5   The Durham-Chapel Hill Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met  
6   on November 17, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. through a teleconferencing platform. The following  
7   members were in attendance:

- 8   Ellen Beckmann (Chair) Durham County
- 9   Nishith Trivedi (Vice Chair) Orange County
- 10   Evan Tenenbaum (Member) City of Durham Transportation
- 11   Tasha Johnson (Member) City of Durham Public Works
- 12   Tom Devlin (Member) City of Durham Transportation
- 13   Kayla Seibel (Member) City of Durham Planning
- 14   Lynwood Best (Member) City of Durham
- 15   Brooke Ganser (Member) Durham County
- 16   Scott Whiteman (Member) Durham County
- 17   Tina Moon (Member) Carrboro Planning
- 18   Zach Hallock (Member) Carrboro Planning
- 19   Bergen Watterson (Member) Town of Chapel Hill
- 20   Josh Mayo (Member) Town of Chapel Hill
- 21   Margaret Hauth (Member) Town of Hillsborough
- 22   Brandon Dawson (Member) Chatham County Planning
- 23   John Hodges-Copple (Member) TJCOG
- 24   Jay Heikes (Member) GoTriangle
- 25   Julie Bogle (Member) NCDOT TPD
- 26   Kurt Stolka (Member) The University of North Carolina
- 27   Tom Altieri (Member) Orange County Planning
- 28   Theo Letman (Member) Orange Public Transportation
- 29   Travis Crayton (Member) Research Triangle Foundation
- 30   Bill Judge (Alternate) City of Durham
- 31   Evian Patterson (Alternate) City of Durham Transportation
- 32   David Keilson (Alternate) NCDOT Division 5
- 33   Stephen Robinson (Alternate) NCDOT Division 7
- 34   Bryan Kluchar (Alternate) NCDOT Division 8
- 35   Matt Cecil (Alternate) Chapel Hill Transit/Planning
- 36   Meg Scully (Alternate) GoTriangle
  
- 37   Joe Geigle, Federal Highway Administration
- 38   Rachel Stair, Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority
- 39   Sean Egan, City of Durham
- 40   Tamara Njegovan, NCDOT Division 7
- 41   Delia Chi, Resident
- 42   John Tallmadge, Bike Durham

- 43 Scott Lane, J. S. Lane Company
- 44 Dan Hemme, Stantec
  
- 45 Aaron Cain, DCHC MPO
- 46 Anne Phillips, DCHC MPO
- 47 Andy Henry, DCHC MPO
- 48 Dale McKeel, City of Durham/DCHC MPO
- 49 Casey Chae, DCHC MPO
- 50 Yanping Zhang, DCHC MPO
- 51 Kayla Peloquin, DCHC MPO
- 52 Mariel Klein, DCHC MPO

53 Quorum count: 26 of 31 voting members

54 Chair Ellen Beckmann called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**PRELIMINARIES:**

55  
56 **1. Roll Call**

57 The roll call was completed using the Zoom participant list. Aaron Cain welcomed the  
58 new voting member for Chatham County, Brandon Dawson, who is replacing Chance Mullis.  
59 Aaron Cain said this will be Evan Tenenbaum's last TC meeting.

60 **2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

61 There were no adjustments to the agenda.

62 **3. Public Comments**

63 There were no public comments.

64 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

65 **4. Approval of the October 27, 2021 TC Meeting Minutes**

66 There was no discussion on the consent agenda. Zach Hallock made a motion to  
67 approve the consent agenda. Tom Devlin seconded the motion. The motion passed  
68 unanimously.

69 **ACTION ITEMS:**

- 70 **5. Draft DCHC MPO Governance Study**
- 71 **Scott Lane, Stantec**
- 72 **Dan Hemme, Stantec**

73 Chair Ellen Beckmann introduced the Governance Study that was directed by the MPO  
74 Board. Chair Ellen Beckmann said the action for the TC is to review the study and ask  
75 questions, not to take a formal action. Scott Lane of the J. S. Lane Company, who acted as a  
76 sub consultant of Stantec, thanked participants for their involvement in the study and reviewed  
77 the scope and methodology. Scott Lane highlighted the main findings, one of which was the  
78 growing sentiment that the missions of the City of Durham and the MPO are too intertwined.  
79 Scott Lane said the MPO has done a great job with federal compliance. Scott Lane stated some  
80 of the recommendations of the study, such as the lead role the MPO Board should have in  
81 hiring key staff, which can be implemented in the upcoming search for the new MPO director.  
82 Scott Lane suggested the MPO have an informal walk through of the agenda prior to the official  
83 meetings so that staff and members are more prepared. Scott Lane stated that technical staff  
84 could benefit from continued training on presenting information in plain language. Chair Ellen  
85 Beckmann asked if subsidizing staff managing specific projects should be done through the  
86 UPWP or on a project-level basis through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Scott  
87 Lane said it would likely be done through project submittals. There was a discussion on local  
88 matches for in-kind services for local staff.

89 Scott Lane continued the presentation with the recommendation on regional  
90 collaboration to strengthen relationships and encourage more participation from NCDOT  
91 Integrated Mobility Division (IMD) staff. With respect to funding, Scott Lane said the study  
92 recommends increasing funding support for cross-jurisdictional projects. Regarding public  
93 engagement, Scott Lane said the study recommends adding a K-12 public school system  
94 representative to the TC.

95 Meg Scully mentioned that comments in the study about the MPO website are dated  
96 because the study has gone on for a long period of time, and asked if some of the comments on  
97 MPO staff relations with NCDOT IMD staff and MPO staff alignment with the Board could also  
98 be considered dated at this point. Meg Scully asked if the comments on Board and staff

99 alignment were made prior to the restructuring of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan  
100 (MTP) Preferred Option. Meg Scully added that there has always been a disconnect between  
101 the goals of the MPO Board and what they approve, although they have taken action with the  
102 MTP, so adding more context to the study may be helpful. Scott Lane responded that NCDOT  
103 IMD is restructuring and it is crucial for their staff to come to TC meetings and provide a state  
104 perspective that endorses active modes. Meg Scully agreed and said that should be made clear  
105 to the Board. Scott Lane stated that, regarding the alignment of goals between staff and the  
106 Board, there will always be a degree of disjointedness, and the recommendation was about the  
107 MPO historically spending a lot of time and energy on highly technical products that do not get a  
108 lot of publicity. Scott Lane connected this recommendation to another that suggests  
109 broadcasting the utility of technical work and any achievements to the MPO Board and the  
110 public.

111 Anne Phillips noticed certain items brought up in the report have been addressed since  
112 the report was written, and suggested updating the information that is outdated. Sean Egan  
113 asked Scott Lane to elaborate on concerns of objectivity of the MPO with respect to the MPO  
114 being housed in the City of Durham as the Lead Planning Agency (LPA). Scott Lane stated that  
115 generally, it is hard to be objective as a staff member when your paycheck comes from one of  
116 the entities that staff is supposed to be supporting equally. Scott Lane provided some examples  
117 of how other MPOs have addressed this issue. Aaron Cain mentioned the legal aspect such that  
118 if there was a legal issue between the City of Durham and the MPO, the attorney would default  
119 to represent the City of Durham and the MPO would have no legal representation. There was a  
120 discussion on when the Urbanized Area (UZA) data will be available from the 2020 Census and  
121 the potential impact on the boundaries of the MPO and makeup of voting members. Tom Altieri  
122 asked if there are recommendations on what next steps the Board should take. Scott Lane said  
123 recommendations are broken down further in the full report.

124 Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that it was decided through working group meetings that  
125 the TC will not filter recommendations from the Governance Study, so the MPO Board will  
126 receive all recommendations and provide direction on what the highest priorities are. Aaron  
127 Cain asked if there would be an opportunity for staff to provide input on these  
128 recommendations. Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi pointed out the process is generally for staff to  
129 form a recommendation related to all items going before the MPO Board and suggested  
130 following the same protocol for this process. There was a discussion on if there should be a staff  
131 recommendation. Anne Phillips expressed concern that a formal recommendation/input from  
132 staff would come off as defensive. Meg Scully suggested staff work with the consultant to  
133 provide a factual update on events that have transpired since the initial data was collected for  
134 the study. Chair Ellen Beckmann agreed that factual updates should be provided to the  
135 consultant.

136 This item was for informational purposes; no further action was required by the TC.

137 **6. 2050 MTP**

138 **Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

139 Andy Henry began the presentation with the upcoming schedule of public input and  
140 TC/Board cycles for final adoption of the 2050 MTP, the Goals/Objectives, Socioeconomic (SE)  
141 Data, Triangle Regional Model (TRM), and the Air Quality Conformity Determination Report (AQ  
142 CDR) in February 2022. Andy Henry reviewed directives given by the Board at their November  
143 meeting. Andy Henry said no additional changes are proposed for highway projects. Andy  
144 Henry reviewed cost estimates for bicycle and pedestrian facility totals and the cost breakdown  
145 by decade. Andy Henry stated that transit projects were adjusted to reflect a new assumed  
146 revenue of a full one cent transit tax. Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if the additional half cent  
147 sales tax revenue would all be used for transit and Andy Henry said yes. Andy Henry discussed  
148 the transit budget financial plan by decade. Andy Henry mentioned the goals and objectives  
149 approved in September 2020 and said there will be a line item for the goals and objectives in

150 the 2050 MTP resolution, as well as a separate line item for the SE data, the TRM, and the AQ  
151 CDR.

152 Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi asked if local jurisdictions are expected to contribute to the  
153 bicycle/pedestrian projects as they are fully funded in local plans. Andy Henry said the primary  
154 bicycle/pedestrian project funding source is the assumed NC First Commission revenue, so  
155 local matches are not included. Andy Henry said this revenue would not be distributed through  
156 Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) law, therefore it could be used more flexibly in urban  
157 areas. There was a discussion of the state law that prevents the use of state funds for  
158 independent bicycle/pedestrian projects, which results in the inability to use these funds for the  
159 20% match for Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds or other federal funds. John  
160 Hodges-Copple stated the importance of ensuring the project list in the appendices are correct,  
161 because changing projects further down the line could result in having to redo the AQ CDR.  
162 John Hodges-Copple reminded members that the MTP may need to be significantly amended to  
163 reflect the new STIP.

164 Chair Ellen Beckmann suggested designating the segments between Durham and  
165 Chapel Hill as well as between Durham and RTP along US 15/501 and NC 147 as BRT on the  
166 transit map and as modernizations on the highway map to better demonstrate a commitment  
167 and willingness to work on identifying a plan that works for all parties. Andy Henry said certain  
168 segments of 15/501 are designated as modernizations, and Chair Ellen Beckmann specified the  
169 segment between the bypass and Erwin Road. Andy Henry said he could change the  
170 aforementioned segments to modernizations, although additional funding may be needed for  
171 those projects. Andy Henry added that there won't be a problem in the budget as the roadway  
172 projects are well below the expected roadway revenue. Jay Heikes said those designations can  
173 be added in on the transit side for BRT. Chair Ellen Beckmann said this would reflect the reality  
174 that if there is plenty of money for BRT, then the MPO could pursue one roadway project in  
175 conjunction with NCDOT. Chair Ellen Beckmann said the term modernization should be used

176 rather than boulevards, and Andy Henry agreed. Chair Ellen Beckmann said if the MPO has  
177 additional funds, it may be more feasible to do a modernization along the Durham/Chapel Hill  
178 Boulevard portion of 15/501 in a manner consistent with recommendations from the 15/501  
179 Corridor Study.

180 Tom Devlin made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve the 2050 MTP  
181 for use in the AQ CDR with the discussed changes and authorize staff to present the AQ CDR  
182 to the MPO Board and recommend the MPO Board release the AQ CDR for a minimum 21-day  
183 public comment period. Margaret Hauth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

184 **7. CTP Amendment Update**  
185 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

186 Aaron Cain discussed the status of the discontinued CTP Amendment #3 and the new  
187 approach of breaking up the larger amendment into a series of smaller amendments. Aaron  
188 Cain said the first smaller amendment going to the TC in December will include the removal of  
189 the former Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) corridor as well as changes to regional  
190 and secondary highways that NCDOT and MPO staff agree on. Evan Tenenbaum pointed out  
191 that elements of the larger amendment that were pulled out for further study can also be  
192 addressed in future amendments. Aaron Cain agreed and said the goal is to address all  
193 elements as soon as possible, so the best approach is to get certain changes through in smaller  
194 amendments given the amount of data requested by NCDOT. Aaron Cain added that each  
195 amendment will go through the required public comment period.

196 Julie Bogle said that NCDOT Transportation Planning Division (TPD) leadership will  
197 need to review all problem statements. Aaron Cain asked if every project is required to have an  
198 individual problem statement. Julie Bogle said some project deletions would need a problem  
199 statement and the removal of the D-O LRT alignment also needs a problem statement. Chair  
200 Ellen Beckmann said it would be helpful for TPD to share an example of what a problem  
201 statement should include for an individual sidewalk. Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi asked if NCDOT

202 can provide a template for different categories of problem statements, such as highways,  
 203 modernizations, or bicycle/pedestrian projects, as they all seem to need different data. Julie  
 204 Bogle said a problem statement for a bicycle/pedestrian project needs to show connectivity,  
 205 purpose, and any supporting data available. Julie Bogle said she will follow up with more  
 206 information. Chair Ellen Beckmann said she hopes the problem statements can be simple  
 207 because where there are people, there should be sidewalks. Julie Bogle clarified that TPD is not  
 208 looking for counts of pedestrians or bicyclists, but is more interested in the connectivity and  
 209 purpose. Chair Ellen Beckmann said the TC should review and provide comment on the  
 210 purpose and need statements, and that sidewalks are of high interest to the MPO Board.

211 Bill Judge asked if this item discussing the process of the smaller amendments will be  
 212 brought to the MPO Board, and Aaron Cain said that it will not. Bill Judge said NCDOT should  
 213 be prepared to explain why certain elements included in the larger Amendment #3 are being  
 214 omitted, as this process has been going on for 6 months. Bill Judge cautioned that the MPO  
 215 Board may be disappointed in this approach because it does not reflect all of the desired  
 216 changes. Aaron Cain said that this approach is the only way to move any changes through  
 217 without more staff resources. Chair Ellen Beckmann said this can be discussed in more detail at  
 218 the next TC meeting what the issues have been with Amendment #3 and the scale of work  
 219 involved.

220 This item was for informational purposes; no further action was required by the TC.

221 **8. Technical Committee Appointment to the MPO Manager Search Committee**  
 222 **Ellen Beckmann, TC Chair**

223 Chair Ellen Beckmann stated the MPO Board requested a member with technical  
 224 expertise be represented on the search committee. Chair Ellen Beckmann recommended that  
 225 John Hodges-Copple serve on the search committee due to his experience with many planning  
 226 organizations.



227 Chair Ellen Beckmann made a motion to recommend that John Hodges-Copple serve on  
228 the MPO manager search committee. Vice Chair Nishith Trivedi seconded the motion. The  
229 motion passed unanimously.

230 **REPORTS FROM STAFF:**

231 **9. Report from Staff**

232 There was no report from LPA staff.

233 **10. Report from the Chair**  
234 **Ellen Beckmann, TC Chair**

235 Chair Ellen Beckmann said a discussion has taken place with NCDOT IMD on their  
236 Complete Streets guidelines and they are in the process of formally releasing the  
237 implementation guide and can present to the TC in December or January. Chair Ellen  
238 Beckmann suggested staff review and provide comments prior to bringing it to the MPO Board,  
239 as many policies can appear to be advantageous but how it is operationalized is a critical step.

240 **11. NCDOT Reports**  
241 **Brandon Jones (David Keilson), Division 5 – NCDOT**

242 David Keilson said the Alston Avenue project will not experience a several month-long  
243 closure as was considered, and the project is still scheduled for completion in late 2022. David  
244 Keilson said substantial completion of the Old Durham/Old Chapel Hill Road project will be done  
245 by April 2022. David Keilson said the East End Connector Railroad is on its permanent  
246 alignment and the detour structure will be demolished by February 2022. Bill Judge thanked  
247 David Keilson for reconsideration of the Alston Avenue closure and asked David Keilson to keep  
248 the TC informed if the closure is reconsidered.

249 **Wright Archer (Pat Wilson, Stephen Robinson), Division 7 – NCDOT**

250 Stephen Robinson had no additional report.

251 **Patrick Norman (Bryan Kluchar), Division 8 - NCDOT**

252 Bryan Kluchar had no additional report.

253 **Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division – NCDOT**

254 Julie Bogle had no additional report.

255 **John Grant, Traffic Operations – NCDOT**

256 There was no additional report.

257 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

258 Dale McKeel mentioned the City of Durham was awarded a \$9 million Rebuilding  
259 American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant for the Durham Belt Line  
260 Trail, of which the MPO has been very supportive. Dale McKeel said a written update on funding  
261 opportunities as part of the Infrastructure Bill will be provided in December. Aaron Cain said the  
262 consultant conducting the search for the next director has asked to meet with the Board for 45  
263 minutes during the December meeting. There was a discussion on doing a lunch and learn or  
264 alternative meeting format for information on the Infrastructure Bill, a subject of high interest to  
265 the TC. Chair Ellen Beckmann said another item of interest is the P 6.0 scores. Staff will work  
266 on an optional meeting or gathering to provide information on these two items.

267 **Adjourn**

268 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Ellen Beckmann  
269 at 11:12 a.m.