

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

2 **10 April 2019**

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4 **MINUTES OF MEETING**

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6 The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on April 10,
7 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of Durham City Hall.
8 The following people were in attendance:

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10	Damon Seils (MPO Board Chair)	Town of Carrboro
11	Wendy Jacobs (MPO Board Vice Chair)	Durham County
12	Ellen Reckhow (Member)	GoTriangle
13	Michael Parker (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
14	Renee Price (Member)	Orange County
15	Jenn Weaver (Member)	Town of Hillsborough
16	Vernetta Alston (Member)	City of Durham
17	Charlie Reece (Member)	City of Durham
18	Heidi Carter (Alternate)	Durham County
19	Lydia Lavelle (Alternate)	Town of Carrboro
20	Pam Hemminger (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
21	Penny Rich (Alternate)	Orange County
22	Mark Bell (Alternate)	Town of Hillsborough
23	Joe Geigle (Non-Voting Member)	Federal Highway
24		
25	Richard Hancock	NCDOT, Division 5
26	Patrick Wilson	NCDOT, Division 7
27	Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT, Division 8
28	Scott Whiteman	Durham County
29	Nishith Trivedi	Orange County
30	Craig Benedict	Orange County
31	Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
32	Zach Hallock	Town of Carrboro
33		
34	John Hodges-Copple	Triangle J Council of Government
35	Patrick McDonough	GoTriangle
36	Geoff Green	GoTriangle
37	Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
38	Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
39	Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
40	Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
41	Mo Devlin	DCHC MPO
42	Robert Jahn	DCHC MPO
43	Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
44	Evan Tenenbaum	City of Durham
45		
46		

47	Don Bryson	VHB
48	Cheri Hardmall	Affordable Transit
49	Phil Post	Oaks 3
50	Kathryn Vollert	NCDOT
51	Caitlyn Meyer	Gannett Fleming
52	Kerry Morrow	NCDOT - TPD

53
54 Quorum Count: 8 of 10 Voting Members

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56
57 Chair Damon Seils called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call was performed. The
58 Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Board were identified and are
59 indicated above. Chair Damon Seils reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheet that was being
60 circulated. Chair Damon Seils stated that Nina Szlosberg-Landis requested an excused absence from the
61 DCHC MPO Board.

62 Vernetta Alston made a motion to excuse the absence of Nina Szlosberg-Landis from the MPO
63 Board Meeting. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

64 **PRELIMINARIES:**

65 **2. Ethics Reminder**

66 Chair Damon Seils read the Ethics Reminder and asked if there were any known conflicts of
67 interest with respect to matters coming before the MPO Board and requested that if there were any
68 identified during the meeting for them to be announced. There were no known conflicts identified by
69 the MPO Board Members.

70 Chair Damon Seils stated that, by April 16, 2019, each MPO Board Member and Alternate must
71 submit the completed Statement of Economic Interest and Real Estate Disclosure for 2019.

72 **3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

73 Aaron Cain stated that Dale McKeel will present Item #12, Safe Routes to School Resolution,
74 earlier in the Action Item Agenda and Kerry Morrow will present Item #8, NC Moves 2050, later in the
75 agenda due to scheduling conflicts.

76 **4. Public Comments**

77 There were no comments from the public on any subject that was not on the agenda.

78 **5. Directives to Staff**

79 The Directives to staff were included in the agenda packet for review.

80 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

81 **6. March 13, 2019 MPO Board Meeting Minutes**

82 Chair Damon Seils stated that there was a spelling error on line 15 of the meeting minutes.

83 Michael Parker made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Renee Price seconded the
84 motion. The motion passed unanimously.

85 **ACTION ITEMS:**

86 **7. Resolution to Discontinue Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-OLRT)**

87 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

88 Aaron Cain stated that the GoTriangle Board of Directors recommended to the partners of
89 Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT), which include Durham and Orange counties, as well as
90 the DCHC MPO, to discontinue planning and engineering for the D-O LRT. Aaron Cain continued that,
91 on April 2, 2019, the Orange County Board of Commissioners agreed with that recommendation, and
92 that on April 8, 2019, the Durham County Board of Commissioners concurred as well. Aaron Cain
93 stated that MPO staff drafted a resolution that concurs with discontinuing work on D-O LRT.

94 Chair Damon Seils highlighted the clause of the resolution that thanked various stakeholders
95 and cooperative partners. Ellen Reckhow proposed adding language that included that the General
96 Assembly reduced the state contribution, placed a cap on state funding, and set two deadlines; all of
97 which led to a precarious situation. Chair Damon Seils stated that he will send language to Aaron
98 Cain about the issues involving the General Assembly as addressed above. Penny Rich and Chair
99 Damon Seils discussed that future transportation planning will need to include an improved strategy
100 involving elected representation at the State level.

101 Michael Parker made a motion to adopt an amended resolution discontinuing work on D-O
102 LRT. Ellen Reckhow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

103 There were then members of the public who requested to speak on matters including the D-
104 O LRT, but not pertaining to the resolution. Phil Post requested, on behalf of his neighborhood
105 residents, that the right-of-way on Farrington Road and other design issues that were predicated
106 upon the D-O LRT project be reexamined, in light of its discontinuation. Andy Henry and Chair Damon
107 Seils discussed notifying Phil Post on further updates.

108 Cheri Hardman requested, on behalf of the Affordable Transit for All Network, that there be
109 further oversight of current and prior spending on the D-O LRT project by GoTriangle as well as more
110 transparency and public information as the D-O LRT comes to an end. Ellen Reckhow stated that
111 GoTriangle is committed to performing their due diligence in reviewing the D-O LRT project.

112 Ellen Reckhow requested an update on the 15-501 study at a future MPO Board Meeting.

113 **8. NC Moves 2050**
114 **Kerry Morrow, NCDOT**

115 Kerry Morrow stated that the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is
116 conducting an update to its long-range transportation plan to guide North Carolina's future
117 transportation policies and investments. Kerry Morrow added that NC Moves 2050 is a plan that will
118 provide a 30-year transportation blueprint for North Carolina. Kerry Morrow stated that NC Moves
119 2050 began in August 2018, and it will continue until August 2020.

120 Kerry Morrow stated that NCDOT is conducting a two-year study that involves examining all
121 aspects of North Carolina's transportation system, and collecting information about its performance
122 and anticipated challenges in the future. Kerry Morrow added that the second of three surveys
123 available for public feedback. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs and Kerry Morrow discussed the need for
124 outreach and public involvement. Kerry Morrow stated that outreach will include an effort to
125 include; minorities, younger individuals, individuals of lower income, and people in rural areas. Kerry

126 Morrow added that there will be table topics in an effort to have a more equitable engagement, and
127 NCDOT will continue to receive responses until May 31.

128 Kerry Morrow stated that the drivers and opportunities, derived from studying the modal
129 plans for North Carolina, include; demographics, economy, tourism, partnerships, funding,
130 technology, security, and resiliency. Kerry Morrow explained each category and then asked MPO
131 Board members to prioritize the list. Chair Damon Seils discussed the important of having lawmakers
132 at the state level allocate sufficient funding to necessary projects. Andy Henry stated that that there
133 are regulations within the Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT) system that could be
134 altered to allocate funding more effectively for MPOs. Ellen Reckhow underscored that expenditures
135 for bicycle and pedestrian facilities can have lasting benefits to their communities, such as increased
136 tourism. Pam Hemminger noted that there is not a separate category for environmental impacts.
137 There was discussion about how transportation relates to climate change. There was discussion
138 about if the concept of environmental impacts could be considered as part of another category, such
139 as resiliency. Michael Parker stated that it is important to clarify that transit has benefits for rural
140 communities and to educate people about how transportation modalities relate to the urban/rural
141 divide. Jenn Weaver stated that she prioritized the demographics category because it related closely
142 to land use and affordability. Ellen Reckhow and Renee Price discussed how generations of residents
143 use transportation differently. Michael Parker asked how the concepts of equity and social justice fit
144 into the categories. Ellen Beckmann and Kerry Morrow discussed that, in North Carolina, bicycle and
145 pedestrian crashes are not being effectively mitigated.

146 Aaron Cain stated that Brian Rhodes already provided information about the survey to the
147 MPO Board via email. This was an informational item, and a vote was not required by the MPO
148 Board.

149 **9. Upgrades to DCHC MPO TIP Database**
150 **Caitlyn Meyer, Gannett Fleming/Geodecisions**

151 **Durmus Cesur, LPA Staff**
152 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

153 Caitlyn Meyer stated that the first step to upgrade the DCHC MPO Transportation
154 Improvement Plan (TIP) database was to perform an initial assessment of the then current database
155 and to note areas for improvement. Caitlyn Meyer stated that upgrades include: streamlining
156 performance, developing a TIP tracking system, and creating an advanced search tool. Caitlyn Meyer
157 explained that the visual map would be able to be searched by location. Caitlyn Meyer stated that
158 the TIP, Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), and Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)
159 information are all now in one database. Ellen Reckhow and Caitlyn Meyer discussed that the map
160 legend changes depending on search parameters. Caitlyn Meyer stated that there are now project
161 descriptions. Caitlyn Meyer explained that the administrator can toggle information between GIS and
162 Excel data sheets. Caitlyn Meyer added that a future phase of the TIP database would also include
163 advanced search functionality not currently available in Phase One.

164 Renee Price and Caitlyn Meyer discussed options for the timelines and schedules of ongoing
165 projects. Caitlyn Meyer and Aaron Cain discussed the relationship between the DCHC MPO TIP
166 Database update and the NCDOT update to project management. Ellen Reckhow and Caitlyn Meyer
167 discussed public access to the TIP Database via the DCHC MPO website. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs
168 requested that a link be added from the Durham County website as well. Caitlyn Meyer discussed
169 feedback from a previous presentation included adding information that could be added as different
170 map layers.

171 **10. NC 54 West Corridor Study - Phase Two Update**
172 **Don Bryson, VHB**
173 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

174 Don Bryson stated that the initial phase of the NC 54 West Corridor Study was a thorough
175 review of the 20+ mile stretch of NC 54 between Old Fayetteville Road in Carrboro and I-85 in
176 Graham. Don Bryson added that Phase One of the study recommended a phased widening and

177 intersection improvements of NC 54 between Graham and Carrboro to improve safety and address
178 current and future congestion. Don Bryson stated that the MPO Board requested that the study
179 further incorporate multimodal options, account for the use of alternate commuting routes, and
180 address the impact of a widening of NC 54 on local roads outside the corridor. Don Bryson stated
181 that Phase Two of the NC 54 Study will address these concerns.

182 Chair Damon Seils and Don Bryson discussed that public outreach will be similar to Phase
183 One, but will be concentrated more in Orange County and with further engagement from local
184 government officials from the Town of Chapel Hill. Chair Damon Seils and Don Bryson discussed that
185 origin and destination data would come from Streetlight data analysis, which is based off of cell
186 phone tracking, in order to determine traffic patterns. Chair Damon Seils and Don Bryson also
187 discussed the importance of studying impacts of the widening of NC 54 to areas outside of the
188 corridor, specifically to the east, such as Carrboro and Chapel Hill. Chair Damon Seils and Don Bryson
189 discussed incorporating information from the ongoing NC 54 Safety Study into Phase Two. Pam
190 Hemminger requested that the University of North Carolina (UNC) University and UNC Hospital have
191 particular consideration in the study due to a critical lack of parking at both locations. Pam
192 Hemminger added that reducing congestion along the corridor is also an important area of focus.
193 Don Bryson responded that Phase Two of the study is already begun to address congestion.

194 Aaron Cain and Don Bryson discussed that the finalized data would be completed in the
195 summer of 2019. Don Bryson added that he would return to the DCHC MPO Board with a
196 presentation in the fall, and then in November 2019 he would return to present additional
197 information. This was an informational item, and a vote was not required by the MPO Board.

198 **11. Triangle Regional Freight Plan**
199 **Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

200 Andy Henry stated that The MPO Board released the Triangle Regional Freight Plan in
201 September 2018 and conducted a public hearing in October 2018. Andy Henry added that the MPO

202 Board requested additional information. Andy Henry stated that Strategic Freight Corridors show the
203 roadways in the MPO where there are significant levels of freight traffic. Andy Henry stated that the
204 Freight Plan recommended improvements on 24 roadways, some of which are already in the MTP
205 and the TIP. Andy Henry listed the roadways that were removed from the Freight Plan. Ellen
206 Reckhow and Andy Henry discussed the addition of Junction Road as a strategic freight corridor.

207 Andy Henry stated that the Freight Plan has added recommendations of a stronger
208 relationship with North Carolina Railroad (NCRR) that would facilitate future transportation projects
209 in the region. There was discussion about how the freight rail corridor runs through the City of
210 Durham and it is necessary to have further consideration by NCRR to allow for any regional transit
211 planning in that corridor.

212 Andy Henry stated that the concept of resiliency is in the goal section of the Freight Plan.
213 Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs responded that further language in the Freight Plan is necessary to address
214 regional planning in the response to natural disasters and other emergencies. Michael Parker added
215 that it would also be helpful if there was language concerning accident and disaster prevention. Andy
216 Henry responded that he will consider recommendations from the MPO Board, and present an
217 update to the freight plan at the MPO Board meeting on May 8. Ellen Reckhow requested that a link
218 to the Freight Plan be sent to the Board via email.

219 **12. Safe Routes to School Resolution**

220 **Dale McKeel, MPO Staff**

221 Dale McKeel stated that the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has
222 reserved \$1.5 million of Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funds for Safe Routes to School
223 programming for non-infrastructure projects. Chair Damon Seils and Dale McKeel discussed that the
224 application deadline closed in March 2019. Dale McKeel stated that the City of Durham and the
225 Triangle J Council of Governments have already submitted Safe Routes to School funding
226 applications, and requested that the MPO Board adopt the Safe Routes to School Resolution.

227 Michael Parker made a motion to adopt the resolution endorsing the Safe Routes to School
228 applications submitted by the City of Durham and the Triangle J Council of Governments. Charlie
229 Reece seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

230 **13. Landscaping and Lighting of Roundabouts**
231 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

232 Aaron Cain stated that, at a previous meeting, the MPO Board directed staff to investigate
233 policies and procedures regarding the maintenance of landscaping and lighting for roundabouts.
234 Aaron Cain stated that each Division could allocate 1% of the project budget for landscaping if
235 requested. Aaron Cain stated that it would be responsibility of the local government to maintain the
236 landscaping once it was installed by contractors. Aaron Cain reported that NCDOT stated that it is not
237 responsible for lighting for roads not located on interstate, highway, or expressways; therefore, it
238 would be the local government's responsibility for lighting roundabouts.

239 Ellen Reckhow stated lighting the roundabouts was an important part of public safety, and
240 she suggested that reflective paint could be used to increase visibility of the roundabouts. Ellen
241 Reckhow, Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs, and Aaron Cain discussed that MPO staff will research various
242 local jurisdiction policy around best landscaping practices to maintain consistency should the DCHC
243 MPO decide to provide its own policy. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs raised the issue of solar lighting. Pam
244 Hemminger asked that height restrictions be included in the updated staff report, due to interest in
245 public art being used in the center of roundabouts.

246 It was noted that there was an explosion in downtown Durham. This was an informational
247 item, and a vote was not required by the MPO Board.

248 **14. Amendment #11 to the FY2018-2027 TIP**
249 **Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

250 Aaron Cain stated that amendment #11 to the FY2018-2027 Transportation Improvement
251 Program (TIP) consists of two projects in Durham that were released for a 21-day public comment

252 period due to the addition of more than \$1M in each project: EB-5703, LaSalle Street Sidewalks, and
 253 EB-5715, Duke Street Sidewalks. Aaron Cain added that public comment period closed on March 27,
 254 2019, and the MPO did not receive any public comment.

255 Aaron Cain stated that there were also several projects from NCDOT, including a number of
 256 new statewide projects from the Public Transit Division, as well as to move FY2019 Congestion
 257 Mitigation/Air Quality grant program (CMAQ) funding for C-5183B, Alston Avenue Sidewalks, to
 258 FY2020. Aaron Cain added that staff recommended to not include C-5183B in Amendment #11
 259 pending further discussions with NCDOT and City of Durham staff regarding funding. Aaron Cain also
 260 noted that it was recommended that U-5848, Orange Grove Road Extension, be included in
 261 Amendment #11.

262 Michael Parker made a motion to approve amendment #11 to the FY2018-2027 TIP. Ellen
 263 Reckhow seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

264 **REPORTS:**

265 **15. Report from the MPO Board Chair**

266 Damon Seils, Board Chair

267 Chair Damon Seils suggested that, due to the events surrounding the explosion in downtown
 268 Durham, the DCHC MPO Board meeting adjourn, unless there is any other urgent issue from any
 269 representative who has not yet spoken. It was agreed that the DCHC MPO Board meeting would adjourn
 270 at present.

271 **16. Report from the Technical Committee Chair**

272 Nish Trivedi, TC Chair

273 There was no further report from the Technical Committee.

274 **17. Report from LPA Staff**

275 Felix Nwoko, Andy Henry, LPA Staff

276 There was no further report from LPA Staff.

277 **18. NCDOT Report**

