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DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

August 22, 2018

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on August 22, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in the City Council Committee Room, located on the second floor of Durham City Hall. The following people were in attendance:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ellen Beckmann (Chair) | City of Durham Transportation |
| Kayla Seibel (Member) | Chapel Hill Planning |
| Pierre Osei-Owusu (Member) | City of Durham Transportation |
| Terry Bellamy (Member) | City of Durham |
| Hannah Jacobson (Member) | City of Durham Planning |
| Tina Moon (Member) | Carrboro Planning |
| Zach Hallock (Member) | Carrboro Planning |
| Evan Tenenbaum (Member) | Durham County Planning |
| Scott Whiteman (Member) | Durham County Planning |
| Tom Altieri (Member) | Orange County Planning |
| Nishith Trivedi (Member) | Orange County Planning |
| Chance Mullis (Member) | Chatham County Planning |
| Geoff Green (Member) | GoTriangle |
| Julie Bogle (Member) | NCDOT TPD |
| Kurt Stolka (Member) | University of North Carolina |
| Richard Hancock (Alternate) | NCDOT, Division 5 |
| Ed Lewis (Alternate) | NCDOT, Division 7 |
| Bryan Kluchar (Member) | NCDOT, Division 8 |
| Bill Judge (Alternate) | City of Durham Transportation |
| Bryan Poole (Alternate) | City of Durham Transportation |
| Eddie Dancausse | Federal Highway Administration |
| Felix Nwoko | DCHC MPO |
| Andy Henry | DCHC MPO |
| Brian Rhodes | DCHC MPO |
| Aaron Cain | DCHC MPO |
| Meg Scully | DCHC MPO |
| Dale McKeel | City of Durham/DCHC MPO |
| Durmus Cesur | DCHC MPO |
| Tamara Njegaran | NCDOT Division 7 |
| Shaundrelle Todd | City of Durham/GoDurham |
| Cy Stober | City of Mebane |
| Brian Byfield | RKA |

Quorum Count: 19 of 31 Voting Members

46
47 Chair Ellen Beckmann called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A roll call was performed. The
48 Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Technical Committee (TC) were
49 identified and are indicated above. Chair Ellen Beckmann reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in
50 sheet that was being circulated.

51 **PRELIMINARIES:**

52 **2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

53 There were no adjustments to the agenda.

54 **3. Public Comments**

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

56 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

57 **4. Approval of July 25, 2018, Meeting Minutes**

58 Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if there were any comments for the July 25, 2018, meeting minutes.

59 Nishith Trivedi made a motion to approve the July 25, 2018, meeting minutes. Hannah Jacobson
60 seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

61 **ACTION ITEMS:**

62 **5. NC 98 Corridor Study**

63 Andy Henry, MPO Staff

64
65 Andy Henry stated that the MPO Board released the draft report of the NC 98 Corridor Study for a
66 30-day public comment period and will conduct a public hearing at their September meeting. Andy Henry
67 continued that MPO Board members were concerned that the public involvement period was not
68 sufficient. Andy Henry added that staff recommended that the TC extend the final date for the comment
69 period from September 6 to September 19, and the MPO Board subsequently approve the final NC 98
70 Corridor Study report at their October meeting. Andy Henry also stated that the consultant and staff will

71 also present the NC 98 Corridor Study to the Durham City Council and the Durham Board of County
 72 Commissioners on August 23 and September 4, respectively, to receive local government comments.

73 Andy Henry stated that he received a public comment regarding the five foot bike lane on NC 98
 74 from Junction Road to Sherron Road and to add a multiuse path instead of bike lanes. Andy Henry
 75 recommended adding the multiuse path to the final NC 98 Corridor Study as an option in addition to five
 76 foot bike lanes. Andy Henry and Bill Judge discussed that both Durham City and Durham County funding
 77 would be required for the multiuse path. Evan Tenenbaum requested that Andy Henry send him an email
 78 about the proposed changes.

79 The TC Board provided comments on the NC 98 Corridor Study report, and extended the public
 80 comment period to September 19 and final MPO Board approval to the October meeting.

81 **6. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Amendment #1**

82 Andy Henry, LPA Staff

83
 84 Andy Henry stated that the MPO Board released an amendment to the Comprehensive
 85 Transportation Plan (CTP) to change the proposed future configuration of the portion of Farrington Road
 86 between Southwest Durham Drive and the Falconbridge Road Extension from a four-lane divided to a two-
 87 lane cross section. Andy Henry stated that he, along with MPO Board member Ellen Reckhow, met with a
 88 member of the public who advocated Farrington Road maintain its design in the CTP as a four-lane divided
 89 roadway. Andy Henry stated that the staff recommendation is the two-lane divided cross section as
 90 outlined in Amendment #1 because the two-lane divided roadways will provide adequate vehicle capacity
 91 and the two-lane sections are more appropriate for the adjacent neighborhoods. Andy Henry also added
 92 the Regional Operations Maintenance Facility (ROMF) for the Durham-Orange Light Rail (D-O LRT) also
 93 plans to use some of the area that would be part of the four-lane 110 feet of right-of-way for screening
 94 purposes. Chair Ellen Beckmann and Andy Henry discussed a possible redesign of interchanges with NC 54
 95 depending upon traffic pattern changes.

96 Scott Whiteman made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve amendment #1 to
97 the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). Hannah Jacobson seconded the motion. The motion passed
98 unanimously.

99 **7. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) -- Amendment #1**

100 Andy Henry, LPA Staff

101 Andy Henry stated that the TC recommended, in May 2018, that the MPO Board authorize the
102 release of the draft Air Quality Conformity Determination Report (CDR) for public comment upon
103 completion. Andy Henry continued that federal and state oversight agencies reviewed the 2045
104 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and FY2018-2027 State Transportation Improvement Program
105 (STIP) to ensure that projects are consistent among the plans, and that the MTP and the STIP are
106 properly represented in the travel demand and emissions models. Andy Henry stated that upon review
107 of the CDR, some inconsistencies were discovered among the data between the STIP and the MTP. Andy
108 Henry highlighted that the changes were mainly administrative.

109 Andy Henry stated that the public comment period would end on October 16, 2018, and the
110 MPO Board would then conduct a public hearing at their October meeting, which would lead to the
111 MPO Board adopting the proposed amendment at their November meeting. Chair Ellen Beckmann
112 asked if the Durham Freeway project could be extended so long as it is included in the TIP. Andy Henry
113 and Richard Hancock stated that they could move the end point to Chapel Hill Boulevard. Chair Ellen
114 Beckmann agreed for the Durham Freeway project endpoint to be moved to Chapel Hill Boulevard.
115 There was further discussion about the U-5934 extended from East End Connector to I-40 and the
116 feasibility of adding lanes to I-40.

117 Nishith Trivedi made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board release Amendment #1 for a
118 minimum 30-day public comment period. Zach Hallock seconded the motion. The motion passed
119 unanimously.

120 **8. Allocation of Local Input Points for Division Needs Projects**

121 Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

122 Aaron Cain stated that the DCHC MPO Board approved the release of the Initial Allocation of
 123 Local Input Points for Division Projects for SPOT 5. Aaron Cain stated that there will be a public hearing
 124 at the next MPO Board meeting. Aaron Cain stated that a TC subcommittee meeting will occur following
 125 the TC meeting to discuss local input points for Division projects. Aaron Cain mentioned that LPA staff
 126 requests that the TC authorize the subcommittee to release its findings to the MPO Board for review.

127 Chair Ellen Beckmann and Aaron Cain discussed that a vote from the TC is not necessary to
 128 authorize the subcommittee to convene, and the outcomes will be shared with the MPO Board.

129 **9. FY19 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment Schedule and Grant Reporting Due Dates**

130 Meg Scully, LPA Staff

131 Meg Scully stated that the DCHC MPO is required by federal regulations to prepare an annual
 132 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that details and guides the urban area transportation planning
 133 activities. Meg Scully outlined the period of performance and submitted the due dates for amendments
 134 to the UPWP.

135 Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that the TC received the amendment schedule for the FY19 UPWP
 136 and the grant reporting due dates for FY19.

137 **10. Resolution to Request Transfer of FHWA Funds to FTA**

138 Meg Scully, LPA Staff

139 Meg Scully stated that, on behalf of GoDurham, the Lead Planning Agency is requesting the
 140 transfer of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for
 141 use on transit projects. Meg Scully added that this resolution supports the transfer for the DCHC urban
 142 area. Pierre Osei-Owusu stated that GoDurham is attempting to expedite the process so the flex is
 143 completed in time to apply for additional Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. Chair Ellen
 144 Beckmann and Aaron Cain discussed the rescission in FY2019 and the possibility of funding other
 145 projects that use CMAQ monies. Pierre Osei-Owusu stated that GoDurham is applying for additional

146 CMAQ funding through the state and, if received, GoDurham would be able to purchase two or three
 147 buses. Terry Bellamy added that State funding has not yet been guaranteed, and other projects may
 148 instead use the CMAQ funding. Chair Ellen Beckmann commented that electric buses score highly for air
 149 quality benefits and therefore would be an appropriate project.

150 Evan Tenenbaum made a motion to recommend the MPO Board approve and sign the
 151 resolution to transfer funds. Scott Whiteman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

152 **11. Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) Grant - FFY17 and**
 153 **FFY18 Program of Projects**
 154 Meg Scully, LPA Staff

155 Meg Scully stated that the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities
 156 Program provides funds to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing
 157 barriers to transportation service and expanding transportation mobility options. Meg Scully continued
 158 that the DCHC MPO is the Designated Recipient of the funds for the Durham Urbanized Area (UZA) and
 159 distributes the funds to eligible sub-recipients through a competitive selection process every other year.
 160 Meg Scully added that a Call for Projects was conducted for \$492,598 in federal funds, which was the
 161 total funding apportioned to the Durham UZA for FFY2017 and FFY2018. Meg Scully stated that once the
 162 Program of Projects (PoP) is approved at the next MPO Board meeting, the LPA staff will begin the grant
 163 application process. Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if there were other applications selected besides those
 164 from Chapel Hill Transit EZ Rider Shuttle, GoDurham, Durham County Access and the Orange County
 165 Mobility Management Project. Meg Scully responded that the LPA office only received those
 166 applications, but more money was requested by those agencies than was available.

167 Nishith Trivedi made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve the proposed
 168 Program of Projects. Pierre Osei-Owusu seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

169 **12. Amendment #5 to the FY2018-2027 TIP**
 170 Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

171 Aaron Cain stated that amendment #5 to the FY2018-2027 TIP adds to various projects funding
172 from the 5310 program in FY19.

173 Scott Whiteman made a motion to recommend approval of Amendment #5 to the FY2018-2027
174 TIP. Geoff Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

175 **13. Triangle Regional Freight Plan**

176 Andy Henry, LPA Staff

177 Andy Henry stated that in 2015, the DCHC MPO, Capital Area MPO (CAMPO) and North Carolina
178 Department of Transportation (NCDOT) partnered to complete a freight plan for the Triangle Region.
179 Andy Henry added that WSP was the main consultant and they had five sub consultants. Andy Henry
180 stated that the Freight Plan would be considered a long-range transportation plan, which would be the
181 first multimodal Freight Plan for the Triangle region. Andy Henry added that it would identify policies
182 and invest in the future. Andy Henry also mentioned that stakeholder involvement was important in
183 creating the plan. Andy Henry stated that the process included investigating the current freight
184 situation, researching current trends, and forecasting future demand capacity. Andy Henry added that
185 the Triangle has freight intensive industries including retail and manufacturing, and 20% of the value of
186 freight in North Carolina travels through the Triangle.

187 Andy Henry stated that the freight industry wants to reduce congestion and have the ability to
188 expand the number of their current logistic facilities. Andy Henry stated that, in addition, the freight
189 industry would like to improve operations by eliminating tight turns, low bridges, and access
190 management. Andy Henry stated that the freight industry had 24 project recommendations, which
191 equaled \$2.2B in cost for the DCHC MPO. Andy Henry added that the majority of the projects are
192 already in either the MTP or the CTP. Andy Henry added that, if the new projects that were not in either
193 the MTP or CTP, they tended to be smaller projects.

194 Andy Henry and Dale McKeel discussed that the rail projects tend to be related to grade
195 separation or safer and fewer crossings. Andy Henry also noted that the freight industry recommended

196 that design standards be more accessible for trucks. Andy Henry stated that the schedule is for the MPO
197 Board to release the Freight Plan for the public comment period at their meeting on September 12,
198 2018, and then the MPO Board conduct a public hearing at their meeting on October 10, 2018. Andy
199 Henry highlighted that the largest areas of interest in the report are in the Executive Summary and
200 Recommendations. Dale McKeal asked about the absence of the port city of Morehead in the report.
201 Chair Ellen Beckmann asked about how the turning radius would affect the project to widen Garrett
202 Road. Chair Ellen Beckmann and Andy Henry discussed the importance of a wide turning radius for
203 intersections that are on important freight corridors while in other areas regarding the sensitivity of
204 smaller neighborhoods.

205 Geoff Green made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board release the draft Triangle
206 Regional Freight Plan for public comment. Nishith Trivedi seconded the motion. The motion passed
207 unanimously.

208 **14. Update of the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (CTP)**

209 Meg Scully, LPA Staff

210 Robert Jahn, LPA Intern

211 Meg Scully stated that DCHC MPO is the Designated Recipient for federal funding through the
212 Section 5310 - Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program, and receives
213 under \$250,000 per year to be distributed among eligible sub-recipients. Meg Scully continued that
214 Federal transit law requires that projects funded through this program be derived from a locally
215 developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan (CTP) that must be updated
216 every five years. Meg Scully added that the current CTP for the DCHC MPO region was approved by the
217 MPO Board in January, 2014, and currently LPA staff members, including Robert Jahn, are in the process
218 of preparing an updated plan. Meg Scully explained that the development of a CTP must involve seniors,
219 individuals with disabilities, representatives of transportation and human services providers, and other
220 members of the public. Meg Scully highlighted that CTP elements include: an assessment of available

221 services; an assessment of transportation needs; strategies or projects to address the gaps in service;
222 and priorities for implementation based on resources available.

223 Meg Scully stated that two workshops will be held in the MPO region in September 2018,
224 followed by development of the final plan and approval by the MPO Board. Pierre Osei-Owusu
225 suggested that future plans, as well as current services, should be included in the final report.

226 **REPORTS:**

227 **15. Reports from the LPA Staff**

228 Andy Henry, LPA Staff

229 There was no report from LPA Staff.

230 **16. Report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair**

231 Ellen Beckmann, DCHC MPO TC Chair

232 There was no report from Chair Ellen Beckmann.

233 **17. NCDOT Reports**

234 There was no report from NCDOT Division 5.

235 There was no report from NCDOT Division 7.

236 There was no report from NCDOT Division 8.

237 There was no report from the Transportation Planning Division.

238 There was no report from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

239 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

240 **18. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

241 There were no informational items.

242 **ADJOURNMENT:**

243 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Technical Committee, the meeting was
244 adjourned at 10:01am.