

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

May 14, 2024

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on May 14, 2024, at 1:30 p.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:

Nishith Trivedi (Chair)	Orange County
Ellen Beckmann (Vice Chair)	Durham County
Tina Moon (Member)	Town of Carrboro
Bergen Watterson* (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Ben Berolzheimer (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Caroline Dwyer (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Thanh Schado (Member)	Chatham County
Tom Devlin (Member)	City of Durham
Eric Vitale (Member)	City of Durham
Tasha Johnson (Member)	City of Durham
Aaron Cain (Member)	Durham County
Ryan Eldridge (Member)	Durham County
Matt Efird (Member)	Town of Hillsborough
Paul Black (Member)	GoTriangle
Matt Day (Member)	Central Pines Regional Council
Brandon Jones (Member)	NCDOT Division 5
Chad Reimakoski (Alternate)	NCDOT Division 7
Julie Bogle (Member)	NCDOT TPD
Darlene Weaver* (Member)	Orange County
Travis Crayton (Member)	Research Triangle Foundation
Cha'ssem Anderson *(Member)	University of North Carolina
Joe Geigle (Member Non-Voting)	FHWA
Meg Scully* (Alternate)	GoTriangle
Joshua Mayo* (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
Bill Judge*	City of Durham
Erin Convery (Alternate)	City of Durham
Brian Taylor *	City of Durham
Curtis Scarpignato (Alternate)	Durham County
Tracy Parrott (Alternate)	NCDOT Division 5
David Keilson (Alternate)	NCDOT Division 5
Nishant Shah *(Alternate)	NCDOT Division 7
Bryan Kluchar* (Alternate)	NCDOT Division 8
Landon Coley* (Alternate)	University of North Carolina
Joe Milazzo	RTA
Anne Lennart-Redmond	STV
Ron Sutherland*	Wildlands Network
Nikki Robinson*	Wildlands Network

Romana McGee*	Southern Environmental Law Center
Jordan Brummel	Resident
Daniel Carter	Resident
Doug Plachcinski	DCHC MPO
Colleen McGue	DCHC MPO
David Miller	DCHC MPO
Filmon Fishastion	DCHC MPO
Kelly Richard	DCHC MPO
Dolly Hall-Quinlan*	DCHC MPO
Yanping Zhang	DCHC MPO
Jean Debnam	DCHC MPO
Madeline Galliano	DCHC MPO
Cameron Schuler	DCHC MPO
Monet Moore	DCHC MPO

Quorum count: 18 of 27 voting members

*Attended remotely

Chair Nish Trivedi called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

PRELIMINARIES:

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 Nish Trivedi asked the Technical Committee (TC) if there were any adjustments to the agenda. Tom Devlin stated regarding Item 8 for Amendment #2 in the March 12, 2024, Minutes. He asked if Amendment #4 was going live instead of Amendment #3.

4. Public Comments

Chair Nish Trivedi 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 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

Matt Efird made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the correction to the minutes stated by Tom Delvin under the adjustments to the agenda. Eric Vitale 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. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if other MPOs in North Carolina have developed a wildlife crossings plan, and if so, have they been helpful to make an impact to wildlife crossing sites. David Miller replied that the Land of Sky RPO and French Broad MPO completed a plan in 2022, and Nikki Robinson shared wildlife crossing projects in their planning area. Brandon Jones stated NCDOT is supportive of wildlife crossing countermeasures.

7. US 70 East Corridor Study Phase 1 Report

David Miller, MPO Staff

Andy Henry, MPO Staff

Anne Lenart-Redmond, STV

David Miller 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

Chair Nishith Trivedi gave the background on the two-year planning process and gave updates on the progress of the US 70 West Multimodal Corridor Study. He stated that the study revealed traffic patterns on US 70 Business has changed. Chair Nish Trivedi said vehicles are speeding and accidents are increasing. Chair Nish Trivedi discussed the goals of the Study and policy improvements. One of the policy improvements cited was to extend sidewalk connectivity. Chair Nish Trivedi introduced a recommendation to reduce speed in some areas to decrease accidents.

The TC asked how speed limits would be lowered when design speeds would be increased throughout the project. Chair Nish Trivedi replied that when the study was done it included short-, long- and medium-term improvements, and lowering the speed was on the short-term list.

Tom Devlin made a motion to adopt the US 70 West Multimodal Study. The motion was seconded by Aaron Cain. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Transportation Plan

Kelly Richard, MPO Staff

Kelly Richard gave an overview of the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Plan. Kelly Richard 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. Kelly Richard presented the timeline and next steps for the plan.

Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann made a motion to receive the draft plan and recommended the Board receive the draft plan and release it for a 21-day public comment period. Carolyn Dwyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Destination 2055: Revised Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Objectives

McGue, MPO Staff

Monet Moore, MPO Staff

Colleen McGue gave an overview of the Destination 2055: Revised MTP Plan. Colleen introduced Monet Moore to discuss the recommendations.

Monet Moore presented a summary of the changes to the 2050 goals and objectives that would better reflect the desires of the communities and respondents for the plan. Ms. Moore explained the justification for each of the revisions. There was much discussion on the item and the board decided to have the plan word smithed and returned to the June TC Meeting for approval.

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

Filmon Fishastion, MPO Staff

Filmon Fishastion presented the Amendment schedule to the board and mentioned the items included in the amendments and their status. Mr. Fishastion listed additional changes which were getting rid of duplicate current STIPs. He also listed the recently added projects.

Tom Devlin expressed his concerns about the release date of the 4th amendment being pushed to September. Doug Plachcinski questioned if Durham had any amendments planned. Tom Devlin replied yes. Colleen McGue suggested doing a Call for Amendments in June, publishing the schedule, and sending it to everyone.

Caroline Dwyer made a motion to release Amendment #3 for public comment. The motion was seconded by Paul Black. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

12. Report from the Staff

Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, DCHC MPO Executive

Doug Plachcinski announced Kelly Richard's departure from DCHC MPO and thanked her for her service to MPO members.

13. Report from the Technical Committee Chair

Nish Trivedi, TC Chair

No additional report.

14. NCDOT Reports

Lisa Mathis, NC Board of Transportation

Not present.

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 Nish Trivedi referenced the news articles and updates included in the agenda packet.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, Chair Nish Trivedi adjourned the meeting at 3:47 p.m.